

MILIEU 1992



Geography Society
St. Patrick's College
Maynooth.

LOOKING BACK AT THE GEOGRAPHICAL YEAR : THE AUDITOR'S REPORT

On behalf of the geography society and the editorial staff I would like to welcome you to this year's Milieu. Back last October, while we were returning for another year of geographical sustenance, everything seemed to be shrinking and diminishing; the former Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Charlie Haughey's popularity, etc. Happily the Geography Department bucked the trend, as the new year saw a new addition to it; Dr. Paul Gibson, a northerner (thus adding to the considerable northern flavour of the department) renowned for his knowledge of geology, and his excellent tutorials (thanks for the cheque Paul). On behalf of the Society's members I would like belatedly to extend a hearty welcome to Paul, and wish him many years of success and satisfaction here in Maynooth.

The start of the Society's year was a most entertaining one when on a Tuesday evening in mid October Proinsias Breathnach gave the Society's first talk, in what is now very much a tradition, where he discussed the nature and content of Fieldtrips. As usual the talk was brim-full of humour, and the audience were rolling in the aisles (or at least underneath the seats of Theatre 2). Sadly Proinsias could not resist the temptation to apply his "undying wit" to rather unwarranted slides of the auditor. (Now I know why John Sweeney and Dennis Pringle asked me to pose underneath the Mannequin Pis!) As far as I know this was the first event held by any society this year; we were so fast off the starting blocks that other societies were screaming for a steroids test.

Fair's Day for the society proved to be a most salubrious one. By various means, all of which, of course, were totally above board, the society attained a membership of over 400. This membership increase was reflected in a capitation increase of £150 when the capitation figures finally came out.

November brought John Were from Uganda, who gave a lecture to the society on "Economic Integration in South East Africa". This was an interesting lecture, and of benefit not just to students in First Year or those doing the African Honours option course, but also to those of us doing the Third Year Western European course, who could draw parallels with issues brought up in the lecture, and those involved in European integration. The lecture was very well attended. Also during this month students from Maynooth attended the 2 day planning conference in Dublin, which discussed the Customs House development and paralleled it with similar development in Belfast, while other students attended the week long environmental conference in U.C.D.

On December 3rd Dr. Cecil Houston addressed a large attendance in Rhetoric, which included the First Secretary of the Canadian Embassy, giving a talk for the society with a novel title: "Quebec society; extinct or distinct". This dealt with population and geographical change in Quebec, and also touched on factors, such as preservation of its French language and culture, which could lead to it deciding to secede from the Canadian Federation later this year. This talk, accompanied by slides, went down well with the gathering, who also appreciated Dr. Houston's humorous style. A cheese and wine reception capped an enjoyable evening. In January Dr. Lovemore Zinyama arrived to spend a month in Maynooth as guest lecturer. The society was honoured by three interesting lectures given by Dr. Zinyama during his stay, all of which challenged our previous opinions on development problems in Africa. In the first of these lectures Dr. Zinyama showed how some forms of aid were not helping development in Africa,

and how some forms involving loans were actually hindering development process, especially when African governments had to pay large proportions of their foreign currency in paying interest on these loans. His second lecture saw him assessing the role tourism was, and was not, playing in aiding development. His final lecture, which was also the inaugural lecture of the society, dealt with the homelands in South Africa. He explained how they developed, and discussed some of the problems they faced, especially the geographical one of having parts of their territory unconsolidated, and actually being in the form of islands within South Africa. The lecture was followed by a reception, which was also to prove a chance to say goodbye to the affable Dr. Zinyama, who was leaving for Zimbabwe later that week. As a token of gratitude from the department he was presented, by Professor Smyth, with a book on Ireland.

In February a large group from Maynooth comprising of lecturers and students went to Trinity for the annual GSI Joint Societies Lecture, to which we contributed £50 of the costs. The talk was given by Dr. Chris Caseldine from the University of Exeter who spoke on the theme "Environmental change in Iceland: past, present, and future". An excellent lecture was enjoyed by all of us, even those of us with limited capability in this field!

Afterwards we all enjoyed a cheese and wine reception hosted by the Trinity geography society, except of course those who had to drive the cars back to Maynooth.

The A.G.M. of the society will be held on Wednesday 22nd April in Rhetoric. I would urge students in first and second year to put yourselves forward for positions in the society, be it auditor, vice president, secretary, treasurer, PRO, or committee member. We would like to have representation from both years on next year's committee. Nominations, with a proposer and seconder, can be given to me (c/o the Students Union if you don't meet me) or in to the postgrad room in 36 Middle Rhetoric.

Finally I would like to thank our editor, Brian Daly, for all his work, and an excellent job, in editing Milieu for the second year on the trot. Also the postgraduates Ann, Colm and Sarah, for their help in putting this magazine together, as well as all those who so generously submitted articles. Of course I would like to thank you the reader for buying Milieu! I would like to thank the geography department for their interest during the year, especially those who helped provide lecturers for the society. Also thanks to all of you who attended our meetings. I would like to thank also those I may have carelessly omitted in my wishes of gratitude. Last, but not least, I would like to thank my fellow committee members for their hard work and dedication throughout the year.

Best wishes for the rest of the academic year and all that may follow in the years after.

ADRIAN KAVANAGH

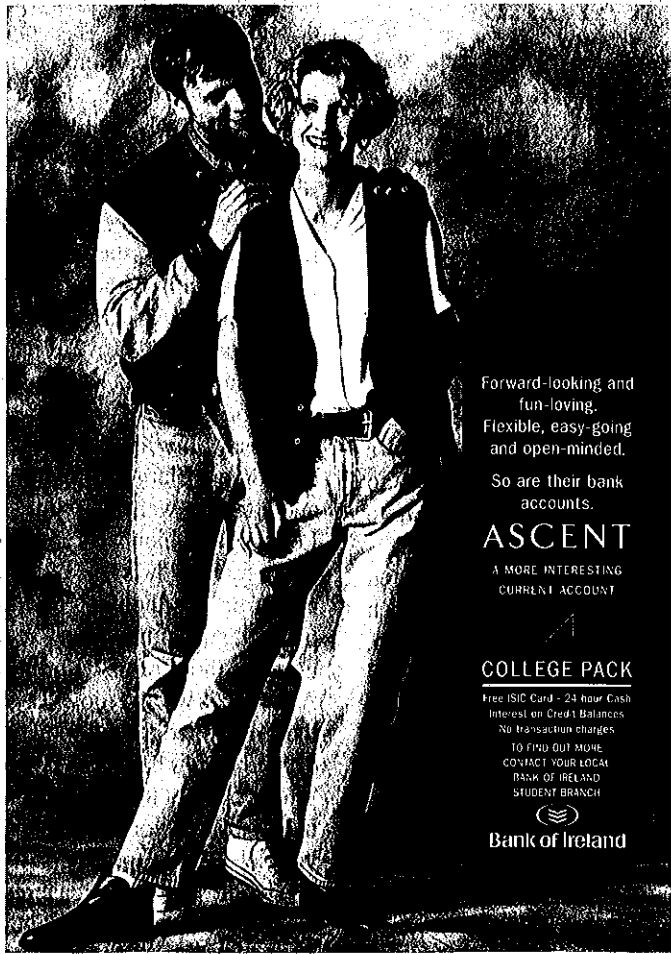
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EDITORIAL

GEOGRAPHY IN THE POST-WALL WORLD

Back in 1982 the subtitle of Milieu was 'A Search for Relevance'. The then editor argued that geography was gradually acquiring a new raison d'être based upon our subjects increasing desire to address social issues and problems. Such stirrings were it seems grounded on "a new and more fruitful mode of analysis . . . that encapsulated a definite value stance" (Milieu 1982 page 1). The outcome of this change of focus, argued the editor, was best exemplified by the rise of Radical Marxist Geography.

A decade later all has changed. Not only has geography failed to find its 'relevance' but the present editor cannot even make the sort of confident prediction about geography's future, that my counterpart ten years back, did. The inability of the present editor to make a similar definitive statement on the future of geography is 'inspired' by the present intellectual climate of confusion that surrounds all critical thought. This present disorder is in part a result of the rapidly changing world political scene where the previous binary divisions of East/West, NATO/Warsaw Pact and Socialist/Capitalist have now been replaced with an infinitely more complicated world order. With the erosion of this binary, black or white framework (neatly symbolized by the collapse of the Berlin Wall) comes intellectual chaos as we try and make sense of our new, but more elaborate world.

Thus for example in the pre-Wall days a general division could be established between those on the left of the political spectrum and those on the right. Within this simplified scheme, left wingers were generally seen as the good guys whilst those on the right felt constantly under siege suddenly the east disintegrate and the utopian goal of a socialist society disappeared. Market led economies and neo-classical economics became popular again as the Adam Smith values of the right replaced the left and Marx. This should have resulted in the overriding dominance of the right, but the legacy of Thatcher and Regan and the now going disillusionment in the former Soviet empire with the market, only served to deepen confusion by shattering

the obvious limitations imposed by pre-Wall binary thinking.

It is into this sort of vacuum, created by the decline of such dualistic concepts as left and right, that the present editor finds himself located. Given this perceived milieu, this writer believes that the future of geography lies not in a search for a definitive value stance, but rests instead with an attempt to infuse our discipline with a sense of plurality or toleration. Instead of searching for the best, or most legitimate, mode of analysis geographers should be prepared (on the basis of uncertainty and subjective interpretation) to treat all perspectives equally - to abandon and reject the previous search for totalizing ideologies.

This denial of privilege to any particular point of view will undoubtedly cause greatest distress to those who believe that their ideology is a liberating force. Hence the ideals of Political Correctness (Marxism without economics) which, for example, dismisses the idea of classical literature as the product of Dead White Men and which argues for a multicultural approach in intellectual pursuits, will along with feminist beliefs, probably suffer most in the future. Believing that they hold the moral high ground and that their mission in life is to liberate. These philosophies have increasingly being accused of establishing a counter-tyranny of silence and exclusion, of creating a new McCarthyism based upon a new censorship code. The underlying dogmatism in these visions was perhaps tolerable in the old binary world where the identification of good or bad, right or left, was a relatively straight forward job. However in the more complex, post-Wall world, the erosion of these old world dictatorial attitudes will occur as we gradually realize that no one belief is superior to another - that the moral highground is not fixed indefinitely. It is because of the need to move away from the dogmatism of past ideologies that the future of geography will hopefully not lie in the acquisition of a definite value stance.



POOR IRELAND - A GEOGRAPHICAL INEVITABILITY?

by Brian Phelan, 3rd Arts

Many people will remember Brian Lenihan's assertion that emigration is inevitable in Ireland, that the country simply cannot support all the people that it produces. Whether fully thought out or not, his remarks revealed an attitude which is often heard expressed, that Ireland is poor, by virtue of our lack of resources, our peripherality, the size of our population and so on. It is nobody's fault, it is just the way it is and we should just get on with it. Many of these excuses imply that it is Geography that is to blame. We cannot change this so the depressing conclusion is that we are poor and will remain so. Lenihan's attitude has recently been echoed in the proposals of the Minister for Labour to set up FAS offices in other EC countries to assist in the recruitment of Irish people abroad.

Is Ireland Really Poor?

Is Ireland not a relatively rich country, now on the verge of full integration into the largest, richest market in the world, the European Community? The following table shows GNP per capita for seven countries. Though GNP per capita is a crude measurement of a country's wealth, as it takes no account of the distribution of wealth within the country, it does give an indication of the productive power of a country:

COUNTRY	GNP PER CAPITA (US\$) 1985
USA	16,400
UK	8,390
IRELAND	4,840
SPAIN	4,360
MEXICO	2,080
INDIA	250
KENYA	65

(Source: Congood 1991:13)

On this scale, per capita, Ireland produces a fraction of the wealth of the USA and about 60% of the wealth of the UK. We produce about the same as Spain, but infinitely more than Kenya or India. Indeed, on a scale of rich to poor, Ireland has been ranked as the 25th richest state in the world (Congood 1991:166).

On the other hand, poverty does not have to result in mass starvation in order to be keenly felt. Some current figures for Ireland:

- Unemployment 20%
- Emigration 30,000 p.a.

(Source: Congood 1991:5)

It is also estimated that *one third* of the population is living below the poverty line (Congood 1991:168). Other important factors are our high foreign debt and our small industrial base.

Ireland is clearly not as poor as the countries of the Third World, but we do not make it as equals with the "First World" countries in terms of income, economic power, or in terms of "economic, political, social and cultural independence, seen by some as the

major qualities of a developed country (Congood 1991:8). So we can conclude, that relative to our neighbours, we are poor. Now, is this a geographical inevitability?

Resources

As already stated, Ireland is sometimes seen as being poor in terms of natural resources. We have little coal and no oil. Our forests have been cleared - by 1920 less than 1% of the land was under forest (Walsh et al 1980:175). But agriculture is our biggest industry, engaging 25% of the workforce directly and another 25% indirectly through food processing and support services (Walsh et al 1980:172). Ireland's climate is particularly suited to agriculture, and much of our land is top quality.

"Irish soil, even if often growing 'just as little as it is physically possible for the land to grow under an Irish sky' in the caustic phrase of a New Zealand consultant in 1949, counts among the more fertile soils of Europe" (Lee, 1989:523).

As an island, washed by the North Atlantic Drift, the ocean is a resource available to us, which has been sadly under-used in the past, and which is now dominated by the fishing fleets of other countries. In 1973, the value of the Irish catch was only one twelfth of the value of the catch of Denmark (Walsh et al 1980:177). According to Professor Lee "if Irish fishermen cannot compete with (foreign fishermen) it is not because the fish have chosen to boycott them" (1989:523).

We have large peat resources, which until recently generated one quarter of our electricity (Walsh et al 1980:191). So, while lacking the coal and iron resources which were vital to the kick-off of the British Industrial Revolution, we have an abundance of other natural resources, which are, or could be, the bases for native industry. As Professor Lee puts it, "Nature, it must be concluded, has not been conspicuously niggardly towards Ireland". (1989:523)

Peripherality

That Ireland's peripheral position on the edge of Europe should be a valid reason for our economic state is patently false. Being an island off the coast of North-Western Europe was no impediment to our neighbour, Britain, in attaining economic and political power. The sea was the main means of trading and communication until the advent of rail, air and improved road transport. Other peripheral countries such as Norway, Finland and Iceland have not been unduly limited by their geographical positions. Ireland, 60 miles away from Britain, has excellent access to a very large market.

Population

Do we produce more people than we can support, as Brian Lenihan's argument went? Before the famine, there were eight million people living on the island, albeit mostly in poverty, as opposed to a combined population today, North and South, of approximately 5 million. Ireland is sparsely populated. J.J. Lee says that "the only countries with densities below the South (the Republic of Ireland), Finland, Sweden and Norway, have huge areas of uninhabitable land. Their real density is far higher than their recorded density" (1989:511).

No arguments about resources, population or peripherality stand up under examination as explanations for Ireland's economic position. To explain this, it is necessary to look at Ireland's history, and principally at our experience as a colony.

Colonialism

The purpose of a colony is to provide resources for the "mother country", to buy her goods, thus providing a market for her industries, in general to be oriented to increasing the economic wealth of the imperial country. Development of native industry which would compete with that of the mother country is discouraged.

This was the situation in which Ireland found itself. According to P.Healy "the failure of the 1798 Rebellion to establish an independent capitalist Ireland meant the continuation of colonial domination and economic exploitation...(which) has continued to the present day" (1983:1). The Irish bourgeoisie missed the "historical boat" in this way. The failure to achieve independence and the resulting partition settlement, cut off the industrial North-East of the country from the rest of the country, which was predominantly agricultural, distorting the economy of both states. The resulting agricultural sector of the Southern State was unable to develop because of the British "cheap food policy". The native industrial sector was tiny, which meant that the new state apparatus (civil service, public sector etc.) ate up much of the small amount of resources available (Healy 1983:1).

Healy's argument continues that the "Economic War" of the 1930's was mild compared to what was needed in order to encourage native industry. The new economic turn taken in 1958, following the "Whitaker Report", though it brought in foreign investment and led to increased living standards, in fact increased the exploitation of Ireland, by the exporting of profits, the taking of loans to finance the building of infrastructure, and by the direct payment of grants and incentives to foreign companies (Healy, 1983:pp2,3). The bubble burst with the 1973 Oil Crisis leaving the government unable to pay for current expenditure and forcing them into foreign borrowing and tax increases. This has led to the current foreign debt situation. Ray Crotty (1989:26,27) also sees the "Economic Miracle" of the Whitaker era as the root of the country's current indebtedness.

The net result has been "the subordination of the economy of the whole 32 countries to international capital" (Healy 1983:6). European integration will bring down remaining barriers to trade, investment and movement of capital. While providing opportunities to some Irish capitalists, this situation seems likely to entrench the relationship that Ireland has with international capital, and indeed, to increase the export of profits and the control of Irish industry by foreign interests. To compensate, EC subventions will have to increase to make up in part for the greater exploitation of the country. Sometimes, reasons other than history or geography are given for the relative poverty of Ireland, reasons which have a cultural basis. We have all heard statements such as: "we are lazy", "we lack a positive entrepreneurial spirit", "we begrudge the good fortune of others", "we don't speak enough foreign languages", "we have a national inferiority complex", or "there is a lack of a good work ethic in our society". Attempting to tackle these problems, real or imaginary, while ignoring the deeper causes of our situation, would be like building a house on shifting sands. We cannot afford to ignore Ireland's position in the structure of the world economy.

Conclusion

Ireland is not a Third World country, where the absolute poverty of many of the people is not comparable to the one-third of our

population living in relative poverty. But we are poor in relation to our neighbours. Explaining this situation through lack of resources, our geographical position and our birth rate can be shown to be false. Supposed disadvantages based on our culture are subsidiary to the main issue. In order to discover the roots of our economic ills, it is necessary to look at our history and, in particular, at our colonial past, which has brought us to the current situation of partition and dominance of the country by foreign capital. The single market, rather than improving the situation is likely to accentuate the domination of Ireland, in effect recolonising the country.

Any way forward?

No easy solutions appear evident. The brief look at our history given suggests that ending the domination by foreign capital is the key to an improvement. In this we are in the same situation as many 3rd World countries. Among the necessary measures would be immediate withdrawal from the EC, the repudiation of the foreign debt, prevention of the export of profits, and a polity of protectionism in order to build native industry.

