

AP Human Geography

Review Notes: Semester One

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AP Human Geography Review Notes: Semester One

Introduction

CONCEPTS

- Fieldwork: Going into field of study and taking observations of actions and reactions.
- Human Geography: Focuses on how people make places, organize space and society, interact, and make sense of our locality, region, and world.
- Globalization: The increasing economic, cultural, demographic, political, and environmental interdependence of different places around the world.
- Physical Geography: Study of physical phenomena on Earth.
- Spatial: Referring to or pertaining to space.
- Spatial Distribution: How a phenomena is distributed across a specific space.
- Medical Geography: A branch of Human Geography which deals with how diseases are spread and traced in a space.
- Pandemic: A worldwide or vastly widespread outbreak of a disease or other phenomena.
- Epidemic: A regional or localized outbreak of a disease or other phenomena.
- Spatial Perspective: Used to study the multitude of phenomena ranging from political elections to folk music.
- Five Themes: Created to bring together many subfields of Human Geography. The themes are location, human environment, region, place, and movement.
- Location: Highlights how the geographical position of people and things on the Earth's surface affects what happens and why.
- Location Theory: An element of Human Geography which seeks answers to both theoretical and practical questions.
- Human Environment: The ways in which human society and the natural environment affect each other.
- Region: An area characterized by similarity or by cohesiveness that sets it apart from other areas.
- Place: The local human and physical characteristics that uniquely define a place and give it meaning to its inhabitants.

- Sense of Place: Developed by people through forming an opinion of a place based on emotion, memory, meaning, events, and experiences.
- Perceptions of Places: Opinions of places formed by the media or secondary sources. (Books, TV, Internet, News)
- Movement: The mobility of people, goods, and ideas across the Earth.
- Spatial Interaction: Depends on distance between places as well as the place's accessibility and connectivity among places through transport and communication.
- Landscape: Material character of a place; including natural features, human structures, and any other physical characteristics.
- Cultural Landscape: The visible imprint of human activity on a landscape.
- Sequent Occupance: Refers to cultural succession and the lasting imprint of culture on a landscape.
- Cartography: The art and science of making maps.
- Reference Maps: Show the location of places and geographic features.
- Thematic Maps: Tell stories, typically showing the degree of some attribute of movement of a phenomenon.
- Absolute Location: Location determined by exact longitude and latitude.
- Global Positioning System (GPS): Allows us to locate things on Earth's surface using coordinates.
- Relative Location: Describes a place generally and in relation to other human or physical features.
- Mental Maps: Self-created maps that are stored in our minds of places we have been to, or regularly go to.
- Activity Spaces: Places travelled to routinely in order to carry out daily activity.
- Generalized Map: Maps which assume the magnitude of a phenomenon in a region, based on its location.
- Remote Sensing: Data collected by satellites in order to understand changes in the environment/weather in the long and short term.
- Geographic Information System (GIS): Used to compare spatial data and create maps which show patterns.
- Formal Region: A region represented by a mark of visible uniformity. (Sand represents desert, water/blue represents ocean.)
- Functional Region: Product of interactions and movement. (Cities, towns)

- Perceptual Regions: Intellectual constructs designed to help us understand the nature and distribution of phenomena. (US Regions: South, Southwest, Northeast, Midwest, etc.)
- Culture: All encompassing term that identifies not only the tangible lifestyle of people, but also their values and beliefs.
- Cultural Trait: A single attribute of a culture.
- Cultural Complex: A combination of cultural traits; some of which may or may not be shared with other cultures.
- Cultural Hearth: Area from which cultural traits develop and diffuse (spread) from.
- Independent Invention: A trait with many hearths that developed independent of each other, historically.
- Cultural Diffusion: The process of a trait spreading outward from its hearth to other places.
- Time-Distance Decay: How the prevalence of a trait lessens as it spreads further away from its hearth over time.
- Cultural Barriers: Laws of mental attitudes which prevent the spread of trait into a specific region.
- Expansion Diffusion: A trait develops in a hearth and remains strong there while also spreading.
- Contagious Diffusion: A form of expansion diffusion in which nearly all adjacent individuals are affected.
- Hierarchical Diffusion: A pattern in which the main channel of diffusion is some segment of those who are susceptible to what is being diffused.
- Stimulus Diffusion: While the ideas being diffused cannot be adopted (due to culture) they have an impact on the population.
- Relocation Diffusion: Movement of individuals who have already adopted the trait, and who carry it to a new place where they begin to spread it.
- Environmental Determinism: Attributing certain behaviors and traits to certain regions and climates.
- Isotherms: Lines connecting points of equal temperature values.
- Possibilism: Argument that natural environment merely serves to limit the range of choices available to a culture.
- Cultural Ecology: An area of inquiry concerned with culture as a system of adaptation to environment.

