DEVELOPMENT OF WESTERN GEOGRAPHIC THOUGHT:
DISCUSSION TOPICS

Thursday, August 28    Approaches, Methods, Questions

Part I - Emergence of National "Schools"

Tuesday, September 2    Kant, Humboldt, and Ritter
Thursday, September 4   Germanic Geographies
Tuesday, September 9    Russian and Soviet Geographies
Thursday, September 11  Vidal de la Blache and the "French School"
Tuesday, September 16   Post-Vidalian French Geography
Thursday, September 18  Mackinder and the Brits
Tuesday, September 23   British Geography After Mackinder
Thursday, September 25  Davis and the Yanks

Part II - Themes in 20th Century Geographic Thought

Tuesday, September 30   Nature/Society I: Earlier Environmental Theorists
Thursday, October 2    Functionalism in American Geography
Tuesday, October 7     Region and Landscape I: Earlier Formulations
Thursday, October 9    Nature/Society II: Sauer and the "Berkeley School"
Tuesday, October 14    The Quantitative Revolution
Thursday, October 16   Spatial Tradition I:
                        Spatial Geometers and Systems Theorists
Tuesday, October 21    NO CLASS- MIDTERM BREAK
Thursday, October 23   Spatial Tradition II: Spatial Behaviorists
                        and Diffusionists
Tuesday, October 28    The Cognitive Reformation and
                        Related Post-Behavioral Approaches
Thursday, October 30   "Radical" Geography: Marxism,
                        Anarchism, Utopianism
Tuesday, November 4    "Humanistic" Geography

Part III - Professional and Contemporary Concerns

Thursday, November 6   Time - Geography, Structuration and Realism
Tuesday, November 11   Nature/Society III: Recent Developments
Thursday, November 13  Region and Landscape II: The Rehabilitated Region
Tuesday, November 18   "Postmodernism" in Geography
Thursday, November 20  Geography as a Profession
Tuesday, November 25   "Applied" Geography
Thursday, November 27  NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING BREAK
Tuesday, December 2    Geography and Gender
Thursday, December 4   Geography in School and College
Some Useful Guides to Concepts

Gary S. Dunbar, ed., Modern Geography: An Encyclopedic Survey (1991). Good discussions of selected concepts (e.g., "humanistic geography," "quantitative revolution") along with key first bibliographical references; also basic biographical data and brief accounts of geography in many countries. Copies in Goddard and Map Library.


Robert P. Larkin and Gary L. Peters, Dictionary of Concepts in Human Geography (1983). Concepts such as "behavioral geography" or "Location," etc. at greater length than in Dunber, above. Entries followed by generous bibliographical references and "Sources of Additional Information." Goddard


Some Helpful Bibliographies


Longer Analyses of Philosophical Concepts in Geography

Four fairly recent books discuss (usually at chapter length) the various philosophical "schools," such as idealism, phenomenology, realism, etc., as adapted to the perceived needs of geographers over the past twenty years or so. I list them in chronological order.


Biographical Guides

A continuing series sponsored by the IGU Commission on the History of Geographical Thought. World-wide in coverage, these volumes describe the life, contributions and impulses of 15-20 geographers annually, together with lists of their major publications and key writings about them. Well researched and extremely valuable set in reference section of Goddard.


A rather odd volume, with no clear rationale for the geographers selected: Many essays appear to have been "cribbed" for *Geographers: Biobibliographical Studies*, but some are entries which will not be found in that much better publication.
Histories of Geographic Thought


A brief survey with major emphasis (15 of the 20 chapters) on the period up to Humboldt and Ritter. Somewhat Whiggish in tone, especially in later chapters, giving one the impression that the whole geographic history of Western Europe has been leading up to the regional concept. But on the whole the book, though over sixty years old, holds up well as a broad introductory survey.


