Regional Landscape Studies

- NORTHLANDS
- NORTHEAST COAST
- MEGALOPOLIS
- CANADA'S CORE
- AMERICA’S HEARTLAND
- APPALACHIA and the OZARKS
- THE SOUTH
- PLAINS and PRAIRES
- MOUNTAINS and PLATEAUS
- DESERT SOUTHWEST
- NORTH PACIFIC COAST
- HAWAII

<<<For each region:
1. Know its physical geography.
2. Identify its unique characteristics.
3. Be able to explain the human imprint.
4. Discuss its sequence occupancy and economic development.

Regional Landscapes of the United States and Canada

NORTHEAST COAST
with Interior Areas

Prof. Anthony Grande

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NORTHEAST COAST

When you think about this region, what images come into your mind?
- Rocky coastline
- Fishing
- Lighthouses
- Mountains
- Skiing
- Maple syrup
- Moose
- Pine trees
- Cold and damp

GREETINGS FROM
New Hampshire

NOVA SCOTIA

GREETINGS FROM
Nova Scotia

GREETINGS FROM
Newfoundland

NORTHEAST COAST

NORTHEAST COAST

French self-governing Territory of St. Pierre et Miquelon, pop. 5,600, main occupation is fishing

Canadian areas
(Atlantic Provinces):
- The Maritimes
- Gaspé area of Quebec
- Island of Newfoundland

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U.S. areas included:
- Northern NYS
- Northern New England

Canoe from Nova Scotia

Overview

- Harsh physical geography (cold, damp, windy, snowy, foggy, stormy)
- Low population (headcount/density); small cities. Rural in character with c. 2 mil people
  - Long history of European contact: French; Scot/Irish
  - Largest cities: Halifax (400K), St. Johns (200K), Moncton (140K)
- Major marine gateway to North America but very far from major population and economic centers.

Historic fishing, lumber, and mining areas.
- Porous international boundary allowed for cultural-economic blending.
- Present-day economy in decline with hope from off-shore oil exploration and tourism.
- US area has a thriving all-season recreation industry that the Canadian area doesn’t have.

Canadian Area Labeled “Bypassed” - Why?

1. It is in a “transportation shadow.”
   (An area of limited development located near an area of much greater accessibility.) Ships/airplanes go through it NOT to it!
2. Climate and topography not good for farming.
3. Became depopulated and isolated when settlement moved inland and westward to better areas.
4. Difficult interaction with the rest of N. America.
   Poor links to other areas. There is better access to the interior from East Coast harbors (Boston to Baltimore, esp. from NYC).
5. No pull factor.
   Few large urban areas. Limited industry and tourism.
   Canada’s main east coast port is at Montreal, far inland of this area.

Landscape characteristic of the Northeast Coast
- Foggy Landscape
- Icebergs
- N. American iceberg zone crosses the North Atlantic shipping lanes.
- Remember the Titanic!
Physical Setting of the Northeast Coast

- Centered on Gulf of St. Lawrence
- Mountainous terrain
- Shallow continental shelf
- Junction of major ocean currents
- Affected by maritime air masses

Climate

Humid Continental, Cool Summer Climate (Dfb)

- Air Mass Conflict Zone:
  - Polar, continental, and maritime air masses meet here
  - Generally cool, wet yr-round
  - Marine influence minimized
- Labrador Current is cold.
  - Hugs the coast.
  - Chills coastal areas vs. those of inland locations.
  - Creates cloud banks and fog when it interacts with warm air.

Nor’easters

- March 2014 with hurricane force winds
- Typical Nor’easter Feb., 2013
- Labrador Current is cold.
  - Hugs the coast.
  - Chills coastal areas vs. those of inland locations.
  - Creates cloud banks and fog when it interacts with warm air.

Physiography

- Appalachian Highlands:
  - Ancient mountain ranges created by folding dominate the area
  - Green Mountains, VT: c. 4,600 ft., glaciated
  - White Mountains, NH and ME: c. 6,500 ft, highest summits not glaciated
  - Appalachian Highlands of the Atlantic Provinces: c. 2,200 ft., rounded peaks
- Adirondack Mountains, NYS: an eroded geologic dome that is still growing
  - High Peaks: 5000+ ft high.
  - Carved by both continental and mountain glaciers.
  - Geologically part of the Canadian Shield, not the Appalachians.
  - The Thousand Islands in the St. Lawrence River is the link between them.

Adirondack Uplift

- The Adirondack Mts. are growing because of doming over a hot spot.
  - Remember: The Appalachian Highlands are getting shorter because gradational forces are the main geologic activity.

The LOWLANDS support settlement.

1) Connecticut River Valley (between VT and NH)
2) Aroostook Valley (No. Maine)
3) Lake Champlain Lowland (between NY and VT)
4) Nova Scotia Isthmus (between NB and Appalachian E. NS.)
5) Various coastal lowlands/river valleys (extending inland from the Atlantic and Gulf of St. Lawrence)
Physiography

**COASTAL ZONE**
Extremely rugged and a barrier to use.
- Rocky, indented shoreline.
- Fjords with steep slopes.
- Many harbors (protected inlets) but few beaches.
  - Difficult access to dry land.
- Large range tidal range.
- Tidal bores (true tidal waves) occur 2x daily.
- Fog poses a danger especially along a rocky shoreline.
- Icebergs/ice floes become trapped in northern inlets.

Coastal Areas

Maine
Nova Scotia
Lighthouses dot the coast.

