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## Political and Cultural Geography Lecture Notes

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## POLITICAL AND CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY

## I. Biblical Principles

## A. Creation

1. Genesis in Space and Time: the creation account is not mythology, fiction, or science. It is not a species of poetry meant to capture the sense of awe felt by ancient men. It is not a cunningly devised fable designed by priests to gain control over primitive minds. It is a revelation of God's plan and purpose for the restoration of mankind to fellowship with him.

\* 2. First Principle: A personal God created a physical universe (cosmos) inhabited by spiritual beings. This first principle has an ontological as well as an ethical dimension. Ontologically, man is a creature. But ethically, man is made in the image of God and designed to have fellowship with God. Modern science starts with cosmic impersonalism (randomness, natural selection), denies creation, and recognizes the reality only of whatever can be measured or weighed.

\* 3. Cosmological Purpose: "What is the most offensive to modern science is the idea of cosmological purpose to the evolutionary advent of modern man." If man is to be his own maker, then arguments from design must be rejected. Perceived order first had to be attributed to random change. Then God was shoved out of the universe so that man would be free to assert his mastery (dominion apart from God).

\* B. Inescapable Concepts: All the categories of life remain religious because they are borrowed from the Triune God. "Since the only world man lives in is the world God created, his thinking even in apostasy is inevitably conditioned and governed by a God-given framework." (Rushdoony).

1. Sovereignty: authority, hierarchy

2. Predestination: total law and total planning. But all law is an establishment of religion. It is applied ethics and applied theology.

3. Religion: How should we then live? Culture is the outworking of our concept of salvation.

## C. Space and Territory in the Bible

1. Natural Boundaries (Gen. 1:6-10): waters and sky, land and sea.

2. Economic Development (Gen. 1:28): Dominion Mandate.

3. Homeland and Exile (Gen. 2:8-15, 3:23-24, 4: 16): Garden of Eden, the curse on the ground, followed by wandering in the wilderness. Eden is God's holy mountain, a place blessed with fruitfulness, governed by God's grace. (Compare mountains in other religious traditions, such as Mt. Meru of the Hindus, Fujiyama, Olympus, the ziggurats, and other stepped pyramids). Because of disobedience, Adam and Eve are disinherited (cut off from the land) and driven

- into the wilderness. God cursed Cain, banished him from his presence, and drove him from the ground to live as a restless wanderer in the land of Nod (wandering).
4. Refuge and sacred place (Gen. 8:5, 20): Mountains of Ararat and the altar. God chooses Noah and covenants with him to repopulate the earth after the ungodly are destroyed by the Flood. Noah's ark came to rest on a mountain, where Noah raised an altar to God and was given a dominion blessing.
  5. Cultural Differences (Gen. 9:20-27; 10): The nations, the curse on Canaan, and the multiplying of the human race.
  6. Empire Building and Nationalism (Gen. 11: 1-8): The tower of Babel (a pseudo-garden with an altar made of brick and tar) and the scattering of human race. Attempt to unite the nations around an altar fashioned by human tools results in separation. Babel represents the archetypal city of man.
  7. Separation and consecration (Gen. 12:1-3; 17:1-8; 22:17-18): Call to Abram, God's promises and blessings. Abraham is separated from the human city and made the father of a new nation which will bless mankind. The chosen people are to be a holy nation. God prepares a new home for them in the promised land, which must first be purged.
  8. Memorials (Gen. 28:18-19; Josh. 4:20): Beth-El, Gilgal.
  9. False Garden (Exod. 3): The temptation of adultery with a false religion in a garden that was actually a wilderness. Goshen is the best part of Egypt but it is a place of testing and refuge, not the promised land flowing with milk and honey. The Israelites--strangers in a strange land--are commanded to go into the wilderness to worship God on Horeb, the mountain of God.
  10. Tabernacle, Temple, Rebuilding of the Walls of Jerusalem: precise architectural instructions.
  - \* 11. Sanctioning Land (Lev. 18:24-28, 20:23, 26:3-4; Deut. 14-15, 28): cities of refuge, laws protecting the landless.
  12. Private Property (Num. 23:54, Lev. 25:23): stewardship and liberty are fostered.
  13. Destruction of the Temple: end of the old order (Matt. 27:51, John 4:21-24).
  14. New Jerusalem: God's holy mountain, the city set on a hill (Heb. 12:22, Rev. 21:10).

