Jan 11, 2010

Geography is a broad discipline with three more distinct areas

Human Geography - Economic zones, human locations, cities and city planning

Physical Geography - rivers, lakes, mountains, land masses

geographical techniques

**The principal aim of regional geography is to understand the unique characteristics of a given region. Regions can be defined according to human and/or physical attributes.**

read W.D. Pattison “The four Traditions of Geography” on class website.

**regional geography uses info from spatial geography, environmental geography, and physical geography to form a complete picture of a certain region’s geography.**

core LO’s - develop a deeper understanding of the evolving regional geographies of Canada.

this course is organized around two basic questions

**What characteristics or attributes allow a given region to be differentiated from Canada’s other regions?**

**What factors and events have combined to contribute to each region’s unique characteristics?**

Regions can be defined on the basis of features that allow us to differentiate a given region from other regions. Regions are conceptual tools.

Regions can be conceptualized in three ways.

Functional - regions based on human characteristics. These regions can sometimes be highly changeable

Formal - formal regions are based on some physical characteristics and are unchanging.

Vernacular - regions based on perceptions of people living within the region and/or outside the region.

Jan 13, 2011

the relative position and location of regions can change over time. Halifax used to be the center of Canada’s industrialization but is no longer. Saskatchewan used to suck huge balls, no it only sucks small balls.

Core - Periphery Model - John Friedmann -

There must be two or more regions that are functionally inter-related for the core-periphery model to work. The regions are inter-related because there is a flow or people, info, goods, services, or technology.

The relationship b/w the two regions is asymmetrical (unequal) The core dominates the system and the relationship b/c it dominates the industrial activity. THe periphery/hinterland contributes resources.

Resources and labour flow from the periphery while capital, technology and consumer goods flow from the core

- Basic Characteristics of Core Peripheral Regions

Core Region- Space and physical barriers are overcome by a modern transportation system

Industrial production and industrial activity drive the economy and value is added to products.

Attitudes, values, and social customs are constructed and prevail

Sets the political agenda and controls political activities.

Peripheral Regions - Space and physical barriers continue to hamper economic growth and development.

Primary Industry drives the economy

The periphery is forced to accept the core’s culture and it’s values

Is subservient to the core - sense of alienation leads to protest movements.

Friedmann identified four stages of the core-periphery model

Pre-industrial stage - primary activity dominates the economy

- From this activity a single strong core emerges. It emerges as s core b/c it grows at a faster rate than the other areas.

- The industrial sector eventually becomes dominant

As the economy continues to develop it slowly transforms into a post-industrialized economy.

Some combination of factors and events gives one region a “comparative advantage” over other regions

there are two general types of factor’s:

Absolute factors - factors that cannot be changed. Things like location of resources are absolute.

Relative factors - factors that are relative based on the comparison with some other area. Example, many feedlots are located in Leth area b/c it is closer to the boarder with the states.

Friedmann identified four regions

Core Regions - the economic heartland

Upward Transitional Regions - a region that is economically growing and is on it’s way to becoming a core region

Downward Transitional Regions - a regions that was a core region but is in decline.

Periphery Regions

Events that have affected the structure of Canada’s Space Economy

Founding of the HBC in 1670 in - This functionally brought Rupert’s Land into the European economy

Reciprocity Treaty with the US from 1854-66 - allowed for free trade in ag commodities b/w Canada and the US. This agreement boosted the economy of Southern Ontario

Canadian Confederation

Completion of the CPR in 1885 - Canada was finally linked from Coast to Coast

Crowsnest Pass Agreement in 1897 - provided a subsidy for wheat transportation in western Canada

Development of the Marquis Wheat in 1906 - The first hard red spring wheat which allowed Western Canada to develop a wheat economy

Great depression - brought about many social programs

First GATT Agreement 1947 - started the transition to free trade and began dismantling Canada’s tariffs

St. Lawrence Seaway 1959 - allowed Canada to become a net exporter of minerals and ore.

the Auto Pact 1965 - formed the basis for an automobile and parts manufacturing in Canada

Canada-US Free Trade Agreement 1989 - fundamentally changed the Canadian economy

NAFTA 1994 -

GATT “Uruguay Round” 1995 - brought about an end to many agricultural subsidies.

Theory of Circular and Cumulative Causation - Gunnar Myrdal - Agglomeration forces lie at the center of this theory.

It begins with the introduction of a new industry or the expansion of an existing industry. This creates more jobs, especially in construction and infrastructure jobs.

This results in an improvement in the pool of trained labour. Which creates an increased demand for services

The increased demand is met by more people moving into the area and all these people spend money and more money being collected in taxes.

The increased collection of money creates a new round of construction activity as well as growth in the tertiary sector. The area then becomes a Growth Pole with people attracted to the region simply because of it’s size.

More highly trained and skilled people move to the area b/c it is a growth pole and these people invent and innovate which leads to introduction of new industries or the expansion of an existing industry. Or it can lead to an attraction of linked industries.

the attraction of linked industries creates backwards linkages to firms supplying raw materials or component parts, as well as forward our linkages to firms with further processing of the product or component parts.

Jan 18, 2011

Agglomeration Forces - encourages the concentration of related economic activities, which in turn attracts additional firms.

internal economy of scale = decreasing economies of scale.

