

Glossary

APPENDIX C

Afflictions such as cancer or pneumonia may hasten an infected person's demise.

Animal domestication Genetic modification of an animal such that it is rendered more amenable to human control.

Animistic religion The belief that inanimate objects, such as hills, trees, rocks, rivers, and other elements of the natural landscape, possess souls and can help or hinder human efforts on Earth.

Aquifers Subterranean, porous, water-holding rocks that provide millions of wells with steady flows of water.

Arable Literally, cultivable; land fit for cultivation by one farming method or another.

Area A term that refers to a part of the Earth's surface with less specificity than **region**. For example, "urban area" alludes very generally to a place where urban development has taken place, whereas "urban region" requires certain specific criteria on which a delimitation is based (e.g., the spatial extent of commuting or the built townscape).

Arithmetic population density The population of a country or region expressed as an average per unit area. The figure is derived by dividing the population of the areal unit by the number of square kilometers or miles that make up the unit.

Assimilation The process through which people lose originally differentiating traits, such as dress, speech particularities or mannerisms, when they come into contact with another society or culture. Often used to describe immigrant adaptation to new places of residence.

Asylum Shelter and protection in one state for refugees from another state.

Atmosphere Blanket of gases surrounding the Earth and located some 350 miles above the Earth's surface.

Authenticity In the context of local cultures or customs, the accuracy with which a single stereotypical or typecast image or experience conveys an otherwise dynamic and complex local culture or its customs.

Backward reconstruction The tracking of sound shifts and hardening of consonants "backward" toward the original language.

Barrioization Defined by geographer James Curtis as the dramatic increase in Hispanic population in a given neighborhood; referring to *barrio*, the Spanish word for neighborhood.

Biodiversity The total variety of plant and animal species in a particular place; biological diversity.

Blockbusting Rapid change in the racial composition of residential blocks in American cities that occurs when real estate agents and others stir up fears of neighborhood decline after encouraging people of color to

Ability In the context of political power, the capacity of a state to influence other states or achieve its goals through diplomatic, economic, and militaristic means.

Absolute location The position or place of a certain item on the surface of the Earth as expressed in degrees, minutes, and seconds of **latitude**, 0° to 90° north or south of the equator, and **longitude**, 0° to 180° east or west of the **Prime Meridian** passing through Greenwich, England (a suburb of London).

Accessibility The degree of ease with which it is possible to reach a certain location from other locations. Accessibility varies from place to place and can be measured.

Acid rain A growing environmental peril whereby acidified rainwater severely damages plant and animal life; caused by the oxides of sulfur and nitrogen that are released into the atmosphere when coal, oil, and natural gas are burned, especially in major manufacturing zones.

Acropolis Literally "high point of the city." The upper fortified part of an ancient Greek city, usually devoted to religious purposes.

Activity (action) space The space within which daily activity occurs.

Agglomeration A process involving the clustering or concentrating of people or activities. The term often refers to manufacturing plants and businesses that benefit from close proximity because they share skilled-labor pools and technological and financial amenities.

Agora In ancient Greece, public spaces where citizens debated, lectured, judged each other, planned military campaigns, socialized, and traded.

Agribusiness General term for the businesses that provide the vast array of goods and services that support the agriculture industry.

Agricultural surplus One of two components, together with **social stratification**, that enable the formation of cities; agricultural production in excess of that which the producer needs for his or her own sustenance and that of his or her family and which is then sold for consumption by others.

Agricultural village A relatively small, egalitarian village, where most of the population was involved in agriculture. Starting over 10,000 years ago, people began to cluster in agricultural villages as they stayed in one place to tend their crops.

Agriculture The purposeful tending of crops and livestock in order to produce food and fiber.

AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) Immune system disease caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) which over a period of years weakens the capacity of the immune system to fight off infection so that weight loss and weakness set in and other

City Conglomeration of people and buildings clustered together to serve as a center of politics, culture, and economics.

Climatic regions Areas of the world with similar climatic characteristics.

Colonialism Rule by an autonomous power over a subordinate alien people and place. Although often established and maintained through political structures, colonialism also creates unequal cultural and economic relations. Because of the magnitude and impact of the European colonial project of the last few centuries, the term is generally understood to refer to that particular colonial endeavor.

Colonization Physical process whereby the colonizer takes over another place, putting its own government in charge and either moving its own people into the place or bringing in indentured outsiders to gain control of the people and the land.

Commercial agriculture Term used to describe large-scale farming and ranching operations that employ vast land bases, large mechanized equipment, factory-type labor forces, and the latest technology.

Commercialization The transformation of an area of a city into an area attractive to residents and tourists alike in terms of economic activity.

Commodification The process through which something is given monetary value. Commodification occurs when a good or idea that previously was not regarded as an object to be bought and sold is turned into something that has a particular price and that can be traded in a market economy.

Commodity chain Series of links connecting the many places of production and distribution and resulting in a commodity that is then exchanged on the world market.

Complementarity A condition that exists when two regions, through an exchange of raw materials and/or finished products, can specifically satisfy each other's demands.

Concentric zone model A structural model of the American central city that suggests the existence of five concentric land-use rings arranged around a common center.

Confucianism A philosophy of ethics, education, and public service based on the writings of Confucius and traditionally thought of as one of the core elements of Chinese culture.

Connectivity The degree of direct linkage between one particular location and other locations in a transport network.

Conquest theory One major theory of how Proto-Indo-European diffused into Europe which holds that the early speakers of Proto-Indo-European spread westward on horseback, overpowering earlier inhabitants and beginning the diffusion and differentiation of Indo-European tongues.

Contagious diffusion The distance-controlled spreading of an idea, innovation, or some other item through a local population by contact from person to person—analogs to the communication of a contagious illness.

Context The geographical situation in which something occurs; the combination of what is happening at a variety of scales concurrently.

Core Processes that incorporate higher levels of education, higher salaries, and more technology; generate more wealth than periphery processes in the world-economy.

Core area In geography, a term with several connotations. Core refers to the center, heart, or focus. The core area of a nation-state is constituted by the national heartland—the largest population cluster, the most productive region, the area with greatest centrality and accessibility, probably containing the capital city as well.

Creole language A language that began as a pidgin language but was later adopted as the mother tongue by a people in place of the mother tongue.

move to previously white neighborhoods. In the resulting outmigration, real estate agents profit through the turnover of properties.

Boundary Vertical plane between states that cuts through the rocks below, and the airspace above the surface.

Break-of-bull point A location along a transport route where goods must be transferred from one carrier to another. In a port, the cargoes of ocean-going ships are unloaded and put on trains, trucks, or perhaps smaller riverboats for inland distribution.

Buddhism Religion founded in the sixth century BCE and characterized by the belief that enlightenment would come through knowledge, especially self-knowledge; elimination of greed, craving, and desire; complete honesty; and never hurting another person or animal. Buddhism splintered from Hinduism as a reaction to the strict social hierarchy maintained by Hinduism.

Cadastral map A large-scale map, usually created at the scale of 1:2500, depicting the value, extent, and ownership of land for purposes of taxation.

Capitalism Economic model wherein people, corporations, and states produce goods and exchange them on the world market, with the goal of achieving profit.

Cartography The art and science of making maps, including data compilation, layout, and design. Also concerned with the interpretation of mapped patterns.

Caste system The strict social segregation of people—specifically in India's Hindu society—on the basis of ancestry and occupation.

Census A periodic and official count of a country's population.

Central Business District (CBD) The downtown heart of a central city, the CBD is marked by high land values, a concentration of business and commerce, and the clustering of the tallest buildings.

Central city The urban area that is not suburban; generally, the older or original city that is surrounded by newer suburbs.

Central place Any point or place in the urban hierarchy, such as a town or city, having a certain economic reach or hinterland.

Central Place Theory Theory proposed by Walter Christaller that explains how and where central places in the urban hierarchy should be functionally and spatially distributed with respect to one another.

Centrality The strength of an urban center in its capacity to attract producers and consumers to its facilities; a city's "reach" into the surrounding region.

