

FACTORS OF THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT THAT HAVE ENCOURAGED SETTLEMENT and HIGHER POPULATION DENSITIES

Consult the population density map in your atlas (20th and 21st ed. = p. 30)

1. Landforms (*atlas 20th and 21st ed. = pp. 4 and 6*)

- a) **Size** – amount of space
- b) **Topography** – slope; usefulness of space
- c) **Altitude** – elevation above sea level; temperature, oxygen levels
- d) **Situation** – relationship to other places

2. Climate – moderate is best (*atlas 20th and 21st ed. = pp. 14-21*)

3. Soil fertility – a variable of landforms and climate; food production
(*atlas 20th and 21st ed. = pp. 26; 28; 38*)

4. Natural vegetation and natural wildlife – basis of food and industrial raw materials
(*atlas 20th and 21st ed. = pp. 24, 80*)

5. Water supply – essence of life on earth; adequate, dependable, clean
(*atlas 20th and 21st ed. = p. 226 focus on the valley of the Nile*)

6. Mineral/energy resources – economic importance; industrialization
(*atlas 20th and 21st ed. = pp. 52-60*)

7. Absence of natural hazards – “safe” areas (*see the natural hazards maps for each continent*)

8. Absence of disease and pests – “healthy” areas (*no maps available in atlas*)

All the above are:

- 1. modified by forms of economy and levels of technology; with higher levels of technology, people become less dependent on the natural, physical environment.
- 2. influenced by historical circumstances and cultural parameters.