INST 201

Introduction to Geography



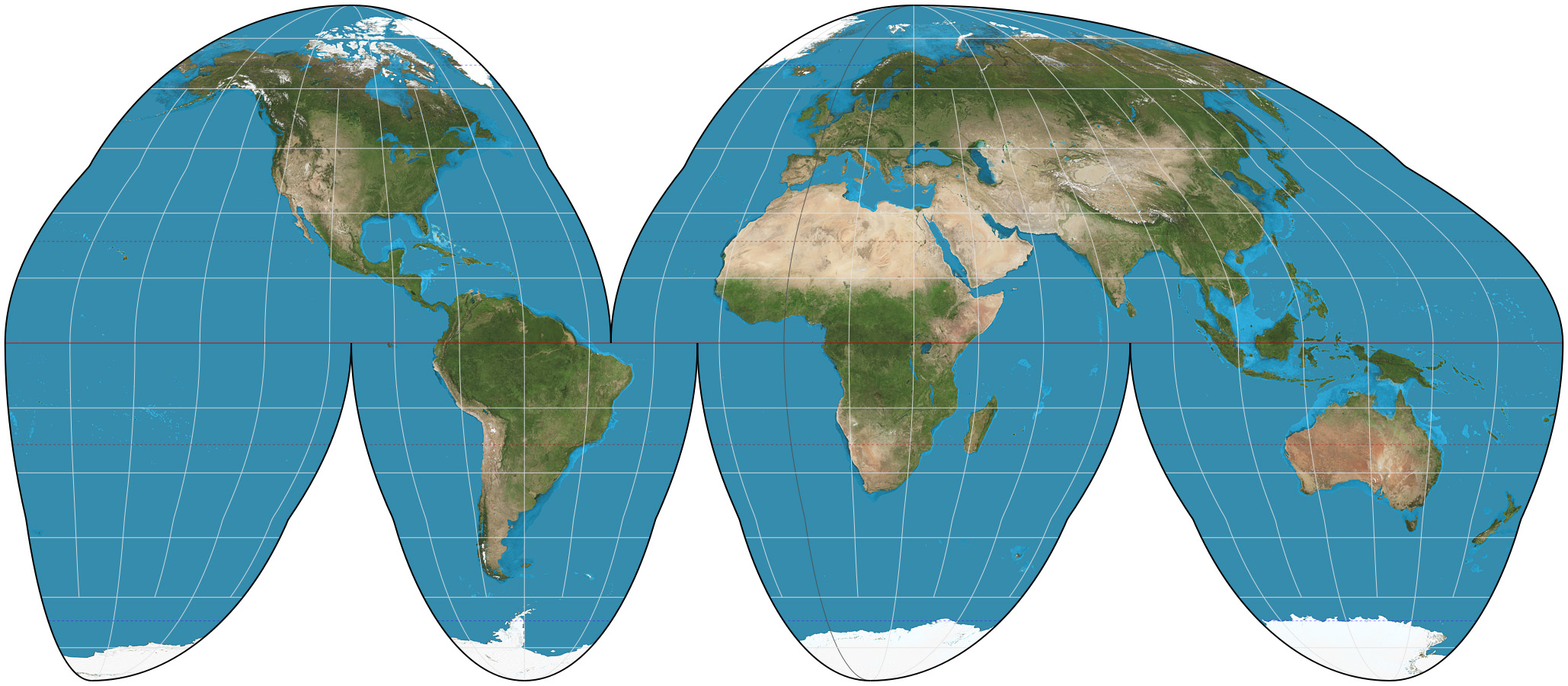
Chpt begins with statement: geography “not necessarily deterministic but…”

Evaluate this statement

What does it mean for something to be deterministic?

How strong an influence DO we think geography (i.e., PHYSICAL geography) has on a country/region/people’s development??

Geography – what does it mean?