Centrifugal Forces that tend to divide a country—such as internal religious, linguistic, ethnic, or ideological differences.

Central Forces that tend to unify a country—such as widespread commitment to a national culture, shared ideological objectives, and a common faith.

Chain migration Pattern of migration that develops when migrants move along and through kinship links (i.e. one migrant settles in a place and then writes, calls, or communicates through others to describe this place to family and friends who in turn then migrate there).

Child mortality rate A figure that describes the number of children that die between the first and fifth years of their lives in a given population.

Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) Synthetic organic compounds first created in the 1950s and used primarily as refrigerants and as propellants. The role of CFCs in the destruction of the ozone layer led to the signing of an international agreement (the Montreal Protocol).

Christianity Religion based on the teachings of Jesus. According to Christian teaching, Jesus is the son of God, placed on Earth to teach people how to live according to God's plan.

Chronic (or degenerative) diseases Generally long-lasting afflictions now more common because of higher life expectancies.

Critical geopolitics Process by which geopoliticians deconstruct and focus on explaining the underlying spatial assumptions and territorial perspectives of politicians.

Crude Birth Rate (CBR) The number of live births yearly per thousand people in a population.

Crude Death Rate (CDR) The number of deaths yearly per thousand people in a population.

Cultural appropriation The process by which cultures adopt customs and knowledge from other cultures and use them for their own benefit.

Cultural barrier Prevailing cultural attitude rendering certain innovations, ideas or practices unacceptable or unadoptable in that particular culture.

Cultural complex A related set of cultural traits, such as prevailing dress codes and cooking and eating utensils.

Cultural diffusion The expansion and adoption of a cultural element, from its place of origin to a wider area.

Cultural ecology The multiple interactions and relationships between a culture and the natural environment.

Cultural hearth Heartland, source area, innovation center, place of origin of a major culture.

Cultural landscape The visible imprint of human activity and culture on the landscape. The layers of buildings, forms, and artifacts sequentially imprinted on the landscape by the activities of various human occupants.

Cultural trait A single element of normal practice in a culture, such as the wearing of a turban.

Culture The sum total of the knowledge, attitudes, and habitual behavior patterns shared and transmitted by the members of a society. This is anthropologist Ralph Linton's definition; hundreds of others exist.

Custom Practice routinely followed by a group of people.

Cyclic movement Movement—for example, nomadic migration—that has a closed route and is repeated annually or seasonally.

Deep reconstruction Technique using the vocabulary of an extinct language to re-create the language that preceded the extinct language.

Definition In political geography, the written legal description (in a treatylike document) of a boundary between two countries or territories. See also *delimitation*.

Deforestation The clearing and destruction of forests to harvest wood for consumption, clear land for agricultural uses, and make way for expanding settlement frontiers.

Deglomeration The process of industrial deconcentration in response to technological advances and/or increasing costs due to congestion and competition.

Deindustrialization Process by which companies move industrial jobs to other regions with cheaper labor, leaving the newly deindustrialized region to switch to a service economy and to work through a period of high unemployment.

Delimitation In political geography, the translation of the written terms of a boundary treaty (the *definition*) into an official cartographic representation.

Demarcation In political geography, the actual placing of a political boundary on the landscape by means of barriers, fences, walls, or other markers.

Democracy Government based on the principle that the people are the ultimate sovereign and have the final say over what happens within the state.

Demographic transition Multistage model, based on Western Europe's experience, of changes in population growth exhibited by

countries undergoing industrialization. High birth rates and death rates are followed by plunging death rates, producing a huge net population gain; this is followed by the convergence of birth rates and death rates at a low overall level.

Dependency theory A structuralist theory that offers a critique of the modernization model of development. Based on the idea that certain types of political and economic relations (especially *colonialisms*) between countries and regions of the world have created arrangements that both control and limit the extent to which regions can develop.

Deportation The act of a government sending a migrant out of its country and back to the migrant's home country.

Desertification The encroachment of desert conditions on moister zones along the desert margins, where plant cover and soils are threatened by desiccation—through overuse, in part by humans and their domestic animals, and, possibly, in part because of inexorable shifts in the Earth's environmental zones.

Developing With respect to a country, making progress in technology, production, and socioeconomic welfare.

Devolution The process whereby regions within a state demand and gain political strength and growing autonomy at the expense of the central government.

Dialect Local or regional characteristics of a language. While *accent* refers to the pronunciation differences of a standard language, a dialect, in addition to pronunciation variation, has distinctive grammar and vocabulary.

Dialect chains A set of contiguous dialects in which the dialects nearest to each other at any place in the chain are most closely related.

Diaspora From the Greek "to disperse," a term describing forceful or voluntary dispersal of a people from their homeland to a new place. Originally denoting the dispersal of Jews, it is increasingly applied to other population dispersals, such as the involuntary relocation of Black peoples during the slave trade or Chinese peoples outside of Mainland China, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

Diffusion The spatial spreading or dissemination of a culture element (such as a technological innovation) or some other phenomenon (e.g., a disease outbreak). See also *contagious, expansion, hierarchical, relocation, and stimulus diffusion*.

Diffusion routes The spatial trajectory through which cultural traits or other phenomena spread.

Disamenity sector The very poorest parts of cities that in extreme cases are not even connected to regular city services and are controlled by gangs or drug lords.

Dispersal hypothesis Hypothesis which holds that the Indo-European languages that arose from Proto-Indo-European were first carried eastward into Southwest Asia, next around the Caspian Sea, and then across the Russian-Ukrainian plains and on into the Balkans.

Distance Measurement of the physical space between two places.

Distance decay The effects of distance on interaction, generally the greater the distance the less interaction.

Dollarization When a poorer country ties the value of its currency to that of a wealthier country, or when it abandons its currency and adopts the wealthier country's currency as its own.

Dot map Maps where one dot represents a certain number of a phenomenon, such as a population.

Doubling time The time required for a population to double in size.

Dowry death In the context of arranged marriages in India, disputes over the price to be paid by the family of the bride to the father of the groom (the dowry) have, in some extreme cases, led to the death of the bride.

Eastern Orthodox Church One of three major branches of Christianity, the Eastern Orthodox Church, together with the Roman

Catholic Church, a second of the three major branches of Christianity, arose out of the division of the Roman Empire by Emperor Diocletian into four governmental regions: two western regions centered in Rome, and two eastern regions centered in Constantinople (now Istanbul, Turkey). In 1054 CE, Christianity was divided along that same line when the Eastern Orthodox Church, centered in Constantinople, and the Roman Catholic Church, centered in Rome, split.

Edge cities A term introduced by American journalist Joel Garreau in order to describe the shifting focus of urbanization in the United States away from the **Central Business District (CBD)** toward new loci of economic activity at the urban fringe. These cities are characterized by extensive amounts of office and retail space, few residential areas, and modern buildings (less than 30 years old).

Emigrant A person migrating away from a country or area; an out-migrant.

Endemic A disease that is particular to a locality or region. See also **pandemic**.

Environmental determinism The view that the natural environment has a controlling influence over various aspects of human life, including cultural development. Also referred to as environmentalism.

Environmental stress The threat to environmental security by human activity such as atmospheric and groundwater pollution, deforestation, oil spills, and ocean dumping.

Epidemic Regional outbreak of a disease.

Ethnic cleansing The systematic killing or extermination of an entire people or nation.

Ethnic religion A religion that is particular to one, culturally distinct, group of people. Unlike **universalizing religions**, adherents of ethnic religions do not actively seek converts through evangelism or missionary work.

Ethnic neighborhood Neighborhood, typically situated in a larger metropolitan city and constructed by or comprised of a local culture, in which a local culture can practice its customs.

Ethnicity Affiliation or identity within a group of people bound by common ancestry and culture.

Eugenic population policies Government policies designed to favor one racial sector over others.

Expansion diffusion The spread of an innovation or an idea through a population in a way that the number of those influenced grows continuously larger, resulting in an expanding area of dissemination.

Expansive population policies Government policies that encourage large families and raise the rate of population growth.

Explorer A person examining a region that is unknown to them.

