



1.5



# Human-Environmental Interaction



# Objectives and Essential Learning

1.5 Explain how major geographic concepts illustrate spatial relationships.

- 1.5.2 Theories regarding the interaction of the natural environment with human societies have evolved from environmental determinism to possibilism.



# Cultural Ecology

The study of how humans interact or adapt to the environment.

Theories have evolved over time due to developments in technology.

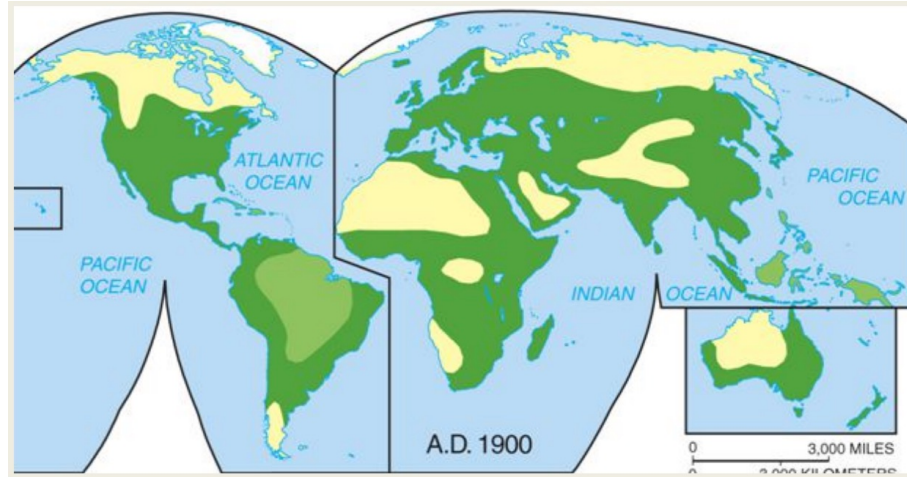
Environmental  
Determinism  
v.  
Possibilism



# Environmental Determinism

Definition: - is the belief that the environment, most notably its **physical factors** such as landforms and climate, determines the patterns of human culture and societal development.

Example: Greenland vs. USA - where would you grow your crops





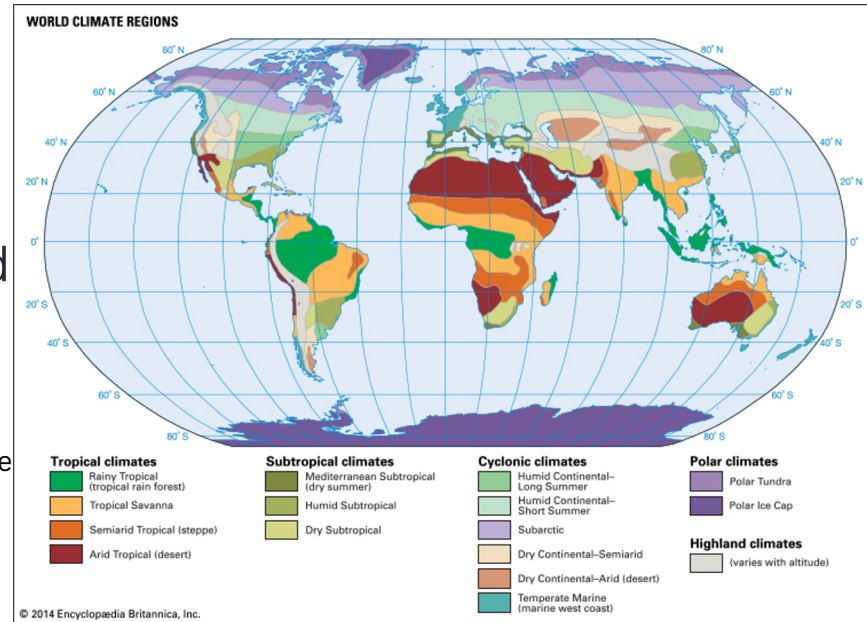
# History of Environmental Determinism

## 18th Century

The belief that climate and landforms are the most powerful forces shaping human behavior and societal/cultural development.

Used to justify racism.

- Concludes that warmer climates tend to cause inhabitants to have a more relaxed attitude toward work and progress. This led some ppl to believe that Europeans and those from more temperate climates were more motivated, intelligent and culturally advanced than those of warmer climates.



# Possibilism

More modern interpretation.

Acknowledges the limitations imposed by the natural environment, but focuses on the role of human culture and technolgy to modify and respond to the environment to better fit human needs.

Example: Hoover Dam





The Palm Islands were completed in only four years, with each island using over 53 million pounds of sand and 12 million pounds of rock to be created. Located in Dubai, UAE.





The Hoover Dam, which finished construction in 1936, is utilized to supply power and water to the nearby town of Las Vegas, Nevada which is located in the middle of a desert.

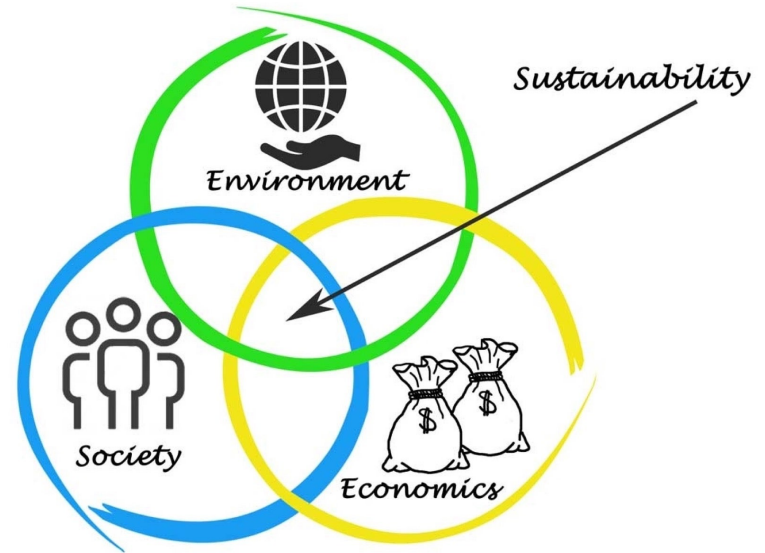


Invented by the Inca people who lived in the South American mountains. This farming method has made cultivation of crops in hilly or mountainous regions possible. It is commonly used in Asia by rice-growing countries such as Vietnam, Philippines, and Indonesia.



# Sustainability

Definition: the use of the earth's renewable and nonrenewable natural resources in ways that ensure resource availability in the future



A man with a beard and short brown hair, wearing an orange jacket, is shown in profile, looking thoughtfully to the right. The background is a composite image featuring a historical map of a Dutch city with a complex canal system and a modern street scene with greenery.

# WHY HOLLAND HAS BIKES, CHEESE, TULIP, CANALS

**Read the article “The Dutch Solution to Floods” and then complete the chart below**

<b>Environmental Challenges in the Netherlands</b>	<b>Methods of Overcoming Environmental Challenges</b>	<b>How the Netherlands Environment Affects its Culture</b>