Misleading title, since it is limited pretty much to the French and German schools of geography. Emphasizes the regional principle, as expressed through biographical or career patterns of individual geographers. This is, in my view, not the wisest approach to the history of geography, since it tends to underplay both institutional and general context, but is useful for tracing specific intellectual influence and in making the case for a "generational model" approach.

Eric Fischer, Robert D. Campbell, and Eldon S. Miller, A Question of Place (1967)

Primary readings by leading geographers who at various periods have attempted to define "the nature of geography." In my view, geographers' pseudo-philosophical comments and methodological declarations on the "nature" of geography are not to be taken seriously as a history of geography (though the editors do not realize that), but may be useful as primary sources for the task of constructing such a history.

T. Walter Freeman, A Hundred Years of Geography (1961)

This is another general treatment presupposing the primacy of the regional concept. Its topical rather than chronological organization (dictated by the series of which it is the disciplinary expression for geography) makes it somewhat difficult to use. On the other hand, if one wants to know specifically about developments in economic geography or political geography etc. up to about 1960, that organization may be useful for immediate reference.


An extraordinary intellectual tour-de-force treating three major themes in Western thought: the concept of the earth as a purposefully designed creation, that of the influence of the environment on human growth and culture, and that of the role of human agency in shaping the landscape (a.k.a. "man" as a geographic agent). Since this volume is such a major contribution to intellectual history, it is to be eternally regretted that Glacken was unable to finish its sequel.

A general survey similar in form and intent to Johnston (below); that is, basically an advanced undergraduate student guide. Unlike Johnston, Holt-Jensen allocates considerable space to developments in continental Europe. It has met with mixed reviews; see the perhaps excessively negative review by Bjorn Asheim in *Progress in Human Geography*, Vol. 14 no. 2 (June 1990), for a lengthy excoriation of its weaknesses.


This is the most comprehensive of the general texts. It begins with the Greeks, and includes some material on such topics as medieval Muslim and Chinese geography and also brief mention of geography in modern China, India, and Africa, but within the framework of the spread of Western geographic thought. It is based largely on secondary and other general surveys of varying reliability and represents an expansion of James' lectures at Syracuse University in the 1950's and 1960's; the second "edition" (as with most of these histories) is not really a revision, but the bibliography is updated. The third edition is, however, a real revision, with updated bibliography.


A general survey of human geography in the English-speaking world designed for the advanced undergraduate (and representing Johnston's lectures at Sheffield); generally well done, and with a useful bibliography.


Although concerned only with professional geography, this volume extends the conventional coverage of general texts to include Italy, southeastern Europe, Japan, and Iberia/Latin America. Although the nominal period is 1945 onward, most essays begin at an earlier date; the various national bibliographies are also quite useful. On Goddard reserve.

George Kish, ed., *A Source Book in Geography* (1979)

A volume in Harvard's somewhat eccentric "Source Books in the History of the Sciences" series, this covers geography from Hesiod to von Humboldt, and includes Muslim and Chinese materials. Although I am not enamored of a "scissors-and-paste" approach to anthology-making, this one does have an unusual range of sources, some translated for the first time, reminding us that there is more to the history of geography than the writings of professional geographers.


An excellent recent book by a geographer with expert knowledge of recent trends in the history of science. About half of it is devoted to the pre-professional period. My only reservation about using it as a text for this course is that it presupposes a fair amount of knowledge of the history of geography
and related disciplines on the part of the reader. Selected chapters will be added to individual reading lists, however. On Goddard reserve.

Tim Unwin, *The Place of Geography* (1992)

Also excellent, this survey from the Greeks onwards, intended for advanced British undergraduates, focuses on the theme of place, but does justice to other formulations. Representative of recent critical and theoretical reflections on past theory and practice in geography, it is more accessible to the beginner in this area than is Livingstone, above. Concentrates on the 19th and 20th centuries. On Goddard reserve.