“Geography is concerned with providing an accurate orderly and rational description and interpretation of the variable characteristics of the Earth’s surface.” Richard Hartshorne (1939)

“The fundamental goal of geography is to understand by describing, analyzing and interpreting its physical and human attributes.” Robert Bone (2002)

Regions have four characteristics:

They have a location - both absolutely and relatively

They have boundaries - which can be fuzzy or distinct

They have spatial extent - they cover an area which we can calculate.

They have an identity (Sense of Place) - which is determined by physical or human characteristics, or some combination of the two.

Some ways to define regions

Physical Attributes

relief/topography

geology

soils and vegetation

climate

Human Attributes

Economic activities

cultural dimensions - language, ethnicity

Political units.

Sense of Place - there is a psychological bond b/w a place or region and it’s people. It typically involves a combination of physical features and historical events. It is derived from a common experience and collective memory.

Region - identified on the basis of features that allows us to differentiate a given region from other regions.

Regions are conceptual tools. They are ideas we use to organize the world around us.

Canada’s regions can be readily understood, use political boundaries, can use census data, and capture a “sense of place”

Regions

Ontario - largest population region with 12.2 million people. Dominated by the GTA with most of the people concentrated in the Great Lakes St. Lawrenence Low lands. It is traditionally the economic and political powerhouse of Canada. Accounts for 38.7% of Canada’s GPD

Quebec - 7.5 million people and the heart of Francophone Canada. Position w/i Canada both politically and economically has weakened. Manufacturing concentrated in Montreal area. Pop concentrated in GLSL area

BC - 4.1 million people concentrated in SW corner of province. Resources extraction GDP. Well positioned vis-a-vie Pacific Rim. Aboriginal land claims are a big deal

Western Interior - 5.4 million people primary activities dominate economy. Alberta has surged ahead based on Oil. Future in knowledge based economy is uncertain.

Atlantic Canada - 2.3 million people. Was once Canada’s economic engine. Economic position undermined by the growth of Central Canada. Various attempts to stimulate economy have been hampered by geographic factors

North - 100,000 people, in a resource dependent region. Public sector employs most people and they live in isolated communities. There are two distinct cultures in the North.

Jan 20, 2011

Canada’s Bio-physical Environments

Canada’s physical geography has a distinct regional pattern

Physiography is one dimension of diversity; climate, soils, and vegetation are another important aspect of Canada’s bio-physical diversity. Each of the three factors are functionally inter-related.

The bio-physical influences human geographic patterns and activities in a variety of ways.

In those parts of the country where the bio-physical environment lends itself to agriculture we find that the landscape is continuously occupied (non-urbanized and spread out fairly evenly). In a mining region people are concentrated around the mineral deposits in communities.

Human activities impact natural systems, often with long term negative consequences.

Characteristics of Physiographical Regions

Extends over a large contiguous area.

Shaped by a common set of geomorphic processes

Common geologic history and structure.

There are three broad catagories of physiological regions in Canada

Canadian Shield - Canada’s largest and oldest region

Lowlands and Sedimentary Platforms - made up of the Interior Plains, Hudson Bay Lowlands, Artic Lowlands, and the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Lowlands.

Mountainous regions - made up of two regions. the Appalachian uplands, North America’s oldest mountains, and the Western Cordillera - Canada’s youngest mountains.

Canadian Shield

Canada’s iconic and almost defining landscape.

roughly 4.5 billion years old (precambrian era).

It is made up of volcanic activity forming igneous rock.

generally speaking it is associated with the Boreal Forest as well as the podzolic soils.

Jan 25, 2011

Canada’s Bio-physical Environment II

There are 7 distinctive physiographic regions.

each of these formal regions are large areas and have a common geological history and structures, and have been shaped by a distinctive set of geomorphic processes.

Great Lakes - St Lawrence

one of Canada’s smallest regions by space, but economically and politically Canada’s largest regions.

this region has the longest growing season and the best soil (luvisolic) in the nation. It has broadleaf and mixed forest vegetation.

It has long relatively warm, humid summers and short relatively mild winters.

Interior Plains

a series of sedimentary basins which contain massive fossil fuel resources.

one of the noteworthy topographic regions in the interior plains is that manitoba is stupidly flat. The glacial Lake Agassiz was formed about 11,500 years ago and about 500,000 km squared. by contrast the area of Hudson Bay is 822, 324 km squared and was the largest of all glacial lakes, It covered almost all of manitoba as well as areas of north eastern Sask, and western ontario.

One of the other features are glacial outwash troughs. They are deep river valleys and basins.

the soil type is chernozemic. It has short warm summers with long cold winters. this is a continental climate

relatively low levels of precipitation that is somewhat even throughout the year.

it’s vegetation is grassland and parkland.

in some areas it is short grass prairies and are almost desert like.

parkland has higher precipitation and is a transitional zone b/w grasslands to the south and boreal forest to the north.

Hudson Bay lowlands

the largest wetland area in Canada. It is boggy, and sticky with stunted to no vegetation.

Appalachian Uplands

An extension of the Appalachian mountain chain that runs down the east coast of the US.

The Appalachian mountains are very old and have been so eroded that they now only look like large rounded hills.

cool humid summers and short cool winters. It is humid, continental and cool.

Western Cordillera

Canada’s youngest region. It is a highly complex region that is a mixture of several different mountain chains with plateaus and valleys,

It owes it’s existence to plate tectonics. The Oceanic crust is traveling under the continental crust forcing the Western Cordillera up.

it can be broken down into its parts from the west to east.

Coast Mountains - volcanic in nature

interior plateaus - the southern interior

Rocky Mountains - also has the rocky mountain trench.

