

CHAPTER 18: TRADITIONAL LIVELIHOODS OF RURAL PEOPLES

CHAPTER OUTLINE

- I. Introduction
- II. Classifying economic activities
 - A. Primary activities
 - 1. Hunting and gathering
 - 2. Farming of all kinds
 - 3. Livestock herding, fishing, forestry, and lumbering
 - 4. Mining and quarrying
 - 5. All are activities in the extractive sector
 - B. Secondary activities
 - 1. Concerned with the conversion of raw materials
 - 2. An infinite range of production from simple to complex
 - C. Tertiary activities
 - 1. Service industries
 - 2. Connect producers to consumers
 - D. Quaternary (and quinary) activities
 - 1. Quaternary—economic activities concerned with information and exchange of money or capital
 - 2. Quinary—spheres of research and higher education
- III. The persistence of agriculture
 - A. The United States in late 1994 had fewer than 2 million farmers
 - 1. Mechanization and farm consolidation
 - 2. Millions of small farmers driven off the land
 - 3. Transformation of the United States' economy to industrial and technological
 - B. In the majority of the world's countries agriculture remains the leading employment sector
- IV. Ancient livelihoods in a modern world
 - A. Introduction
 - B. Before farming
 - 1. Farming is a very recent innovation dating back a mere 12,000 years at most
 - 2. Hunting and gathering, and sometimes fishing were the way of life
 - 3. Some small groups still exist by hunting and gathering
 - a) Most have been driven from the better land into less hospitable environments
 - b) They know and exhaustively exploit their environment
 - c) The group cannot become too large and they have no permanent settlement
 - d) Their existence is not the same as that of our ancestors
 - 4. Early human existence
 - a) Hunted mammoth and other plentiful wildlife
 - b) Communities were larger than those of today's hunter and gathering people
 - c) Learned to specialize to some extent in some area of production
 - (1) Oak forests provided abundant harvests of nuts
 - (2) Those near the Pacific Ocean became adept at salmon fishing
 - (3) Bison provided sustenance in the North American plains region
 - d) Some groups found better environments than others
 - (1) They may have been able to become semi-sedentary
 - (2) Forest margins may have provided advantages
 - C. Terrain and tools

1. Knowledge of terrain enhanced humankind's ability to sustain itself
2. The exploitation of resources improved over time
3. The evolution of tools
 - a) First tools were clubs formed from tree limbs
 - b) Bone and stone were next used
 - c) Stone tools were fashioned into hand axes
 - d) Simple baskets were fashioned
 - e) Various forms of racks, packing frames, and sleds were made
4. The controlled use of fire
 - a) Natural fires provided the first opportunities for control
 - b) Excavations suggest attempts were made to keep a fire burning continuously
 - c) Made unpalatable foods digestible
 - d) Used to drive animals over cliffs or into traps
 - e) Fire made the dugout canoe possible
5. Evidence exists suggesting fragments of native copper, nuggets of gold, and iron were hammered into arrowheads and other shapes
6. Before agriculture appeared, humans had assemblages of tools, and the complexity of culture had begun

D. Fishing

1. Fishing may have started about 12,000 to 15,000 years ago
 - a) Time of melting glaciers and rising sea levels
 - b) As coastlines were inundated shallow seas full of coastal lagoons encouraged the growth of marine life
 - c) Coastal regions became warmer and settlements were established
 - d) Learned to trap fish by cutting small patches of standing water off from the open sea
 - e) Invented tools for catching fish
2. In several regions human communities achieved a degree of permanence by combining hunting and fishing with some gathering
 - a) Salmon fishing
 - b) Trapping of deer
 - c) Drying of fish and meat for leaner times
3. Invention of a wide range of tools to aid in catching or trapping fish
 - a) Stone traps used in tidal channels
 - b) Spears of various kinds
 - c) Hooks made of wood, bone, horn, and seashells
 - d) The development of simple rafts to more elaborate sailing boats

V. The First Agricultural Revolution

A. Plant domestication

1. The **First Agricultural Revolution** was in progress possibly as long as 12,000 years ago
2. Carl Sauer postulated that **plant domestication** began in an area north of the Bay of Bengal
 - a) Appears that the cultivation of roots and cuttings came first
 - b) Proposed other early agricultural hearths (Figure 18-2)
3. Agricultural techniques developed much later in the Americas than in Southeast and Southwest Asia
4. Particular local groupings of plants constituted the basic ingredients for each regional agricultural development zone (Region 6 in Figure 18-2)
5. Agricultural origins in China may have occurred earlier than was long believed (region 7 in Figure 18-2)

