

Regions and Diffusion

Unit I Continued:

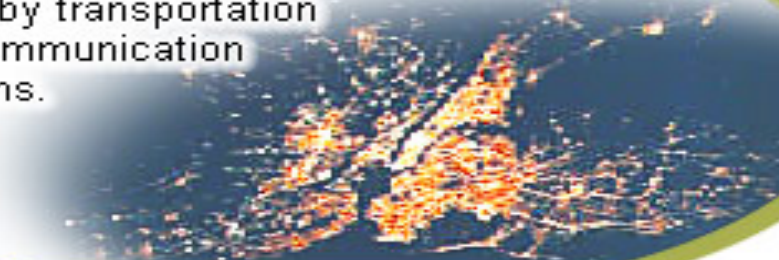
Three Types of Regions

1 Formal regions have one or more common characteristics. They can be political entities, climate regions or landform regions.



Southern Europe

2 Functional regions have a focal point with surrounding areas linked by transportation and communication systems.



New York metropolitan area

3 Perceptual regions are defined by how people perceive of an area.



Rust Belt

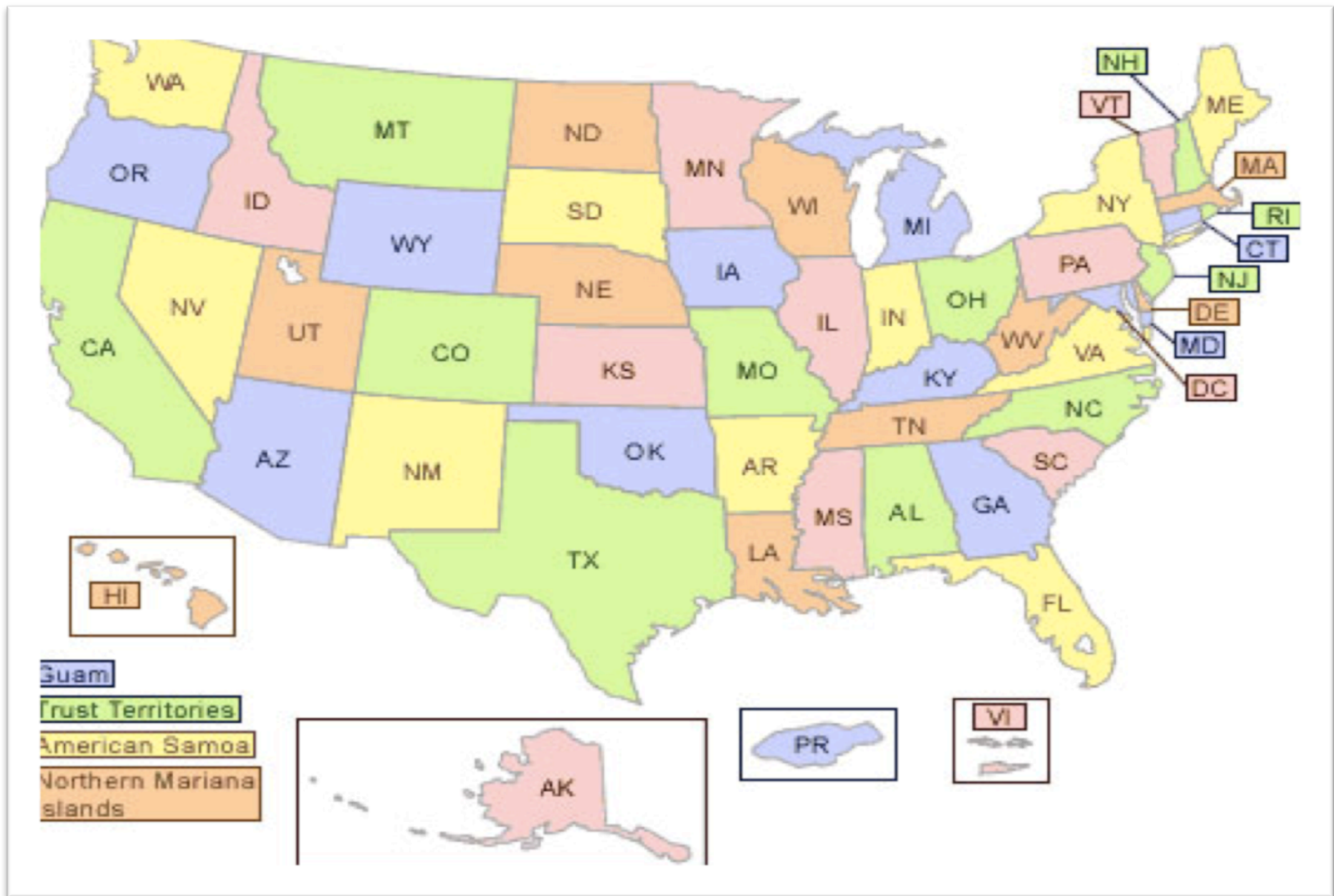
3 Main Types of Regions

Formal Region: defined by a commonality, typically a cultural linkage or a physical characteristic.

