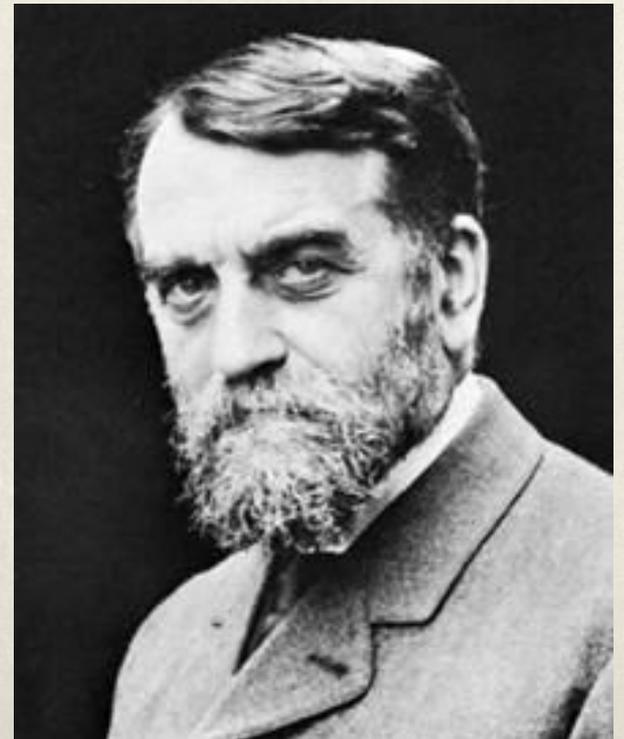


Paul Vidal de la Blache

* 1843-1918



Background: French Geography

- * Historian
- * Student of the Normal school and the school of Athens.
- * He made trips during his stay in Athens. Taking Ritter's comparative geography as a guide. This awakened his geographical vision.
- * In 1872 was when he began to dedicate himself to Geography.
- * He was the first to teach geography on a regular basis at a French university.

The rise of French Geography

Crítica de
la
Sociología

VS

Determinismo
Antropogeografía
Alemana

Emilio Durkheim
and
Marcel mauss
(FRANCE)

Ratzel
(GERMANY)

Ratzel's mistake in his Anthropogeography

- * 1) accepting to solve cultural problems in the same way that the previous tradition dealt with them: through naturalism.
- * Did not review its terms and did not contrast them
- * He did a great archival job, BUT NOT FROM THE FIELD !!!!
- * 2) Wanting to explain ALL SOCIAL BEHAVIOR due to the INFLUENCE of CLIMATE and SOIL.
- * This last fact exceeds the scope of a single scientific discipline.
- * THEREFORE: Against these errors, sociologists and historians, mainly from the FRENCH school, launched themselves.

Why??? one

- * 1) They did not like the term Anthropogeography and began to call it HUMAN GEOGRAPHY ☺
- * Emilio Durkheim developed a rigorous methodology for the study of social facts: His work: “The rules of the sociological method”.
- * Although they recognized the novelty and the effort of Ratzel to explain social issues were not enough because they considered Anthropogeography AMBITIOUS: when looking for a TOTAL SOCIAL EXPLANATION.
- * Durkheim (sociologist), criticizes that anthropogeographers seek to know through Geography all human societies.

two

- * They criticize that the German school of Ratzel tries to explain the cultural manifestations that are not within the scope of geography.
- * Example: Religion or primitive thought (they considered this to be the task of Sociology).
- * There are no social traits that can only be attributed to the soil and the environment:
- * Why???

- * BECAUSE geographical conditions vary from one place to another !!!!
- * BECAUSE there are very similar social types in different parts of the globe.
- * ∴ Recognize: You can not do without Geography.

- * In the explanation of very complex cultural phenomena, they are influenced by different circumstances:
- * ENVIRONMENTS,
- * PLACES,
- * WEATHER,
- * HISTORICAL AND ETHNIC INFLUENCES

- * EVERYONE MUST HAVE YOUR FAIR CONSIDERATION.