Policies such as these would be likely to disrupt the activities of the existing class of Irish capitalists and would thus be unlikely to be implemented as long as the government is formed of parties representing their (i.e.. capitalist) interests. In addition, though this path of action does not directly address the matter of distribution of wealth inside the country, this is a question which would inevitably come up if such policies were adopted, further discouraging a capitalist supported government.

There would be other serious effects. Retaliation by individual governments and multilateral organisations such as the IMF, GATT and the EC in the form of, for example, trade sanctions and the refusal of credit, would be likely. Even military intervention would not be out of the question to "protect the interests" of individual countries.

This unpalatable scenario does not change the nature of the problem. The current economic strategy which includes European integration gives little cause for hope of improvement in the well being of the majority of Irish people. Those facing this situation - the working class, the unemployed, small farmers, PAYE earners, and others less well-off should find common cause with sections of the population that are experiencing similar problems, in Europe and every other continent, in order to devise a way forward.

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SEASONAL MIGRATION - THE DONEGAL EXPERIENCE

by Anne Keys, 3rd Arts

Donegal located on the Atlantic seaboard has a legacy of migration attached to the county and still has close connections with Scotland - the primary destination area for most migrants. The process of migration has become an institutionalised feature of existence for many inhabitants of the isolated coastal communities. From as far back as 1835 Donegal supplied 16 per thousand of its population as migratory workers. Within Donegal there were variations in migrant origins with North West Donegal contributing the most migrants from the county. In the South West, handloom weaving brought an alternative source of income deeming it unnecessary for people to migrate. Donegal as a home of season migrants increased dramatically throughout the 19th century. This trend was contrary to most other counties who experienced a downward turn in migration during this period. In 1841 temporary migration from Donegal was 27% of the Ulster total. This rose to 47% in 1880 and over 80% in 1910. The two most important unions supplying these migrants were Dunfanaghy and the Glenties.

The direction of movement from North West Donegal was to East Donegal - The Lagan - and to Scotland. The Rosses, Gweedore, Cloghaneely and the Glenties were areas most effected by this migratory movement. Seasonal migration was a response to a lack of employment and also the need to earn money in order to pay off family debts. The reasons why Donegal people had to migrate and the determinants of this migration is crucial to understanding why this movement became a lifeline for the communities of North West Donegal.

The physical environment described by Douglas as "harsh and uninviting" imposed real disadvantages upon the farmer in this area. The land is predominantly made up of large tracts of bogland and moorland leaving only small patches of land which could be utilised for arable purposes. The practice of subdividing the land was widespread. In 1851 the average arable acreage per holding had fallen to 2.3 acres. Agricultural practices were limited and based on two crops - potatoes and oats. With cultivable land so scarce, it posed many problems for people whose economy and livelihood was dependent on agriculture. Fishing offered an alternative source of employment but it was purely a seasonal occupation providing an unreliable source of income. Ireland experienced a steady population increase after 1800 and Donegal was no exception to this trend. The growth caused increased pressure on the already overworked arable land and on the economy.

The imbalance between economic, demographic and environmental conditions forced the farmer to find alternative source of income in order to support his family and pay off debts. People participated in seasonal migration to alleviate the worsening conditions in the North West. The movement was seen as a safety valve, for it reduced population pressure on the land and enabled families to produce a money income.

Migration from North West Donegal while it was a response to poor agricultural and economic conditions, it also depended on other determinants. The relative proximity to rich agricultural land in East Donegal and to the (Irish) ports of Derry and Belfast served as a major propellant. The question of transport or access to areas of employment was not an obstacle to movement for the harvest migrants. Before the coming of the railway line in Donegal migrants often walked journeys of up to fifty miles to reach the prosperous region in East Donegal. What really increased seasonal movement was the coming of the steamships which ensured the regular and dependable connections between Ireland and Scotland. The port of Derry formed the most important link to the harvesters travelling to Scotland. Competition between different steamlines facilitated the harvesters as fares were considerably reduced. The low fares and regular sailings provided the workers with a "Floating Bridge" by which they could cross to Scotland.

Seasonal migration from North West Donegal could not be described as selective. This movement drew migrants from all stages of the life cycle. Donegal was a nursery ground for migration children were reared as potential migrants and from an early age were sent to work in the Lagan. Scotland was the destination for older migrants.

While migration to Scotland was dominated by a seasonal movement for many it became a prelude to permanent migration. Conditions in Donegal rendered migrations a necessary and permanent aspect of people's way of life. The necessity to migrate to Scotland and England is portrayed by Ann O'Dowd when contrasting Irish migration to migration elsewhere

"While phrases such as 'mobility of labour' might have been used to describe the other European migrations - this was in Ireland but an euphemism for 'prospective starvation' (Spalpeens and the Tatie Hokers, Pg.254)

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THE ENIGMA OF THE SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF CARNSORE GRANDODIORITE ERRATICS

by Pascal Desmond

This is dedicated to all geography students who cannot understand why some people get excited about erratics.

"Complexity of geomorphic evolution is much more common than simplicity." (W.D. Thornbury, 1954)

The solid geology of Co. Wexford and its offshore periphery displays a wide range of rock types from many geological periods. There is a narrow band of volcanic rock from Campile extending in a northeasterly direction across the county to Tara Hill near Gorey. On either side of this volcanic band is the Ordovician Granite of the Wicklow hills and the Blackstairs Mountains while further to the southeast is Cambrian metamorphic rock including the quartzite peak at Forth Mountain. Wexford Harbour is not untypical of the estuaries of Ireland's major rivers - it is surrounded by Carboniferous rock formations.

The Granodiorite at Carnsore Point is bounded by Pre-Cambrian and Lower Palaeozoic (mostly metamorphic) rocks except for some Carboniferous Limestone on part of its Northerly and Southerly extremities under the sea. The Granodiorite was formerly considered to be contemporaneous with Leinster Granite, but as its shown by Gardiner and Ryan (1964) its characteristics differ from Leinster Granite. They contend that Leinster Granite is

"fine grained and firm, of a light grey colour, and contains the usual constituent minerals, potassium feldspar, quartz and the two micas, muscovite and biotite. (Carnsore Granodiorite) is red in colour coarse-textured, and contains two or three feldspars (the principal one being orthoclase), the two micas, as well as amphibole and quartz."

Furthermore, Leutwein, Sonet and Max (1973) suggest that the Granodiorite is "Cambrian in its absolute age of emplacement", while Leinster Granite displays the classic north-east to south-west Leinster Granite an age of some 380 million years. The Granodiorite also differs greatly from Saltees Granite which Max (1978) describes as "a fine to medium grained hypidiomorphic leucogranite." Phillips (1981) gives the Saltees Granite an age >900 million years. Thus, the Granodiorite mass, stretching from Tacumshane Lake to the Tuskar Rock area is quite distinct from both Leinster Granite and Saltees Granite. There is no evidence

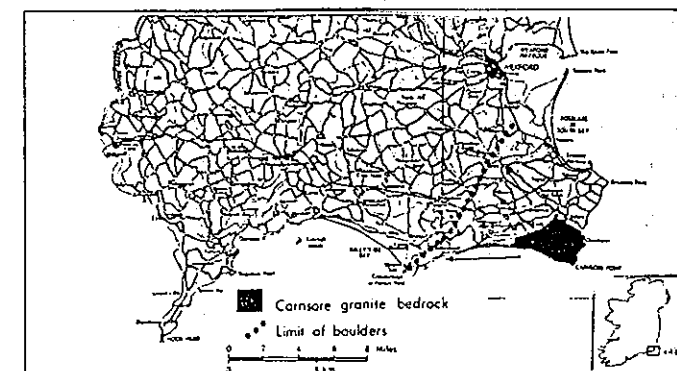


Fig. 1 Limit of distribution of large Carnsore Granodiorite boulders. (from Culleton, 1978a)

available to suggest that the batholith (c.21 km east-west and c.9 km north-south) is exposed at any location other than the Carnsore area. The implication is that it is the bedrock at Carnsore only. Structurally and locationally, therefore, Carnsore Granodiorite is unique. Co. Wexford has been affected in the past by at least two glaciations of varying origin and composition. These, respectively, are the Munsterian and Midlandian glacial advances. It is proposed to refer to the glacial phases primarily according to their origin, because there is much ongoing debate regarding the age of the types of till known to exist. For example, at Nemestown there is a well weathered, very old till covered by Irish Sea till, or it may be a not-so-very-old till covered by inland till, or it may be any combination of these!

Provided that there has been a minimum subsequent churning, it is relatively easy to distinguish between deposits from the Irish Sea and deposits from within Ireland by studying the erratics. Basically, tills of inland origin contain a higgledy-piggledy mixture of sandstone, Leinster Granite, and midlands limestone, while tills of Irish Sea origin are relatively uniform containing an amount of marine shell fragments and element of clay. It has been established that the glacial till deposits along the East Coast, and in places along the South coast of Ireland (as far West as Ballycotton Bay) were deposited by a glacier which originated in Scotland because erratics of a fine-grained Riebeckite Microgranite with a blue-green hue, which is unique to Ailsa Craig, have been found at various places along the coast. Ailsa Craig is a small island in the Firth of Clyde. This Irish Sea glacier (of Scottish origin) infringed on the land, where coasts were low, and, was restricted, where mountains reached the sea, but was given extra energy from local ice caps at these locations. Once it reached the Celtic Sea the ice fanned out not unlike a river delta and followed the coast to Cork.

There are a number of locations in Co. Wexford where the Irish Sea and inland glaciers met. These include Clogga, Co. Wicklow where there is a non calcareous till packed with local stones underneath the shelly calcareous Irish Sea till. This till is visible in places along the coast as far south as Cahore Point. The soil in the vicinity of Forth Mountain is derived from mixed drift of variable origin and age.

Most of the East coast of Co. Wexford has a layer of "Macamore" (big mud) soil extending some kilometres inland. It is a shelly calcareous, clay soil derived from the Irish Sea till, which is liable to waterlogging in a wet year and drought in a dry year. A major interruption in this deposit is the Screen Hills to the North of Wexford town. It appears to have been deposited by a Southward moving, decaying, glacier which was expanding Westwards (Carter and Orford, 1981). There are ten major phases of advance identifiable from Blackwater Harbour to Ballyduboy. Young (1780) wrote that "At the sixtieth (Irish) mile stone (from Dublin to Wexford), there are large sandy tracts covered with furze and fern." Davies and Stephens (1978) are somewhat kinder to glaciofluvial deposits around Screen:

"a wonderfully fresh topography of morainic ridges, kettle holes, kames, and a great mixture of limestone till and interbedded sands and gravels."

The age of the Macamore Member, which according to Syngé (1977) is >30m thick, is contentious. There is little doubt, fortunately, about the Screen Hills (<80 m O.d.) which tend to

suffer from a certain amount of drought, even in the wettest years. A kettle hole at Curracloe has been dated to c. 12020 years b.p. by Mitchell.

Among the more interesting erratics recorded by Culleton (1978b) are the large boulders of Carnsore Granodiorite (up to 2.0 m long) west and north of Carnsore Point, while Young (1780) wrote that "some of the fields are so covered with rocks". However, it is not just inland of Carnsore Point that erratics are found. Mitchell and Culleton also located boulders of the Granodiorite on the Saltee Islands.

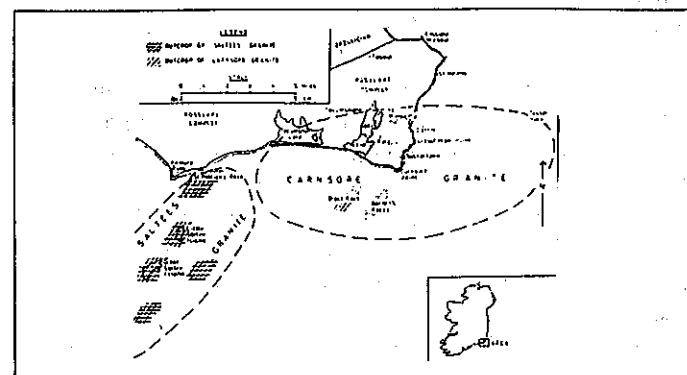


Fig. 2 the locations of the Saltees and Carnsore Granites. (from Max, 1978)

Culleton (1978a) records Ailsa Craig erratics and Carnsore Granodiorite in the Screen Hills. Indeed, this student found some samples of the Granodiorite some 20 m O.D. at Blackwater Harbour which is 24 km due north of Carnsore Point. Given that the Screen Hills are Midlandian deposits, it is likely that the Carnsore Granodiorite erratics were placed there during the Midlandian glaciation.

The home of Carnsore Granodiorite is a batholith found in the vicinity of Carnsore Point. The discovery of the Carnsore Granodiorite erratics at locations to the north and Northwest of the Batholith seem to defy logic because the glacier allegedly was moving southwards. Thus, the spatial distribution of these erratics is an enigma, "Why is this thus?" inquired Artemus Ward, "and what is the reason for this thusness?"

The known locations of the erratics are areas of glaciofluvial activity (the Screen Hills) and areas of till deposition with perhaps some glaciofluvial agitation (the area just north and west of Carnsore Point). This latter point is based on a roadside section at near Bargy Castle where the IQUA fieldtrip (Carter & Orford, 1981) recorded a gravel deposit containing 12% deposited by a southward flowing river from a glacier, given that it is in the course of an outwash channel. Even so, it does not explain how the erratics were moved northwards before being transported by a southward moving glaciofluvial river. Furthermore, it can explain the relocation of just a fraction of the erratics because the mode of deposition is inconsistent in the known locations.

Could a glacier have approached Carnsore from the south or southeast and thus, distributed the erratics to the northwest? It is a rather disturbing proposition because it completely reverses our knowledge of the Pleistocene. If such an event occurred, why did it not bring erratics from further south or southeast? Why Carnsore Granodiorite only? If such a local glacier existed, why was Forth Mountain (236 m O.D.) a nunatak, and not the source of this local glacier, given that it is the highest point in the

immediate vicinity? Where could such a glacier be based? Where could it have come from? Yet it could explain the deposition of the Screen Hills by a retreating ice-mass moving southwards, the implication being that it would have deposited the larger boulders on its journey northwards. In addition, the erratics get smaller the further away from the batholith one travels. This is consistent with our understanding of glacial systems, i.e. that heavy loads are transported over less distance than light loads. It is imaginative but wishful thinking.

The likelihood of the erratics being deposited by icebergs in a glaciomarine environment has been postulated. This likelihood is difficult to envisage for a number of reasons. It assumes that there was vast seasonal variation in the extent of the glacier or that the glacier melted faster in retreat than the icebergs which had been calved from its southern end. Another assumption is that sea level at the time of deposition was very much higher. This latter assumption is invalid because Fairbridge's record of eustatic sea level change shows sea levels >20 m O.D. at Blackwater Harbour and the mass of ice in an iceberg BELOW sea level, this likelihood must be discounted. Allied to this are the post-glacial submerged peat or forest deposits at Cahore Point, Raven Point, Rosslare and Carnsore Point (Davies & Stephens, 1978) and the Blackwater Bank (a possible Littletonian submerged coastline) which reinforce the assertion that sea level rose after the Midlandian Glaciation. Furthermore, Synge (1977) discounts any massive isotacy on the East Coast.

It is conceivable that the exposed bedrock may have been subject to freeze-thaw action during inclement weather before the Midlandian Glaciation, and that some Carnsore Granodiorite may have been transported northwards by marine processes at their fiercest. These were subsequently deposited by the Midlandian Glaciation. This is supported by the erratics from Blackwater Harbour which are smoothed and ellipsoidal in shape, as is characteristic of marine processing. However, many of the large erratics do not display former marine influence.

Some questions which must be answered before this mystery is solved include: How high was the pre-Midlandian sea level relative to Carnsore Point? Was Carnsore Point and island, or submerged? Where was the coast? Why was the glacier allegedly moving southwards, expanding westwards and simultaneously decaying? If it originated in Scotland, why was it not retreating back towards Scotland? How high was the glacier, relative to sea level at the time? Relative to today, it was <236 m but >80 m.

In conclusion, with the erratics being located by different glacial processes in different areas, it continues to puzzle humankind. The erratics are quite small and display features which are consistent with marine processes in the Screen Hills which is a glaciofluvial landscape deposited by a southward-moving, westward expanding, decaying glacier at the end of the Midlandian Glaciation. On the other hand, the erratics in the vicinity of Carnsore are large, display features that are uncharacteristic of marine processes, and are located in a zone of till deposition with a glaciofluvial influence.

Because of this variation between locations and processes, there cannot be a single solution. There must be a number of factors involved in the deposition of the erratics. These include marine, glacial and glaciofluvial processes. Which operations, and in what sequence, cannot be professed upon emphatically.

And still the ghost of Artemus Ward returns to haunt us: "Why is this thus, and what is the reason for this thusness?" The enigma remains with W.D. Thornbury who was wise in asserting that there is no easy solution.

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RELIGION AS A SOURCE OF POLITICAL CONFLICT

by John Joe Callaghan, 2nd Arts

Introduction

Most discerning observers tend to regard with a dubious detachment the assertion that military and political conflict can have religion as their source. There have been many political conflicts throughout the world down through the years that have been claimed as religious conflict, but on closer examination have been revealed as having territorial, economic and political motivations. So why then claim religion as a source of political conflict?

Firstly, the nature of religion must be examined. In general religion is held sacred in most societies throughout the world and people tend to draw what is important to them from their religion. Secondly, people of the one religion tend to live in the same social group, and when a group have as their unifying thread religion then they will become more aware of their diversity from other groups of different religions. People of the same religion often tend to do business with each other and to pool their resources giving each other credit etc, giving rise to the development of strong and powerful business communities out of a religious group, as in the case of the Jews in Europe in the 1930's. This tends to make people of other religions, isolated from this wealth and success, angry and jealous, with prejudice often developing, using the religious division as a focus for resentment. The wealth and success of one community is often achieved at what is perceived to be the expense of another, as in the case of the Israel state controlling Arab territory and resources in Palestine. Where two different religious communities are living side by side, yet segregated, animosity is often at its height, but usually only aggravated by striking economic, territorial or social inequalities.