William Wamtz and Peter Wolff, *Breakthroughs in Geography* (1971)

An attempt to reconceptualize geography from Ptolemy to the post-World War II period as a series of successive approximations toward realization of a theoretical-predictive mode of analysis. In my own view, the general framework is wholly unpersuasive, but there is merit in several of the individual chapters.
DEVELOPMENT OF WESTERN GEOGRAPHIC THOUGHT

Reading List: Approaches, Methods, Questions


Approaches, Methods, Questions

The following general questions are directly applicable to this day's readings. But they are also questions which will be explicitly or implicitly raised throughout your reading this term. They are questions with which all of us as professional geographers need to reckon, and which we each need to answer for ourselves.

1. Is there a continuous or a discontinuous stream of geographical inquiry? (In other words, continuity or break?)
   (a) If a break, when does it occur?
   (b) If continuity, in what respects?

2. Is geography defined by its object of study by its point of view?
   (a) If the former, what is the object geographers study?
   (b) If the latter, what is the geographical point of view? (or should it be "points of view"?)

3. Is there a unified field called geography? (Or, if not now extant, was there ever a unified field called geography?)
   (a) If so, does that unity lie in
      (i) its object?
      (ii) its methods?
      (iii) its facts?
      (iv) its point of view?
      (v) its questions?
   (b) If not what is the validity of the "unity myth" concept? That is, can a discipline be constructed to embrace both physical and human phenomena?

4. Is the history of geography best understood by a framework which emphasizes
   (a) the work of individual scholars calling themselves geographers?
   (b) shifts in balances of power between social and generational groupings?
   (c) the "logic" of disciplinary development
   (d) the place of geography in the scheme of academic disciplines?
   (e) a contextual approach (intellectual, ideological, or institutional), seen as determinative or facilitative?
   (f) a changing set of more-or-less arbitrary or more-or-less determined rhetorical "discourses"?
DEVELOPMENT OF WESTERN GEOGRAPHIC THOUGHT

READING LIST: Kant, Humboldt and Ritter


Arnold Guyot, The Earth and Man, (1849) Lecture I.


Note: Anne M. MacPherson, *The Human Geography of Alexander von Humboldt* (Ph.D. dissertation, University of California l Berkeley) is available on microfilm in Goddard Library.
DEVELOPMENT OF WESTERN GEOGRAPHIC THOUGHT
Reading List: Germanic Geographies

Part A -- Imperial and Weimar Germany


James M. Hunter, Perspective on Ratzel's Political Geography (1983), Introduction and Chapter 1.


*(Note: Robert C. West, trans. & ed., *Pioneers of Modern Geography* (1990) - (“Geoscience and Man,” Vol. 28) is a set of translations of six late 19th and early 20th century German geographers.)*

**Part B -- Nazi Germany**


Geoffrey Parker, *Western Geopolitical Thought in the Twentieth Century* (1985), Chap. 5, "German Geopolitik and its Antecedents."


**Part C -- Postwar Germany**


See also "Special Issue: Historical Studies of German Political Geography," Political Geography Quarterly, Vol. 8 No.4 (October 1989) for a selection of recent research on all periods.

DEVELOPMENT OF WESTERN GEOGRAPHIC THOUGHT

Reading List: Russian Geographies


Note: There are biographical sketches of a number of Russian geographers in the Geographers: Biobibliographical Studies series (Reference Area).
Reading List: Soviet Geographies


NOTE: Effective with Volume 33 no. 1 (January, 1992), Soviet Geography: Review and Translation became Post-Soviet Geography. The journal has a number of historical and theoretical studies not listed here.
DEVELOPMENT OF WESTERN GEOGRAPHIC THOUGHT

Reading List: Vidal de la Blache and the "French School"


Jean Brunhes, Human Geography, (1920), Chapters 1, "What is Human Geography?" and 10, "The Geographic Spirit."


DEVELOPMENT OF WESTERN GEOGRAPHIC THOUGHT

Reading List: Post-Vidalian French Geography


Fernand Braudel, The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean World in the Age of Philip II (1966), Chapter 4, "The Mediterranean as a Physical Unit: Climate and History."


