GEOG 220 (Alan Nash) "The Human Environment: Place, Space and Identity"

The Fundamental Concepts of Geography Parts 2 Concepts 6-9

9 Fundamental Concepts

- 1. Location
- 2. Distance
- 3. Space
- 4. Accessibility
- 5. Spatial interaction especially "diffusion"
- 6. Scale
- 7. Region
- 8. Landscape
- 9. Place

6. Scale

- Scale has two different sets of implications for geographers:
 - (a) map scale "the ratio between linear distance on a map and linear distance on the Earth's surface".
 - Note: a large scale map has lots of detail
 - A small scale map has less detail
 - So atlas maps (such as a Mercator one of world) are usually small scale

Examples -

A small scale map has less detail -

large scale map has lots of detail

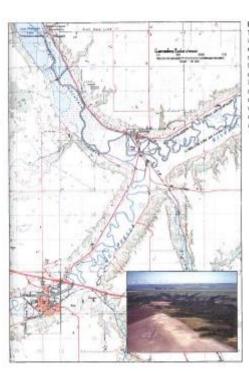
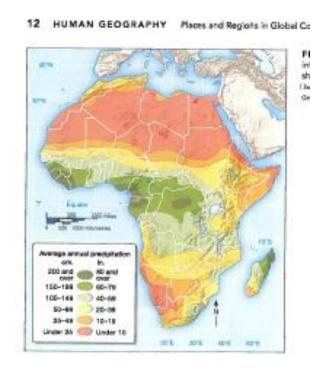


FIGURE 1.10 Topographic maps. Topographic maps represent the Barth's surface in both humanist and vertical distanciants. This except is from a map of the Cut'Appelle Yelley, neer Lurnache, Saskatchwan. The height of landforms is represented by comouns plines that connect points of equal elevation above see level, which on this map are drawn every 10 metres. Note how the contravar are more closely appead in the green areas representing the wooded slopes of the river valley. Features such as roads, power lines, built up areas, and so on are shown by sylviged symbols.

CHAPTER 1 Geography Matters 1

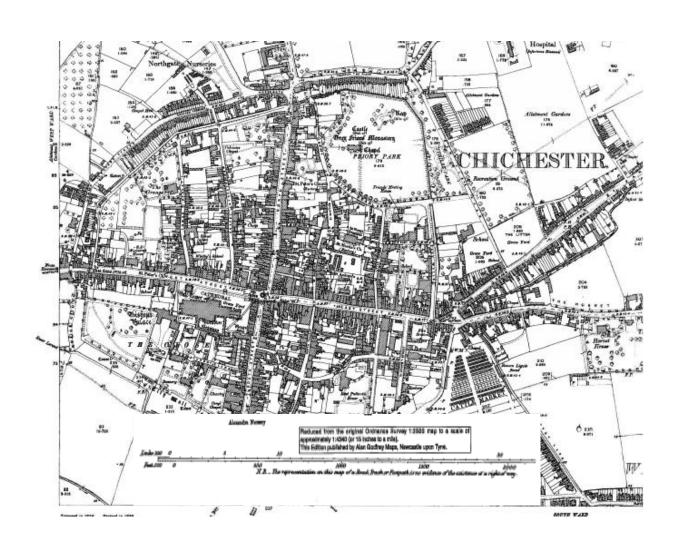


Map Scales

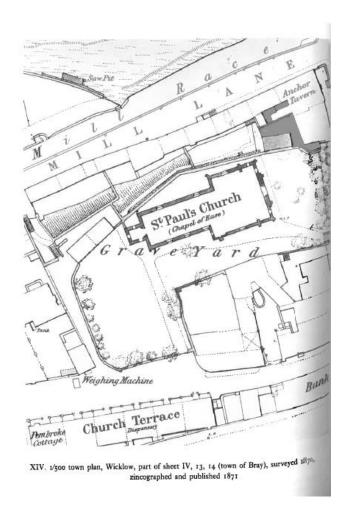
A map scale is the ratio between linear distance on a map and linear distance on Earth's surface. It is usually expressed in terms of corresponding lengths, as in "one centimetre equals one kilometre," or as a representative fraction (in this case, 1/100 000) or ratio (1:100 000). Small-scale maps are maps based on small representative fractions (for example, 1/1 000 000 or 1/10 000 000). A map drawn on this page to the scale of 1:10 000 000 would cover less than half of Canada; a map drawn to the scale of 1:16 000 000 would easily cover the whole of North America. Large-scale maps are maps based on larger representative fractions (e.g., 1/25 000 or 1/10 000).

