

Painting by  
Jan Van Meer,  
1669

*“Ein Geograph in  
seinem  
Arbeitszimmer”*

(“A Geographer  
in his  
Workroom”)

**Charles A. Heatwole  
Room 1045HN  
212-772-5323**

Charles.Heatwole@hunter.cuny.edu

<http://www.geography.hunter.cuny.edu/courses/geog383.10/index.html>

- About the readings . . .
- The grading formula . . .
- Term project . . .
- Attendance and participation . . .

## Why “A History of Geography”?

- A truly comprehensive history of geography would be “mission impossible.”
- Courses like this tend to reflect the instructor’s training and points of view.
- Therefore, content and organization rather depends on who’s teaching the course.

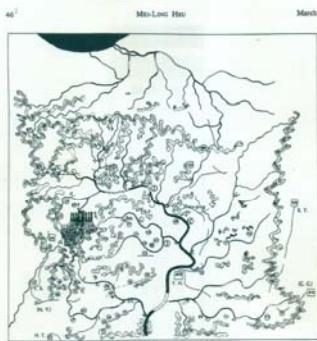


Fig. 1. The reconstructed flow topographic map. It covers mainly an area between 112°... 112°30' E. and 34°30' N. South is at the top. Sources and altitudes of present population centers have been added. With new exceptions, the flow patterns are very close to the original. The section 'T' is approximately 11 km north of present Chien-chien (in parentheses), and Linsen is 10 km east and slightly north of Hsin-chien. Source: Study Group Report No. 1, pp. 46, Volume 1, in which the map is 10 x 10 cm.



Fig. 1. The reconstructed flow topographic map. South is at the top. Showing is about 10 x 10 km. Source: Study Group Report No. 1, pp. 46, Volume 1, in which the map is 10 x 10 cm.

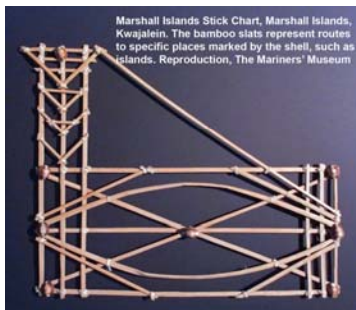
Old Chinese map



Old map of Tibet

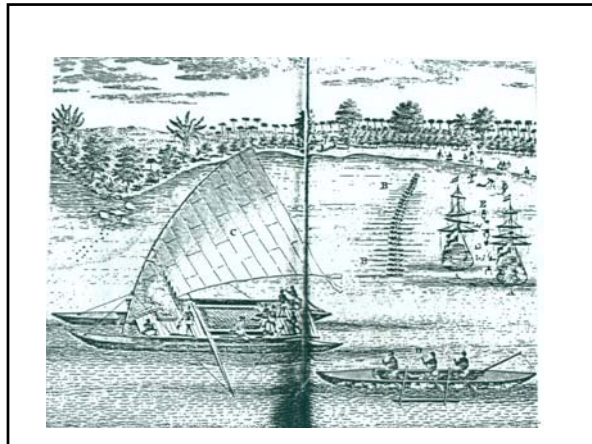


Polynesian "Stick Chart"



Polynesian "Stick Chart"