Thus religion often tends to influence settlement patterns. As defined by F.W. Boal of Queens University;

"Religion is a strong factor in group formation even where residential segregation does not exist, as has been the case in a recent study of white Protestants, Roman Catholics and Mormons in the USA".

It is an unfortunate characteristic of religion that while it unites all within its sphere, it tends to isolate all outside it. The fact that religion influences group formation and internal economic cooperation means that it is not unreasonable to assume that people of one religion will be of similar political beliefs. The reason for this conjecture lies in the combination of the fundamentals of religious ideologies and the clever opportunism of religious groups. Realizing the importance of a religion to a people, politicians and religious groups have on numerous occasions appealed to the religious instincts of people, and have equated the fundamental importance of what these people hold most sacred with their own political ambitions, thus recruiting a loyal political following consolidated by the piety of religious righteousness.

Iran: - A well known example of religious involvement in political conflict is in the case of Iran. Up until 1979 Iran was ruled by the Shah, a close ally of the Americans. In 1979 the Islamic Revolution took place and the Shah was ousted and replaced by the Ayatollah Khomeini, an exiled religious leader who advocated a return to fundamental Moslem beliefs. He gathered a massive following, but his religious fervour did not develop in isolation. In the years of the Shah's rule there was rapid social and economic change. Increased urbanisation, industrialization and oil revenues led to the Iranian economy becoming very successful. However this prosperity seemed to bypass the majority of the people and was in the hands of an elite, many of whom were foreigners. (In 1979 there were more than 20,000 U.S. technicians, businessmen and military personnel in Iran and many Europeans besides). The Shah also suppressed most forms of opposition in the country.

This gave rise to a situation of acute discontent. The foreign influence in the accumulation of wealth and infiltration of cultural practices such as the introduction of alcohol and women wearing modern western dress, led to a suspicious hatred of the west, and a return to Moslem fundamentalism which was advocated by the Ayatollah Khomeini. People saw him as leading them from deprivation to prosperity, and thus supported his coming to power. He drew from Moslem religion and beliefs, ideals with which people could identify and use to strengthen their resolve and make them more determined in their goal to achieve economic equality. However had the Shah's administration distributed wealth equally and not created such a gulf of inequality and an atmosphere of discontent, it is doubtful that the Ayatollah's religious preachings would have had as big an impact as it did.

The Jewish People

For the last couple of millenia the Jews have wandered the face of the earth leading to a vast dislocation of their religion all over the world. After World War II they decided to settle in Palestine and call their new homeland Israel. By the very nature of their

diversity the Israelis have one common thread - their Jewish faith, though a minority of Israeli's are atheist or of other religions. By virtue of the Six-Day War and various other military conflicts, Israel has made substantial territorial gains including the Galilee mountains, the Golan Heights, the Gaza Strip, the Jordan Valley, the West Bank and Pithat Shalom. The West Bank was formerly the territory of Jordan and the Golan Heights belonged to Syria. Israel in 1978 invaded Lebanon, further deteriorating Arab-Israeli relations. The fact that the expansionist policies and the Jewish faith are synonymous, and that the majority of Arabs are Moslem, has led to the whole conflict being regarded as a Moslem-Jewish religious conflict. But as I have illustrated the conflict is really territorial, but is nonetheless fuelled by religious diversities.

The Jihad and The Gulf War

In the recent Gulf War, Western military and politicians saw it as imperative that Israel should not get involved, and the Iraqis did everything in their power to involve them, by for example, bombing their civilian populations, in order to provoke retaliation on their part. A retaliation on the part of the Israelis would have been the cue for Saddam Hussein literally to call a 'holy war' and thus bring into the conflict all the neighbours of Israel such as Syria, Lebanon and Jordan - enemies of Israel not because of religious differences, but because of past territorial disputes, though they would have fought on religious pretences because they could not abandon the doctrine that had supported them for so long. Israel did not retaliate and holy war could not be declared with any justification, even though Saddam did attempt to bring in the other Arab countries and would have succeeded had it been a matter between Iraq and the West. However, Iraq had invaded Kuwait which is an Arab nation and in essence the Gulf war was an inter-Arab war in which the West became involved. If there had been a holy war Israeli Jews would have been fighting on the same side as Egyptian Arabs, old enemies from the six day war in 1967.

Northern Ireland

Thus religious differences can be seen to be a mere front for more earthly grievances, such as money and land. In Northern Ireland, for example, the present day troubles arose from economic and political inequality and the consequent animosity these inequalities prompted. The Protestant community held the better jobs and the more powerful political positions; the Catholics, the lower level jobs and positions. The two groups came into confrontation because of these primary reasons and also because most Protestants are loyalists and most Catholics are nationalists and were also politically opposed. The animosity between both communities has been added to over the years by tit for tat killings and terrorist atrocities as well as tribalistic propaganda and indoctrination. The proof of this point lies in the example of peaceful co-existence between Catholics and Protestants in the Republic of Ireland, England and the USA.

Conclusion

I conclude therefore, that religion is not a source of political conflict but a convenient noble justification used to legitimize totally ignoble actions and a fuel for conflicts that are motivated by more base reasons such as money, territory and resources.

Religion is used to harness a group and steer them in a direction designated by political ambition. It is used as a convenient mouth-wash to counter the distasteful stench of ambition and greed.

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CLIMATE CHANGE: THE FUTURE OF IRISH AGRICULTURE

by Mary Collins

Climate change is now a major environmental concern and international action has been mobilised to tackle problems involved. In 1991, a study on the 'Implications for Ireland of Global Climate Change' was announced by the then Minister of the Environment Dr. Rory O'Hanlon.

The studies are based on the scientific analysis carried out by the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). They generally assumed an average annual increase in temperature of 2°C allied to a 5 to 10% increase in winter precipitation and a similar decrease in summer precipitation, and a mean sea-level rise of 18cm.

Agriculture

The agricultural production potential of Northern Europe would be enhanced if the climate were to change along the lines envisaged, Ireland would share in this advantage. The production options available would be increased, new crops could be cultivated, and the overall cost of agricultural production would be likely to be less than is the case at present.

Climate change would have a generally beneficial effect on grass growth. An increase in the national yield of about 20% might be expected due to higher average temperatures and changes in rainfall patterns, and a further increase of about 10% due to elevated levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide is possible. White clover yields and nitrogen fixation performance should also improve. Livestock farmers would be able to grow other forage crops like maize, fodder beet, and red clover, which would lead to the development of new grassland management systems, as well as to a significant reduction in nitrogen fertilizer use (See Figure 1).

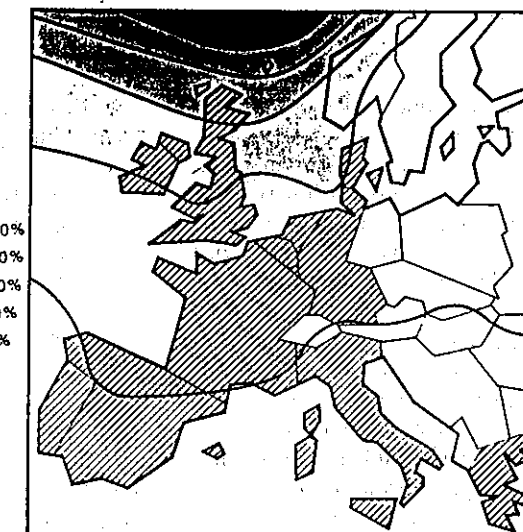
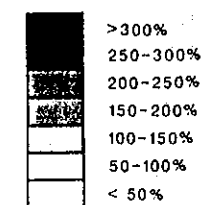


Fig 1: The map shows the percentage increase in the number of growing-season days as a result of a doubling of CO₂. The number of growing season degree days is calculated using a base temperature for growth of 60°C. The increase in suitable growing days would provide conditions for the introduction of new crops e.g., Soya, Maize, Sunflower.

There would be little increase in cereal yields. Yields of other tillage crops like sugar beet and potatoes, however could increase by up to 20%, although there are many uncertainties about the possible effects of climate change on these crops. Pests and weeds might pose a greater problem than at present. Arable crops currently grown predominantly in the south and midlands might find northern regions equally amenable in the new scenario, similarly the cultivation of a number of new crops such as maize, sunflower, and flax - could become viable over much of the south and southeast.

The changes envisaged would be likely to give Ireland a competitive advantage in the international arena since costs will tend to decrease. Ireland would need to exploit goods like fresh meat, cheese, yoghurts, fruit and vegetables whose prices varies little with increasing supply, rather than the 'staples' like cereals and potatoes. The increased demand for more 'healthy natural produced foods' should present opportunities in the market place.

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TARA MINES, NAVAN: AN OVERVIEW

by Declan Brassil, 3rd Arts

"For here there is no question of trying to keep warm on some fly blown tundra, or trying to keep cool in some sweaty mining camp. Working conditions are ideal. There is plenty of green grass and bags of good weather to go along with all those basic ingredients covered by that word *infrastructure* which means men, money, materials, transport, labour, power, housing, and to cap it all a capital city not thirty miles away." (Irish Times, 3.2.1972)

Navan is anomalous in the genre of mining for the simple reason that the town pre-dated the mine. The ore body was discovered in a well developed town as opposed to the typical ore strike in remote, underdeveloped regions. Readily available was a suitable labour supply (a large, well-educated indigenous population) power (already connected to the national grid), water (two perennial rivers within one mile of the mine site), transport (proximity to two major ports and a railroad spur within 800 feet of the ore body) business services in the adjacent town; residential facilities in Dublin; and, a favourable environmental milieu.

Typically mining exists for the sole purpose of the extraction and exploitation of mineral wealth. In such situations the existing community depends solely on the mine for its survival and few other industries support the community. Navan also differed in this regard as it had a strong industrial base before the advent of the mine. Furthermore, Navan does not fit the typical model of a mine insofar as its employees are dispersed and there is no specific mining community.

The mine is located within two miles of the centre of Navan to the north west, straddling the main transport arteries from Navan to Kells and Navan to Athboy. The mine structures occupy a 320 acre site in an area which is essentially rural residential. The structures are located close to the ore body to avail of both economic and environmental benefits; proximity allows operational efficiency, economy of construction and maintenance, and also allows for modification and expansion, whilst also facilitating the most "exacting environmental and aesthetic requirements" necessary in such a vast and environmentally volatile industry.

The estimated cost of bringing the mine into production was £85 million which included land acquisition, pre-production expenditures for explorations, contingency allowances and provisions for working capital. On completion of construction the actual cost was £87 million at 1976 prices which represented the greatest industrial investment and development in the history of the state. The financial return has been the equivalent of 2% of Ireland's GNP for most years since production commenced, and the mine is the single greatest user of electricity in the national grid.

Estimates as to the size of the ore body have increased since the first estimate in 1970. Then the ore body was estimated at 77 million tonnes by what were described by Tara as "independent geologists". They were however employed by a subsidiary of Northgate, the Tara parent company, to whom advances had been paid, thus calling this estimate into question. The ore content was composed of spalerite at 10.9% zinc content and galena with a lead content of 2.63% per tonne of ore. Subsequent estimates have gone above 80 million tonnes as Tara continue to "delineate the ore body and ... in addition to extraction ores have also added back reserves to out tonnage". Content figures have also fluctuated reaching a low in 1990 of 7.53% zinc and 1.85% lead. The initial production target was 288,000 tonnes of zinc and 55,000 tonnes of lead per annum but this was subsequently raised to 470,000 tonnes of metal, which necessitated the milling of 2.6 million tonnes of ore per annum. At this figure the Navan mine ranks as the largest of its type in Western Europe and among the top five in the world. At full production Tara Mines produces 25% of Europe's zinc and 10% of its lead, with reserves expected to last into the next century.

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CONFLICT IN EUROPE: YUGOSLAVIA & THE U.S.S.R.

by Adrian Kavanagh, 3rd Arts

Yugoslavia

As predicted in last year's MILIEU, a number of factors including contrasting ideologies (democratic, capitalist-orientated SLOVENIA and CROATIA versus totalitarian, communist SERBIA), the heavy burden of supporting the underdeveloped southern regions placed on the northern republics, ethnic rivalry, and of course nationalist impulses, have led to the break up of the 73 year old Yugoslavian federation. As feared this has come with outbreaks of civil war, firstly in Slovenia in July 1991, and following that, by a war in various parts of Croatia which has now lasted for over 7 months. There are also fears of war in BOSNIA between the Serb minority there and its independence oriented government. The situation in the 6 republics of the old Yugoslavia will now be looked at.

Macedonia: Has an ethnic and religious mix almost as rich as the old Federation itself, with considerable Albanian and Serb minorities. Along with Slovenia was one of only two (out of a possible four) republics declaring independence to meet European community requirements for recognition. Greek opposition, allied with a desire to maintain community unanimity at all costs, has however resulted in a decision to ignore Macedonia's independence. Greek opposition is based on the belief that the creation of an independent Macedonia will lead to problems with the Slav minority present in the north of Greece.

Bosnia: The largest ethnic group here are Bosnian Muslims, but large Serb and Croat minorities means this republic has the most dangerous ethnic mix. Skillful leadership has so far avoided civil war here, but failure to attain E.C. recognition of its declared independence, allied with the Serb minority's intention to set up their own republic here, or else unite with Serbia, could lead to the end of this peace. Serb anger at a forthcoming independence referendum could prove the spark that will eventually lead to the break-up of Bosnia, resulting in partition between Croatia and Serbia, and a rump Muslim enclave left in the middle around Sarajevo.

Slovenia: Declared independence on 25th July 1991 which led almost immediately to war with the Serb dominated Federation army. Slovenia, the most homogenous of the former Yugoslav republics, has no Serb minority, which has resulted in opposition within Serbia to the "perceived needless" death of their sons. This, along with a surprisingly strong and efficient Slovene resistance, has produced an uneasy ceasefire, and virtual conceding of independence to Slovenia. On 15th January 1992 Slovene independence was recognised by the E.C.

Serbia: The largest and most powerful republic of the old Yugoslavia has also seen ethnic strife with the suppression of resistance from the Albanian minority located around Kosovo. Following the recent E.C. decision Serbia has planned the relaunch of a "mini-Yugoslavia" without Slovenia and Croatia. With Bosnian and Macedonian independence aspirations however, the likely result will be an enlarged Serbia, comprising of present day Serbia and Montenegro, and maybe Serb areas in Bosnia Croatia.

Montenegro: Was itself independent before becoming part of Yugoslavia in 1919. Despite this tradition it has been the only republic, apart from Serbia, not to declare independence from Belgrade. This is because Montenegrins are ethnic kin of the Serbs, and hence are strong supporters of the Serb dominated federal government.

Croatia: Declared independence at the same time as Slovenia. Since then has been involved in a vicious war with the Federal Army, and with rebels from the Serb minority there. This has been due in part to both sides taking the opportunity to revenge atrocities inflicted on them by the other in World War II. The result: thousands dead, over a million people displaced, widespread damage including the levelling of Vukovar, and the shelling of Osijek and Dubrovnik. Due to the influence of Germany, homes of hundreds of thousands of Croatian immigrants, Croatia was recognised as independent by the E.C. on 15-1-92. This may be responsible for the success so far to the latest truce agreement, and at the moment preparations for a UN sponsored peace are being made. Presently The Federal Army and Serb rebels control large parts of Croatia; (Fig 1.) the Krajina region in the South West, and area to the south of Zagreb, and Western Slavonia in the east, even though the population here are predominantly Croat. It is doubtful whether independent Croatia will keep its existing borders.

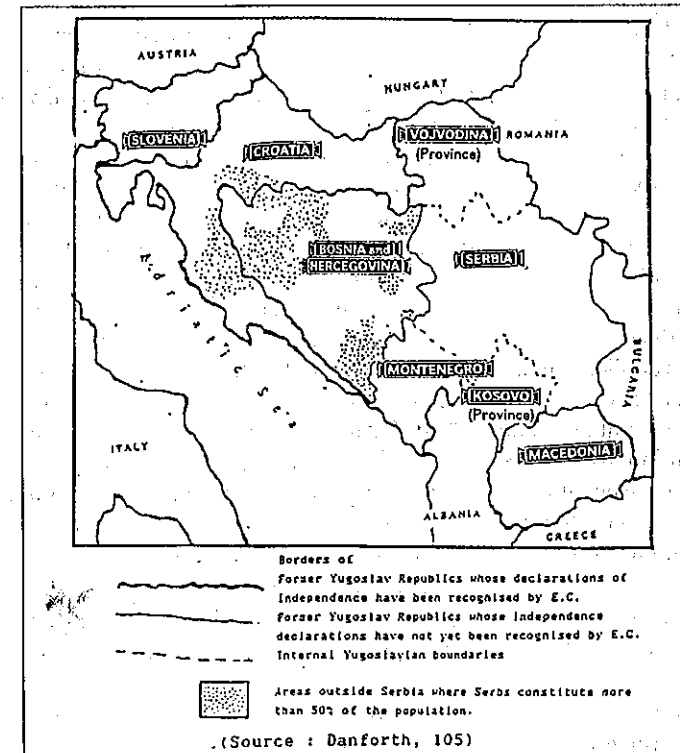


Fig. 1

Postscript: A month after the U.N. sponsored truce, and after the recognition of Slovenia and Croatia, a relative peace has held in Croatia, and war weary federal troops are likely to soon pull out. This would appear to vindicate the German driven intervention. As regards Krajina, the region with the highest proportion of Serbs in Croatia and which is at the moment controlled by Serb rebels, there appears to have developed a certain degree of intransigence between its hardline leader, Milan Babic, and Serbia's leadership, who wish to see Babic deposed due to his opposing the deployment of UN Forces there. The distancing of Serbia from Krajina may in the end result in the region accepting autonomy within Croatia instead of demanding full independence.