It is a region with two climates

Pacific - maritime climate with high levels of precipitation, humidity. has warm to cool summers and mild winters w/ precipitation spread evenly throughout the year.

Cordillera - cooler temps at similar latitudes b/c of higher elevation.

there is a coastal rainforest on Vancouver Island and the west coast. Further inland the vegetation is a montane forest.

Arctic

it is a mishmash of physical identifiers. In the West is the Coastal Plain, which is an extension of the North American interior plains. Then comes the Arctic Archipelago and on the far east side are the Innuition Mountains.

It is a low energy environment characterized by perma-frost, ice packs, and glaciers.

It is also a desert like climate that is very, very cold.

Summary - Take home points

a physiographic region extends over a relative large area with a common geological history and has been subjected to a common set of geomorphic processes.

geologic processes are plate tectonics or volcanoes. geomorphic processes are glacial erosion and sediments being moved around

At a national scale there are 7 regions which can be grouped into three broad categories

analysis of Canada’s environments allows us to understand the various relationships b/w climate, vegetation, and soils.

the bio-physical environment influences human geographic patters but it doesn’t determine them.

Jan 27, 2011

There are three sources of on-going tension geo-political tensions in Canada

Aboriginal/non-Aboriginal

Centralist/Decentralist

French/English

There is general agreement among scientists concerning the Asiatic origins of native North Americans. Some First Nations peoples are offended by this view.

First nations group argue that their oral traditions place them in the ancestral territory from the beginning of time.

there are competing views about how the first nations arrived. Either by the ice free corridor or down the coast/ocean.

there were three waves of migration the Palaeo-Eskimo period 5000-3000 years ago. The Dorset period 3000-1000 years ago, and the Thule period 1000-300 years ago.

It is believed that the Dorset culture was wiped out by the medieval warm period from 950 AD to 1250 AD.

The Thule culture gradually migrated west to east displacing the Dorset Culture

At contact there were 7 cultural groups with a population of about 500,000 broken down into 50 tribal groups.

there is a difference b/w treaty rights and aboriginal rights.

treaty - A treaty is a contract and under law certain rights and responsibilities flow from that contract. There can be disagreements over interpretations of the contract. These are what treaty rights are.

Aboriginal Rights - applies to both first nations and metis. These rights aren’t derived from a treaty, they are derived from the fact that the person is an aboriginal as defined in the Canadian Constitution.

Feb. 1, 2011.

Centralist-Decentralist Faultline

Centralists - advocate a strong central (fed) gov’t. So that the federal level of gov’t can pursue policies and programs that can be national in scope.

Decentralists argue for the devolution of political power, so that policies can better reflect regional values and priorities. They no longer see the need for a strong federal gov’t.

the basis for debate b/w the centralist and decentralist views are:

regional interests vary

differences in economic circumstances

differences in political cultures

Alienation from the core - e.g., Western Alienation

Manifestations of western alienation

Rise of Protest political parties

United Farmers of Alberta (1922)

National Progressive Party (1920)

Co-operative Commonwealth Confederation Party (1911)

Social Credit (1932)

Western Canadian COncept Party (early 80’s)

Reform Party (19860

Federal Election of 1935

conservatives under RB Bennett loss badly to WLM King and the Liberals

17 seats go to Social Credit and 7 to the CCF

Explaining the Rise of Western Alienation

Geographic factors

Western Canada is a long way from the urban, industrial, and political core.

Cultural factors

Historical factors

a system of tariffs were set up in the late 1800’s so that manufacturers in central Canada were protected from cheaper American goods.

Historical events/desicions that helped foster western alienation

BNA Act - the act built Canada to have a strong central gov’t so that it could engage in nation building

Macdonald’s National policy - High tariffs to protect central canadian manufacturing

CPR - controlled by eastern industrialists. Also gave the CPR huge tracts of land along with subsurface rights

Crows Nest Pass Agreement

Outcome of Free Trade Election of 1911

WW1 Conscription Crisis

R.B. Bennett’s tardy reaction to the Great Depression - he was vilified for his policies. He believed in limited and small gov’t so he saw no role for the central gov’t to get Canada out of the great depression.

Federal policies of Bilingualism and Multiculturalism -

The NEP -

Transfers from the Fed Gov’t

Equalization payments

Closure of CFB Calgary and the CF-18 maintenance contract.

The Canadian Wheat Board

Imposition of “Core” Values

Vriend v Alberta

Gun Control

feb 3, 2011

French English Faultline

see history of Canada notes on Loyalists, Acadian deportation, Quebec Act, Quiet Revolution, Soveriegnty-Association, Repatriation of the Constitution (1982)

Competing visions of Quebec w/i Canada

Partnership b/w two founding national groups - French and English

Quebec as one of 10 equal provinces

Feb 8, 2011

Human Geography of Canada - 6 Big Changes

at the point of European contact 100% of Canadian population were aboriginal as of 2006 it was less that 5%.

Canada’s french speaking pop has also seen a decline. in 1951 about 30% of the pop as of 2006 it was around 22%.

Canada is an urbanized nation. 1901 only about 33% of Canadians lived in cities. Today 8 out of every 10 Canadians live in urban areas.

The locust of population growth have shifted westward to Sask, AB, and BC.

Canada’s pop is becoming increasingly more ethnically diverse.

