

Chimamanda Adichie: The danger of a single story

- http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/eng/chimamanda_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story.html

Chapter 1: Thinking Geographically

Key Issues

1. Thinking about space
2. Thinking about place
3. Thinking about region
4. Thinking about scale
5. Thinking about connections

Key Issue 1- Thinking About Space

- Read the Intro
- Geographers observe regularities across earth and depict them on maps
- Thinking about Space
 - Spatial thinking is the most fundamental asset of a geographer (Space to a Geographer is like time to a historian)
 - The process of understanding why people and activities are distributed across the space

- Geographers ask where and why not why and when
- The key difference between historians and geographers is first hand experience

- Distribution

- Look around the room; Is the room set up regularly or in chaotic fashion? Why do you think it was set up this way?
- Communities, cultures and cities are set up the same way, why?
- The arrangement of a feature in space is known as distribution
 - There are three main properties of distribution; density, concentration and pattern

- **Density**

- The frequency in which something occurs in space is called density; look at the desk, how dense are they?
- Arithmetic density is the density in which the total number of objects in one area; this is used in population
 - Ex. 59 million people divided into the square miles 94,251 = 626 persons per square mile

- Large population does not mean large density, Why not? China has 1.2 billion people but is not the highest density, why?
- Density is also unrelated to poverty, Switzerland vs. Mali
- Physiological Density- number of people in an area suitable for farmland, could mean difficulty in growing food
- Agricultural Density- number of farmers in an area, could mean inefficient agriculture
- High Housing Could mean what?

- **Concentration**

- The extent of a features spread over space is concentration
- Describes changes in distribution
 - NY concentration decreases as what happens
- Concentration and distribution are different
 - Think of the same amount of houses in a neighborhood with different yard sizes
- Baseball teams and expansion teams
 - How do they change over time compared to concentration and density?

- Pattern
 - Geometric arrangements of objects in space
 - Grids laid down by the Land ordnance of 1785
 - How about Greenville
 - 30 Baseball teams are located in the Metropolitan areas of the north
 - Page 6 of your book

- **Maps**

- Two dimensional or flat scale model of the earths surface
 - Most important tool of a Geographer
- Cartography the art of map making- one of the oldest professions- 2300 BC- Babylonians
- There are two functions-
 - 1- reference material
 - 2- Geographic information
 - Start on pg 6 and carry over to 8, Write down the people and the differences they brought to map making skills

- **Contemporary mapping**

- Remote Sensing- the acquisition of data from long distance

- Satellites can analyze small areas called pixels or picture element

- Geographic Information System (GIS)

- Analyze many components of a map at once layered on each other, Population and geography etc..

- GPS-

- We know this one- Time travel can be proved through this phenomena

- **Projection**

- The process of transferring data from a spherical reference to a flat reference
- Four types of distortion can accrue
 1. Shape
 2. Distance
 3. Size
 4. Direction
- Equal area projections are mostly used
 - Size of populated areas are more important

Key Issue 2- Thinking about Place

- Feeling for the feature that contribute to the distinctiveness of a particular place
- **Location**
 - The position something occupies on earths surface
- **Names**
 - Toponym- is the name given to a place on earth
 - Names of places related to figures or objects, Charleston
 - Religious
 - Sayings, Eureka
 - Physical environment
 - Offensive racial names and slurs are going to be changed
 - Changes due to political upheaval; Eastern Europe or the Middle East

- Names and Places
 - British- N America and Australia
 - Portuguese- Brazil
 - Spanish- Latin America
 - Dutch- S. Africa

- **Site**

- The physical character of a place
- Rivers, Hilltops, Islands have been good places to start cities, why? Can they make more? NY

- **Situation**

- The location of a place relative to another place
 - Helps us find an unfamiliar place by locating a familiar one
 - The situation also allows us to see the importance of a location compared to accessibility to another place

- **Mathematical Situation**

- Location can be found precisely through the meridians and parallels

- Meridian- an arc between north and south poles

- Each Meridian is located through the use of longitude

- Greenwich, England- Prime Meridian 0 Longitude

- » All others have numbers between 0 and 180 degrees

- Parallel- circle around the globe; right angles to the meridian

- Each parallel can be found through latitude

- Equator is 0, North and South poles are 90

- Each degree is divided into 60 min and then into 60 sec

- Precise location of all features on a map

- **Time from Longitude**

- Time Zones- 24 zones divided into 15 degrees of Longitude, map on pg 15

- Greenwich Mean Time- or Universal Time is the master reference why?

