

URBAN NYS II

The Development of Settlement

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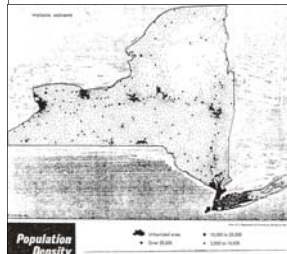
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Urban NYS

The present-day pattern of population distribution is a result of many factors, including:

- the physical environment
- human interaction with it
- economic variables

A geographic city is created when the elements of location come together.



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Urban-Economic Landscape of NYS

The historical geography of NYS illustrates the classic development of the urban-industrial landscape: **urbanization is tied to changes in economic activities.**

- People are no longer tied to the land for their livelihood (farming, hunting, trapping, forestry)
- People are free to engage in other activities.

In NYS the movement of people away from rural areas for manufacturing jobs in the mid-1800s fueled the growth of the cities of NYS.

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Urban Geography Refresher

- The **LEGAL CITY** is an area surrounded by a formal boundary within which certain rules and regulations apply.
- The **GEOGRAPHIC CITY** is an area that exhibits unique "urban" characteristics, many of which are not tied to a legal or political entity.

→ A **geographic city** may include more than one legal entity.

→ A **legal city** may have areas that do not have urban characteristics.

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Legal City vs. Geographic City

LEGAL CITY	GEOGRAPHIC CITY
(political boundaries) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of New York • City of Binghamton • City of Albany • City of Buffalo • City of Rochester • City of Syracuse 	(functional area) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NY Metropolitan Area • Tri-Cities Region • Capital District • Greater Buffalo Area • Greater Rochester Area • Syracuse Metro Area

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What is the Geographic City?

The **geographic city** is an area with four distinguishing characteristics:

- 1. Unique function** (reason for being)
- 2. Site and situation** (related to function)
- 3. Economic base** (income earner)
- 4. Shape** (encloses the functional area)

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Geographic City 1: Unique Function

An **urban function** is something that draws people together (purpose).

- **Defense** (fort)
- **Government** (administration)
- **Transportation conveniences** (ford, crossroads, fork)
- **Commerce and trade** (market)
- **Manufacturing** (raw materials to finished product)
- **Recreation** (resorts)
- **Culture** (education/religion/the arts)
- **Special activity** (mining/forestry/fishing)

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Geographic City 2: Site & Situation

Location aspects (site and situation) of physical and cultural environments are related to **function** (reason for being; why there?) and **growth pattern** - Waterways (rivers and harbors)

- Islands
- Mineral deposits
- Terrain
- Relationship to other areas

****Quality of location changes with time.****

The rise and fall of urban units can be documented by the changing *quality of their location*.

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Economic Activity Refresher

All regions engage in economic activities that are grouped into categories.

- **Primary:** provide raw materials (farming, mining, forestry, fishing)
- **Secondary:** use the raw materials to create something (processing, manufacturing)
- **Tertiary:** service trades (people doing things for people)
- **Quaternary:** information technology

All four are based on site and situation.

*The more developed an area becomes, the **greater** the percentage of its work force moves to the next category.*

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Geographic City 3: Economic Base

Economic base of a city is a mix of manufacturing and service activities to satisfy the needs of the city and to earn income for the city.

A change in economic orientation will affect urbanization and the appearance of a city.

The economic base consists of a **basic sector** and a **non-basic sector**.

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Economic Base (cont'd)

The **basic sector** earns money from outside the city by selling products.

The **non-basic sector** services the resident working population with grocery stores, retail shops, repair shops, schools, local transit, health care, etc.

Multiplier Effect: On average, 2 non-basic workers are needed for every 1 basic worker. Non-basic workers are needed to support other non-basic workers. (But the reverse happens, too.)

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Geographic City 4: Shape

The shape of a city (the outline of the extent of its functional area) **will be influenced by:**


1. **its physical location** (terrain and relief)
2. **land use pattern established by people** (political, cultural, zoning)
3. **orientation to other areas** (cities grow toward each other or toward physical features)
4. **transportation pattern** (cities grow along lines of transportation).