Our population is aging.

it is difficult to estimate the size of the native pop at the time of contact but the estimates vary from 200,000 to 2 million. The estimate of about 500,000 is the most widely accepted number.

post contact the pop declined sharply so that by 1901 the pop was about 100,000. This was mainly because of European diseases.

today the native pop is distinctive for a number of reasons

the native pop is geographically concentrated in the three prairie provinces and in Nunavut. They are not spread out evenly across the nation

the native pop in Canada has the highest rate of natural increase of any identifiable group in Canada

the native pop has the highest infant mortality rate and lowest lifetime expectancy of any group in the nation.

1/4 of Canadian prisoners are native.

about 1/2 of first nations peoples (and growing) now live off reserves.

French Canada 1608-1759

b/w 1665-1754 the pop of French Canada exploded, increasing 1,611%. Post 1759 immigration from France virtually ends.

Demographic Transition 1760-1867.

there were two waves of arrivals. The First was the arrival of the Loyalists (50,000) who mainly settled in Atlantic Canada.

the second major wave was the arrival of nearly 1,000,000 people arrived from the British Isles. This was a deliberate attempt to dilute the proportion of French speaking people in British North America after the rebellions of Upper and Lower Canada in 1837.

Setting the Stage for Takeoff 1867-1901

the basic building blocks are being put into place for Canada to be brought into the industrial phase.

infrastructure was built up, the railway was finished and Confederation was completed.

It was a very tumultuous time. Canada’s population fluctuated drastically, 1.9 million people arrived in Canada but 2.5 million people left Canada.

Macdonald’s vision

A political union stretching from the maritimes to BC

a national rail connection

a strong, industrial core

the western interior settled by Europeans

The dominion lands act set out how western Canada would be surveyed. The problem with the way it was set up in was that out of 36 sections only 16 of them were available for settlement

2 were reserved for schools

2 for the HBC

12 allocated to the CPR/retained by the crown.

Western settlement was also hampered by the fact that the CPR wouldn’t be finished until 1885, low population density b/c of the survey patterns meant that farmers often had to travel large distances to market their good and they were a very long ways from eastern markets.

another large hindrance to western settlement was the short growing season of the Canadian prairies.

Invasion of the West 1901-1931

the Canadian pop over this period basically doubles. It was a period during which immigration was more important than at any other time in Canada’s history.

b/w 2 and 3 million people homesteaded the west.

The traditional immigrant pop (from the British Isles and other western European nations). So Canada looked elsewhere for immigrants

this period was most influenced by Clifford Sifton - the architect responsible for shaping the cultural geography if western Canada through his immigration policies.

the problem with Canada’s short growing season was overcome by cross breading Red Fife and Hard Red Calcutta to produce Markham wheat - the first Hard Red Spring Wheat. through subsequent selection of seeds from plants with desirable qualities, Marquis wheat was developed.

Locational constraints were overcome with the construction of the CPR and a railroad was also built through the crowsnest pass to Nelson and that they would ship grain at a subsidized rate.

It was during this time that we start to see a differentiation b/w the core and the periphery.

The Great Depression and After 1929-1945

A major economic depression coinciding with a major agricultural depression via drought.

during this period about 1/4 million people left the Canadian western interior.

It is also in this time period that Canada’s social safety net and welfare system.

Baby Boom 1946-1966

a period of remarkable changes in Canada - Urbanization, Industrialization, industrialization of agriculture and the growth of the family.

during the boom the pop doubles from high birth rate and high levels of immigration.

in the latter stages immigration falls off b/c the boom is ending in those nations as well.

declining birth rate linked in large part to availability of and attitudes toward contraception.

it is during this time that we see a fundamental shift in Canadian values and attitudes.

this period coincides with the post-war urban industrial boom. there is great demand for consumer products. People haven’t been able to buy things for 20 years b/c of depression and then war.

there was upward pressure on wages which forces agriculture to industrialize. The industrialization of agriculture leads to more grain being produced and the surpluses lead to grain prices being depressed.

Emergence of the New Canada 1967-...

Canada’s rate of natural increase has dropped below the rate of replacement

1973 and the OPEC oil crisis, Canada’s industrial economy was built on cheap energy and this marks the end of cheap energy which is a major rupturing of the Canadian economy.

we are not the only nation with a rate of increase tank. Our traditional immigration nations do as well. This means that we must find new sources of immigration. Beginning on the early 70’s we changed out immigration policy to be based on a point system.

this change in policy has resulted in an observable change in Canada’s ethnic structure.

Feb 10, 2011

Canada’s pop is one of the youngest of the industrialized world but it is aging at a especially rapid rate. Consequently we will need to make adjustments over a shorter time period

There are two scenarios on the horizon:

seniors quality of life will improve b/c of community based service provision

Seniors quality of life will deteriorate as they continue to live in isolation and low density.

Alberta, BC, Ontario, and Quebec are destination provinces for younger workers so that the other provinces have higher rates of in-situ aging.

BC, AB, ON, QE are also destination provinces for wealthy seniors.

the low birthrate and insufficient rates of immigration mean that the labour pool is not going to increase from 2016 to 2025 while at the same time our aging population is increasing. This will lead to labour shortages.

these shortages will be especially great in the public service sector

health care costs are expected to increase from 87 billion in 2000 to 147 billion in 2020

retiree to worker ratio expected to climb from 19/100 today to 30/100 by 2030.

decreased personal savings (due to discretionary spending) may impact inter-generational transfer of wealth.

Factors underlying the declining Birth Rate

Demographic transition from a rural agrarian society to a urban industrial society. In agrarian society children are an economic advantage as a source of income and labour while in an industrial society they are an economic drain on the family.

