

# Culture, Society, and Praxis

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Volume 2 | Number 2

Article 14

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January 2004

## Sustainability

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### Recommended Citation

Daleo, Hanna (2004) "Sustainability," *Culture, Society, and Praxis*: Vol. 2 : No. 2 , Article 14.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.csumb.edu/csp/vol2/iss2/14>

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## Sustainability

By Hanna Daleo

*Hanna Daleo has often contributed to Culture, Society and Praxis. This time she is sharing images from a recent trip to Europe, where she has seen different aspects of human behavior and culture that relates to the reflection on sustainable relationships with our environment.*

**Art and Beauty** Here is a picture of a park in Pamplona, Spain. People all throughout history have created art and molded nature to give aesthetic beauty to there surroundings. In this instance the mold was in the Greek view of beauty and form. Even before art and artists as we know them people would create usable art. Usable art is seen in tribal cultures in Africa today. It is were everyday objects such as baskets, weapons etc. are adorned with symbols and pictures for ritualistic purposes.

**Religious Symbols** This is a photograph I took near a 15<sup>th</sup> Century monastery in Soria, Spain. This is a religious symbol of a cross. Religious symbols have been around, ever changing yet constant, throughout the ages. Human's have the capacity to look beyond and reach out spiritually to the unknown. In of itself this image is reaching into the sky with a foundation in stone.

**Pillars** I took this picture in Soria, Spain. This structure has stood for centuries with all its pillars intact. Pillars are an architectural element used to help hold up buildings. They are usually the last thing standing with the foundation. You can see examples of this in ruins in Athens and Rome. In our culture pillars are not just seen as an architectural phenomenon but also as a symbol. For example values and knowledge are called pillars of truth. Pillars of society are shown as a person or thing collectively seen as an inspiration and a positive representation of culture.

**Agriculture** This photo was taken in Soria, Spain. It is a picture of connected baskets perfect for a goat to carry. This shows a scene that could have been from thousands of years back. In many cultures around the world agriculture is a sustainable practice. Sustenance is another word for food and shares a root word with sustainable. Agriculture has been a way of life since nomads created the concept.

**Earth Reclaiming** This is a photo of a hillside in Soria, Spain where there once was a flourishing Roman Forum. It has been taken back and made pure by natural grasses and wild flowers. It holds no reminiscences of a city it once was. Now it is a place that herds of sheep pass by on their way. It looks much like it once would have before the Roman Empire's invasion. The earth is sustainable in itself and once left alone will repair and renew.