EX: Culture Regions, a country, Corn Belt,



Formal Region Map



Functional Region

defined by a set of social, political, or economic activities or the interactions that occur within it.

*most intense near the central node, then lose relevance as distance increases

- Distance Decay

ex: - an urban area (DFW METROPLEX)

- newspaper route

- radio station broadcast

- reception of television station



Perceptual (Vernacular)

Perceptual Region: ideas in our minds, based on accumulated knowledge of places and regions, that define an area of “sameness” or “connectedness.”

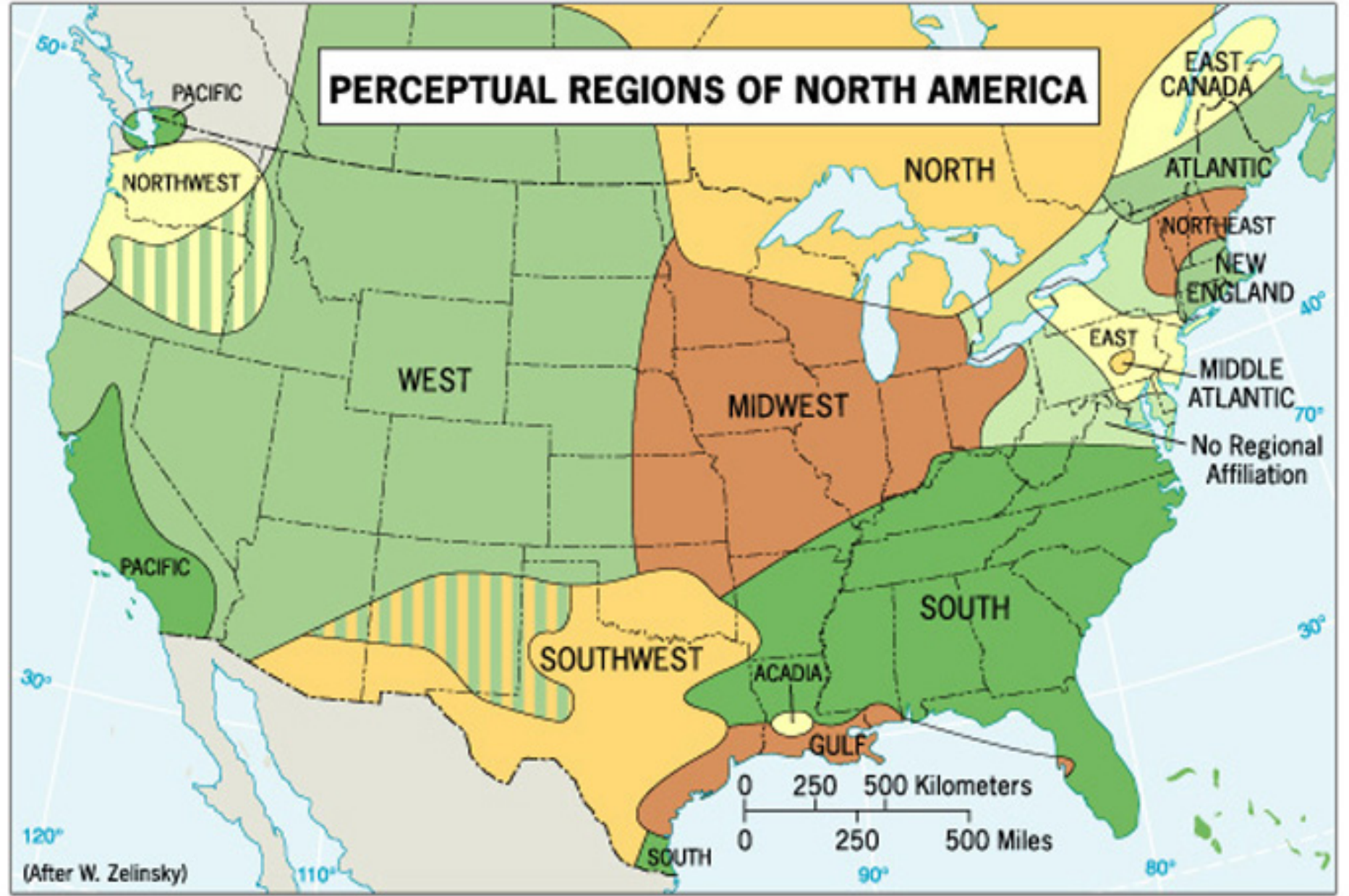
EX: **The South** (*still based on States of the Confederacy?*)