The Former Soviet Union

The failed coup in August 1991 was to spark off the break up of the Soviet Union. Almost immediately it brought about the recognised independence of the Baltic States, with most of the other states signalling their intention to follow likewise. The successful independence referendum in the Ukraine in December not only spelled the departure of the Soviet Union's second most important republic, but also led to the foundation, (between itself, Belorussia, and the Russian Federation) of the commonwealth of Independent States. This signalled a break of these key republics from the centralised power of the Union, and was to prove its end. All the remaining republics of the Soviet Union, except for Georgia which was to experience considerable civil upheaval, soon joined the CIS (Fig 2). Later in the month Mikhail Gorbachev announced his resignation as President of the Soviet Union, thus officially marking its end. The CIS is essentially an alliance of recognised independent states, whose "coordinating centre" will be Minsk in Belorussia. The shape the CIS will take is still very much to be determined. So far they have agreed to central control over nuclear weapons, a common currency, and have pledged coordination on economic and foreign policies. It however faces considerable problems. Firstly disputes between republics has arisen especially between Russia and the Ukraine, about control of the defense forces and the Black Sea fleet. Secondly a vicious conflict between Azeris and Armenians with regard to the Armenian dominated (90% of the population) enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh also poses a major problem: the enclave is land locked within Azerbaijan, who controls it, and opposes its secessionist demands on the grounds that the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan would be brought into question. This has led to ethnic strife which has left hundreds dead and many displaced, and which, despite interventions from Yeltsin and Jim Baker, has intensified in recent months. Thirdly the new commonwealth also faces problems of food supply, especially in Russia, where despite the freeing of prices to improve supply, and food aid from abroad, the problem still remains, probably due to bureaucratic hitches carried over from the old union.

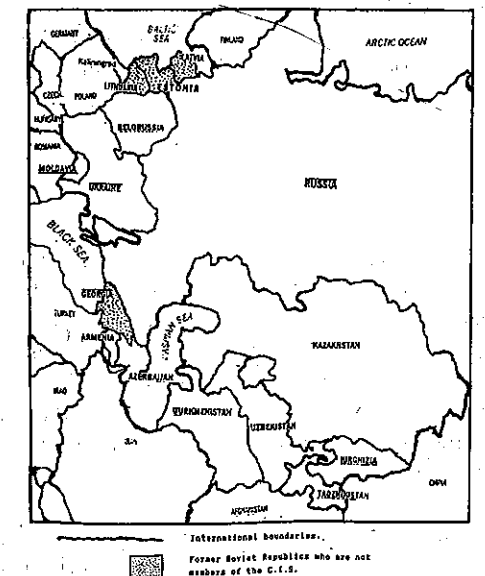


Fig. 2

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GEOGRAPHY AND POSTMODERNISM: The Perfect Panacea or Perpetual Pandemonium? by Brian Daly

Introduction

Behind the happy and confident external facade that the 'World is our Oyster', Geography is on the eve of yet another, but perhaps infinitely more powerful, revolution. This upheaval could potentially leave the discipline like much of the Berlin Wall or else could secure for us a place in an academic superleague. In the following account of Geography and Postmodernism it will be argued that the traditionally 'flakey' and 'soft' (doughnut) philosophical centre of our subject (neatly reflected in the definition that 'Geography is what Geographers do') simultaneously exposes our discipline to the final irreversible stage of its ongoing intellectual crisis, whilst paradoxically also offering a new scholarly paradise. The outcome depends on Geography's response to Postmodernism. Based however on Human Geography's passionate belief since the 1970's that the overriding concern in Geography is the need to maintain a sound spatial basis in the discipline, it is concluded that Postmodernism will probably result in perpetual pandemonia rather than signal the perfect panacea for our subject.

Postmodernism

So what is "Postmodernism"? In essence it's a philosophical rejection of the Enlightenment inspired modern mind, in which 'rational' and 'objective' human inquiry searches for universal truth and meaning. Firmly rooted in the belief that human Reason can unravel and explain the seemingly inexplicable, the modern mind took up the position once held by religion and its principal explanatory medium, theology.¹ However just as the post Enlightenment, modern rational logic rejected theology by substituting proof for the unexamined basis of tradition, dogma and religion, so too have the post modernists highlighted the inadequacies in the set of self constituted claims and criteria used by the modernists to justify the legitimacy of reason. Thus for example postmodernists would point to such modern beliefs, that humans can be objective in their observations or that there is a discoverable order amongst the chaos of society. With the growing realisation that no human can be impartial and objective, and that the previous discovered order was really only human perceived subjective order, came the shocking (postmodern)

recognition that the reference points for modern, reason based knowledge (in this case human objectiveness and the presence of order) have no foundations, and that empirical assertions driven by and framed within modern logic, can never in fact be proved.

By highlighting such inadequacies the aim of postmodernism is to deconstruct the artificial edifice created by the modern mentality. The consequences of such a DECONSTRUCTION, in the absence of a positive alternative philosophical code, is of course radical. In such a scenario, where reason is absent, society is restored to its original state, a state in which anything goes. In this world there is no bases for right or wrong, no place for truth. Nothing is better or worse, all is equal

"The postmodern mind seems to condemn everything, propose nothing. Demolition is the only job the postmodern mind seems to be good at. Deconstruction is the only construction it recognizes."²

Geography and Postmodernism

Given the Postmodernist deconstructive critique of the rational modern mind the implications of postmodernism for the social sciences are devastating. Built upon modern rationalist logic human geographers and their social science counterparts used models and positivist theoretical paradigms, which when backed up by the relevant statistical manipulations, purported to offer an understandable, coherent and most importantly of all, true simplification of reality. To the postmodernist mind, such projects, founded on a seriously flawed philosophical base are literally flattened. Real knowledge does not lie in an attempt to educate or explore through rationalist inquiry but rather rests more comfortably with the old saying that if you are not thoroughly confused you do not really understand. Only in a situation where diversity and confusion reigns and where nobody can subsequently hold the moral highground, or claim to hold the best perspective, (i.e. true equality) can modern inspired dogmatism be dismissed and real knowledge and understanding be unearthed. The application of this postmodernist ideal to Geography and its social science relatives is thus concerned not with the discovery of general laws and truths but aims instead to achieve a kind of continuous dialogue between alternative discourses and traditions. The aim is to achieve continuous (and equal) interaction rather than attempting to discover the most valid and best understanding of society. Under such conditions postmodernists strive for radical inter-disciplinary co-operation. The narrow and inadequate restraints imposed by subject boundaries in the social sciences are dismissed and replaced with openness and diversity.

In many ways human geography is ideally placed to meet such a postmodernist challenge. The disciplines soft philosophical centre which help promotes such a diversity of interest signals and already well established inter-disciplinary tradition in the subject. Unfortunately this very softness also means that there is no overall coherence in Geography's diversity leading in turn to a very mixed reaction amongst Geographers with regard to the merits or drawbacks of the disciplines variety of interests. To go down the postmodernist inter-disciplinary road would require the step of removing the modern rationalist logic which guides our subject and embrace instead the deconstructed relativism of postmodernism. Such a move would not only realign geography with the prevailing *avant garde* of social theory but, by introduction a definite purpose into Geography's philosophical vacuum, would perhaps (after an initial period of painful soul searching) also put to rest the intellectual crises in geography which has

forced the discipline to adopt such a defensive posture in the last twenty years. Thus rather than arguing as to whether Geography's diversity is the subjects saviour or achilles heel (which along with the spatial debate (see below) helps contribute to geographies intellectual crises) Geography could by 'simply' defining its already well established diversity within a postmodernist framework place itself at the cutting edge of a future postmodernist world. Already well experienced in the inter-disciplinary field, geography by arming itself with a postmodern purpose would be well equipped to tackle the next century.

The ability of Geography to derive such a perfect panacea from postmodernism seems however remote. Whilst geography has remained soft and somewhat pathless there is nonetheless one overriding concern in geographical research and teaching - the spatial perspective.

"The effort to meld social processes and spatial structures into a more sophisticated account of the world around us has dominated the work of many geographers over the past two decades."³

Given this constant search for a 'spatial fix' (motivated partly by the softness of geographies core and its subsequent need to establish a hard subject matter) it is perhaps not surprising that postmodernism is being used by some influential geographers, not as the base for developing a strong inter-disciplinary project, but instead as the vehicle through which space can acquire its supposedly rightful place at the helm of geography. The new postmodern 'philosophy' is being used by some geographers to reassert the old spatial ace. Thus for example Soja, one of geography's postmodern front runners, sees postmodern geographies primarily as 'The Reassertion of Space in Critical Social Theory.'⁴ Based on the writing of some notable social theorist (especially Anthony Giddens) Soja argues that the traditional geographical claim concerning the importance of the spatialisation of social theory can now, with the help of postmodernist ideas, be not merely asserted but demonstrated. Thus for Soja the "...Common project aimed at making modernity spatial marks...(the) postmodern restructuring of human geography."⁵

If Soja's is to become the dominant reaction amongst geographers to the post modern phenomenon then the future of Geography, based on what this author perceives as an inaccurate reading of the postmodern spirit will be confined to a state of perpetual pandemonia. Symptomatic of such an outcome is the 'spatial haggling' which has already arisen within (modern) geography with regard to Soja's vision.

"If much of the credit belongs to Giddens for showing sociologists that geographical space is at the heart of social theory we need to control our exuberance in the way we adopt his (and Soja's) vision of space."⁶

Whilst critical analysis will (and should) always follow any major initiative in a subjects development the sense of *deja vu* with regard to the above criticism vividly highlights the stale nature of the spatial perspective, of its ability to contribute nothing definite to our subject but the same old arguments regarding how we should define space. After approximately thirty years geography is still lost in space. A warped reading of

postmodernism will not only prolong the spatial sell by date but ensure that along with the 'US Enterprise' and its evergreen crew, Geography will replay dressed up old themes in a spatial limbo world.⁷

Reinforcing Pandemonia: Historical precedent and vested interests

Set against a background where geography has vigorously defended its belief in the spatial science, Soja's thesis is a purely logical development of a discipline which has entrenched itself in the dogmatism of spatiality. There is thus no reason to doubt that Soja's goal will not become the dominant one in the future of Geography. Besides this historical precedent vested interest could also encourage geography down the Soja type road. For example the embracement of a true postmodernist position would not only mean the removal of prized departmental boundaries but would also require that all lectures structured on the principle of modern reason (which is undoubtedly the majority) would have to be totally revamped.⁸ Not a happy prospect for any underpaid, overworked academic.

Conclusion

In summary the postmodern challenge can be seen to present geography with two options. One is the inter-disciplinary road. Although the present inter-disciplinary nature of our subject presents us with many problems, the adoption of a postmodern guiding system could overcome many of these difficulties. Together with the valuable experience which geographers have gained in dealing with inter-disciplinary problems, Postmodernism could thus act as the perfect panacea for geographies ills. Alternatively geographers by promoting an alternative vision of post-modernism can try and promote the spatial issue to a higher plane. Given historical precedent and vested interests this looks like the most likely outcome for geography. This it was argued will expose geography in the twenty first century to an intellectual wilderness.

1 Much of the following account of postmodernism is based upon;

Dear, M., 1988. 'The postmodern challenge: reconstructing human geography.'

Transactions of The Institute of British Geographers, 13: 262-274
Giddens, A., 1992. 'Uprooted signposts at Century's end.' *The Times Higher Educational Supplement*, January 17th pp 21-22

Rosneau, Pauline-Marie., 1992. *Post-Modernism and the Social Sciences*. Insights, Inroads, and Intrusions. (U.S.A.: Princeton University Press).

2 Bauman, Z., 1992 *Intimations of Postmodernity*. (London: Routledge) p ix

3 Gregory, D., and Urry, J., 1987. 'Social Relations and Spatial Structures.'

The Annals of the Association of American Geographers, 77 (2): 294-297. p.294

4 Soja, E., 1989 *Postmodern Geographies* The Reassertion of Space in Critical Social Theory, (U.K.: Verso)

5 Soja, E., 1987. 'The Postmodernization of Geography: A Review'

The Annals of the Association of American Geographers 77 (2): 289-292 p.292

6 Gregory, D., and Urry, J., 1987. *Social Relations and Spatial Relations*, p.296

7 Whilst space is arguably a legitimate focus of study, Soja's attempt to elevate space (via Giddens) to a higher plain in geography and critical social theory on the basis of his definition of postmodernism, seems dubious. For example 'hyper-space' is a 'post-modern term referring to the fact that our modern concepts of space are meaningless. Space doesn't act according to modern assumptions.....Everything is in a geographical flux, constantly and unpredictably shifting in space' (Roseneau Pauline-Marie., 1992. *Post-Modernism and the Social Sciences*, p.xii). The deconstruction of modern space would thus seem more closely aligned to postmodernism than an attempt to advocate priority for (modern) space. See M. Dear's review of Soja's work in Dear, M., 1990 'Postmodern Geographies: The Reassertion of Space in Critical Social Theory', *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 80 (4): 649-654

8 Although 'higgledy-piggledy' and 'willynilly' would undoubtedly feature prominently in the postmodern vocabulary!



ER(R)ATIC?
OR
EROTIC?



LEMMINGS!

CARTON FOR EVERYONE: A heritage proposal for Dublin and Ireland by Mary Collins, 3rd Arts

Introduction

Kildare County Council has recently granted planning permission for a comprehensive leisure development in Carton which will radically alter the 18th century house and demesne in catering for a market that looks dangerously close to saturation. The following proposal contains alternative suggestions for the conservation and development of Carton, which would not destroy this important part of our heritage. In keeping with Bord Fáilte's Operational Programme for Tourism it is proposed that there is substantial E.C. structural funding for a heritage theme development that will have wide tourist appeal and significant local and regional economic impacts.

Following the current proposal by Kildare County Council to grant permission for a development application at Carton as a material contravention of the County Development Plan, the Carton Committee has made concrete suggestions to them on practical alternatives to the proposals now under consideration. The Carton Committee is an action group established ten years ago with the objective of preserving Carton House and Demesne. Below this objective is outlined. But first let us briefly review the recent consortium plan passed by Kildare County Council.

Proposal for Carton

A consortium composed of Gleneagles (owned by Guinness Enterprises), the owners of Carton and McInerneys has been established to put forward an elaborate proposal for the development of Carton as an exclusive tourism and leisure facility. The application is for "restoration and material alterations to listed buildings, outhouses, stables, yards, structures and interiors at Carton House and Demesne, change of use of Carton House from residential to hotel with twelve bedrooms, a new four storey extension to kitchen, courtyard containing 189 bedrooms and other hotel facilities, conference centre, boiler house with chimney stack, two 18 hole championship golf courses, golf clubhouse, golf academy and practice ground, change of use and material alterations of boat house and shell cottage to form bar/dining facilities, 188 residential units, car parking areas, temporary event car parking, 9 new bridge, maintenance building and associated septic tank, alterations to existing entrances at Dunboyne and Dublin Roads".

However, the County Development Plan (1985) clearly states its policy on Carton as a major area of high amenity in the region. The Council clearly states it will protect items of architectural, artistic, historical and scientific heritage in their environmental settings. At present the policy states that all developments not related to agriculture are prohibited.

Importance of Carton

Carton may be considered a resource of tremendous value for the country and region. It is described by a number of authorities as being of national and international significance. It may be evaluated from the points of view of its historical and heritage significance, as well as its regional amenity and educational importance to Dublin and Ireland. In the words of the Environment Impact Statement (EIS) of the developers, Carton "still remains a remarkably intact mansion house surrounded by an

even more impressive Irish great house, including interior designs and landscape gardening". Carton has major advantages as a potential regional and heritage park. It is central to a large number of expanding urban centers. In 1981, there were in excess of 200,000 people within 10 miles of the demesne. More importantly Carton is ideally located to intercept the tourist traffic travelling West. The Western by-pass also makes North Kildare and Carton readily accessible to tourists travelling from Dublin to the North and South. In conjunction with the plan to provide an interpretive centre in Maynooth for the castle regions of Ireland, this would boost the regional importance of Carton and its local environment which can be prominently signposted from the major motorways.

Carton contains a range of architectural woodland, parkland and aesthetic assets which make a major contribution to the amenities of this west city hinterland, which is otherwise deficient in open spaces and parks. With its extensive open space Carton has a wide range of multi-functional possibilities which would make it a parkland of paramount significance in the region. Carton as a theme park would fit in much more readily with the concept of a tourism centre than would its development as an exclusive golf and leisure centre with residences scattered through the demesne.

In summary therefore, the future development of Carton as a Heritage Theme park in conjunction with the development of Maynooth as a theme town can fulfill many of the objectives of the Operational Programme for Tourism and can qualify for substantial funding under the ERDF. It would have the effect of substantially increasing the tourism population in the region by linking it into a regional theme of 18th century landscaped and would intercept a large segment of the westward moving tourist population, which would ultimately significantly increase the downstream economic impact in terms of local jobs and consumer spending.

These proposals need a strong commitment from the State a commitment founded on a refusal to allow the heritage of Carton to be lost forever for short term gain for the benefit of a few. It must be based on a commitment to a longer term future which sees Carton as a legacy for everyone in Ireland and in Europe. The state and local authorities in Kildare, Dublin and Meath, must therefore, under take the custodial ownership of Cartons heritage.

GEOGRAPHY MAN

It was the year 2042, and as had been predicted in 1992, geography in Maynooth had flourished. Rhetoric house had been long given over to geography by now, and the Vidal de la Blanche library of spatial studies was celebrating its 10th anniversary. Little wonder then that the head of the department in 2042 gave a note on her desk little more attention than a stroke of her pen.

Some weeks later the head saw some strange men heading towards her with calculators, set-squares, and compasses.

"Sorry", said she, "the Maths department's not here. You've got to go back into the town. It's in that flat above Barry's."

"I am afraid you misunderstand mam" said the leader of this group". Let me introduce ourselves. We are the Irish school of revivalist logical positivists, and have come here to hold our annual conference, dealing this year with the important topic, "Can Geography be expressed better via the great circle distance

model rather than the straight line one?". I am sure you hold very strong views on this fundamental topic, which is why you agreed to host the conference" said he, holding out the aforementioned note.

There was little the head could do except grin a welcome, and trudge back to her office bemoaning the fact that Maynooth was to play host to a group of gothic geographers. She was therefore in little mood to hear her secretary tell her that a group of geographers had asked the use of Rhetoric for a conference the following week. "No way!", she hissed.

"But you'd like this group. They're the..."

"I don't care if they're the kiss-a-baby and hug-a-granny group of geographers. No way, full stop! I've had my fill of conferences". The head's trepidation was not unwarranted, as the positivists began to show that they had more interest in Maynooth than just their conference centre, instead seeing it as the first step towards recreating a quantitative geography empire. First they started giving subtle hints that a course on Central Place Theory would be a good idea, followed by the suggestion that an extra 3 hours of practicals might be called for, and finally demanding that essays on "The ethnic geography of Toronto" that didn't begin with a hypothesis and then set out to prove it with a set of tests (preferably using non parametric techniques), should be given 0% on the spot.