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Critical Site Elements

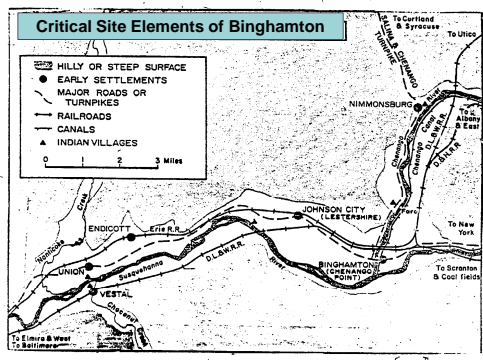
We will survey of the original location of the major urban areas of NYS:

- Binghamton
- Buffalo
- Rochester
- Syracuse
- Utica-Rome
- Albany-Schenectady-Troy
- New York City

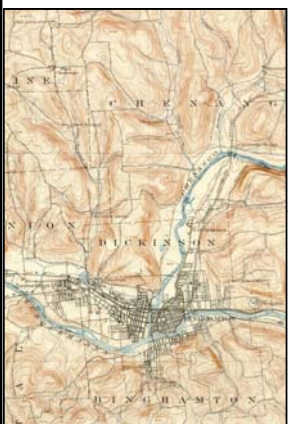


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Critical Site Elements of Binghamton



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Binghamton



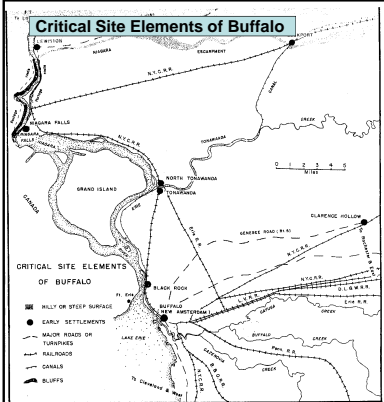
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Binghamton Today



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Critical Site Elements of Buffalo