The Mid-Atlantic

The Middle East (*has perception changed since 9/11?*)

The Sunbelt

PERCEPTUAL REGIONS OF NORTH AMERICA



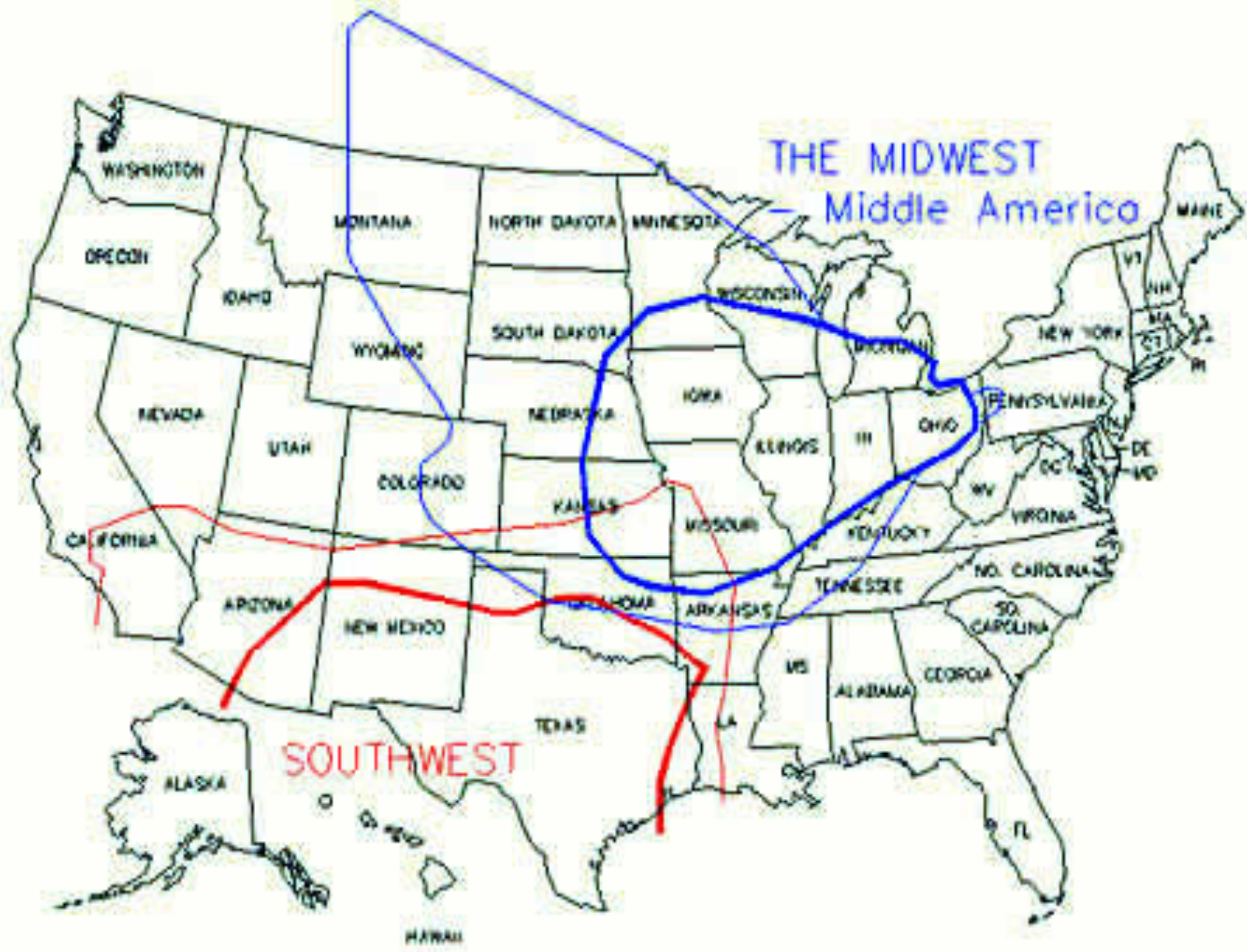
(After W. Zelinsky)

