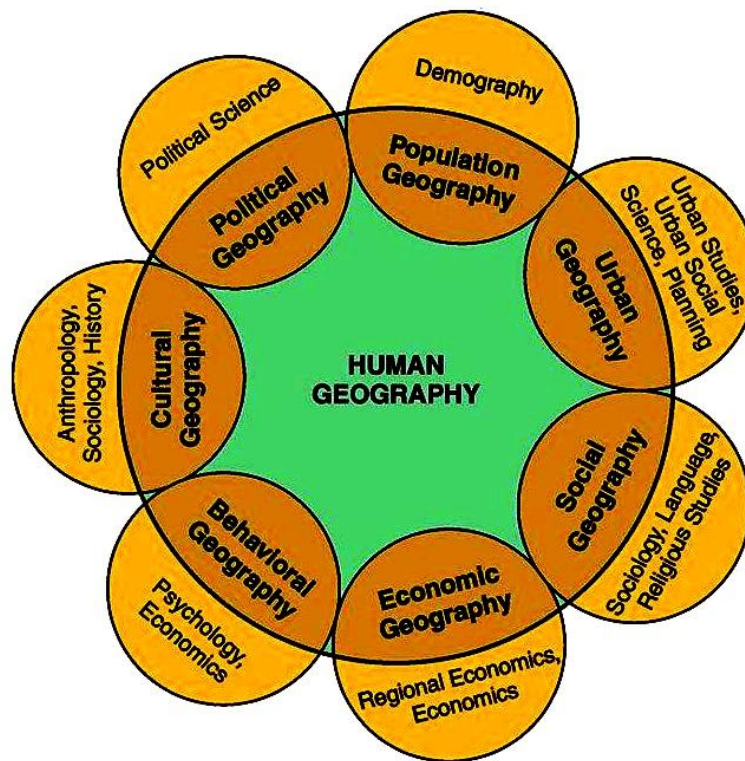


Relationship of Human Geography with other Social Sciences

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Introduction

Geography occupies a specific position in the system of sciences since it examines both, natural and social phenomena; hence the basic division of geography into physical and human. And those two disciplines were the core of the analysis: physical geography, which belongs to natural and exact sciences in the Web of Science database, and human geography, included among social sciences there.



Source: After Fennmen 1919

Relations with Social Sciences

Economics and Geography: Economics and geography are long related to each other, and should be regarded united and inseparable because both study 'concrete phenomena which have known situation and time', focusing on man. Economics is concerned with man's economic activities, and the principles governing the location of units of production, forces of production,

relations of production, the division of labor, and a host of institutional aspects including health, capital investment, and assets, entrepreneurial skills, technology, investment funds, etc. In brief, economics is concerned with how human needs and wants are satisfied in a world of limited resources, where everyone cannot have as much as he or she wants of everything. All the above phenomena concerning economics have a known situation and time. They must be studied in spatial and temporal context. Every human activity, dealing with satisfying needs and wants, must have a definite location (place), time and distribution. For example, mining activities refer to the place of occurrence of minerals, their distribution and the period of extraction. The purpose of the activity is production. Each unit of production on the Earth's surface is variable in the context of place, time and distribution.

Since geography is the study of an ensemble of phenomena about the place, localization, time and distribution, it is equally concerned with the variable character of the economic activities. Agricultural activities and industrial activities do have known places, localization, time and distribution on the various spatial sections of the Earth's surface. Forces of production, relations of production, units of production, a division of labor, the material condition and the entrepreneurial skill, all tend to have 'areal expression' with a known time and situation. This makes economics and geography interdependent. Modern geography which focuses on testing, or the empirical validation of hypotheses concerning variable economic phenomena, has developed a much stronger affinity with economics. This has been productive of new ideas and techniques since the 1950s. The introduction of location theory into geography is based on concepts from 'Neoclassical Economics' (which forms the basis of the view of how economic activity functions) as conventionally adopted in capitalist society. Geography's interaction with economics has given rise to economic geography, which is the study of the spatial variation on the Earth's surface of activities related to producing, exchanging and consuming goods and services.

Sociology and Geography: Sociology is mainly concerned with the institutional aspects of the society which broadly include social organization of communities, family structure and system, rituals, culture, customs, social system, and overall the entire way of living. Since all these aspects tend to constitute distinct phenomena which have known situation and time, they must be studied in spatial context.

Each spatial section of the Earth surface is identified by its distinct 'genre de vie', which results into 'social phenomena' and when one studies the variable character of its social

phenomena on the Earth's surface, he seeks to integrate sociology with geography. For example, when a sociologist or a geographer studies the institutional aspects of the social organization of the major communities of India, he or she takes into account the geographical aspects and bases of the social organizations of the major communities, each with a distinct way of life and having 'place', 'localization' and 'distribution' in different sections of the country. This shows the interrelationship between sociology and geography.

