AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY EXAM TIPS AND HINTS

Exam Basics
- Multiple Choice - 60 Questions - 1 hour - 50% of overall grade
- Free Response Questions - 3 Questions - 1 hr 15 min - 50% of overall grade

Pre-plan your responses
- Do not just start writing, take a minute to organize your thoughts
- Carefully analyze the question! Answer the question that is being asked, you don't want to make the mistake and answer the wrong question
- Make note of any key points you want to address before you even start writing

Integrate Evidence into your response
- If the free response question contains data, make sure you directly reference specifics in your answer
- Incorporate in vocabulary terms and themes from related units
- Mention concepts and be specific!

Elaborate on the Evidence
- Do not make your answers too short, make sure you answer in complete sentences.
- Discuss the evidence and highlight specific trends by referencing specific pieces of data.
- Talk about how the data helps answer the question, and discuss how corresponds to specific geographic concepts

Practice
- Check out the resources available on the College Board©'s website for Human Geography especially past exams
- Take sample Multiple Choice tests online and time yourself
- Use practice guides and Apps to improve your content knowledge and recall

Pay Attention to the task verbs.
(From the College Board © Website – https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-human-geography/exam-tips)
- Compare: Provide a description or explanation of similarities and/or differences.
- Define: Provide a specific meaning for a word or concept.
- Describe: Provide the relevant characteristics of a specified topic.
- Explain: Provide information about how or why a relationship, process, pattern, position, or outcome occurs, using evidence and/or reasoning.
- Identify: Indicate or provide information about a specified topic, without elaboration or explanation.

General Exam Advice
- Do not bullet point your answers, but answer them in such a way that your reader knows exactly which question you are answering
- Don't freak out, when you see a question just breath and start dissecting what it is asking. Start by answering the questions or parts of questions you know and working from there.
- Get a full night of sleep before the exam, DON'T CRAM! You have been preparing for this for a year. A good night and a healthy breakfast will do more good than cramming.

Vocabulary Needed to Know for the AP Human Geography Test

Unit I – Thinking Geographically

1. Absolute distance
2. Absolute location
3. Clustering
4. Direction
5. Dispersal
6. Distance decay
7. Elevation
8. Environmental determinism
9. Environmental possibilism
10. Flows
11. Formal regions
12. Functional region
13. Geographic information systems (GIS)
14. Geospatial and geographical data (ex. Census data, satellite imagery)
15. Land use
16. Map distortion (shape, area, elevation, direction)
17. Map projections
18. Natural resources
19. Online mapping and visualization
20. Pattern
21. Perceptual/vernacular region
22. Place
23. Reference maps
24. Regional boundaries
25. Regions
26. Relative distance
27. Relative location
28. Remote sensing
29. Satellite navigation systems (including GPS)
30. Scale (local, national, regional, global)
31. Space
32. Spatial Information Sources (Travel narratives, Policy documents, Media reports, Field Observations, Landscape analysis, Photographic interpretation, Personal Interviews)
33. Sustainability
34. Thematic maps
35. Time-space compression

Unit II – Population and Migration Patterns and Processes

1. Age Structure
2. Agricultural population density
3. Anti-natalist Population Policies
4. Arithmetic population density
5. Carrying Capacity
6. Changing gender roles
7. Contraception
8. Crude Birth Rate (CBR)
9. Crude Death Rate (CDR)
10. Demographics
11. Dependency Ratio
12. Education Rates
13. Employment Rates
14. Fertility
15. Forced Migration (slavery/human trafficking, Refugees, Internally displaced persons, asylum seekers)
16. Human factors influencing population distribution (eg. Culture, economics, history, politics)
17. Immigration Policies (promote or discourage population growth)
18. Life Expectancy
19. Malthusian Theory
20. Migration
21. Mortality
22. Physical Factors Influencing Population Distribution (eg. climate, landforms, water bodies)
23. Physiological population density
24. Population decline (reasons for)
25. Population Distribution
26. Population growth (reasons for)
27. Population pyramids
28. Population-doubling time
29. Pro-natalist Population Policies
30. Pull Factors (Migration)
31. Push Factors (Migration)
32. Rate of Natural Increase
33. Ravenstein's laws of Migration
34. Sex ratio
35. Voluntary Migration (transnational, transhumance, internal, chain, step, guest worker, rural-to-urban)

Unit III – Cultural Patterns and Processes

1. Acculturation
2. Assimilation
3. Centrifugal Forces
4. Centripetal Forces
5. Colonialism
6. Communication technologies (internet)
7. Contagious Diffusion
8. Cultural Convergence
9. Cultural Divergence
10. Cultural expression (eg. Creolization, Lingua Franca)
11. Cultural Hearths
12. Cultural Landscape
13. Cultural Relativism
14. Cultural traits
15. Culture
16. Ethnic Cultures
17. Ethnic Neighborhoods
18. Ethnic Religions
19. Ethnicity
20. Expansion Diffusion
21. Gender Roles
22. Global cultural landscape
23. Hierarchical Diffusion
24. Imperialism
25. Indigenous Communities
26. Language
27. Language Dialects
28. Language Families
29. Media
30. Multiculturalism
31. Placemaking
32. Regional Patterns
33. Religion
34. Relocation Diffusion
35. Sense of Place
36. Stimulus expansion Diffusion
37. Syncretism
38. Toponomy
39. Universalizing Religions
40. World Religions

Unit IV – Political Patterns and Processes

1. Antecedent boundaries
2. Autonomous region
3. Borders
4. Boundaries
5. Centralization
6. Centrifugal forces
7. Centripetal Forces
8. Choke points
9. Colonialism
10. Consequent boundaries
11. Cultural Cohesion
12. De-Centralization
13. Demarcation
14. Demilitarized Zone
15. Democratization
16. Devolution
17. Economies of Scale
18. Ethnic Cleansing
19. Ethnonationalism
20. Exclusive Economic Zone
21. Failed State
22. Federal States
23. Geometric boundaries
24. Gerrymandering
25. Imperialism
26. Independence movements
27. International Agreement
28. Irredentism
29. Maritime Boundaries
30. Member States
31. Military Alliances
32. Multinational state
33. Multistate nations
34. Nation
35. Nation-State
36. Nationalist Movement
37. Neocolonialism
38. Redistricting
39. Relic boundaries
40. Self-determination
41. Semiautonomous region
42. Separatism
43. Shatterbelts
44. Sovereignty
45. State
46. Stateless nation
47. Subnational Political Territorial Units
48. Subsequent boundaries
49. Superimposed boundaries
50. Supranational Organizations (Eg. EU, UN, NATO, ASEAN, Arctic Council, African Union)
51. Supranationalism
52. Territorial Seas
53. Territoriality
54. Terrorism
55. Trade Agreements
56. Unitary States
57. United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)
58. Voting District

Unit V – Agriculture and Rural Land-Use Patterns and Processes

1. Adverse weather/natural disasters
2. Agricultural Hearths
3. Aquaculture
4. Bid-rent theory
5. Biodiversity
6. Biotechnology
7. Climate Zones
8. Columbian Exchange
9. Commercial Agriculture
10. Commodity chains
11. Community-supported agriculture (CSA)
12. Conservation efforts
13. Deforestation
14. Desertification
15. Dietary Shifts
16. Draining wetlands
17. Export commodities
18. Extensive farming
19. Fair trade
20. Fertile Crescent
21. Fertilizers
22. First Agricultural Revolution
23. Food deserts
24. Food insecurity
25. Genetically modified organisms
26. Global supply chain
27. Green Revolution
28. Herbicides
29. High-yield seeds
30. Infrastructure
31. Intensive Farming
32. Irrigation
33. Land cover change
34. Local-food movements
35. Market Gardening
36. Markets
37. Mechanized farming
38. Mixed crop/livestock system
39. Monocropping
40. Monoculture
41. Nomadic Herding
42. Organic farming
43. Pastoral nomadism
44. Pesticides
45. Plantation agriculture
46. Pollution
47. Ranching
48. Rural Settlement Patterns
49. Second Agricultural Revolution
50. Shifting cultivation
51. Slash-and-burn agriculture
52. Soil salinization
53. Subsistence agriculture
54. Suburbanization
55. Terraces
56. Third Agricultural Revolution
57. Transportation networks
58. Urban farming
59. Value-added specialty crops

