

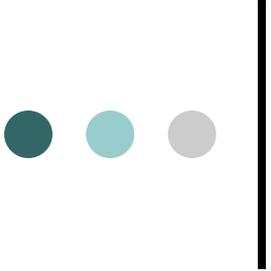
Approaches in Political Geography

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Lecture notes – Week 3

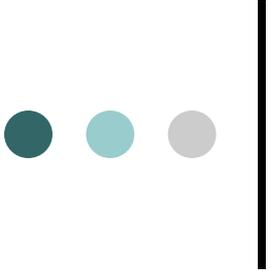
Department of Geography

University of Indonesia



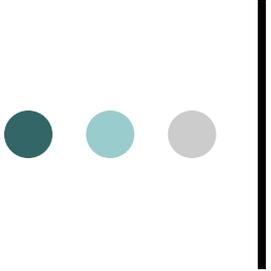
Reference

- Dikshit, R.D. (1982). *Political Geography A Contemporary Perspective*. New Delhi: Mac Graw Hill.
 - Chapter 1st . Page 1 - 23
 - Chapter 6th. Page 131-159



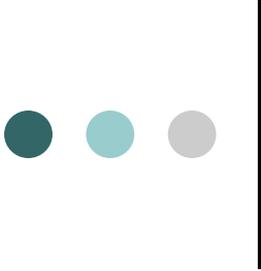
Scientific Approach in Political Geography

- General approach
 - Organic approach
 - Morphological approach
- Approach to Political Area
 - Functional approach
 - Unified field theory
 - Political systems analysis



Karl Ritter (1779 – 1859)

- Main thesis: *human culture are organic entities and the culture are born, they mature, and eventually die (The Cycle Theory)*
- Political geography
 - As the study of the role of the physical environment in shaping the political life of man
 - Started with “physical environment” and ended with “an analysis of how political events and organizations had been determined by them”
 - Described as *political environmentalism*

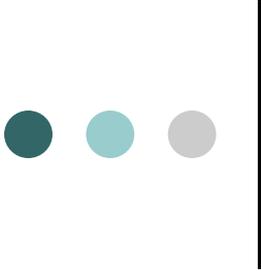


Organic Approach

- Friedrich Ratzel (1844-1904) :
Politische Geographie in 1897
- *Geography as a science of man's relation to his physical environment (Anthropogeographie)*
- *"A social Darwinist" theory of state*
- Main ideas:
 - *The state as an organism attached to the land*
 - *State must have room to grow in order to survive*

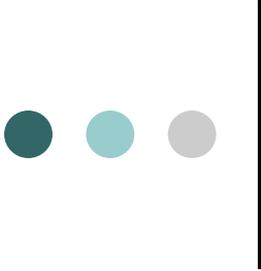
Ratzel's contributions....

- Three sets of geographical factors which govern man and his development:
 - **Situating (*lage*):** location with respect to people
 - **Space (*raum*):** area which may be either central or peripheral, with a tendency for a people to expand beyond its nursery to its natural limits
 - **Limits (*rahmen*):** the result of expansion of neighbouring people



Ratzel's contributions....(cont'd)

- The theory of state
 - State is a particular type of spatial grouping on the earth's surface
 - State is an “earth-bound organism” consisting of “a piece of humanity and a portion of the earth”
 - State seeks to reach its natural limits
 - Conquest of space with a view to the foundation of states



Ratzel's contributions....(cont'd)

- Three essential geographical facts:
 - States are territorial in character:
 - It occupies a definite territory
 - A spatial organism with a fixed location which may be viewed in terms of its physical location as well as its politico-geographic location in relation to other state and centres to political power
 - States represent a group of people who feel almost inseparably identified with geographical area of state, and who increase in number as states grow in maturity
 - State always develop within the limits of “natural framework” toward which beginning form small territorial nuclei, they stretch out and with their growing strength they often over-reach



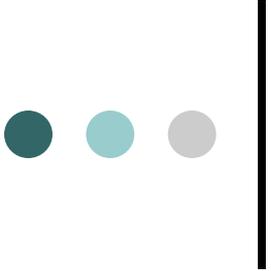
Ratzel's contributions....(cont'd)

- Geopolitical concept:
 - Lebensraum (living-space): the geographical area within which organism develop
 - States need larger territories in order to provide sustenance to the growing numbers
 - As among living organism, there was an ongoing struggle for the survival of the fittest
 - Struggle for space in which the more powerful expanded at the cost of their weaker neighbours



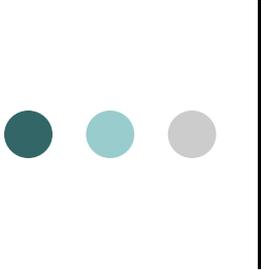
Ratzel's contributions....(cont'd)