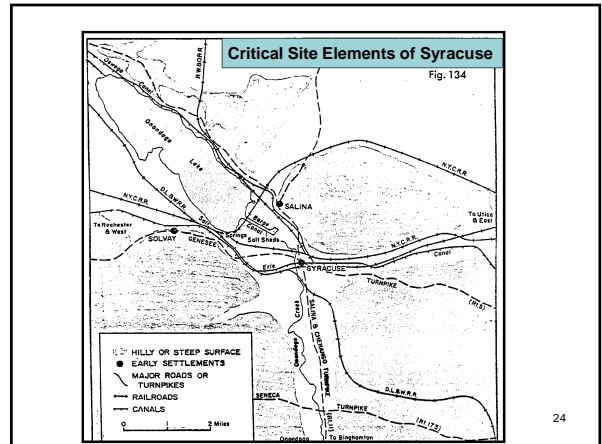
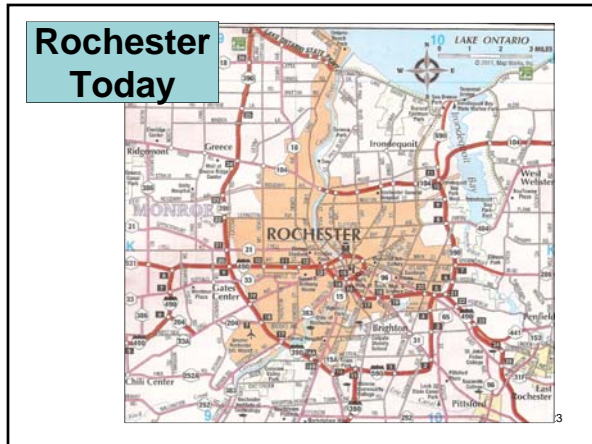
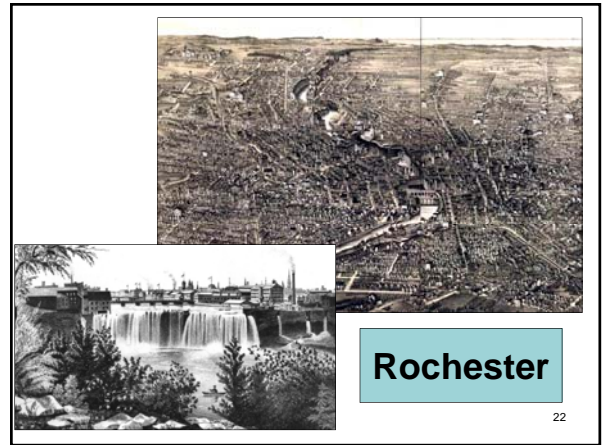
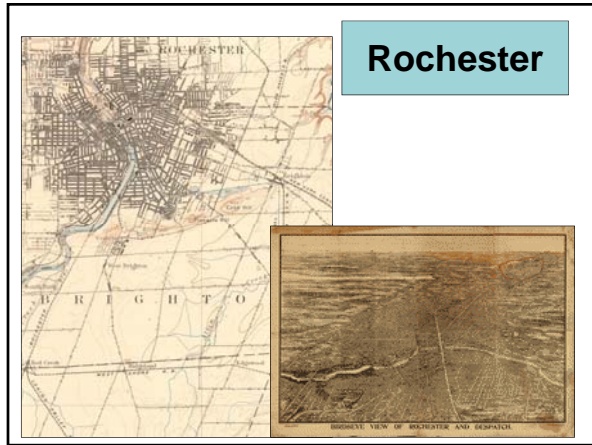
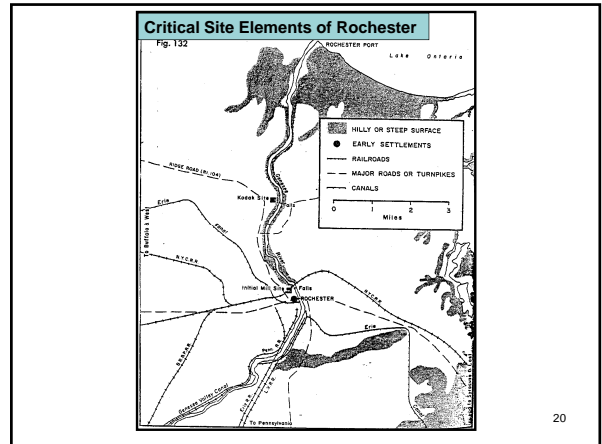
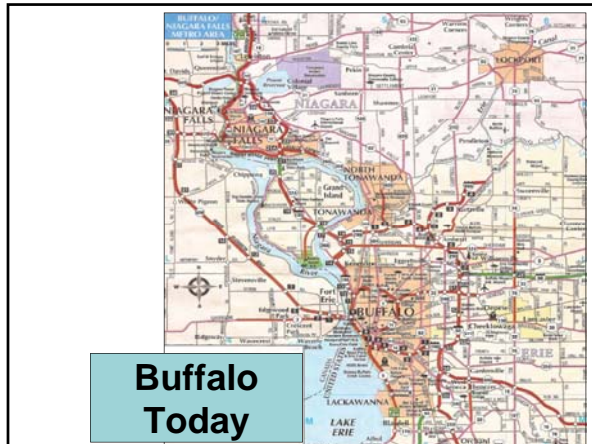