A week had gone by, and things had got so desperate that the entire geography department were barricaded into the head's office, with the positivists outside. Earlier attempts to quell them by mentioning the name "Vidal de la Blanche" had met with dramatic success, until the positivists discovered another use for tracing paper: car plugs. Now they were congregating in the corridor, chanting "2 graphs good, 4 maps bad."

"What are they demanding now?", asked the head.

"I think...I think they're demanding the entire first year geography course be given over to Euclidean geometry, Calculus, and Computer Algorithms.", said a bemused colleague.

"Maybe that wouldn't be such a bad idea" said a ghostly voice from Maynooth's past.

No sooner had the entire department turned around to see where this was coming from, than another sound was heard, this a crashing one from the corridor. Amidst mumbles of "the supernatural brigade are certainly out in force today" the staff opened the door, and looking out saw the positivists on the ground rolling in agony, with a mysterious caped figure standing above.

"I am the Geography Man" he said solemnly.

"My goodness, Geography Man has thrashed them all" said one shocked lecturer.

"No" growled the department head, "his appalling dark green and bright purple ensemble has them in convulsions."

"Too true" gasped a positivist, "I haven't seen anything so hilarious since the last regional geography lecture I attended". In

order to avoid on all out brawl between the different factions Geography Man went on. "I have come through time..." said he.

"This totally messes up Hartshorne's cross sectional approach", said one wit. "Through time", G.M. continued "from the golden ages of the early nineties, where I am...er was a final year undergraduate geography student. I have come through time to bring you a message to solve your rancouring, drawing on the geographical wisdom of that time. Firstly the positivists must remember that geography is at its strongest where it is not dominated by one area of research and academic approach, but instead draws on the strength of its varied traditions. Be satisfied with the course on 'Locational Analysis' which the department head is going to bestow on you".

As the positivists, as well as the head (albeit in a bemused fashion), nodded agreement, G.M. went on. "Now head, this other conference which you refused to host, I think..."

"Don't mention conferences to me!"

"But...oh well never mind. Next I must say I have noticed that no course on agricultural geography is taught. Now back in 1992 this was one of my favourites, and I appeal to you reintroduce it".

"Geography Man", said the head patiently, "you may not know this but the entire agriculture of Ireland now, as well as of Europe, is carried on in two large warehouses 6km north of Castlebar".

"Yeuch!" exclaimed G.M. in an uncharacteristic loss of composure. Controlling himself he continued "I see. Well despite this, my final point is to have lots of varied courses. Remember geography is a discipline of synthesis."

"Before you leave Geography Man" said one of the lecturers, "can I ask you an important question: who are you?"

"Oh very well" said G.M., preparing to return to 1992. "My name is...."

Too late was it then for the head to regret refusing the environmental geographers permission to hold their conference in Maynooth, to discuss measures to prevent the oncoming catastrophe, as a combination of severe ozone depletion, unprecedented global warming, and overtly high levels of air pollution, brought an end to Mother Earth at that exact point in time. You, dearest readers, will surely draw your own moral from this tale, but maybe one could be offered to you, and that is:

"Bah! Now the world's ended, we'll never know who Geography Man is."

"THE GEO - PEN"

FOOTNOTE: Geography students who may be unacquainted with certain figures mentioned in this piece (especially those in 3rd Hons!) are advised either to read.

A.Holt - Jensen: GEOGRAPHY: HISTORY AND CONCEPTS Paul Chapman Publishing Ltd, London - 1988

or alternatively discuss it with a 3rd Hons. student who'll be only too delighted to help.

Geography Society A.G.M.

The society's A.G.M. will be held on Wednesday 22nd April in Rhetoric, at which next year's committee are being chosen. Nominations for the positions of Auditor, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, P.R.O., and Committee Members are now being sought, and may be given with a proposer and seconder to Adrian Kavanagh c/o the Student's Union, or in at the postgrad room in 36, Middle Rhetoric. All interested parties are urged to seek these positions, so don't be shy! Other information regarding the A.G.M. will be posted on the geography noticeboard.

THE GERMAN FIELDTRIP 1991

Early last April I was amongst a group of 2nd and 3rd year students congregating at Dun Laoghaire, before embarking under the leadership of Dennis Pringle and John Sweeney on a journey: going where no Maynooth fieldtrip had gone before (i.e. Germany), on a quest to satisfy our thirst for geographical knowledge (and German beer). A 3 hour boat trip brought us to Hollyhead in the early hours of the morning, and a 8 hour journey through England then ensued, stopping en route at a "happy diner" on the motorway outside Birmingham for eats (at 4.00 am?), and to meet our bus driver for the fieldtrip, a genial fellow who would share our journey our drinks and our geographical inputs. Later in the morning we travelled to Calais by ferry, and then travelling via the industrial regions of north eastern France and southern Belgium, we headed for our base for the next 4 days, the Rheinhotel in Bad Salzig, located 20 km south of Koblenz, in the scenic Rhine gorge region. The following day, after some of us watched the traditional first communion parade in the village, we headed south through the gorge towards Mainz and Wiesbaden. En route Dennis regaled us with stories about each of the many castles which doited the hillslopes while John fixed in our minds the importance of south facing slopes for viticulture. After stopping for a while in the beautiful city of Wiesbaden, we headed back down the Rhine on the opposite bank. Rudesheim provided sustenance for us - will we ever forget its culinary delights? After the unforeseen lengthy stop there, we headed to the famous Lorreley, which has adorned many a geographical textbook. There legend tells us a siren was used to lure barges to crash into the rocks with her singing - surely it wasn't that bad! Fortunately she wasn't around, and we and the bus continued on our journey unharmed. Before heading back to Bad Salzig we stopped for a few minutes in Koblenz, at the confluence of the Rhine and the Moselle. The next day we headed north towards Bonn, passing the parliament buildings on the way. A 2 hour stay in the town enabled us to see famous buildings such as the town hall and the house in which Beethoven was born, to do some shopping (I just loved the plastic Helmut Kohl toy that squeaked), and to get a bite to eat. Next stop was Cologne, where we got a chance to see its world famous cathedral, and the we headed back to Bad Salzig along the opposite bank of the Rhine, stopping at the beautiful tourist spot of Konigswinter on the way. We headed up the Moselle the next day, where the many castles in the valley provided a rich store of legends for Dennis, while John discussed the rural economy of the region. At midday we arrived in Trier, possibly the oldest German city existing; being established by the

Romans about 15 BC, evidence of whom can be still seen in a series of impressive buildings dating from those times: the Porta Nigra, the amphitheatre, and the Romans' Bridge. Trier is also famous as being the birthplace of Karl Marx. The afternoon saw us journeying across the Eiffel Plateau on our way back to Koblenz. This was a marked contrast in scenery to the river valley landscape we had become accustomed to. The economy of the area was dominated by arable farming, as well as forestry which gave us an opportunity to study the effects of acid rain. We returned to the Rhine at Koblenz, and from there headed back for our last night in Bad Salzig. That evening saw some of us heading into the nearby village of Boppard ("the pearl of the Rhine"), in search of entertainment and an open pub, being entertained en route by Sean O'Reilly's legend involving a castle and some sheep.(???) The next day we said "auf wiedersehen" to Bad Salzig and Germany as we set out on the first leg of our return home, heading from there to Ostend. We stopped on the way in Brussels, taking the opportunity for a quick bite to eat and to see the city's many attractive features including the "Maison du Roi" and the "Mannequin - Pis". We left Brussels, passing the E.C. buildings on the way, and from there headed to Ostend, where we stayed overnight, and where some of us took the opportunity to discover the nightlife in the city. Paul and Ruairi's early morning rendition of their favourite tune "ha ha ha" (???) met a watery reception there. The next morning we left Ostend, and went to the beautiful city of Bruges, where some of the more crazier of us took the opportunity to walk up the rather high belfry, which overlooked the city's market place, giving us a wonderful view of the surrounding area and an acute attack of vertigo. From there we headed to Calais, stopping at a supermarket to stock up on duty free first, from where we headed by ferry to Dover, where we were frisked by customs. We then journeyed through the night through England and Wales, stopping en route at the aforementioned "Happy Diner" to bid a sad farewell to our driver, and arrived at Hollyhead in the early hours of the morning. From there we left for Dun Laoghaire, where we returned after nearly a week of sunshine to a typically wet Irish morning. We all then went our separate ways, filled I'm sure with thoughts of castles overlooking the Rhine, south facing slopes, our end of fieldtrip tune "Ostend" (to the tune of "Auberge"), and those big 2 litre glasses of German beer.

Thanks to John and Dennis for all the work they put into organising this enjoyable and memorable fieldtrip which has filled us all with a desire to return to see all these places once more some day.

"AN INNOCENT ABROAD"

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

What is the capital of Slovenia?

What country is on the southern shores of the Caspian Sea?

Which Irish county is the only one to have elected at least one Labour T.D. in every election since 1922?

Bogota is the capital of which South American country?

What North American city is celebrating its 350th anniversary this year?

JAPANESE MANUFACTURING INVESTMENT IN IRELAND

by Karen Cosgrove

In the 1950's, Ireland embarked on a campaign to attract overseas investment to the country. This move was prompted by the weakness of indigenous industry. Overseas industry was thus seen as the second best alternative to indigenous investment. The encouragement of overseas firms to Ireland has been the subject of many heated debates. Nonetheless overseas investors continue to be welcomed with open arms.

In march 1988 there were a mere 12 Japanese firms located in Ireland, but by 1992 the number had more than doubled (25). There has however been a slow down in investment especially after 1990, the peak year. This is partially explained by the emergence of Spain as an alternative location for Japanese investment.

The majority of Japanese companies are 100 percent Japanese owned, but the recent trend among Japanese investors is their participation in joint ventures with Irish, German and American firms.

The largest investment by a Japanese company in Ireland is the Asahi plant in Mayo, involving over £50 million in fixed asset investment. Other major capital investors include Plastronix, (Dublin) and Mitsui Dehman, (Cork). Whilst the average employment figure is 153 persons per site this disguises the extremes which occur. For example Sunicem Opto-Electronics employ six while Plastronix employs approximately 300. Japanese firms are generally small scale in terms of employment and in total contribute approximately 3-4% of the total 80,000 people employed in foreign-owned firms here in Ireland. In view of the capital and employment figures Japanese manufacturing enterprises in Ireland may be defined as small to medium sized.

Promotion by the IDA has concentrated on attracting electronic parts and component manufacturers to Ireland. Certainly Japanese investment has concentrated in this sector with 40% of all Japanese firms involved in this niche. The Japanese have tended to be conservative in their investment choices, secure in the knowledge that similar firms made it in Ireland. Recently, however the Japanese have diversified by investing in a joint venture with Beamish & Crawford (Cork), and in their involvement in a scallop farming technology transfer in Waterford.

Japanese investment is clustered usually around Dublin, and the South Western regions. For a long time Asahi was the only representation of Japanese investment in the West but in 1990 Manorhamilton became the location of a technology transfer project whilst Letterkenny became the site of a joint venture location. Japanese investment is regionally specific, favouring areas close to main transport arteries, due possibly to their external orientation. Japanese investment is sectorally specialised, regionally specific and characterised by low capital investment, exemplified even more by the new favouritism for joint ventures and technology transfers, and by small scale employment figures.

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LANGUAGE IN LIMBO

by *Kathleen Quinlan, 3rd Arts*

Often when writing or reading through an essay one becomes aware of re-occurring words, a stylistic problem which can be overcome through a hard-working imaginative effort or an easier thesaurus approach. On many occasions however it is difficult to avoid using specific words continuously, particularly when dealing with certain topics in an academic subject.

The example which prompted me to address this issue was the use of the words core and periphery, terms which are widely used not only in geography but also in economics and politics.

Within Ireland the East region, and Dublin in particular, is considered the core while the rest of Ireland is the periphery. In a European frame-work all of Ireland is in the periphery, while on a global scale Ireland is a core country. Surely it must be admitted that we have a limited vocabulary when we use shifting definitions of the same word. The ambiguity arising from this results in using the word 'periphery' to describe Ireland and also a country such as Chad which in 1984 had a per capita GNP of one hundred and ten U.S. dollars and which in terms of infrastructure, healthcare, and education is incomparable to Ireland. Unfortunately there are few acceptable words in the English language which help to convey levels of development, education, health or infrastructure. For information such as this we rely on tables and statistics which are often laborious to wade through. We do have alternative words for core and periphery; developed and less developed for example, first world and third world but these terms offer one division and do not help in explaining the diversity within countries not to mention between countries. First world and third world are coined words we use as alternatives to core and periphery. In 1981 the Brandt commission gave us new words for core and periphery with the words North and South. These terms give an impression of the spatial division of wealth on a global scale, but for the purpose of helping to describe the issue of diversity which I am addressing here are of no assistance. In 1984 Immanuel Wallerstein coined the word semi, a helpful term as it creates a new division which applies to countries such as Ireland who are well ahead of peripheral/less developed/poor countries but is straggling behind the core / advanced / rich countries.

The world bank offers five divisions for descriptions of development.

- INDUSTRIAL MARKET ECONOMIES - all of the members of the O.E.C.D. with the exception of Greece, Portugal and Turkey, which are included among middle-income countries.
- EAST-EUROPEAN NON-MARKET ECONOMIES

- HIGH INCOME OIL EXPORTERS
- MIDDLE INCOME DEVELOPING - with a 1984 GNP > U.S. \$400
- LOW INCOME DEVELOPING - with a 1984 GNP < U.S. \$400

This is a more comprehensive breakdown in that it recognises levels of industrial development, and differentiates between countries on the origin of wealth and political systems. Where circumstances change as in the case of East-European non market economies we can easily change the definition to former East-Europeans non market economies.

The world bank terms could be abbreviated to IME's, E.E.E.'s, H.I.O's, M.I.D.'s and L.I.D.'s and thus offer rich alternatives to core and periphery. Abbreviation of words does create a certain amount of jargon in a subject, which may be off-putting but 'jargon terms' which prove useful to become accepted terminology, examples in geography being NIC's and LDC's.

Contradiction and confusion are the ultimate result of the misuse of words. We live in a world where lies have been called 'inoperative statements', where in the gulf war terms such as 'friendly fire' and collateral damage' emerged, where the death of a patient has been called 'negative patient output' all euphemisms which conceal and distort the truth. We are reaching a stage where as James Thurber said 'almost everything can mean almost anything'. It is of primary importance that such a situation does not become a part of geography because where there is fuzzy language there is fuzzy thought, and we end up being unable to say what we mean.

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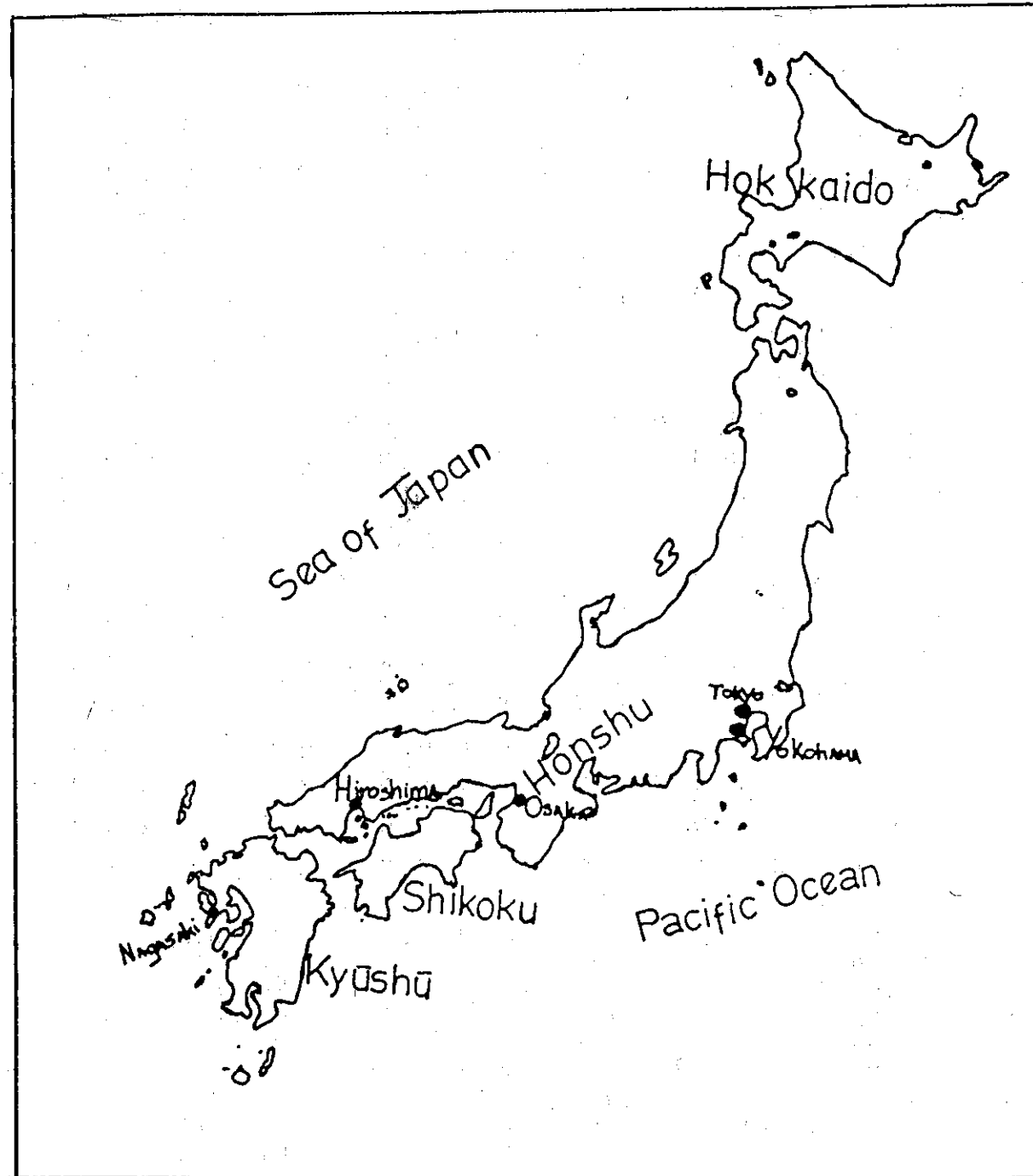
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| Italy | Yugoslavia | Poland |
| Czechoslovakia | Austria | Bulgaria |
| Switzerland | Iceland | Finland |
| Hungary | USSR | Monaco |
| Liechtenstein | San Marino | Andorra |

Find the 32 countries of Europe?

