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Editor: Shane Mc Guire.

Cover : Martin Mc Alinden.

EDITORIAL

Having been 'appointed' editor of this years magazine, I set about the formidable task of producing Milieu ;the annual publication of the Maynooth Geography Society.

The scope of the subject matter of Geography is evident by the diversity of articles in this publication. Whether you are enthralled by the eloquence of the 'Bard of Batterstown', or you lament the destruction of Dublin as chronicled below, you cannot but be impressed by the dimension of Geography as an academic discipline.

On behalf of all associated with the production of this years magazine I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Prof. W. J. Smyth on his appointment as a Vice - President of the college. The honour is a just and fitting recognition of the important contribution he has made to life in the college over many years. Also, a special "welcome home" to Dympna Mc Loughlin, who has returned to the college after a period of study in the United States.

Finally, as with any good book - enjoy reading it !

Shane Mc Guire, Editor.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to acknowledge the help provided by the following people and organisations who were associated with the publication of this years Milieu.

The contributors; without whom we would have no articles to publish !

Our gratitude is also due to our publishers, the Cardinal Press, and to the Geography department, especially Professor Smyth and Dr. P.J. Duffy. A special word of thanks is due to Bernard Mc Aree and Harry Lee for looking after advertising and financial details associated with the production of the magazine. Enda Downey assisted in ironing out the 'bugs' that often attacked the computer when the contributions were being typed up, and he saved the editor from pressing the 'self - destruct' button on countless occasions. Padraig Walsh and Pat Farragher 'volunteered' to proof read typed scripts, while Martin Mc Alinden was persuaded to design a cover at very short notice. To all of them, a very special 'thank you'.

FOREWORD

The appearance of Milieu, 1986 - 1987 continues an unbroken tradition of the student Geography Society, and testifies to the enthusiasm, commitment, and resourcefulness of the members. The editor and contributors have produced an issue, which in its variety of topics and depth of analysis is a most acceptable measure of the quality of undergraduate study in the Department. All concerned deserve to be congratulated.


The arrival of yet another issue of Milieu signals also the impending termination of classes and the arrival of the examinations season. During the academic year which is now drawing to a close, some new faces appeared among among the members of the teaching staff, albeit in a temporary capacity. Sabbatical replacements appeared in the form of Dr. Kevin Whelan and Ms. Dymphna Mc Loughlin, both of them cultural geographers, and both of them former recipients of the National University of Ireland's premier award, the Travelling Studentship. We appreciate their efforts in the Department and we wish them well in their future careers.

A further alteration to the life of the Department occurred during the past year with the 'appearance' of Dr. Duffy as temporary head, and the smooth functionings of the Maynooth Geographical Body owes a lot to his efforts and initiatives. Renewed in spirit and temporarily extended in terms of personnel, the Department looks forward to 1987 - 1988 and the arrival of the next issue of Milieu.

W. J. Smyth.

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Geography Society - Auditor's Report

With increased capitation and a growing membership, coupled with the enthusiasm of the new committee, a bright future was anticipated for the Geography Society in the 1986 - 1987 academic year.

Following a trend set in previous years a series of guest lectures were arranged. The Society's inaugural lecture took place on October 20, 1986, with guest speaker Dr. Richard Le Heron, from Massey University New Zealand. Dr. Le Heron who had been on a lecture tour of England, was well received in Maynooth, lecturing to a packed theatre, which included members of the New Zealand community in Ireland. His chosen topic, "Land, life and livelihood during a crisis New Zealand experienced in the 1980's" generated a lively discussion, with parallels being drawn with Ireland.

Our second speaker of the year was Dr. Murray Wilson from Australia. Dr. Wilson was lecturing in Trinity College (Dublin) at the time, and gladly obliged our Society by lecturing on "The Contemporary Australian Urban Scene: Patterns, Progress, and Problems". Owing to our reliance on two speakers from this part of the globe, the Geography Society was renamed the 'Kangaroo Society' by some of the more cynical members!

Our third speaker of the year was Dr. Andrew Mac Laren from T.C.D., who showed his latest video on the development of Dublin, and answered a series of questions which arose in the subsequent discussion.

Mr. Andy Cole of An Foras Taluntais filled the January slot in our calendar by lecturing on "Alternative uses to cut-away bogs". Due to the significant population in the college from the boglands of the Midlands this topic generated a lively interest, and the lecture was well attended.

The final speaker of the year was Dr. Mary Cawley from U.C.G. who spoke on the "significance of the Clacken in rural Ireland". This talk was particularly interesting to those with an interest in Historical Geography, especially if one hails from west of the Shannon, e.g. Co. Roscommon!

The Society also participated fully in events organised outside the college. Representatives were sent to the joint Societies Lectures, which were hosted by U.C.D.. The speaker at this function was Prof. Richard Lawton of the University of Liverpool and the Institute of British Geographers. His topic, "Paddies into Scousers" was delivered with great feeling.

The Society also sent a large contingent to the Annual Geography Students Congress which was also hosted by U.C.D.. Maynooth presented three papers, read by Pius Onyango, Bernie Coyne and Niall Cussen. Pius was awarded a third place for his paper. Indeed the enthusiasm of the Maynooth contingent both inside and outside the theatre halls will be long remembered by all concerned!

The final function of the society for the year is the production of **Milieu**. As usual this endeavour required much time and effort from all who were involved in its production. **Milieu**, this year is of the highest standard, and is a credit to all those who submitted articles, but more especially to the editor Shane Mc Guire for his untiring efforts. Appreciation must also be reserved for Harry Lee and Bernard Mc Aree for handling the advertising in this year's issue.

The success of the Geography Society is due to the sterling work done by all the members of the committee; Gerry Quinn, Perpetua Mc Donagh and Bernard Mc Aree whose efforts made my task much easier. Thanks is also due to Martina, Olivia, and Pauline who organised the refreshments after lectures without complaint.

The active involvement of the Geography Department was encouraging, especially John Sweeney, whose consistent advice and helping hand often meant the difference between success and failure. A special word of thanks to all those who attended our lectures throughout the year, and especially to "Flash" who was an excellent propagandist! With such enthusiasm the Geography Society can only go from strength to strength.

Joe Leyden, Auditor.

Geography Society, 1986 - 1987.

Joe Leyden - Auditor..... Gerry Quinn - Secretary.

Perpetua Mc Donagh - Treasurer..... Bernard Mc Aree - P.R.O.

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THE LOCATION OF CRAIGAVON, A POLITICAL DECISION.

Craigavon, named after the first Prime Minister of Northern Ireland, is Ulster's first new town. It came into existence on the implementation of Professor Sir Robert Matthew's "Belfast Regional Survey and Plan Recommendations and Conclusions", published in 1963.

The town was planned in the same trend as the 1960s new towns of Britain, being centred on the existing developments of Lurgan and Portadown in North Armagh. The brief was to devise a rural/urban framework capable of accommodating 120,000 people by the 1980's, with a growth potential to around 180,000 by 2000.

The objectives of the proposed new town were to provide a new, large industrial, commercial and residential base in the Province which would help to relieve the urban pressures on Belfast, thus enabling it to be contained and developed.

The Master Plan proposed an inner urban corridor between Lurgan and Portadown, consisting of a series of neighbourhoods. These were to be divided between two main residential sectors - Brownlow and Mandeville. Brownlow was completed by 1974 and consists of five neighbourhoods (although six were planned). Each neighbourhood is composed of a number of housing estates. It was anticipated that the sector would have a population of around 20,000 by the 1980s. (In 1981 however the census records a population of 9,904 persons living in the area).

Mandeville, which was hoped to be completed by 1981, was never finished. The only housing estate in the sector in fact is Parkmore. The so called "failure" of Brownlow led to the suspension of Mandeville's completion. What has happened is that today the proposed Craigavon conurbation is essentially divided. Lurgan and Brownlow merge together, but because Mandeville hasn't developed Portadown remains physically separated from the supposed new town.

As well as the creation of Craigavon, redevelopments in Antrim, Ballymena and Derry have taken place. Why Craigavon was singled out to be developed as a new settlement instead of the other three towns seems to be related greatly to political pressures at the time.

In the 1960s, the Stormont Government increasingly attempted to attract foreign investment to the Province. The concept of a new town, in which suitable industrial sites would be built and economic concessions made was considered a major way to boost economic growth by the unionist controlled government. West of the Bann was eliminated for sectarian reasons, ie. a town here would undoubtedly have had a Catholic majority. The creation of Craigavon meant that the unionist boroughs of Portadown and Lurgan were able to merge forming a unionist controlled Council in Craigavon - so strong that even if the new sector of Brownlow attracted only nationalists they would have no effect on local power. This was further guaranteed by the fact that Brownlow only constitutes one ward of Craigavon district, its electorate being 5,488 electors whereas the average for the other twenty-four wards is 2,000.

Geoffery Copcutt who was appointed to prepare Craigavon suggested to the Ministry of Development that the growth of a new town should take place in the Foyle Valley, and resigned when told that Craigavon was not to upset denominational ratios. According to him

"religions and political decisions are dominant in the new city decision. Stormont has asked us to engineer a propaganda exercise rather than design a new city."
("Craigavon in the Eighties", 1981, p.3).

Professor Matthews believed that a location along the Lagan Valley was the natural direction in which development should take place. Stormont had their way however, and according to Buckland one of the most provocative decisions they made was in calling the new town Craigavon. Buckland also records that, the Northern Minister of Commerce at the time - Faulkner, was led to understand by the Chairman of Goodyear (an American multinational which employed the largest number of Craigavon workers in the '70s), that if he decided to get out of politics there would be a good job awaiting him. This was no doubt a subtle strategy by Goodyear to try and influence the Stormont government to locate Craigavon in North Armagh.

In the new town as a whole, 51% of residents are Protestant, 32% are Catholic, and 17% are of other religions. An Official denominational breakdown for Brownlow doesn't exist. As may be expected though, the party structure of the Borough Council reflects the Protestant majority in the town.

Since its formation in 1973, the Council has always had a unionist majority, with a reputation for blatant sectarianism - its interests being focussed mainly on Portadown. In 1985 the structure of the Council was as follows:

Official Unionist Party: 11 seats.
Demoratic Unionist party: 6 seats.
Social Democratic and Labour Party: 5 seats.
Workers Party: 2 seats.
Sinn Fein: 2 seats.

Only three of the councillors (a D.U.P; a W.P; and a S.F. member) actually live in Brownlow. Many of the other councillors have naturally argued strongly that resources should be directed away from Brownlow and towards their own areas.

Since mid-1985 the Council has been defunct as a protest against the election of members of Sinn Fein to their chambers, as well as to the implementation of the Anglo-Irish Agreement.

It appears that the bigotry of the Borough Council and its lack of concern for Brownlow, not to mention the fact that it doesn't meet at present, has meant that the people of the sector have no real voice to ask for an injection of interest, money, and resources into their community. This lack of concern for residents can only hinder the sense of identity with the area. Self-containment and social balance have been undermined by political decisions, where both the original planning of the town, and present Council activities are concerned. Since its development, the Craigavon authorities have failed to attract the number of residents they had hoped to. Unemployment is as

high as 90% in some of the estates. A main reason for such a failure, which has led to the lack of community identity in the area, is the undoubtable fact that the new town was built in the wrong place. But such a location was the only possible site as far as the Stormont Government of the day was concerned.

Martin. J. Mc Alinden.

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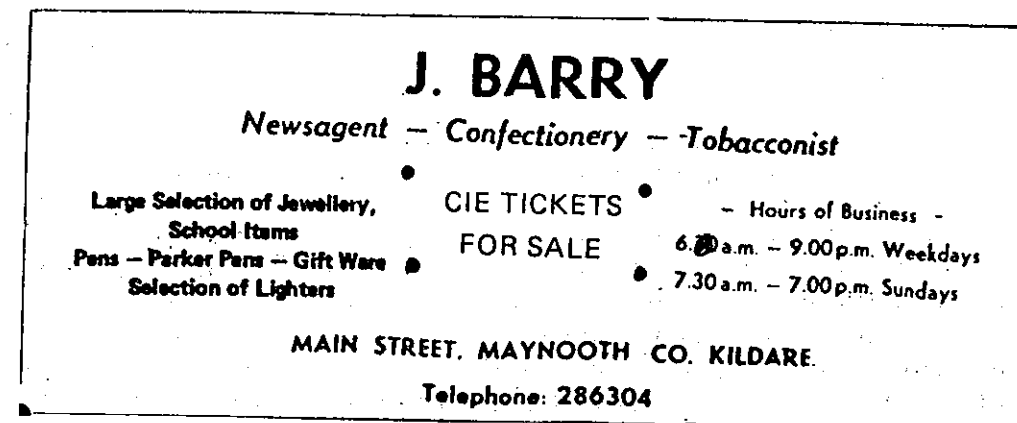


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GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP TO FRANCE (March 1987)

Fifty-two eager(?) geography students and two reluctant(?) lecturers left the Arts Block Car Park, Maynooth at 5.15 p.m. on Friday 20 March, travelling due south along the road to Wexford. We were entertained along the way by Dr. John Sweeney's comments on the underlying geomorphological structures and resultant land uses. We were asked by Dr. Denis Pringle to try and remember the field patterns, etc. and compare them with those we would see in Brittany over the following few days.

One emergency stop along the way - where Mna and Fir seemed to confuse some people! - then a forty minute break for "eats" in Wexford before heading on to Rosslare. The group was split in half here, almost literally, when crossing the railway track to get to the ship. However there were no casualties at this stage! We boarded the Saint Killian II and found our cabins, then explored the remainder of the vessel and discovered the Crystal Lounge, the Cinema, The Shamrock Restaurant, The Cafeteria, and the Disco Club.

Later that evening there was a sing-song in the Lounge, mature students and staff sat in one corner (but they had no success in getting exam previews), while the rowdier section stuck together in another corner singing bawdy songs and hurling insults at one another. The night was shorter for some than for others - and it was a long night for those who couldn't sleep because of the noise, cold or heat in the cabins.

SATURDAY (21 March)

A beautiful sunny day greeted those who surfaced sober - while a glaring brightness which gave double vision and encouraged stomach sickness greeted others. We docked half an hour earlier than expected, but on going through customs/immigration, this time was quickly lost as one member of the group, thought suspicious by officials, was thoroughly searched and frisked.