Changing roles for women - More and more women are working professional careers outside the home so they are waiting longer to have children and are having fewer children.

Divorce - divorce rates in Canada are higher and the majority of Canadian children are born to married couples to high divorce rates are lowering birth rates.

Increase in avg age of marriage - people are waiting longer to have children.

Family planning - attitudes and technology of birth control.

Rural pops generally have a higher proportion of elderly (function of aging in place)

elderly in general and rural elderly in particular often lack family based support systems.

health care delivery costs are higher in rural areas.

range of services are typically narrower in rural areas - less access to specialists.

Community planning

higher densities to reduce cost of services such as transit

modify zoning by-laws to allow for multiple household dwellings

reduced demand for detached residences - increased demand for group living and assisted-living

improved access, especially in winter cities.

Feb 15, 2011.

Key Concepts

An ethnic group compromises members of a population who share a culture that is distinct from other groups.

Ethnic groups typically share a common identity

the identity often stems from shared experiences known as galvanizing events.

Culture can be defined as the learned collective behaviour of a group of people sharing:

similar values

common rituals

common language

Phases in Canadian Immigration

Pre-Confed

Immigration served the interests of the British vis-à-vis settling their

holdings in North America

Immigrants from Britain diluted the numerical dominance of the

French-speaking population

Immigration accommodated people displaced by Agrarian “reform”

(aka, the Clearances), famine and poverty

Post Confed

Immigration provided cheap labour

Accommodated displaced people (refugees)

settlement of new territory

Off-set shortage of skilled and professional workers

Off-set decline in birth rates.

as Canada becomes more ethnically diverse, a growing number of citizens subscribe to cultural beliefs and practices that challenge our “philosophical boundaries”

Summary

we will continue to immigrate to ensure that our population will grow.

immigrants will compromise an increasing proportion of the total population

the immigrant population will continue to concentrate in our largest cities, making them more distinct from the rest of Canada

a growing immigrant population will call to question the “two founding peoples” vision of Canada

Accommodating cultural differences will become increasingly important.

Feb 17, 2011.

Ontario was once the economic engine of the Canadian economy but it’s economic future is uncertain.

Ontario remains the nation’s political linchpin

the automobile industry remains an important part of the economy, but the job losses in that sector have been staggering.

there are really two Ontarios an urban/industrial south and a northern part dependent on resource extraction.

About 40% of the pop live in Ont and about 40% of Canada’s GDP comes out of Ont

Ontario is Canada’s 2nd largest province by landmass and has a slightly higher GPD than population

roughly 17% of Ontario workers are employed in the manufacturing sector. and 24% are in the secondary sector.

There are two theories that help us to understand why Ontario emerged as such a powerful economy.

the first is Innis’ Staple Theory

In order for a region that is under development for it’s economy to grow, we can identify periods of time when the economy was dominated by a staple product that was exported. For Ontario it was ag products which require complete and continuous habitation. These farmers require rural service centers to supply farmers.

Economic Base theory. - we can measure the economic activity of a region and it can be put into 2 broad categories. The residential sector - money changed from one household to another w/i the region. the second sector is the export sector - economic goods and services that satisfy demand outside of the region. Ontario had a large export sector which brought in money from outside of the region and this helped it grow.

there are two geographic factors that helped ontario emerge as Canada’s economic engine

resource base - at a time in Canada;s economic development when ag was a dominant activity, Ontario enjoyed several bio-physical advantages. it accumulated a great deal of wealth because it enjoys the most frost free days in Canada, the niagra peninsula is home to some of the best agricultural conditions in the country. Another resource that Ontario developed was hydro electricity, giving it’s economic sector a ready supply of cheap energy.

relative location - it’s location compared to the US Ohio valley and other prosperous US markets. Ontario was able to supply these regions fairly easily b/c of the great lakes.

Policy decisions that reinforced Ontario’s geographic Advantage

Macdonald’s National Policy

Crowsnest Pass Subsidy

Preferred access to British Markets

prior to GB joining the Common Market - Canada enjoyed preferential access exporting to GB

International Agreements

Reciprocity Agreement (1854-66) - started with the US Civil war which created huge demand for Canadian ag and manufactured goods

St. Lawrence Seaway (1959) - a system of locks and Canals that allowed large freighters to sail into the great lakes. it reduced the friction of distance from central North America and export markets. Completed in 1959 is stretches 306 kms b/w Montreal and Lake Ontario.

Auto Pact (1965) -

Northern Ontario is a former resource frontier and is now a downward transitional zone.

Northern Ont is sparsely populated and is a region where the urban centers are experiencing negative growth. People are leaving b/c there are so few jobs.

many resource based economies are in decline.

Issues facing resource based Communities

Boom and Bust Cycles

Narrow Economic Base (low multiplier effect) - new money rarely enters the economy and manufacturing and processing is usually done outside the region

out-migration of young workers

limited and declining tax base.

MIDTERM COMES TO HERE

Mar 3, 2011.

the GST allowed taxation to switch from the manufacturing sector to the consumer sector which made sense b/c Canada’s economy was moving from an industrial economy to a post-industrial economy.

the GST replaced a hidden tax on all manufacturing goods.

The Transformation of Ontario’s Space Economy

in 1901 60% of ont’s pop lives in rural areas but by 1921 60% of them lived in urban areas.

by the 1950’s 75% of Ontario’s pop lived in urban areas and density was becoming high enough that Canada’s first subway in Toronto.