JAPAN

亂後三股上野國



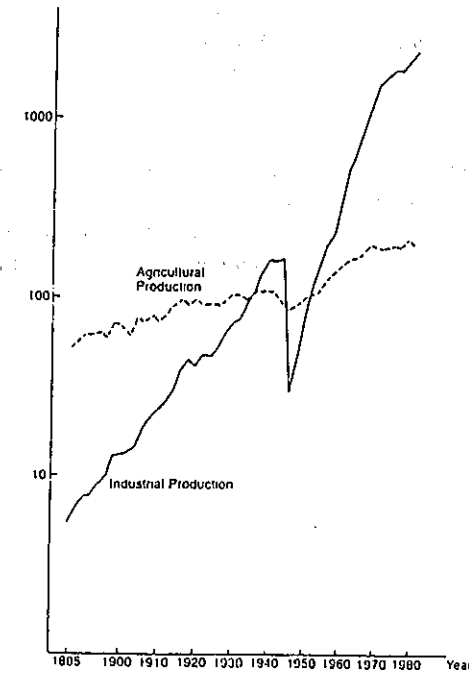
THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF JAPAN

by Marian Beirne, 1st Arts

Within the last forty years, Japan has become a major international power and has come to dominate a high portion of the world's economy.

Made up primarily of four main islands, Honshu, Hokkaido, Shikoku and Kyushu, these islands lie within a zone of crustal instability noted for its numerous earthquakes and volcanoes. Earthquakes are a frequent occurrence, with an average four seismic disturbances daily. With (or despite) limited natural resources, imported energy, large mountainous regions and on the periphery in terms of global economy, Japan has been transformed from a feudal country of the 19th century to the economic powerhouse of today, see Table 1. In the intervening years, it has seen virtual destruction following the Second World War, extreme militarism and a return to near pacifism.

Table 1.
Industrial and Agricultural Production Indexes (1934-36=100)



Source: Nakamura Takafusa, Economic Development of Modern Japan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Japan covers an area of about 377,682 square kilometres, 70% of which is uninhabited mountainous terrain. The population is 123.3 million, a density of 1,500 per square kilometre or 30 times that of Ireland (*Encyclopaedia Britannica* Vol, 12, p.876). The greatest density is in the south eastern coastal region including Tokyo, Osaka and Nagoya. The Japanese coast is noted for its length and for its role in the emergence of Japan as a leading fishing and maritime nation. No place in Japan is further than 75 miles from the sea.

For seven centuries, Japan was a feudal country until the arrival of Western traders in the mid-nineteenth century. In 1868, Emperor Meiji's government took the initiative to modernise Japan's society and economy. While behind in weaponry, shipbuilding, new sciences and technology, the Japanese were nonetheless convinced of their moral superiority. It was decided that the best step forward was the policy of combining "Western technology with Japanese Spirit". Japan's economic take off had

to be executed in the face of a lack of accumulated capital, untrained manpower, inadequate resources and a population that was large and dense. The Meiji government introduced reforms which included

- unification of the monetary and currency systems;
- the institution of land taxes to be paid in cash and not in kind;
- establishment of a National Bank Organisation;
- rapid development of the railway system;
- universal compulsory education; by 1900 95% of the Japanese population was literate; (Knox & Agnew:150)
- State investment was heavily established in highways, port facilities, shipbuilding and armaments;
- the formation of the "Zaibatsu" (industrial and financial companies).

Each zaibatsu was a cluster of companies in diversified industrial sectors owned by a single holding company. The largest of these were founded by the powerful Mitsui, Sumitome and Mitsubishi merchant families. However, large numbers of small businesses and cottage industries continued to thrive, producing retail goods such as textiles, ceramics and paper. They also produced goods for larger companies on a subcontractual bases. This can be thought of as the origins of the dual structure of Japan's economy.

After the turn of the century, tensions began to rise throughout Europe, resulting in a conflict of massive proportions know as the Great War, World War I. This had the effect of draining Europe of its economic potential and averting it almost exclusively towards the war effort. During this period, however, Japan was at peace. It reaped economic benefits due to the crisis in Europe. This boost to the Japanese economy through the supply of goods, particularly heavy machinery to the warring nations, gave it a very high economic growth rate which continued into the 1920's. However, the worldwide depression triggered by the U.S. Stock Market collapse in 1929, overwhelmed the domestic Japanese economy. However while many businesses were bankrupt a massive build up in military procurement (due to Japanese territorial expansion) quickly began to bolster the Japanese economy throughout the 1930's. By 1939, Japan had occupied Manchuria, set about a full scale war with China and attacked British colonies in the Far East. "They had become heavily committed to an industrial empire based on war." (Knox and Agnew, 1989: 151). Their military expansionism however went too far when they attacked Pearl Harbour on December 6, 1941. In the four years after the United States retaliated this attack, a devastating war was fought in the Pacific. The Americans brought the war to the Japanese mainland and many of its cities and factories were completely destroyed by bombing. The last two cities to be bombed were Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the consequent nuclear devastation brought about Japan's defeat and surrender.

After the war, Japan's industrial might was only 30% of its pre-war levels, the country was in ruins, food shortages were acute. The American Occupation Authorities recognised the need to revitalize Japan with the aim of giving it a fresh start as a peaceful nation. In order to make the country democratic, major reform programmes were implemented by the government, economic, social and educational systems. In addition, an American advisor, Joseph Dodge, put into effect a reconstruction programme, ('the Dodge Line') which aimed at curbing inflation and laying the basis for a self-sufficient Japanese economy. The late '40s

were a time of hard struggle for the Japanese. However, international circumstances changed with the growing threat of communism, prompting the United States to give priority to rebuilding Japan's economy as a bulwark against communism. 1950 saw the beginning of another Asian War in Korea, again involving the United States against Communist forces. Japan's strategic location resulted in significant economic growth fuelled by this military activity. The American influence in the revitalisation of Japan should not be underestimated. During this period, American experts in every field of activity were assisting the United States Government in the peaceful restructuring of Japan. In the area of Industrial Development, an American had an overwhelming influence, namely, W. Edwards Deming. This internationally renowned consultant led Japanese industry into new principles of management and revolutionised their quality and productivity. The use of statistical techniques and consumer research resulted from the involvement of Mr. Deming in a series of training courses given to Japanese engineers. Another American, Dr. Joseph Juran, was equally influential. The 1950s saw the beginning of a new Japan in terms of quality and manufacturing.

The above items were some of the external influences on Japan in the period immediately after the war. However there were also several internal influences which multiplied their effects:

Confucian ideology - Confucianism emphasizes the moral duty of man to his fellows. Man is born good, the superior man follows his true nature and develops sincerity, fearlessness, compassion and wisdom. Precise rules of conduct are recorded.

Investment - In Japan, money for investment is freely available largely due to the very high personal saving rates, see Table 2.

Table 2 Personal Savings Rate

	%
Canada (1976)	11
France (1977)	13
Germany, F.R. (1977)	12
Italy (1973)	19
Japan (1977)	21
U.K. (1977)	10
U.S.A. (1977)	5

Government support - This has been obvious throughout the history of Japan's industrialization. Many economists and industrialists believe that the tide is tilted in favour of Japan.

M.I.T.I., Ministry of International Trade and Industry, determine the industries that are favourable to Japan's future and help out in their research and development. Following World War II, Japan's government targeted autos, steel, chemicals, shipbuilding and machinery manufacturing as crucial industries. Japan's system is one of goals and priorities. This allows for government and industry to work together to achieve their national objective. As a result, Japan's auto industry has been wrapped in a cocoon of protectionism, government loans, protection from imports and prohibition against foreign investment.

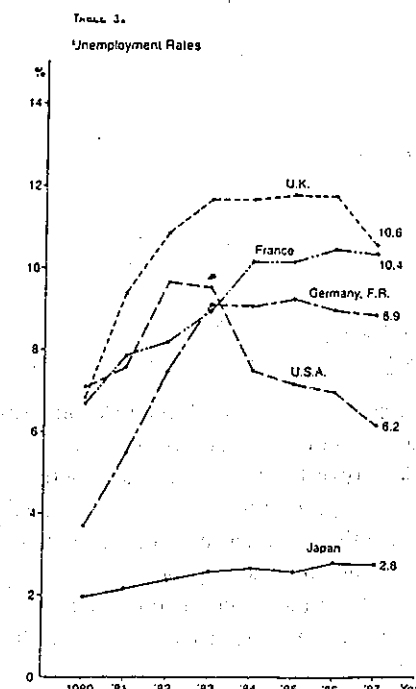
Methods of management e.g., lifetime employment, enterprise based unionism, seniority based wages and decision-making by consensus.

From the mid-1950's onward, Japan's economy witnessed a great leap forward with the spectacular surge in demand for consumer goods. The annual average growth rate was 10%. This rapid economic progress was spurred by a successful combination of mass production, improvement of labour productivity, and close ties between large and small businesses. The extremely low national defence expenditure was a very favourable condition. Japan was becoming an economic superpower and by the start of the 1970s, it was the biggest shipbuilder and the largest producer of radios and televisions. It was second in the manufacturing of steel and cars, and had now become the third largest economy in the world.

Since then, Japan's economic dominance of so many world markets has continued, oil crises notwithstanding. As a result, whole industries in other countries have been all but annihilated: motor cycles in England, cameras in Germany, television sets in the United States; the list is endless.

Today, while its economy is thriving and exports are at an all time high, a variety of new factors are beginning to have an adverse impact.

Labour shortage - Japan has the lowest unemployment rate in the industrialized world. Expanding companies are finding it increasingly difficult to find labour. Japanese values and government emigration laws make the employment of foreigners difficult, see Table 3.



Source: Comparative Economics and Financial Statistics: Japan and Other Major Countries, Bank of Japan.

Protectionism - Anti-Japanese feeling is rising in many parts of the world, particularly the United States. Even in Europe, strict quotas on the import of Japanese vehicles are maintained. The great difficulty foreigners face in exporting to Japan adds to this resentment.

Affluence - Japanese consumers are amongst the most affluent in the world. They are becoming more Westernized in their ways with an increase in leisure time and shorter working week, which is making them in many instances, less competitive than their Asian neighbours.

These are some of the new influences affecting the Japanese economy which are resulting in considerable overseas investment especially in the manufacturing industry:

- the three biggest Japanese auto manufacturers have manufacturing plants in the United Kingdom availing of plentiful local labour and producing European vehicles.
- all the major Japanese electronic companies have assembly plants in South East Asia where labour is cheap.
- Similar developments are taking place in the United States for reasons of labour and local content.

Consequently, the influence of Japan's economy is global and inseparably linked with both the United States and Western Europe. Whilst the example above relates to manufacturing, it is equally evident in banking and property. For the Japanese economy to continue to prosper in the future, it must open up its markets to foreign companies. At a political level, it must recognise its strategic position and the dangers posed by its economic dominance. Last spring, a book called "The Coming War with Japan" became a best seller. The authors predicted a shooting war within 20 years between the United States and Japan, and stated: "The issues are the same as they were in 1941, Japan needs to control access to its mineral supplies in Southeast Asia and the Indian Ocean Basin and to have an export market it can dominate politically. In order to do this, it must force the United States out of the Western Pacific. As in the '30s, by this scenario, the tensions eventually lead to a hot war." (Time International, Vol.139 No. 6, p.40). While this prediction is perhaps unlikely, the Japanese must recognise the mood which brings it about and respond accordingly.

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REGIONAL SPECIALISATION IN BRITAIN'S INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

by Margaret Burke, 2nd Arts

Introduction

The "Industrial Revolution" is the term ascribed to the dramatic socio-economic change which occurred in Britain during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. It marked a time in world history when Britain could be described as the world's only workshop, its only massive importer and exporter. It saw a shift from Britain being largely an agricultural based economy to an industrial one. Britain had at that time some industries which were either home-based or in small factory units. These were developed into large factory based industries with people employed for a specific wage to produce goods for sale at a profit. It marked a time when the average worker became a great deal more productive than they had been previously.

It was a revolution not just in industrial terms but also in economic and social terms. Britain's population moved from being a rural one in excess of 100,000, by the end of the nineteenth century there were 33 cities over that figure. New cities emerged based on industry. Transport developments made Britain a "smaller" country. Hand produced goods were replaced by mass produced goods on machines for the local, national and international markets. More distinct class structures emerged with the wealthy factory owners living away from the fog and smoke of industrialisation while the labourers lived near their place of work. In many industries the working conditions were very poor and living conditions not much better. Sanitation became a major problem. Women and children were increasingly important in these new industries, often working for low wages in deplorable conditions.

But why did this "revolution" take place in Britain? There is no simple answer to this question but a number of factors were important in its location there. These include...

1. Britain had at that time developed a capitalist economy where there was an emphasis on capital investment and the accumulation of profit which further increased investment.
2. The period of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries was preceded by two centuries of fairly continuous economic development.
3. Britain, because of its colonial links had the advantage of both using its colonies as sources of raw materials and markets for its produce, e.g. India and North America.
4. The fact that Britain's agricultural system was no longer a subsistence one and that its population was a growing one ensured a labour force and a food supply for its new industries and towns.
5. Britain had a tradition of industries on which to build and expand into new areas.
6. Government policy at the time was aimed at commercial interests and was in favour of any policies which might produce favourable economic ends.
7. There was an ease of transportation within Britain as no area was more than 70 miles from a port and this improved its stance as an importing and exporting nation.

8. Britain had deposits of coal and iron ore which were vital for this revolution.
9. Technical innovations made during this period changed the face of industry with emphasis changing from manufacture to large scale "machino-facture".

To say that Britain as a whole was involved in the Industrial Revolution would be a misconception. Three resources were essential to the revolution; cotton, coal and iron. Certain regions emerged as leaders in this revolution and their prominence was due mainly to their location near these resources. What emerged during and after the Industrial Revolution is that certain areas specialised in certain areas of industrial production. Thus..

Yorkshire	- Woollen Textile Industry
Lancashire	- Cotton Textile Industry
West Midlands	- Metalware and engineering products
Sheffield	- Steel Manufacture
South Wales	- Coal mining region & steel
Staffordshire	- Pottery
Birmingham	- Small metal goods

To look at all the areas which were involved in specialisation of a particular industry would be an impossible task, so I therefore intend to look at the textile industry in Britain and through doing so outline some of the factors which led to the regional specialisation of industries in general and the textile industry in particular.

Textile Industry

Britain had before the Industrial Revolution a tradition of involvement in the textile industry, especially in woollen production for the export market. Overseas trade figures in the 1600's showed that woollen cloth accounted for some 80% of the value of total exports. The industry was spread throughout the country with particular emphasis on West Scotland, East Midlands, Lancashire, West country (Bristol), East Anglia and Yorkshire. By the end of the Industrial Revolution however, the regions of Lancashire and Yorkshire had emerged as leaders in this industry with specialisation in both cotton and woollen production. In 1730 over 44% of the population of some Lancashire and Yorkshire parishes were involved in the textile industry compared to only 15% in agriculture. By the end of the Industrial Revolution Lancashire had 74% of the total number of British workers employed in the cotton industry, while in 1850 Yorkshire had 90% of the country's woollen workers. These regions had practically total control of the textile industry. The reasons given earlier for Britain's emergence as the first industrial country have a bearing on why the textile industry became so concentrated in the Lancashire/Yorkshire region. Here I intend to examine the following factors and see the role they played in this regional specialisations. They are...

1. Capitalism and government policy.
2. Technological developments.
3. Labour force.
4. Raw materials.
5. Infrastructural developments.

Capitalism and Government Policy

Preceding and during the Industrial Revolution, capitalism became the dominant economic system. Private capital was invested and profit making was the ultimate aim. The Lancashire and

Yorkshire regions had a tradition of involvement in the textile industry. The industry here was largely home based, but nevertheless led to a web of cash transactions. The result was that there was cash available for investment in industry. Liverpool, the chief port of the region, was fast becoming an increasingly important port and this led to further accumulation of wealth by those involved in trade. The net effect of such activities was that money was available in the region and there were businessmen who were willing to invest it for further profit.

Government policy played no small part in helping the development of industry, British governments at the time were interested only in economic ends and used the country's status as a colonial power for one reason only - commerce. In 1700 British producers were granted protection against Indian textile imports (mainly cotton) which ensured total domination of the home market. In 1813 the East India Textile Company was deprived of its monopoly of India (then a British colony) and the continent was opened to the massive imports of Lancashire cottons. The Government was behind industrial expansion, whether it was by turning a blind eye to the inequalities it was creating or by actively involving itself in policies which would further develop industry.

Technological Developments

The Industrial Revolution saw a major change in the source of power used to produce goods. Before the Industrial Revolution the majority of goods were produced by hand or by using water to turn mill wheels etc.. The Industrial Revolution changed all this and the invention which played a particularly prominent role in the developments of many industries was that of the steam engine. Coal was used to produce steam which in turn powered machines which mass produced goods cheaper than by hand. The invention of the steam engine was important to the textile industry but so too were the many other inventions which appeared. John Kay's flying shuttle (1733) increased the amount of cloth produced; Hargreaves (1764) and Arkwright's (1769) spinning jennies increased the amount of spun yarns produced and Cartwright's power weaving loom (1785) vastly increased the amount of cloth produced. These machines became concentrated in the Lancashire/Yorkshire region due in part to the presence of a pre-existing textile industry, the availability of capital and the proximity of coalfields. Thus between 1775 and 1800, 114 Boulton and Watt steam engines were used to power the textile industries. Of this number 47 were located in Lancashire and 12 in Yorkshire, over half the total. By 1811 steam powered spinning mills accounted for 90% of total spindlage with all but 20% of these being located in Lancashire and Yorkshire. By 1835 Lancashire had over 50% of cotton power looms while Yorkshire had 50% of woollen and worsted power looms.