- a) May have been among the world's first farmers
 - b) Resulting food surpluses and population increases produced the wave of emigration
- 6. Table 18-1 reveals enormous range of crops selected early and cultivated around the world
- 7. Discussion of the diffusion of food plants around the world
- B. Animal domestication
 - 1. Nostratic proto-language suggest domestication was in progress as long as 14,000 years ago
 - 2. Keeping livestock came with the planting of crops
 - 3. At first, animals may have attached themselves to human settlements as scavengers
 - 4. Hunters may have brought back young offspring of animals killed in the field
 - 5. There is debate on which came first, animal domestication or agriculture
 - 6. Animals changed from their wild state in captivity
 - 7. Thought cattle were first kept for religious purposes
 - 8. Possible to identify certain regions where the domestication of particular animals occurred
 - 9. Regional association must be regarded with caution because numerous species were domesticated simultaneously in numerous areas
 - 10. Dispersal of domesticated animals is blurred
 - 11. First by regional diffusion and later by worldwide diffusion
 - 12. Great majority of animals suitable for domestication inhabited Eurasia
 - 13. Africans became cattle herders only after cattle were introduced via Southwest Asia
 - 14. Chickens can now be found worldwide
 - 15. Efforts of domestication are being made today among Africa's huge herds
 - a) As a potential source of meat in a region of imbalanced diets
 - b) Some success has been attained with a species of eland
 - c) Many animals do not seem susceptible to domestication
 - 16. Only about 40 species of higher animals have been domesticated worldwide
- VI. Subsistence farming
 - A. Still practiced by hundreds of millions of farmers
 - 1. Plots of land used by farmers to grow only enough food to survive
 - 2. Farmers that move from place to place in search of better land practice ***shifting cultivation***
 - a) Found primarily in tropical and subtropical zones
 - b) Soils quickly lose their fertility after being stripped of vegetation
 - c) Between 150 and 200 million people still use this system of cultivation
 - d) Also called *slash-and-burn agriculture*
 - e) Gave ancient farmers opportunities to experiment with various plants
 - f) Involves a natural rotations system where areas of forest are used without being destroyed
 - g) Occurs in low population density areas
 - 4. In many areas of the world subsistence farmers cannot migrate
 - a) Confined to a small field of more fertile soil
 - b) Are not likely to own the land they farm
 - 5. Definition of the term "subsistence"
 - a) Strictly used it refers to farmers who grow only enough to eat and fits farmers in societies where shifting agriculture is practiced (Figure 18-3)
 - b) Can apply to farmers who sell small amounts of surplus food
 - 6. These farmers expect to have lean years
 - B. Marginalization of subsistence farming

1. Farming the European colonial way
 - a) Colonial powers sought to "modernize" the economies of their dependencies
 - b) Often tried to end subsistence farming
 - c) Sometimes imposed harsh methods
 - d) Demanded taxes that forced farmers to raise funds by growing cash crops
 - e) Initiation of forced cropping schemes to make a profit-making a farmer grow a stipulated acreage of some cash crop
 - f) If no new land was available the farmer had to give up food crops for cash crops
2. Results of forced cropping
 - a) Local famines
 - b) Indigenous economies were disrupted
3. Changing farmers' attitudes could have destructive effects on their society's cohesion
 - a) Farmers often hold land in common
 - b) Surpluses are shared by all members of the community
 - c) Individual advancement at the cost of the group as a whole is limited
4. Quote by A. H. Bunting
5. Subsistence land use is changing to more intensive farming and cash cropping
6. Results of modernized mechanized farming in subsistence areas
 - a) Distribution of resources breaks down
 - b) Distribution of wealth becomes stratified

VII. Second Agricultural Revolution

- A. Began slowly during the latter phase of the so-called Middle Ages
 1. Its origins and diffusion cannot be readily traced
 2. Tools and equipment of agriculture were modified and improved
 3. Soil preparation, fertilization, crop care, and harvesting improved
 4. Food storage and distribution were made more efficient
 5. Productivity increased to meet rising demands of Europe's growing cities
 6. Progress in agriculture made possible clustering of even larger urban populations
- B. Agriculture and the Industrial Revolution
 1. Helped sustain the Second Agricultural Revolution
 2. Tractors and other machines took over work done by human hands and animals
 3. The cultural landscape of agriculture changed and enlarged
 4. Farming not possible everywhere—deserts, mountain slopes, polar zones, etc.
 5. Huge cattle ranches in Texas
 6. Rich plantations in Middle America lie within a few miles of subsistence farms
 7. Different patterns can be recognized across the United States
- C. Understanding the spatial layout of agriculture
 1. Discussion of Von Thünen's Spatial Model of Farming (Figure 18-4)
 2. Many factors have combined to produce the spatial distribution of farming systems existing today
 3. Decisions made by colonial powers led to the establishment of plantations
 4. Food-poor countries continue to grow commercial crops when food crops are needed

VIII. Forces of change

- A. The ***Third Agricultural Revolution***
 1. Based on new higher-yielding strains of grains and other crops
 2. Covered in Chapter 20