Don Mills was Canada’s first planned subdivision and we borrowed the idea from the British “New Town” idea.

much of Southern Ontario’s prosperity came from the auto industry. It started all the way back in the early 1900’s. At one time there were about 500 different car companies operating in Canada with many of them Southern Ontario

No Canadian automobile firm survived the great depression, they were now branches of US firms.

The gov’t responded to this w/ tariffs on US auto manufacturing and Canadian content rules for cars. This lead to the Auto Pact

The Auto Pact was negotiated in 1965 in response to US references to GATT. In the pact Car makers were required to produce as many cars in Canada that was sold in Canada.

Another way to look at it was that for every dollar spent importing cars into Canada another dollar had to be spent exporting cars into the US from Canada

Southern Ontario became the location that US car manufacturing companies decided to locate. It is close to the US and Detroit which is the home of US auto manufacturing.

by 2004 Ontario had become the leading automobile producer in North America and (now) 12th in the world

most of Canada’s auto production was exported. In 2001 the auto industry accounted for 21% of total exports (mineral 15%)

At it’s peak about 150,000 people worked in the manufacturing of cars.

jobs in the auto sector are “good” jobs

40% of the workers were in assembly and 60% in parts.

1 in 7 manufacturing jobs are linked to the auto industry.

How do we explain the geography of Canada’s Auto Industry

Size and affluence of the regional market. Ontario is an affluent and large when it comes to population.

Size and the quality of the workforce.

Auto Pact

Access to US markets

linked activities - steel, parts manufacturing

hydro electric power

higher labour productivity in Canada

lower health care costs

newer plants.

Branch Plant Economy

prior to WW2 most of the foreign capital invested into Canada was “indirect” and came from Britain. They would purchase shares in Canadian companies but not a large enough share to own control the companies.

after WW2 b/c of Canada’s tariffs US investors started to invest “directly” into Canada’s economy which meant that the had ownership of the physical assets.

in 1950 direct foreign investment from the US was $3.4 billion by 1995 direct foreign investment from the US was 30 times larger.

NAFTA saw the removal of gov’t based incentives for US firms operate branch plants in Canada.

Mar, 10 2011

3 pillars of Quebec economy that go back to 1965 (quiet revolution)

Education - demonstrated by high investment into post-secondary education

High Tech - with a focus on transportation and aerospace

Hydroelectric - gives a comparative advantage to Quebec b/c its energy is cheaper.

the James Bay project is a massive undertaking. It will cost well over $50 billion, affect an area the size of France, affect 20 rivers, build 36 dams and over the lifetime of the project create 100,000 jobs.

Reasons for the project

stimulate the economy

Anticipated supply shortages

Export Power (Export Base Theory)

Manifestation of the Quiet Revolution.

Chronology

April 30, 1971 the projects are announced.

In the Fall of ’72 the Quebec Association of Indians (QAI) seeks an injunction to stop construction.

November 1973, the Quebec Court rules in the favour of the QAI and grants an injunction to stop construction

Quebec Court of Appeal overturns lower court ruling and the injunction was suspended

Nov 11, 1975 the gov’t of Quebec and the QAI signed the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement

This is Canada’s first modern comprehensive treaty. First nations groups were compensated $225 million over many years. In comparison to the value of the exports it is less than 1%. It was agreed that before any further projects were started an Environmental Impact Assessment would be taken. There was supposed to be a form of regional self-gov’t involving local administration. The Region in question was divided into 3 zones and the largest zone was allocated to hydro-quebec, the next largest was a mixed zone where neither hydro-quebec nor natives had the right of first refusal on development. The 3 zone was for the native tribes.

The First phase was officially opened Oct 27, 1979

in Aug 1990 the National Energy Board approves the export of power to the US.

Hydro Quebec appeals and wins the right to have the EIA requirements waived. That ruling is appealed and the Quebec Supreme court rules that the EIA must be conducted.

Land claims issues in Canada became a major issue in the US.

Quebec puts the Great Whale hydro project on hold (fall ’95) to court native votes in the referendum.

Feb 2002 an agreement was reached b/w natives and the Quebec gov’t and construction could proceed.

Cree agree to drop a $3.6 billion lawsuit in return for $3.5 billion and the Cree are able to manage logging and mining in the area. The Cree assume responsibility for management of their land and in the agreement it states that the Cree nation will be consulted on future decisions.

Mar 15, 2011

British Columbia

Key Themes

BC’s development underscores the importance of transportation infrastructures in overcoming “geographic barriers”.

British Columbia is a mico-version of the core/periphery model.

Resource activities have played an key role in shaping the region’s economy

the Aboriginal - Non-Aboriginal Fault line, manifested in unresolved land claims is especially pronounced in BC.

Factors Affecting Inter-regional Trade

A given region must produce something that is in demand in another region

there can be no intervening opportunities

there must be a trade link of some sort in order to overcome the absolute constraint.

the relative importance of distance - the “Friction of Distance” will vary with the type of transportation technology used.

BC was linked with the rest of Canada with the completion of the CPR in 1885 and in 1914 the CN (then Grand Trunk) was completed through Prince George into Prince Rupert.

by the 1920s the interior of BC was brought into the system through the construction of regional rail spurs.

the completion of the Panama Canal in 1914 meant that resources from BC could get sent to Europe cheaply and effectively.

BC urbanized b/w 1901 and 1921.

