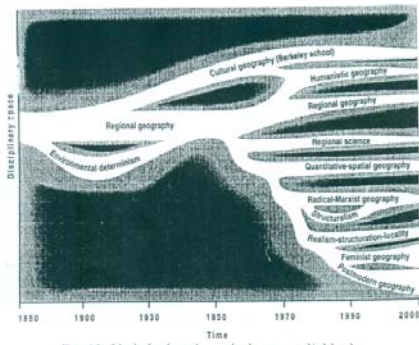


The Interwar Years

Readings for next time . . .

- Hartshorne, Richard. "The Upper Silesian Industrial District," Geographical Review, Vol. 24 (1934): 423-38.
- Sauer, Carl O., "The Personality of Mexico," Geographical Review, Vol. 31 (1941): 353-64.

From Richard Peet,
Modern Geographical Thought (1998)



Environmental determinism is the belief the physical environment – especially climate – determines culture.

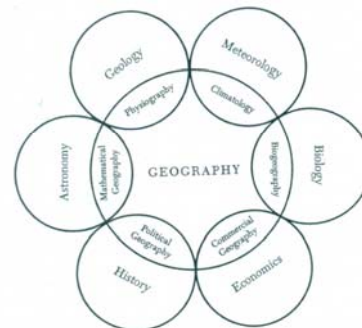
Probablism is a "watered-down" version of environmental determinism. Like determinism, it views the physical environment as the driving force in human life, but not to the point of being totally deterministic.

Possibilism is the belief that a given physical environment offers a number of possible ways for a culture to develop, and that the ultimate choice will be guided by one or more social factors, particularly cultural heritage.

Barrows, "Geography as Human Ecology"

- A.A.G. Presidential Address, 1923.
- Geography is the "Mother of Sciences." It gave rise to geology (among other disciplines), which is now nurturing geography.
- Seeks a central focus to differentiate geography from other disciplines.
- Says the answer lies in human ecology – "the mutual relations between man and his natural environment."
- Geography should relinquish such non-human-related specialties as physiography, climatology, plant ecology, and animal ecology.
- On the other hand, we should the study of economic, historical, social, and political geography – all within the context of regional geography.

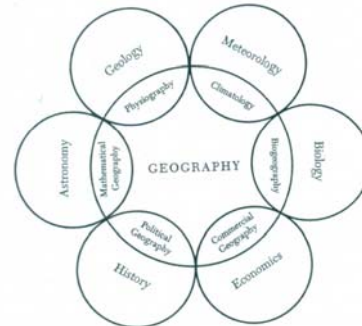
Fenneman's diagram from "The Circumference of Geography"



Fenneman, "The Circumference of Geography"

- A.A.G. Presidential Address, 1919.
- Seeks to identify a focus that can differentiate geography from other academic disciplines.
- Notes that geography and geographers, by their training and interests, overlap with other disciplines.
- Portrays this relationship with the aid of a now-famous diagram showing geography as a big circle that is overlapped on its circumference by smaller circles that represent other disciplines.
- If we eliminate the areas of overlap between geography and other subjects, then what is left?
- The answer: The study of regions in their composition and complexity.
- Justifies regional geography as the core of the discipline.

What does this tell us about the nature of geography as an academic discipline in 1919?



The content of high school geography in 1911, as may be gleaned from Charles Redway Dryer's "High School Geography"

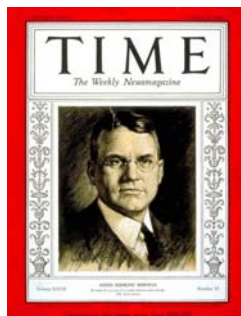
- Corresponds with content recommended by the Nat'l. Educ. Assoc., and the Assoc. of Amer. Geographers (p. 7).
- Part I: Physical Geography, pp. 9 – 262.
- Part II: Economic Geography, pp. 263 – 330.
- Part III: Regional Geography, pp. 331 – 515.
- "[Man's] intelligence enables him to live in all lands and all climates." (p. 256)
- "Man's worst enemies are no longer beasts of prey . . . but the minute organisms which infect his body." (p. 256)
- "[Man's] structure indicates descent from ancestors of ape-like habits." (p. 255)

Mark Jefferson (1863-1949)



- American geographer. Student of William Morris Davis. Mentor of Isaiah Bowman.
- Specialist on South America and world population.
- Chief Cartographer for the American Peace Commission at the Versailles Peace Conference, 1918-19.
- Human geography should be about human impact on the land, not environmental impacts on humans.
- Most influential work(?): *Civilizing Rails*, 1928. Argues that the geography of the contemporary "civilized world" is largely a function of communications linkages. The greater the connections, the greater the prospects for civilization.

