GEOG 120 FALL 1996

SOUTH AMERICA

I. FACTORS INFLUENCING THE DEFINITION/CHARACTERISTICS OF A REGION

- ENVIRONMENT: Landforms, Climate, Vegetation resources/risk

- PEOPLE: Cultural factors: langugage, ethnicity, religion
  Historical experience
  - CULTURAL HEARTHS
    - English/Scotch Irish, German, African-American: New England, Pennsylvania, Tidewater, South
    - French, African-American: French Canada; Louisiana (Acadia)
    - Hispanic: Texas, New Mexico, California; S. Florida
    - Others: Scandinavian (Minnesota); Morman (Utah)

- ACTIVITIES: Economic factors: agriculture, manufacturing, services, information

II. FACTORS DISTINCTIVE TO THE NORTH AMERICAN REALM

- ENVIRONMENT
  - LANDFORMS
    - Three distinct mountain-building periods represented
    - Four major river systems
  - CLIMATE:
    - results from mid-latitude air mass interaction

        - arid and humid North America: 100th meridian and 20 inch isohyet
        - the West Coast exception: topographic rainfall; rainshadows; the “Mediterranean” climate - summer drought, winter rainfall

- ETHNICITY: Historical contrasts
    - CULTURAL HEARTHS
        - English/Scotch Irish, German, African-American: New England, Pennsylvania, Tidewater, South
        - French, African-American: French Canada; Louisiana (Acadia)
        - Hispanic: Texas, New Mexico, California; S. Florida
        - Others: Scandinavian (Minnesota); Morman (Utah)
- ECONOMIC ACTIVITY: Agriculture and small towns (to 1870); Urban-industrial (1870-1970); Post-Industrial (1970-present)
    - EARLY MERCHANT CITIES AND AGRICULTURAL TOWNS
    - INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION:
        - “fall line” towns based on water power
        - coal and steel towns: the “manufacturing belt”; **fordist** production
        - **flexible** production: the new form of manufacturing

    AGRICULTURAL REGIONS: **intensive** to **extensive**

    - MODERN URBANIZATION:
        - metro axes e.g. **megalopolis**

- suburbanization - the **multinuclear** city

III. PRESENT REGIONS OF NORTH AMERICA (p. 188 map)

1. ***CONTINENTAL CORE - manufacutring belt; 19th c. immigration and urbanization; high population density; urban poverty and suburban growth; earliest metro axes: megalopolis***

2. ***NEW ENGLAND/MARITIMES - distinctive culture and history; physical environment; maritime orientation***

3. ***FRENCH CANADA - culture, language, religion; organization of settlement (long lots); rich resource base***

4. ***AGRICULTURAL HEARTLAND - wheat and corn belts; township and range form of settlement***

5. ***THE SOUTH - distinct social relations and culture; transformation from rural to urban; recent migration***

6. ***THE SOUTHWEST - hispanic and native american cultures; distinctive natural landscape; issues of water and electrical generation; low densities***

7. ***THE MARGINAL INTERIOR - natural landscapes; low density; late to develop; native american cultures strongest e.g inuit nation; resource driven (boom-bust cycles); amenities: the new "frontier"***

8. ***THE WEST COAST - physical environment - stresses and attractions; intensive agriculture: central and Willamette valleys; lumber resources; metro-axes; post-industrial (post-fordist) manufacturing.***

IV. FUTURE CHANGES

- SUBURBANIZATION AND PERIPHERAL LOCATION
- METROPOLITAN AXES
- RUSTBELT TO SUNBELT
- CANADA'S “FAULT LINES”