Export Processing Zones (EPZs) Zones established by many countries in the **periphery** and **semi-periphery** where they offer favorable tax, regulatory, and trade arrangements to attract foreign trade and investment.

Extinct language Language without any native speakers.

Federal (state) A political-territorial system wherein a central government represents the various entities within a **nation-state** where they have common interests—defense, foreign affairs, and the like—yet allows these various entities to retain their own identities and to have their own laws, policies, and customs in certain spheres.

Feng Shui Literally “wind-water.” The Chinese art and science of placement and orientation of tombs, dwellings, buildings, and cities. Structures and objects are positioned in an effort to channel flows of *sheng-chi* (“life-breath”) in favorable ways.

Fertile Crescent Crescent-shaped zone of productive lands extending from near the southeastern Mediterranean coast through Lebanon and Syria to the alluvial lowlands of Mesopotamia (in Iraq). Once more fertile than today, this is one of the world’s great source areas of agricultural and other innovations.

Fieldwork The study of geographic phenomena by visiting places and observing how people interact with and thereby change those places.

First Agricultural Revolution Dating back 10,000 years, the First Agricultural Revolution achieved **plant domestication** and **animal domestication**.

First Urban Revolution The innovation of the city, which occurred independently in five separate **hearths**.

Five themes (of geography) Developed by the **Geography Educational National Implementation Project (GENIP)**, the five themes of geography are **location**, **human-environment**, **region**, **place**, and **movement**.

Folk culture Cultural traits such as dress modes, dwellings, traditions, and institutions of usually small, **traditional** communities.

Folk-housing region A region in which the housing stock predominantly reflects styles of building that are particular to the culture of the people who have long inhabited the area.

Forced migration Human migration flows in which the movers have no choice but to relocate.

Fordist A highly organized and specialized system for organizing industrial production and labor. Named after automobile producer Henry Ford, Fordist production features assembly-line production of standardized components for mass consumption.

Formal economy The legal economy that is taxed and monitored by a government and is included in a government’s **Gross National Product (GNP)**, as opposed to an **informal economy**.

Formal region A type of **region** marked by a certain degree of homogeneity in one or more phenomena; also called **uniform region** or **homogeneous region**.

Forum The focal point of ancient Roman life combining the functions of the ancient Greek *acropolis* and *agora*.

Friction of distance The increase in time and cost that usually comes with increasing **distance**.

Functional region A region defined by the particular set of activities or interactions that occur within it.

Functional zonation The division of a city into different regions or **zones** (e.g. residential or industrial) for certain purposes or functions (e.g. housing or manufacturing).

Gated communities Restricted neighborhoods or subdivisions, often literally fenced in, where entry is limited to residents and their guests. Although predominantly high-income based, in North America gated communities are increasingly a middle-class phenomenon.

Gatekeepers People or corporations who control access to information.

Gender Social differences between men and women, rather than the anatomical, biological differences between the sexes. Notions of gender differences—that is, what is considered “feminine” or “masculine”—vary greatly over time and space.

Gendered In terms of a place, whether the place is designed for or claimed by men or women.

Genetic or inherited diseases Diseases caused by variation or mutation of a gene or group of genes in a human.

Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) Crops that carry new traits that have been inserted through advanced genetic engineering methods.

Gentrification The rehabilitation of deteriorated, often abandoned, housing of low-income inner-city residents.

Geocaching A hunt for a cache, the **Global Positioning System (GPS)** coordinates which are placed on the Internet by other geocachers.

Geographic concept Ways of seeing the world spatially that are used by geographers in answering research questions.

Geographic Information System (GIS) A collection of computer hardware and software that permits spatial data to be collected, recorded, stored, retrieved, manipulated, analyzed, and displayed to the user.

Geography From the Greek meaning "to write about the Earth." As a modern academic discipline, geography is concerned with the analysis of the physical and human characteristics of the Earth's surface from a spatial perspective. "Why are things located where they are?" and "What does it mean for things to be located in particular places?" are central questions that geographical scholarship seeks to answer.

Geography Educational National Implementation Project (GENIP) Joint effort undertaken in the 1980s by the American Geographical Society, the Association of American Geographers, the National Council for Geographic Education and the National Geographic Society designed to bring together the many subfields of human geography and to explain to nongeographers the discipline of geography; developed the five themes of geography: location, human-environment, region, place, and movement.

Geometric boundary Political boundary defined and delimited (and occasionally demarcated) as a straight line or an arc.

Germanic languages Languages (English, German, Danish, Norwegian, and Swedish) that reflect the expansion of peoples out of Northern Europe to the west and south.

Germanyandering Redistributing for advantage, or the practice of dividing areas into electoral districts to give one political party an electoral majority in a large number of districts while concentrating the voting strength of the opposition in as few districts as possible.

Glaciation A period of global cooling during which continental ice sheets and mountain glaciers expand.

Global division of labor Phenomenon whereby corporations and others can draw from labor markets around the world, made possible by the compression of time and space through innovation in communication and transportation systems.

Global language The language used most commonly around the world; defined on the basis of either the number of speakers of the language, or prevalence of use in commerce and trade.

Global-local continuum The notion that what happens at the global scale has a direct effect on what happens at the local scale, and vice versa. This idea posits that the world is comprised of an interconnected series of relationships that extend across space.

Global scale Interactions occurring at the scale of the world, in a global setting.

Global Positioning System (GPS) Satellite-based system for determining the absolute location of places or geographic features.

Global warming Theory that the Earth is gradually warming as a result of an enhanced greenhouse effect in the Earth's atmosphere caused by ever-increasing amounts of carbon dioxide produced by various human activities.

Globalization The expansion of economic, political, and cultural processes to the point that they become global in scale and impact. The processes of globalization transcend state boundaries and have outcomes that vary across places and scales.

Globalization The process by which people in a local place mediate and alter regional, national, and global processes.

Gondwana The southern portion of the primeval supercontinent, Pangaea.

Gravity model A mathematical prediction of the interaction of places, the interaction being a function of population size of the respective places and the distance between them.

Green Revolution The recently successful development of higher-yield, fast-growing varieties of rice and other cereals in certain developing countries, which led to increased production per unit area and a dramatic narrowing of the gap between population growth and food needs.

Greenhouse effect The widely used analogy describing the blanket-like effect of the atmosphere in the heating of the Earth's surface; shortwave insolation passes through the "glass" of the atmosphere; "greenhouse," heats the surface, is converted to long-wave radiation that cannot penetrate the "glass," and thereby results in trapping heat, which raises the temperature inside the "greenhouse."

Griffin-Ford model Developed by geographers Ernst Griffin and Larry Ford, a model of the Latin American city showing a blend of traditional elements of Latin American culture with the forces of globalization that are reshaping the urban scene.

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) The total value of all goods and services produced within a country during a given year.

Gross National Product (GNP) The total value of all goods and services produced by a country's economy in a given year. It includes all goods and services produced by corporations and individuals of a country, whether or not they are located within the country.

Guest worker Legal immigrant who has a work visa, usually short term.

Haji The Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca, the birthplace of Muhammad.

Heartland theory A geopolitical hypothesis, proposed by British geographer Halford Mackinder during the first two decades of the twentieth century, that any political power based in the heart of Eurasia could gain sufficient strength to eventually dominate the world. Mackinder further proposed that since Eastern Europe controlled access to the Eurasian interior, its ruler would command the vast "heartland" to the east.

Hierarchical diffusion A form of diffusion in which an idea or innovation spreads by passing first among the most connected places or peoples. An urban hierarchy is usually involved, encouraging the leapfrogging of innovations over wide areas, with geographic distance a less important influence.

High-technology corridors Areas along or near major transportation arteries that are devoted to the research, development, and sale of high-technology products. These areas develop because of the networking and synergistic advantages of concentrating high-technology enterprises in close proximity to one another. "Silicon Valley" is a prime example of a high-technology corridor in the United States.

Hinduism One of the oldest religions in the modern world, dating back over 4000 years, and originating in the Indus River Valley of what is today part of Pakistan. Hinduism is unique among the world's religions in that it does not have a single founder, a single theology, or agreement on its origins.