Mar 17, 2011

written assignment - 500 words w/ title page. Use whatever referencing system i want.

map tech considerations

cartography

maps are orientated to the north

have scale

have source

neat line

legend

explanatory text

title

BC Continued

European development occurred in the absence of treaties early in BC’s history. 14 treaties were signed prior to 1871 and are known as the Douglas Treaties.

Treaty number 8 was signed in 1898.

BC established the BC treaty commission in 1993 to facilitate treaty negotiations in BC with aboriginal land claims. It established a 6 step process that helped facilitate the negotiation and creation of treaties.

BC Forest Products Sector

since 199y, Mountain Pine Beetles have infested of 300,000 hectares of lodgepole pine forests in BC’s central interior. it is estimated that by 2013 80% of mature pine will be dead

Probable Causes Include

Fire Suppression

forest management practices

Climate Change - warmer winters.

BC Fishing Sector

ranks 4th behind mining, forestry, and ag

salmon is the most the most important species in the sector

Major issues facing the BC Fishery

fluctuating/declining stocks

negative impacts of other resource-based activities on water sheds.

allocating stocks amongst commercial and sport fisheries.

Fishing for “Canadian” Fish outside our 200 mile limit.

fish farming

BC Grape and Viticulture industries

there are three set of factors that must be met for grape growing and wine production

bio-physical factors - grape vines need dormant cold periods in the winter but it cannot be to cold, warm but not hot summers, dry autumns, well drained soils, around 22” rain/year, best grown on a hillside (air drainage)

political factors - Free trade exposed the Canadian wine industry to the US industry which is much more advanced

cultural factors - how much wine do Canadians drink?

The debate over “Terrior” which is a unique combination of climate, soil, aspect, slope and wine making traditions

claimed that bio-physical characteristics can be reflected in the wine. These links have yet to be proven scientifically.

Mar 22, 2011

Western Canada

2001 and 2002 Droughts

amongst the worst and most sever droughts on record.

the droughts of ’01 and ’02 are considered natural hazards.

in order for an event to be considered an natural hazard: It must be an extreme natural event and it must have a negative effect on humans.

droughts can be measured on three scales: Timing (length) Severity (deviation from te normal conditions) Location (spatial extent)

another way to categorize droughts are:

Meteorological drought - the difference below the long run avg (30 year avg) over a calendar year

Agricultural drought - a lack of the typical pattern of precipitation which effects the agricultural production of a region. (right amount of rain, wrong time)

Hydrological drought - a decline in the avg stream or surface flow.

Socio-economic drought - there are significant economic or social costs to the drought.

following a nation wide drought in 2001, the winter of 01-02 was warmer and dryer than normal.

Southern Alberta from Pincher Creek to Medicine Hat received 50% of normal precipitation b/w june 9th and 11th

Large areas of the region - stretching from central Manitoba to Alberta.

about 65% of the prairies experienced moderate to sever drought. While about 20% of the region had average precipitation.

the impacts of the drought were heightened b/c the areas most affected are not drought prone regions (Peace and North Central Alberta)

Impacts of the drought

Production of grains and oilseeds declined 50.5 Mt to 41.5Mt

number of cows slaughtered increased by 12.4% above the avg in 2002.

30,000 jobs lost (based on declines in GDP)

total GDP for the prairies declined by $4.5 billions.

Sask, AB, and Ont were the big losers of the drought combining for well over 75% of losses in 2001. In 2002 AB and Sask alone accounted for over 80% of losses.

Overview of Crop Insurance Programmes

Total area insured

2001 - 22.7 million ha

2002 - 27.5 million ha

crop insurance payouts

2001 - $1 billion

2002 - $ 2 billion

Distribution of 2002 payments

more that $1 billion to Sask

nearly $800 million to Ab

slightly less that $100 million to Ont.

Future Considerations

drought is a normal part of Canada’s climate, especially in the Prairie provinces so it will continue to be a major natural hazard.

three factors need to be considered:

paleo-climatological evidence

climate change

increasing demand for water.

Palisser’s expeditions yielded important geographical information on the region’s resources and potential for settlement

He advised that the vast amounts of southern sask and ab. were uninhabitable b/c it was too dry.

Cultural Geography

Cultural geography is associated mostly with Car Sauer from Berkley

Traditionally, focused on the interaction of Humans with their environment as revealed in Cultural artifacts (material and non-material)

contemporary cultural geography treats landscapes as “cultural signifiers”, the interpretation of which reveals cultural attitudes and processes.

Three Settlement forms that are unique to Canada are:

The Railway Village - Set up as a grid as that was the simplest, cheapest and most rapid way of exploiting the land. the railway ran on the edge of town with the elevators the only buildings on the opposite of the tracks. It reflected the value of Corporate efficiency in the landscape.

Hudderite Colony - reflected the value of communalism and cooperation in the landscape.

The LDS Village - value reflected in the landscape was order, centrality of religion and self reliance. Essential elements of Stirling:

wide road allowances

zoning - center of the village set aside for public use including religious buildings. Again used a grid design in 10 acres blocks compromising 8 lots. These lots were large enough to support a large “kitchen garden”

the houses were at least 20’ back from the edge of the lot and had to be facing the street.

March 29, 2011

Atlantic Canada

Atlantic Canada is a downward transitional zone b/c of low income per capita, high unemployment, declining manufacturing industry and natural resource industries.

Many people who live in Atlantic Canada remain in Atlantic Canada even though there are poor job prospects. This is called job stickiness.