NORTHWEST

NEW ENGLAND

THE SOUTH
- Southeast
- Dixie





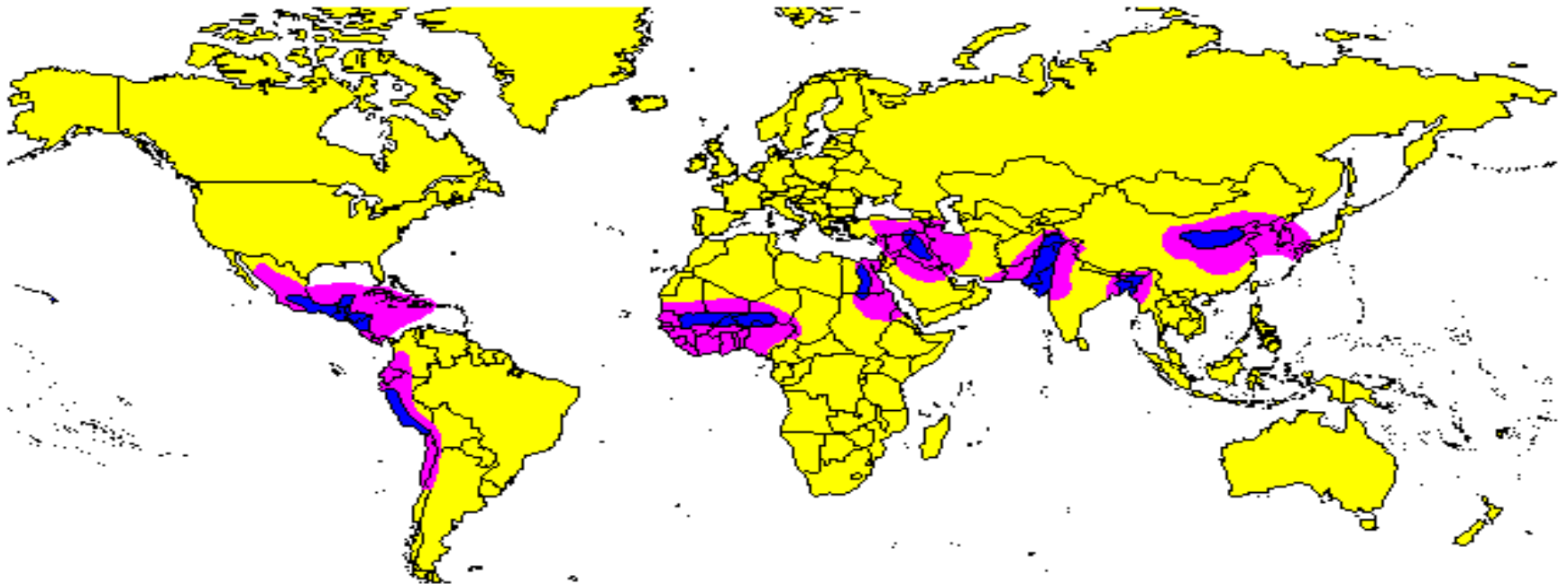
THE MIDWEST
Middle America

SOUTHWEST

Diffusion: The Spread of Ideas

- All ancient culture hearths were focal points of innovation and invention
 - Ideas then spread from their source areas to more distant locations

