

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.

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Ellsworth Huntingdon

(1876 – 1947)

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

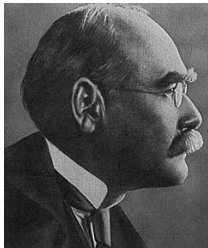
Famous (infamous?) for work on climatic determinism and economic geography

Strong proponent of environmental determinism

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



Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936)



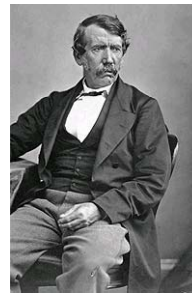
- Highly popular English poet and novelist whose writings seemingly celebrate British imperialism.

- Greatly influenced popular views of “native” peoples and cultures.

- Received Nobel Prize for Literature in 1907.

- Works include *The Man Who Would Be King* (1888), *Gunga Din* (1890), *The Jungle Book* (1894), and *The White Man's Burden* (1899), *Kim* (1901).

David Livingstone
(1813-1873)



- **Scottish Congregationalist missionary, doctor and explorer whose advocacy of faith, empire and abolition earned him mythical status in his lifetime.**

- His disappearance in southern Africa in the 1860s sparked one of history's greatest manhunts, ending in his iconic encounter with Henry Morton Stanley.

- Obsessed with finding the sources of the Nile and filling in the map of Africa.

- As per his instructions, his heart is buried in Africa. The rest is in Westminster Abbey.

Plaque atop Livingstone's tomb, Westminster Abbey



Livingstone's Travels in Africa



“Doctor Livingstone, I presume?”

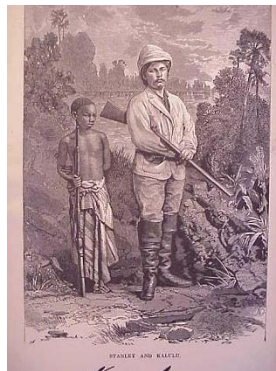
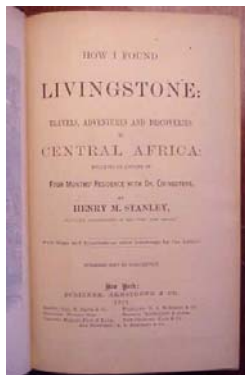
November 10, 1871



Henry Morton Stanley (1841-1904)



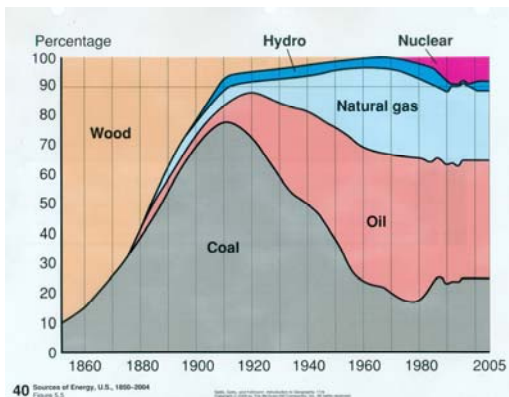
- Welsh-born explorer and journalist made famous by his successful sponsorship by *The New York Herald* to find David Livingstone.
- Authored a popular book recounting that endeavor, as well as later volumes related to his subsequent journeys in southern Africa.
- Controversial for his self promotion, treatment of Africans, and work on behalf of King Leopold II of Belgium that led to the founding of The Belgian Congo.



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.
- Wrote “Man and Nature” in 1864, and
- “The Earth as Modified by Human Action” (1874)



Élisée Réclus (1830 – 1905)



- French anarchist and geographer whose work foreshadowed modern environmental and socially relevant geography.
- 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.
- 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."

-- Élisée Réclus (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.]

During the 1800s important popular (as opposed to professional) geographical societies came into existence in several countries. Most were populated by men of means who were not professional geographers. The societies promoted scientific expeditions and commercial interests, sponsored public lectures, and published journals aimed mainly at the general public. Examples include:

- The Société de Géographie de Paris (1821)
- The Royal Geographical Society (London, 1830)
- The American Geographical Society (New York, 1852).
- The National Geographical Society (Washington, DC, 1888).