Labour Force

The textile industry, most noticeably cotton production, was centred around the Manchester region. However smaller urban centres in the area (e.g. Leeds, Bradford and Huddersfield), were also important and the populations of these centres provided the labour force for these industries. Manchester's population increased tenfold from 17,000 in 1760 to 180,000 in 1830. While some of this may be accounted for by natural increase (i.e. number of births exceeding that of deaths), it also includes large numbers of people who moved from the surrounding rural areas into Manchester, and other urban regions to work in the textile industry. The labour force in the region provided the advantage

of already knowing the industry as there was a long tradition of textiles in the region whilst the new machines were easy to work and required little training. Manchester, the chief cotton centre, employed every person in the cotton industry who could be induced to learn the trade. Sir Robert Peel owned factories in twelve different locations and employed 15,000 workers, such was the extent of one man's control over the industry.

Raw Materials

Both Lancashire and Yorkshire had a long standing tradition of involvement in the textile industry. Their location straddling the Pennine mountains provided the advantage of the availability local wool for the industry. Initially both Lancashire and Yorkshire were involved in the production of woollen fabric but during the Industrial Revolution, Lancashire changed to cotton production while Yorkshire became increasingly involved in the production of fabrics with a woollen content, e.g. worsted. Britain did not have the raw material needed for cotton production but imported raw cotton from India through the nearby port of Liverpool and this is the fact which caused the shift in Lancashire's emphasis from wool to cotton. Between 1780 and 1800 there was an eight-fold increase in the amount of cotton imported for the Lancashire based industry. Within a quarter of a century it had become one of the most important industries in the country, so that by 1800 it accounted for 24% of total overseas trade. Britain's role as a colonial nation provided a major advantage for the growth of the cotton industry. Slave plantations in the West Indies and later in North America provided cheap cotton for the Lancashire based industry. As mentioned earlier coal another important resource in the development of industry was found nearby in the Lancashire coalfields.

Infrastructural Developments

Liverpool as already mentioned was a major port which Lancashire used as an import base for its supplies of raw cotton and the exportation of the finished cotton products e.g. stocking, shirts. The first canal that opened in Britain was in the area with a heavy concentration of the textile industry. It linked Worsley and Manchester and was opened in 1771. This canal had an important influence on industry as it halved the price of coal in the region. Many of the early canals in South Lancashire were closely linked with the manufacturing towns of Manchester and Liverpool. The main areas of concentration of canals were thus Lancashire, Yorkshire, West and East Midland. Railways which developed in the early nineteenth century again show a heavy concentration in the Lancashire/Yorkshire region - the railway was fast becoming the most important means of coal-haulage from the Yorkshire mines to the industries in the area. These infrastructural developments undoubtedly played an important role in the concentration to the textile industry in the region.

As can be seen from the study of the Lancashire/Yorkshire region, it had the advantages needed to develop the textile industry in the area. Government policy, capitalism, availability of both a labour force and raw materials and also the willingness to adapt to new technological innovations played an important role in this development. The regional specialisation of the textile industry was undoubtedly due to the many benefits that were to be gained through the location of industry in one particular area.

Conclusion

Regional specialisation was an important factor in Britain's Industrial Revolution. Certain regions emerged as leaders in particular industries, as can be seen from the study of the Lancashire/Yorkshire region. The regions that developed had many advantages which were exploited by far-sighted businessmen with capital to invest. Regional specialisation offered two main advantages to the Industrial Revolution and Britain's emergence as the "workshop of the world". Firstly, the centralisation of industry in particular areas meant that costs were reduced. This had the effect of making British products competitive both on the national and international markets. Secondly, reduced costs also led to a favourable profit margin which led to more capital becoming available for further investment and so continuing the cycle of industrial development.

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WHERE IN THE WORLD?

According to global warming models applied to Ireland, parts of some cities will be flooded. What Irish city will be the first to be affected?

What is the most northerly point of Great Britain?

In which east Asian city was the 1988 Olympics held?

What river flows through the cities of Vienna and Belgrade?

AMERICA'S IDENTITY CRISIS

by Aine McDonagh, 3rd Arts

Americans generally strike you as a people who are proud of their country; perhaps they have reason to be with for example, the consistently high levels of migration into their country. This type of pride makes it easy for the outsider to understand why the average American sees his/her country as better than most. Migration from different corners of the world has made America a great 'melting pot' of cultures. But has the melting pot boiled over? Do Americans have a real sense of national identity or are they just a hybrid of different nationalities living in a common place?

The formation of an American identity is partly due to America's geography. The North American continent is a large landmass bounded to the east and west by the great expanses of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. The distance between the Atlantic seaboard and Europe was a major factor in the growth of independent tendencies during the colonial period. The ocean barrier encouraged a feeling of alienation from Europe and focused colonists on American, rather than European, matters. The great open plains in turn encouraged the colonist to move further into the heart of America and to look away from the east. The settlement of the frontier represented an opportunity for all immigrants to achieve success or as it is called 'The American Dream'. Pushing back the frontier gave a sense of progress to the new Americans. The challenge of exploring and settling their new country meant Americans spent their energies developing this new land and not looking to the outside world. This insular outlook has left its mark on the average American's sense of geography today.

The large oceans that enclose America were not however only barriers, but were also unobstructed passageways for immigrants from Europe and Asia. Foreigners from provincial and feudally-tinged societies were met with a spacious land and abundant resources. The idea of apparently 'unlimited' lands in the New World had powerful social and psychological effects on the American mind. Thus as Robin Williams points out, Americans began to act as if they decided this land was somehow 'meant' for them to tame and possess.

The ideas of independence, isolation, progress, equality of opportunity and even a sense of predestinations, forged by geographical and historical factors, contributed to the new American feeling of dissimilarity with the people they left behind. These characteristics were to bring about the emergence of a national consciousness.

Although the vast and open nature of America's physical landscape, in tandem with the ocean-imposed feeling of isolation may have had an impact on the migrants that settled in America, the cultural landscape built by these immigrants nonetheless reflected the fact that their original roots were not totally forgotten. Thus the names of settlements identified links with the past. For example New Amsterdam was settled by the Dutch first and eventually became New York, whilst New England reflects the English influence. However much Americans believed they were forging a new identity they could not totally distance themselves from their pasts. People in America to this day still retain their ancestral ethnicity. In America, if a person is asked

their nationality, rarely do they answer 'American', but rather 'Italian-American', 'Irish-American' and so on. Even now, there is a strong movement in America to call black people African-American. This represents an urgent need on the part of black people to have a nation culture; obviously being simply 'American' is not providing this for them. This movement is representative of a desire in American people to qualify themselves with a sense of their 'true' past.

Perhaps the reason Americans are a culturally deficient people is not because of the youth of America and its lack of history, but (as ironic as it might sound) because it is a culturally deficient race. By culturally deficient I mean that the new Americans in the 17th and 18th centuries did not create a culture of their own, with the possible exception of the cowboy. America's different cultures, 'borrowing' from other nations did not amalgamate to form one mass culture as the 'melting pot' theory implies. Instead each culture retained its own identity. If the first settlers adopted an 'original' culture of America, the new immigrant could have at least some sense of America as a nation with its own culture and history. Instead the new settlers rejected the native American tradition completely and failed to develop an alternative one. Assimilation into the United States would have been easier, if Americans had a strong sense of who they are and proposed a common national identity.

One of the arguments to propose here is that the void created by the absence of a common American identity has been filled with patriotism. Whereas nationalism is a sentiment based on common cultural characteristics, its patriotism advocates allegiance and support for a state and its policies. Patriotism in some areas of America therefore demands unquestioned allegiance to national symbols and slogans. Thus for example the recent controversy in the U.S. which erupted over the individuals right to burn the American flag. In no other country would this debate seem so important. But because its citizens are not sure of what it means to be American they rely on the government to define their identity for them in its laws, codes and symbols. The 'flag-burning' controversy was therefore important because it went to the core of how Americans define themselves. Some of the strongest forms of patriotism reject any form of criticism of American life. The critic is usually branded as 'un-American'. The paranoia created by this type of patriotism culminated in the McCarthy era of the late 1940's, early 1950's when modern-day witch-trials were held for anyone suspected of holding communist beliefs. A more recent but less virulent reaction also followed Sinead O'Connor's refusal to allow the American anthem to be played before her concert. With U.S. forces in the Gulf, Americans saw her as questioning and offending the very core of their identity at a particularly sensitive time.

The absence of an American identity leads its people to place compensatory attention not only on the country's symbols but also on its government. One of the most striking characteristics of American pride is its overwhelming preoccupation with political institutions. While other country's citizens either criticise or poke fun at their government, it is considered almost sacrilegious to criticise any governmental institution in America. To protect these institutions, rules and codes is to be American. There is a split in American pride between those who glorify the individuality of the melting pot and those who fear the 'un-American' activities promoted by this individuality. This division will always be present because America lacks a common

cultural base. What America does have is its ideals of democracy, progress and predestined greatness, which are represented in its government, institutions and symbols and which in turn form the foundation for American patriotism. It is this patriotism, this allegiance to an ideal which divides and yet binds American society.

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JAPAN - A SUGGESTED LOCATION FOR THE NEXT FIELD TRIP?

by Shelagh Waddington

If I had been told to choose a group with whom I least wished to spend my summer holiday, I suspect a group of dentists would probably have been close to the top of the list, if not actually in first place. However, last May I spent two weeks in Japan as a guest of the Pharmacology Department of Nihon University Dental School in Tokyo and greatly enjoyed the experience. I had the great good fortune to be invited to accompany my husband when he visited the Department and participated in a conference. (If there is 'no such thing as a free lunch' at least somebody other than myself was paying for it!).

Japan was summed up for me before the visit as "All the mystery of the East, but you can drink the water!" Certainly the visit was an absolutely fascinating experience, even the flight from Copenhagen to Tokyo as we flew eastwards, crossing the northern part of Russia. I saw the Siberian gas fields and some of the most meandering and braided streams anybody could imagine (despite all my confident sounding efforts at interpreting remote images in 2nd year classes it took a great deal of thought before I recognised the gas fields!).

Our arrival in Tokyo Airport was less traumatic than we had been led to expect. A second terminal and runway are required but opposition from local groups has delayed developments and normally it is very, very crowded. However, at 9.00 local time, we staggered off our 11 hour flight to find the place almost deserted and Dr. and Mrs Koshikawa waiting for us. They drove us the 65km from the airport to Tokyo in their Nissan Cedric car. (Clearly some names do not make it on the export market - another Japanese product is an isotonic drink called Pocari Sweat!). The trip was along toll roads - an expensive way to travel as there is a fresh charge every few km, but the alternative was a much slower trip along crowded roads.

The practical effects of high land values in central Tokyo (and indeed in Japan as a whole) became obvious when we arrived at our hotel. All hotel rooms are small in Tokyo. They do have interesting extras in comparison with European hotels. These include slippers and 'kimono-type' gowns for guests and a torch for use in emergencies attached to the bedside table. The safety instructions made me very conscious of being on the 9th floor in an earthquake zone - 'guests should leave the hotel by the nearest stairs, holding their pillows over their heads for protection from falling masonry!'

The dentists proved to be very hospitable and on our second day I was taken to see a real 'geographical' sight - the Hakone National Park. This area is a caldera containing a large lake, surrounded by the remains of its volcano, plus the mountains. The only current volcanic activity is relatively minor being solfatras and hot springs. On our journey there we discovered how well developed the infrastructure is in Japan - Professor Kobayashi was quite put out when we had to wait 10 minutes for a subway train (and this was at 9.00 on Sunday morning!). We subsequently travelled by express train, local train, tram car and cable car, and bus on the journey during the day. The only hitch in plans came because fog covered the area at one time preventing our going on a boat (built to look like a pirate galleon) across lake Ashia. A major treat on the visit to Hakone is eating hard boiled eggs, cooked in the hot springs. We were assured that the minerals in the water which turned the egg shells black were good for you.

Eating in Japan was generally an interesting experience. To reassure the conservatives - Big Macs in the Ginza McDonalds in Tokyo taste exactly the same as in McDonalds, Grafton Street. You can however have green tea instead of 'black' tea to drink with it! I was afraid that I would have to fast unless I had an interpreter with me, but restaurants either had menus which included pictures of the dishes, or displays of plastic models of all the dishes - pointing and smiling then worked fine. Meals were still voyages of discovery, despite this, as models etc. do not tell you what things taste like. We found that a great deal of fish is eaten, quite a lot of it raw. I did find that raw fish was actually very tasty but when we were served with a whole fish (sliced) whose jaws were still moving and whose tail was twitching I was seriously concerned! One interesting meal was in a traditional restaurant where the table was very low and we had to kneel around it - after about 30 mins I thought I would never walk again. Much of this meal was cooked at the table by the waitresses who had to kneel to do this, and to serve us (exactly the same standard of service as in the student restaurant!). A highlight on a simpler level was eating fresh pineapple sold in ice lolly-sized slabs on sticks.

Apart from visits to various places escorted by our hosts, I also went on several solo expeditions. I found it surprisingly easy to travel around Japan unaccompanied, although I almost gave up before I started my first trip. Train tickets can be purchased from machines which are happy to accept notes as well as coins. Above the machines are route maps with prices clearly marked. Unfortunately the station names are in Japanese only. Everywhere else on the rail system names are written in both Western and Japanese characters - I had failed to notice the one place where this did not occur. Fortunately, many Japanese people are keen to help foreigners. As I was standing desperately trying to pick out the correct characters from the guide book, a woman stopped and when I stated my destination she told me not only the cost but also where to change trains. After this I gained confidence to set off and approach a friendly looking face, smile and state my destination in an enquiring tone, whenever the need arose. I visited tourist sights within Tokyo, such as parks and temples and also went to Kamakura, a former capital of Japan to see more temples and the biggest statue of the Buddha in Japan, so large that its ears are 2.5m long!

We were invited to the homes of several of our hosts. It is traditional in Japan (as in Ireland) to take gifts to your host, they also give you gifts (unlike Ireland). We had guessed how many people would invite us and taken appropriate Irish presents. Unfortunately we underestimated the hospitality and ran short of gifts. I had to find an 'Irish' present in Japan - or at least a non-Japanese one, fortunately chocolate filled with Baileys Irish Cream is exported to Japan. It was interesting to visit people's homes and discover what life in Japan is like outside a hotel. In every house shoes are removed at the door and slippers are put on. Even the most modern homes had at least one room which was in the traditional style with little furniture and tatami mats on the floor. The differences in land values were also apparent in the various homes - Professor Kobayashi's home in central Tokyo was tiny with no garden, while Dr. Sasa's home in Kyoto had a garden and was much larger.

During our visit to Japan we spent some time in Kyoto, travelling there by 'Bullet train', the Japanese high speed service. This train was due to leave at 10.02 and left exactly at 10.02; it also arrived exactly on time. In Kyoto we saw both the home of the Tokugawa Shoguns and the Imperial Palace (shades of the economic development of Japan - Knox and Agnew style!). We learned about Japanese views on gardens. There were few flowers and the general idea is often based on a comparison with humanity - water representing blood, rocks representing bones and trees flesh.

In Kyoto we also experienced traditional Japanese culture in the form of the Noh play. These involve traditional stories and very stylised acting by groups of men. There is music provided by drums and flutes and a vocal accompaniment which (to my uncultured ears, at least) sounded like a cross between someone in agony and a dog howling. To give a flavour of the type of story, one of those we saw involved a courtier who had left the Emperor's court because he had become too friendly. He sent along emissaries to persuade her to return and (to quote the programme) one of his representatives 'consoled her with a dance'.

A highlight of my journey was a visit to a secondary school to talk about Geography teaching and to see a teacher in action. Despite a class size of 46, overall the lesson was surprisingly like a class with a similar group in Ireland. At the end of the lesson the teacher thanked his students for their attention and they all stood, bowed and thanked him for the lesson. I was told that students generally did not fail internal exams in school as it would be considered to reflect badly on the teacher (is there a message here, somewhere?). The school was extremely hospitable despite some initial confusion - they thought I came from Iceland. My major problems arose in discussion because my interpreter was a dentist whose general English was excellent but whose command of both geographical and educational terms was limited. How would you describe a meandering river or an environmental impact statement in words of one syllable?

On our last day in Japan my husband gave his paper at the conference. As a guest speaker he had to wear a huge red rosette similar to the sort that winners receive at agricultural shows. At the conference dinner we were invited to open the sake barrel for the official toasts. We were given jackets, to protect our clothes from splashes, and hammers. Since the lid had actually been loosened beforehand we were actually warned not to hit too hard or we would drown the people at the front. We performed our first official opening successfully (can we become president on the strength of this?!).

Our visit to Japan, therefore, ended on a ceremonial note with a traditional ceremony coming at the end of a meeting exploring some of the most modern developments in medicine. This really sums up Japan for me it is a very modern, high-tech society but does still have a strong and obviously distinctive tradition and culture. I was very fortunate to have this opportunity to visit there and hope that I might have the chance to see much more of the country in the future.

WORDSEARCH SOLUTIONS

LUYBKRRMENS MODGNIKDETINU
 YSACIROPNUIYSPAINZXBOWPIPI
 ISWGUCAOCELEHNFYODIMAEAS
 APRIMUMSMZSYBGLOASCVVEYIP
 RIOITBYZNUSTRALUXEMBOURG
 SUNPSZXANERNUSRXULAXHEK
 AEOAFNEINXDITGEIPDTSLLM
 HNWRBGOEINRAFLNOSPWAAX
 UADICLXOLBIAULTAOKZLNFA
 NMROBKAVNAZCEYLPLQSAQDOS
 CXIFRSOATPNBNETHERLANDSH
 ZOAGMRELOFYDCCRIZEKIBNKR
 ECEERGAHCLIGHFLCXTTUICB
 CUZGDNISGISPKBSHINGDUEDU
 HAYRAGNUHMASWEDENNYHTUL
 OLSDUCTUKTNZPLKVL LBS PG
 SVBXHQREAILMXFCTPASPWNTA
 LNSCKPDOTFKDQAIOKSNREER
 OSEFWLUPBYAMXRWBGVDTHI
 VKHRYAIQZFNMACOIVEHNNHPA
 AIVALSOGUYKRUUTDNQMI SCNO
 KEKNRBWKAKCHTAUGROCKNERC
 IKOCANOMEQPOLANDOPLMMAIVK
 ACYEQSIVPTRYENYNAMREGLUS

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

The Atlas mountains are to be found within which continent?