Unit VI Cities and Urban Land-Use and Patterns

1. Bid-Rent Theory
2. Blockbusting
3. Boomburbs
4. Brownfields
5. Christaller's Central Place Theory
6. City Infrastructure
7. City Segregation
8. Disamenity zones
9. Edge cities
10. Exurbs
11. Food Deserts
12. Gentrification
13. Gravity City
14. Greenbelts
15. Mixed land use
16. New Urbanism
17. Primate City Rule
18. Public Transportation
19. Rank Size Rule
20. Redlining
21. Rural/Farming Protection Policies
22. Sanitation
23. Site and Situation
24. Slow-growth cities
25. Smart-growth policies
26. Sprawl
27. Squatter Settlements
28. Suburbanization
29. Transportation-oriented development
30. Urban Hierarchy
31. Urban Renewal
32. Urbanization
33. Walkability
34. Zones of abandonment
35. Zoning

Unit VII Industrial and Economic Development Patterns and Processes

1. Agglomeration
2. Break-of-Bulk Points
3. Climate Change
4. Colonialism
5. Commodity Dependence
6. Complementary and Comparative Advantage
7. Core, Periphery, and Semi-Periphery
8. Dependency Theory
9. Economic Interdependence
10. Economies of Scale
11. Ecotourism
12. Equity
13. European Union (EU)
14. Export-processing zones
15. Fertility rates
16. Formal and informal Economy
17. Fossil fuels
18. Free Trade Agreements
19. Free-trade zones
20. Gender Inequality Index (GII)
21. Gender Roles
22. Global Financial Crisis
23. Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
24. Gross National Income (GNI) per capita
25. Gross National Product (GNP)
26. Growth Poles
27. Health care
28. High Technology Industries
29. Human Development Index (HDI)
30. Imperialism
31. Income distribution
32. Industrial Revolutions
33. Industrialization
34. Infant mortality rates
35. International Monetary Fund (IMF)
36. Microlending
37. Just-In-Time Delivery
38. Least Cost Theory
39. Literacy rates
40. Mass Consumption
41. Mercosur
42. Microloans
43. Multiplier Effects
44. Natural Resources
45. Neoliberal Policies
46. New International Division of Labor
47. Newly Industrialized Countries
48. Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)
49. Outsourcing
50. Pollution
51. Post-Fordism
52. Renewable energy
53. Sectors of the Economy (Primary, Secondary, Tertiary, Quanterary, Quinary)
54. Service Sector
55. Special economic zones
56. Standard of Living
57. Sustainability
58. UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
59. World Trade Organization (WTO)

AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY MODELS AND THEORIES

"**Need to Know**"	"**Nice to Know**"

Central Place Theory (VI)
Demographic Transition Model (II)
Epidemiological Transition Model (II)
Global City Models (VI)
   -   Africa
   -   Latin America
   -   Southeast Asia
North American City Models (VI)
   -   Concentric-Zone Model
   -   Sector Model
   -   Multiple-Nuclei Model
   -   Galactic City Model
Population Pyramid (II)
Ravenstein's Laws of Migration (II)
Rostow's Stages of Economic Growth (VII)
Rural Settlement Patterns (V)
   -   Clustered
   -   Dispersed
   -   Linear
   -   Metes and Bounds
   -   Township and Range
   -   Long Lot
Von Thunen Model of Agricultural Land Use (V)
Wallerstein's World System Theory (VII)
	Borchert's Epochs (VI)
	Cultural Diffusion Models (III)
	   - Expansion-Contagious
	   - Expansion-Hierarchical
	   - Expansion-Stimulus
	   - Relocation
	Heartland Theory (IV)
	Rimland Theory (IV)
	Ratzel's Organic Theory (IV)
	Migration Transition Model (II)
	Boserup's Cornucopian Theory (V)
	Domino Theory (IV)
	Hardin's First Law of Ecology (V)
	Lee's Migration Theory (II)
	Tobler's First Law of Geography (I)
	Weber's Least Cost Theory (VII)

UNITS AND APPROXIMATE WEIGHT

| Units	Exam Weighting
Unit 1: Thinking Geographically	**8–10%**
Unit 2: Population and Migration Patterns and Processes	**12–17%**
Unit 3: Cultural Patterns and Processes	**12–17%**
Unit 4: Political Patterns and Processes	**12–17%**
Unit 5: Agriculture and Rural Land-Use Patterns and Processes	**12–17%**
Unit 6: Cities and Urban Land-Use Patterns and Processes	**12–17%**
Unit 7: Industrial and Economic Development Patterns and Processes	**12–17%**

Model Taxonomy

| Unit	Models/Theories
I. Thinking Geographically	
II. Population and Migration Patterns and Processes	
III. Cultural Patterns and Processes	
IV. Political Patterns and Processes	
V. Agriculture and Rural Land-Use Patterns and Processes	
VI. Cities and Urban Land-Use Patterns and Processes	
VII. Industrial and Economic Development Patterns and Processes	

MAP PROJECTIONS

Representing our three-dimensional planet using a two-dimensional drawing requires that mapmakers either lose some detail or distort some features. Thus, all flat maps are somewhat distorted in their representation of shape, area, distance, or direction.

Conformal projections, such as the Mercator or Lambert projections, are used when relationships between points based on angles are needed, such as in navigational charts. The **Mercator projection (left)** shows the directions of places accurately near the equator, but distorts the size of continents, particularly near the poles. The **Lambert projection (right)** is good for showing areas near the North or South pole, but distorts distance and shape.
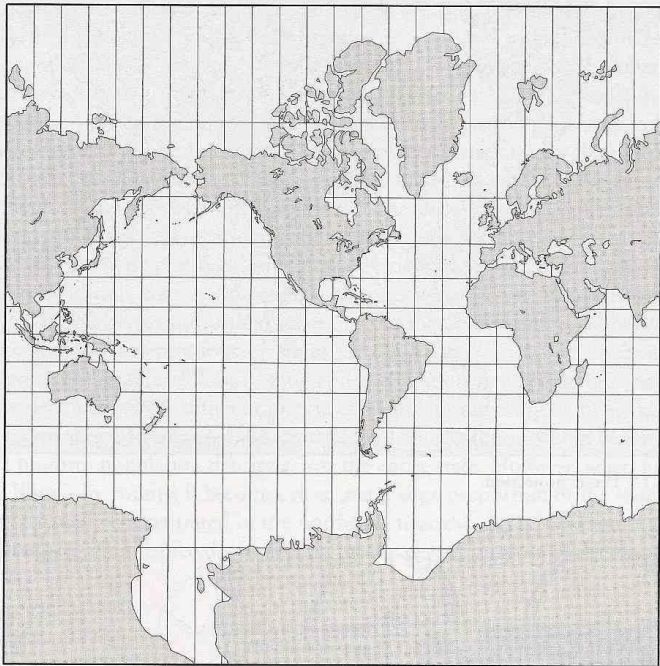
When directional relationships from a given central point (called an azimuth) are important, **azimuthal projections** are typically used. These provide different perspectives. Below are several examples.
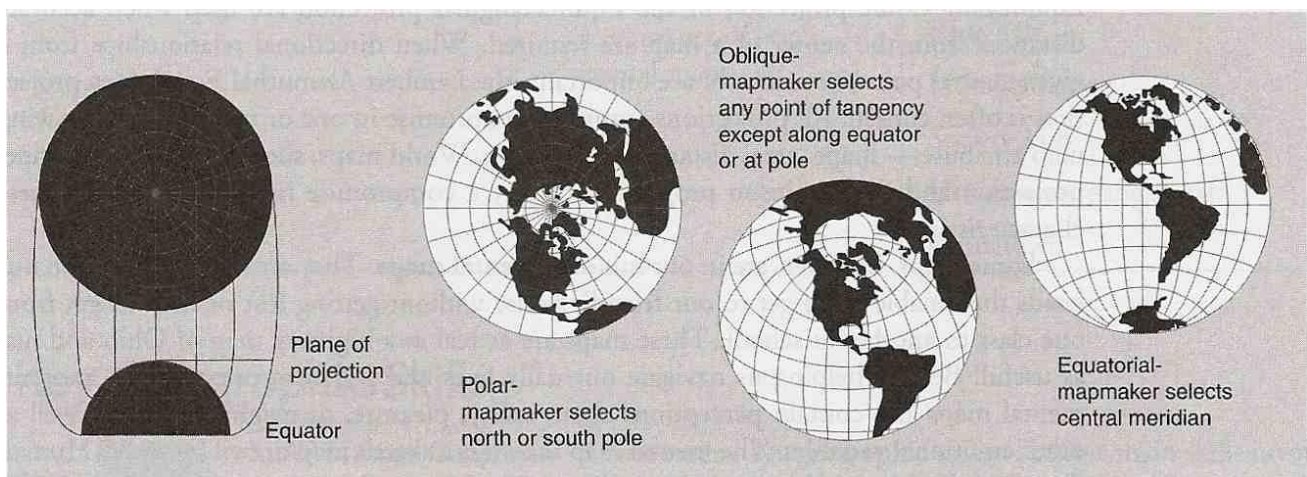
Fuller's projection accurately depicts the size and shape of landmasses, but rearranges direction.
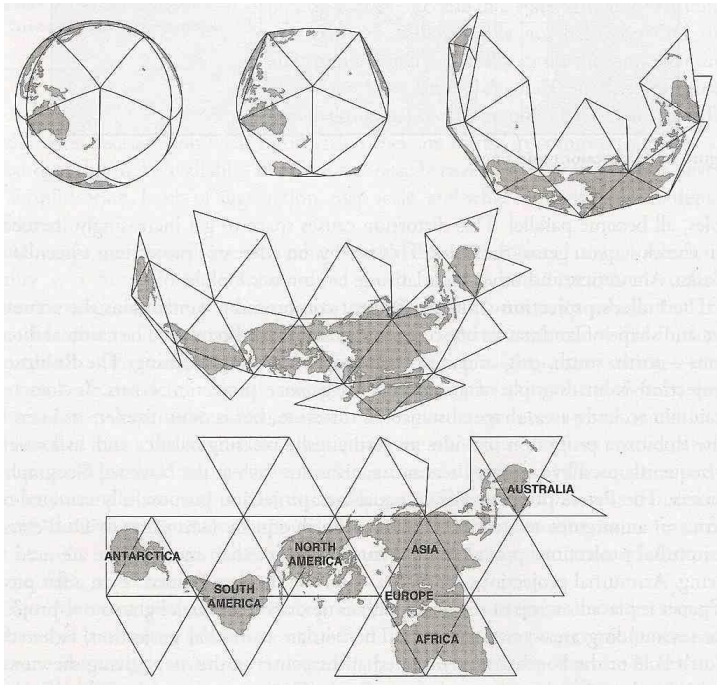
The **Robinson projection** attempts to balance projection errors. It is not accurate in its display of area, shape, distance, or direction, but minimizes errors in each.