- Political Ecology: An area of inquiry fundamentally concerned with the environmental consequences of dominant political-economic arrangements and understandings.

Population

CONCEPTS

- Population Density: Measure of a total population relative to the land size.
- Arithmetic Population Density: Population Divided by the total land mass.
- Psychological Population Density: Number of people per unit area of agriculturally productive land.
- Population Distributions: Descriptions of locations on Earth's surface where individuals or groups live.
- Dot Maps: Maps on which one dot or symbol represents a certain number of population.
- Megalopolis: Huge Urban areas that will eventually meet others of their kind and form a huge megacity.
- Doubling Time: Time it takes for a population to double in size and numbers.
- Population Explosion: Term used to describe a situation when doubling time is less than 100 years.
- Natural Increase: Difference between the number of births and number of deaths.
- Crude Birth Rate (CBR): Number of live births every year per thousand people in the population.
- Crude Death Rate (CDR): Number of deaths every year per thousand people in the population.
- Demographic Transition Model:
 - 1) Low Growth Stage: High birth rate and High death rate. Little long term population growth.
 - 2) High Growth Stage: High birth rate and declining death rate. Significant population increase.
 - 3) Moderate Growth Stage: Declining birth rate and already low death rate. Continuing population growth at previous level.

- 4) Low Growth/Stationary Stage: Low birth rate and low death rate. Very low rate of population growth.
- Stationary Population Level: World's population stabilized and maintains a constant population size.
- Population Composition: How a population is structured according to age, gender (primarily) as well as race, religion, and sexuality.
- Population Pyramids: Used to represent age and gender of Population Composition, visually.
- Infant Mortality Rate (IMR): Number of children under the age of 1 who die per thousand people in the population.
- Child Mortality Rate (CMR): Number of children between the ages of 1 and 5 who die per thousand people in the population.
- Life Expectancy: Number of years, on average, a person living in a particular place and under certain conditions, will live.
- AIDS: Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome is a sexually transmitted disease which currently affects over 30 million people worldwide.
- Chronic Diseases: Affiliations of Middle and Old age, reflecting higher life expectancies.
- Expansive Population Policies: Encourage large family sizes and population growth. (Sweden)
- Eugenic Population Policies: Designed to favor one cultural sector or race in a population. (Nazi Germany)
- Restrictive Population Policies: Encourage small family sizes in order to stunt population growth or cause population decreases. (China: One Child Policy).

Migration

CONCEPTS

- Cyclic Movement: Journeys that begin at a home base and end at the same home base. These journeys are short term.
- Periodic Movement: Long periods of time spent away from home, but a return journey is made. (Long term Cyclic Movement)
- Migration: The mover may never return to the home base. (Permanent)

- Nomadism: Having no fixed home base. Cyclic Movement which is a matter of survival, tradition, and culture.
- Migrant Labor: Work offered to people, in a foreign country. Type of Periodic Movement.
- Transhumance: A system of pastoral farming in which ranchers move livestock according to seasonal availability of pastures.
- Military Service: A form of periodic movement in which people are deployed to serve their country abroad.
- International Migration: Movement across country borders.
- Internal Migration: Movement within the borders of one country.
- Forced Migration: Involves the imposition of authority or power. There is no choice involved. (Slavery, deportation, eviction)
- Voluntary Migration: Occurs after a migrant weighs options and choices. (Emigration)
- Push Factors: Forces and factors that would cause someone to move away from a place.
- Pull Factors: Forces and factors that would cause someone to migrate to that place.
- Either of the above can be caused by war, economic reasons, political circumstances, or the environment.
- Step Migration: Likely order in which people are to move. Rural Area→Village→Town→City.
- Intervening Opportunities: Factors that may cause people not to follow all the way through on their Step Migrations.
- Kinship Links: Links to friends or family that may influence where a migrant migrates to.
- Chain Migration: Migrant communicates with people back home and educated them about the place that they migrated to, causing those people to migrate as well.
- Immigration Waves: The result of Chain Migrations building up and causing swells in migration from one origin to the same destination.
- Global- Scale Migration: Migration across the globe.
- Colonization: Process by which a colonizer takes over another place and puts its own government in charge.
- Islands Of Development: Large trade ports which were set up by Europeans. Either islands or coastal areas.
- Guest Workers: Labor immigrants invited to work by the government.