Source: [GeoAwesomeness](http://geoawesomeness.com/best-map-projection/)

Derivation of word in English:

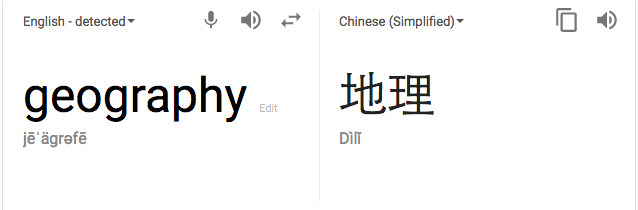
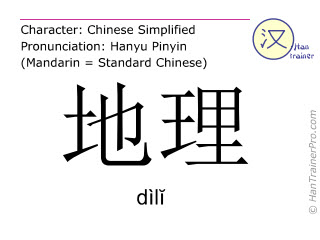
Greek

*Geo =* Earth

*Graphy* = Writing

Thus, geography is a “writing” or DESCRIPTION of the earth

Chinese word for: *dili*

[](https://www.google.com/search?q=geography+in+chinese+characters&rlz=1C5CHFA_enUS718US724&source=lnms&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiR-ozE9vPYAhUIzWMKHdREC38Q_AUICSgA&biw=1673&bih=882&dpr=1) 

*Di* = earth

*Li* = pattern or arrangement

Thus, “geography” in Chinese means

The patterns ON or OF the earth

Which meaning do you prefer and why?

Academic definition given: “Geography is the study of where natural environments and human activities are found on Earth’s surface and the reasons for their location (Rubenstein *et al*. 2013)

What does this definition add to the meanings of geography above?

Authors on to note that there are TWO BRANCHES of geography: What are they?

PHYSICAL and HUMAN

\*\*\*Overlaps with anthropology, sociology, political science, religious studies, economics in seeking to explain:

HOW people live;

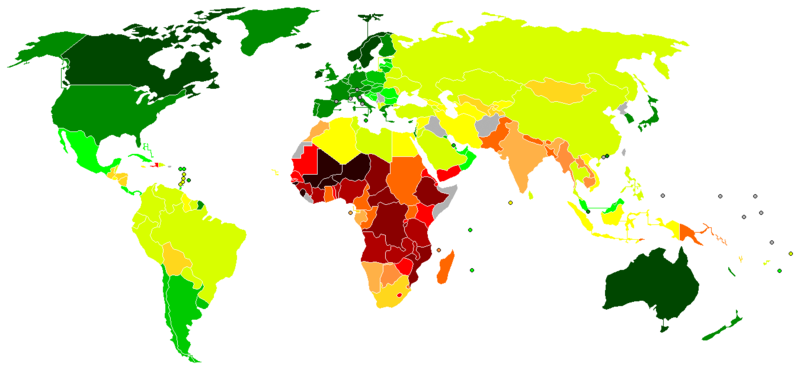
WHY they chose to live that way;

HOW and WHY the patterns of social, economic and political organization we find across the globe DEVELOPED.

Also sometimes asks: can these patterns be changed? How?

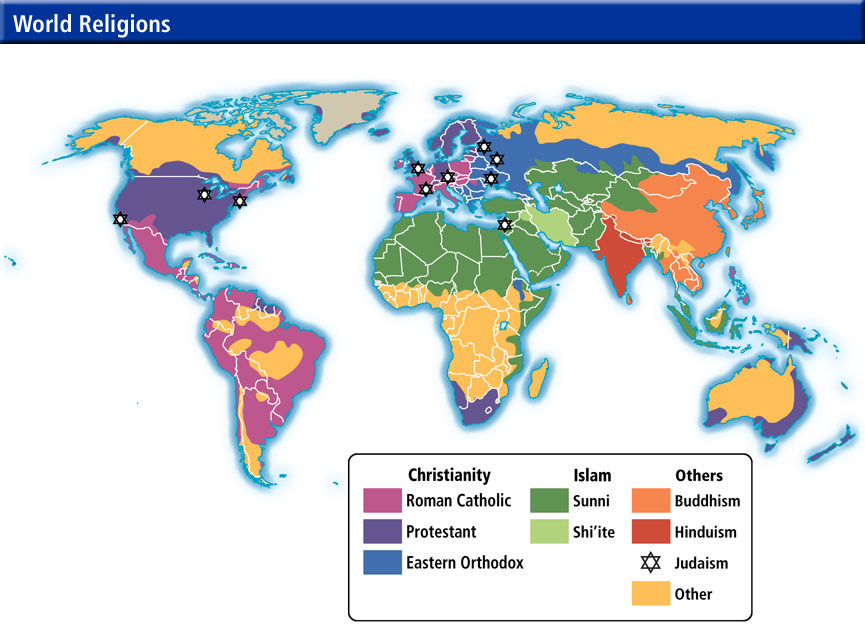
Some geographical patterns in today’s world

Development a la Human Development Index

[](http://geographybylizz.wikispaces.com/Global+Patterns+-+A+general+overview)