Anne Buttimer, Society and Milieu in the French Geographic Tradition, (1971), Parts 4 & 5 (3 copies in stacks; one in Archives).


Pierre Gourou, The Tropical World (1953; 1966), Chapter 11, "Problems Due to European Intervention in the Tropical World."


Emmanuel LeRoy Ladurie, Times of Feast, Times of Famine: A History of Climate Since the Year 1000 (1971), Chaps. 1, 3, 7.


DEVELOPMENT OF WESTERN GEOGRAPHIC THOUGHT

Reading List: Mackinder and the Brits


Sir Halford Mackinder, *Democratic Ideals and Reality* (1919), Chapters 1 and 2.


DEVELOPMENT OF WESTERN GEOGRAPHIC THOUGHT
Reading List: British Geography After Mackinder


R. J. Johnston and S. Gregory, "The United Kingdom," in Johnston and Paul Claval, eds., *Geography Since*


Robert W. Steel, The Institute of British Geographers: The First Fifty Years (1984), Part One, "The History of the IBG" (pp. 3-52).


DEVELOPMENT OF WESTERN GEOGRAPHIC THOUGHT

READING LIST: DAVIS AND THE YANKS


NOTE: A recent (1993) volume edited by H.J. Walker and W.E. Grabau, entitled *The Evolution of Geomorphology: A Nation-by-Nation Summary of Development*, briefly summarizes developments not only in the U.S. but in 52 other countries from the former USSR and China to Papua New Guinea and Singapore. Each overview includes a number of references, and discusses contemporary as well as past research directions.
DEVELOPMENT OF WESTERN GEOGRAPHIC THOUGHT
Reading List: Nature/Society I: Earlier Environmental Theorists


David N. Livingstone, “Nature and Man in America: Nathaniel Southgate Shaler and the Conservation of


George Perkins Marsh, Man and Nature or the Earth as Modified by Human Action, (1864, 1873), Chapter I.


DEVELOPMENT OF WESTERN GEOGRAPHIC THOUGHT
Reading List: Functionalism in American Geography


Vernor C. Finch, "Geographical Surveying" and "Montfort" in *Montfort* (Geog. Soc. of Chicago, *Bulletin*, no. 9, 1933), pp. 3-44.


Nature of Geography' (1989), pp. 91-120.


DEVELOPMENT OF WESTERN GEOGRAPHIC THOUGHT
Reading List: Region and Landscape I: Earlier Formulations


Richard Hartshorne, *The Nature of Geography* (1939), Chapters 9, "The Concept of the Region as a Concrete Unit Object," and 10, "Methods of Organizing the World into Regions".

Richard Hartshorne, *Perspective on the Nature of Geography* (1959), Ch. 9.


Gottfried Pfeifer, "Regional Geography in the United States Since the War: A Review of Trends in Theory and Method,” (1938) (mimeo publ.)


The following questions may be of help as you read the literature on regions and landscapes as organizing principles for geographical study.

1. What is a region?
   
   (a) Is it definable?
   (b) Is it verifiable?
   (c) Does it exist in nature?
   (d) Does its study proceed by scientific method?
   (e) Is its study fundamentally a humanistic art? (J.F. Hart)

2. Can a region be mapped?
   
   (a) If so, what kinds of regions can be mapped?
   (b) If the core rather than the boundaries matter, how can that be expressed cartographically?

3. If a region does not exist in the real world, is the concept still useful in cognitive terms?
   
   (a) If regions cannot be defined with fewer criteria than the number of geographers defining them, is even the concept valid?
   (b) Is a region a region "because a quorum of geographers have voted it to be so"? (G.H.T. Kimble)
   (c) Is it possible to synthesize physical and human geography under the regional concept? If so, how?
   (d) Is the human community an organism which organizes the "natural region"?