- Refugee: Someone who flees their homeland from fear of persecution.
- Internal Refugees: People who move from one region in their country to another in order to avoid regional conflicts and persecution.
- International Refugees: People who flee to another country for protection from persecution.
- Immigration Laws: Laws designed in order to either restrict or allow immigration into a country.
- Selective Immigration: Individuals of certain backgrounds are not allowed to enter a country. (Criminal records, poor health, questionable activities).

Culture

CONCEPTS

- Folk Culture: Is small and incorporates a homogeneous population, is typically rural, and is cohesive with cultural traits.
- Popular Culture: Is large and incorporates a heterogeneous population, is typically urban and experiences quick changes in cultural traits.
- Local Culture: Group of people in a particular place who see themselves collectively or as a community who share experiences, customs and traits.
- Material Culture: Things people within a culture make/create such as art architecture, clothing, food, sports, and dance.
- Nonmaterial Culture: Includes the beliefs, practices, aesthetics, and values of a cultural group.
- Assimilation: Assimilation is the process by which governments try to assimilate indigenous people into popular culture.
- Custom: A practice that a group of people routinely follow.
- Cultural Appropriation: The process by which other cultures adopt customs and knowledge, and use them for their own benefit.
- Neolocalism: Seeking out regional culture and reinvigorating it into the modern world. (Modern Swedes wearing peasant clothes from 1800's, at festivals)
- Ethnic Neighborhoods: A small pocket within a larger city or town in which ethnic groups can practice their own customs. (Chinatown)

- **Authenticity:** Staying true to customs. Often, when local cultural traits are commercialized, they are compromised and adapted and are not “authentic”. (Chinese food)
- **Time-Space Compression:** How quickly innovations diffuse.
- **Rettitorialization:** A trait will take on a new form when it encounters a new locality and the people in that culture.
- **Placelessness:** Loss of uniqueness of a place in the cultural landscape, so that one place looks like the next. (Many parts of the US look the same)
- **Global-Local Continuum:** Cultural borrowing and mixing.
- **Glocalization:** How people in a local place mediate and alter regional, national, and global processes.
- **Diffusion Routes:** The direction and magnitude (as well as distance) in which diffusion occurs.

Identity

CONCEPTS

- **Identity:** How we make sense of ourselves.
- **Identifying Against:** Define the “other” and then define ourselves as “not the other”.
- **Race:** Constructed identity. Is a perfect example of how identities are built. Biologically we are all part of one “human” race; however it includes many sub-races.
- **Racism:** Differences in socioeconomic classes fueled by a sense of superiority/inferiority due to race.
- **Residential Segregation:** Degree to which two or more groups live separately from one another.
- **Invasion And Succession:** Process by which new groups of immigrants move into areas previously occupied by another group.
- **Gendered:** A place or situation created for a specific gender. (Public Restrooms)
- **Queer Theory:** Theory which informs and explains our understanding of sexuality and space.
- **Dowry Deaths:** Murders of wives whose families fail to pay a Dowry upon marriage.

- Barrioization: Process by which the population of an ethnic group in a particular place grows drastically in a short period of time.

Language

CONCEPTS

- Language: Set of sounds and combinations of sounds and symbols which are used for communication.
- Standard Language: Language which is published, distributed, and purposefully taught.
- Dialects: Variants of standard language along regional or ethnic lines.
- Isogloss: Geographic boundary within which a particular linguistic feature occurs.
- Mutual Intelligibility: Two people can understand each other without speaking.
- Dialect Chains: Dialects closer to each other will be more similar than those which are further apart.
- Language Families: The global scale at which languages are categorized. Within families, languages have shared origins.
(Indo European→Romance→French, Spanish, Italian)
- Subfamilies: Divisions within a large Language Family. (Romance)
- Sound Shift: Slight change in a word across languages in the same family.
- Proto-Indo-European: Hypothesized ancestral language of all Indo European Languages.
- Backward Reconstruction: Technique used to track sound shifts backward to the original language.
- Extinct Language: A language without any remaining native speakers.
- Deep Reconstruction: Recreating a language which may have preceded even extinct languages.
- Nostratic Language: Ancestor of the Proto-Indo-European Language.
- Language Divergence: Lack of native speakers breaks a language into many dialects and then continued isolation forms them into individual languages.
- Language Convergence: Opposite of Language Divergence. Occurs when different languages have continuous social interaction.

