

Regional studies - P. Claval

**An Introduction to Regional Geography, Blackwell, Oxford, 1998,
Initiation à la Géographie Régionale, Nathan, Paris, 1993**

- **Classical school of French human and regional geography - Vidal de la Blache, 1910, regional concept: each fragment of the earth's space contained its own internal logic as far as the physical environment and human response**
- **pays - a small-scale unit corresponding to a distinctive landscape assemblage based on the physical environment and the human adaptation to its opportunities and constraints /cultural landscape - rural, peasant/**
- **polarizing effects of towns / Perroux, Boudeville, 1961/- economic theory in spatial dimensions, functional concept of polarized space, modelled statistically and with predictive value, administration and planning regions - a basis for action and decision-making**
- **journals *Hérodote* and *Antipode* - impact of Marxist theory, *L'Espace Géographique* - critical discussion, international in spirit and innovative in format**
- **planning, development policies, projects, local regions, teams, relevance of geography, regional expertise, analyst or technician? Phlipponeau (1960) - politically active geographers**
- **contemporary openness - pivotal role of Claval as commentator, critic and catalyst: philosophical and practical frameworks for knowledge organization**
- **regional studies as a certain way of interpreting the world: physical components and infrastructure
human activities for making the best possible use
expansion of flows and control, administration, enterprise**

The regional approach

- a basic cartographic representation on which observations are recorded, points-lines-surfaces and distributions
- direct observation/investigation, validity of the representation, generalizations, personal experience
- indirect observation - the use of data collected by others, this involves the risk of error, censuses, interviews

- aerial photographs, remote sensing images, cartographic basis for GIS, imagination, comparison, communication flows
- quantitative and qualitative geography, characteristics
- persons and communities, ownership and location, locality, language of communication, geographer as alien, formal administration

- crisis situations - economy, jobs, social conflict, extreme situations and their spatial configuration
natural hazards and their impacts/responses/perceptions

- what the eyes never perceive directly? Process-form

- physical regions
- human regions - zonal and polarized, agricultural, economic, industrial, tourist, specialized, metropolis (urban-based), centre-(semi)periphery

- the region as a life-world, pays, cultural, historic, identity