Hinterland Literally, "country behind," a term that applies to a surrounding area served by an urban center. That center is the focus of goods and services produced for its hinterland and is its dominant urban influence as well. In the case of a port city, the hinterland also includes the inland area whose trade flows through that port.

Holocene The current interglacial period, extending from 10,000 years ago to the present on the geologic time scale.

Homo sapiens The only living species of the genus *Homo*; modern humans.

Horizontal integration Ownership by the same firm of a number of companies that exist at the same point on a commodity chain.

Huang He (Yellow) and Wei (Yangtze) River Valleys Rivers in present-day China; it was at the confluence of the Huang He and Wei

Rivers where chronologically the fourth urban **hearth** was established around 1500 BCE.

Human-environment The second theme of geography as defined by the **Geography Educational National Implementation Project**; reciprocal relationship between humans and environment.

Human geography One of the two major divisions of **geography**; the spatial analysis of human population, its cultures, activities, and landscapes.

Human territoriality A term associated with the work of Robert Sack that describes the efforts of human societies to influence events and achieve social goals by exerting, and attempting to enforce, control over specific geographical areas.

Hydrologic cycle The system of exchange involving water in its various forms as it continually circulates among the atmosphere, the oceans, and above and below the land surface.

Identifying against Constructing an **identity** by first defining the "other" and then defining ourselves as "not the other."

Identity Defined by geographer Gillian Rose as "how we make sense of ourselves," how people see themselves at different scales.

Imam The political head of the Muslim community or the person who leads prayer services. In **Shiite** Islam the Imam is immune from sin or error.

Immigrant A person migrating into a particular country or area; an in-migrant.

Immigration The act of a person migrating into a new country or area.

Immigration laws Laws and regulations of a state designed specifically to control immigration into that state.

Immigration wave The phenomenon whereby different patterns of chain migration build upon one another to create a swell in migration from one origin to the same destination.

Independent invention The term for a trait with many cultural hearths that developed independent of each other.

Indigenous religions Belief systems and philosophies practiced and traditionally passed from generation to generation among peoples within an indigenous tribe or group.

Indus River Valley Chronologically, the third urban **hearth**, dating to 2200 BCE.

Industrial Revolution The term applied to the social and economic changes in agriculture, commerce and manufacturing that resulted from technological innovations and specialization in late-eighteenth-century Europe.

Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) A figure that describes the number of babies that die within the first year of their lives in a given population.

Infectious diseases Diseases that are spread by bacteria, viruses, or parasites. Infectious diseases diffuse directly or indirectly from human to human.

Informal economy Economic activity that is neither taxed nor monitored by a government; and is not included in that government's **Gross National Product (GNP)**; as opposed to a formal economy.

Interfaith boundaries Boundaries between the world's major faiths. Sustained warming phase between glaciations during an ice age.

Intermodal (connections) Places where two or more modes of transportation meet (including air, road, rail, barge, and ship).

Internal migration Human movement within a nation-state, such as on going westward and southward movements in the United States.

Internal displaced person People who have been displaced within their own countries and do not cross international borders as they flee.

International migration Human movement involving movement across international boundaries.

Intervening opportunity The presence of a nearer opportunity that greatly diminishes the attractiveness of sites farther away.

Intrafaith boundaries Boundaries within a single major faith. **Islam** The youngest of the major world religions; Islam is based on the teachings of Muhammad, born in Mecca in 571 CE. According to Islamic teaching, Muhammad received the truth directly from Allah in a series of revelations during which Muhammad spoke the verses of the *Qur'an* (*Koran*), the Islamic holy book.

Island of development Place built up by a government or corporation to attract foreign investment and which has relatively high concentrations of paying jobs and infrastructure.

Isogloss A geographic boundary within which a particular linguistic feature occurs.

Isotherm Line on a map connecting points of equal temperature values. A doctrine within **Islam**. Commonly translated as "Holy War," Jihad represents either a personal or collective struggle on the part of Muslims to live up to the religious standards set by the *Qur'an*.

Judaism Religion with its roots in the teachings of Abraham (from Ur), who is credited with uniting his people to worship only one god. According to Jewish teaching, Abraham and God have a covenant in which the Jews agree to worship only one God, and God agrees to protect his chosen people, the Jews.

Just-in-time delivery Method of inventory management made possible by efficient transportation and communication systems, whereby companies keep on hand just what they need for near-term production, planning that what they need for longer-term production will arrive when needed.

Kinship links Types of **push factors** or **pull factors** that influence a migrant's decision to go where family or friends have already found success.

Köppen climate classification system Developed by Wladimir Köppen, a system for classifying the world's climates on the basis of temperature and precipitation.

Landscape The overall appearance of an area. Most landscapes are comprised of a combination of natural and human-induced influences.

Language A set of sounds, combination of sounds, and symbols that are used for communication.

Language convergence The collapsing of two languages into one resulting from the consistent spatial interaction of peoples with different languages; the opposite of **language divergence**.

Language divergence The opposite of **language convergence**; a process suggested by German linguist August Schleichner whereby new languages are formed when a language breaks into dialects due to a lack of spatial interaction among speakers of the language and continued isolation eventually causes the division of the language into discrete new languages.

Language family Group of languages with a shared but fairly distant origin.

Latitude An imaginary line running parallel to the equator that is used to measure distance in degrees north or south from the equator.

Laws of migration Developed by British demographer Ernst Ravenstein, five laws that predict the flow of migrants.

Leadership class Group of decision-makers and organizers in early cities who controlled the resources, and often the lives, of others.

Least Cost Theory Model developed by Alfred Weber according to which the location of manufacturing establishments is determined by the minimization of three critical expenses: labor, transportation, and agglomeration.