What county is the 'Orchard of Ireland'?

Which is the largest in area, Germany or the Ukraine?



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THE GEOGRAPHY OF CANCER MORTALITY by T. Antoinette Donohue, 3rd Arts

Malignant Neoplasms are a major cause of death in the developed world, and their contribution to the total mortality rate is increasing. (Armstrong, R.W. 1980; Glick, B.J. 1982).

According to the Surveillance Epidemiology and Ends Results Programme (SEER) of the National Cancer Institute in the U.S.A., invasive malignant neoplasms are estimated to be increasing by approximately 1,010,000 cases per year. (Berman, S., Wandersman, A., 1990). Cancer claims 1 out of every 5 deaths in the U.S.A. and about 22 in every 100 deaths in Britain. (Doyal, L., Epstein, S., et al (1983); Doll, R., Peto, R. 1981)

Cancer mortality rates have been increasing rapidly since 1930 for both males and females. This trend is partly due to the decrease in deaths caused by infectious diseases such as Tuberculosis; improved diet and hygiene standards. (Gorman, P., (1984); Howe, M., (1982); Doll, R. Peto, R., (1981)).

The probability of death before the age of 65, according to Doll and Peto (1981) has been decreasing fairly steadily and it is now less than half what it was 50 years ago. Therefore, they argue, the percentage of the population over 65 years has steadily increased and as a consequence have a greater probability of developing cancer. They conclude, that the increase in the percentage of old people (due to the decrease in other causes of death) tends to increase the percentage of whole populations that will die of cancer.

Gorman, P., (1984) argues that the increase in cancer mortality is over and above that due to the increases in life expectancy, and it has occurred despite advances in diagnosis and cure. Many epidemiologists have documented on aged specific trends in cancer mortality (Doll, R., Peto, R., (1981); Moon, G., Jones, K., (1981)). In Doyal and Epstein's book "Cancer in Britain" substantial cancer mortality trends at different age levels are described. Their findings show that cancer is the most common cause of death between the ages 35 and 54 years and the second most common cause of death for those aged 54 years and above. (Armstrong, R.W., 1980; Doyal and Epstein, E., et al 1983; Gorman, P., 1984).

A study carried out in 39 countries, including Ireland, shows that cancer mortality for males is higher than for females and that the percentage of male deaths due to malignant neoplasms is increasing (Gorman, p., 1984). Doyal and Epstein (1983) say however, that both male and female cancer mortalities have risen at the same rates over the 1970's. Age specific trends in cancer mortalities will be further discussed.

Spatial Analysis of Cancer

"Cancer incidence has a remarkable geographical variation between and within countries, and it is this variation that comprises perhaps the most important evidence so far obtained, that environmental factors are foremost in the aetiology of most cancers" (Armstrong: 1980).

Maps of mortality rates in Europe (European file 1990) and in the U.S.A. show significant variations in the occurrence of the principle cancers evident in the western world. The spatial analysis of cancer mortality can therefore be seen as an important step towards the identification of possible risk factors to society.

An essential first step in distinguishing possible dangers to health is the locating and identification of high risk and low risk areas. Areal differences could be related to socio-cultural, economic and environmental factors. This does not mean that a direct causation process can be established but the formulation of hypotheses could be a first step towards research and ultimately prevention.

For example, Nina-Siu-Ngan Lam's analysis of the geographical patterns of cancer mortality in China (1986) clearly identifies North/North Eastern China as a region where cancer of the stomach is significantly pronounced. Having located the area of high risk, it became possible for Lam to further investigate elements such as economic development, diet and population density particular to this region, which may have caused the unusual levels of stomach cancer.

Urban/Rural Residence

Empirical evidence has shown that the more urbanised a region is, the greater is the risk of cancer mortality (Mayer, J., (1990); Doyal & Epstein et al (1983); Gorman, P., (1984); Lundberg, O., (1985)). Cancer has been strongly associated with urban areas. The link between lung cancer and urban residence has been reinforced by Henry Troyer's (1988) study of cancer among four religious sects, the Amish, the Hutterites, the Seventh Day Adventists and the Mormons. Tobacco use is strongly discouraged in all four sects, and both the Amish and the Hutterites live in strictly rural locations. The Mormons are described as being more rural than ordinary North Americans. All four religious sects, it was found, have extremely low lung cancer mortality rates. Is it therefore, fair to say that rural dwellers and non-smokers (regardless of residence) are less likely to die prematurely from lung cancer? Controversy arises over these very issues and two broadly opposing viewpoints have emerged.

The Establishment Viewpoint

The establishment viewpoint, supported by Doll, R., and Peto, R., argue, that the most significant causes of cancer are elements which individuals willingly expose themselves. Risks would therefore include diet, smoking and alcohol consumption.

This standpoint has gained considerable backing from many industrialists in the U.S.A. including the Chemical Industrial Association (C.I.A.). In Winick M's Book "Nutrition and Cancer" (1977) it is estimated that over one half of all female deaths caused by cancer, and 30% of all male deaths, are related to nutritional factors. Doll and Peto describe smoking and diet as being the direct cause of 30% and 35% of all cancer deaths respectively.

Smoking and Social Class: An example of the establishment viewpoint

Trends in total cancer mortality in the western world are dominated by the rapid increase in lung cancer mortality which has been strongly associated with the increased consumption of tobacco by both men and women (Doll, R., Peto, R., 1981). Other

epidemiologists suggest a multifactorial reasoning for the apparent rise in lung cancer deaths, encompassing both behavioural and occupational factors. (Howe, W., 1981; Gunning-Schepe, L., and Hans-Hagan, J., 1987).

In Great Britain cancer mortality among adult males between the years 1979 and 1983 was 2.3 times higher in occupational class I. These differences have not diminished in magnitude since 1920 (Berman, S., Andersman, A., 1990). Physical working conditions, together with economic hardship and health related behaviours seem to suggest a greater risk of lung cancer mortality for semi-skilled and unskilled workers (Lundberg, O., (1985)). A report carried out in Finland by Pukkala E. (1987) identifies heavy smoking as a behavioural feature among lower social classes. This pattern has also been witnessed in the U.K. (Doll, R., Peto, R., (1981)) and in the U.S.A. (Sterling, T., Weinkam, J., (1990)).

Cancer mortality is higher therefore amongst lower social classes with a combination of life-style factors playing a major role. Differences in smoking habits, job patterns, and in the general deprivation found in urban areas is not however accepted by all as an explanation for the high cancer mortality rates found in urban areas.

The Radical Viewpoint

Carcinogens in the Workplace and Air

Howe's (1981) study of cancer in the U.K. in which lung cancer patterns and smoking indicated considerable disparity, is but one of several observations which has given rise to questions about other environmental dangers outside the realm of life-style factors. The radical viewpoint is taken by trade unions, environmentalists and others concerned to expose the role of industry in the creation of ill health (Doyal, L., Epstein, S., et al (1983)). Occupational hazards in the form of carcinogens in the workplace and in the general environment caused by increased industrialisation is believed to be the cause of high levels of cancer mortality rates in urban areas.

Research in the U.S.A. showed strong links between some types of cancers (noticeably lung cancer) and certain types of industrial pollution (Sobel (1979)).

Conclusion

"There is significant international, national, and local variation in cancer frequency in most regions. These variations, are by and large, not random, and undoubtedly reflect the interaction of genetic and environmental variables." (M. Paciane (1985))

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POVERTY IN THE MIDST OF PLENTY - ISSUES IN THE GEOGRAPHY OF THE GLOBAL FOOD MARKET

by Kathy Trant 2nd Arts

Introduction

Poverty in the world today can be generally equated with underdevelopment. Geographers have in the recent past categorised the nations of the world into three groups, which they have called the Core, the Periphery and the Semi-Periphery. It is the first two of these groups that we are concerned with in this article. The Core group - the developed nations of the world - both industrially and technologically - have high wages and control most of the world's wealth. Because of this they enjoy dominance in world trade. In contrast to this the Periphery are developing countries with rudimentary technology, simple labour intensive production and whose workers receive low wages. Unlike the countries of the developed world the peripheral nations do not produce a great diversification of goods and so are much more vulnerable to changes in demand on world markets. It is the relationship between these two groups on the World Food Markets that this essay is about, a relationship which should be said, is one of inequality and imbalance. Particularly emphasis will be given to developing countries in Africa where the food situation is most acute.

It is estimated that between 340 - 730 million people suffer from malnutrition globally (Knox and Agnew, 1989:25). According to figures released by Trocaire 1/5 of the world's population suffers from undernourishment and this figure continues to grow. (Trocaire, 1987:12). Whilst a great concentration of this poverty occurs in South America and East Asia, it is African countries which have the most pressing problem of hunger and deprivation. One of the chief reasons for this (deteriorating) situation is population expansion in the countries of the Periphery. While food production has kept pace with population increase in countries like India and Bangladesh for instance, it has not however been sufficient to keep hunger at bay. Indeed in many parts of Africa, production has not kept up with population expansion and the food situation there has become acute and is steadily worsening. (Bradley, 1986:90-91). As developing African countries are thought to be at the beginning of stage two of the Demographic Transition process the problem of hunger, malnourishment and famine is likely to exacerbate if major re-structuring of the economy does not take place.

On a global level there is sufficient food to provide for the need of all. In the countries of the Core, food production has increased much more rapidly than population expansion. Indeed John Mellor has said that since the 1970's the world food situation has changed from one of acute shortages to one of considerable surplus. (Mellor, 1988:977-1011). Yet it has been a sorry fact of the 1970's and the 1980's that poverty and hunger have been such a dominant part of the world scene. The problem then is not one of real food shortages but one of distribution. In this sense distribution means that Peripheral countries lack the resources to buy what is available on world Food Markets.

Food: Necessity or Profit?

To further exacerbate the imbalance between the Core and the Periphery, industrialised countries like the U.S.A. Canada, France and Australia, - (which are the world's biggest exporters of agricultural products) view agricultural production in a very

different light than do the under-developed countries of the Periphery. For the countries in the Core food is just another consumer product to be bought and sold for the highest profit. But for the hungry masses in Peripheral regions food is a necessity - a basic right. However such considerations do not much concern the governments of the Core who are primarily concerned with upholding prices of farm products. This was very clearly demonstrated in the 1970's when a U.S. government decision was made to reduce the amount of cereal under production. Huge subsidies were given to farmers in order to achieve this. Wheat prices increased dramatically as a result - 236% between 1971 and 1974 (Bradley, 1986:97) - but at a human level this decision led to a major disaster. Africa in 1972 saw a famine of unprecedented dimensions - a disaster which could have been averted had American grain been available for distribution. To add to the horror American multinationals sold what grain reserves were available to the Russians for cattle food - again profit being the dominant motive. The E.C. also controls food production to maintain the prices paid to farmers in its member states. This priority of the E.C. to uphold prices is evidenced today in the difficulties experienced by GATT in trying to negotiate a reduction in farm subsidies, in an effort to have freer markets. World food needs it would seem are not therefore the primary concern of the countries of the Core.

Multinationals

However this is only one side of the difficulty experienced by the countries of the Periphery. Multinational firms control the production of "cash-crops" grown by developing countries. This is particularly so with regard to countries in Africa where multinational companies - which in many cases are a legacy of colonialism - produce such commodities as tea, coffee, sugar and cocoa for sale on world markets. These multinational companies have as a primary aim the production of these commodities at the lowest possible price and with the greatest profit for themselves - profits which mainly go outside the countries of the periphery. Traditionally the countries of the Periphery have been exploited in this way. Furthermore as world markets are determined by supply and demand, given that the demand for food - unlike other consumer goods - leaves little room for expansion, the global markets for products like coffee, tea, cocoa are therefore static and it is unlikely that demand will increase. (Lofchie, 1988:112). To further exacerbate the problem "health fads" in the Core have increased the use of substitutes of these items and so the demand for these items are further lessened on the World Food Markets.

Multinationals are not of course the only sector involved in the production of "cash-crops". Perhaps a far more serious phenomenon mitigating against the development of a better economy in countries of the Periphery and in African countries in particular has been the growing pressure on the small producers to grow "cash-crops" at the expense of producing food crops. They need this cash in order to buy consumer goods and for inputs into agriculture, but it has had the effect of leaving more and more small producers at the mercy of the vagaries of the Global Food Market - Food Markets which, as has been previously stated, are geared to the needs of the Core: are static and which have little prospect of development.

Recession

Many other factors are important in understanding how the countries of the Periphery are being dominated by the Core. The world economic recession in the 1970's and 1980's for instance has had enormous repercussions for the countries of the Periphery. The rise in the price of oil for instance has increased costs of

inputs into agriculture and at a national level this rise in price coupled with the overvaluation of the U.S. dollar, - the currency used for buying and selling oil on world markets - has led to a huge rise in interest rates resulting in enormous increases in servicing already huge national debts. (Lofchie, 1988:122). All these factors have overburdened the budgets of emerging underdeveloped countries to crisis point. While increasing the costs of agricultural production in their countries, they more importantly leave themselves very vulnerable and weak when negotiating on world markets.

Conclusion

The economies of the countries of the Core and Periphery are therefore interlinked but the periphery, while very important to the Core, has, and is still, being exploited and dominated by the need of its much wealthier neighbour. Until the countries of the Periphery, and in particular African countries, can weaken this link, by forging new economic alliances with other developing countries; by developing new industries, and by increasing food production for their own needs, this state of inequality will persist.

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ANSWERS TO WHERE IN THE WORLD QUIZ

1. Ljubianja, 2. Iran, 3. Cork, 4. Columbia, 5. Montreal 6. Cork (again), - is it to be known as the Venice of Ireland? 7. John O'Groats, 8. Seoul, 9. The Danube, 10. Africa 11. Armagh, 12. Ukraine.

(a) Inverness, (b) Toronto, (c) Zimbabwe, (d) The Baltic, (e) Maryland, (f) Calcutta, (g) France and Italy, (h) Angel Falls, (i) France, (j) The San Andreas Fault, (k) K2, (l) Belgium, (m) Drumlins, (n) John Locke, (o) A Hurricane, (p) Europe and South America, (q) European Free Trade Association (r) Laos (s) Mogadishu.

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

- (a) What is the capital of the Scottish Highlands?
- (b) What is the largest city you could live in if you insisted upon having a view of Lake Ontario?
- (c) What country comes last in an alphabetical list? *Zimbabwe*
- (d) What sea lies between Riga and Stockholm? *Baltic*
- (e) Which of Maryland, Massachusetts, is not one of the U.S. New England States? *Maryland*
- (f) What Indian city is served by Dum Dum Airport?
- (g) What countries does the Mont Blanc tunnel join? *Italy - France*
- (h) What is the world's highest waterfall?
- (i) What country do Bretons come from?
- (j) What's the name of the fault that threatens San Francisco with earthquakes? *San Andreas*
- (k) What is the second highest mountain in the world? *K2*
- (l) Walloon and Flanders are the two important cultural regions of which Western European country? *Belgium*
- (m) Which glacial features dominate the Irish landscape from Clew Bay to Strandford Lough? *Drumlins*
- (n) Who said "In the beginning all the world was America."
- (o) What's a "willy - willie" to an Australian?
- (p) The world champions in soccer have come from either of two continents, which two? *Europe S. America*
- (q) What is E.F.T.A.?
- (r) What is the only county in Ireland that doesn't border a county that touches the sea. *L. No. 3.*
- (s) What is the capital of Somalia?

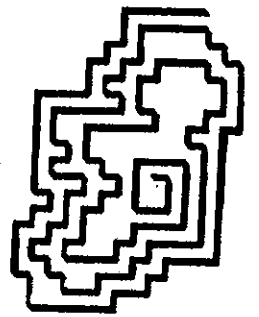
LIFE AFTER THE B.A.

Just to demonstrate that there really is life after the B.A. here are some Maynooth graduate students who are experiencing the highs and lows of postgraduate life. This bunch are all attending the M.A. in Regional and Urban Planning at Richview U.C.D.



The photograph shows (L-R) Emer Connolly (Sociology/Philosophy, 1991), Ann Hyland (Geography/Sociology, 1989), Tim Walsh (Geography/Sociology, 1991), Siobhan Duff (Geography/French, 1989) and last but by no means least Josephine Coleman (Geography/Sociology, 1990)

THE GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY of IRELAND



Cumann Tíreolaíochta na hÉireann

The Geographical Society of Ireland was founded in 1934 with the object of promoting an interest in geography. Its membership is drawn from teachers in schools, colleges and universities; people working in the public service and research; and all others who find geography interesting and stimulating. The Society seeks to provide information and promote discussion about a wide range of topics of geographical interest both within Ireland and abroad.

MEETINGS

During the winter months the Society holds a series of lectures and seminars, principally in Dublin. A small Regional Programme of events is also organised, usually in Cork, Limerick and occasionally Galway and Belfast. The Society also organises a One Day Conference the Proceedings of which are published as a Special Publication.

FIELD TRIPS

Day field trips comprise a distinctive feature of the society's programme and provides first hand experience of areas of geographical interest in Ireland.

PUBLICATIONS

The Society's principal publication is the internationally known journal **Irish Geography** which is published in June and December. The main body of the journal comprises papers dealing with various aspects of Irish geographical research. Also included are a book review section, a record of recent publications of a geographical nature dealing with Ireland, and a section concerned with aspects of Ireland's changing geography. The Society also publishes the biannual **Irish Geographical Newsletter** which provides news and information about geography in Ireland and about the activities of the Society. It also acts as a forum for the discussion of general matters of geographical interest. Members receive both of these free of charge and may also obtain some journals published by other societies at a special concessionary rate.

LIBRARY

The Society's Library is housed in the Department of Geography, Trinity College, and carries a long series of many geographical journals. In addition, there is a collection of books covering all branches of the subject, including all materials reviewed in **Irish Geography**. Members may borrow books and periodicals from the library. The Geography Department Librarian at Trinity College also acts as Honorary Librarian to the Society, and may be contacted at 01-7772941 ext. 1454.

CURRENT ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Dublin Membership	£12.50	Country (> 25 miles from Dublin)	£10.00
Student Membership	£7.50	Overseas	£10.00

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To: The Hon. Sec. Geographical Society of Ireland, Department of Geography, Trinity College, Dublin 2.

I wish to become a member of the Geographical Society of Ireland.

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