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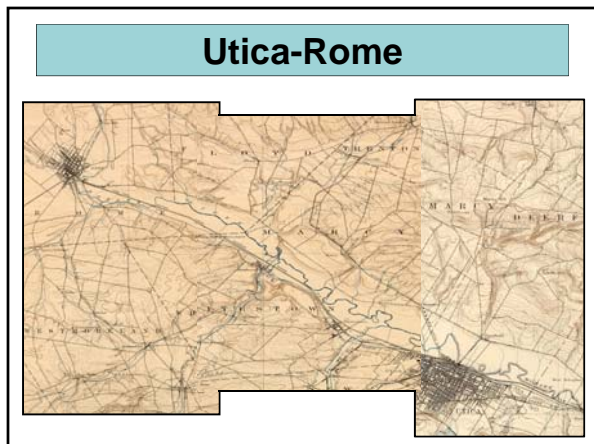
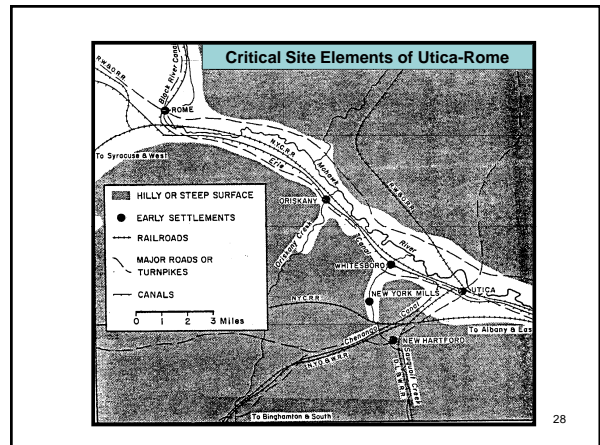
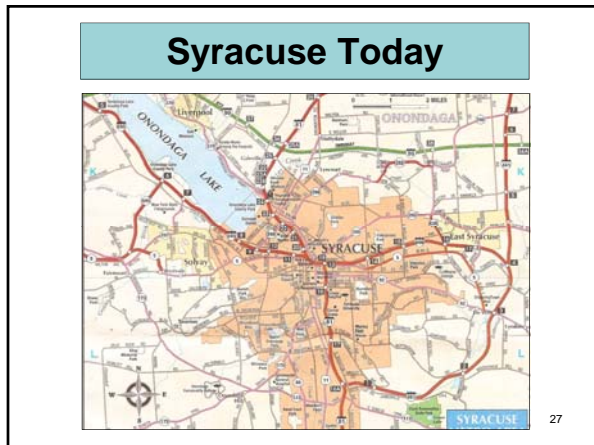
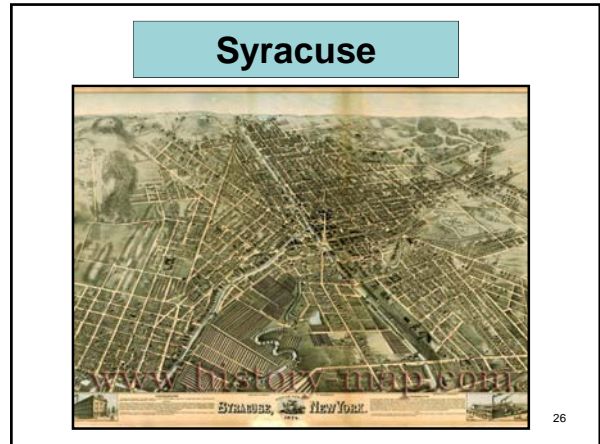
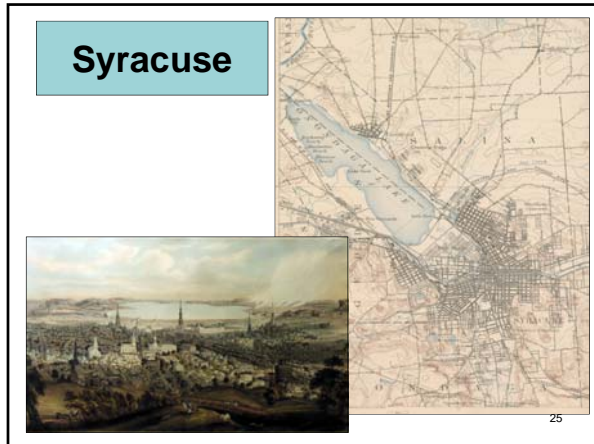