World Robinson Projection Map with Country Outlines

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The **Peters projection** is an equal-area projection centered on Africa in order to treat all regions equally.
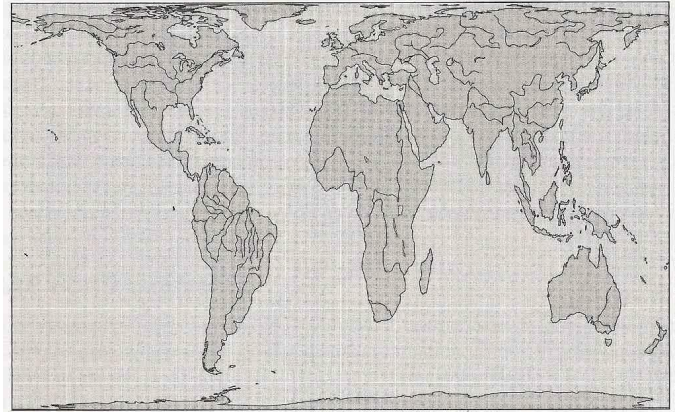
The **Eckert IV** projection is another equal-area map. It shows size accurately, but distorts shape near the poles. This is called *shape distortion*.
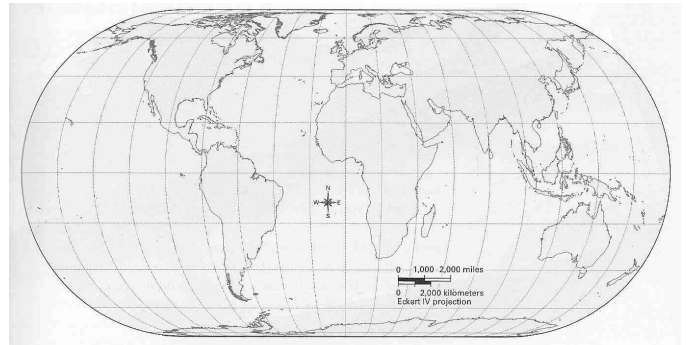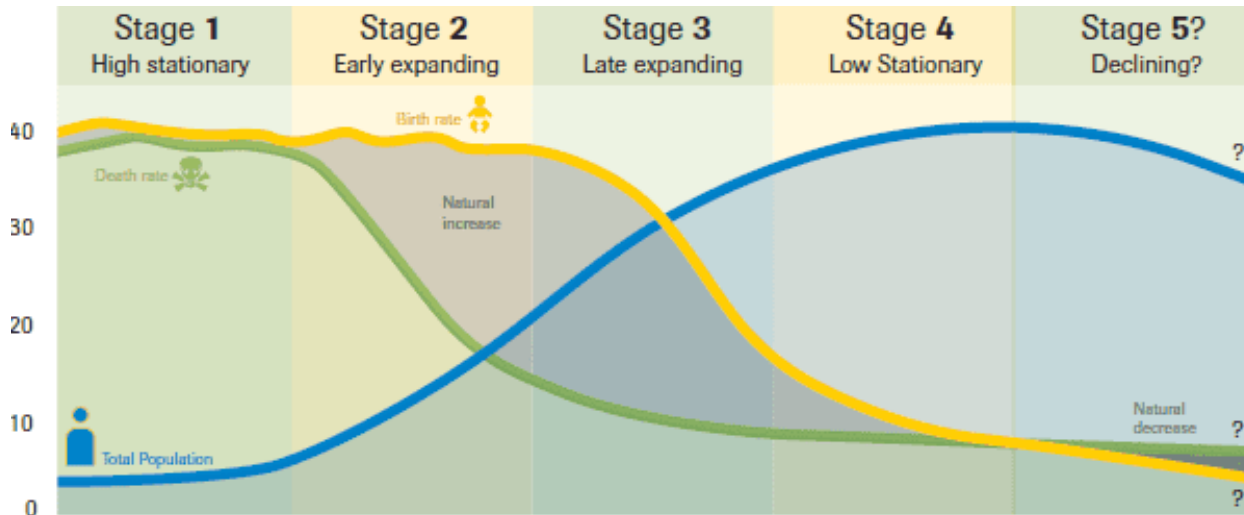

Goode's homolosine projection shows the size of continents accurately for comparison, but distorts the shape and size of oceans.
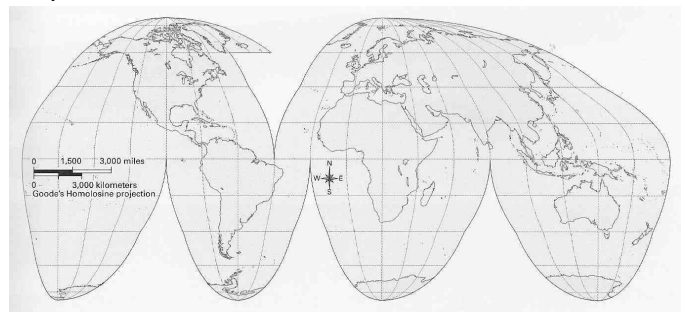
Thank you to Mr. Aaron McLaughlin, Benson Magnet Schools, Omaha Public Schools for compiling the information about projections

SELECTED MODELS

Demographic Transition Model (Thompson, Warren, 1929)

Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4	Stage 5?
High stationary	Early expanding	Late expanding	Low Stationary	Declining?