## II. Maps

### A. Cognitive Maps

1. Centrality of the home base or homeland
2. Distance (calculated in terms of time or money)
3. Relative Size (Connecticut vs. Wyoming)
4. Direction (Near East, Middle West, Deep South, Far West)
- \* 5. Imaginary Maps or idealizations (Emerald City, Emerald Isle, Garden and the Wilderness)

### B. Map Distortions

1. Medieval maps were oriented with Jerusalem at the top or in the center
2. Mercator (navigation)

### C. Propaganda Maps (see G. 8)

1. Geopolitical use of projection, scale, and symbol to distort reality

- 2. Map Wars (details of strategic or territorial claims)
- \* 3. Postage Stamps

### III. Personal Space and Territoriality

#### A. Physical Boundaries and Psychic Space

1. Hall: "Every physical thing has a physical boundary that separates itself from its external environment." Cf. concept of holiness as regards special service (Nazarite vows), disease (public health measures, such as quarantining lepers), personal hygiene.
2. A second non-physical boundary that exists outside this physical boundary is the organism's personal space or territory. A female dog with puppies will stake out a large area, such as a barn, which she will defend against intruders. Seating patterns indicate a great deal about social expectations in a particular culture.
3. Space is organized differently in different cultures. Japanese commuters, for example, will submit to being brutally packed into a commuter train. The physical closeness of a neighbor breeds stronger personal ties in America than in Britain or France. Neighborhood children are more apt to play together here. "Given a large enough room, Americans will distribute themselves around the walls, leaving the center open for group activities such as conferences." Americans will integrate new members in this same fashion. By contrast, the French do not divide up the space with a new colleague, who is apt to be placed in a corner facing the wall. Americans will passively stand in a line without regard to social rank and do not approve of people crashing into the line. "Europeans are likely to look upon standing in line as a violation of their individuality."
- \* 4. Americans tend to live in scattered residences with no concentration of buildings in one spot. We identify with places or points, but provide few linguistic cues as to gradations of size. We learn these distinctions on a piecemeal basis. The example of Truk provides a contrast.

- \* B. Territorial Imperative and Dominion: Robert Ardrey defines territory as "an area of space, whether of water, earth, or air, which an animal or group of animals defends as an exclusive preserve." Among animals, territories are rarely rigidly bounded and exclusive; they generally overlap. Territory tends to expand when food is scarce and shrink when food is plentiful. Thus territory is defined by need. Territoriality "functions to regulate the population by limiting breeding, reducing frictions among members of the species, protect feeding and nesting sites, reduce the rate of spread of diseases and parasites, and afford some security for weak or subordinate animals." But there are some difficulties with trying to apply this concept of territoriality to the human political community. Suffice it to say that there are some strong parallels.

- C. Status Symbols: Dominance behavior may be expressed in two major dimensions: hierarchies and territories. The construction of tables, the arrangement of chairs, the placement of houses, the size of buildings, and the location of capital cities are all

expressive of the politics of interpersonal relations. Such cues or signals are indicative of status or social ranking, the centralization or decentralization of authority, and the degree of communication between social classes. Diplomatic protocol dictates a sensitivity to distinctions of rank and is especially concerned with preventing crosscultural misunderstandings. We have also developed elaborate rituals around personal introductions and temporary seating in libraries, classrooms, and cafeterias. Street gangs mark their turf with graffiti and other symbols. (Cf. right and left, Matt. 25:33)

- D. Ethnic Enclaves: Jewish ghettos of Europe and the Mideast
- E. Collectivism: State-owned farms (sovkhozi) and collective farms (kolkhozi), communes, kibbutzim
- F. Nationalism (territorially based): It emerged out of European feudalism as the concept of regnum, or personal sovereignty, was gradually replaced by that of dominium, or national sovereignty. Nationality is generally determined by place of birth rather than parentage.
- G. Expansionism, Irredentism, and Revanchism (Manifest Destiny)
- H. Mystical Territoriality (Promised Land, Zion)
- I. Displacement (Diaspora, Wandering Jew, Gypsies, DPs)