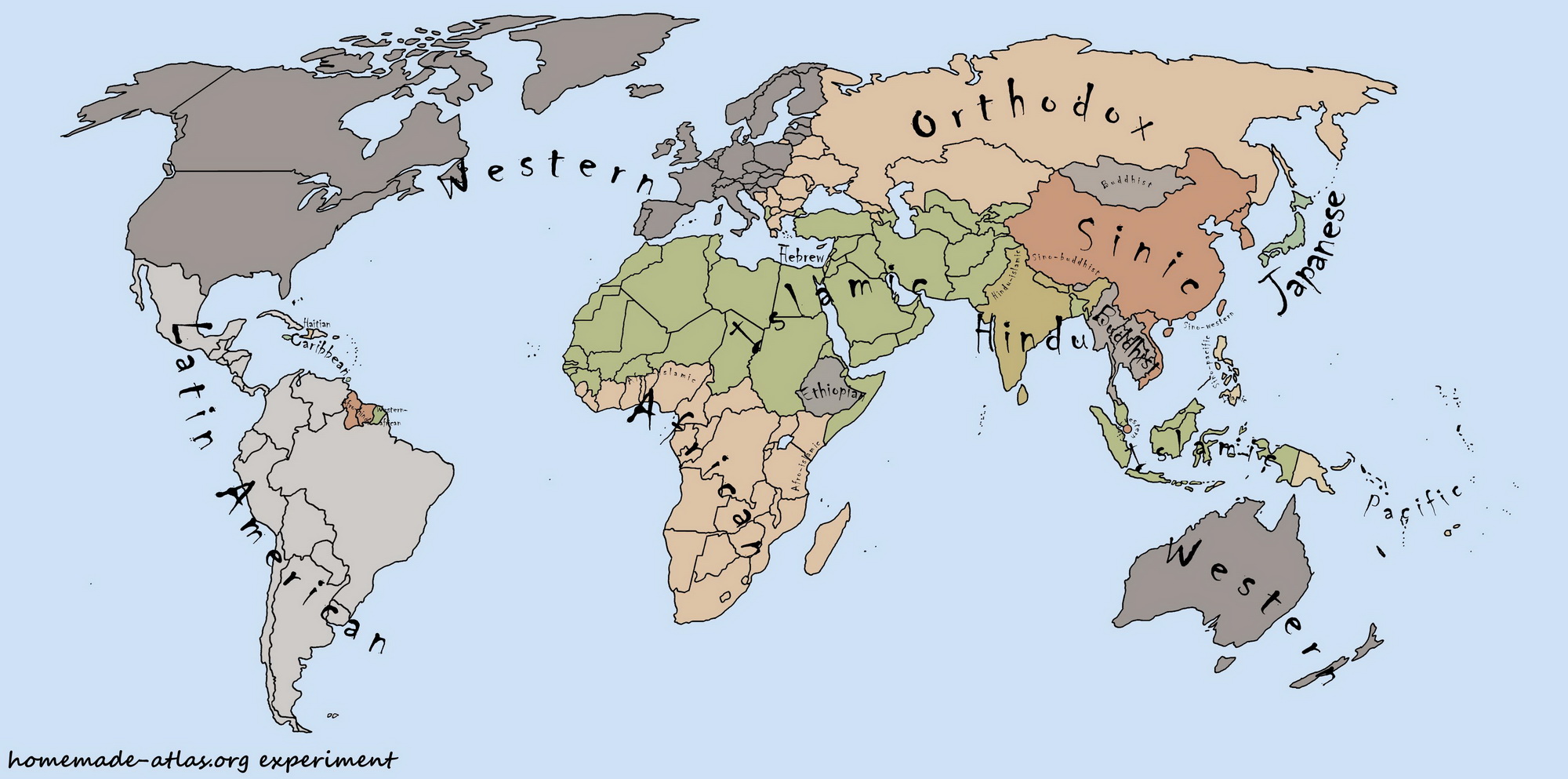
Source: [Geographybylizz](http://geographybylizz.wikispaces.com/)

Patterns of Religion across the World

[](http://maps.unomaha.edu/Peterson/geog1000/MapLinks/ReligionMaps.html)

Source: [Matt Beat’s Map Gallery](http://maps.unomaha.edu/Peterson/geog1000/MapLinks/ReligionMaps.html),University of Omaha, GEOG1000