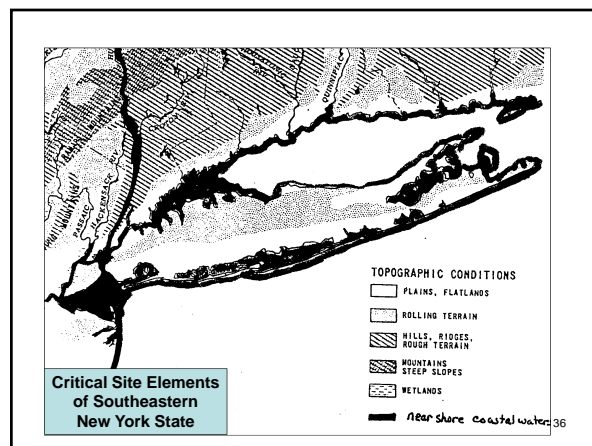
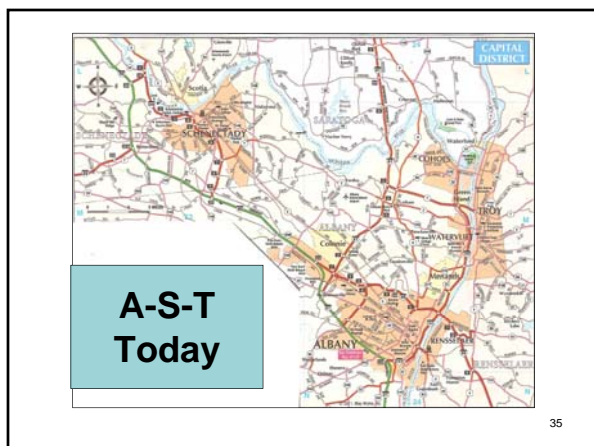
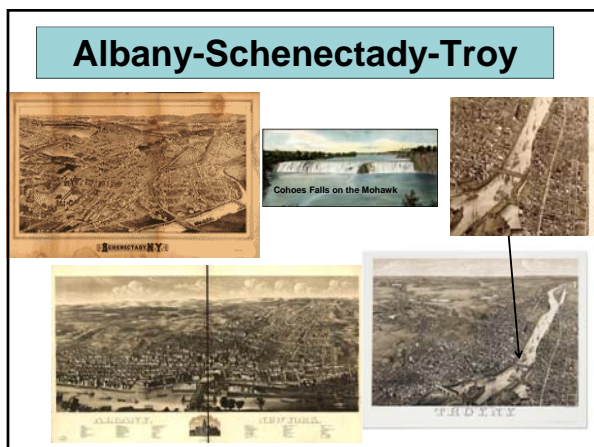
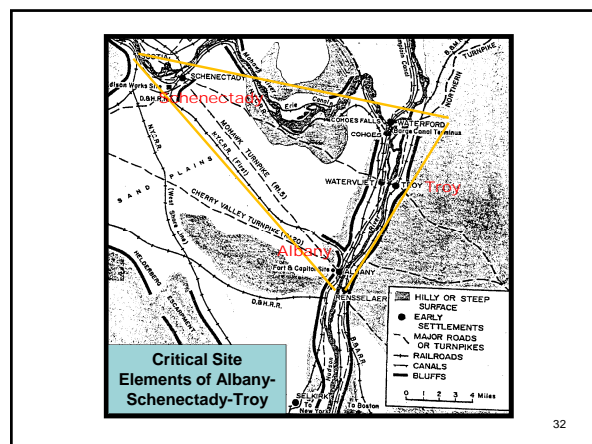
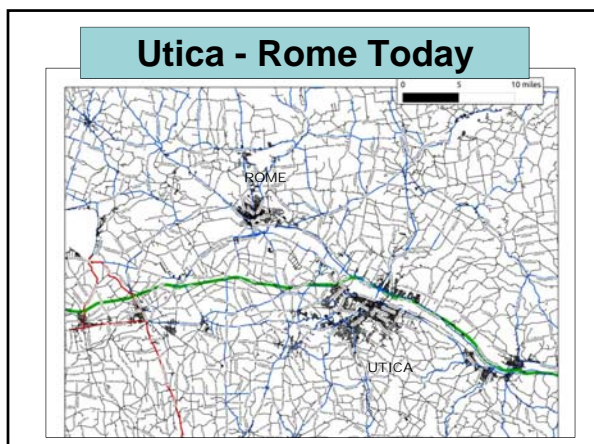
Buffalo



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Topography around New York Harbor

Source: *Urban, a History of New York City* © 1981 by Edwin O. Reeser & Mike Walker Oxford U.P., 1999 - by permission.

New York City

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NYC Today

EXTRA CREDIT for FINAL EXAM

Urban Site Development

For up to 5 extra credit points on the final exam, select one urban place from any one of your assigned counties and describe its historical geography and landscape development.

- What was its original site location?
- What influenced people to settle there?
- What made it grow at that location?
- Is that location is still beneficial to it?

- Include a map showing the location of the original part of the town and bibliographic references.

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