# GEOGRAPHY By Neetu Singh 2014

Geographical Thoughts

Part 11

**UPSC Optional** 

(iii) SOCIAL DARWINISM :=

Disciple of Humboldt German Scholar Ratzel Man strongly influenced by Sarwin's idea which is identified to be overcasted the scholastic environment in the beginning of 20th century. Integrating Darwinism in determinism Ratzel supplemented Classical Deterministic phase into social Darwinism.

In both this tent "human geography" and "political geography", he attempted the comparision of society & state with an organism. Recognising that just like an organism society and state can either grow or die, this growth was related to the increase of living spales 1.e. "expanding the geographic area of political or economic control. Following Humboldt determinism he strongly outlined that similar location leads to similar mode of life.

with society and state in the favourable location will be "superior" that is capable of expanding their living space

Ratzel's contribution to determinism as social Darwinism is further added with the fact that he developed one of the biggest disciple legacy including the scholars of other geographic schools. It was his capacity of training that made determinism enpand upto USA with Semple & Hutington as the strongest contributors to determinism.

Neo- Environmentalism ⇒ (write Ratzel)

NEO-ENVIRONMENTALISM:

Simple in her monumental text entitled "Influence of Geographic Environment" projected deterministic.

ideas that are considered to be extremely rigid. She completely discarded the possibility of comparing human capacity with that of

nature as "Man is child of Nature" which provides him with all challenges and prospects. with her treatment of man to be "Schott of the "Sust of the Environment", she marked the beginning of NEO-ENVIRONMENTALISM that is considered to be more extreme than environmentalism. In the similar lines, Hutington known for his monumental text "Civilisations. & climate" emphasized that it is climate as the environmental component that regulates human course of action with every civilisation being bound to typical type of climale. Analysing this inter-relation, he concluded that inspite of being older tropical civilisation are less developed than temperate civilisation. He is also known for developing the concept of cumatic Optima integrating selective survival and selective

nigration in the hunt of optimum climatic requirements.

### H) NEO- DETERMINISM :

The neo-environmentalism of Semple & Hutington was completely against the reality of human technological capacity and thereby modified course of living. It was therefore that the orientation of determinism resulted in the decrease of support of human geographers marking the beginning of decline of this ideology. It was in this environment that griffith Taylor propounded NEO-DETERMINISM wherein he emphasized that nature guides man to a particular path with man having no choice but to follow that path. However, movement in that path can be manipulated by human population in leins of acutivating, slowing down or even slopping the course of action. This approach of Yaylor is also called STOP-AND-GO DETERMINISM which faultaled

sugd sucognition to human capacity in manenvironment relation surviving significance of determinism . The

CULTURAL / SOCIAL DETERMINISM:
The present ideology of determinism, however, is recognised as CULTURAL / SOCIAL determinism.

Credited to American Scholars Bowman, Uttnan and James, the opproach treats nature to be Treatral.

The magnitude of dictates felt by human population is determined by level of cultural and technological growth attained by it. It is this approach that justifies CO-EXISTENCE of cosmopolitan cultural identities and fourth.

world community in the present purspective.

	Determinism	Possibilism	<u>-</u> . /
(i)	Environmentation (1)	9 50	®→ Rank while framing
(ii)	Classical Deturnism	* 6	answer on
(iii)	Social Darwinism 3	(i.) Classical Por	17
· (w)	Neo- Determinism®	(ii) Neo-Possibili	
(v)	Cultural / Social (1)	(iii) Brobablism	

### POSSIBILISM

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Possibilism as approach of mar-environment interrelation treats human capacity to be stronger than nature with nature succeptised with the role of an advisor. Its this ideology directly correlates to human technological capacity is significantly younger than delevenirism The first formal possibilistic idea is covielated to the work of French historian Lucian Februe. It was his work that was incorporated in geographical frame by French geographers establishing possibilism as approach of interpreting man-environment relation. Chronologically, possibilism includes 3 well-demorcaled phases:

- i) Classical Possibilism
  - ij Neo Possibilism
- iii) Probablism

## CLASSICAL POSSIBILISM

The Classical Possibilism is credited to founder of French school, father of human geography Vidal-de-La-Blache. Contemporary scholar to Ralzel, he established French school in strong relateation to growing dominance of Guman geographic ideas. He identified possibilism to be the approach where number of possibilities available to be chosen burg multiplied by variations in the attitude and that variations in attitude are the outcome of cultural background. His possibilistic idea is therefore considered to be significantly rigid in completely berminating hole of nature even as the possibility provider.) His urtimely death is considered to be the cause of weaker describle legacy developed by Blacke where both his followers French scholars Jean Bruhnes and Reclus followed possibilism

nove in lines of Lucian Februe in recognising nature to be the provider of possibilities Classical possibilism is also contributed by American Scholar, Barrow, who identified human geography to be human ecology making it the discipline engaged in analysing the struggle that human population is subjected to, in order to survive. This deviative classical possibilism further proved weaker orientation of this approach of man-environment relation. classical possibilism, therefore, was readily moulded as Neo-Possibilism and Probablism in

quick succession:

NEO-POSSIBILISM

Neo-Possibilism is credited to American scholar Carl O' Sauer, who concluded that nature provides possibilities with man free to choose. However, the range of

available possibilities is restricted by "PRICE" that man is willing to pay to overcome the dictates of native. It

PROBABLISM

In comparision, Probablism credited to American scholar OHK Spate, who identified that nature provides possibilities with man free to choose but some of the possibilities are more probable to be chosen. Generally, easiest of the available possibility makes the most probable choice. Probablism like cultural determinism is considered to be neutral ideas in analysing manenvironment relation with practical validity.

The genesis of geography as well-defined descriptive from the other existing disciplines as well as its growth is prumarily correlated to man-environment intervelation studies. It is this approach of analysis that resulted not just into development of physical and human geography but also development of sub-disriplines as demography, cultivial economic geography. From the great age of synthesis till 1960 mar-environment intervelation study remained the dominating approach of geographic fuld of enquiry. This field of enquiry however in the complete absence of specific method resulted into self-moulded approach, funible . conclusions, declining the scientific orientation of the discipline and making it

descriptive in nature. Realisations in regards to these limitations paved way to:

# QUANTITATIVE METHODOLOGICAL REVOLUTION :=

Diffusion of statistical techniques with model theory-building bradition to make geography more accurate, orderly and rational disapline is called quartilative revolution. The theorybuilding bradilion made quartilative techniques commonly follow generalised characteristics of man as rational economic creature and nature as isotropic plane. This approach in geography also covelate to locational analysis in human geography. Chronologically, this approach developed as :=

<sup>(</sup>i) Genesis Phase (Pre 1960s)

<sup>(</sup>ii) Kenith Phase (1960s)

<sup>(</sup>iii) Declining Phase (Post 1960s)

### I. PRE 1960s

The genesis phase of quartification involves the work of Guman economist Von Thurer who propounded Agriculture location Model as the first allempt of bealing isolropic plane & rational economic creature. Followed by him Afred Weber German economist developed Industrial Location least Cost Theory on the similar parameters. Both these locational theories presently fours absolute inligitated geographical theories. In this phase, contribution made by geographers includes Walter Christaller German geographer, who developed Central Place Theory not just on the same assumptions but also "envolved the calculations of value of k, the constant. Following his work Mork. Tefferson and G.K. Giff continued to enlarge. quantitative methods in the study of

sellement geography wherein Rank Size Rule (1949) of giff proved to be the convencing rule in althouting geographers to follow quantitative methods. Dwarg this phase settlement geography prumaruly incorporated quartitative techniques combined with basic statistical calculations of central value and incorporation of sampling. By 1959, formal initiation of quantitative training in geographic schools as per the efforts laker up by Alkerman established Terith Phase i.e. quartilative revolution that remained valid for entire decade of 1960s.

It was in this phase that the fellows of quantification Berry, Chorley, Peter Haggett (British scholars) and David Harvey (American scholar) conbubuled to quantifaline bradition and geography. Among them, P. Haggett

author of "Models in Geography" forms the most prominent combutulor in elaborating the validity of all the major human geographic theories developed by geographers of different schools. Demographic Transition Models, Rank Size Rule and Quartitative Method for Delimiting Tone of Overlap in the Urban Sphere of Influence are important combubutions.

Among the other conbubulors, Hoover, Isard—
industrial location models; Weaver— Crop
Combunation Region, relates to this phase.

It is in this phase that entire range of
sub-streams of geography was integrated
in quantification with more sophishcated
slatiotical calculations as Standard diviations,
regression correlation, widely utilised;
Moreover, sampling was converted to

absolute inductive reasoning with the support of remote sensed data. Integration of remote-sensing in geographical study led to the integration of Geographic Information System (GIS) that is compuler handling of geographic data. There was improvement in quality of data collected, data processed and interpreted. Quality of map, resource analysis, fulurable planning became much more efficient with integration of GIS. However,

(i) All these developments led to ide-humanisation of geography as entire range of normative questions perlaining to human behavior, beliefs, fear were ignored as could not be quantified.

(ii) Ever increasing sophistication of data tables increasingly regd sophisticated mathematical applitude with which average geographer are not brained in

- ii) Generalisation of man-environment and utilisation of 'golden-calf' computers firstler declined scholistic support.
- iy David Harvey started discouraging his disciples towards following quantitative methods as he observed that the revolution has lived its course and is yielding diminishing returns.

In the collective impacts of these facts, quartitative revolution declined in the beginning of 1970s sustaining itself as one-of the many methods for geographical enquiry

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\* Pegion is defensed ey a homogeneous area with its own distanctive attributes variable from the surrounding, it represent Co-herent picture of phenomena which is Essential geographical Element.