- Renfrew Hypothesis: Europe's Indo-European languages diffused, along with agriculture, from modern day Turkey in the Fertile Crescent.
- Conquest Theory: Diffusion of Proto-Indo-European language, through conquest of the original inhabitants of Europe.
- Dispersal Hypothesis: Indo European languages first spread to Southwest Asia, around the Caspian Sea, through Russia/Ukraine, and onto the Balkans.
- Romance Languages: French, Spanish, Italian, Romanian, Portuguese.
- Germanic Languages: English, German, Danish, Norwegian, Swedish.
- Slavic Languages: Russian, Polish, Czech, Slovak, Ukrainian, Slovenian, Serbo-Croatian, Bulgarian.
- Lingua Franca: Language used among speakers of different languages for the purpose of trade and commerce.
- Pidgin Language: Combination of the structures of two different languages. (Spanglish)
- Creole Language: A Pidgin Language which has become the native language of a group of people.
- Monolingual States: Countries in which only one language is spoken or exists.
- Multilingual States: Countries in which two or more languages exists and are spoken.
- Official Language: Used by countries with linguistic fragmentation in order to bring people together.
- Global Language: Common language of trade and Commerce across the globe. (English)
- Toponym: Geographic term for what Geographers call place names.

Religion

CONCEPTS

- Religion: A system of moral beliefs, following the teachings of a theistic being such as a God.
- Secularism: Not being directly influenced by religion or its practices.
- Monotheistic Religions: Worship a single Deity or God.
- Polytheistic Religions: Worship multiple Deities or Gods.

- Animalistic Religions: Worship inanimate objects such as trees, and rocks.
- Universalizing Religions: Actively seek converts because they view themselves as offering belief systems of universal appeal and appropriateness.
- Ethnic Religion: Adherents are born into the faith and converts are not sought.
- Hinduism: Third largest world religion. Over 4000 years old, originating in the Indus Valley.
- Buddhism: Split from Hinduism 2500 years ago. Founded in India.
- Taoism: Unclear origins but based on other Confucianist ideas and “The Book of the Way.”
- Feng Shui: The art and science of organizing living spaces in order to channel the life forces that exist in nature, in various ways. Arose from Tao ideas.
- Confucianism: A philosophy of life which believes in the poor asserting themselves. Had lasting effect on Chinese culture.
- Judaism: Grew out of the belief system of the Jews. Oldest Modern Religion in the world.
- Diaspora: Scattering of the Jews after the destruction of Jerusalem. Now means the spatial dispersion of any ethnic group.
- Zionism: The ideology of a homeland for Jewish people.
- Christianity: Can be traced back to the Medetterainian, like Judaism and Islam. Founded by Jesus, believed to be God’s son.
- Eastern Orthodox Church: Centered in Constantinople after the fall of Rome. One of the three major branches of Christianity.
- Roman Catholic Church: Claims to be the most authentic of all Christian groups. Centered in Rome and ruled over by the Pope.
- Protestant Church: Third major branch of Christianity. Split from Roman Catholic Church because of its corruption during the Middle Ages.
- Islam: The youngest of major Modern Religions. Based on the teachings of the Quran and the prophet Muhammad.
- Sunni: Sect of Islam who are the majority.
- Shi’ite: Sect of Islam centered in Iran.
- Shamanism: A community of faith in which people follow their Shaman (religious leader).
- Pilgrimage: Travel to a religious site in order to pay respects or participate in a ritual.

- Sacred Sites: Places infused with Religious meaning.
- Interfaith Boundaries: The boundaries between the world's major faiths.
- Genocide: Mass murder of an ethnic group.
- Ethnic Cleansing: The desire to "cleanse" a place by eliminating an entire ethnic group.
- Religious Fundamentalism: The drive by leaders to return followers to the origins and fundamentals of their faith.
- Religious Extremism: Religious Fundamentalism which is carried out to the point of violence.
- Shari's Laws: Harsh Islamic Laws which if broken can result in amputation, or even death.
- Jihad: Islamic Holy Wars against the West. (America, Europe.)

Political Geography

CONCEPTS

- Political Geography: Study of the Political Organization of the world.
- Territorially: Referring to territory.
- Sovereignty: Having control over a territory politically and militarily.
- Territorial Integrity: The right of a state to defend its sovereignty against other states.
- Mercantilism: The emerging of a political state due to plunder, colonization, and the protection of home industries and foreign markets.
- Nation: A culturally defined group of people with a shared past and common future who relate as a territory and have political goals.
- Nation-State: A politically organized area in which nation and state occupy the same space. (Texas is a Nation-State within the US)
- Democracy: People in a nation having the ultimate say in what happens within the state.
- Multinational State: A state with more than one nation within its borders.
- Multistate Nation: A nation which stretches across borders and across states. (USA because Alaska and Hawaii are separated)
- Stateless Nations: A nation which does not have a state.
- Scale: How geographers study how individual phenomena affect the whole.