- Life expectancy** A figure indicating how long, on average, a person may be expected to live. Normally expressed in the context of a particular state.
- Lingua franca** A term deriving from "Frankish language" and applying to a tongue spoken in ancient Mediterranean ports that consisted of a mixture of Italian, French, Greek, Spanish, and even some Arabic. Today it refers to a "common language," a language used among speakers of different languages for the purposes of trade and commerce.
- Little Ice Age** Temporary but significant cooling period between the fourteenth and the nineteenth centuries; accompanied by wide temperature fluctuations, droughts, and storms, causing famines and dislocation.
- Livestock ranching** The raising of domesticated animals for the production of meat and other byproducts such as leather and wool.
- Local culture** Group of people in a particular place who see themselves as a collective or a community, who share experiences, customs, and traits, and who work to preserve those traits and customs in order to claim uniqueness and to distinguish themselves from others.
- Local Exchange Trading System (LETS)** A barter system whereby a local currency is created through which members trade services or goods in a local network separated from the formal economy.
- Location** The first theme of geography as defined by the **Geography Educational National Implementation Project**; the geographical situation of people and things.
- Location theory** A logical attempt to explain the locational pattern of an economic activity and the manner in which its producing areas are interrelated. The agricultural location theory contained in the von Thünen model is a leading example.
- Locational interdependence** Theory developed by economist Harold Hotelling that suggests competitors, in trying to maximize sales, will seek to constrain each other's territory as much as possible which will therefore lead them to locate adjacent to one another in the middle of their collective customer base.
- Longitude** An imaginary line circling the Earth and running through the poles. Used to determine the location of things by measurement of the angular distance, in degrees east or west, from the **Prime Meridian**.
- Long-lot survey system** Distinct regional approach to land surveying found in the Canadian Maritimes, parts of Quebec, Louisiana, and Texas whereby land is divided into narrow parcels stretching back from rivers, roads, or canals.
- Luxury crops** Non-subsistence crops such as tea, cacao, coffee, and tobacco.
- Majority-minority districts** In the context of determining representative districts, the process by which a majority of the population is from the minority.
- Malaria Vectored disease** spread by mosquitoes that carry the malaria parasite in their saliva and which kills approximately 150,000 children in the global periphery each month.
- Manufacturing export zones** A feature of economic development in peripheral countries whereby the host country establishes areas with favorable tax, regulatory, and trade arrangements in order to attract foreign manufacturing operations. The goods manufactured in these export zones are primarily destined for the global market.
- Maquiladora** The term given to zones in northern Mexico with factories supplying manufactured goods to the U.S. market. The low-wage workers in the primarily foreign-owned factories assemble imported components and/or raw materials and then export finished goods.
- Mass depletions** Loss of diversity through a failure to produce new species.
- Mass extinctions** Mass destruction of most species.
- Material culture** The art, housing, clothing, sports, dances, foods, and other similar items constructed or created by a group of people.
- Monoculture** Dependence on a single agricultural commodity.
- Monolingual states** Countries in which only one language is spoken.
- Monothestic religion** Belief system in which one supreme being is revered as creator and arbiter of all that exists in the universe.
- Modernity model** A model of economic development most closely associated with the work of economist Walter Rostow. The modernization model (sometimes referred to as modernization theory) maintains that all countries go through five interrelated stages of development, which culminate in an economic state of self-sustained economic growth and high levels of mass consumption.
- Minaret** Tower attached to a Muslim mosque, having one or more projecting balconies from which a caller calls Muslims to prayer.
- Military service** Another common form of **periodic movement** involving as many as 10 million United States citizens in a given year, including military personnel and their families, who are moved to new locations where they will spend tours of duty lasting up to several years.
- Migration** A change in residence intended to be permanent. See also **chain, forced, internal, international, step, and voluntary migration**.
- Migrant labor** A common type of **periodic movement** involving millions of workers in the United States and tens of millions of workers worldwide who cross international borders in search of employment and become **immigrants**, in many instances.
- Microcredit program** Program that provides small loans to poor people, especially women, to encourage development of small businesses.
- Microradial survey system** Program that provides small loans to poor people, especially women, to encourage development of small businesses.
- Mesopotamia** Region of great cities (e.g. Ur and Babylon) located between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers; chronologically the first urban hearth, dating to 3500 BCE, and which was founded in the **Fertile Crescent**.
- Mesoamerica** Chronologically the fifth urban hearth, dating to 2000 BCE.
- Mercantilism** In a general sense, associated with the promotion of commercialism and trade. More specifically, a protectionist policy of European states during the sixteenth to the eighteenth centuries that promoted a state's economic position in the context with other countries. The acquisition of gold and silver and the maintenance of a favorable trade balance (more exports than imports) were central to the policy.
- Megalopolis** Term used to designate large coalescing supercities that are forming in diverse parts of the world; formerly used specifically with an uppercase "M" to refer to the Boston-Washington metropolitanopolitan corridor on the northeastern seaboard of the United States, but now used generically with a lower-case "m" as a synonym for conurbation.
- Mental map** Image or picture of the way space is organized as determined by an individual's perception, impression, and knowledge of that space.
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- Metes and bounds system** A system of land surveying east of the Appalachian Mountains. It is a system that relies on descriptions of land ownership and natural features such as streams or trees. Because of the imprecise nature of metes and bounds surveying, the U.S. Land Office Survey abandoned the technique in favor of the **rectangular survey system**.
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Montreal Protocol An international agreement signed in 1987 by 105 countries and the European Community (now European Union). The protocol called for a reduction in the production and consumption of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) of 50 percent by 2000. Subsequent meetings in London (1990) and Copenhagen (1992) accelerated the timing of CFC phaseout, and a worldwide complete ban has been in effect since 1996.

Movement The fifth theme of geography as defined by the **Geography Educational National Implementation Project**; the mobility of people, goods and ideas across the surface of the planet

Multilingual states Countries in which more than one language is spoken.

Multinational state State with more than one nation within its borders.

Multistate nation Nation that stretches across borders and across states.

Mutual intelligibility The ability of two people to understand each other when speaking.

Nation Legally, a term encompassing all the citizens of a state. Most definitions now tend to refer to a tightly knit group of people possessing bonds of language, ethnicity, religion, and other shared cultural attributes. Such homogeneity actually prevails within very few states.

Nation-state Theoretically, a recognized member of the modern state system possessing formal **sovereignty** and occupied by a people who see themselves as a single, united **nation**. Most nations and states aspire to this form, but it is realized almost nowhere. Nonetheless, in common parlance, nation-state is used as a synonym for country or state.

Natural increase Population growth measured as the excess of live births over deaths. Natural increase of a population does not reflect either **emigrant** or **immigrant** movements.

Natural resource Any valued element of (or means to an end using) the environment; includes minerals, water, vegetation, and soil.

Neocolonialism The entrenchment of the colonial order, such as trade and investment, under a new guise. See also **postcolonialism**.

Neorealism The seeking out of the regional culture and reinvigoration of it in response to the uncertainty of the modern world.

Networks Defined by Manuel Castells as a set of interconnected nodes without a center.

Newborn mortality rate The number of infants who die within the first month of life per 1,000 live births.

New urbanism Coined by a group of architects, urban planners, and developers from over 20 countries, an urban design that calls for development, urban revitalization, and suburban reforms that create walkable neighborhoods with a diversity of housing and jobs.

Nile River Valley Chronologically the second urban **hearth**, dating to 3200 BCE.

Nomadism Movement among a definite set of places—often cyclic movement.

Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs) International organizations that operate outside of the formal political arena but that are nevertheless influential in spearheading international initiatives on social, economic, and environmental issues.

Non-material culture The beliefs, practices, aesthetics, and values of a group of people.

North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) Agreement entered into by Canada, Mexico, and the United States in December, 1992 and which took effect on January 1, 1994, to eliminate the barriers to trade in, and facilitate the cross-border movement of goods and services between the countries.

Nostatic (Language) Language believed to be the ancestral language not only of **Proto-Indo-European**, but also of the Kartvelian languages

of the of the southern Caucasus region, the Uralic-Altaic languages (including Hungarian, Finnish, Turkish, and Mongolian), the Dravidian languages of India, and the Afro-Asiatic language family.

Official language In multilingual countries the **language** selected, often by the educated and politically powerful elite, to promote internal cohesion; usually the language of the courts and government.

Offshore With reference to production, to **outsourcing** to a third party located outside of the country.

One-child policy A program established by the Chinese government in 1979 to slow population growth in China.

Organic agriculture Approach to farming and ranching that avoids the use of herbicides, pesticides, growth hormones, and other similar synthetic inputs.

Outsource With reference to production, to turn over in part or in total to a third party.

Oxygen cycle Cycle whereby natural processes and human activity consume atmospheric oxygen and produce carbon dioxide and the Earth's forests and other flora, through **photosynthesis**, consume carbon dioxide and produce oxygen.

Ozone layer The layer in the upper atmosphere located between 30 and 45 kilometers above the Earth's surface where stratospheric ozone is most densely concentrated. The ozone layer acts as a filter for the Sun's harmful ultraviolet rays.

Pacific Ring of Fire Ocean-girdling zone of crustal instability, volcanism, and earthquakes resulting from the tectonic activity along plate boundaries in the region.

Pandemic An outbreak of a disease that spreads worldwide. See also **endemic**.

Pangaea The primeval supercontinent, hypothesized by Alfred Wegener, that broke apart and formed the continents and oceans as we know them today; consisted of two parts—a northern Laurasia and a southern **Gondwana**.

Participatory development The notion that locals should be engaged in deciding what development means for them and how it should be achieved.

Pastoralist Person involved in a form of agricultural activity that involves the raising of livestock. Many peoples described as herders actually pursue mixed agriculture, in that they may also fish, hunt, or even grow a few crops. But pastoral peoples' lives revolve around their animals.

Pattern The design of a **spatial distribution** (e.g. scattered or concentrated).

Peace of Westphalia Peace negotiated in 1648 to end the Thirty Years' War, Europe's most destructive internal struggle over religion. The treaties contained new language recognizing statehood and nationhood, clearly defined borders, and guarantees of security.

Per capita GNP The **Gross National Product (GNP)** of a given country divided by its population.

Perception of place Belief or "understanding" about a place developed through books, movies, stories or pictures.