Geography's traditional link with sociology appears to have developed mostly as a result of the idiographic tradition. However, the introduction of the location theory into sociology has further strengthened its ties with geography and vice versa. Geography has drawn some of its concepts from modern sociology which are associated with the formulation of empirical generalizations or laws through mathematical methods and statistical procedures. A number of studies of relations between social behavior of movement of people between urban centers, of spatial interactions between social groups, of the relationship between innovation and tradition in rural and urban areas, have been made "both in sociology and geography with the aid of models. Social geography is the logical expression of the interaction between sociology and geography as it studies social phenomena in spatial context.

Anthropology and Geography: Anthropology attempts to study human races, their physical characteristics, biological traits, cultural traits, and organizations, and seeks to classify them accordingly. Physical and biological traits of human races and their organization are products of nature. Races have been identified on the basis of various indices, such as head index, nasal index and cephalic index and skin color, hair texture and stature and are accordingly categorized as Negrito, Negro, Australoid, Mediterranean, Nordic, Alpine, and Mongolic. Each of them has distinct biological traits and habitats and cultural traits and attempt to study the variable racial phenomena on the spatial section of the Earth's surface. The reciprocal relationship between anthropology and geography has resulted in the development of 'anthropogeography' or ethnology which treats different human groups in terms of the natural conditions and the geographical distribution of races (men). The study of 'apartheid' (the policy of spatial separation of races) as applied in South Africa forms an inseparable part of anthropogeography or ethnology.

History and Geography: History and geography fill up the entire circumference of our perception; history that of time, and geography that of space. As Herodotus has rightly said that

History without Geography has no roots and Geography without History has no fruits. History differs from geography only in the consideration of time and area. The former is a report of phenomena that follow one another and has reference to time. The latter is a report of phenomena besides each other in space. History is a narrative, geography is a description. History provides the framework into which the multiplicity of historical facts are ordered, the area provides the skeleton for geography, and both the fields are concerned with integrating different kinds of phenomena. Therefore, history and geography are traditionally idiographic and are mutually interdependent. Geography's inclination towards physics seems to have been further intensified on account of its increasing dependence on the hypothetic-deductive method. It has been mostly developed in Physics, Geography's increasing tendency to adopt the hypothetic-deductive method has been mainly due to the type of questions regarding the variable phenomena to be answered and the nature of empirical data to be studied. It is characteristic of the phenomena now studied in geography and physics that objectives are quantifiable. Some of the phenomena of theoretical geography are, however, much more abstract, and some of them cannot be directly observed, but the method of measurement has given a theoretical supposition of their existence. Theoretical geography, like theoretical physics, operates in an abstract milieu, seeking unity and association through mathematical and statistical hypotheses and postulates. It is from physics that theoretical geography has been able to develop into model building, precisely because it works with abstract and quantifiable phenomena.

Tourism and Geography: Tourism geography is the study of travel and tourism, as an industry and as a social and cultural activity. Tourism geography covers a wide range of interests including the environmental impact of tourism, the geographies of tourism and leisure economies, answering tourism industry and management concerns and the sociology of tourism and locations of tourism.

Tourism geography is that branch of science which deals with the study of travel and its impact on places. Geography is fundamental to the study of tourism because tourism is geographical in nature. Tourism occurs in places, it involves movement and activities between places and it is an activity in which both place characteristics and personal self-identities are formed, through the relationships that are created among places, landscapes, and people. Physical geography provides the essential background, against which tourism places are created and environmental impacts

and concerns are major issues that must be considered in managing the development of tourism places.

Political Science and Geography: Certain writers maintain that geographical and physical conditions greatly affect the character, the national well-being of the people, and their political thinking. Aristotle was of the opinion that devoid geography neither political nor strategically wisdom could move ahead. Bodin was the first modern writer who formulated a relationship between Political Science and Geography. Rousseau also tried to establish a relationship between climatic conditions and forms of government. He contended that warm climates are favorable to despotism or dictatorship, cold climates to barbarism and moderate climates to a good policy. Montesquieu, another French scholar, also laid emphasizes upon the influence of physical environments on the forms of government and liberty of the people. Nonetheless, Buckle excels all. In his History of Civilization, he viewed that ‘the actions of men, and therefore of societies, are determined by the mutual interaction between the mind and external phenomena of human life’. He emphasized that the actions of the individual and societies be influenced by the physical environments, particularly food, climate, soil, and the “common aspects of nature.” In short, Buckle rejected the previously accepted idea that the free will of man regulates the actions of the individual and society.

It is true that geographical location is a major factor in moldings the fortune of every State, and it greatly influences its national as well as international policies and political institutions. Moreover, to fathom the actual impact of geographical factors on the political life of a nation, particularly about its foreign policy, a new discipline of Geopolitics has developed. In a country like India Political Institutions (elections) and Geography are like the two faces of a coin and cannot exist without each other Therefore, it is no overstatement to say that geographical phenomena always plays a major role in measuring the purpose of national policies and to some degree the character of the political institutions of any area.

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