- The land area of a state is the best indication of its political powers
- The people of state should develop space conception: an idea of the possible limits of territorial control
- Youthful people with a large space conception are likely to press for the expansion of their state's boundaries
- The decline of state's geographical area is the result of its declining space conception



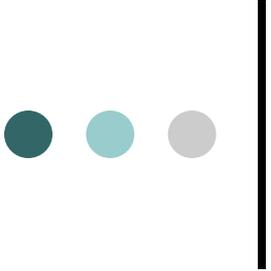
Morphological Approach in Political Geography

- Inspired by Hartshorne (1953)
 - Morphology of state area is significant primarily as it effects the functions of the state
- Emphasis on the study geography as chorology
 - Geography as the study of areal differentiation
- Political geography as the study of the state as a characteristic of areas in relation to other characteristic areas
- State were to be studied as areas rather than organization or integrated systems
 - Concentrate mainly on features such as location, size and shape, boundaries, capital and core areas, regional breakdown of state



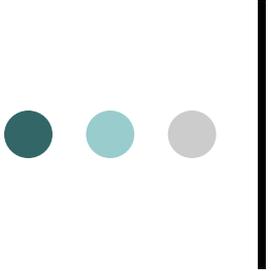
Historical or Genetic Approach

- A contemporary approach of the organismic theory of state
- How state had come to occupy the included within its present-day boundaries?
- Consisting of the analysis of the evolution of political unit, especially the nation-state, in its historical setting
- Whittlesey (1939) combined the morphological and historical geography



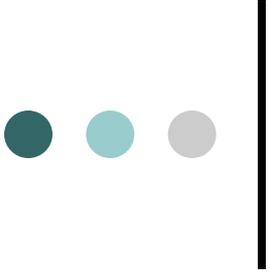
Functional Approach to Study of State

- In many social aspect, state may tolerate considerable variation in its different regions
 - There is a tendency to exert unifying control
- In the economic field, state tends to develop some degree of unity of economic organization
 - State is under uniform control
- State is subject to threat of destruction
 - Every state must strive to secure the supreme loyalty of the people in all its region in competition with any local or provincial loyalties



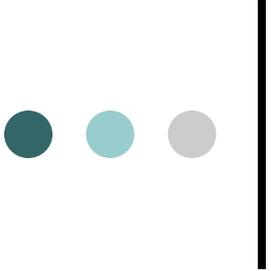
Functional Approach to Study of State

- Concern with emphasis on regional differences
- Interest in the problem of unification of diverse region into a single whole
- The primary function of any state leads directly to the primary problem of political geography
- Internal and external problems of state
- How to bind together diverse area into one effective whole?
 - Regions are separated by physical or human barriers
 - Regions diverge in their relation with outside states
 - Regions differs among themselves in character and population, economic interests, and political attitudes



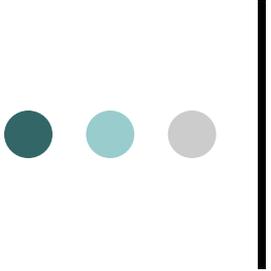
Functional Approach to Study of State

- Centrifugal vs Centripetal Forces
- The issues:
 - The basic political idea of state
 - The concept of nation
 - Core area – its role in spreading the idea
 - Effect of particular types of physical features
 - Separation by a zone populated by a different people, especially an unfriendly people
 - One or more its regions have closer relation with regions of outside states than with those within state
 - State's political economic framework
 - Internal organization of state



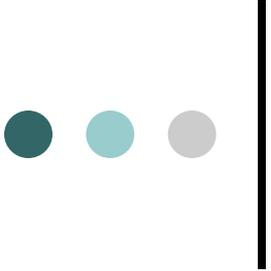
Functional Approach to Study of State

- Application state-idea in political geography
 - Where is idea applies?
 - In what degree it operates in the different regions?
 - How is the extent of correspondence those regions to the territory?
 - Are the region within the state whose population do not feel themselves part of nation?
 - Are the regions of the nation that are not included within state?



