

Source Analysis #1

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In Sustainable World chapter 2, the authors first introduce what the characteristics of a wicked problem are. They identify them as having a vague problem definition, an undefined solution, no endpoint, irreversible, unique and urgent. This separates "wicked problems" from regular ones as it may seem like most problems have a couple of those characteristics, wicked problems have all of them. They then bring up how wicked problems are embedded in socioecological systems (SES). They did this to show how SES and human systems are intertwined and need to be studied as a collective to fully understand wicked problems. The issue is, however, that wicked problems are not "simple systems", they're "complex systems" because they change over time. The authors included that connection to prove point of the characteristics of wicked problems, that they don't have a defined solution nor endpoint.

In addition, the authors say that another reason that wicked problems are so difficult to solve is because of people. They say that many people are going to stick to both their and people they keep around their's beliefs. This causes for less change in an area to be achieved, and going back to the characteristics of a wicked problem, when solving a wicked problem, it's important to be careful and precise because actions taken are irreversible. Along with that, the authors also chose to mention the butterfly effect to symbolize why taking precautions is so important. The butterfly effect is essentially saying that the "smallest" thing can have the biggest impact. This was important to say to really emphasize so the reader can tell the urgency behind the authors' words.

In Conclusion, the authors defined the characteristics and the difficulties of solving wicked problems. Using the information they've given, people can come closer to being able to find real solutions to wicked problems and start to see a positive change in the world.