“Civilizations” a lá Samuel Huntington’s “[Clash of Civilizations](https://www.jstor.org/stable/20045621?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents)” thesis ([Wikipedia entry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clash_of_Civilizations)) ([book](https://www.amazon.com/Clash-Civilizations-Remaking-World-Order/dp/1451628978))

[](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Civilizations.jpg)

Source: [Wikimedia Commons](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Civilizations.jpg)

World Regional Geography

[](http://www.elcamino.edu/faculty/gbooher/geog5.html)

Source: [Gary Booher’s World Regional Geography course website at El Camino College](http://www.elcamino.edu/faculty/gbooher/geog5.html)

Development of Geography as a Field of Study

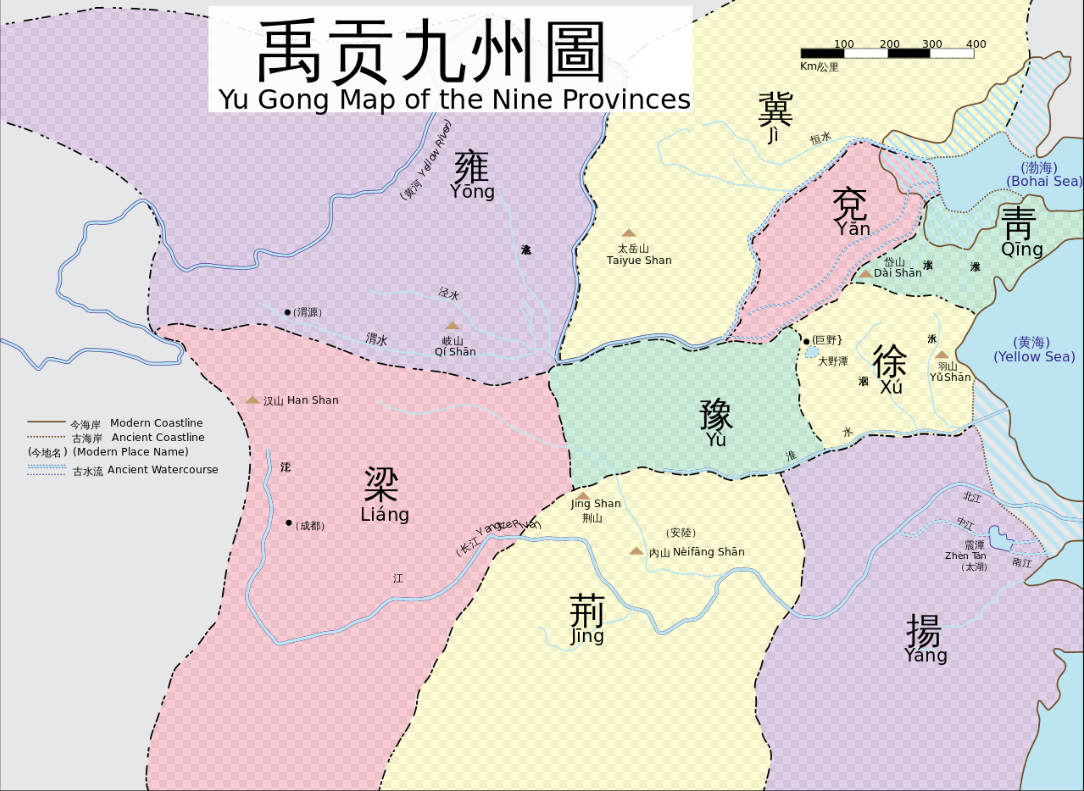
See p. 38 – note order – why?

History

Oldest geographical work: Tribute of Yü

[Yü the Great](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yu_the_Great)

The Nine Provinces

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nine_Provinces#/media/File:Yugong_Nine_Provinces_Map_%E7%A6%B9%E8%B4%A1%E4%B9%9D%E5%B7%9E%E5%9B%BE.svg) 

[Chinaknowledge](http://www.chinaknowledge.de/History/Myth/prehistory-map.html) entry on Tribute of Yü

[Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yu_Gong) entry on Tribute of Yü

Then the Greeks

Eratosthenes (275- 195 BCE)

Library at Alexandria

After Fall of Roman Empire 476 CE (5th Century)– Europe enters the Dark Ages

Knowledge “lost”

Really preserved by Arabs in Caliphate, 8th Century

Relearned by Europeans in the Renaissance

Modern Geography as discipline developed in 20th C

US students poor at…why? (39)

More than just maps: BUT maps are also IMPORTANT

Components: Space, Regions, Environment