Perceptual region A region that only exists as conceptualization or an idea and not as a physically demarcated entity. For example, in the United States, "the South" and "the Mid-Atlantic region" are perceptual regions.

Periphery Processes that incorporate lower levels of education, lower salaries, and less technology, and generate less wealth than core processes in the world-economy.

Periodic Movement—for example, college attendance or military service—that involves temporary, recurrent relocation.

Photosynthesis The formation of carbohydrates in living plants from water and carbon dioxide, through the action of sunlight on chlorophyll in those plants, including algae.

Physical geography One of the two major divisions of systematic geography; the spatial analysis of the structure, processes, and location of the Earth's natural phenomena such as climate, soil, plants, animals, and topography.

Physical-political (natural-political) boundary Political boundary defined and delimited (and occasionally demarcated) by a prominent physical feature in the natural landscape—such as a river or the crest ridges of a mountain range.

Physiologic population density The number of people per unit area of arable land.

Pidgin language When parts of two or more languages are combined in a simplified structure and vocabulary.

Pilgrimage Voluntary travel by an adherent to a sacred site to pay respects or participate in a ritual at the site.

Place The fourth theme of geography as defined by the Geography Educational National Implementation Project; uniqueness of a location.

Placelessness Defined by geographer Edward Relph as the loss of uniqueness of place in the cultural landscape so that one place looks like the next.

Plant domestication Genetic modification of a plant such that its reproductive success depends on human intervention.

Plantation agriculture Production system based on a large estate owned by an individual, family, or corporation and organized to produce a cash crop. Almost all plantations were established within the tropics; in recent decades, many have been divided into smaller holdings or reorganized as cooperatives.

Pleistocene The most recent epoch of the Late Cenozoic Ice Age, beginning about 1.8 million years ago and marked by as many as 20 glaciations and interglaciations of which the current warm phase, the Holocene epoch, has witnessed the rise of human civilization.

Political ecology An approach to studying nature—society relations that is concerned with the ways in which environmental issues both reflect, and are the result of, the political and socioeconomic contexts in which they are situated.

Political geography A subdivision of human geography focused on the nature and implications of the evolving spatial organization of political governance and formal political practice on the Earth's surface. It is concerned with why political spaces emerge in the places that they do and with how the character of those spaces affects social, political, economic, and environmental understandings and practices.

Polytheistic religion Belief system in which multiple deities are revered as creators and arbiters of all that exists in the universe.

Popular culture Cultural traits such as dress, diet, and music that identify and are part of today's changeable, urban-based, media-influenced western societies.

Population composition Structure of a population in terms of age, sex and other properties such as marital status and education.

Population density A measurement of the number of people per given unit of land.

Population distribution Description of locations on the Earth's surface where populations live.

Population explosion The rapid growth of the world's human population during the past century, attended by ever-shorter doubling times and accelerating rates of increase.

Population pyramids Visual representations of the age and sex composition of a population whereby the percentage of each age group (generally five-year increments) is represented by a horizontal bar the length of which represents its relationship to the total population. The males in each age group are represented to the left of the center line of each pyramid.

Post-Fordist World economic system characterized by a more flexible set of production practices in which goods are not mass-produced; instead, production has been accelerated and dispersed around the globe by multinational companies that shift production, outsourcing it around the world and bringing places closer together in time and space than would have been imaginable at the beginning of the twentieth century.

Postcolonialism A recent intellectual movement concerned with examining the enduring impacts of colonialism, not just in economic and political relations (the focus of neocolonialism), but especially in cultural terms. Postcolonial studies examine the ways in which basic concepts of culture and forms of cultural interaction continue to be shaped by the hegemonic ideas and practices of colonialism.

Primary economic activity Economic activity concerned with the direct extraction of natural resources from the environment—such as mining, fishing, lumbering, and especially agriculture.

Primary industrial regions Western and Central Europe; Eastern North America; and Eastern Asia, each of which consists of one or more core areas of industrial development with subsidiary clusters.

Primate city A country's largest city—ranking atop the urban hierarchy—most expressive of the national culture and usually (but not always) the capital city as well.

Prime Meridian An imaginary north-south line of longitude on the Earth grid, passing through the Royal Observatory at Greenwich in London, defined as having a longitude of 0°.

Primogeniture System which the eldest son in a family—or, in exceptional cases, daughter—inherits all of a dying parent's land.

Protestant One of three major branches of Christianity (together with the Eastern Orthodox Church and the Roman Catholic Church). Following the widespread societal changes in Europe starting in the 1300s CE, many adherents to the Roman Catholic Church began to question the role of religion in their lives and opened the door to the Protestant Reformation wherein John Hus, Martin Luther, John Calvin, and others challenged many of the fundamental teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

Proto-Indo-European (language) Linguistic hypothesis proposing the existence of an ancestral Indo-European language that is the hearth link modern languages from Scandinavia to North Africa and from North America through parts of Asia to Australia.

Pull factor Positive conditions and perceptions that effectively attract people to new locales from other areas.

Push factor Negative conditions and perceptions that induce people to leave their abode and migrate to a new locale.

Quaternary economic activity Service sector industries concerned with the collection, processing, and manipulation of information and capital. Examples include finance, administration, insurance, and legal services.

Queer theory Theory defined by geographers Glen Elder, Lawrence Knopp, and Heidi Nast that highlights the contextual nature of opposition to the heteronormative and focuses on the political engagement of “queers” with the heteronormative.

Quinary economic activity Service sector industries that require a high level of specialized knowledge or technical skill. Examples include scientific research and high-level management.

Quotas Established limits by governments on the number of immigrants who can enter a country each year.

Race A categorization of humans based on skin color and other physical characteristics. Racial categories are social and political constructions because they are based on ideas that some biological differences (especially skin color) are more important than others (e.g., height, etc.), even though the latter might have more significance in terms of human activity. With its roots in sixteenth-century England, the term is closely associated with European colonialism because of the impact of that development on global understandings of racial differences.

Racism Frequently referred to as a system or attitude toward visible differences in individuals, racism is an ideology of difference that ascribes (predominantly negative) significance and meaning to culturally, socially, and politically constructed ideas based on phenotypic features.

Radioactive waste Hazardous-waste-emitting radiation from nuclear power plants, nuclear weapons factories, and nuclear equipment in hospitals and industry.

Rank-size rule In a model urban hierarchy, the idea that the population of a city or town will be inversely proportional to its rank in the hierarchy.

Reapportionment Process by which representative districts are switched according to population shifts, so that each district encompasses approximately the same number of people.

Rectangular survey system Also called the Public Land Survey, the system was used by the U.S. Land Office Survey to parcel land west of the Appalachian Mountains. The system divides land into a series of rectangular parcels.

Redlining A discriminatory real estate practice in North America in which members of minority groups are prevented from obtaining money to purchase homes or property in predominantly white neighborhoods. The practice derived its name from the red lines depicted on **cadstral maps** used by real estate agents and developers. Today, redlining is officially illegal.

Reference maps Maps that show the absolute location of places and geographic features determined by a frame of reference, typically latitude and longitude.

Refugees People who have fled their country because of political persecution and seek asylum in another country.

Region The third theme of geography as defined by the **Geography Educational National Implementation Project**; an area on the Earth's surface marked by a degree of formal, functional, or perceptual homogeneity of some phenomenon.

Regional scale Interactions occurring within a **region**, in a regional setting.

Relative location The regional position or **situation** of a place relative to the position of other places. Distance, **accessibility**, and connectivity affect relative location.

Religion Defined by geographers Robert Stoddard and Carolyn Erskine in the book *Geography in America* as "a system of beliefs and practices that attempts to order life in terms of culturally perceived ultimate priorities." **Religious extremism** **Religious fundamentalism** carried to the point of violence.

Religious fundamentalism Religious movement whose objectives are to return to the foundations of the faith and to influence state policy.

Relocation diffusion Sequential **diffusion** process in which the items being diffused are transmitted by their carrier agents as they evacuate the old areas and relocate to new ones. The most common form of relocation diffusion involves the spreading of innovations by a migrating population.

Remittances Money migrants send back to family and friends in their home countries, often in cash, forming an important part of the economy in many poorer countries.