#### IV. State and Nation

- A. Attributes of a State
  1. A territory with generally recognized limits
  2. Permanent resident population
  3. A continuous government
  4. An organized economy
  5. An established communications system
  6. Political sovereignty
  7. Diplomatic recognition (excludes dependent territories and colonies, like Puerto Rico, Hong Kong, and Greenland)
- B. Attributes of a Nation
  1. A large group of people who share a common culture, which generally includes a common language, religion, history, and political institutions.
  2. Examples: French (national music and literature)
- C. Nation-States
  1. The ideal form of political organization to which most states and nations aspire. It is a nation with its own state, or a state with the advantage of a relatively homogeneous population, a common heritage, and the absence of any major national minorities. Its survival is affected by an array of internal and external forces that tend to be either centrifugal or centripetal
  2. Centrifugal forces: large minorities, especially those identified with neighboring homelands (Israeli Arabs, Catholics of Northern Ireland, Mexican-Americans); territorial divisions (Pakistan, prewar Germany, Malaysia), regional differences (Ecuador, Australia, Italy).
  3. Centripetal forces: common loyalty to a head of state, common values.
  4. Examples of nation-states: the United States (a common language and cultural tradition despite racial minorities), Japan, Sweden, Paraguay, Egypt, New Zealand (small Maori

- minority), Netherlands (except for Frisians).
  - D. Multinational states: the Soviet Union, Canada, Laos, Belgium, Republic of South Africa, Nigeria, Malaysia, India, Switzerland, Yugoslavia (Orthodox, Catholic), Czechoslovakia, Romania, Guyana, Cyprus, Pakistan, China, Israel, Luxemburg, United Kingdom (English, Scots, Welsh, Irish, Cornish, Manx)
  - E. Examples of multistate nations: Germans, Chinese, French, Arabs, Magyars, Irish, Greeks, Turks, Koreans, Jews.
  - F. Examples of stateless nations: Armenians, Kurds, Lapps, Palestinians, Basques, Frisians, Baluchis, Bretons.
  - G. Examples of nationless states: Vatican City, Singapore.
  - H. Irredentism: Italy, Cyprus (enosis), Ireland, Indonesia, prewar Germany, Somalia.
- V. Territory of the State
- A. Acquisition of Territory
    - 1. Occupation
      - a. Australia, the Americas
    - 2. Prescription
      - a. Falkland Islands
    - 3. Conquest and Annexation
      - a. Conquest: Russian Empire
      - b. Annexation: Korea, Austria, Sudetenland, Baltic States
    - 4. Voluntary Cession
      - a. United States, Jordan-Saudi Arabia
    - 5. Accretion
      - a. Avulsion: El Paso
      - b. Deltas: Louisiana
      - c. Reclamation: The Netherlands
    - 6. Acquisition of Rights
      - a. Leases: Hong Kong, Canal Zone
      - b. Servitudes (easement): Peru, Svalbard (extraterritoriality)
      - c. Demilitarized Zones: Trieste
  - B. Size
    - 1. Empty Spaces: Canadian Shield, Australia's central desert
    - 2. Ecumene: effective national territory
    - 3. Ministates (under 5,000 sq. mi.): Gambia, Cyprus
    - 4. Microstates: Singapore, Liechtenstein, San Marino
  - C. Shape
    - 1. Elongated: Chile, Sweden, Gambia, Togo, Norway, Panama, Malawi
    - 2. Compact: Poland, Hungary, Switzerland, Costa Rica
    - 3. Prorupt: Namibia, Zaire, Thailand
    - 4. Fragmented: Italy, Indonesia, Malaysia
    - 5. Perforated: Italy, South Africa
  - D. Location
    - 1. Buffer States
      - a. Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan (inc. Wakhan Strip), Nepal, Bhutan, Belgium, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Mongolia, Jordan
    - 2. Strategic Location
      - a. Iceland, Falkland Islands, South Africa, Philippines
  - E. Exclaves