Examines the effect on Total Populations by Crude Birth Rates, Crude Death Rates, and the Rate of Natural Increate and different stages of economic development.
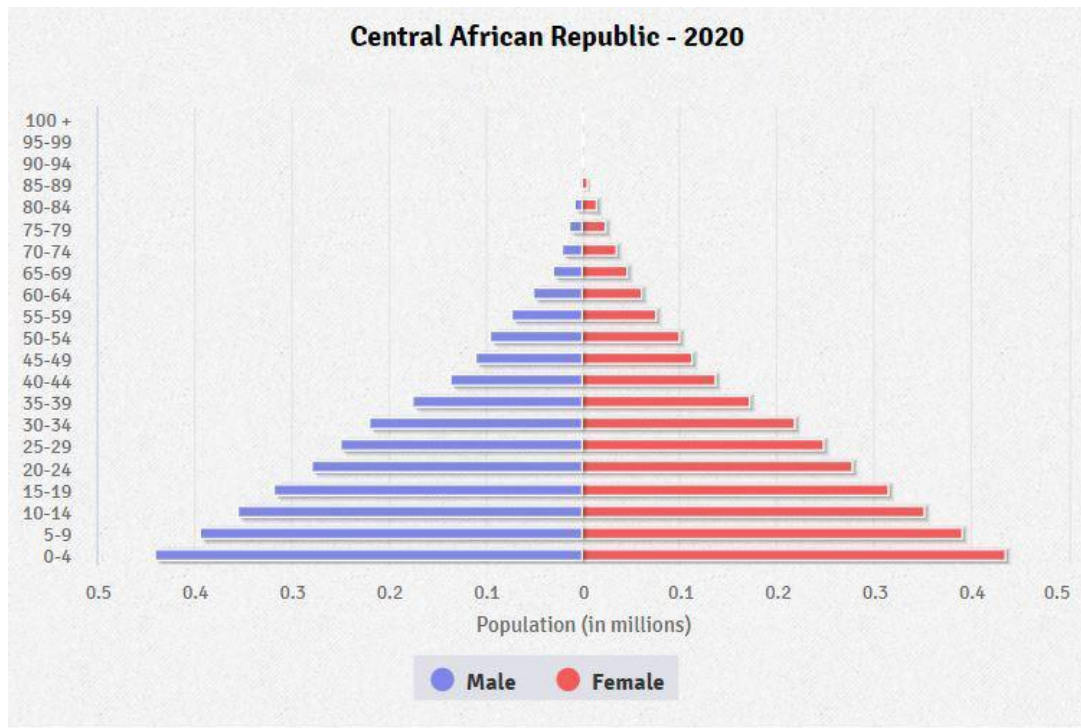(Image Source: https://populationeducation.org/what-demographic-transition-model/)

Epidemiological Transition Model (Omran, Abdel, 1971)
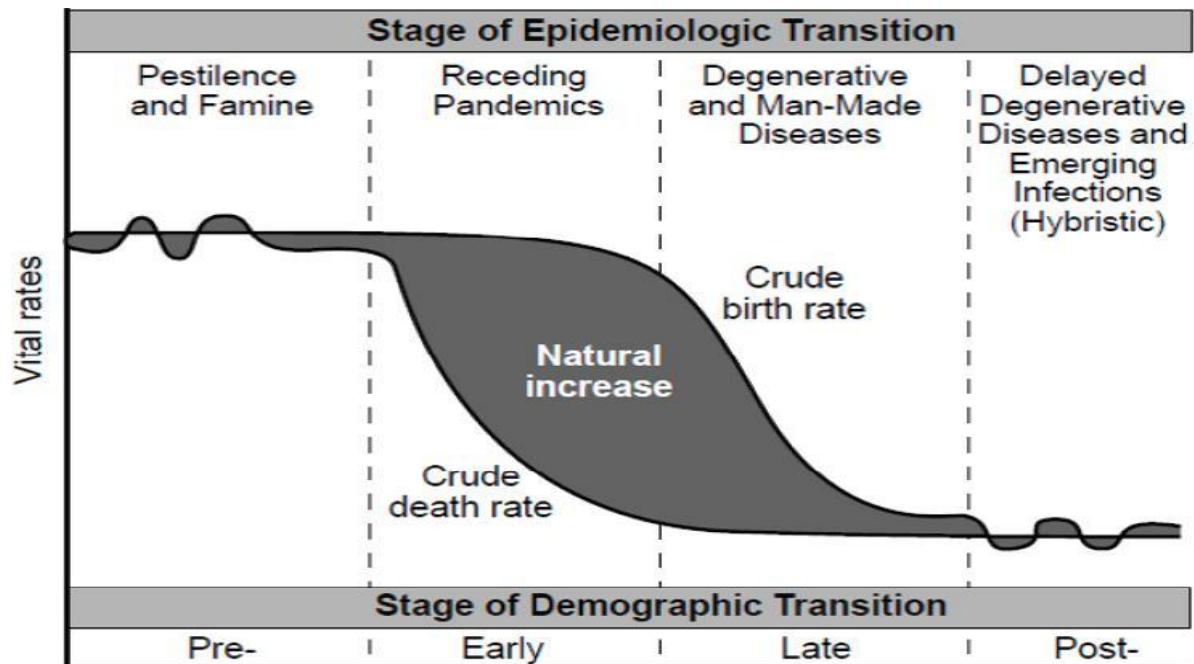
Examines the transition populations go through as they increase in development, as measured by the main causes of sickness and death

Population Pyramid

Central African Republic - 2020

A graph showing population characteristics for a country or area. Typically divided between males and females and age ranges as a percentage (or numerical value).
(Image Source: https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ct.html)

Ravenstein's Laws of Migration (Ravenstein, Ernst, 1885)

1. Every migration flow generates a return or counter-migration.
2. The majority of migrants move a short distance.
3. Migrants who move longer distances tend to choose major sources of economic activity.
4. Urban residents are often less migratory than inhabitants of rural areas.
5. Families are less likely to make international moves than young adults.
6. Most migrants are adults.
7. Large towns grow by migration rather than natural population growth.
8. More long-distance migrants are male.
9. More long-distance migrants are adult individuals rather than families with children.

(Source: Wikipedia)

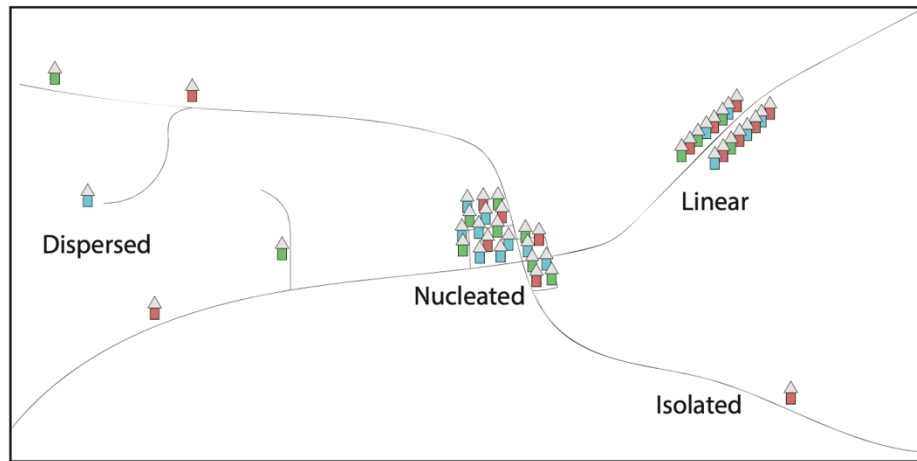**Rural Settlement Patterns: Clustered/Nucleated, Dispersed, Linear, and Isolated**