A map drawn on this page to the scale 1:10,000 would cover a typical subdivision; a map drawn to the scale of 1:1,000 would cover just a block or two

This large scale map of 1896 was originally at a scale of 1:2500, but reduced to 15 inches to the mile



Even larger scale map – "a block or two"



An aside on map making:

1. Early nineteenth century maps had to be made by careful **triangulation**

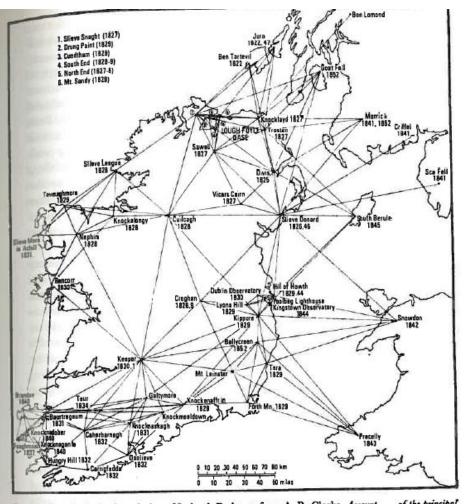


Fig. 1. The principal triangulation of Ireland. Redrawn from A. R. Clarke, Account . . . of the principal triangulation (1858), plate XVIII

This diagram shows the system used to triangulate Ireland in 1830s

Source: J.H.Andrews: A Paper Landscape: The Ordnance Survey in Nineteenth-Century

Ireland (Dublin: Four Courts Press 1993)

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Triangulation then used to map smaller areas within Ireland

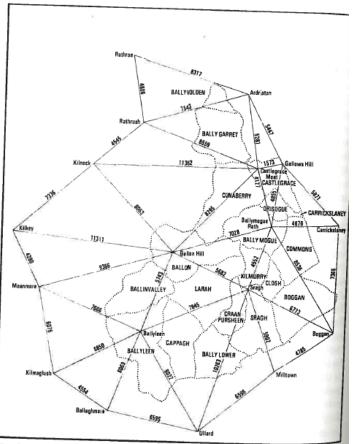


Fig. 8. Triangulation diagram of the parish of Ballon, co. Carlow, 1839. Distances in feet.

hy estimation rather than have

Note:

A similar system used to work out the Height above sea level of each key point

Maps provide an opportunity for the mapmaker to control how places are represented – and named

In this case, we note how the Inuit name for a place – Iqaluit – was for many years erased by the name given by English colonization – it was Called "Frobisher Bay" and lies at the head of Frobisher Bay on Baffin Island



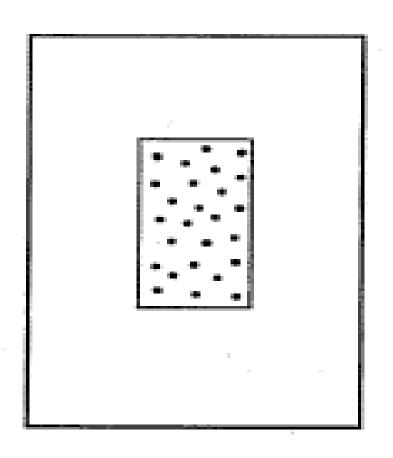
"The distribution of traditional place names indicates the incredible extent of Inuit land use and occupancy across vast stretches of Territory"

Source: Lynn Peplinski, "Place Names", *Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada: Inuit* (Ottawa 2018) pages 30-1; the map Is from the first volume of this atlas

Scale

– (b) the concept that there are various levels of scales of analysis (local, regional, national, global), that they are linked, and that the processes operating at one scale can have significance at other scales.

6. <u>Scale</u>: global, national, regional, local

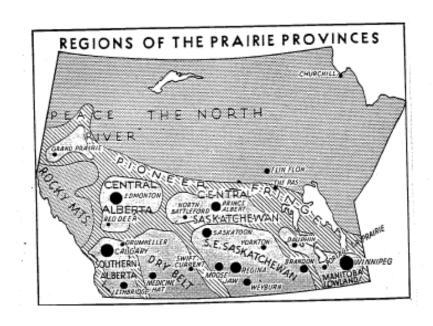


"Think Global; act local"

7. Region

 The concept of <u>Region</u> is defined as "a larger-sized territory that encompasses many places, all or most of which share similar attributes in comparison with the attributes of places elsewhere"

7. The Region: an example



7. Region (continued)

- This definition is based on 4 points:
 - (a) The idea of "region" is used to distinguish one area (or region) from another
 - (b) Regions are distinguished on the basis of specific characteristics
 - (c) regions <u>minimize</u> the variation of the chosen characteristic <u>within</u> their boundaries, and <u>maximize</u> the variation of that characteristic <u>across</u> their boundaries
 - (d) regions can be defined on the basis of any characteristic, or group of characteristics.