1. Lllivia (Spain in France), Baarle-Hertog (Belgium in Holland), West Berlin, Ceuta and Melilla (Spain in Morocco)

F. Enclaves

1. San Marino, Vatican City, Lesotho, West Berlin, late Imperial China

G. Internal Barriers

1. Amazon in Brazil, Andes in Peru, Australian Desert

VI. Frontiers and Boundaries

A. Changing Concepts of Boundaries

1. Walls and Fortifications
  - a. Hadrian's Wall, Great Wall of China, Berlin Wall, Walled Cities (Quebec, Jerusalem), Maginot Line

2. Personal Sovereignty

- a. feudal patchwork

B. Morphological Classification of Boundaries

1. Arbitrary and Geometric
  - a. colonial boundaries are typically arbitrary (German Southwest Africa)

2. Mountains and Hills

- a. military crest between Bulgaria and Turkey, Carpathians between Poland and Czechoslovakia, Pyrenees between France and Spain, Alps between Italy and France

3. Rivers and Lakes

- a. Rhine between Germany and France, Bodensee between Germany and Switzerland; Lake Tanganyika between Tanzania and Zaire

4. Forests, Swamps, and Deserts

- a. Bohemian Forest between Germany and Czechoslovakia, Black Forest (frontier), Emsland and Bourtanger Moor between Germany and The Netherlands, various swamps between Syria and Iraq

C. Political Classification of Boundaries

1. Antecedent

- a. Pioneer: Alaska and Canada
- b. United States and Canada, Libya and Chad, Chile and Peru

2. Subsequent

- a. India and Pakistan, Germany and France, Germany and Czechoslovakia, the Low Countries

3. Superimposed

- a. Colonies: Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, Cameroun
- b. Truce Lines: Netherlands and Belgium, North and South Korea, Israel and its neighbors, East and West Germany

4. Relict

- a. Prussia and Russia, British and Italian Somaliland

D. Cultural Determinants

1. Ethnic: India

2. Economic: adjustments along German, Dutch, Polish boundaries

3. Religious: India

E. Territorial Disputes

1. Islands in the East and South China Seas, Guyana and Suriname, Guatemala and Belize, Chile and Argentina

## VII. Core Areas and Capitals

### A. Core Areas (territorial cells--Ratzel)

1. Paris was the seat of the early rulers of the House of Capet starting in the 10th century.
2. London and the Thames Valley in the ancient kingdom of Wessex was the base from which the Normans conquered Britain.
3. The Danish core shifted from Jutland to Copenhagen as Danish interests shifted eastward.
4. Russia developed from two core areas, Kiev and Moscow.

### B. Marchlands

1. Austria began as a frontier dependency of Bavaria, the Ostmark or eastern borderland. It became a separate duchy and its capital was relocated to Vienna in the 12th century.
2. In Germany proper, the first core area was in the middle Rhine Valley but German energies were focused on eastern conquests. Despite several potential nuclei in the West, it was one of the eastern marchlands--Brandenburg-Prussia--that provided the impetus to unify Germany despite its lack of natural wealth.

### C. Imperial or Permanent Capitals

1. Historical: London, Paris, Rome, Athens, Mexico City
2. Colonial: Cairo, Lagos, Nairobi, Hanoi, Bangkok, (Delhi, Mandalay, Istanbul, St. Petersburg, Rio de Janeiro)

### D. New or Introduced Capitals

1. Brasilia, Kampala (Entebbe), Belmopan, New Delhi, Liliongwe (Zomba), Islamabad (Karachi), Tokyo (Kyoto), Ankara, Rangoon, Riyadh, Tirana (Durazzo), Canberra, Washington, Ottawa, Bonn (Berlin), Tel Aviv (Jerusalem)

### E. Federal Capitals

Bern, Moscow, Washington, Ottawa, Brasilia, Mexico City, Canberra, Pretoria and Capetown, Lagos, New Delhi, Belgrade, Kuala Lumpur

