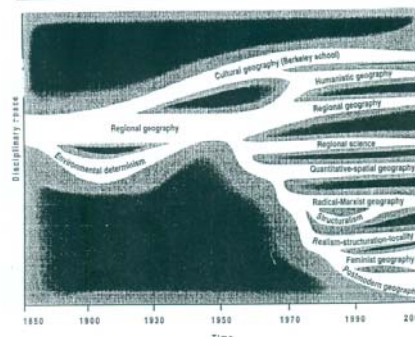


Radicals and Marxists

From Richard Peet,
Modern Geographical Thought (1998)



What was radical about radical geography?

- **The content:** the poor and powerless; the characteristics of places thereof; development and underdevelopment; people of color; women; racism; causes of environmental degradation; colonialism and post-colonialism; the global spread of capitalism; injustice in all its forms; sexual orientation . . .
- **An approach that encouraged personal involvement and advocacy** (as opposed to neutral observation).
- **Use of Marxist perspectives** (particularly during the Cold War, when mere advocacy of Marxist perspectives suggested lack of patriotism).

Factors in the rise of radical geography

- A growing distrust of government, especially due to the Viet Nam war.
- Rising awareness of social, economic and political inequalities and injustices that existed throughout the United States (including, in all likelihood, the very place where you lived).
- Awareness that these problems had geographical attributes and thus were amenable to geographical analysis.
- A sense that tackling these issues was relevant and noble, and reflected highly on the discipline of geography.

Writing assignment for Nov. 30

Pick a post-2000 article from a professional journal of geography (see list below) that either focuses on your particular area of interest in geography, or that simply strikes your fancy as an interesting topic. Write a one-page synopsis and appraisal; and prepare a 3-4 minute in-class presentation on the article that, among other things, summarizes its methodology.

Appropriate journals: *Geographical Review*; *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*; *Antipode*; *Professional Geographer*; *Economic Geography* . . .

Also, please read and be familiar with the last chapter of the textbook.

Structuralism

Philosophy: The world consists of innumerable places/settings where you find groups of humans who are differentiated from other groups by a common social context (structure) that molds their behavior.

Epistemology: Knowledge is obtained by identifying these setting-specific social groups (e.g., Colombian coffee farmers; Indonesian factory workers; gay men in Chelsea; Black women in Harlem; Nassau County commuter; long-term residents of gentrifying areas . . .), and the nature and extent of their unifying contexts.

Paradigm: Exploration of group contexts through a variety of means, principally observation and interview.