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Study of History and Development of Economic Geography

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Abstract

As a distinct discipline of science, geography encompasses a wide range of topics and employs a plethora of methodologies, instruments, and approaches. Studies of migration require a variety of interdisciplinary approaches, such as geopolitical analysis to determine the underlying causes of migration, (geo)demographic analysis to determine the age structure of migrants, behavioural geography to determine how migrants will be integrated, urban (spatial) planning to deal with sudden influxes of migrants, and economic geography to model how the labour market will respond to new arrivals. Geography is a multidisciplinary field, and this case shows that. If we include related fields such as geographic information systems and cartography, an even greater array of geographical analysis becomes available.

Key Words: Economic, Geography, Techniques, Location etc.

Introduction

The study of where and why economic activity occurs is known as economic geography. Economic research takes on a new dimension when it acknowledges the importance of location. Historically, economists, urban scientists, and geographers have all contributed to the topic of economic geography, but breakthroughs in modelling tools have lately reawakened interest in it among economists more broadly. A better understanding of economic geography is possible now that economists' tools have advanced enough to simulate complex economic scenarios, such as those with growing returns to scale and imperfect competition.

Definitions of Economic Geography

"**According to Dudley Stamp, Economic Geography** *involves consideration of the geographical and other factors which influence man's productivity, but only in limited depths, so far as they are connected with production and trade.*

Professor E. W. Zimmermann pointed out that, Economic Geography deals with the economic life of man with relation to environment.

R. S. Thoman in his book 'The Geography of Economic Activity' has remarked, *Economic Geography may be defined as an enquiry into the production, exchange and* *consumption of goods by people in different areas of the world. Particular emphasis is placed on the location of economic activity — upon asking just why economic functions are situated where they are in this world".*

Approach of Economic Geography

Geographical notions like space, location, and size are fundamental to an economic-geographical study. Among professional geographers, these notions are part of the common language.

1. **Space:** A physical distance or region is referred to as "space." A basic query like, "Where is this process taking place?" may be answered using the idea of space.
2. **Place:** To convey the singularity or uniqueness of certain locations carved out of space is the goal of the idea of "place." Place-based studies provide geographers a means to examine a place's richness and complexity, which is always entwined with its surrounding environment as well as its social context.
3. **Scale:** There are a few popular spatial scales used by economic geographers: Either on a global or a micro level (e.g. Southeast Asia, Europe, or North America), or on a national or regional size (e.g. India, USA, Japan), or on a lived place (f) (e.g. workplaces and homeplaces).

History and Development of Economic Geography

With the expansion of European countries into new lands and their subsequent colonisation, the study of economic geography grew in stature. The European explorers of this era created maps depicting the economic riches they anticipated would be discovered in the Americas, Asia, and Africa. They used these maps to guide their excursions, which resulted in new economic activity for the areas they visited. While these riches were discovered, explorers were also aware of how these people traded with each other in the vicinity.

Johann Heinrich von Thünen, a farmer and economist, established his concept of agricultural land usage in the mid-1800s. Due to the fact that it described city economic growth in terms of land usage, this was an early example of modern economic geography. An economic and geographic theory proposed in 1933 by geographer Walter Christaller attempted to explain the global distribution, size, and population density of cities.

By the conclusion of World War II, the general public's understanding of geography had grown significantly. Because economists and geographers were curious about the reasons for and locations of economic activity and development after World War II, economic geography emerged as an established geography subject. Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, geographers worked to make economic geography more quantitative, which led to an increase in its appeal. To this day, economic geography is still mostly a quantitative study concerned with issues such as firm location, market research, and regional and global development. Aside from that, the subject is studied by both geographers and economists. Geographic information systems (GIS) are becoming more important in economic geography research these days, especially when it comes to studying marketplaces, company location, and the supply and demand of certain products in a region.