4. Where are the regional studies?
   
   (a) Did anyone but the French ever succeed in doing them?
   (b) Is the concept a social construct of pre-industrial revolution times and thus intellectually obsolete?
   (c) Do regional geographers spend their time putting "boundaries that do not exist around areas that do not matter"? (Kimble)? If not, in what ways do "regions matter"? (D. Massey)

5. Is "landscape" the same as "region," or, if not, how do the two concepts differ? Does "landscape" get us out of any of the difficulties posed by "region"?

6. Is the recent emphasis on the concept of "place" simply a new way of saying "region"?

7. If the public expectation of geographers is that they should know about places/regions, what does this imply for teaching and graduate education? Can a discipline survive if there is such a gap between popular demand and the kinds of geography professional geographers have been doing for the last 35 years? (In D.R. Stoddart's terms "with space rather than place, with what they call human agency rather than people, with abstract categories and numerical symbols rather than with specific situations and what is often harsh reality"?)
DEVELOPMENT OF WESTERN GEOGRAPHIC THOUGHT
Reading List: Nature/Society II -Sauer and the "Berkeley School"


Martin S. Kenzer, ed., Carl O. Sauer: A Tribute (1987), Part II or Part III.


Carl O. Sauer, Man in Nature: America Before the Days of the White Man (1939) -elementary text; skim for point of view.


NOTE: There is an interesting short book by Robert C. West, Carl Sauer’s Fieldwork in Latin America (1979), which incorporates the reminiscences of several graduate students. Martin S. Kenzer, ed. Carl O. Sauer: A Tribute (1987) contains several essays, of uneven quality. James J. Parsons, ed., 60 Years of Berkeley Geography, 1923-1983 (1983) is a bibliography (with brief bibliographical material) of the 159 Berkeley geography Ph.D’s to that date, and also contains a full bibliography of Carl O. Sauer’s Publications (appendix 1)
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Reading List: The “Quantitative Revolution”


Richard L. Morrill, Recollections of the Quantitative Revolution's Early Years: The University of


Tim Unwin, The Place of Geography (1992), Chap. 5, "From Region to Process: The Emergence of Geography as an Empirical Analytic Science," (on reserve)


NOTE: Bill MacMillan, (ed.), Remodelling Geography (1989) is a fairly recent and worthwhile collection of essays by modellers (and some of their critics); you may wish to look at this for essays of interest in place of items on this list.
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Reading List: The Spatial Tradition I: Spatial Geometers and Systems Theorists


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Reading list: The Spatial Tradition 11

Spatial Diffusion


Spatial Behaviorism


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Reading List: The Cognitive Reformation and Related Post-Behavioral Approaches

A-Environmental Perception/Cognition


B -Existentialism, Idealism, and Phenomenology


NOTE: Frederick Boal and David N. Livingstone. (eds) The Behavioral Environment: Essays on Reflection, Application, and Re-evaluation (1989) is both a tribute to William Kirk as a pioneer of cognitive human geography and also an opportunity (by a number of geographers of different viewpoints) to make a long-term assessment of his seminal 1952 essay and its possibilities for today.
DEVELOPMENT OF WESTERN GEOGRAPHIC THOUGHT
Reading List: "Radical" Geography: Marxism, Anarchism, Utopianism

ALL READ: Cloke et al. Approaching Human Geography, Chap. 2. as background.


(review of Peet and Thrift. eds., New Models in Geography (1989).


Michel Foucault, "Questions on Geography," (interview), reprinted in Foucault, Power/Knowledge (1980), pp. 63-77.

pp. 68-117.


David Harvey, "Revolutionary and Counter-Revolutionary Theory and the Problem of Ghetto Formation," Antipode, Vol. 4, No.2 (1972), pp. 1-12; commentary by B.J.L. Berry, pp. 31-33, and Harvey's reply, pp. 36-41, also other commentaries, pp. 19-31; 33-35.


DEVELOPMENT OF WESTERN GEOGRAPHIC THOUGHT

Reading List: "Humanistic" Geography

ALL READ: Cloke, et al, Approaching Human Geography, Chapter 3, as background.