Location of the World's Ancient Culture Hearths

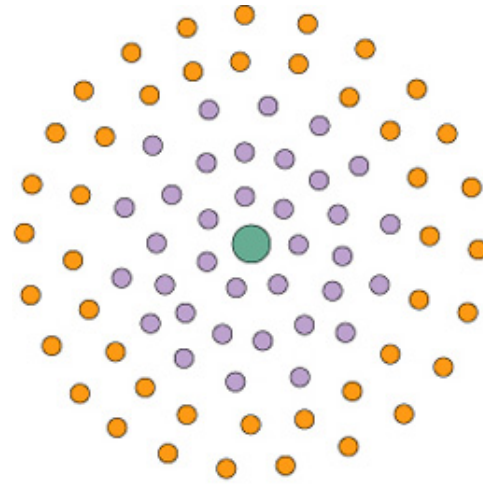


Diffusion

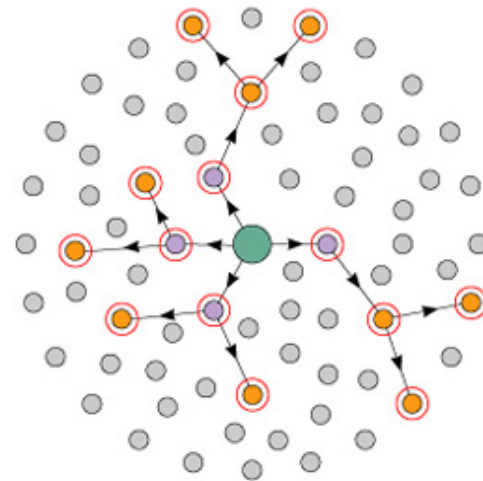
- **Diffusion**: the process of dissemination, the spread of an idea or innovation from its hearth to other areas.
 - 2 types
 - **1- Expansion Diffusion**: an idea or innovation that spreads outward from the hearth
 - (3 sub-types)
 - **2. Relocation Diffusion**: People move to a new area and take their language, religion, and other cultural items with them.
 - The items being diffused leave the original areas behind as they move to new areas.

Expansion Diffusion

- a. Contagious – spreads to nearly all adjacent individuals (ex. The flu, Spread of Islam from Mecca)
- b. Hierarchical - Spreads as a result of a group that is susceptible (Clothing Fads, AIDS)
- c. Stimulus – idea promotes a local experiment or change in the way people do things. (McDonalds?)



A. Contagious Diffusion



B. Hierarchical Diffusion

LEGEND

- Hearth
- Early diffusion
- Later diffusion
- Important person or place
- No diffusion

Stimulus Diffusion



Example:

Because Hindus believe cows are holy, cows often roam the streets in villages and towns. The McDonalds restaurants in India feature veggie burgers.

Relocation Diffusion

Defined again: The physical spread of cultures/ideas.
When people migrate, they often bring various aspects of their culture

Language, religion, customs

Main difference to keep in mind between expansion diffusion and relocation diffusion is:

***Expansion - it is the IDEA, INNOVATION or DISEASES) that does the moving

***Relocation – involves the actual movement of people who bring the ideas etc...

Relocation Diffusion Example

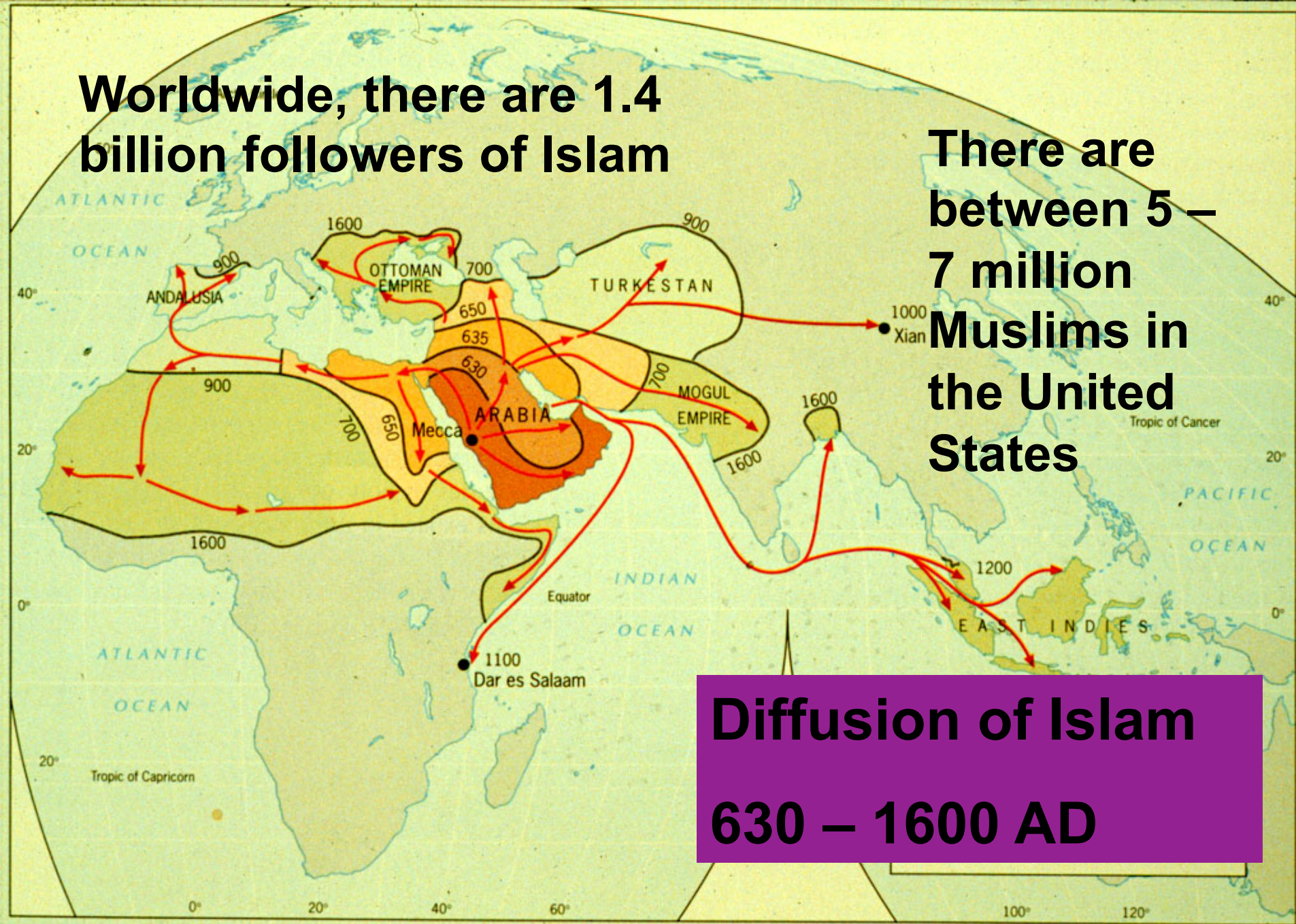
- Example: African-Americans who moved from the rural South to the urban North during the mid-20th century brought blues music to Chicago.

Examples of Diffusion

- Religions
 - Food
- Cultural trends - Music
- Plants/Animals/Insects
 - Diseases

Worldwide, there are 1.4 billion followers of Islam

There are between 5 – 7 million Muslims in the United States



**Diffusion of Islam
630 – 1600 AD**

Starbucks.. They're everywhere



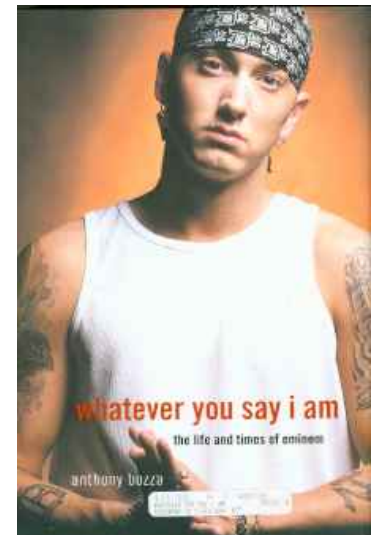
Diffusion or (in this case) Fusion of Food