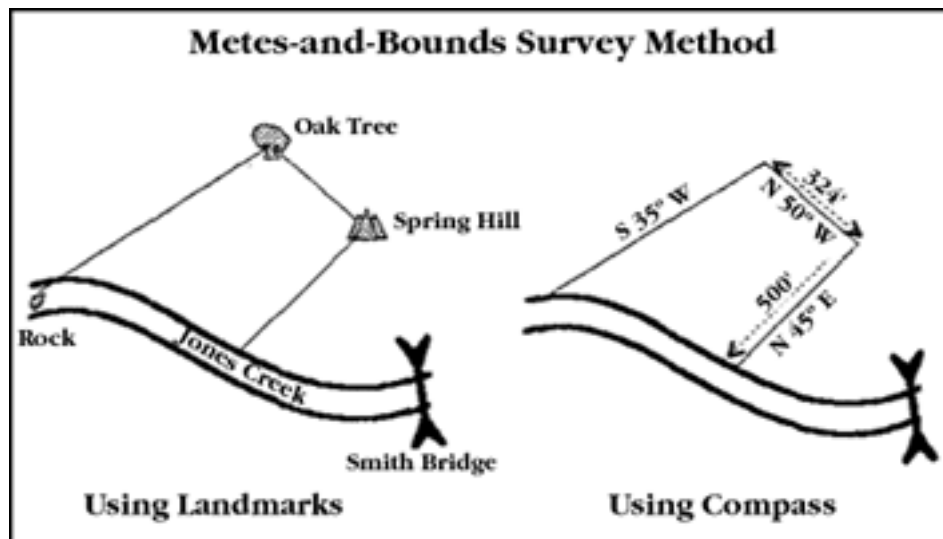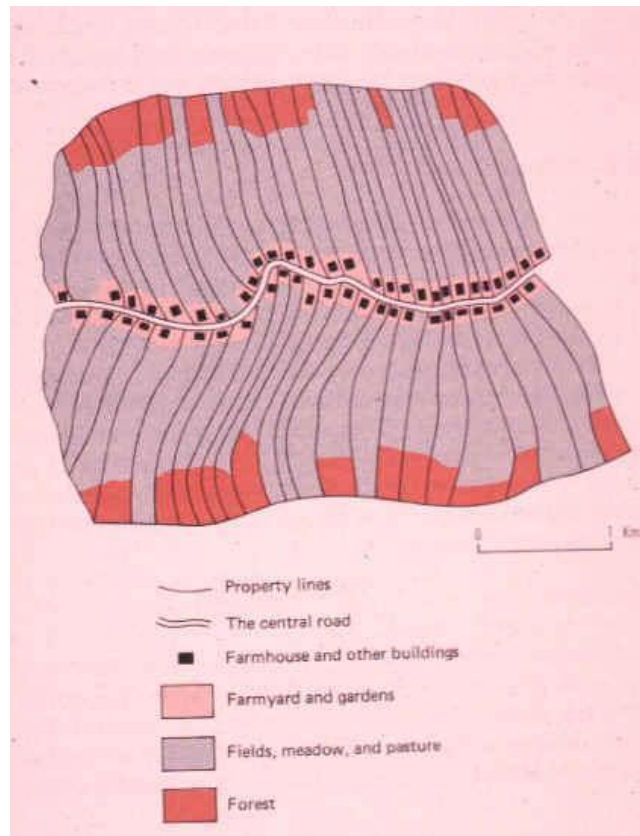Different types of village setups in rural areas. Typically connected to economic or social norms.

Rural Settlement Patterns: Metes and Bounds

Method of surveying land to determine land ownership through the usage of landmarks and markers.
(Metes and Bounds survey method courtesy of the San Francisco Estuary Institute.)

Rural Settlement Patterns: Long Lot

Rural settlement pattern which grows out from a central linear feature (typically a road, river, or railroad).
(Image Source: http://geo.msu.edu/extra/geogmich/long_lots.html)

Rural Settlement Patterns: Township and Range/Public Land Survey System (PLSS)
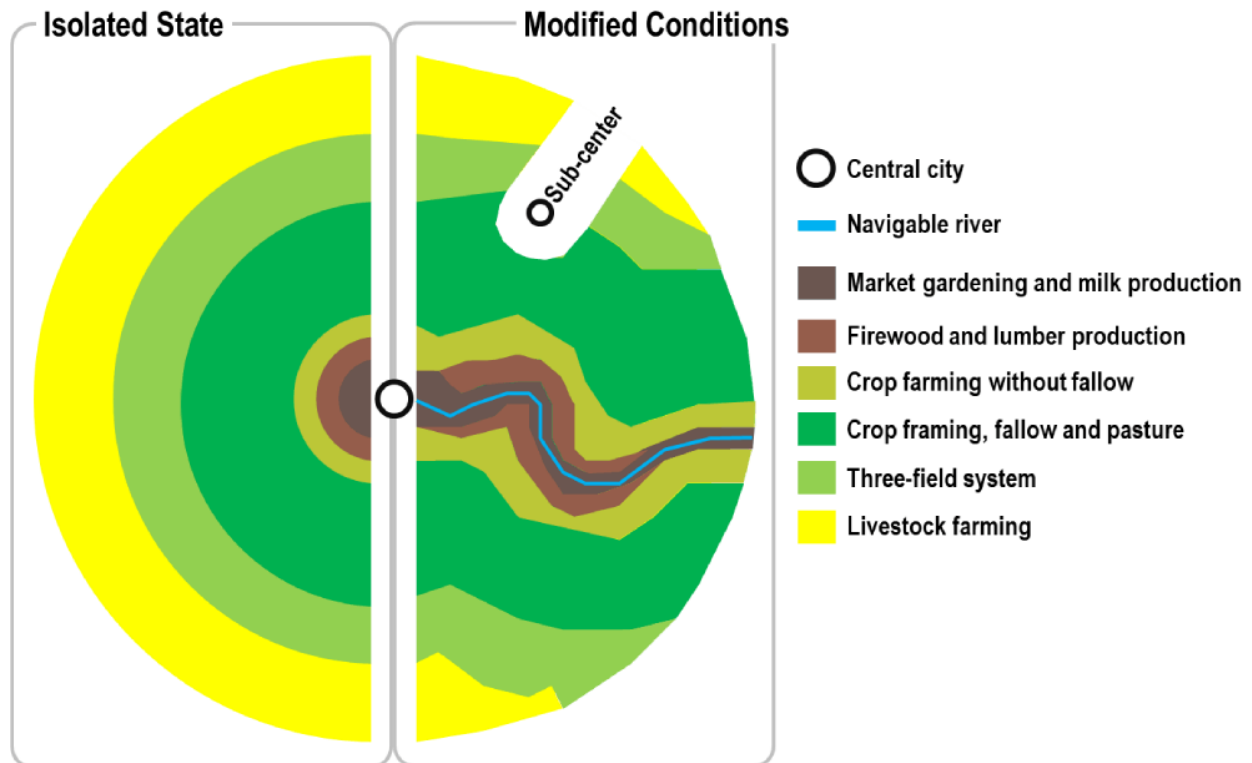

Method of subdividing land into townships, and then further subdividing them into sections, for distribution to land owners.
(Image Source: https://web.gccaz.edu/~lynrw95071/Township%20Range%20Explanation.html)

2023 Human Geography Study Session – University of Nebraska-Omaha

Von Thunen Model of Land Use (Von Thunen, Johann, 1826)

Isolated State | **Modified Conditions**

- ○ Central city
- — Navigable river
- Market gardening and milk production
- Firewood and lumber production
- Crop farming without fallow
- Crop framing, fallow and pasture
- Three-field system
- Livestock farming

Model examining relationship between agricultural practices with rent and transportation.
(Image Source: https://transportgeography.org/?page_id=4898)

Christaller's Central Place Theory (1933)

Order
A   B   C

Market area
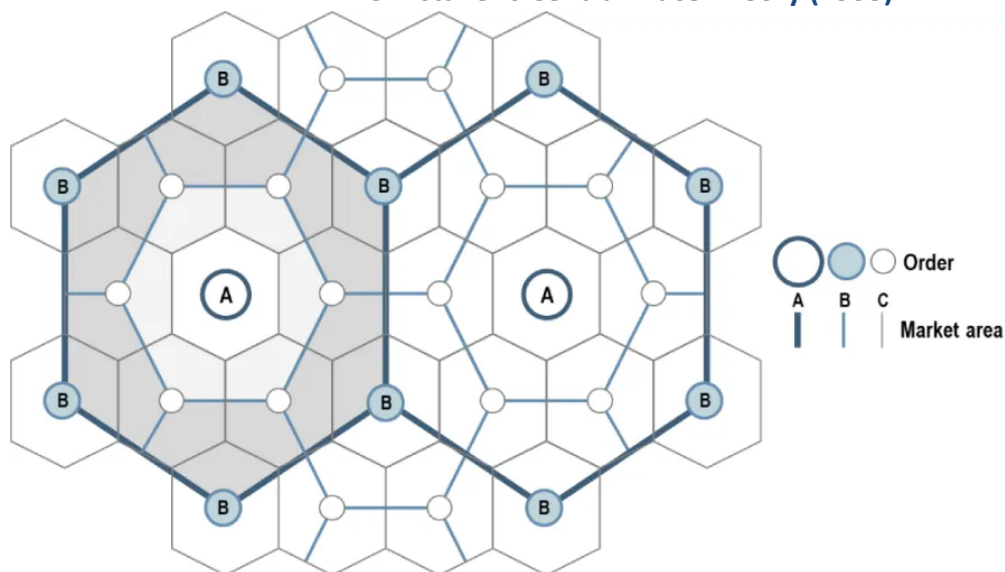
Representing relationship between size of city and services provided
(Image Source Transportationgeography.org)

