

**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**

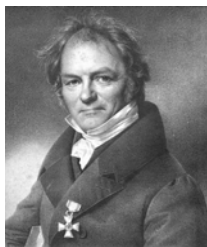
**Olesh, David: Elisee Reclus**

**Sultana, Nighar: Peter Kropotkin**

**Visovsky, Stephen: Peter Kropotkin**

**Prepare a one-page synopsis of Richard Peet's article, "The Social Origins of Environmental Determinism."**

**Karl Ritter**  
(1779 – 1859)



- 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.

**Key viewpoints of Karl Ritter**

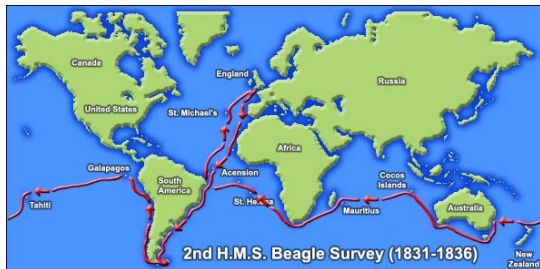
- Geography is rather like physiology and anatomy applied to the study of the Earth, which consists of myriad organs (including humans) that are interrelated.
- The earth is a cosmic individual with a particular organization; the exploration of this individuality of the earth is the task of geography.
- 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.



**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.

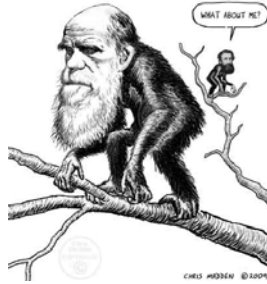


**Alfred Russel Wallace**  
(1823 – 1913)

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)

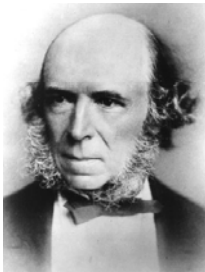


**Jean-Baptiste Lamarck**  
(1744-1829)




- 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 politician.
- 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)



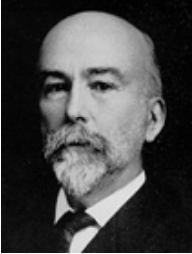
- British geographer and major father of geopolitics and geo-strategy.
- Advocate of land power (as opposed to sea power).
- Viewed a strong army and ability to control Eurasia as essential to global domination.
- Proposed "The Heartland Theory."



**"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)



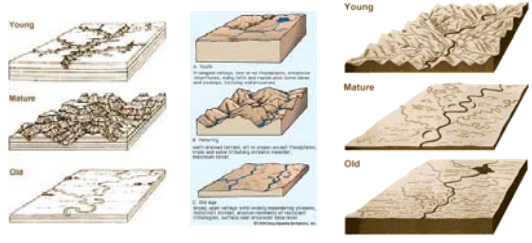
Harvard Professor of Geography  
Founder and first president of  
A.A.G. (1904) and N.C.G.E. (1915)

Strong promoter of geographic  
education at all levels

“Father of American Geography”


Famous for work in  
geomorphology, especially the  
*cycle of erosion*

**Three perspectives on  
*The Cycle of Erosion***




The diagrams show three stages of erosion: Young (steep slopes, V-shaped valleys), Mature (moderate slopes, meandering rivers), and Old (low relief, wide floodplains). Each stage is shown from a top-down perspective and a 3D block perspective.

**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 Huntington**  
(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 Huntington**

**“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 Huntington**




**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.]