We boarded the bus in Cherbourg and our driver, Pierre, kept steering the vehicle on the wrong side of the road, but we arrived safely at our destination, Dinan. However we drove through the town centre out into the country again, and John Sweeney informed us that the hotel was strategically chosen outside the town as a disincentive to those who might frequent night-time establishments! The Staff of Hotel des Alleux were kept busy, and many of the new arrivals didn't retire till the "wee small hours".

SUNDAY (22 March)

Le petit dejeuner (which for some was too petit!) was officially at 8.00 a.m. - it consisted of Croissant et Pain - though some didn't appear and only just made it onto the bus before we left. We left the hotel at 9.40 a.m. and went into Dinan where we stood around the statue of Bertrand du Guesclin listening to Denis Pringle rabbiting on from the Michelin Guide! There was Mass in "L'eglise St. Malo" at 10.45 a.m. and those who attended were surprised to find that the water in the font inside the door wasn't frozen solid as the 11th century Church was extremely cold. Afterwards we followed Denis around the medieval streets of Dinan paying particular attention to comments like: "Here is where the merchants sold their wares!", etc.

etc. The town is very picturesque and quaint with buildings from the 15th century, gothic style architecture, and wooden beams over 300 years old still supporting many of the houses. Many of the group had a picnic style lunch in Dinan - a bunch of baguette brandishers descended on one of the biggest squares in Dinan and ate under Bertrand du Guesclin's statue before boarding the bus again. Two of the group were almost left behind at this stage, but managed to make it back in the nick of time!

As we drove into the countryside, there were groups of 7-8 people abandoned at different villages and told they'd be collected again three hours later when they'd completed their questionnaires. Such useful/useless phrases as "I'm looking for a toilet", "I must go", not to mention "I'm lost", were included in our survival kits. No compasses were given but the magnetism of alcoholic beverages attracted a few individuals to do their questionnaires from the warmth and safety of a pub. We arrived back at 6.10 p.m. to the hotel and prepared a report on the day's outing. After a dinner of fish and rice, we had a meeting at 9.15 p.m. on the rural areas of Brittany. Some of the more memorable comments during that particular session were: Chickens were running amok all over the place on farms of various "heck-takers". Some farmers were big into pigs and rabbits! There were two cobblers in one village! Many households were very welcoming and offered cider and wine to the visitors. A dispute over the population of one village ended when the presenter of the report told the heckler that she wasn't with them when the information was collected - this received a spontaneous round of applause! The advice given before we dispersed at 11.10 p.m. was "have an early night", and although many heeded this sound advice, many sat around for a quiet chat with the new found friends they had made earlier in the day.

MONDAY (23 March)

Breakfast at 8.00 a.m. - three casualties from the previous night when we boarded the bus to travel to Dol. There we climbed a 268ft high granite mound overlooking a great plain. There was a little chapel to Notre Dame de L'esperance on top. We saw a former coastal cliff and the surrounding land which had been reclaimed from the sea. At the top of this mound we were entertained by Denis Pringle's legend about Satan and St. Michael the Archangel's fight. After descending, we drove round the coast to St. Malo and then on to Dinard, where we crossed over the Rance tidal barrage, the only one of its kind in the world; then we headed back to St. Malo for lunch. This is one of the rather up-market tourist towns of Brittany, and where Denis Pringle said the John Sweeney's of this world go to spend their vacations in the casinos, and other gambling establishments common here - John agreed that he takes his Porche here every summer! Our medical geography expert told us the story of Jacques Cartier and how he discovered from the North American Indians a way to prevent scurvy, but I don't think anyone had pine bark and pine needles for lunch! After exploring the old part of St. Malo we drove down to Rennes, a city of over 200,000 people, which is considered the capital of Brittany. We first skirted the town via a ring road and stopped at a very large and impressive Citroen factory, then back into the town centre again where we were free for a couple of hours.



We arrived back at the hotel in good time for 8.00 p.m. dinner. Later that evening John Sweeney brought out some aerial photographs of the area we had visited earlier in the day. By lining up two photos and using a stereoscope you could get a three dimensional impression as if looking from an aeroplane. A comment made that evening was that some people on the trip seemed to have been looking through stereoscopes all week!! In the game of "charades" which followed, one of the more memorable titles which had to be mimed was "Arsenic and Old Lace", but two of the honours students had trouble understanding their team-mate's interpretation of "Geography: A Modern Synthesis" - the lecturers were NOT amused!

TUESDAY (24 March)

After breakfast at 8.00 a.m. we left the hotel at 9.30 a.m. for another day's touring about. At Champ des Dolent, (a standing stone - 30ft high), we had a talk on the history of the region. There are about twenty of these "Menhirs" in Brittany, and some comment was passed at this point on their resemblance to a male organ! The location and siting of these ancient stones indicated an advanced knowledge in science, and in predicting astronomical events, etc. We then drove to Mont St. Michel where we were again bombarded with more legends about Saint Michael the archangel, the dragon-slaying saint. Here we were warned that the granite outcrop (263ft high) was surrounded by quicksand and so we shouldn't wander off alone. Three of the clerical students attended Mass at the summit in the 8th century Benedictine Abbey while others explored the town's narrow streets and found something to eat.

WEDNESDAY (25 March)

We vacated Hotel des Alleux after breakfast and left Dinan at 9.40 a.m. to head for the capital city of France, Paris. It was a quite uneventful journey as far as Le Mans where we stopped a few miles beyond at a motorway service cafe for lunch. When John Sweeney phoned Ireland from here, he found out that our accommodation arrangements in Paris had been changed. Cassette tapes were lined up for playing on the coach ... some wanted Bryan Adams, others Kate Bush, while others wanted various kinds of musical noise ... "turn it up", "turn it down", "turn it off", "we want a sing-song", etc. "You can please some of the people some of the time, but you can't please all of the people all of the time" - John Sweeney. Those who didn't want to listen to the "audiline" above their head just blocked out the noise with their own portable decibel, deafness, decimators (i.e. Walkpersons - non-sexist version of Walkman!). The sun shone during the journey, making it difficult for some to stay awake, however, those who managed to keep alert were soon put into a state of unconsciousness as John Sweeney talked about the population of France and national planning. Denis even apologised for waking people but drew attention to the Gothic Cathedral we passed at Chartres which was a symbolic form of the universe. The intensive agriculture of the Paris Basin was pointed out with the presence of larger arable farms, big business ventures, exclusively for economic profit, etc., much different from the area where we had spent the previous few days. After an initial difficulty in negotiating the gateway at C.I.S. Paris Kellerman at 4.30 p.m., we were then free to go sightseeing in the capital city. Many took in the usual tourist attractions such as Sacre Coeur, L'Arc de Triomphe, Eiffel Tower, Champs Elysees, etc.

while some of the group [names have been withheld to protect the innocent(?!)] were seen in the Pigalle area!

THURSDAY (26 March)

After breakfast at C.I.S.P. Kellerman, we left in the bus for a conducted tour of Paris. When we stopped briefly for a quick photo at Monsieur Gustav Eiffel's famous landmark, one of the group purchased a leather whip - and it wasn't either of the lecturers! While driving around the Paris streets we saw examples of the Haussmann building programme, and after circling the very busy roundabout at the L'Arc de Triomphe till Denis Pringle's head was dizzy, Pierre got a well-deserved round of applause. John Sweeney confessed (not publicly) that Paris was the place where he had the first date with his wife! Next on the agenda was a boat trip on the Bateaux-Mouches along the Seine which lasted for about an hour, after which we were free until 1.15 p.m. - then we drove up the famous Champs Elysees and encountered the busy roundabout at the Etoile again. Just outside Paris we stopped for a while at a large "hypermarche" where people were seen frantically filling their arms with produce as if there were on one of those lightning shopping dashes. When the boot of the coach was packed to capacity with wine, (including 3 bottles each for WJS, PJD and PB of the Geog. Dept.) biscuits, chocolates, etc. we headed west again towards Le Havre. At the port, a small token of our appreciation was handed over to Pierre, accompanied by a kiss on both cheeks (French style), with which he seemed really delighted. We boarded the St. Killian II at 6.00 p.m. French time (5.00 p.m. Irish time) and set sail for Ireland about half-an-hour later.

At around 9.00 p.m. while most of the party were in the Crystal Lounge, the remark was made that the ship seemed to be bouncing around quite a bit - this was made by the sober ones who weren't drinking! However, even those who confessed to drinking only non-alcoholic beverages were seen to be staggering quite noticeably. As conditions worsened, many decided to retire for the night, but it was very difficult to sleep as things kept going bump in the night. Members of the crew had a full-time job going around the ship cleaning up where passengers had deposited their last meal ... plenty of diced carrots! There was a sing-song in the wide corridor at the bottom of the stairs to keep our minds off the turbulent seas, and as it was a tough job to actually stay in bed, especially with the imminent prospect of being thrown out of the top bunk, many decided to stay downstairs, and just threw a blanket over themselves on the floor outside the perfume shop (restaurant deck).

FRIDAY (27 March)

At 7.53 a.m. when the ship suddenly tilted because of the powerful waves, one of the students was thrown violently against a door, resulting in a split tongue. The pursar contacted the coastguard and we were told that a helicopter would be arriving to take the injured party ashore for medical treatment. However, there were already three helicopters circling Falmouth Bay where we had since taken shelter, searching for a French fisherman who had been swept overboard a few hours earlier. The coastguard came in a pilot boat about an hour later and took the student and John Sweeney to a hospital in Falmouth. We continued circling the bay from early Friday morning until about 8.00 a.m. on Saturday, accompanied by a Townsend Thorosen Ship, an oil tanker and a trawler. The waters of Falmouth Bay were more

sheltered than that of Land's End which we were unable to negotiate because of the severe storms. When John Sweeney returned to the ship with the stitched patient (who was ordered not to speak or eat for about a week) he told us that we had been on the radio and that we had encountered "Gale Force 12" winds - that's hurricane for those of you who haven't studied climatology!

SATURDAY (28 March)

We awoke on Saturday morning when we realised that we were no longer in the sheltered waters of Falmouth Bay and that the sea was again getting rather choppy to say the least. However it wasn't as bad as before, though many people continued to be sea sick. On the RTE news which was broadcast in the Crystal Lounge at 1.00 p.m., we heard that "... gales are to continue ... all shipping between Ireland and Britain has been cancelled because of the severe weather conditions ... the St. Killian II is now on its way home after leaving the shelter of Falmouth Bay and should arrive some time this evening in Rosslare ..."

Money had already been lent to those who were in financial difficulties, but the geography department generously gave each of us L5 with which we could go and buy a meal. While dining in the Shamrock Restaurant it was witnessed that Denis Pringle had finally mastered the art of peeling the shells of shrimps, and John Sweeney has rather an unusual palate - have you ever tried eating fruit salad topped with salad cream?!

The ancillary staff threw us out of our cabins around 2.30 p.m., though the occupants of the cabin where the patient was still recovering, were allowed to remain. This became the "sick bay" (no pun intended) as other ailing passengers joined the occupants of cabin 907 for the remainder of the journey. When the ship finally arrived in Rosslare at 7.00 p.m. we had spent a record 50 hours at sea, instead of the scheduled eighteen. It was certainly the trip of a lifetime, most memorable, never to be forgotten, and to be recorded in the annals of the geography department at Maynooth as "March 1987, Field Trip to France" - an event which will live on in the memories of those who took part in it for many years to come.

Emmet Harte.

KEVY and PEGGY

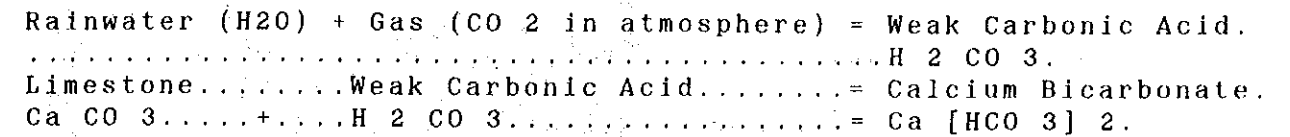
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Karst Landscapes in Ireland

Karst landscapes form an integral component of a global and Irish geological perspective. Located in regions dominated by limestone, a karst landscape or topography is an environment whose features resulted from solution of the limestone rock. Calcium carbonate is carried away in solution by rainwater containing atmospheric carbon dioxide;



Subsequent extrusive and intrusive actions accorde the following landforms which may be categorised into two groups:

- A. Surface - Limestone pavement, clint, grike, karren, swallowhole dry valley, turlough, doline and polje.
- B. Underground - cave, cavern, stalactites, stalagmites, and limestone pillar.

Examples of such topography include the Yucatan peninsula, the Causses region of France, the Mammoth cave of Kentucky and, from whence the term derives, the Karst region along the Dalmatian coastline of Yugoslavia.

I will examine the degree to which the Karstic phenomena prevails in an Irish context. Firstly however I believe it is important to state various properties concurrent to an understanding of Karst. There must be a widespread occurrence of a porous calcium carbonate possessed limestone. Thus, our range of study incorporates any area occupying 35% of the surface of Ireland, thereby encompassing an area which lies between Galway and Dublin, and between Armagh and Mallow. {See Fig. 1}.

A second constituent must be the absence of a non limestone rock type (or till). A full Karst development is retarded by the pressure of other rocks or erratics which will radically alter the hydrological conditions so vital and unique to Karst.

