Prepare a one-page synopsis of Richard Peet’s article, “The Social Origins of Environmental Determinism.”

Key viewpoints of Karl Ritter
- Geography is rather like physiology and anatomy applied to the study of the Earth, which consists of myriad organs (including humans) that are interrelated.
- The earth is a cosmic individual with a particular organization; the exploration of this individuality of the earth is the task of geography.
- Adapted the 3-stage teaching model of Pestalozzi: acquire information; subject data to a general comparison; and produce from this a general system.
- A holistic approach which nevertheless focused on the influence of the physical environment on human activity.
- Ideas were later abused by proponents of organic state theory.

With von Humboldt, a founder of modern geography.
- First professor of geography at U. of Berlin.
- Deeply religious teleologist; saw God as universal planner.
- The plan could only be discovered by an objective accounting of all the facts and relationships in the world.
- The key is a comparative and systematic regional geography approach that explains relationships between people and nature overtime.
- Opposed to slavery and racism
- 19 volume *Die Erdkunde*, written between 1817-1859.

Karl Ritter
(1779 – 1859)

GEOG 701: Assignments for October 12
Ahmed, Sadiyah: Ellen Semple bio
Betancourt Mazur, Livia: Semple article
Brown, Christina: Semple article
Chim, Ivy: Ellsworth Huntingdon bio
Cytryn, Margaret: Huntingdon article
Devlin, Jennifer: Huntingdon article
Douglas, Robert: Peet article
Friedman, Erin: Peet article
Hymes, Marla: Ross article
James, Yolanda: Barrows article
Jenkins, Kevin: Barrows article
Laroussi, Joanna: George P. Marsh
Mead, Victoria: George P. Marsh
Murray, Wallace: Elisee Reclus
Olesh, David: Elisee Reclus
Sultana, Nighar: Peter Kropotkin
Visovsky, Stephen: Peter Kropotkin

• With von Humboldt, a founder of modern geography.
• First professor of geography at U. of Berlin.
• Deeply religious teleologist; saw God as universal planner.
• The plan could only be discovered by an objective accounting of all the facts and relationships in the world.
• The key is a comparative and systematic regional geography approach that explains relationships between people and nature overtime.
• Opposed to slavery and racism
• 19 volume *Die Erdkunde*, written between 1817-1859.
Vice-Admiral Robert FitzRoy (1805 – 1865)
Captain of HMS Beagle

Chile

Mount FitzRoy
Los Glaciares National Park, Argentina

Charles Darwin (1809-1882)
• English naturalist famous for his 1859 book *On the Origin of Species*, which argues that life forms evolve from common ancestors by the process of natural selection.
• Largely based on data he collected while a naturalist aboard the round-the-world voyage of the H.M.S. Beagle, December 1831 - October 1836.
• An account of that journey, commonly called *The Voyage of the Beagle* (1839), had previously established his literary reputation and credentials as a scientist.

Conrad Martens (1801 – 1878)
• English-born (of Austrian parents) artist known mainly for his Australian landscape paintings.
• Came aboard H.M.S. Beagle at Montevideo to replace Augustus Earle as chief artist after the latter became too sick to continue on the voyage.
Alfred Russell Wallace (1823 – 1913)  
British naturalist  
“Father of biogeography”  
Independent proponent of evolution based on natural selection.  
His correspondence with Darwin prompted the latter to publish his theories.

Recent cartoon bemoaning the “forgotten” proponent of natural selection.  
(Darwin left, Wallace right)

Jean-Baptiste Lamarck (1744-1829)  
• French naturalist and early proponent of evolution.  
• Believed that qualities learned or acquired by an individual in its lifetime could be passed on to its offspring.  
• Thought hereditary changes resulted from efforts to adapt to changes in environmental conditions.  
• Thought human nature could be changed by transforming the physical and social environment – a notion (loosely, Lamarckism) that profoundly influenced geography.

Herbert Spencer (1820-1903)  
• English philosopher and polymath associated with the rise of Social Darwinism – loosely, the application of Darwinian Theory to humans.  
• Coined “survival of the fittest.”  
• Human societies are engaged in a struggle with their environment and each other to survive.  
• The fittest people thrive best in an economic system based on free enterprise/laissez faire.  
• Saw the endpoint of the evolutionary process as the creation of “the perfect man in the perfect society.”

Friedrich Ratzel (1844-1904)  
• German political geographer.  
• “Organic state theory.”  
• Viewed States as living organisms that need food and resources to grow and prosper.  
• Justified colonialism.  
• Coined “lebensraum,” used by the Nazi Party to justify expansionism.
Geopolitics is the application of geography to strategic planning, policy-making, and actions, including:

- Projection of military power
- Creating and securing lines of communication
- Promoting access to and development of resources.
- Establishment of trade and military alliances.
- Undermining or limiting the military/economic options of real or potential adversaries.