Anne Buttimer, Geography and the Human Spirit (1993), Chap. 2, "The Drama of Western Humanism."


ALL READ: Cloke, et. al., Approaching Human Geography, Chapters 4 and 5, as background reading.


Gillian Rose, *Feminism in Geography* (1993), Chap. 2, "Women and Everyday Spaces."


**NOTE:** David Wilson and James O. Huff, (eds). *Marginalized Places and Populations: A Structuration Agenda* (1994) has a good introduction, three theoretical pieces (including Dear and Moos, above) and a number of essays which attempt to apply structurationist methods to geographical problems.
DEVELOPMENT OF WESTERN GEOGRAPHIC THOUGHT

Reading List: Nature/Society III: Recent Developments


F. Kenneth Hare, "Future Environments: Can They Be Predicted?" Institute of British Geographers: Transactions and Papers, N. S. Vol. 10 (1985), PP. 131-137.


**NOTE:** Michael J. Clark et. al., (eds.) *Horizons in Physical Geography* (1987) contains a number of useful state-of-the-art appraisals by geographers of where they think pure and applied physical geography is going.
DEVELOPMENT OF WESTERN GEOGRAPHIC THOUGHT
Reading List: Region and Landscape II:
The Rehabilitated Region


V. A. Anuchin, Theoretical Problems of Geography (1977), Chap. 6, "The Methodological Essence of the Unity of Geography".


J. Nicholas Entrikin, The Betweenness of Place (1991), Chaps. 1, 2, 7, 8.


David Turnock, "The Region Modern Geography," Geography, Vol. 52 (1967), pp. 374-383. (a useful though somewhat elementary and now dated introduction to the problem)

DEVELOPMENT OF WESTERN GEOGRAPHIC THOUGHT

Reading List: "Postmodernism" in Geography


James Duncan and David Ley, (eds.) Place/Culture/Representation (1993), Chap. 1, "Introduction."


David Harvey, The Condition of Postmodernity (1989), passim.


NOTE: (1) See especially Environment and Planning D: Society and Space, Vol. 10 Nos. 1 and 2 (1992), for issues entirely devoted to articles on postmodernism and its relevance for geography. Select any article of your choice for reading. Also, scan recent issues of this journal and of Antipode for an abundance of essays advocating, rejecting, and giving substance to a variety of postmodernisms.

NOTE: (2) Pauline Marie Rosenau, Postmodernism and the Social Sciences (1993) is a fairly recent, brief overview of its subject.
DEVELOPMENT OF WESTERN GEOGRAPHIC THOUGHT
Reading List: Geography as a Profession


Bruce Mitchell, Relevance and Ethics in Geography (1982), Chaps. 2, "The Issue of Relevance" and 6, "Ethics in Geographic Research."


DEVELOPMENT OF WESTERN GEOGRAPHIC THOUGHT
Reading List: "Applied" Geography


NOTE: Since 1981, developments in this field (or set of fields) may be traced in the journal *Applied Geography*. This list is hardly comprehensive. You may prefer to browse recent journals for something that meets a specific interest.
DEVELOPMENT OF WESTERN GEOGRAPHIC THOUGHT
Reading List: Geography and Gender


Janet Hounshell Momsen and Janet Townsend, eds., Geography of Gender in the Third World (1987), Introduction and Chap. 1, "Toward a Geography of Gender in Developing Market Economies."


DEVELOPMENT OF WESTERN GEOGRAPHIC THOUGHT
Geography in School and College


Andrew R. Bodman, "Academic Origins [of American Geographers], Geographical Perspectives, No. 50 (Fall, 1982), pp. 43-49.


NOTE: The  *Journal of Geography* (US) and  *Geography* (GB) are the ones most concerned with geography in the schools; you may wish to skim recent issues to see where the educational action is. The  *Journal of Geography in Higher Education* has a lot of "how-to" articles; it is largely British in content.