A third component, is that of the rate of precipitation and its subsequent drainage. Rainfall is highest west of the Shannon especially along the western coast. {See Fig. 2} This trend is borne out if we look nationally at areas whose drainage is wholly or partially karstic. These regions include; 1. North Clare (the Burren) and the Aran Islands, 2. Central Galweay east of Lough Corrib, 3. Kesh uplands [Grid reference G 176313], and 4. Cuilcagh mountain [Grid reference G 212327] This would seem to indicate that karst development is confined to these karst-drained areas. Nonetheless, two important questions arise from our discussion so far. Does the limestone bedded surface of Ireland display karstic development and secondly, are these geological landforms confined to a few select environments. {See Fig. 3}

According to Gerard Fahy [1972] it is possible to exclude much of the central lowlands because "karst conditions are best developed in the Burren and Aran Islands and also to a minor degree in the South, East, and North Galway, parts of Roscommon and a few isolated examples elsewhere." The exclusion of the central lowlands derives from the

FIG 1

STRUCTURAL PROVINCES OF IRELAND

60 MILES

*** LIMESTONE LOWLANDS

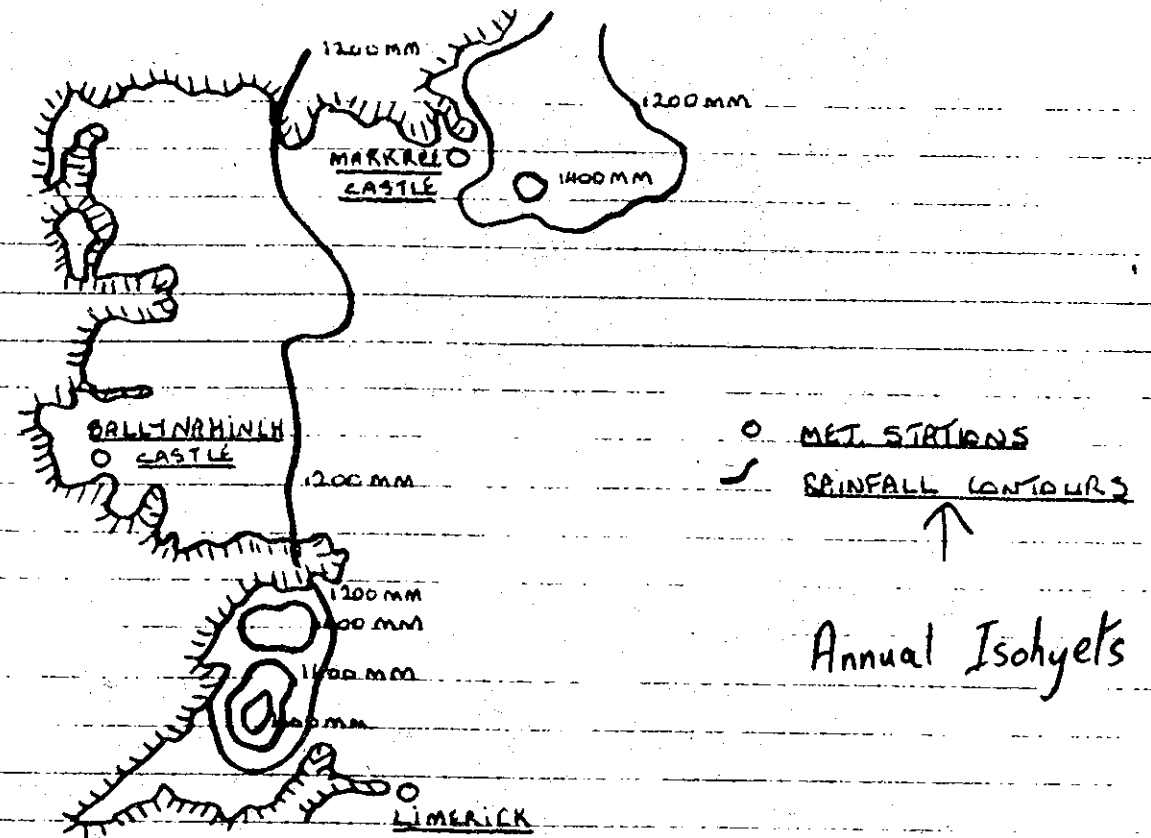
[CARBONIFEROUS]



SOURCE: GEOMORPHOLOGY
G. FAHY 1972 [90]

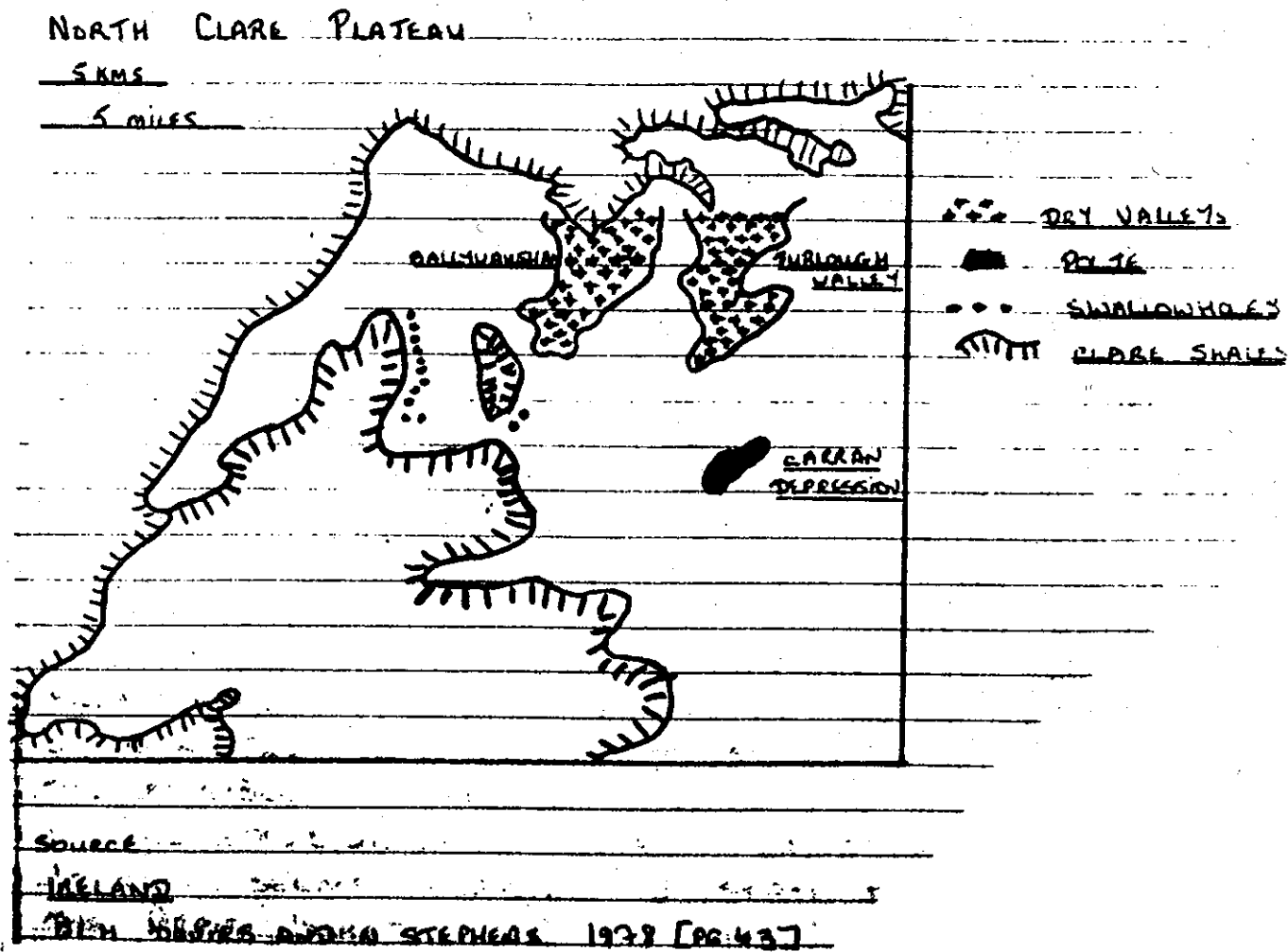
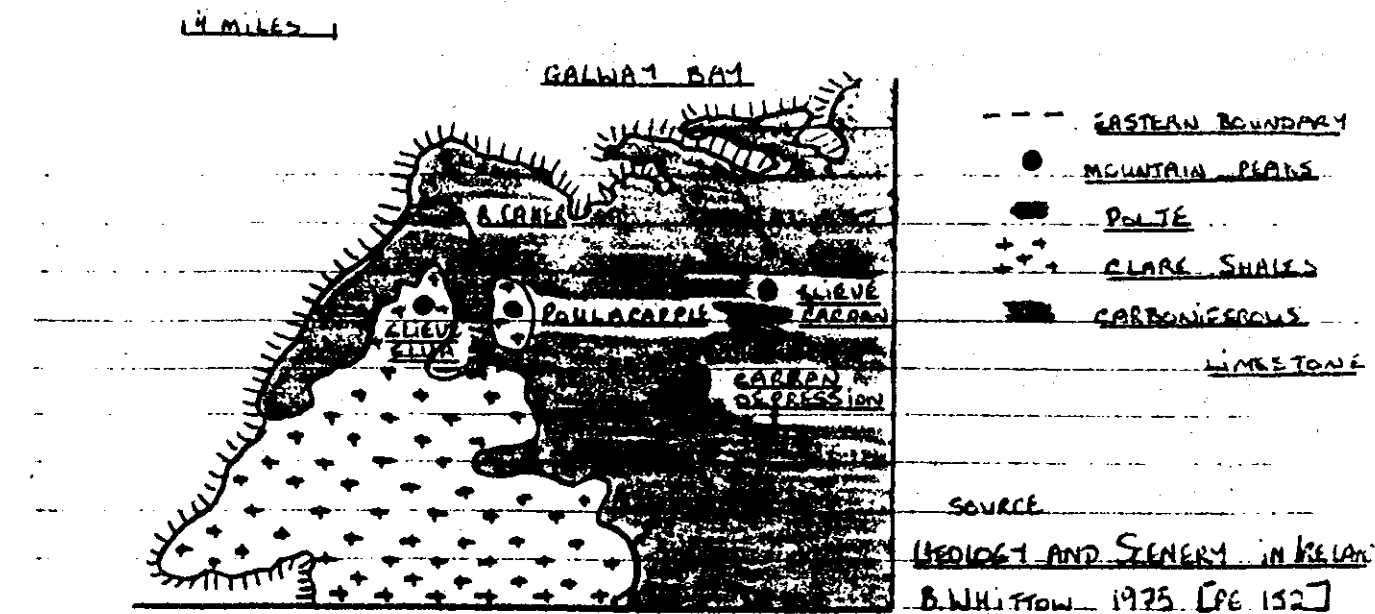
FIG 2

MEAN ANNUAL RAINFALL 1931-1960
[AT SELECTED STATIONS]



BALLYNAHINCH CASTLE	1601 mm
LIMERICK	1002 mm
MARKREE CASTLE	1131 mm

SOURCE:
ATLAS OF IRELAND 912-415 ATL
RISH NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR GEOGRAPHY 1979 [PAGES 32+33]

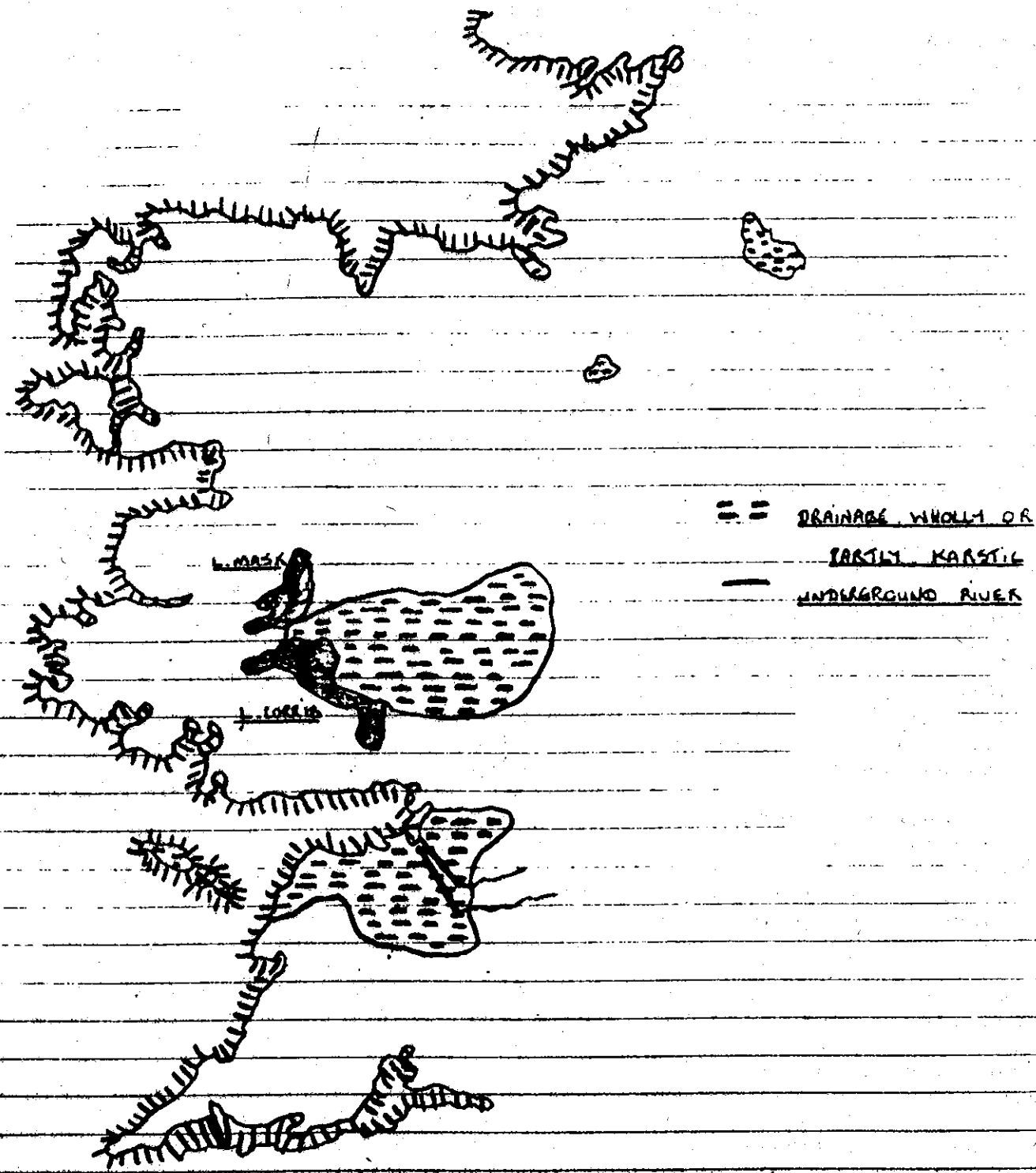


fact that the limestone rock remains unobservable under a blanket of glacial drift dating from the Pleistocene. Nevertheless P. Williams, (1970) stated that the central lowlands can be described with some justification as an excellent example of a covered karst. In support of his claim he points out that Edward Hull (1891) and more contemporary geologists have asserted that the lakes of this landscape and particularly the larger ones, resulted partially from limestone solution. It is understood that smaller lakes may occupy smaller holes. During the Oligocene or Eocene periods, river action and chemical solution eroded the landmass to its present height of 300 feet above sea level. Whatever karst landforms which may have existed have long since disappeared.