Burgess Concentric-Zone Model (1929)
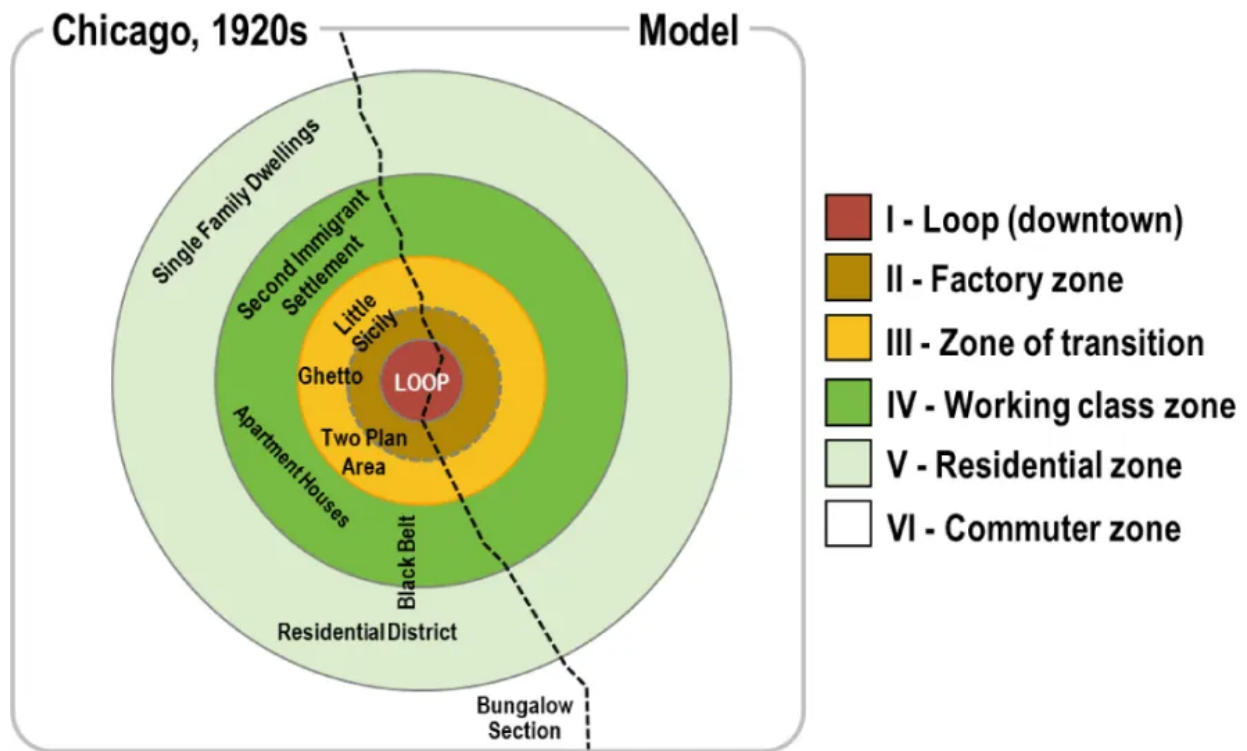
Represents the growth of the city out from the Central Business District (CBD)
(Image Source Transportgeography.org)

Hoyt Sector Model of Urban Development (1939)
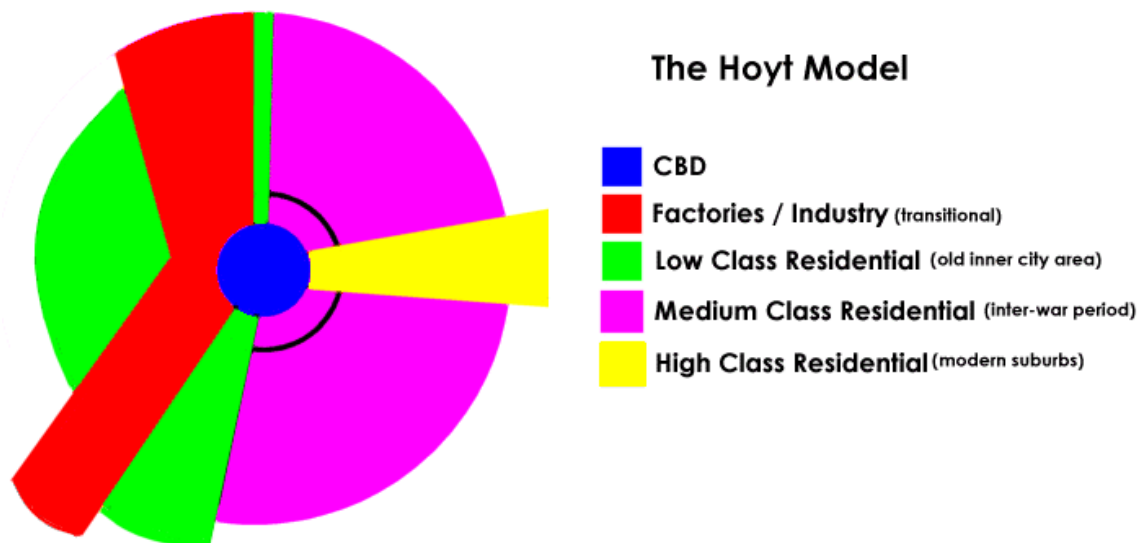
Changes in urban structure reflecting developments of transportation networks
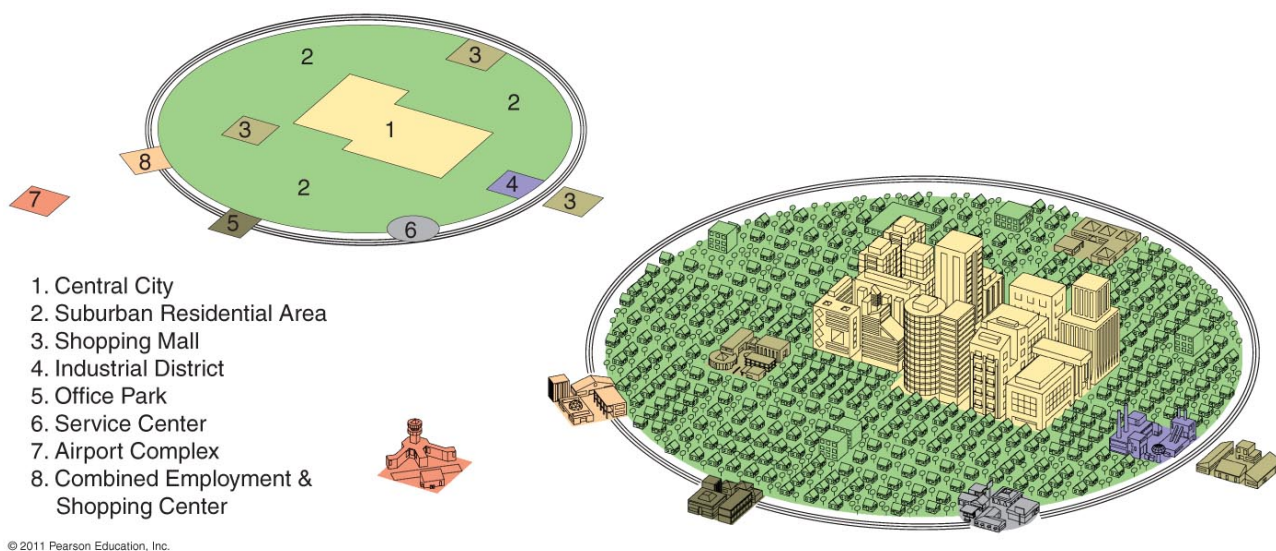(Image Source Coolgeography.co.uk)

Harris and Ullman Multiple-Nuclei Model (1945)

Harris and Ullman's Multiple Nuclei Model

Legend:
- Central Business District
- Wholesale, light manufacturing
- Outlying business district
- Low class residential
- Medium class residential
- High class residential
- Residential suburb
- Heavy manufacturing
- Industrial suburb

Development of suburbs and outlying business and industrial districts
(Image Source Wikipedia.com)

Harris' Galactic city Model (1960s)