- Important exponents of the "regional approach":
- Carl Ortwin Sauer (USA)
- Paul Vidal de la Blache (France)
 - Human cultures and their physical regions shape each other – like a snail in its shell

Another example – the Basque region



Basque region includes

territory in both

France and Spain

Source: Pays Basque France

(Paris: Gallimard -

no obvious date or author!)

The Basque language – is very distinctive

Not French, or Spanish – it is not even Indo-European

- 1: bat
- 2: bi
- 3: hiru
- 4 lau
- 5: bost

You can perhaps see this from the Basque words for numbers 1-10

- 6: sei
- 7: zazpi
- 8: zortzi
- 9: beheratzi
- 10: hamar

Has its own style of folk architecture



Its own styles of cuisine and folk music

BAL

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rer

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de

Cusine: Cod in pil-pil sauce

BAKALAO «AL PIL-PIL»

Laver les piments, les essuyer,

les détailler en rondelles et les

ajouter à l'ail lorsqu'il commence

la morue et servir sans attendre.

à dorer. Verser le tout très chaud sur

INGRÉDIENTS (pour 4 personnes) : 500 g de morue salée, 12 gousses d'ail, 1 ou 2 piments verts doux, 1 ou 2 piments rouges doux, huile d'olive. Préparation la veille : 5 min, le jour même: 20 min. Cuisson: 30 min.

La veille, mettre la morue à tremper dans une terrine en la cha app la la recouvrant largement d'eau fraîche. La laisser ainsi pendant 12 h au moins, en changeant l'eau trois ou quatre fois. Rincer qu'i une dernière fois la morue sous un filet d'eau fraîche, puis la mettre dans une casserole et la recouvrir d'eau froide. que Faire chauffer et, avant d'atteindre l'ébullition, goûter l'eau de cuisson : si elle semble trop salée, la vider, remettre de l'eau sur la morue et la faire de nouveau chauffer. Lorsque l'ébullition est sur le point de se manifester, réduire l'intensité de la flamme et faire pocher à découvert, sans bouillir, pendant 20 min environ, jusqu'à ce que la morue s'effeuille facilement à la fourchette. Égoutter le poisson puis émietter la chair tout en retirant la peau et les arêtes. Faire chauffer un verre d'huile d'olive dans un plat de terre, y mettre la morue lorsque l'huile est chaude mais ne fume pas encore. Laisser mijoter pendant 20 à 30 min sans bouillir afin que la morue s'imprègne d'huile et devienne très moelleuse. Quelques minutes avant de servir, éplucher les gousses d'ail, les émincer très finement et les faire dorer dans une poêle avec de l'huile fumante.

Music – distinctive instruments



Even its own sports - pelote



 All of these elements allow us to define the Basque region – to know what territory it includes ... and to know what is outside (not in) the Basque region

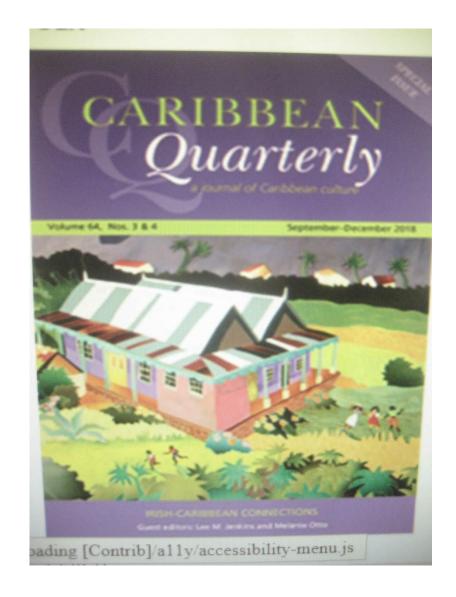
Region and sub-region

Example - We can look at the Caribbean – which as a whole – perhaps in terms of climate - could be seen as one region

But once we start to think about languages – it needs to be divided into smaller components (subregions) i.e. the French Caribbean, the Dutch Caribbean

And we can start to divide by folk characteristics – such as house design.