Isaiah Bowman (1878-1950)



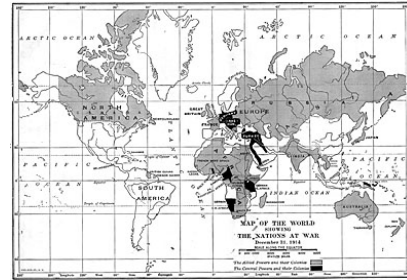
Isaiah Bowman

- American geographer educated at Harvard and Yale, where he taught from 1905-15.
- Published on physical geography, regional geography (mainly South America), and political geography. Most noteworthy work: *The New World*, 1921.
- Director of American Geographical Society, 1915-1935.
- Chief territorial adviser to President Woodrow Wilson at the Versailles Peace Conference.
- His work at Versailles helped to demonstrate the applied value of the discipline of geography.
- Council on Foreign Relations, 1915-1949.
- President, Johns Hopkins University, 1935-1948.

Bowman, "The New World" (1921)

- A very influential work in regional geography which nevertheless is subtitled "Problems in Political Geography."
- "The effects of the Great War are so far-reaching that we shall have henceforth a new world." (p.1)
- Has a strong historical perspective, which is suggestive of the overlap between history and geography as shown in Fenneman's diagram.
- 581 pages with 215 maps and 65 engravings from photographs, plus bibliography and index.
- The status of Europe consumes pp. 1 - 417.

Countries At War, 1914



Ethnographic map of Jugo-Slavia, 1921, from *The New World*, by Isaiah Bowman



Resource production and consumption map from *The New World*, by Isaiah Bowman

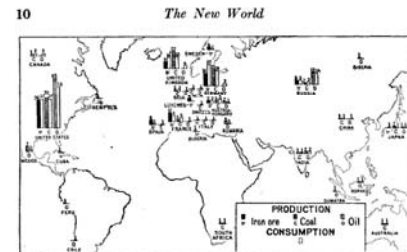


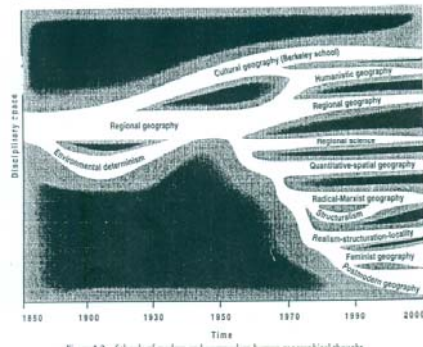
FIG. 5. Cartogram to show world distribution of the three leading industrial minerals. Figures represent percentages of the world's total in 1913. Data from the United States Geological Survey.

Carl O. Sauer 1889-1975



- Professor of Geography, U.C. Berkeley, 1923-57. Chairperson for 30+ years.
- Supervised 40 doctoral dissertations, several by people of future prominence.
- Founder of the sub-discipline of cultural geography ("the Berkeley School").
- Saw culture as an active force that shapes and modifies the physical environment (not vice versa).
- Fervent opponent of environmental determinism.

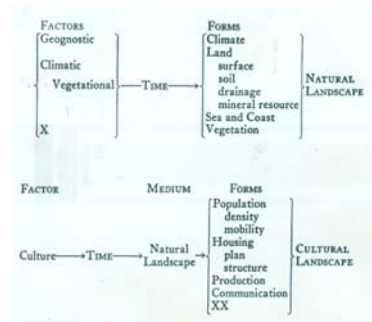
From Richard Peet, *Modern Geographical Thought* (1998)



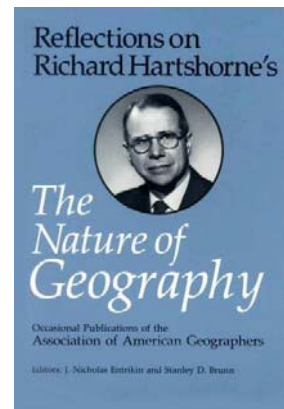
“The Berkeley School” of Cultural Geography

- Focuses on the impact of human culture (especially material culture) on the land.
- Sees culture as an active agency that can transform a passive natural landscape into a cultural landscape that reflects the cultural attributes of the human modifiers – which is rather the opposite of environmental determinism.
- The cultural landscape, therefore, is viewed as the principal unit of study.
- A cultural landscape may itself be subsequently transformed time and again by future occupants, resulting in a cultural landscape consisting of features put in place by different peoples from different times and cultures.

From Carl O. Sauer, “The Morphology of Landscape”



Richard Hartshorne, 1899-1992



Richard Hartshorne (1899-1992)

- Famous American political and regional geographer.
- During WWII served in the Office of Strategic Services, the forerunner of the CIA.
- Author of *The Nature of Geography* (1939) an important methodological work. Says geography should concentrate on **areal differentiation** -- descriptive regional geography focusing on how and why places differ from each other.
- After WWII, became a symbol of old-fashioned (outdated) geography.
- His approach to geography was ultimately and successfully challenged by people espousing a more scientific brand of geography.

The “Fractional Code” For Land Use Mapping Developed in 1933 by Vernon C. Finch



- Facilitated detailed study of small areas to help identify unifying characteristics of broad regions.
- Major step in promoting geography as a tool for planners.
- A manual GIS?
- Used numbers or alpha-numerics (e.g., 6a) to identify different kinds of land use. By combining them as fractions on maps, multiple characteristics could be shown.
- Study focused on Montfort, WI.

**1939 Aerial Photograph with fractional code
(near New Philadelphia, Illinois)**