- Capitalism: People, companies, and states produce and sell goods on the world market in order to make profit.
- Commodification: The process of placing a price on a good and then buying, selling, and trading the good.
- Core: Processes which incorporate higher levels of education, higher salaries, and more technology. They generate more wealth in the world economy.
- Periphery: Processes which incorporate lower levels of education, low salaries, and less technology. They generate less wealth in the world economy.
- Semi-Periphery: The state of a place in which both Core and Periphery processes are occurring.
- Ability: Capability of a state to influence others, or achieve their political goals.
- Centripetal: Forces within a state which unify the people.
- Centrifugal: Forces which divide the people within a state.
- Federal: A system organizing state territory into regions, states, provinces or cantons.
- Devolution: Movement of power from a central government to a regional government.
- Territorial Representation: Each territory, state, region or province is represented in the government by an elected official. (Senators, Congressmen/women)
- Reapportionment: Process by which districts are moved according to population shift so that each district encompasses the same population.
- Splitting: Rearranging districts in order to dilute minorities so that the majority remains the majority in all districts.
- Majority-Minority Districts: A district in which the majority of people is a minority group.
- Gerrymandering: Redistricting/Reapportionment in order to achieve a political advantage.
- Boundary: A vertical plane which divides one state territory from another.
- Geometric Boundaries: When boundaries are drawn using a grid system such as coordinates.
- Physical-Political Boundaries: Boundaries that follow an agreed upon feature in the physical Geographic Landscape.

- Heartland Theory: States that whoever ruled modern day Russia ruled all of Asia; and whoever ruled all of Asia ruled the entire world.
- Critical Geopolitics: Intellectuals of statecraft (powerful states) construct ideas about places, and these ideas reinforce and influence political behaviors, policy choices, and how we, people, process our own notions of places and politics.
- Unilateralism: Allies of a world Superpower follow rather than helping to make political decisions.
- Supranational Organization: Composed of three or more states that forge an association and form an administrative structure for mutual benefit and completion of shared goals. (European Union, CARICOM, NATO)

Famous Geographers

W.D. PATTISON'S FOUR TRADITIONS

- Earth-Science Tradition
 - Earth is spherical and matter falls toward a common center.
 - All knowledge can be classified logically or physically.
 - Descriptions according to time comprise history. Descriptions according to place comprise geography.
 - History studies chronological phenomena whereas geography studies phenomena which take place beside one another.
- Man-Land Tradition
 - Places affect health and character of people.
 - Origin of “where” and “why” approach.
 - Environmental Determinism: Physical environment causes social development.
- Spatial Tradition
 - Landmasses were once part of a supercontinent.
 - Study of plate tectonics and land formation.
- Area-Studies Tradition
 - Regularization of knowledge about place and location, character, and differentiation.
 - Everything in landscape is interrelated.

NOTABLE GEOGRAPHERS

- John Borchert: Studied climate and water resources in the United States.
- Lester Brown: Environmentalist whose books are considered Bibles of the environmental movement.
- Ernest Burgess: Developed the Concentric Zone theory. Explained spatial organization of urban areas.
- Judith Carney: Rice cultivation in South Carolina is due to knowledge brought to America by African slaves.
- August Losch: Transport and Labor costs depend on distance and location.
- Thomas Malthus: Limited resources limit population growth. Population checks are required when population exceeds subsistence level.
- Richard Hartshorne: Boundaries on a landscape are related to human settlement.
- David Harvey: Created Neoliberalism: Individual liberty and freedom are the high points of civilization.
- Homer Hoyt: Developed sector model (theory of how different sectors of society grow.)
- Ellsworth Huntington: Country's economic development is related to distance from the equator.
- Carl Sauer: Defined the term "cultural landscape."
- August Schleicher: Studied the origins of Germanic languages.
- Mark Jefferson: Created the concept of "Buffer Zones".
- William Jongs: Inspired the Indian Renaissance.
- Alfred Weber: Industry is located where transportation costs are cheap and minerals are at minimum price.
- Edward Adamson Hoebel: Studied legal systems in pre-literate societies.
- Manuel Castells: Researched information, society, and communication.
- Walter Christaller: Studied philosophy and political economics.