

Lecture No. 01

PAPER - 05 (B.A. Hons. - part-III)

(GEOGRAPHICAL THOUGHT & THREE SOUTHERN CONTINENT)

(SECTION-A)

GEOGRAPHICAL THOUGHT

UNIT - ONE

TOPIC

Definition of Geography & It's Relation with other Sciences



Introduction

Geography is one of the oldest Earth Science & it's roots date back in the

works of the early Greek scholars. The word "Geography" was first used ^{or coined} by the Greek scholar "ERATOSTHENES" (276-194 BC) in the 3rd century B.C. The word has been derived from two roots from Greek Language GEO (Earth) & GRAPHOS (Description). Put together, they mean "Description of the Earth". In other words "Geography is largely the study of the interaction of all physical & human phenomena and landscape created by such interactions". It is about "How, Why & Where" human and natural activities occur and how these activities are interconnected.

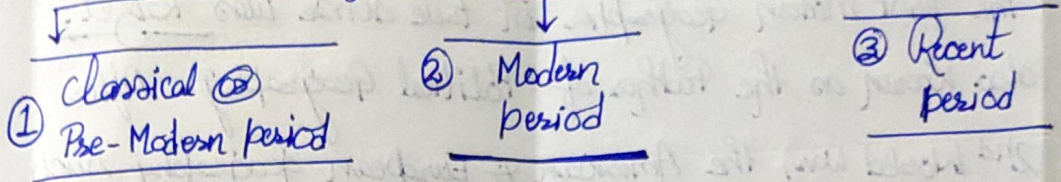
→ Some popular definition of Geography →

At first Geography was the Description of Places, People & Phenomena that was occurring on the different places on the Earth. Later, it was observed that all the phenomena on the Earth are somewhat related to each other over the surface of earth, therefore, they are mutually interrelated & interacted together. Some of the definitions according to time periods are as follows →

- According to Richard Hartshorn (American Geographer) → "Geography is concerned to provide accurate, orderly and Rational description and Interpretation of the variable characters of the Earth surface".
- According to Fred Kurt Schaefer (German Geographer) → "Geography has to be concerned as the science concerned with the formulation of laws governing the Spatial Distribution of certain features on the surface of the Earth".
- According to Edward Augustus Acheson → "The objective of Geography is to understand the great system that encompasses the Humanity & its environment on Earth surface".
- According to Peter Haggett → "The study of Earth's surface as the space within which the Human population lives".
etc.

⇒ Conceptual ~~Historical~~ Development of Geography →

Geography has been defined differently through different periods of its history.



① In this period, the Geographical Work had followed by two distinct traditions

"The Mathematical Tradition"

which was focused on fixing the location of places on the Earth's Surface i.e. the understanding the Physical Domain of the earth by making Maps & Astronomical measurements. The Greeks are given the credit of being the Earliest Geographers, prominent among them being → Herodotus, Aristotle & Eratosthenes, etc.

"The Geographical Information"

This was gathering through Travels & Fieldwork. According to this, the purpose of Geography was to provide a description of the Physical and cultural features & nature of the different parts of the world. The early 17th century witnessed the beginnings of a new Scientific Geography ~~and~~ i.e. Scientific disciplines through Cartography & discovering new lands. These geographers are → Christopher Columbus, Vasco de gamma, Thomas Cook, Kant etc.

② → Modern Period → The emergence of "Regional Approach" in Geography also emphasized the "Descriptive character" of Geography. Ritter & Humboldt are frequently referred to us the founder of Modern Geography (latter half of 19th Century). The first modern Geographer in true sense was Ratzel, also known as the Father of Political Geography. After 2nd World War, the American & European Geography such as Richard Hartshorne, who described Geography as a science dealing with "Areal Differentiation", have contributed maximum during this phase.

③ → Recent Period → In this period, Geography has now acquired the status of Science that explains the arrangements of various natural & cultural features on the Earth Surface i.e. Geography defined as the Study of Man-Environment Relationship. Also in this era Geography is a holistic and interdisciplinary field of Study engaged in understanding the changing Spatial Structure from past to the future. Peter Haggett is the prominent figure of this period who best known for his work on "Locational Analysis in Human Geography"; which brought a tectonic shift, ~~the~~ and called the 'New Geography'. Another important name is Richard John Chorley, known as the leading figure in "Quantitative Geography".