- In China, the chief food flavor used is soy
- In India, the principal flavoring is curry
- Both spices spread or 'migrated'
- As a result, Thai food, influenced by both China and India, is a blend of both cuisines, yet uniquely Thai



Music, clothing and fads

- New clothing & music fads spread quickly among major world cities such as ?
- Only later do they filter down the *urban hierarchy*



Plants, Animals & Insects

- Arizona is a case study= 'introduction of alien plant species' due to migration of people from all over US to Arizona
- Kudzu – from Japan
- West Nile Virus
- Africanized Killer Bees



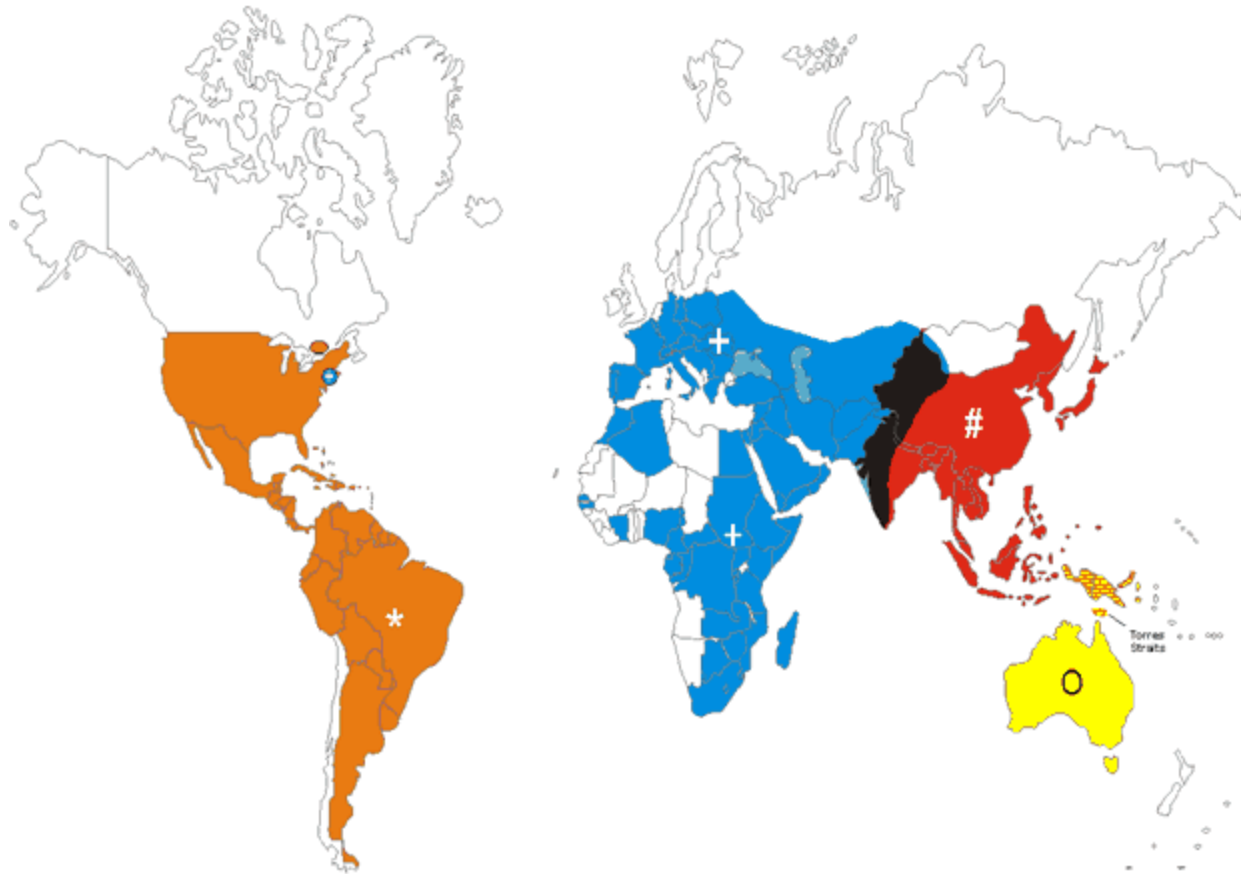
Kudzu

- Kudzu resembles soybeans or cowpeas.
- Its roots can reach a depth of eight feet and have a circumference of over three inches.