Almost every island has its own local type and forms its own small region – at least in terms of house type



Landscape

 landscape is a comprehensive product of human action such that every landscape is a complex repository of society.

- Different types of landscape
 - ordinary (or vernacular) the everyday
 - Symbolic symbolic, perhaps, of national identity
 - I add work geographers have done on our appreciation of landscape (aesthetics),
 - Picturesque landscapes
 - Sublime landscapes

We will talk about about this later in the term

8. Place

- <u>Place</u> is defined as a concept with two levels of meaning:
 - (1) an <u>objective</u> location that has both uniqueness and interdependence with other places;
 - (2) a <u>subjective</u> social and cultural construct somewhere that has personal meaning for individuals or groups.

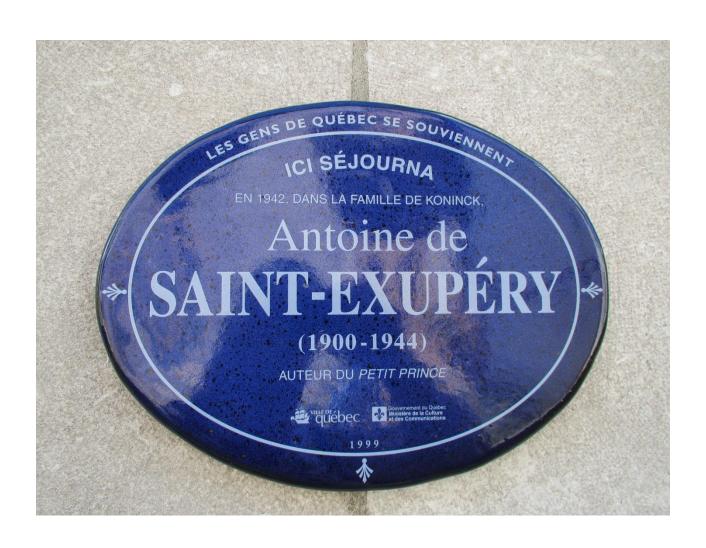
Place – a subjective concept

- Places can be personal constructs which means each of us has a different "take" on place
- And the same place can be constructed differently by two or more people
- In addition, attitudes to place change over time so that a city could be seen as a layering up of many people's memories over time
- In addition to personal views, we can imagine different cultures' views of place
- And finally we realize that there can be non-places

8. Place (continued)

- How does place differ from space -Perhaps the best way to think about this is
 to remember this quote: "Place is space
 filled with meaning" (Yi-Fu Tuan)
- "Place-making": any activity that enables place to acquire meaning:
 - This can be done deliberately (shopping malls, restaurants, theme parks etc)
 - Intentionally, Or unintentionally.

An example: Consider plaques



A Quebec City Street



In one of these houses, St-Exupery stayed

Does the fact that St-Exupery stayed in this house give it any extra meaning – does it make it a "place" for us?



The same house may have yet another meaning to architectural historians – plaque on other side of door

travaillées des portes et des fenêtres, ainsi que dans les corniches et les rosaces. In 1852 Cirice Têtu, a merchant, asked Charles Baillairgé, one of the finest architects in Québec, to draw up the plans for his home and to oversee its construction. The Tetu house is one of the most remarkable examples of the neoclassical town houses built at that time. Its elegant masonry is richly decorated with Greek Revival motifs which blend perfectly with the traditional architecture of the layout and facade. The Greek Revival influence continues inside, in the finely detailed door and window mouldings, cornices and rosettes. Commission des lieux et monuments historiques du Canada. Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. Couvernement du Canada - Government of Canada

Place - mobility

- Latest work focuses on ideas of mobilities
- Sees place as a focus (or locus) of movements, flows:
 - Capital
 - People
 - Goods
 - Ideas
- Places are constituted by the pattern of flows

8. Place – concluding notes

- The American novelist, Wallace Stegner (raised on the Saskatchewan-Montana border) shows the subjectivity of *place* in this quote from his book *Wolf Willow* (1973):
 - "The geologist who surveyed southern Saskatchewan in the 1870s called it one of the most desolate and forbidding regions on earth ... Desolate? Forbidding? There was never a country that in its good moments was more beautiful. Even in drouth (drought) or dust storm or blizzard it is the reverse of monotonous, once you have submitted to it with all the senses."

8. Place – conc cont'd.

- "It is not down in any map; true places never are."
 - (Herman Melville, Moby Dick; quoted by Hugh Brody in Maps and Dreams (Toronto: 1981))