### F. Divided or Multiple Capitals

La Paz and Sucre, Pretoria and Capetown, Amsterdam and The Hague



## VIII. Culture and Population

### A. Demography

1. Census
2. Structure of the Population
  - a. Age and Sex
  - b. Education and Technical Development
3. Population Growth and Density
  - a. Dominion Mandate
  - b. Thomas Malthus and the Neo-Malthusians
  - c. Population Bomb scare
  - d. Effects of Socialism: productive middle class is harmed by confiscatory taxation, deficit financing, inflation, and outright seizure of property, leading to "capital flight."
4. Population Policies
  - a. International Migration
  - b. Ethnic Discrimination
  - c. Restricting Growth
  - d. Urbanization
  - e. Food Policies

### B. Nations and Subnations

1. National Unity
2. Cleavages
  - a. Language and Ethnicity
  - b. Religion
  - c. Race
  - d. Social Class

## e. Urban-Rural Distinctions

3. Plebiscites
4. Exchange of Population
5. Refugees

## IX. Resources and Power

## A. Food Resources

1. Imports
2. Agrarian Base

## B. Mineral Resources

1. Fuels
2. Strategic Metals

## C. Manufacturing Industries

1. Advantages
2. Strategic Branches of Industry

## D. Economic Self-Sufficiency (Autarchy)

1. Theories
  - a. Mercantilism
  - b. Laissez-faire
2. Realities
  - a. Wartime blockades
  - b. Peacetime embargoes

## E. Transportation

## F. Land Use

1. Zoning
2. Public Lands
3. Land Reform

X. Federalism

A. Advantages

B. Theory

XI. Administrative Areas

XII. International Relations

A. Conflict

1. Balance of Power

2. Neutrality

B. Conflict Resolution

1. Origins and Sources of International Law

3. Treaties

4. Bilateral Negotiations

5. Third Party Participation

a. good offices

b. conciliation

c. mediation

d. arbitration

e. Judicial proceedings

6. Legal Sanctions

### XIII. International Trade

#### A. Control of Trade

##### 1. Mercantilism

#### B. Liberalizing of Trade

##### 1. Open Door

##### 2. Most Favored Nation Clause

##### 3. General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)

#### C. International Waterways

##### 1. Maritime Trade

##### 2. Straits

##### 3. International Canals

##### 4. Free Ports and Free Zones

### XIV. Rivers and Landlocked States

#### A. Rivers

#### B. Landlocked States

### XV. Law of the Sea

#### A. Caracas Convention

##### 1. Territorial Sea

##### 2. Contiguous Zone

##### 3. Straits

##### 4. Archipelagic States and Waters

##### 5. Islands

##### 6. Exclusive Economic Zones

##### 7. Continental Shelf

##### 8. International Seabed Area

**XVI. International Organizations**

- A. Visionaries
- B. League of Nations
- C. United Nations
- D. British Commonwealth and the French Community
- E. Organization of American States
- F. Organization of African Unity
- G. Arab League
- H. Association of Southeast Asian Nations

## XVII. Development of the System of States

- A. Roman Empire
- B. Feudalism
- C. Rifts in Christendom
- D. Development of Nationalism

## XVIII. Colonialism

- A. Types of Colonies
  - 1. Primary
  - 2. Secondary
  - 3. Internal
  - 4. Neocolonialism
- B. Motives for Colonization
  - 1. Moral Obligation
  - 2. Economic
  - 3. Strategic
  - 4. Migration
- B. Early Period
- C. Colonial Empires and Their Policies
  - 1. Portugal
  - 2. Belgium
  - 3. France
  - 4. Britain
  - 5. United States
  - 6. Spain
  - 7. Netherlands
  - 8. Germany
  - 9. Italy

10. Japan

11. Australia and New Zealand

12. Norway, Sweden, and Denmark

13. Ottoman Empire

14. China and USSR

15. South Africa

F. Protectorates, Mandates, Trust Territories

G. Imperialism

XIX. Decolonization and the Third World

A. Nation Building

B. Economic Development

C. Foreign Relations

D. Neocolonialism