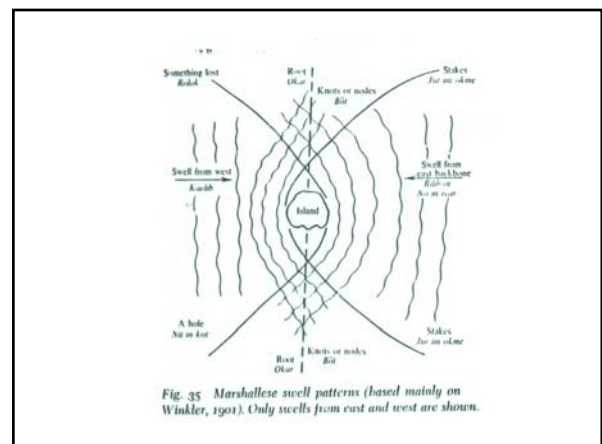
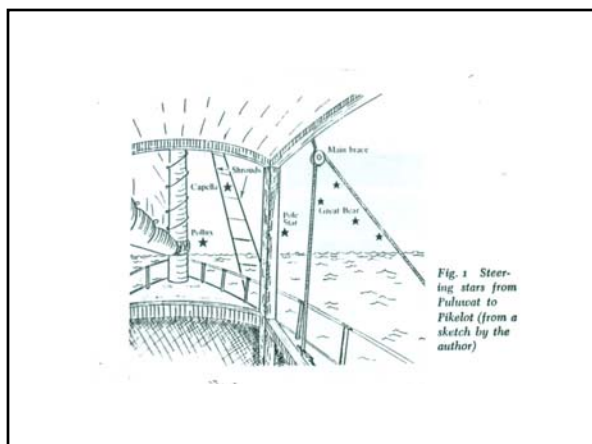
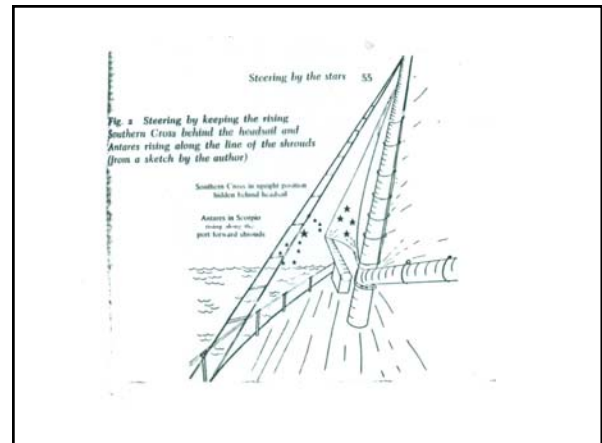
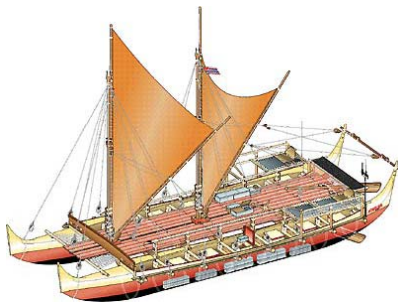


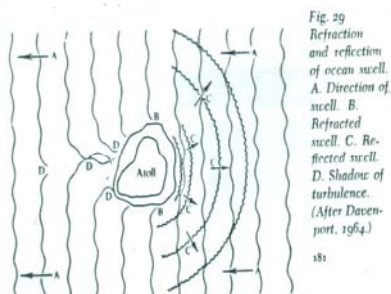


Polynesians in multi-hulled canoe, 1781



Model of ancient Polynesian vessel





### Vasily V. Dokuchaev (1846-1903)



- Russian geographer and father of pedology – the study of soils in their natural settings.
- A pioneer in the mapping of soils and in the development of soil classification and vocabulary.

### The goals of this course are to familiarize you with:

- Important individuals and episodes that characterize American geography and its antecedents;
- The principal philosophies that have highlighted the history of western geography; and
- Some of the major “story lines” in the history of western geography.

### Geography as an academic discipline . . .

- Though an ancient subject, geography as a stand-alone academic discipline is a relatively recent thing. It was merely an “umbrella concept” for much of its history.
- As late as 1880 there were fewer than 20 university geography teachers in the entire world (Holt-Jensen, 1999).
- Two reasons: In an era of increased specialization, geography was seen by many learned people as too cosmographic to be a separate subject; and much of its content was perceived as falling within the realms of history and geology.
- The first geography departments in Britain and the U.S. date from 1900 and 1903 respectively.
- Geography’s ascendancy at the university level occurred largely because it became a compulsory grade-school subject, requiring university-trained professionals to teach it.

“It is through geography alone that the links can be seen that connect physical, historical and political conditions; and it is thus that geography claims the position of a science distinct from the rest; and of singular practical importance . . . Scientific geography may be defined as the study of local correlations.”

– from The Keltie Report of 1886 (p.71)

Sir John Scott Keltie (1840-1927) was a highly active member of the Royal Geographical Society, serving as its Inspector of Geographical Education and later as Secretary of the Society. The 150-page Report served as a powerful justification for university-level geography.

### Geography’s Main Storylines

- The relationship between geography and technological change
- the relationship between people and environment
- relations to other disciplines
- the nature of geographic knowledge and education
- the “ideographic vs. nomothetic” argument
- art vs. science
- pure vs. applied research
- What is/should be geography’s purpose, and who should determine geography’s agenda?
- field work vs. lab work
- inclusiveness (or lack thereof).

### **The Four Traditions of Geography**

according to Wm. D. Pattison, NCGE, 11/29/63

- **Spatial** (mapping, GIS, RS-API, quantitative techniques, models, movement)
- **Area studies** (regional geography at all scales)
- **Man-Land** (human geography in all its forms, perception, hazards)
- **Earth Science** (physical geography)