However the continual denudation which has occurred in the central lowlands, a few isolated karstic landforms survived, primarily along an axis stretching from Sligo city to Galway bay. Research carried out by Coleman [1955 and 1956] reveals that the carboniferous limestone topography of Sligo - Leitrim provide a classic example. Northward flowing streams, from their source in the impervious rocks of the Cuilcagh Ridge vanish into numerous swallets at Pollawaddy and Pollasumera, upon crossing the intersection of porous limestones and shales. Further North in the Dartry mountains and in the Benbulbin range several outcrops of sink holes, caves, dry valleys and pavements are to be found on the limestone blanketed surfaces. To the south we find the Cong district and the Gort lowland of Galway, described by T.W. Freeman (1952) as "...at its worst an arid karst covered landscape with little vegetation except for hazel scrub and ashwood." The dominant geological characteristic would seem to be the seasonal turloughs. Their occurrence arises from the combination of several factors including the appearance of numerous swallets and the proximity of the water table to the surface. However far from occupying enclosed limestone depressions similar to the polje the turlough lies in a dip comprised of glacial drift, thereby reinforcing P. Williams assessment that the landforms and the landscape have been moulded by the process of glacial - karstic actions.

It is obvious therefore, that a full karstic development has not occurred in any of the areas which so far have been discussed. A complete account of all limestone landscapes has not yet been undertaken. I will deal with this matter, by looking at an area which was once described by Cromwellian soldiers' as having "not enough wood to hang a man, water to drown him, nor enough soil to bury him."

We are of course talking about the Burren, and the Aran islands. The Burren is a dissected tableland composed of massively bedded upper carboniferous limestone, stretching from Slieve Carran in the East to Slieve Elva and Gleninagh mountain in the West. Clare shale in the South, the Atlantic ocean and Galway Bay to the West and North respectively, and the Gort lowlands to the East offer reasonable geographical boundaries. Fundamentally the Burren possesses those properties essential to the development of any karst topography; a large area of massively bedded limestone, a high annual rate of precipitation, adjacent impervious rock types whose hydrological conditions contrast sharply with that of the underground pattern of karst landscapes. (See Fig. 4)



SOURCE

ATLAS OF IRELAND 912-415 ATL

IRISH NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR GEOGRAPHY 1979 [PAGE 23]

Consequently the landscape consists of a gently southward dripping incline resulting in the exposed limestone forming terracing and pavements. Because of the southern incline and also the porosity of limestone, drainage is underground, determining that the streams follow either a Southwest or Southeast direction. The Caher river is the only river to reach the sea by its surface route while ironically following in the Northwestward anti-dip direction. Its surface location has been claimed to exist due to the infill of glacial drift during the Pleistocene. Other prominent features of a karst formation include a system of large caves in the Pollnagollunm - Polleva complex measuring eleven miles in total, making it the largest connection of caves in the British Isles. These complex maze of caves and caverns which exist throughout the region demonstrate the undoubting link with the sea as is recognisable from the continuing fluctuation of the water level correlating with the flowing and edding tides in Galway Bay.

Streams rising in the Clare shale and sandstone capped Slieve Elva and Poulacapple, flow Southward but on reaching the limestone north of Lisdoonvarna they rapidly disappear into a series of sink-holes. Yet another landform includes turloughs and dry valleys which are to be found in the Ballyvaughan and Turlough valleys along the Galway Bay coastline. The Carran depression is probably a preglacial feature established by the coalescence of several small depressions. Because of the lack of surface water little vegetation is found, though this is hard to credit in an area which receives an average of 60 inches of rain per annum. Thus it is imperative to assess the possible explanation as to the causal factors in the structuring of such a landscape.

It is acknowledged by many that the Burren and the Aran Islands are a bare karst and glacio-karstic region. This analysis was pronounced by Sweeting (1955), Williams (1970) and Drew (1975) whose information indicated that the present topography has survived because of a blanket of Namurian strata which remained until as recently as glacial times. The Carran Depression Polje for example would seem to verify there synopsis. Accordingly the Carran, polje formed by the coalescence of numerous depressions, was possibly orchestrated by acid water diffusing streams whose source lay in a Namurian outlier. Glacial erosion finally denuded the Namurian surface to leave a landscape much as it is today.

The correlation with glaciation is stronger when we examine the numerous granite erratics which are to be found in the Burren plateau. Their origin seems to be that of Connemara whose glacial ice sheets and glaciers transported debris as far away as Munster during the Munsterian ice age. Because the Burren seems to have had a Namurian rock type covering until recent times, geologically speaking it would appear that karst development is of a modern phenomenon especially in the West. A common characteristic of post glacial regions is a local veneer of drift. Therefore a similar process probably occurred in the Burren once, to be removed after vigorous soil erosion which preceded the overgrazing of the land by early settlers. Nevertheless this youthful karst development of the western Burren contrasts with the Carran Depression polje in the East. Limestone solution of the topography must take place prior to the formation of such landforms as underground streams, caves, depressions and ultimately a Polje.

In conclusion, it must be stressed that only in the Burren can we observe a Karst landscape in Ireland. Although isolated karstic landforms exist elsewhere, their formation arose as much from glacial, river and chemical actions as that of karstic origin in the form of limestone solution. The Burren represents all that which is characteristic of a karst landscape. From the polje at Carran to the still developing underground streams and caves, the karst topography of the Burren and particularly the West, will continue to develop for many centuries to come.

John Doherty.

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South Africa: The Geographical Perspective

In this article I propose to justify the Marxist interpretation of Capitalism by tracing the development of the mode of production in South Africa from the end of the 19th century to the present. It proposes to use the model put forward by Marx to explain the mechanics of any mode of production.

South Africa has an important role to play in the development of capitalism in the Western world. Nonetheless because of the unique economic relations and superstructural characteristics, it would be more rewarding to examine South Africa in itself. Marxism believes in a developmental approach, but it is only by understanding developments in the past that we can understand the present and make predictions about the future. Nowhere is this more true than in South Africa itself. The development of the South African economy and indeed its particular framework can be divided into two major phases. The first lasted until 1948, the second phase still exists. A further advantage of using this developmental approach is that one can come to an understanding of how the present day map of South Africa evolved.

When imperialism first began in South Africa the country was predominantly agricultural. As a result, the initial aim of the settlers was to move the black population to the worst land. However complexities arose when agriculture became more commercially orientated, e.g. the sugar cane plantations of Natal (See Map 1). The need arose to have permanent black labour nearby. As a result reserves were set up around the plantations. They were in effect cheap labour pools. The nature of the reserve varied according to the economy of the region; hence the 'spotty' spatial characteristics today. A further complexity was added to the reserve system in 1864 with the discovery of gold and diamonds. Now labour shortages became even more acute. During the first seven years of production the diamond mines employed 30,000 Africans per annum [1]. In 1903 a commission reported shortages of 129,000 workers in the mines and predicted that the figure would reach 365,000. In 1905 Chinese coolies were imported. Again in 1910 100,000 workers from Mozambique were imported. (See Map)

However by 1910 it was realised that these were only temporary expedients, short term solutions to a long term problem. The United party in South Africa knew the problem of labour shortage could only be solved from within the country itself. They updated the reserve system already in operation, they defined the principle of territorial segregation. It "defined and determined" reserves and provided legislation for them. This was done with a view to "finality", i.e. after this the black population should be assigned no more land. All this was embodied in the Native Land Act of 1913. Within the Union [2], 10.7 morgens [3] of land were set aside (7.3% of the total land surface of the country). Only Africans could acquire land or interest in land within these areas. The Act also abolished "farming on the half" [4], thus forcing thousands of Africans to move to the reserves. Few laws had such an immediate effect on so many people so quickly.

After 1913 reserves became labour reserves for the mines, industrial areas and white farms. The main objective of the reserve system was to make them economically unviable by placing too many people on too little land. They aimed at achieving an economic dependence upon the white areas, so that blacks would have no choice but to work in the mines. Initially the black population resisted. To combat this the government introduced a pole tax of £1 per annum. This had the desired effect of forcing blacks into wage labour. In 1922 the Urban Areas Act denied them the right to freehold property in Johannesburg. In 1936 the Hertzog Bill established once and for all that the conquered land could not be acquired by Africans either by commercial purchase or political means. With no political power to defend themselves and not enough land to provide for an independent existence, Africans had no choice but to work as pure labour.

In the 1890's mining was the mainstay of South Africa's economy. By the mid 1930's it was realised that this could no longer continue if the economy was to remain strong. Modifications were needed if the economy was to remain strong and if the state was to remain in a sound state. To achieve this a policy of protectionism was adapted. By 1936 it was realised that this policy had been a success. In 1948, when the Nationalist Party came to power they began taking steps to curb the flow of mining profits out of the country. They were largely successful in their efforts. These two developments, the growth of manufacturing industry and the retaining of mining profits in South Africa, were the two principle economic achievements of the Nationalist government. These economic developments imposed a need for further legislation to control the black labour, so essential to the manufacturing industries' ability to make a profit. Africans could no longer remain temporary sejourers. B. Magubane, in his book, **The Political Economy of Race and Class in South Africa** (1979), asks the question "Can we develop our industry when we have the position that the native only works a few months and then returns to the reserve for a couple of years? No, the native must be trained for his work in industry, and to become an efficient industrial worker he must be a permanent industrial worker. On that account he must live near his place of employment." (Page 131)

Along with the change in name came a change in status. Between 1955 and the present these areas were awarded political independence. Because of this, the workers moving in from the homelands are recognised as migrant, i.e. that they are in fact coming from a foreign land. The Transkei homeland got its independence in 1976 (See Map). After the development of industrial areas in the 1930's the black population, because of overcrowding in the homelands, moved out and set up shanty towns around these industrial centres. They are now termed 'black spots'. Between 1960 and 1970 three million blacks were moved back into the homelands. This still continues today. This change of status for the Bantustans inaugurated the migrant labour process.

These developments brought to an end the 'Laissez Faire' territorial segregation of the United Party and introduced what we know today as Apartheid. Magubane, states that "...Apartheid is primarily an attempt to restructure the distribution of African labour for more effective exploitation, and to cope with the often conflicting demands of agriculture, mining industries, manufacture and the white worker. The antithesis between rural and urban based fractions of capital was

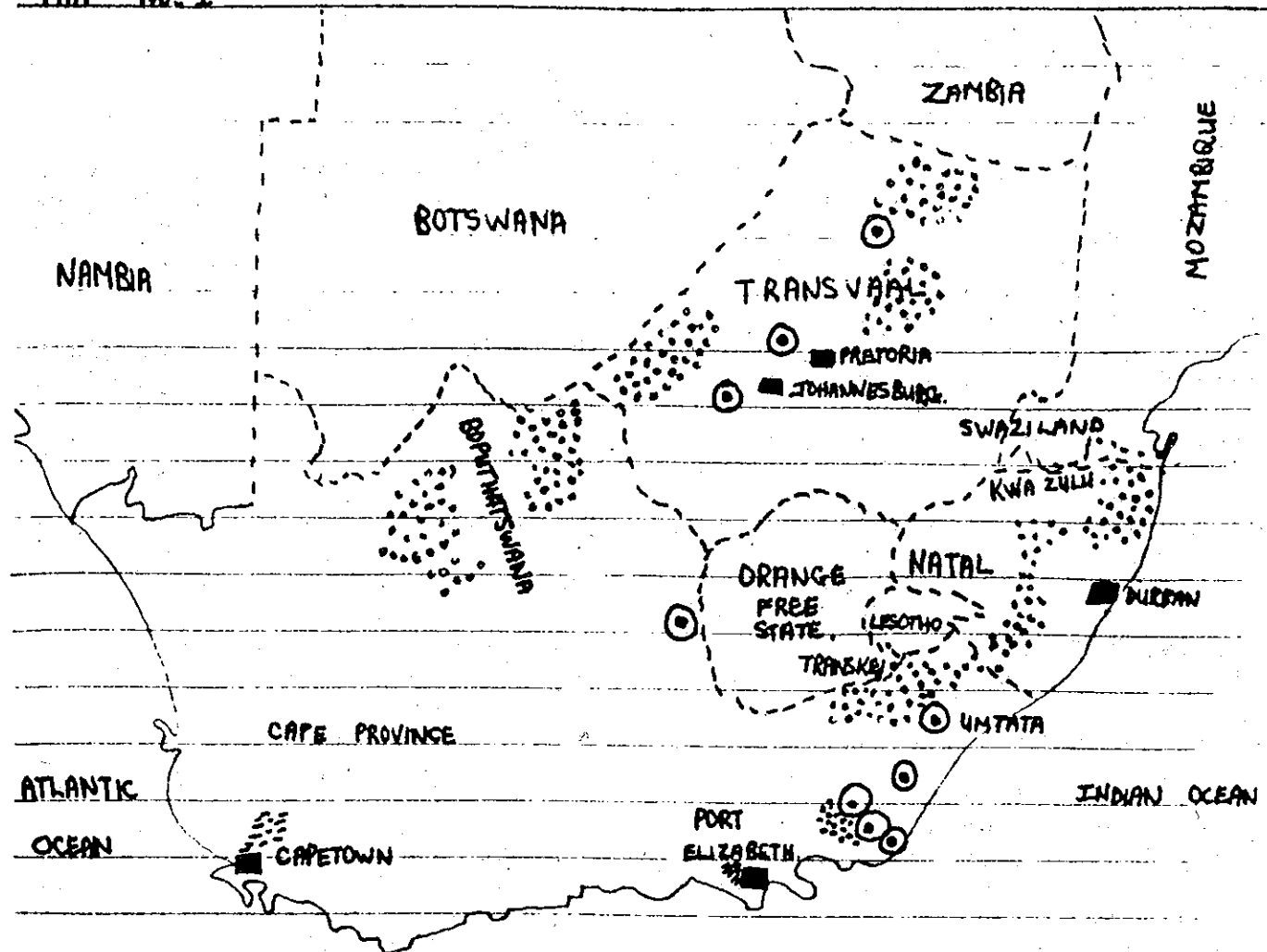
the amount of labour each had for exploitation - African labour being the indispensable condition of capital accumulation." (page 142). How then was this restructure of distribution achieved? In 1949 the Documents Act introduced the idea that all black males over the age of 16 must carry a reference book. The aim of this law was primarily to identify Africans in the towns who were unemployed and therefore illegal. It destroyed any attempt at unification among blacks and it is used as a dragnet for hauling in criminals. In 1951 the reserves were changed to homelands or Bantustans.