Remoteness The idea that ethical and moral standards should be formulated and adhered to for life on Earth, not to accommodate the prescriptions of a deity and promises of a comfortable afterlife. A secular state is the opposite of a **theocracy**.

Remote sensing A method of collecting data or information through the use of instruments (e.g., satellites) that are physically distant from the area or object of study.

Renewable resources Resources that can regenerate as they are exploited.

Renewable hypothesis Hypothesis developed by British scholar Colin Renfrew wherein he proposed that three areas in and near the first agricultural heartland, the **Fertile Crescent**, gave rise to three language families: Europe's Indo-European languages (from Anatolia [present-day Turkey]); North African and Arabian languages (from the western arc of the Fertile Crescent); and the languages in present-day Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India (from the eastern arc of the Fertile Crescent).

Reparation A refugee or group of refugees returning to their home country, usually with the assistance of government or a non-governmental organization.

Rescale Involvement of players at other scales to generate support for a position or an initiative (e.g., use of the Internet to generate interest on a national or global scale for a local position or initiative).

Residential segregation Defined by geographers Douglas Massey and Nancy Denton as the degree to which two or more groups live separately from one another, in different parts of an urban environment.

Rescriptive population policies Government policies designed to reduce the rate of natural increase.

Retroterritorialization With respect to popular culture, when people within a place start to produce an aspect of popular culture themselves, doing so in the context of their local culture and making it their own.

Roman Catholic Church One of three major branches of **Christianity**, the Roman Catholic Church, together with the **Eastern Orthodox Church**, a second of the three major branches of Christianity, arose out of the division of the Roman Empire by Emperor Diocletian into four governmental regions: two western regions centered in Rome, and two eastern regions centered in Constantinople (now Istanbul, Turkey). In 1054 CE, Christianity was divided along that same line when the Eastern Orthodox Church, centered in Constantinople, and the Roman Catholic Church, centered in Rome, split.

Romance languages **Langauges** (French, Spanish, Italian, Romanian, and Portuguese) that lie in the areas that were once controlled by the Roman Empire but were not subsequently overwhelmed.

Root crop Crop that is reproduced by cultivating the roots of or the cuttings from the plants.

Sacred site Place or space people infuse with religious meaning.

Sanitary landfills Disposal sites for non-hazardous solid waste that is spread in layers and compacted to the smallest practical volume. The sites are typically designed with floors made of materials to treat seeping liquids and are covered by soil as the wastes are compacted and deposited into the landfill.

Scale Representation of a real-world phenomenon at a certain level of reduction or generalization. In **cartography**, the ratio of map distance to ground distance; indicated on a map as a bar graph, representative fraction, and/or verbal statement.

Second Agricultural Revolution Overlapping with and benefiting from the **Industrial Revolution**, the Second Agricultural Revolution witnessed improved methods of cultivation, harvesting, and storage of farm produce.

Secondary economic activity Economic activity involving the processing of raw materials and their transformation into finished industrial products; the manufacturing sector.

Secularism The idea that ethical and moral standards should be formulated and adhered to for life on Earth, not to accommodate the prescriptions of a deity and promises of a comfortable afterlife. A secular state is the opposite of a **theocracy**.

Settlement The regional position or **situation** of a place relative to the position of other places. Distance, **accessibility**, and connectivity affect relative location.

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Seed crop Crop that is reproduced by cultivating the seeds of the plants.

Selective immigration Process to control immigration in which individuals with certain backgrounds (i.e., criminal records, poor health, or subversive activities) are barred from immigrating.

Semi-periphery Places where **core** and **periphery** processes are both occurring; places that are exploited by the core but in turn exploit the periphery.

Sense of place State of mind derived through the infusion of a place with meaning and emotion by remembering important events that occurred in that place or by labeling a place with a certain character.

Sequent occupance The notion that successive societies leave their cultural imprints on a place, each contributing to the cumulative **cultural landscape**.

Shamanism Community faith in traditional societies in which people follow their shaman—a religious leader, teacher, healer, and visionary. At times, an especially strong shaman might attract a regional following. However, most shamans remain local figures.

Shantytown Unplanned slum development on the margins of cities, dominated by crude dwellings and shelters made mostly of scrap wood, iron, and even pieces of cardboard.

Sharia law The system of Islamic law, sometimes called *Qu'ranic law*. Unlike most Western systems of law that are based on legal precedence, Sharia is based on varying degrees of interpretation of the *Qu'ran*.

Shifting cultivation Cultivation of crops in tropical forest clearings in which the forest vegetation has been removed by cutting and burning. These clearings are usually abandoned after a few years in favor of newly cleared forestland. Also known as **slash-and-burn agriculture**.

Shintoism Religion Located in Japan and related to **Buddhism**. Shintoism focuses particularly on nature and ancestor worship.

Shites Adherents of one of the two main divisions of Islam. Also known as Shias, the Shites represent the Persian (Iranian) variation of the Islam and believe in the infallibility and divine right to authority of the **Imams**, descendants of Ali.

Site The internal physical attributes of a place, including its absolute location, its spatial character and physical setting.

Situation The external locational attributes of a place; its **relative location** or regional position with reference to other nonlocal places.

Slash-and-burn agriculture See **shifting cultivation**.

Slavic languages (Russian, Polish, Czech, Slovak, Ukrainian, Slovenian, Serbo-Croatian, and Bulgarian) that developed as Slavic people migrated from a base in present-day Ukraine close to 2000 years ago.

Social stratification One of two components, together with **agricultural surplus**, which enables the formation of **cities**; the differentiation of society into classes based on wealth, power, production, and prestige.

Soil erosion The wearing away of the land surface by wind and moving water.

Solid waste Non-liquid, non-soluble materials ranging from municipal garbage to sewage sludge; agricultural refuse; and mining residues.

Sound shift Slight change in a word across **languages** within a **subfamily** or through a language family from the present backward toward its origin.

Sovereignty A principle of international relations that holds that final authority over social, economic, and political matters should rest with the legitimate rulers of independent states.

Space Defined by Doreen Massey and Pat Jess as "social relations stretched out."

Suburbanization Movement of upper- and middle-class people from urban **core areas** to the surrounding outskirts to escape pollution as well as the city's **Central Business District (CBD)**.

Suburban downtown Significant concentration of diversified economic activities around a highly accessible suburban location, including retailing, light industry, and a variety of major corporate and commercial operations. Late-twentieth-century coequal to the American central city's **Central Business District (CBD)**.

Suburb A subsidiary urban area surrounding and connected to the central city. Many are exclusively residential; others have their own commercial centers or shopping malls.

Subsistence agriculture Self-sufficient agriculture that is small scale and low technology and emphasizes food production for local consumption, not for trade.

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Subfamilies (language) Divisions within a **language family** where the commonalities are more definite and the origin is more recent.

Structural adjustment loans Loans granted by international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to countries in the **periphery** and the **semi-periphery** in exchange for certain economic and governmental reforms in that country (e.g., privatization of certain government entities and opening the country to foreign trade and investment).

Structuralist theory A general term for a model of economic development that treats economic disparities among countries or regions as the result of historically derived power relations within the global economic system.

Stimulus diffusion A form of diffusion in which a cultural adaptation is created as a result of the introduction of a **cultural trait** from another place.

Step migration Migration to a distant destination that occurs in stages, for example, from farm to nearby village and later to town and city.

Stationary population level The level at which a national population ceases to grow.

Stateless nation Nation that does not have a state.

State A politically organized territory that is administered by a sovereign government and is recognized by a significant portion of the international community. A state has a defined territory, a permanent population, a government, and is recognized by other states.

Standard language The variant of a **language** that a country's political and intellectual elite seek to promote as the norm for use in schools, government, the media, and other aspects of public life.

Majority-minority districts The variant of a **language** that a country's political and intellectual elite seek to promote as the norm for use in schools, government, the media, and other aspects of public life.