1. Central City
2. Suburban Residential Area
3. Shopping Mall
4. Industrial District
5. Office Park
6. Service Center
7. Airport Complex
8. Combined Employment &
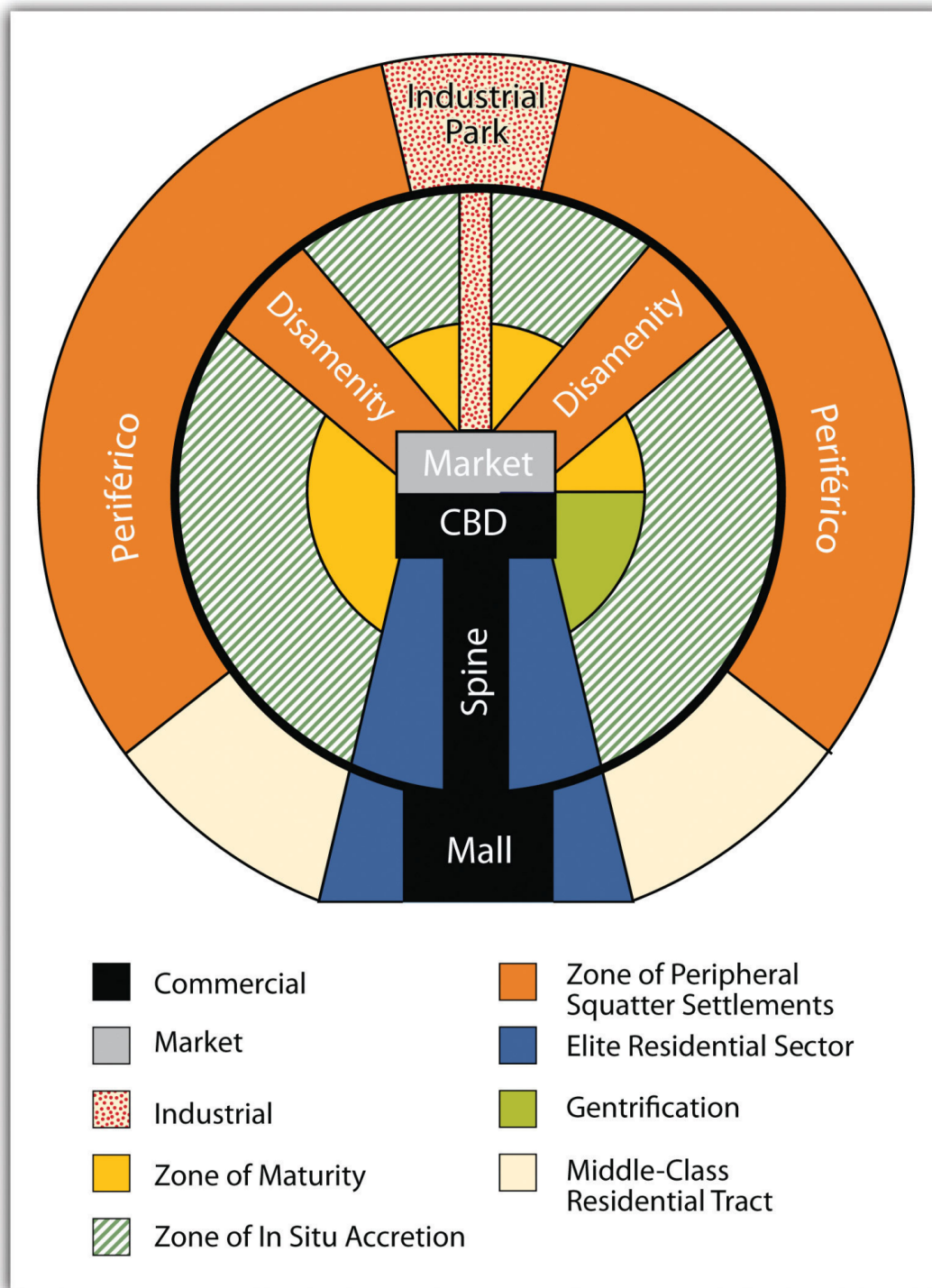   Shopping Center

© 2011 Pearson Education, Inc.

Post-War Suburbanization and decentralization of the Central Business District
(Image Source: https://urbanprojectization.com/2018/08/31/galactic-city-model/)

Ford Griffin Latin America City Model

Growth out from Central CBD/Market with modern zones of development and Squatter Settlements (Image Source: https://open.lib.umn.edu/worldgeography/chapter/5-1-introducing-the-realm/)

McGee Southeast Asia City Model
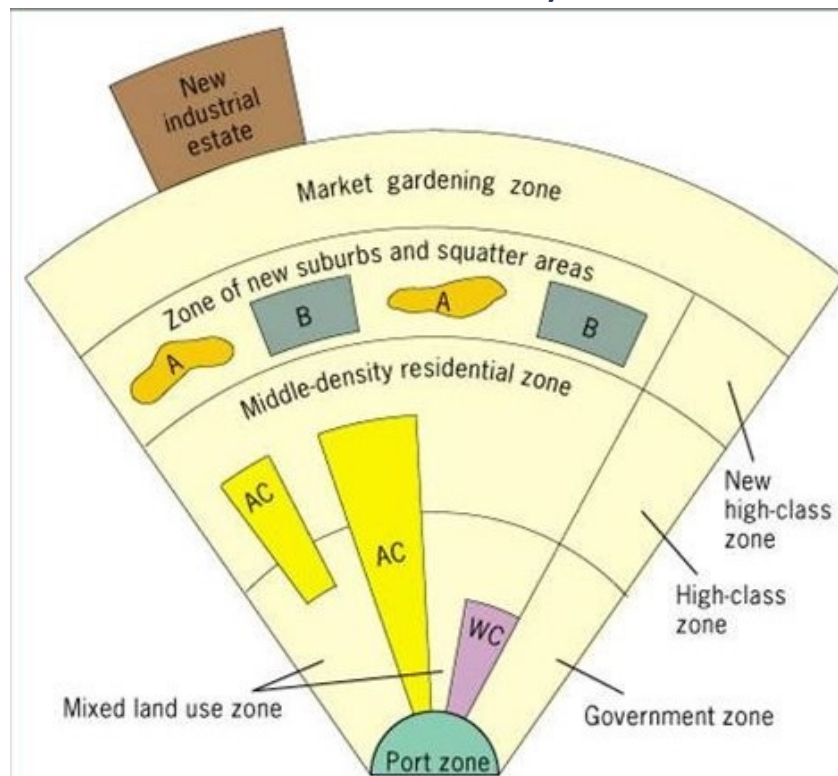
Modern Development from Port Area with newly industrialized center along periphery
(Image Source: https://line.17qq.com/articles/hhlkkklpv_p3.html)