The migration system is essential to an understanding of why industrial areas have grown up around the homeland areas. The Kwazulu homeland feeds the industrial complex of Durban Pinetown (See Map). Because of the Bantu government policy the problem of black unemployment in the city has disappeared. Migrant workers without jobs belong only in their homeland. Migrant labour is plentiful and cheap. It is a variant on forced labour and not unlike slavery. The migrant is paid at minimum subsistence level for a single person. All money earned by them above subsistence goes to the profit of the mine. The capitalist system need not provide social security for these people, as the homelands fulfill this purpose. The African miners wife is left on the reserve. The cost of care of the wife and children is borne by the reserve. The reserves have acted as a safety valve. They have kept African workers disorientated, and unable to organise themselves.

I have examined the economic development of South Africa in the 20th century and seen how, with each major economic development new legislation had to be introduced to facilitate and protect it. What kind of social relations have resulted from the Acts of government, particularly since 1948, and what kind of ideology has evolved to justify the inequalities and social injustices that necessarily prevail? At present it is difficult to know if one can refer to Apartheid as creating adverse social relations for the black population. They are totally disembodied from political power. In the urban structure, the white man belongs to a social class depending in the black man in order to function effectively. The black man is not viewed as part of the social system at all. Their only purpose in the city is to work for their white masters.

The ideology behind the suppression of the black population is predominantly a Calvinist one. It believes that blacks are less intelligent than their white counterparts and that they have an abundance of energy suitable for manual labour. Many socialists argue that Apartheid is a microcosm of Capitalism, the only difference being that its exploitation is of a much more direct and visible nature than its subtle counterpart in Capitalism. It cannot be doubted that Apartheid will not survive. Socialists maintain that Apartheid and Capitalism have one thing in common, they both contain the seeds of their own destruction. If this is the case then one conclusion can be drawn, Apartheid will meet its end first and the people who framed it know it!

Patsy Keane.



■	Major sites
●●●●●	Homelands
○	Urban Centres

Taken from the Trocave information Pack.

Footnotes

1. The page references in the article are taken from a recent book on South Africa entitled, The Political Economy of Race and Class in South Africa, (1979) by Bernard Magubane.
2. Union - Refers to the Union signed between the Dutch and British in the second half of the 19th century.
3. Morgens - 1 Morgen = 2.116 acres.
4. Farming on the half - This was where an African who owned a plough and oxen agreed to plough the white mans land and graze stock in return for half the harvest.

Geography Field Trip - January 1987.

At the Old Campus gate at 9.30 sharp our group of fifty stood
The frosty air had chilled our bones we warmed as best we could.

On board the bus we got our seats and heat at last prevailed
The roll was called and we were told of what the day entailed.

Paddy Duffy became our guide to the Folly we went first
Built by the poor in famine days to stave off hunger and thirst.

Castletown House was our next stop we marvelled at it in awe
The splendour of this classic home was the finest we ever saw.

A guided tour was given us detailed and quite exact
Of the lives of all the household and their deeds along time back.

A change of scene was next in line to Leixlip it did befall
Where we examined in detail the effects of urban sprawl.

Back in Maynooth we had our lunch the trip resumed at two
Our hungers happily satisfied we yearned for more things new.

We crossed the Kildare border and into County Meath
Where we climbed a little hillock and looked at lands beneath.

They lay so vast and even good soils for farming hands
Glaciation had played its part here for eskers lined the land.

Our field trip now had ended for it was five o'clock
Back in the bus we chatted for we had learned a lot.

So if you want more knowledge and are seeking lots of fun
Come on a one day field trip and its only just begun.

Letitia Mulleague.

The Destruction Of Dublin

In the last 25 years, Dublin City has experienced an enormous suburban expansion, so much so, that today, Dublin is the fastest growing city in Europe. This phenomenon of urban population growth has brought with it, many social, economic and physical planning problems, due to the inability of existing structures, both legislative and physical to cope with such rapid changes. In relation to the 'built' environment, for example, Dublin has encountered an unprecedented boom in office development, particularly in the Central Business District, brought about by widespread cases of manipulation of the planning process by speculators and other interest groups. By allowing this indiscriminate building, regardless of the social and economic cost, Dublin has not only been defaced in its character, but vibrant inner city communities have been allowed to be destroyed. Dereliction is rampant due to the fact that these developers may have to assemble a large new site by buying a number of smaller sites from different owners. This process often takes several years, even decades. Another factor is that sometimes a 'developer' may wait until market forces prevailing for office development would improve.

Coupled with the 'built' environmental problems is the whole question of Dublin's social dichotomy between rich and poor, which has been accentuated by lack of social and economic planning.

Frank Mc Donald, in his book *The Destruction of Dublin*, reiterates this point passionately, showing how, "...after 25 years of planning, Dublin City is a mess. Speculators, insurance and pension funds, civil servants, planners and architects all combine to transform the city into a wilderness, peppered with unsympathetic office blocks, decaying buildings and derelict sites." Mc Donald is clearly unequivocal in his condemnation of these 'developers', who achieved their 'quarry' often through bribery and intimidation, and because of pressure from preservation societies would "compromise by building Neo Georgian, pastiche and quasi reproduction [facades for buildings.]

From a geographical point of view however, we cannot justifiably dwell on the frivolity of architectural taste, at the expense of dire serious social and economic planning inadequacies. While Mc Donald eloquently points out the root of the problem, the consequences are much more serious. The social fabric of the city has been damaged almost irreparably, by the unrestrained greediness of the market forces. We are living through the phosphorescent phase of capitalism, which is now so rotten that it glows in the dark !!

In 1981, Michael Lucel, Property Investment Manager with Irish Life Assurance Company, which had just completed the I.L.A.C. centre, shocked conservatives by calling for the abolition of planning controls so that the development of the city could be left to free market forces. Yet it has become abundantly clear from the last two decades, that the shape of Dublin has almost been entirely determined by those forces.

Property development, like any other industry in the capitalist system, is engaged in the production of a commodity. In this instance the commodity is built space, provided through the development or redevelopment of land. The process of development takes on an interaction between various types of capital, each taking on distinctly separate roles. These include landed capital, (land owning

interests) commercial capital, (property development company's) industrial capital, (construction company's) and of course financial capital, (Individual and institutions involved in development funding and long term investment.). In many instances, a single company or institution takes on a number, if not all of these roles. Also heavily involved are the architects, letting agents, solicitors, and surveyors who service the industry, while its operations are supposed to be overseen by planning officers of local government. Their powers however are very limited, generally to the extent of being able to refuse permission for developments which have been already zoned for other land uses.

Within the city the property development industry concerns itself with the alteration and adaptation of the built environment to new demands, by the reconditioning of buildings or redevelopment of land. It must be stressed that individual developments, by development interests are pursued on the expectation of the profit that can be accrued where the flow of rental income from a building, exceeds the outgoings, or where the sale price of the completed building exceeds its total development cost. The various interests associated with the development and investment, receive their return differently, however all such returns depend upon the ability of a development to generate rents. Therefore the process is inherently speculative as it relies on the flow of future valuable rental payments. It is thus rather risky, as ties up large amounts of capital in a fixed form for a considerable length of time.

In Dublin the risk is quite small, due to the input of central government and public bodies, which together occupy 60% of the total stock of rented office space. This has occurred in the last twenty years. The addiction to renting office blocks, rather than building its own, or refurbishing its older property has meant that successive governments and semi state company's have virtually underwritten the entire market for speculative office space in the city. Frank Mc Donald provides numerous examples of this "squandermania" and also various fixes perpetuated by a certain government party, starting with the "revered Donagh O'Malley". In 1971, the magazine *Plan* put it succinctly, "Private greed has always been given precedence in Dublin, especially in these last ten years of the Faith and Fatherland Party".

The preoccupation with rent and profit ratios has also led to the upgrading of land uses by various forms, including the replacement of uses of building by high status users or through plot ratios, i.e. where there is an increase in building height. (1) In Dublin these methods have led to the invasion of the inner city residential areas by commercial functions, especially during boom periods of development. This has led to the displacement of industrial land uses by occupants of greater rent capacity as industry becomes aware of the developmental potential of their sites. A consequence of this is the mass exodus of land intensive industry from the inner city. A prime example of this is the Jacob's Biscuit factory which moved from an inner city site in Bishop's Street, to Tallaght, on the South-West of Dublin. These locations can provide ample space in the large industrial estates, for the same cost.

Francois Lamarche, points out that developers increase their level of control of the external effects on the capital values of their developments, with an increase in the scale of developments. This is especially true of locations on the periphery of the Central Business District, where they can, by many new developments on the sites of former large industrial units, increase their capital value by incorporating them within the core, hence an expanded Central Business District. The imposition of these large scale redevelopments can however be very unsympathetic to the existing landscape of the city particularly in relation to the style and quality of the building. Frank Mc Donald laments this destruction vociferously, citing numerous examples of the nails in Dublin's coffin, being hammered home from the destruction of the Kildare Place houses in 1957, through Donnock Street, Fitzwilliam Street, the E.S.B., the Fenian Street collapse, the erection of Liberty Hall, to the siege of Hume Street and down through Harcourt Street and Leeson Street to the present day.

In the commercial core there is little incentive to maintain buildings which are destined for future redevelopment, and the 'hope value' gives rise to dereliction and decay prior to their demolition, e.g. Leeson Street (Lower). The site owners strategy is put eloquently by Castells, "...he waits for the construction of new property or an urban renewal operation which will bring him a profitable sale of his land, and during this period he obtains an adequate rent through the 'socially defined' conditionings of the property market in which he operates. This dual strategy of the land owner helps us understand why the redevelopment of an existing neighbourhood does not take place gradually and why excessive decay is almost always followed by property development on a large scale.

Generally it may be said that planning controls operation in Dublin, with respect to office development are aimed at regulating the impact of office development in the core and to a redistribution of development activity to secondary inner city and suburban areas. This was outlined clearly in the Dublin City Development Plan of 1971. In it a commitment was made to limit office growth in the Central area and reduce traffic congestion by decentralisation outwards from the core to the suburbs.

The 1980 Plan reaffirms this commitment, pointing out the need for redevelopment in areas lying to the North and West of the core, which are particularly underdeveloped, with a significant stock of vacant and derelict land. The fact remains however, that the planning department has had little or no success in their ambition. While the central core has expanded, mainly through new developments at the boundaries of the Central Business District, they have not dispersed to secondary areas, rather the C.B.D. has encroached on these areas. The failure of the planning authority in Dublin to realise planning objectives hasn't in any way been helped by the public sector and central government, who've encouraged office development in the C.B.D. by being themselves a major source of the economic returns drawn by the property interests

Out of a total of over 300 office blocks built in Dublin since 1960, only 33 are located north of the Liffy, though this area was in need of urban renewal. Indeed the public sector shares some of the blame for this situation. Of the 90 state sponsored bodies with offices in Dublin only 15 were located on the North side of the city. There is a parallel imbalance in the location of government departments and other

financial and commercial institutions.

The imbalance serves to highlight one of the major features of Dublin's destruction; the severe social dichotomy between the 'privileged' and the 'under privileged'. To speak of Dublin as a single social entity is to ignore the existence of two separate Dublins, one for the rich and one for the poor. This dichotomy is clearly represented by serious socio economic opportunities occurring in a spatial context. Spatially residential areas correspond significantly to redevelopment areas previously discussed. The patterns are strongly sectoral and Dublin can be divided into two sectors by a line running South West from Howth to Terenure. To the South-East of this line the city is predominantly a high status area, whereas to the North-West, low status dominates. Very few areas to the South and East are low status, whilst there are no high status areas at all to the North or West.

The social and economic problems striking at the heart of Dublin city, with their consequent social deprivation are linked to an extent with to the operation of the housing market. Developers operate in a market where demand is greater than supply. Coupled with this is the fact that the supply of mortgage finance, necessary in the first instance to facilitate house purchases is determined by long term economic prospects and the relationship between bank and building society interest rates.

In practice however inner city residents are least able to afford these economic outgoings. The inner city is primarily composed of a high proportion of aged and unemployed people and these do not provide the 'stability' which the financial institutions demand as a prerequisite to making house purchase loans available. Furthermore the chronic unemployment associated with inner city areas lessens considerably the chances of the local population, who are poor and immobile of obtaining employment locally. There has been an attempt by the I.D.A. to try and change this situation by setting up Enterprise Centres in the inner city. One such center in Pearse Street displayed the ineffectiveness of this policy. Of the jobs provided 33% required a University qualification. Since over 94% of the Pearse Street residents have an educational standard of only Inter Cert. or less, and only 2% have a University education, these jobs were of little local use. Hence just 20% of the residents could avail of this new employment, whilst the remaining 80% were 'imported' from elsewhere.

As we have seen many of the severe problems associated with Dublin are basically economic, and therefore prone to the claws of the capitalist system, and are often outside the control of planners. In Ireland this is even more true, due to the fact that their powers are unduly curtailed. If they refuse planning permission to a landowner, in the prevention of an undesirable development he can sue, and claim compensation from the local authority for the loss of profits which would have resulted from the development. Given that local authorities are in no position to fork out millions of pounds, the planners often have no option, but to grant permission.

In 1974 the 'Kenny Report', set up to investigate the price of building land in the early 1970's, recommended that local authorities should have the right to purchase development land for a fixed price, to the price of agricultural land, plus 25%. This would curb the high profits of land speculators and also make available land, at a

significantly lower cost, for legitimate developers and hopefully, lower house prices. The report was never implemented however as it was thought to be repugnant to the Constitution.

What therefore, can we do in the face of this wholesale "Destruction of Dublin"? Some would argue that Dublin is beyond redemption. Even the 'Eastern Region Settlement Strategy, 2011' (E.R.D.O. Report, 1985) believes that "On a simple cost comparison analysis, there is not a good case under present conditions for the revitalization of population in the inner city.". In other words, the cost would be too high.

It seems difficult to remain optimistic in the face of so much decay in the city. Even the government's new plan of 'Urban Development and Renewal', seems to do more for the developers than the areas they will 'develop'. We are promised a "vibrant new era of self sustaining urban renewal.", no doubt to continue the self destructing, capitalist hotch-potch, we still call Dublin.

Noel Malone.

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GEOMANIA

Greetings fellow geographers, including lecturers as well,
My song's about the Geog. staff, not everyone could tell.
A light hearted oration, the slaggins all in fun
Memories mostly of third year, for me the happiest one.