Transfer payments to the atlantic provinces are the highest in Canada.

b/w 96 and 06 the regions population fell by 51000 people. In 1871 the regions accounted for about 20% of Canada’s pop and by 2006 it was about 7%.

Events leading to the decline of Atlantic Canada

End of the Reciprocity treaty

depression of 1873 reduced demand for region’s resources and manufactured goods.

Glut of refined sugar companies compromises Caribbean molasses and rum trade that Atlantic Canada was part of.

Completion of the Intercolonial railway linking Halifax with montreal which meant that the manufacturing centers in central canada were in direct competition with atlantic manufacturing

Macdonald’s national policy makes it so that atlantic canada cannot trade with the states as much.

Atlantic Canada was well endowed with natural resources, timber, fisheries, wind and water, coal, iron, and steam power.

However its location in Canada while the western areas of the nation were rapidly expanding relegated atlantic Canada to the Economic margins of Canada.

Atlantic Canada experienced brief periods of prosperity during WW1 and 2 because of its strategic location.

Contemporary Factors

Small, geographically fragmented population.

limited resource base and resource depletion

inter-provincial trade barriers

Thoughts on the Future

Development of natural resources (oil and gas reserves, and nickel) hold promise.

2004 Atlantic Accord on off-shore royalties will benefit the region.

if out-migration continues the drain on human capital will get worse. Attempts to attract new investment (e.g. call centers in Moncton) have been criticized.

April 7, 2011

Berger Commission - established in 1974 to look at the construction of the Mackenzie valley pipeline, it set the standard for commissions of inquiry. The commission considered not only the economic impacts of the project but also the environmental and social impacts.

Main findings

there is abundant evidence to doubt that a pipeline would provide meaningful and ongoing employment to many native people.

The social costs of the building of the pipeline will be enormous, and no remedial programs are likely to ameliorate them.

A mackenzie Valley pipeline should be postponed for ten years.

Postponement will allow time for native land claims to be settled, and for new programs and institutions to be established.

Gwich’in and Sahtu tribes signed land agreements in 92 and 93

the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act was passed in 1998. the act provided for an integrated co-management regime. The Act provided for

Land Use planning boards in each settlement area

Land and Water boards in each settlement area

Environmental Impact review Board for the entire Mackenzie Valley

Under current composition the Aboriginal Pipeline Group would own a 33.3% share of the pipeline that is proposed.

Proposed Pipeline

$16 billion dollar project, generating 5,700 jobs during the four-year construction phase.

up to 28 wells will operate in three separate fields

natural gas will be gathered at a processing facility near Inuvik.

Pipeline will transport natural gas 1,196 kms from Inunivk to northwestern Alberta

Estimated gas reserves are large enough to heat 2/3 of Canadian homes for a year.

Summary

The north is extremely sparsely populated that is home to two distinct cultures. The cultural divide is starting to narrow and will continue to narrow over time.

There were three phases of development

European discovery

Colonial like development

increasing interest in mega-projects of various kinds.

Berger Inquiry helped to lay the foundation for emerging partnerships b/w First Nations and southerners.

April 12, 2011

Social Inequality and regional disparities

Groups at risk

Children born in poverty

first nations peoples

children born with learning disabilities

members of single-parent households

people with low educational attainment

Policies designed to balance the field of society

universal elementary and high school education

universal health care

graduated income tax system and wealth redistribution

public and subsidized housing

Day care programmes

EI and retraining programmes

Consequences of the Great Depression

27% unemployment

price of wheat declines from $1.60/bu in ‘29 to $.38/bu in ‘32

67% exports decline from ‘29-’32

Approx. 250,000 people left the prairies in the depression

Provinces had the responsibilities for delivering social services but insufficient income

the fed gov’t had relatively fewer responsibilities but had more money

the capacity gap became really apparent during the 30s

A commission was set up and it decided that responsibility for unemployment, old age pensions, and employment standards transferred to federal Government

The fed gov’t took over collection of all major taxes

and the national adjustment grant was set up (equalization payments)

the idea behind equalization payments is to make sure that services and infrastructure across the country are equal for everyone.

Regional economic development

phase 1 ‘35-69 Rural focus

PFRA - ARDA Canada land Inventory - FRED

Phase 2 ‘69-84 Industrial Expansion

Phase 3 ‘84-present - Community development

Exam - **Tuesday at 2:00 pm in PE 115C**

first section - multiple choice - at least 100 maybe a few more. Drawn primarily (70% from material post midterm)

second section will focus on chpt 2 - Canada’s biophysical environment and it will be a list section. Worth 25 marks

what are the 3 types of chernozomic soils? what are the 3 major climate controls?

section 3 - super short answer responding to 3 out of 5 concepts. Define the concept and then in a sentence or two explain the concepts geographic importance - the more that the concept is applied to a specific example the better the grade - 5 marks per concept.

Final question - 25 marks - **For one of Bones 6 regions of Canada:**

**identify those attributes that are in your opinion unique or distinctive from the perspective of regional geography**. talk about economic, demographic, relative position w/i Canada, sense of place

**then discuss how historical events and geographic circumstances have influenced the region’s contemporary geographic character**. Geographic circumstances can be either At Site characteristics - where other religions. are the spaces in relation to other spaces, this region in relation to other regions (southern ontario close to great lakes and US) OR On Site characteristics - existing vegetation and structures, soil type, resource endowment, topography. they are characteristics that are unique to an area or region.

this is a 4-5 paragraph question.