Karl Haushofer (1869-1946)
- German general, geographer and geopolitical.
- His interpretation of Ratzel’s theories may have influenced Nazi expansionism.
- Sometimes called “Hitler’s geographer,” probably overstated.
- Important in forging link with Japan.

Halford Mackinder (1861-1947)
- Major British advocate for geographic education.
- Appointed “Reader in Geography” at Oxford in 1887. School of Geography was formed there in 1899.
- Said that geography needed a firm conceptual foundation, and could not simply rely on collecting facts.
- Proposed a focus on the causal relations between environment and society (“The geographical experiment” – Livingstone).

Halford Mackinder (1861-1947)
- British geographer and major father of geopolitics and geostrategy.
- Advocate of land power (as opposed to sea power).
- Viewed a strong army and ability to control Eurasia as essential to global domination.
- Proposed “The Heartland Theory.”

“Who rules East Europe commands the Heartland; Who rules the Heartland Commands the World Island; Who rules the World island controls the world.”

-- H. Mackinder, 1919
William Morris Davis (1850 – 1934)

Harvard Professor of Geography
Founder and first president of A.A.G. (1904) and N.C.G.E. (1915)

Strong promoter of geographic education at all levels

“Father of American Geography”

Famous for work in geomorphology, especially the cycle of erosion

Ellen Churchill Semple (1863-1932)

• Arguably the most famous woman in the history of American geography.
• Proponent of environmental determinism.
• Author of major works, including “American History and Its Geographic Conditions” and “Influences of Geographic Environment”
• Often referred to in her time as “Miss Semple” since she never married or earned a doctorate.

Ellsworth Huntingdon (1876 – 1947)

Professor of Geography at Yale
A.A.G President, 1923

Famous (infamous?) for work on climatic determinism and economic geography

Strong proponent of environmental determinism

Works include Civilization and Climate (1915) and Mainsprings of Civilization (1945)

“Thus the races, though alike in their physical response to climate, may possibly be different in their mental response because they have approached America by different paths.”

-- Ellsworth Huntingdon

“Again and again, to be sure, on the way to America, and under many other circumstances, man has passed through the most adverse climates and has survived, but he has flourished and waxed strong only in certain zones.”

-- Ellsworth Huntingdon
George Perkins Marsh
(1801-1882)
- American diplomat, linguist
  and naturalist
- Considered by some to be
  the “Father of Environmental
  Conservation.”
- A Vermonter influenced by
deforestation in New
  England and, thanks to
  ambassadorial assignments,
  related observations
  overseas.
- Deep concern for human
  impacts on the natural
  environment.
- Committed his ideas to print
  in “Man and Nature” (1864)
  and “The Earth as Modified
  by Human Action” (1874)

Elisee Reclus
(1830 – 1905)
- Geography’s most prolific writer?
- Stressed the importance of field
  experience in geography.
- Deeply affected by the slavery he
  witnessed in the Americas.
- Advocated understanding and
  respect for foreign cultures.
- Critical of the environmental
  effects of colonialism and of the
  unequal distribution of wealth.
- French anarchist and geographer
  whose work foreshadowed modern
  environmental and socially
  relevant geography.
- Saw geography as a way to
  promote planning for the equitable
  spread of global resources.

“For me, seeing the earth is studying it. The only serious study that I do is
geography, and I believe that it is much more worthwhile to observe nature
firsthand than to imagine what it is like while sitting in one’s study.”
-- Elisee Reclus (undated letter to his
mother)

Peter Kropotkin
1842-1921
- Russian geographer, scientist
  and anarchist whose writings
  are a prototype of modern
  radical geography.
- While on a survey of Siberia, he was deeply affected by the
  living conditions of peasants, which led to an interest in
  marginalized people and social
  relevance.
- Believed that cooperation was
  the key to human advancement,
  and not the competition/struggle
  central to Social Darwinism.
- Turned down a fellowship from
  the Royal Geographical Society
  on moral grounds, believing it
  supported an imperialist power.

“What Geography Ought to Be”: A statement on geographic education written
in 1885 by Peter Kropotkin (while in jail)
- Geography is the science best suited for a child’s
  imagination (and thus for the general development of
  the mind). No other science can teach children so
effectively about the interaction between humans
and nature.
- Geography has the potential to foster cooperation
  between people by emphasizing the similarities
  between cultures. Geography must teach us that “we
are all brethren, whatever our nationalities.”
- Geography must dissipate “the prejudices in which
  we are reared with regard to the so-called ‘lower
  races.’”

Kropotkin’s view of geography as an academic discipline
- “[Geography] is not just a descriptive
  science – not a mere graphy – but a logy;
  for it discovers the laws of a certain class of
  phenomena, after having described and
  systematized them.”
- While the collection of descriptive data is
  important, it should be viewed as an initial
  step toward a more complex science.
- [These statements have much in common
  with perspectives that would revolutionize
  geography after World War II.]