Well Sweeney John was full of life each Monday morn at ten,
Copying down those overheads, you'd need a camera, not a pen !
From Halley's cell to Jet Streams, Calcification; up yours too,
For him the words of such great length were like adding two and two

Willie. J. could be a laugh, his comments they were rare,
The gem was waking Keegan, twas the beat laugh we did share.
In a red light area Willie "slept" one night, innocent hours there
he spent !!
Was that known last October (ahemm !), shall we tell the President.

Fran is Fran who seems so cool, with his tweed hat and his raincoat
A walking ad for Ireland and a shoulder bag from Aer Lingus.
Recalling facts and figures he'd gaze from floor to ceiling,
From C.A.P. to G. N. P., I'm sure his head was reeling.

And Denis, dear old Denis, like academic Mi-Wadi !
Material so concentrated, needed dilution for the body.
Geopolitics and Kondratieff, from the Sweeney school of speaking
"Fucks" he gouted once or twice, did not pronounce, just gave the
spelling !

I cant remember who is left, it most of course be Paddy
A martyr yet for Carton, we'll have a statue of that laddie.
His own vocab he often used, "higgeledy-piggeldy bungalisation",
He used it on the field trips' songs, or on lecture time orations.

A new Vice President was wanted, we said "Rusty is the man !"
But Willie returned from Canada, and Rusty stayed with Fran.
So lets give him a B. A., or an honorary Ph.D
He'd give an honours option in "animal geography" !

Now my story's coming to an end, it might bring a smile or two
At least it will fill a page, for the team doing this "Milieu".
These they are my memories, happy you'll agree
There yet might be a sequel, in Irish Geography !!

Padraig Walsh.

The Climax Concept in Biogeography: Myth or Reality

"Scientific treatment of vegetation presupposes that orderly tendencies exist within it. Geographic treatment presupposes that this orderliness is spatial. This requires a orderliness in the distribution of plant assemblages." (1). This assumption is central to the Climax Concept. Controversy surrounds the concept of climax. It is a relatively new idea, evolving from work performed at the end of the last century. Awareness of vegetative succession is essential to the climax concept. Change is one of the most important features of plant assemblages. A type of temporal change, directional is called succession. A full discussion of the concept of climax will precede the discussion on whether it is myth or reality.

Succession can be defined as a "progressive modification of a local environment by its inhabitants" (2). There are two types of succession, namely primary and secondary succession. Primary succession takes place on freshly exposed bare areas which have never previously borne a plant cover, such as glacial till, alluvium or volcanic material. Secondary successions develop in areas which have had a plant cover which has been partially or completely destroyed by some catastrophe such as fire or human interference. The previous plants and the type of interference affect the vegetation in a secondary succession. An example of a primary succession is the colonisation of a bare rock by lichens. These are non cellular organisms, a combination of algae and fungi, which are among the most tolerant life forms on earth. The local environment is effected by the the existence of these lichens.

Severity of conditions on the lichen covered rock lessens over time. More complex forms of life can inhabit the rock as conditions become more tolerable. Moss begins to grow over the lichen, eventually blocking the sunlight, thereby killing it. Conditions on the rock are put out of the tolerance range of the lichens by the mosses which succeeds the lichens.

The process does not end there. The moss moderates further the moisture and temperature conditions on the rock. As it dies it contributes to the richness and depth of the soil. Other plants can then inhabit the rock, such as grasses and flowers. These alter the environment by making it unsuitable for the moss, by shading it out. Shrubs and pine trees grow in the shelter of the plants and then out grow them. They in turn provide shelter for shade tolerant trees such as oaks, which eventually grow large enough to shade their former shelter. The pine and shrubs die because of the dominating position of the oaks. The sequence of plants and animals that occupy a site in succession is called a sere.

The primary succession described above ensues because the bare ground was rock. A different sere occurs when the surface is sand. Fig. 1 illustrates these differences.

Secondary succession has a different starting point. The example in Fig 2 (see below) is an abandoned farm field. In this instance the end result is the same as that of the primary succession. This is not always the case though. Sub climax vegetation is vegetation which is prevented from progressing to the climax community. An example of sub climax vegetation is the lowland heath in Britain, caused by grazing and frequent burning. If such disturbances are carried out frequently or on a continuous basis then the succession path may be deflected leading to a new community which would have not developed in a normal succession. The playoclimax is the term used to describe this deflected climax. The particular community that arises in these circumstances is adapted to the changed environmental conditions. If subsequently the interference is removed then the playoclimax vegetation might not survive in the changed environment. It gives way to a type of community which which would normally follow had there not been any interference. The most important point to be made about succession is that it all ends at the one point, i.e. the climax.

"The classical ideas of succession were elaborated in great detail by F. E. Clements, who developed a complete theory of plant succession and community development called the Monoclimax hypothesis. The biotic community, according to Clements, is a highly integrated super organism. It shows development through a process of succession to a single end point in any given area, i.e the climatic climax." (3). In Clements view, development through succession is identical to development in an individual organism. Set backs are not possible except through interference. The master factor in the plant environment was climate. He postulated only one potential climax for each climatic region.

It was not long before a poly climax theory developed. "Advocates of the poly climax concept maintain that the climax is not necessarily determined by climate alone, but by the interaction of all the factors which influence plant growth and distribution." (4). Examples of such factors are soil moisture, nutrients, relief and anthropogenic activities. A. G. Tansley was one of the first proponents of the climax concept.

Subsequently a compromise was reached between the two theories. Only one climax formation for each climatic region, it being the one found on the most widespread combination of topography and soil, and it was termed the climatic climax. The others in the same area were termed physiogeographic climaxes.

A variation on the poly climax theory was proposed by R. H. Whittaker in 1953, called the climax pattern hypothesis. "He emphasised that a natural community is adapted to the whole pattern of environmental factors in which it exists, e.g. soil, fire, biotic factors, wind.....the climax pattern hypothesis allows for a continuity of climax types, varying gradually along environmental gradients and not neatly separable into discrete climax types." (5). A steady state would exist in a climax community for as long as they were no major changes in environmental conditions. The term environment is used instead of climate, thus it is not climatically deterministic.

There is one basic fault with all the aforementioned climax concepts. They all assume that succession is linear. Plant succession can be cyclical and thus are not covered by any concept of climax. An example of a circular succession is illustrated in Figure 3. below. This particular case was found in the Scottish Highlands at about 800m. by A. S. Watt in 1963. Thus there is some evidence that is at variance with linear succession theories.

A feature of climax is that it fluctuates, it is never constant. Climax occurs when vegetation has reached that stage of development where it has adapted to the climate of that area and to the other factors which influence the conditions in which it lives. Implicit in this approach is that climax is stable. "Change is the order of nature, therefore climax assumes the end of change." (6). The state of equilibrium can not be reached as vegetation is reaching a variable climate, not a constant one. In some publications this does not seem to pose any difficulty, for it is apparently ignored, e.g. "The climax vegetation will have established a balance, a state of equilibrium with the environment." (7).

The idea of stability must also be reviewed as climax implies a stable situation "...stability implies the ability of an ecosystem to maintain a relatively constant species composition, biomass and productivity, with minor fluctuation around mean value, and to return to this mean fairly rapidly after internal or external disturbances." (8). In order to maintain stability when a plant dies, one of the same species should grow to replace it. During the life cycle of any plant it usually seeds the immediate site. However there are factors which could prevent the seedling from taking over the vacated site, for example, the seedling of another plant species could germinate at the same time thus depriving the 'indigenous' plant of its growing space. As a consequence the species composition can change over time.

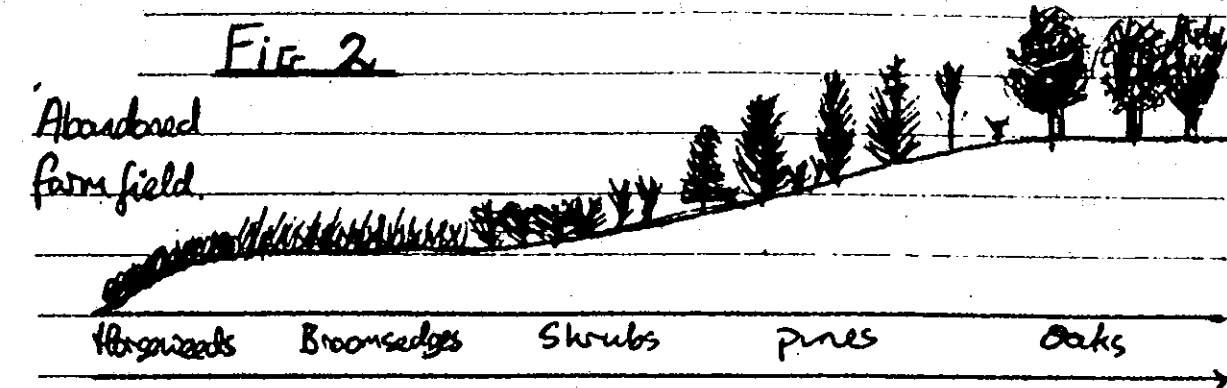
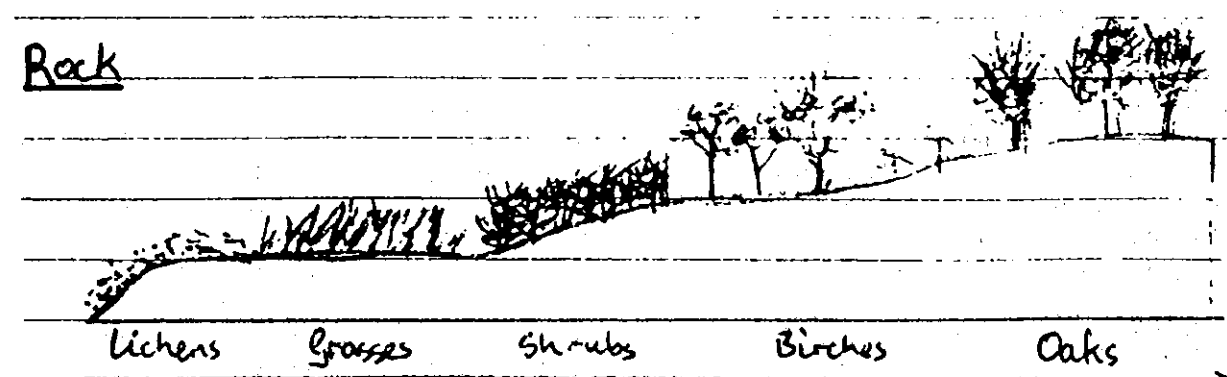
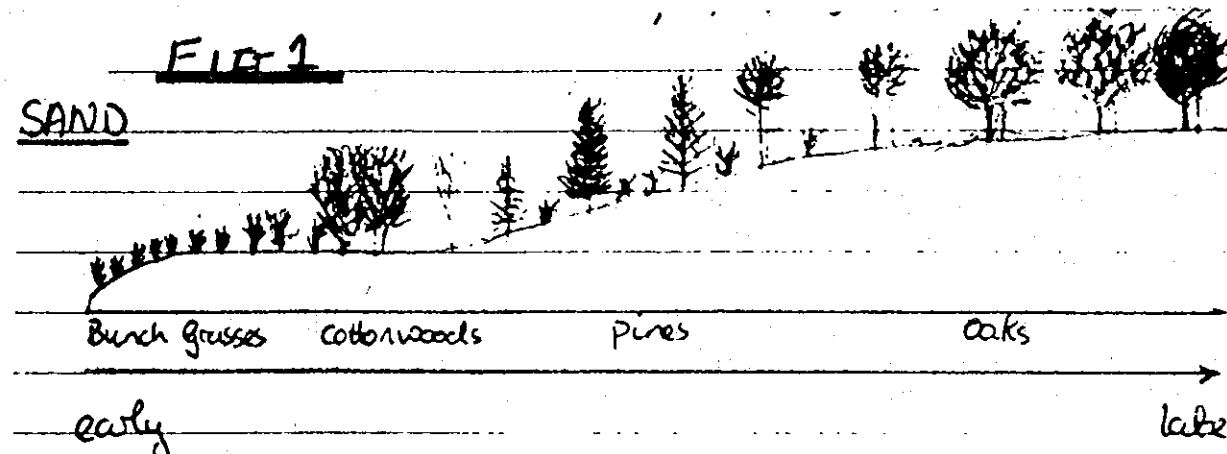
In conclusion, the climax concept, while appearing perfect, contains a number of shortcomings. There is evidence that that the assumption of linear succession cannot be sustained in all cases. Plant successions are not always orderly. The climatic climax concept has problems in that it excludes other factors from influencing the composition of a plant assemblage. The point climax theory seems to be stretching the idea a bit too far, by giving a type of climax for every situation. Something which does not seem to strike as problematic is that climate is not constant. To assume that climate is stable facilitates for the climax concept. However it is an unrealistic assumption, thus undermining the theory.

It appears from this discussion that climax is an abstract concept, because of continuous fluctuations in climate. It does not seem necessary that succession must end in a climax. Therefore it can be concluded that the climax concept contains more elements of myth than reality.

Susan Mc Cole.

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REMINISCENCES OF A RAMBLER.

It has been three most eventful, different but short years since I joined the undergraduate course of murky academic standard known as Geography, otherwise known as the pocket guide to the landscape. Whether it is Breathnachs "spell-binding" economic ramblings or the ubiquitous Pringle at 5, the lecture programme never ceases to enthrall. The motley crew of geographers are living testament to the fact that the best heroes are made of roast beef and alcohol not muesli and orange juice. Lets face it, what group of people can run off phrases in lectures that have been known to drive people to drink, (phrase is courtesy of Lionel Howard), and then smile with a grin that resembles a roasted manhole cover! These sentiments comes from a scribe that has survived everything, exams, break-ups and a wet sunday afternoon with Paddy Duffy in Monaghan as he ranted on the virtues of Monaghan bachelors.

The Maynooth field trips are a focal point, (a regional element there) for cultural shenanigans and lunatic rantings by ageing, (sorry Fran) lecturers. To Clare we headed in '85, a land where we all know babes are trained from birth to beat Kilkenny and Cork people to death with teething rings and hurley sticks. On that trip I will never forget the facial expressions of Mr Breathnach every morning as he was obviously studying too much of the Clare landscape from the bottom of a pint glass. Paddy made hopeful noises about pints and potatoes but had to make do with a bean and a carrot which he duly attacked with a ballpoint pen.