Splitting In the context of determining representative districts, the process by which the majority and minority populations are spread evenly across each of the districts to be created therein ensuring control by the majority of each of the districts; as opposed to the result of **splitting**. In the context of determining representative districts, the process by which the majority and minority populations are spread evenly across each of the districts to be created therein ensuring control by the majority of each of the districts; as opposed to the result of **splitting**.

Special Economic Zone (SEZ) Specific area within a country in which tax incentives and less stringent environmental regulations are implemented to attract foreign business and investment.

Spatial perspective Observing variations in geographic phenomena across space.

Spatial distribution Physical location of geographic phenomena across space.

Spatial interaction See **complementarity** and **intervening opportunity**.

Spatially heterogeneous Observing variations in geographic phenomena across space.

Spatial Pertaining to space on the Earth's surface; sometimes used as a synonym for *geographic*.

Spaces of consumption Areas of a city, the main purpose of which is to encourage people to consume goods and services; driven primarily by the global media industry.

well as deteriorating social conditions (perceived and actual). In North America, the process began in the early nineteenth century and became a mass phenomenon by the second half of the twentieth century.

Succession Process by which new immigrants to a city move to and dominate or take over areas or neighborhoods occupied by older immigrant groups. For example, in the early twentieth century, Puerto Ricans "invaded" the immigrant Jewish neighborhood of East Harlem and successfully took over the neighborhood or "succeeded" the immigrant Jewish population as the dominant immigrant group in the neighborhood.

Sunbelt The South and Southwest regions of the United States

Sunbelt phenomenon The movement of millions of Americans from northern and northeastern States to the South and Southwest regions (Sunbelt) of the United States.

Sunni Adherents to the largest branch of Islam, called the orthodox or traditionalist. They believe in the effectiveness of family and community in the solution of life's problems, and they differ from the **Shiites** in accepting the traditions (*sunna*) of Muhammad as authoritative.

Supranational organization A venture involving three or more nations-states involving formal political, economic, and/or cultural cooperation to promote shared objectives. The European Union is one such organization.

Synergy The cross-promotion of vertically-integrated goods.

Taoism Religion believed to have been founded by Lao-Tsu and based upon his book entitled "Tao-te-ching," or "Book of the Way." Lao-Tsu focused on the proper form of political rule and on the oneness of humanity and nature.

Tear-downs Homes bought in many American suburbs with the intent of tearing them down and replacing them with much larger homes often referred to as **McMansions**.

Technopole Centers or nodes of high-technology research and activity around which a **high-technology corridor** is sometimes established.

Territorial integrity The right of a state to defend sovereign territory against incursion from other states.

Territorial representation System wherein each representative is elected from a territorially defined district.

Territoriality In political geography, a country's or more local community's sense of property and attachment toward its territory, as expressed by its determination to keep it inviolable and strongly defended. See more generally **human territoriality**.

Tertiary economic activity Economic activity associated with the provision of services—such as transportation, banking, retailing, education, and routine office-based jobs.

Thematic maps Maps that tell stories, typically showing the degree of some attribute or the movement of a geographic phenomenon.

Theocracy A state whose government is under the control of a ruler who is deemed to be divinely guided, or of a group of religious leaders, as in post-Khomeini Iran. The opposite of a theocracy is a secular state.

Third Agricultural Revolution Currently in progress, the Third Agricultural Revolution has as its principal orientation the development of **Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)**.

Three-tier structure With reference to Immanuel Wallerstein's **world-systems theory**, the division of the world into the **core**, the **periphery**, and the **semi-periphery** as a means to help explain the interconnections between places in the global economy.

Thunian pattern See **Von Thunian Model**.

Time-Distance decay The declining degree of acceptance of an idea or innovation with increasing time and distance from its point of origin or source.

Time-space compression A term associated with the work of David Harvey that refers to the social and psychological effects of living in a world in which **time-space convergence** has rapidly reached a high level of intensity.

Time-space convergence A term coined by Donald Janelle that refers to the greatly accelerated movement of goods, information, and ideas during the twentieth century made possible by technological innovations in transportation and communications.

Toponym Place name.

Towship-and-range system A rectangular land division scheme designed by Thomas Jefferson to disperse settlers evenly across farmlands of the U.S. interior. See also **rectangular survey system**.

Toxic waste Hazardous waste causing danger from chemicals and infectious organisms.

Trade area Region adjacent to every town and city within which its influence is dominant.

Traditional Term used in various contexts (e.g., traditional religion) to indicate originality within a culture or long-term part of an indigenous society. It is the opposite of modernized, superimposed, or changed; it denotes continuity and historic association.

Tracking When a family sends a child or an adult to a labor recruiter in hopes that the labor recruiter will send money, and the family member will earn money to send home.

Transhumance A seasonal periodic movement of **pastoralists** and their livestock between highland and lowland pastures.

Unilateralism World order in which one state is in a position of dominance with allies following rather than joining the political decision-making process.

Unitary (state) A nation-state that has a centralized government and administration that exercises power equally over all parts of the state.

Universalizing religion A belief system that espouses the idea that there is one true religion that is universal in scope. Adherents of universalizing religions often believe that their religion represents universal truths, and in some cases great effort is undertaken in evangelism and missionary work.

Urban (area) The entire built-up, nonrural area and its population, including the most recently constructed suburban appendages. Provides a better picture of the dimensions and population of such an area than the delimited municipality (central city) that forms its heart.

Urban hierarchy A ranking of settlements (hamlet, village, town, city, metropolitan) according to their size and economic functions.

Urban morphology The study of the physical form and structure of urban places.

Urban realm A spatial generalization of the large, late-twentieth-century city in the United States. It is shown to be a widely dispersed, multicentered metropolis consisting of increasingly independent zones of housing, commercial development, and roads over large expanses of land, with little concern for urban planning.

Urban sprawl Unrestricted growth in many American urban areas of housing, commercial development, and roads over large expanses of land, with little concern for urban planning.

Urbanization A term with several connotations. The proportion of a country's population living in urban places is its level of urbanization. The process of urbanization involves the movement of people to, and the clustering of people in, towns and cities—a major force in every geographic realm today. Another kind of urbanization occurs when an expanding city absorbs the rural countryside and transforms it into suburbs; in the case of cities in the developing world, this also generates peripheral shantytowns.

- Variable costs** Costs that change directly with the amount of production (e.g. energy supply and labor costs).
- Vectorial disease** A disease carried from one host to another by an intermediate host.
- Vertical integration** Ownership by the same firm of a number of companies that exist along a variety of points on a commodity chain.
- Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer** The first international convention aimed at addressing the issue of ozone depletion. Held in 1985, the Vienna Convention was the predecessor to the **Montreal Protocol**.
- Voluntary migration Movement** in which people relocate in response to perceived opportunity, not because they are forced to move.
- Von Thünen Model** A model that explains the location of agricultural activities in a commercial, profit-making economy. A process of spatial competition allocates various farming activities into rings around a central market city, with profit-earning capability the determining force in how far a crop locates from the market.
- Washington Consensus** Label used to refer to the following fundamental principles of free trade: 1) that free trade raises the well-being of all countries by inducing them to devote their resources to production of those goods they produce relatively most efficiently; and
- Zoning laws** Legal restrictions on land use that determine what types of building and economic activities are allowed to take place in certain areas. In the United States, areas are most commonly divided into separate zones of residential, retail, or industrial use.
- Zionism** The movement to unite the Jewish people of the diaspora and to establish a national homeland for them in the promised land.
- Zone** Area of a city with a relatively uniform land use (e.g. an industrial zone, or a residential zone).
- World-systems theory** Theory originated by Immanuel Wallerstein and illuminated by his **three-tier structure**, proposing that social change in the developing world is inextricably linked to the economic activities of the developed world.
- World city** Dominant city in terms of its role in the global political economy. Not the world's biggest city in terms of population or industrial output, but rather centers of strategic control of the world economy.
- Wisconsinian Glaciation** The most recent glacial period of the Pleistocene, enduring about 100,000 years and giving way, beginning about 18,000 years ago, to the current interglacial, the Holocene.
- 2) that competition through trade raises a country's long-term growth rate by expanding access to global technologies and promoting innovation.

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