Functional Approach to Study of State

- External problems of state-idea
 - Territorial relations (international boundary)
 - Degree of acceptance
 - Degree of maintenance
 - Economic relations
 - Degree of economic sufficiency
 - Degree of mutual advantages
 - Political relations
 - Degree of political control by an outside power
 - Strategic relations
 - Degree of strategic alliance
 - Degree of defensive/offensive purposes



Unified Field Theory

- **The Idea - Area Chain**

- Political idea – decision – movement – field – political area

- **Political idea** is more than state idea

- “War begins in the minds of men”

- **Decision** is a necessary prerequisite to action

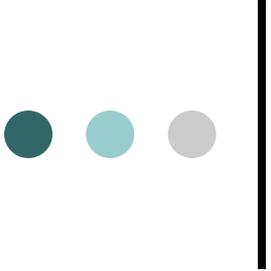
- **Movement** as “a circulation fields”

- Every political decisions involves movement

- **Field** as spatial variation in force

- **Political area** means any politically organized area

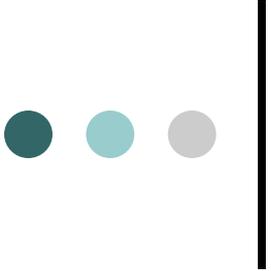
- A national state, a dependent area, a sub-division of a state, or an administrative region or district



Unified Field Theory

○ **Application to Political Area**

- Examples of Idea:
 - Roman Empire (Italy), Sea Commander (Britain), Zionism/The Balfour Declaration (Israel), The Containment of Communism (USA)
- The process of national integration can be interpreted as a process of changing fields
- Decision may affect the political area as a whole and may create or control movement over the entire area
- There is no deterministic about the idea-area chain
 - A given idea might lead to a variety of areas, a given area might condition a variety of ideas



Unified Field Theory

○ Application to Political Area

● Studies of National Power

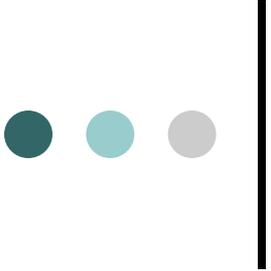
- Power as “participation in making of decision”. Power is linked to decision support
 - Where is power more concentrated?

● Boundaries, Capital, Cities

- The boundary region is the line between the political areas condition much of circulation
 - Is the circulation in frontier area may develop the new political areas?
- The idea need for central administration leads to decision of the capital
 - What kind of decisions and movements create the primate city?
 - How the chosen capital will affect the establishment of the field?
- The metropolitan district outgrows the political limits
 - How the sort of “metropolitan-idea” will develop the functional authorities or political integration?

● Kinetic and Dynamic Field

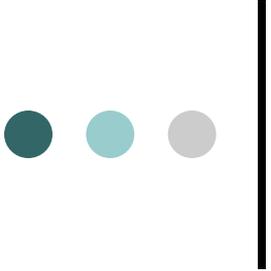
- The conflict ideas are embodied in decisions that create or obstruct movements.
- The field may be in contact or conflict
 - What kind of movement will create contact or conflict?



Unified Field Theory

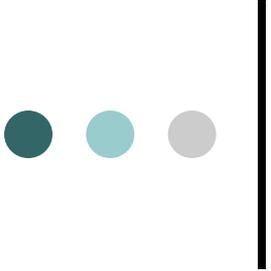
○ **Utility of theory**

- It integrate morphology and function, region and process in political geography studies
- It unite two main parts of geographical theory: possibilism and regionalism
 - Possibilism focusses on man's choices among environmental possibilities
 - Regionalism focusses on study of area
 - Both lead to ideas, decisions, and movements



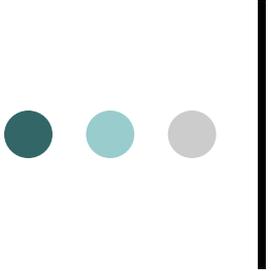
Political System Analysis

- Concern on political process and spatial consequences
 - Process in the key to spatial arrangements
- Political geography is concerned with spatial attribute of political process



Political System Analysis

- Political system
 - The societal forces that shape political institutions and the transaction through which the institutions operate together with pertinent environment
 - Political institution: kinship, class, status, authority, elitism, and bureaucracy are mechanism by which men make operational such forces as nationalism, feudalism, capitalism, socialism, democracy, totalitarianism, imperialism, colonialism, racism...
- Locational perspective is related to the perceived needs of external links or connectivity
 - That is degree to which the system is open or closed
 - Open system is a product of interdependence
 - Closed system is a product of self-containment
- By viewing system within its open or closed context, then provide a benchmark from which to interpret and forecast landscape change



Political System Analysis

- Spatial attributes
 - Defined as the distributional patterns of political processes and spatial relations
- Processes and patterns form unique political areas (fields of action)
- Political area and action field may not be identical
- How to establish the state of conformity between political area and action field?
 - Degree of effectiveness and legitimacy government
- Counteraction area: reflects the political efforts of any counterforce to limit extent of an emergent political action area or to counter it
 - Express by various measures of political socialization and political institutions