Peader, our bus driver struggled through roads that heaved like a force ten gale, (phrase courtesy of John Sweeney) which induced contributions to the local 'greenery' from many notables including our revered editor. (Not so, Ed.!)

On field trips many characters are established, Anne Webster, in danger of collapse on Slieve Elva had to endure a piggyback from some lucky males surprisingly Patsy was not among them. Paul Daly according to the Bard of Batterstown got Mary into trouble which according to Paul is about as funny as a cactus up a kilt. Many moons ago Seamus Smyth recieved the field trips guide equivalent to the Victoria Cross as he held the bus's position in the middle of a riot in Derry. In Wexford on a remote pier Kevin Whelan looked like an ad for kipper sardines as he was dressed in oilskins and boots.

The beds on Field trips, (that is if you ever get to them Gary Broderick!) are often procured by pulling rank, Mine in Donaghadee and Clare and Wexford and Monaghan were obviously inspired by diagrams showing how luckless slaves were transferred from Africa to the America's 400 years ago.

Despite this obviously accurate caricature of this great department, Geography is a subject full of life, (titter titter) excitement. (ow) and characters, both those and the subject will be sorely missed when I finish here in the autumn. Thank you all. (Nane with Editor.)

The Curvy Hills and Braes of Down

*

The curvy hills and braes of Down
Were dancing in the sun
As we bussed about the barnscapes
And bye-roads all around.
And instead of fresh air all we got
Was vodka that was smelly
And watching rugby football
On a Portaferry telly.

Geography is unhealthy - it's about sitting in lectures, labs and libraries all day long. But what about field work, I hear you say - slogging through the mire and muddy countryside...? Not at all! Field trips are about sitting snug in busses listening to words of wit and wisdom... Geography is an unhealthy exercise generally. How many geographers jog I ask you? Not round here - they sit in offices plotting and planning with rotirings on maps.

But why should geographers jog, for god's sake? Do historians hiss or biologists boil? Do cheetahs cheat, do lions lie or tigers tie or python pith? Does a donkey dunk, I ask you, a monkey monk or a mantis pray? And so on...but enough of these turds of wit and wisdom and down to the title of this enlightening missive.

Field trips must cease being bus-borne experiences in viewing staid and strile landscapes though steamy windowpanes. We must look at the landscape a living lively entity, much more than a geomorphological phenomenon of podzols and pleistocene foibles but a place of pigs and people and placenemes and bullocks and farmers and blow-ins and bungaloid buildings so southfork sublime...As Patrick Kavanagh said in 1940:

"The sun shone on the little hills. Hens were flying over gates and fences to scratch in potato and turnip fields. The headlands and the hedges were so fresh and wonderful, so gay with the dawn of the world ...The place of things alive overflowed his analytic thoughts and he heard the robins and the sparrows in the hedges. A crib cart with a load of young pigs passed on its way to the market..." (Tarry Flynn) or as Kevin Whelan put it on Saturday 20th Feb 1987 - "You have to imagine these places full of living communities, people singin', drinkin', swearin', prayin', coortin', fightin', fartin', roarin', hoorin', tearin'...."


And so we imagined as we intersected with landscape layers of life.....

"In ye Woodes of Dunsanie my liege Lorde Edwarde mounted His Motte and caste his Eye o'er his Landes. It felleth wyth a squelche on his toylinge hordes of villeinous serfes grrindinge his Corne and plyinge his Cordwangle up and down ye Furlonges and Mearings. Further wesht in ye innfield were his Iryshe peasantry gobblinge poitin and hic gabbling gaelic begorrah skinning pigs ryding pheasants and madly ploughinge by ye Tayle, ye Horses (and ye Pheasants) screaminge in agonie and on his Lordshyp's Bailie was his teame of Hurrlers makeinge Readye for Ye Conteste with ye Fordeigners of Dubhlin beinge goaded (ie trayned) by ye Munster masher with storeys of a hurling Hero from Armagh who chokedd Dogges with his balle and leppin downe and uppe lyke a leppard shouteth 'Meath abu, up Meath, gutte ye Bastardes'... Mye Lorde turneth rounde and to his wassail went" (Calendar of Dunsany Deeds 1234)

On Tara some humble and some concrete hearts ascended this symbolic landscape to survey the fatlands of Meath which were surveyed before by high kings and others equally intoxicated by the site. We were confronted by the famed Lia Fail (Bud Fhergusa) a seeming symbol of fertility. No wonder, surrounded as it is by the Pale, nipples with mottes around which graze creamy friesians and baldy bullocks belonging to the fecund families of Meath. It is said that whoever can stand on the stone will be the next high king. So Lydon and the Cussens made doomed attempts and the girls with demure and downcast eyes watched Lionel drink vast quantities of Yop (disguised in beer cans) in preparation for a desperate assault on the offensive stone....

In Cooley's Glenmore, the sun never shines. Most of the day it's in shadow and the unfortunate Ulstermen who came here during the Ulster Plantation are pale and wan and weak (and very old) and lazily make ridges for their spuds among which they sometimes lie from exhaustion - thus giving these ridges their distinctive geographical eponym; not so much a living landscape as a sleepy one and Kavanagh too wrote of such places:

"It was the gap
Between the seasons, and the days moved slowly
With labouring men sleeping on headlands among the nettles.."

All along the Border are signs like this . What are they you ask? Is this the Gap of the North? Does it mean 'watch out for camels'? Most true geographers know eggsactly what it means. It means that you are now entering the basket-of-eggs-topography - tread carefully for you tread on my yolks -, the curvy hills and braes of Down, the bumpity bumpity drumlinny beltity beloved by maidens in backs of busses. This drumlin landscape is distinctively drumlinoid and may be divided into two regions - Protestant drumlins and Catholic drumlins. The Prod drumlins up in Down have a certain sabbath staidness about them - they don't really dance much in the sun - they have distinctive punk hedgestyles, cold, clean fields and tight little tidy farmhouses - a landscape unbungled by blow-ins. From over Newtownards, the cultural mainland can be seen, Scotland the brave, and we could almost see rugby balls fly high as the Scots warmed up in Galloway for their match in Murrayfield that day.

The Donaghadee disco was a big attraction, with the news of taigish women from the south drawing in some native talent. Were these Pictish lads all tattooed-up with wode out wenching or was this warpaint against the north-south accord? We even had a belly-dancing boyo in the disco which was well and truly oiled with Cossack vodka but sadly badly balanced out with men. Some sheilas seem to do quite nicely, though they had to do without at breakfast too. The night was liquidly celebrated with shoutin' and cussen and singin' as well

"Tooraloo tooralay
It's six miles from Bangor to Donaghadee.
The vodka was vicious but virtually free
And Lionel got laid into litres of beer
At 85p twas a real give away -
The more pints you drink the more money you save.
Tooraloo Tooralay...."

The Catholic drumlins of Monaghan and south Armagh were much more unkempt and dishevilled. Here was a more lackadaisical landscape, bungalised and rushy, in the middle of which sits charming Castleblayney, the Nashville of the north, 'my own people and my home' as Big Tom used to sing(?). The cultural landscape of the Fewes, of course, has a great deal in common with the republican hills of Monaghan - potholes, litter, catholics, big hedges, small farmers, gaeilgeoiri and smugglers. Crossmaglen of course is a notorious haven of thieves and vagabonds according to another song(?). In Cullaville, a hamlet hunched along the border, they were selling British army uniforms on the roadside. The haunchy hills were topped by giant Belsen-like lookout towers watching the landscape and the approach roads to Cross.

In Crossmaglen, F Troop was just emerging from a gaunt and ugly barracks - an architectural horror of Woodquay proportions - with blackened faces and bulging backpacks heading into the wild apache country of Creggan and Cullyhanna, singing stentoriously 'The bridge over the River Kwai':

"Charlie has only got one Dail" and the locals leaning out the windows roared back "Maggie has two but they are small" or words to that effect - it was difficult to hear with the racket. What a place! Occasionally a local Crossperson tried to nick a passing kitpacks privates - I mean a passing private's kitpack. One was even trying to sneak a soldier's uniform unbeknownst to him as it were. Everybody on the starboard side of the bus passed out when one of the troopers in a moment of diplomatic indelicacy aimed his rifle at the bus. When we got them back on board we accelerated homewards.

Maynooth was strange and tame on Sunday evening. Why are we here?

The Bard of Batterstown

Geopolitics, A Re-Appraisalment.

Over the years Geopolitics has fallen into disrepute. It is usual to condemn the German school of geopolitics for this since it justified the aggressive foreign policy of the Third Reich during the 1930's and in the early '40's. Since this regime was ultimately defeated some retribution fell back on political geography. It was Karl Haushofer who set up a magazine called "Geopolitik" in 1924 and it was by his direct contact with the N.A.Z.I. high command via Rudolf Hess that geopolitics achieved a degree of recognition never before or never since achieved.

It was based on these principles, that political geographers everywhere agreed on the need to revise geopolitics. Also one must remember that geopolitics cannot be cut off from political geography or it will leave political geography isolated from its past, but a more important factor which could have serious ramifications for everyone is that geopolitics is far too important a subject for geographers to cut themselves off from. Haushofer said

"that every nation is primarily concerned with the task of maintaining itself in a hostile environment and since its very existence depends on the possession of an adequate space then the preservation and protection of that space should determine its policies. If the space has grown too small then it has to be expanded"

Thus as can be seen Karl Haushofer advocated the use of geographical facts for the justification of an aggressive foreign policy - **Liberalismus**

The person at the fore of this field is undoubtedly Sir Halford Mackinder and the longevity of his Heartland Theory is more than ample proof of this domination of geopolitical thinking by Mackinder. When Mackinder recognised that Britain had to reimpose tariffs to protect herself from Germany's growing strength he changed from the Liberal to the Conservative party. Mackinder completed the final draft of his theory in 1943 after publishing the first draft in 1904, called "The Geographical Pivot of History".

Basically Mackinder sees central Asia as the pivot area where land based powers had controlled and dominated Asian and European history. This pivot area was not accessible to a sea power and was surrounded by an Inner Crescent in mainland Asia and Europe. This was surrounded by an Outer Crescent in the form of islands and continents beyond Eurasia. In 1919 he redefines Asia as the Heartland which is larger than the original pivot area. Mackinder said "Britain is more vulnerable than before to the rise of a continental power".

He did not want to see Germany allying with Russia as then Germany would control the pivot area, Mackinder in a famous comment says

"who rules East Europe, commands the Heartland
who rules the heartland, commands the world island"

who rules the world island commands the world"

According to Mackinder the world island is Eurasia plus Africa. Now having examined the pre World War II theories which have had such a profound effect on the geopolitics of our modern world and also passed some facets of structure down to the post war theories we will now examine geopolitics in the nuclear age.

Nickolas Spykman perceived the post war needs of America and described them as neutralising the heartlands power and he said that the emphasis and key area is the Inner Crescent which he renamed the "Rimland". He saw that with control of the Rimland the Heartlands power would be neutralized. After World War II the world was divided into two superpowers America [sea based] and Russia [land based] controlling the Heartland or the fortress as it has been since called. A "cold war" of attrition resulted between these two superpowers as neither wanted the other to control the world island but were, unable to do anything to foil the other. America and Russia realising these facts turned their attention to what Spykman called the Rimland. America said it was thwarting the tide of Soviet onslaught for global domination while Russia stated that it was only protecting its own territory with what ever means it could.

If one were to reflect back, since 1945 the Inner Crescent or Rimland has been the world's stage for various clashes between these two superpowers. For example Vietnam and Korean wars in Asia, many major and minor conflicts in Africa eg. Chad and Angola and various struggles in the Middle East eg. Lebanon and Iran/Iraq wars. While early on the Russians overran the Eastern block countries e.g. Poland and more recently Afghanistan. To demonstrate how important the Rimland is to the Americans we have three anti-Soviet movements in this area;

1. N.A.T.O.- Europe.
2. C.E.N.T.O.-West Asia.
3. S.E.A.T.O.-East Asia

All the above movements are aimed at preventing Soviet domination of the world island. Walters argues that nuclear deterrence would never have developed but for Mackinder's Heartland theory. Walters sees that once America recognised that Russia held the superior geographical strategic position it was then that nuclear weapons became a necessary salvation for them and the rest of the Western World. Saul Cohen looks and questions the whole policy of nuclear deterrence and containment and then looks at its implications for the world especially when he says that the whole of Eurasia is a potential battlefield for the two superpowers. The Geostrategic regions on the globe are functionally defined and express the interrelations of a large part of the world. The geopolitical regions of the world tend to be more homogeneous in terms of culture, economics and politics and is a subdivision of the geostrategic regions. When Cohen compiled this information he then drew up his world model. He sees one of the two superpowers controlling various parts of the world, America dominating the trade dependent maritime world and Russia dominating the continental world. Cohen also points out two distinctive regions that he calls "shatter belts". He sees the two superpowers trying to gain domination of these two important regions, ie.

1. Middle East, 2. South East Asia

These two regions are strategically important to both America and Russia. There is a lack of political unity in these regions and it is here that containment must be practiced. Since 1982 three more superpowers are emerging

1. Japan, 2. China, 3. Europe.

As well as this, there are what are termed second order powers, there are 27 of these eg. Brazil, India. this results in a multiple world with overlapping regions of interest. Traditional approaches see Russia as a land based power threat to the traditional dominance of sea based powers. Russia however sees its position as a defensive one and this is based on the fact that Russia has been invaded twice since 1917. Thus, Russia sees itself as the protector of the socialist world that is surrounded by a hostile capitalist world. The most important notion of the Soviet model is that of two world systems operating contemporaneously - a capitalist one and a socialist one. Charles Levinson [1980] has provided a wealth of evidence to expose what he calls "the ideological facade of both the U.S. and the U.S.S.R." by 1977 1/3 of USSR imports and 1/4 of exports were with western countries. Although it is economic politics which make the news it is the crucial economic transactions which steer international politics. Thus Levinson saw the Soviet block countries become integrated into the world economy, this is marked by Pepsi Colas deal to sell cola in Russia and to market Vodka in the West e.g. France!! Gunter Frank charts the rapid rise in East-West trade specially since the death of Stalin in 1954. Wallerstein places the Soviet Union and its counterparts in the semi periphery states. He sees the Soviet Union as an intermediate position between West and South in terms of trade. Russia is not just another semi-periphery state and it represents a challenge to capitalism. Russia is truly a super power and during its period of hegemony it has challenged the U.S. on all dimensions.