3

- * Criticism of Marcel Mauss (disciple and nephew of Durkheim)
- * **IN FAVOR: Social phenomena must be explained by the social structure and not by the environmental one.**
- * French sociology places human behavior in the rules of society and not in the environment.

Main concern

- * The French school proposes to replace Anthropogeography by a better defined and rigorously delimited science: SCIENCE OF SOCIAL MORPHOLOGY,
- * IN / WHAT DOES GEOGRAPHY HELP?
- * To deduce by comparison and by abstraction the role of geographical factors in human stories: distance, space, position, etc.
- * Taking into account examples of regions, of stories ...

Influence of sociologists

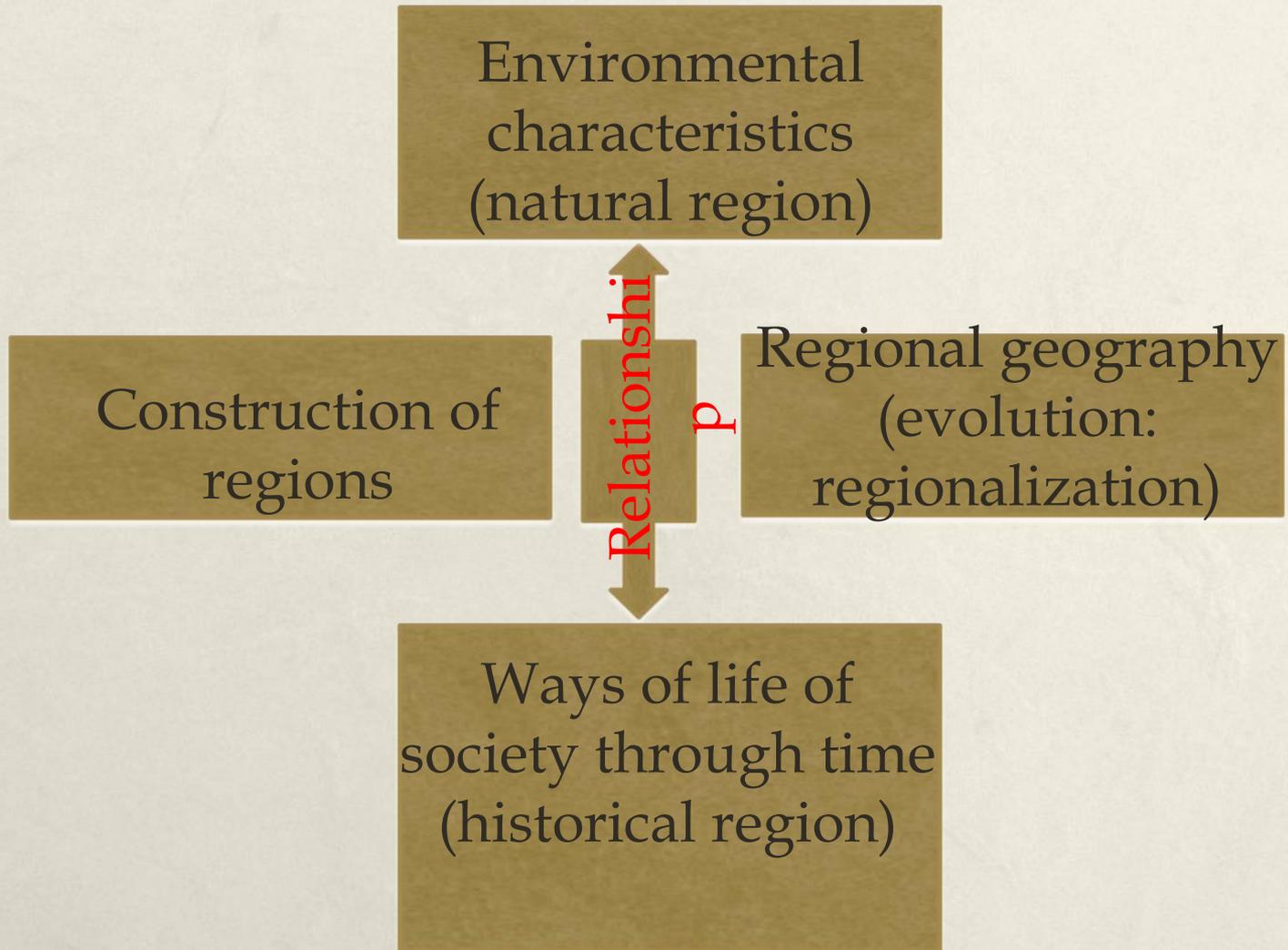
- * French sociologists did not develop geography as such.
- * But they did point out the weakest aspects of the practice and social interpretation of Geography in theory.