Location Theories

The definitions and historical history of economic geography make it difficult to choose a subject. This section has a plethora of intriguing economic geography topics for discussion and analysis, both old and new. So, what's with all these notions about where things are? Because of its stunning visual picture of an economic landscape, this section was included mostly since the author found it appealing; nevertheless, because it was founded on mathematical assumptions, it is impractical when used in real-life settings. This is completely based on the author's own interpretation. Aside from the fact that location theories and their authors are considered to constitute the foundations of economic geography, there is also an objective purpose to present them: It's like trying to construct a house from the top down if you don't know the principles of economic geography. Every student who wants to call themselves an expert in economic geography should be able to trace the field's historical development. Several decades after they were first developed, some of the ideas of location theories are still relevant. In addition, location theories may inspire the development of new ideas or the modification of existing ones — theories from other disciplines (e.g. physics or biology) that can be included into economic geography. As a conglomeration of several sources Locative economic geography refers to the study of how distance and area (e.g., transportation costs, the price of products, the location of production facilities, the geographic extent of markets) affect the price of goods and services, as well as how these factors influence the location of production facilities and the distribution and sale of goods and services. According to location theories, the reasons and mechanisms for the evolution of geographical patterns of economic activity may be explained. The term "universal equilibrium analysis" refers to methods that aim to provide idealised representations of any socioeconomic situation. A look at the four most influential locationists: Heinrich von Thünen (1783–1850), Alfred Weber (1869–1958), August Lösch (1906– 1945) and Walter Christaller (1893–1969). Several more ideas and writers are also included; they typically expand on the traditional ones, but this is more of a reference for people who are interested in the issue to explore on their own.

Endogenous forces

A change in a place that affects the choices of other individuals and companies about where to locate is called an endogenous force. The provision of local facilities is a simple illustration of this. Public transportation, parks, and swimming pools are just some of the amenities available to residents in different areas. There are also a range of schools and universities, as well as dependable water and energy sources. Additionally, the prices they charge will vary. Efficiencies and quantities of certain commodities and services are influenced by the presence or absence of people and businesses in a given region. Remaining inhabitants' wishes may be communicated by the use of their right to vote and other forms of civic engagement. According to Tiebout's theory, people and businesses select where to live and work depending on the quality of local public goods and the cost of access to those products.

Scope of Economic Geography

Most economic geographers have characterised the field's scope and methodology in terms of the following three basic questions:

- Economic geography's primary goal is to examine human activities in connection to the environment. Again, human activity is influenced by the natural environment, the availability of resources, and the culture of the location in which it occurs. In contrast, the world's natural environment, culture, and resources are all unique and constantly evolving. As a result, economic geography has a broad reach, both in terms of time and space.
- Hunting and gathering were the primary activities of man in the prehistoric era. At the time, the distribution of animals and plants was the focus of economic geography.
- However, as the human population grows and cultural development advances, the demands of the human race are growing as well. Food and other necessities are produced with the aid of contemporary technologies. According to demand, these commodities are disseminated over the globe. As a result, the level of human activity has been rising. Consequently, the scope of economic geography has grown. As a

component of economic geography's subject matter include transportation and communication, marketing, management, and planning as well as the growth and development of an area. Economic geography also examines the geographical variation of these features.

Conclusion

An area of study within geography that focuses on the movement of information, raw resources, commodities, and people between different parts of a country, region, or region's economy, as well as the location of those activities themselves. When it was first developed in the late 19th century, it was not a theory-driven discipline like its academic cousin, economics. There is a strong empirical component in commercial geography, which is concerned with how a location's natural and human resources interact with its economy. The geography of the production of certain commodities was therefore dependent on observation, rather than inferences from the foundational principles of economics. ' There has been a new school of economic geographers who have been looking for regular patterns in the economic landscape that may be explained by producers behaving rationally based on factors such as available resources and market position. Economic geographers gathered and analysed quantitative data on all kinds of commodity producers in order to identify geographical regularities and deviations from those patterns. An focus on documenting and explaining the spatial decision-making of enterprises, commuters, labour migrants and so on was placed on this study.

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