de Blij's Sub-Saharan Africa City Model
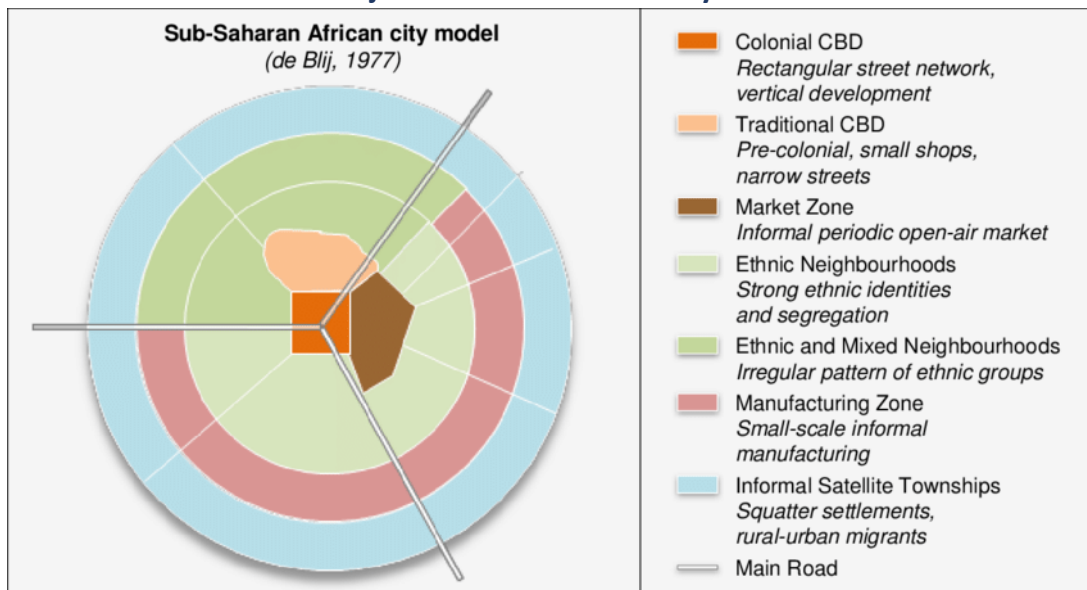
Multiple CBDs reflecting different era's of colonization and development
(Image Source:
https://www.researchgate.net/figure/de-Blijs-model-of-a-typical-sub-Saharan-African-city-based-on-Fou
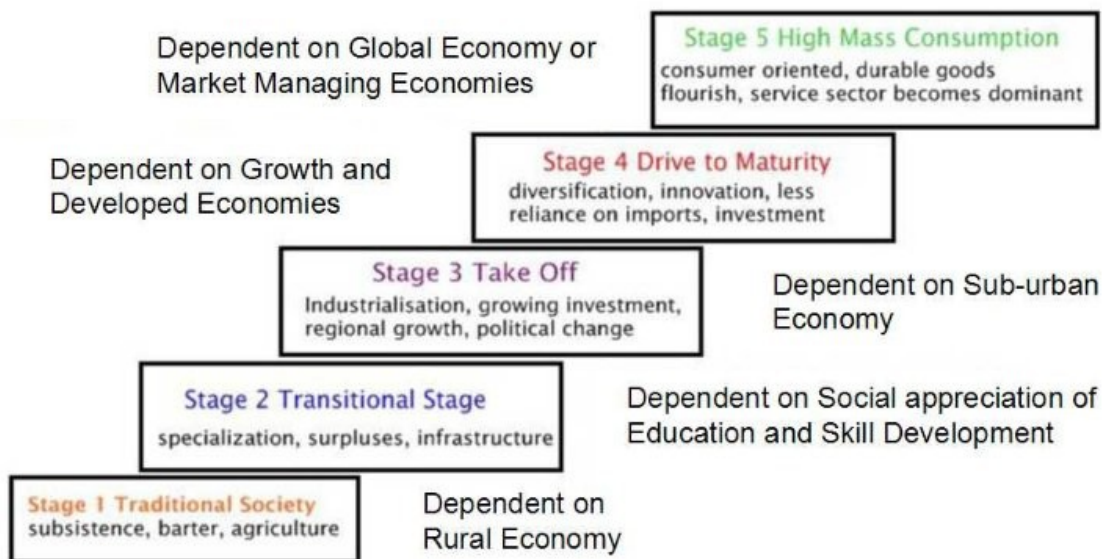berg-et-al-1977_fig8_283648245)

Borchert's Epochs

BORCHERT'S MODEL
(METROPOLITAN EVOLUTION)

1. Sail-Wagon Epoch (1790-1830) : Boston, NY, Philadelphia

2. Iron Horse Epoch (1830-1870) : steam engine technology; Pittsburgh, Detroit, Chicago growing

3. Steel-Rail Epoch (1870-1920) : national rail network

4. Auto-Air-Amenity Epoch (1920-1970) : Gas engine; Sunbelt

**5. Satellite-Electronic-Jet Propulsion** Epoch (1970-?) : High tech.
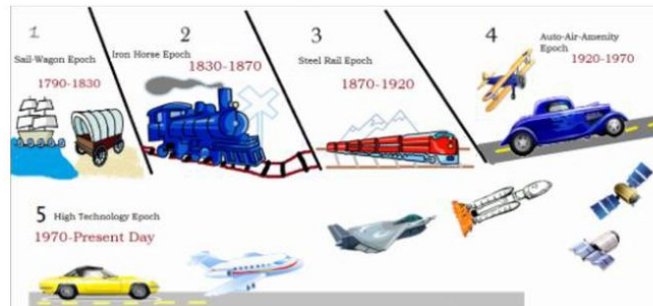
Development of transportation networks, based on the United States

Rostow's Stages of Economic Development

Dependent on Global Economy or Market Managing Economies

Stage 5 High Mass Consumption
consumer oriented, durable goods flourish, service sector becomes dominant

Dependent on Growth and Developed Economies

Stage 4 Drive to Maturity
diversification, innovation, less reliance on imports, investment

Stage 3 Take Off
Industrialisation, growing investment, regional growth, political change

Dependent on Sub-urban Economy

Stage 2 Transitional Stage
specialization, surpluses, infrastructure

Dependent on Social appreciation of Education and Skill Development

Stage 1 Traditional Society
subsistence, barter, agriculture

Dependent on Rural Economy

Based on assumption that highest form of development is modern capitalist democracy
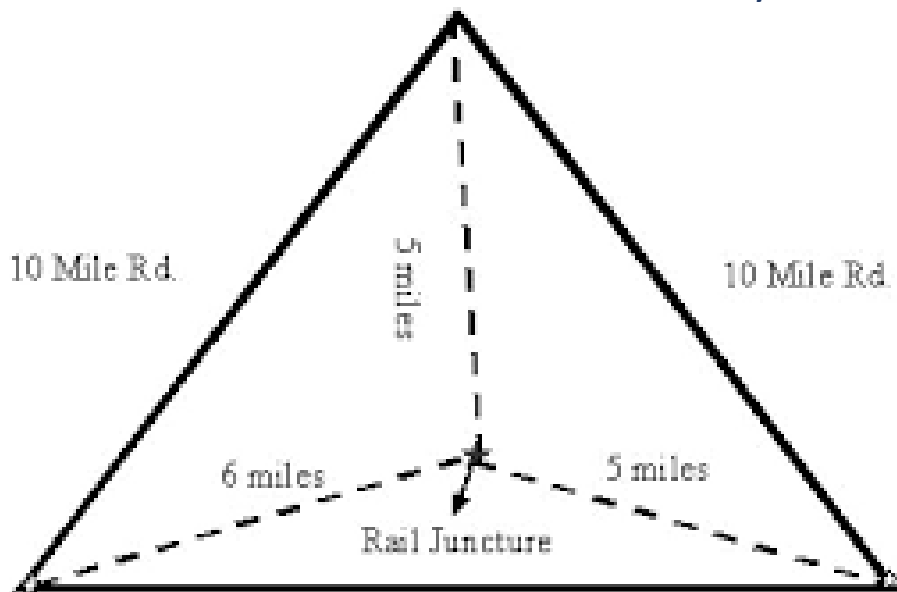
Wallerstein's World Systems Theory
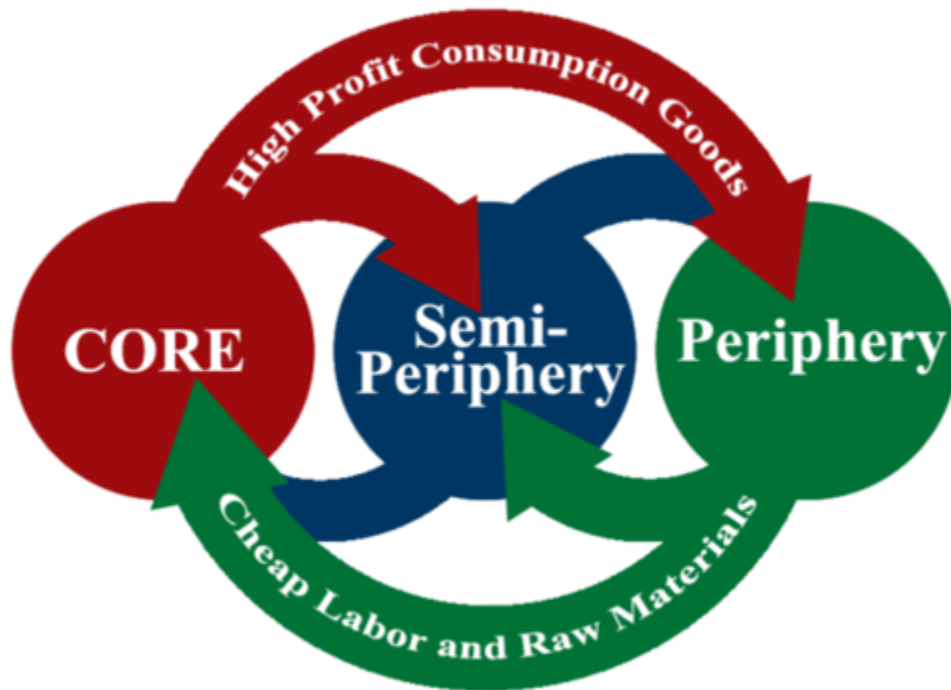
Wallerstein's World System Theory Model

Based on assumption world economic structures are interdependent

Weber's Least Cost Theory

Based on the assumption that businesses choose location based on minimizing transportation costs to maximize profits