Coastal Areas

Gaspé Peninsula, Quebec
Gaspe Mome NP
Newfoundland
St. John’s Harbor; Newfoundland

Daily Tidal Range

Pier at High Tide
Pier at Low Tide

The Bay of Fundy has the world’s greatest tidal range = 50+ ft difference.

Population Density

The Bypassed East is also the Empty East.
Includes the Adirondacks and the Gaspé Peninsula.
50% urban (small town), 50% rural.
Low per capita incomes.

Exploration and Settlement

- First area to be visited by Europeans.
- Vikings arrived in the late 900s.
- “Age of Discovery” explorations started in the late 1400s.
  - Cabot (1497)
  - Verazzano (1524)
  - Cartier (1534)
  - Champlain (1603)

Check maps in historical atlas, pp. 15-16.

http://www.davidrumsey.com/
Early Settlers and Activities

- Earliest European settlements (early 1600s).
- Colonial economy was based on fishing and lumber.
  - Fish, especially cod and haddock
  - Trees
    - Trees needed for the masts of naval ships
    - New England’s white pine was prized
      - 190 feet tall, clear wood, light strong wood
      - Lumbering was centered in Maine
  - St. Lawrence River Valley was used as a gateway to interior North America by French.

Acadians: Unique culture group who are descendants of 17th cent. French peasant colonists of “La Cadie,” a colony founded by Champlain. Viewed as “poor” by French colonial authorities and left to fend for themselves. No wealthy land owners among them (reflected in land pattern).

First group to consider themselves “North American.” They revolted against the French and the British.

See pp 21-22 in historical atlas.

Acadians

- Good relations with Indians because they stayed coastal.
- Diked salty tidal marshland to create “fresh water” areas.
- Did not try to recreate the landscape of France in Canada.
- British captured French colony, Acadians resisted Anglicization.
- Brought it Scottish Protestants to counter French Catholics.
- After 1755 Britain forcefully dispersed c.11,000 Cadiens to other colonies and the West Indies.
- Many Cadiens settled along the Gulf Coast (Spanish area).
- Phonetically, Cadien became Cajun in English.

Gran-Pré National Historic Site: tells the story of the Acadians in Nova Scotia.

Agriculture in the Atlantic Provinces and No. New England

- Colonial agriculture was mainly subsistence.
- Declined in the 1800s with the opening of western land and the rise of industrial employment in cities.
- Present trends
  - Less than 10% of the area is farmed. (c.50% in early 1900s)
  - Specialize in single crop/activity: apples, potatoes, dairying.

Major Agricultural Areas

1. Prince Edward Island
   - Fairly diverse area
   - Seed potatoes major crop
2. St. John–Aroostook Valley
   - Potatoes with large-scale mechanization
3. Annapolis River Valley
   - Traditional apple area
4. Lake Champlain Lowland
   - Dairying
   - Apples
**Agricultural Activities**
- Farming on Prince Edward Island
- Vermont dairy farm
- New Brunswick apple orchard
- Maine potato farm

**Fishing**
- Fish provide a source of food and protein esp. when farming is poor.
- Fishing has always been important to this area. (French fisherman spent months off the coast in the 1500s after Cabot’s report of cod.)
- Canada is a world leader in fish exports, most coming from its Atlantic Provinces.
- New England has a fishing/fish-eating/fisherman tradition.
- There are 2 principal fishing areas: Georges Bank and the Grand Banks

**Fishing Grounds**
- Shallow water and ocean currents of different temperature provides habitats for both cold and warm water species.

**Overfishing**
- Overfishing: the practice of catching fish at a rate that exceeds fish reproduction.
  - Fish population decreases in number and size.
  - Modern fishing fleets have the technological means to threaten the ocean’s fish supply with extinction.

**Forest Landscape**
- The forests of this region were important to a wood-starved Europe in colonial times.
  - repair of wooden sailing ships
  - source of building supplies
  - source of fuel.
- By the end of the 1800s, most of the forests of northern NYS and New England were cut down.
- Today the forests are used as a source of pulpwood, especially in Maine and the Maritimes.
- Wood-related jobs are important to over half the manufacturing jobs here.

**MOOSE**
- An example of human-environment interaction!!

**Geopolitical/economic dilemma:** If the oceans outside of national boundaries remain an unregulated “commons,” then no government or the UN can regulate catch limits and fish populations will decrease drastically.
Mining

- Metallic minerals:
  - Adirondacks
  - Labrador
- Coal in Nova Scotia
- Building stone:
  - Granite (Vermont, Maine)
  - Marble (Vermont)
- Petroleum and natural gas:
  - Hibernia field (1999) off the coast of Newfoundland in the Grand Banks

Tar Ponds Toxic Site

- Tar ponds of Sydney, NS called Canada’s “Love Canal”
  - Toxic material from steel making (located on a coal field) collected for c. 100 yrs
  - Leached into the ground and flowed into Sydney Harbour, contaminating surrounding areas.
  - Site has been remediated to rid it of toxic material and convert it into a recreational area.

Oil and Gas Drilling on the Grand Banks

- Conflict with fishing interests and conservation movements.

Prospects for Change in the Economic Landscape

- Northern New England:
  - Northward expansion of Megalopolis.
  - New manufacturing facilities, esp. high tech
  - Tourism:
    - Four-season attractions
    - Second-home owners; retirees
    - Easy access from East Coast cities

- Eastern Canada:
  - Seeks to spur tourism with scenery and history themes.
  - Invigoration through government-sponsored economic programs.
  - Distance and isolation from populated areas is still a problem to economic development.

NEXT
MEGAPOPOLIS: The Urban Landscape