As it is they are at a stand off but the trade arrangements are good and as such the future geopolitics in years to come could be different.

Neil. A. Gordon.

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Mayo: The Industrial Success Story of the 1970's.

In 1983, G.N.P. rose by 9.5%, exports increased by 10.5% and imports increased by 13.5%. Inflation stood at 19%, and the balance of payments deficit had increased to £86 M. from 56 M. in 1972.

Despite the high inflation figure the economy was in relatively good shape and the employment prospects for subsequent years looked promising. During the 1973 - 1983 period the I.D.A. succeeded in creating new manufacturing jobs in Mayo which exceeded the numbers lost through the closure of the more traditional industries in the 1970s. During the 1970s, while some regions suffered a drop in the numbers in manufacturing employment, County Mayo witnessed a rapid increase in the numbers employed in manufacturing industry. The I.D.A. achieved 80% of its target for creating new jobs in the West region. (This region comprises of the counties of Galway and Mayo.) Industrial employment, expressed as a percentage of the workforce in Mayo increased from 9.7% in 1971, to 17.8% in 1981. The number of persons employed in the agricultural sector continued to decline over the period.

The entry of Ireland into the European Economic Community (E.E.C.) in 1973, and the concerted and sustained efforts of the County Development Team and the I.D.A. in encouraging new industry to locate in Mayo, transformed the economic base of the county in the 1970s. In 1973 there were 3,258 people employed in the manufacturing sector in Mayo. By 1980 this figure had risen to 6,520. This net growth in the manufacturing base compares favourably with the national growth figures. The spectacular growth rate does however, conceal the change that took place in the components of manufacturing employment and industry, over this period. It also disguises the closures and contractions in indigenous plants that occurred in the 1970s, as the home market became more open to competition from E.E.C. competitors, and from cheaper imported goods.

The growth in the manufacturing sector in the county during the 1970s is illustrated by the following table:

Grant Expenditure by the I.D.A. in Mayo, 1973 - 1983.

Year	Fixed Asset Investment	Grant Commitment	No. of Projects	Jobs Potential
1983	5628400	2677767	76	
1982	10247471	4562219	110	499
1981	9219881	10693816	112	851
1980	7317308	4286668	68	728
1979	8099401	3394939	51	556
1978	6818798	2589307	39	386
1977	1340115	549305	18	161
1976	10308158	5393000	24	1434
1975	843029	306180	11	120
1974	54982657	10414574	14	1975
1973	2125201	814715	11	843

Source; I.D.A. Statistics.

The high 'Jobs, Potential' figure recorded for 1974 and 1976, reflect the decisions of Travenol and Asahi to set up manufacturing plant in the county. Indeed Mayo owes much of its manufacturing growth in the 1970s to these multinational corporations. Firms from the U.S.A. have contributed substantially to this growth. In 1981 76% of overseas firms located in the county came from America.

The first major multinational to set up a manufacturing base in the county was Travenol, who established a base in Castlebar in 1973. (See Map) At peak production, Travenol employed over 1000 people in its Mayo plants. (In 1977 the company set up two additional plants in Swinford (250 jobs) and in Belmullet (c.150 jobs)). Also in 1973, The Shamrock Forge and Tool Company set up a plant in Ballina employing c.40 people. In 1975, Halal Meat Packers Ltd., established a meat processing plant in Ballyhaunis to slaughter beef and lamb for the Middle East market. The company currently employs c.400 people. The table below lists details of the major multinationals that set up manufacturing plant in the county in the 1973 - 1981 period:

Multinational Corporations that Established Manufacturing Plant in Mayo, 1973 - 1981.

Year	Company	No. Employed	Products
1973	Travenol	1200 (max)	Medical Care products
1973	S.F.T.C.	40	Hand Tools
1975	Halal	400	Meat Processing
1976	Hollister	400	Plastic Medical Pdts.
1977	Bluebell	50	Casual Clothing
1977	Asahi	520	Synthetic Fibres
1978	Allergan	300	Optic Cleaning Lotion
1979	Farah	50	Casual Clothing
1980	N. Feather	110	Continental Quilts

Source; Compiled from I.D.A. Statistics.

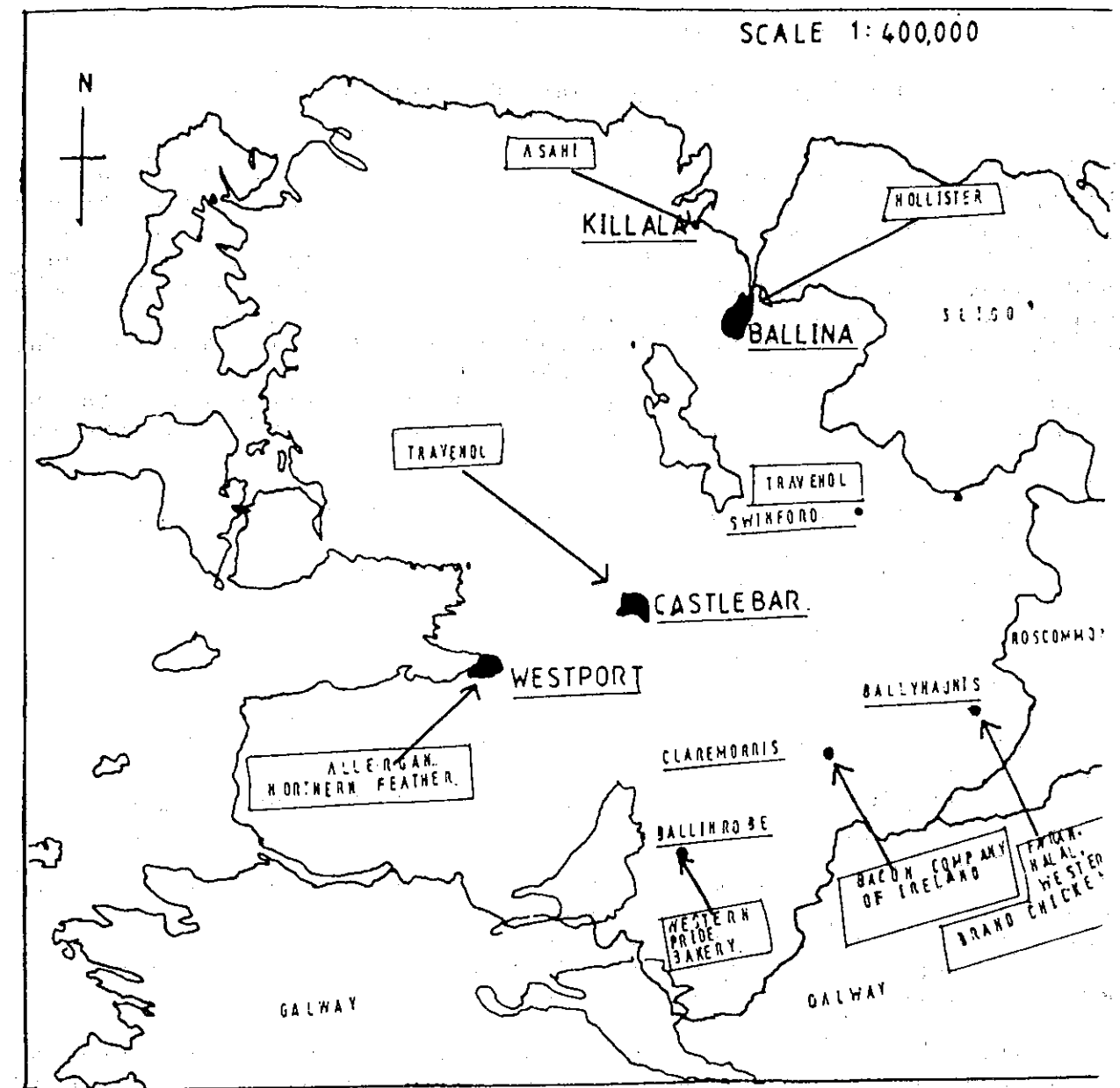
S.F.T.C., refers to the Shamrock Forge and Tool Company

N. Feather., refers to Northern Feather.

The important role of foreign firms in job creation is most apparent in the West region and especially in County Mayo. The proportion of foreign controlled manufacturing employment, expressed as a percentage of total manufacturing employment was 48.3% in 1981 in the West region, second only to the Mid-West region, which includes Shannon Airport industrial estate. In County Mayo, the breakdown between Irish and Overseas companies is as follows:

MAP

location of large firms in mayo



Components of Manufacturing Firms in Mayo in 1981.

Component	No.	Employment	%	Ave. no. Jobs per Firm.
Irish	180	2454	46	14
Overseas	19	2892	54	153
Total	199	5352	100	27

Source; Data supplied by Mayo Copunty Dvelopment Team.

It is evident that overseas firms contributed substantially to the industrialisation of Mayo in the 1970s. Multinational corporations such as Asahi (textiles), Trevenol (health care), Allergan (optic cleansing solutions) and Halal (meat processing), have become household names throughout the county. These firms have provided jobs for people who otherwise would have emigrated to other countries seeking employment, as happened in the 1950s and early 1960s. The above table also displays the difference in size between Overseas firms and Irish owned firms. In general, Overseas firms tend to be larger in scale and few in number vis a vis their Irish counterparts. The following table shows this trend clearly:

Size and Ownership of Grant Aided Manufacturing Industry In Mayo, December 1983.

Nos.	Emp.	Category	I.S.P.	I.M.P.	M.N.C.	M.N.C. +
1 - 5	V. Small	54				
5 - 20	Small	75	2		1	
20 - 50	Medium	26			2	
50 - 100	Big	7	2		1	
100 - 400	Large	2	1		3	2
400 +	Ext. Large				1	1

Source; Data supplied by Mayo County Development Team.

M.N.C.+, denotes a multinational corporation with more than one plant in the country. M.N.C. denotes a multinational corporation with one plant in the country. I.M.P. denotes an Irish multi branch company. I.S.P. denotes an Irish single plant company.

It is hardly surprising therefore, that the largest manufacturing plants in the county are owned by multinational corporations. Their substantial contribution to manufacturing employment in County Mayo is evident from the above table.

The manufacturing sector in County Mayo is by three categories; Chemicals, Metals and Engineering and Food. This proved very fortuitous for the county, as these sectors showed the greatest growth and ability to provide jobs in the 1970s. Nationally the Metals and Engineering sector (ranked #1 in Mayo, in employment terms), topped the categories of 'New Openings' and 'Expansions' Over the 1973 - 1981 period, and contributed a net 15,198 new manufacturing jobs to the country. The Chemicals sector recorded impressive growth over this period. Nationally they rank # 2 in respect of net jobs created. Mayo benefitted from the strong performance of this sector, having twice the national average of chemical industries concentrated within

the county.

There can be little doubt that the industrial success of Mayo vis a vis the rest of the country in the 1970s, was due in part to the nature of the components of the counties manufacturing sector. Judicious selection of targetted sectors of manufacturing by the I.D.A. and the County Development Team, ensured that the industrial climate in the county remained healthy throughout the 1970s.

It was this specific sectorial concentration of manufacturing employment, that insulated County Mayo from the worst effects of the recessions that griped the Western World in the 1970s. The following table illustrates the national rates of openings and closures in manufacturing industry over the 1973 - 1981 period. The low rate of closure in the Chemicals and Metals / Engineering sectors help in understanding how Mayo fared so well, in terms of sustaining and increasing employment in the manufacturing sector, in the 1970s:

Closure Rates of Manufacturing Sectors, 1973 - 1981.

Category	Openings	Closures	Rates of Closures..(x)
Food	151	26	17.2
Textiles	103	21	20.4
Clothing/ Footwear	108	25	23.1
Wood/ Furniture	313	26	8.3
Paper/ Printing	79	12	15.2
Chemicals		6	9.1
Glass/ Cement	132	19	14.4
Metals/ Engineering	712	88	12.4
Others	222	47	21.2
Total	1886	270	

Source; P.N. O Farrell (1984). Components of Manufacturing Employment and Change in Ireland, 1973 - 1981, page 169.

(X); Rates of Closure are expressed as a percentage of new openings over the 1973 - 1981 period.

I have already suggested in this article, that due to the nature of manufacturing industry in the West region and in Mayo, the county emerged relatively undamaged from the worst effects of the recessions in the 1970s, and it gained substantially in terms of net jobs created in the 1973 - 1981 period. Of the 11,089 net new jobs created nationally over this period, the West region accounted for 6806 (or 61%) of these. The following table shows how well the West region performed vis a vis the other I.D.A. regions:

Changes in Manufacturing Employment by Region, 1973-1981

Region..New Openings..Expansions..Closures..Contractions..

No of No of No of No of No of No of No of No of No of No of

Firms Jobs.. Firms Jobs.. Firms Jobs..Firms Jobs..

Donegal..84..2143...48..1130...37..1160...76...785...

N.West..75..1825...43..757...20..308...46...684...

West...175..5101...136..4656...104..2077...142...874...

M.West..199..5830...115..3098...69..3554...113...3168...

S.West..282..8078...179..4743...118..3656...259...6534...

S.East..243..7532...189..4542...107..3985...246...2441...

East...601..15601...589..11558...N/A..24174...737...17317...

N.East..190..4996...109..2079...102..4161...124...2945...

M.Land..198..6488...118..2024...82..1705...132...1564...

Irl. 2047..57594...1526..34587...--..44780...1875...36312...

 Source; P.N. O Farrell {1984}. 'Components of
 -----Manufacturing Change in Ireland.' Urban Studies, 21

Based on the above table the net change in employment in the regions is as follows:

Donegal.....	+ 1,328.
N.West.....	+ 1,590.
West.....	+ 6,806.
M.West.....	+ 2,206.
S.West.....	+ 2,631.
S.East.....	+ 5,648.
East.....	- 14,332.
N.East.....	- 31.
M.Land.....	+ 5,243.

Ireland.....	+ 11,089.

 Source; Compiled from Table 12 data.

It is evident from the above tables that the West region was the star performer in respect of net job gains in the 1970s. As part of the West region (county Galway makes up the remainder of this region), Mayo benefitted from the growth that occurred in the 1973 - 1981 period.

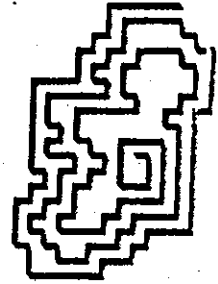
Shane Mc Guire.

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All unacknowledged quotations are taken from the Annual Reports of the Industrial Development Authority, 1973 - 1984.

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