CRITICISM FROM HISTORY: VIDAL DE LA BLACHE

- * In France a geographical school was established
- * Around a historian and not naturalists
- * He sought to reestablish the human element in geography and reconstruct a science based on nature and life.
- * He studied Humboldt, Ritter and Ratzel
- * He discovered natural history, especially Geology.
- * He used Geology to define HUMAN REGIONS.

Contributions of Vidal de la Blache

- * 1) Importance of the concept: REGION
- * In his work, "The foundations of French soil" (1888) he began to use it as a methodological form of limits,
- * It proposes and combines the RELATIONSHIPS between nature and society.
- * YES: RELATIONSHIPS
- * NO: DETERMINISM OF THE ENVIRONMENT ON SOCIETY



THE REGION

- * To understand evolution through regionalization: human geographers must acquire prior, perfect knowledge of the region.
- * HOW? ... By carefully analyzing all the elements and knowing their history and their influence on the landscape.
- * BIG GEOGRAPHIC PROBLEM TO UNDERSTAND: THE **DETERMINISM ENVIRONMENTAL**.
- * VIDAL'S PROPOSAL: ENVIRONMENTAL POSSIBILITIES (**POSSIBILISM**)

- * NATURAL DATA IS MATTER MORE THAN THE CAUSE OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT (NATURAL PROCESSES POSSIBLE, MORE DO NOT DETERMINE, HUMAN DEVELOPMENT).
- * DETERMINISM (NECESSARY) VS POSSIBILISM
- * THERE ARE ENVIRONMENTAL POSSIBILITIES THAT MAN CAN USE TO UNDERSTAND THE NATURE-SOCIETY RELATIONSHIP.
- * ∴ VIDAL DE LA BLACHE GAVE THE PLACE OF MAN IN GEOGRAPHY.

FOR VIDAL DE LA BLACHE

- * "THE TASK OF GEOGRAPHY IS TO STUDY THE PLACES (REGIONS), THE FISSIONOMY OF THE EARTH... THE HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF THE EVOLUTION OF HUMAN GROUPINGS".
- * DIRECTLY STUDY NATURE. WITH THE ARCHIVE DOCUMENTS WE ONLY RECTIFY AND ACCURATE.
- * IT CONCLUDES: MAN IS ONE OF THE GREATEST MODIFIERS OF THE LANDSCAPE.
- * "MAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLACE, CONTRIBUTES TO COATING / CHANGING / MODIFYING THE EARTH'S PHYSIONOMICS "

GEOGRAPHY

- * ACCORDING TO VIDAL DE LA BLACHE:
- * "IT IS THE SCIENCE OF PLACES, NOT OF MEN "
- * HE IS INTERESTED IN THE EVENTS OF HISTORY TO KNOW THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LANDSCAPE.
- * "THE HISTORY OF A PEOPLE IS INSEPARABLE OF THE TERRITORY THAT INHABITS "

Study a landscape

- * Habits and tendencies of the inhabitants
- * The study must be reasoned: relate its physiognomy, morphology, relief, composition and geology.