- International Date Line- past 180 degrees either way adjust the time by 24 hours

- **Determining Longitude**

- Longitude is man made creation; Longitude act of 1784 established it permanently

Key Issue 3- Thinking about Region

- **Region**

- An area of earth described by one or more specific characteristic, North East vs. South East
- A region gains its uniqueness through human and environmental differences, BBQ vs. Bagels

- **Formal Region**

- Also called a formal region- described by homogeneous characteristics; language, economy, crop, government
 - Problem lies in the minorities of that region

- **Functional Region**

- Also known as a nodal region- organized around a node or focal point
 - Shops, services, newspapers, radio, TV

- **Vernacular region**

- Perceptual region- cultural identity ,map pg 18, north vs. south, east vs. west

- Seen for the south as a place of pride and for others a place to avoid

- **Regional Integration/ Culture**

- Culture- customs, traits, beliefs, material belongings, traditions of a particular group

- 2 traits of culture

- What people care about

- Language, Religion, Ethnicity define this

- What people take care of

- Wealth, food, clothing, shelter

- MDC- More developed Economically, USA, Japan, made goods

- LDC- Less developed Economically, Africa, Middle East, Agriculture

- Cultural Ecology- Human environment relationship
 - Environmental determinism- people actions are caused by their environment
 - Alexander Humbelt, Carl Ritter, Fredrick Ratzel, Ellen Churchill Semple, Ellsworth Huntington
 - Possibilism- peoples actions are limited to their environment, Domestication of animals
 - Resources, food production, buildings etc..
 - Wealth and technology influence both of these, how?
 - Sensitive Land Reclaiming- Polder- land that was covered by water,
 - Insensitive Land Reclaiming- Disney Land, sand bars, make shift land, levees, canals

Key issue- 4 Thinking about Scale

- Scale- the scope of a particular idea or function, “ Think globally act locally”
- Map Scale
 - Relation of something's size and its actual size on the earth
 - Most are scaled down, obviously
- Spatial Association
 - Scaling from a very small portion to a very large portion depending on your need, pg 24
- Globalization
 - The force or process that involves the entire world
- Globalization of Economy
 - Transitional Corporations- Lead the charge of globalization, GE, BP
 - All economies are global and effect each other in the manner

- **Globalization of Culture**

- Uniform culture across the globe, McDonalds, MTV, what fosters this growth?

Key Issue 5- Thinking about Connections

- **Space Time connection-** the time it takes for something to reach another place, News
- **Spatial Interaction**
 - In the past people had to move or travel to spread information, what do we rely on now?
- **Networks**
 - Chains of communication that connect places
 - ABC, CBS, Airline Hubs
 - Distance decay- The further one place is from another the less interaction they have to its eventual disappearance

- **Cultural Diversity**

- Spatial diversity is often learned by children, ballet lessons vs. Baseball practice
- Often through areas of a neighborhood, West Greenville vs. Botany Woods
 - Why do people seclude themselves to these places?
 - What about homosexuals? Pets?
 - **Self Identification support this thought, look at the lunch room**

- **Diffusion**

- Process in which characteristics spread across one place to another
- Hearth- The place in which an original idea will start
 - A culture must be willing to try something new, Democracy in Athens

- **Relocation Diffusion**

- People movement- AIDS, language

- Climate is often classified by German Vladimir Koppen-
 - Five specific main climates
 - Tropical Climates
 - dry Climates
 - Warm mid-latitude climates
 - Cold mid-latitude climates
 - Polar climates

- Expansion Diffusion
 - Spread of feature through snowballing process, 3 types
 - Hierarchical Diffusion
 - Spread of an idea through authority, good or bad
 - Contagious Diffusion
 - Contagious disease, AIDS, Influenza, Swine Flue
 - Stimulus Diffusion
 - Spread of underlying characteristics even though it apparently fails, Computers, Cell Phones

- Diffusion of Culture and Economy
 - Outsourcing jobs leads to this diffusion
 - Uneven Development- the increasing gap between well off and well being of people
- Read the Summary on pg 32
 - Do the vocabulary in your note book
 - Questions on pg. 33 1-5 answer completely

- Rubenstein, James- Cultural Landscape; An Introduction to Human Geography
- http://www.glendale.edu/geo/reed/cultural/cultural_lectures.htm
- <http://www.quia.com/pages/mrsbellaphg.html>
- Google