- Roots are jointed & often branch every two or four feet and can form separate, independent plants as the root joints die.
- One of the fastest growing plants around, with the ability to expand as much as 60 feet in one season!
- And, it's very difficult to control. It has taken over some areas of the US, such as Louisiana and Mississippi

The Geographic Distribution of the Japanese Encephalitis Serocomplex of the Family Flaviridae, 2000.



West Nile Virus

- St. Louis encephalitis
- * Rocio and St. Louis (Brazil)
- + West Nile virus
- # Japanese encephalitis
- West Nile and Japanese encephalitis
- Japanese and Murray Valley encephalitis
- Murray Valley and Kunjin

Barriers to Diffusion

What slows/prevents diffusion?

- time-distance decay

 - The farther an idea is from the source, the less likely it is to be adopted

- cultural barriers: Religious beliefs, language, politics etc.

Cultural Environment

Architecture, changing the landscape, etc

Cultural ecology – study of the relationship between a culture group and the natural environment it occupies

– Arid regions versus humid regions

Environmental Determinism

- Belief that humans are controlled and/or their behavior is determined by their physical environment
 - Climate being the critical factor
- Becoming less accepted

Possibilism

- Possibilism is the belief that while people may face challenges regarding physical environment, choices are always present as to how one can deal with each problem
- However, possibilists still retain the notion that humans can't control all aspects of their environment

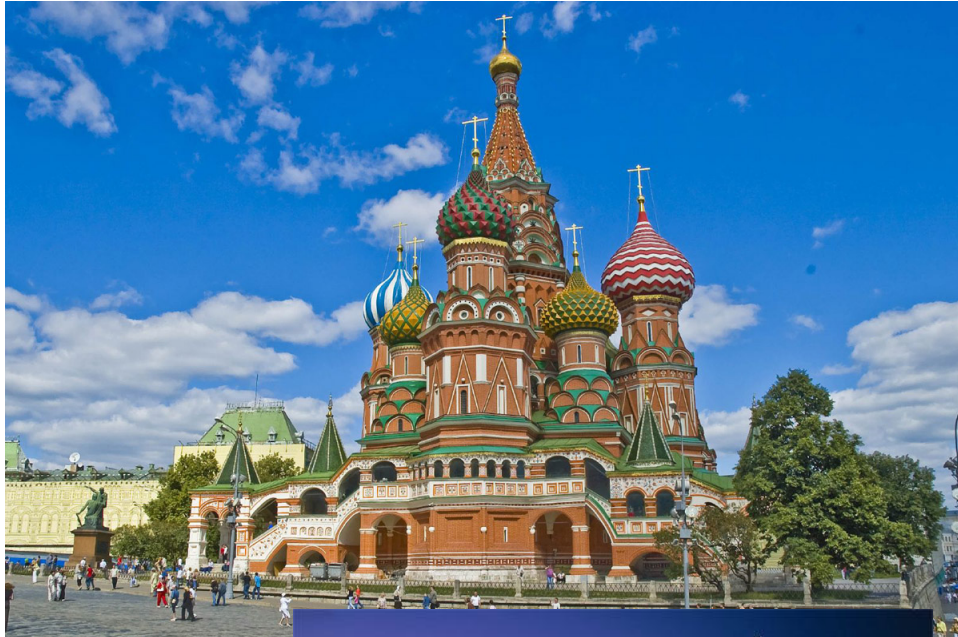
Cultural Landscape

- *Carl Sauer* coined the term in 1927
- All identifiably human-induced changes in the natural landscape (artificial features)



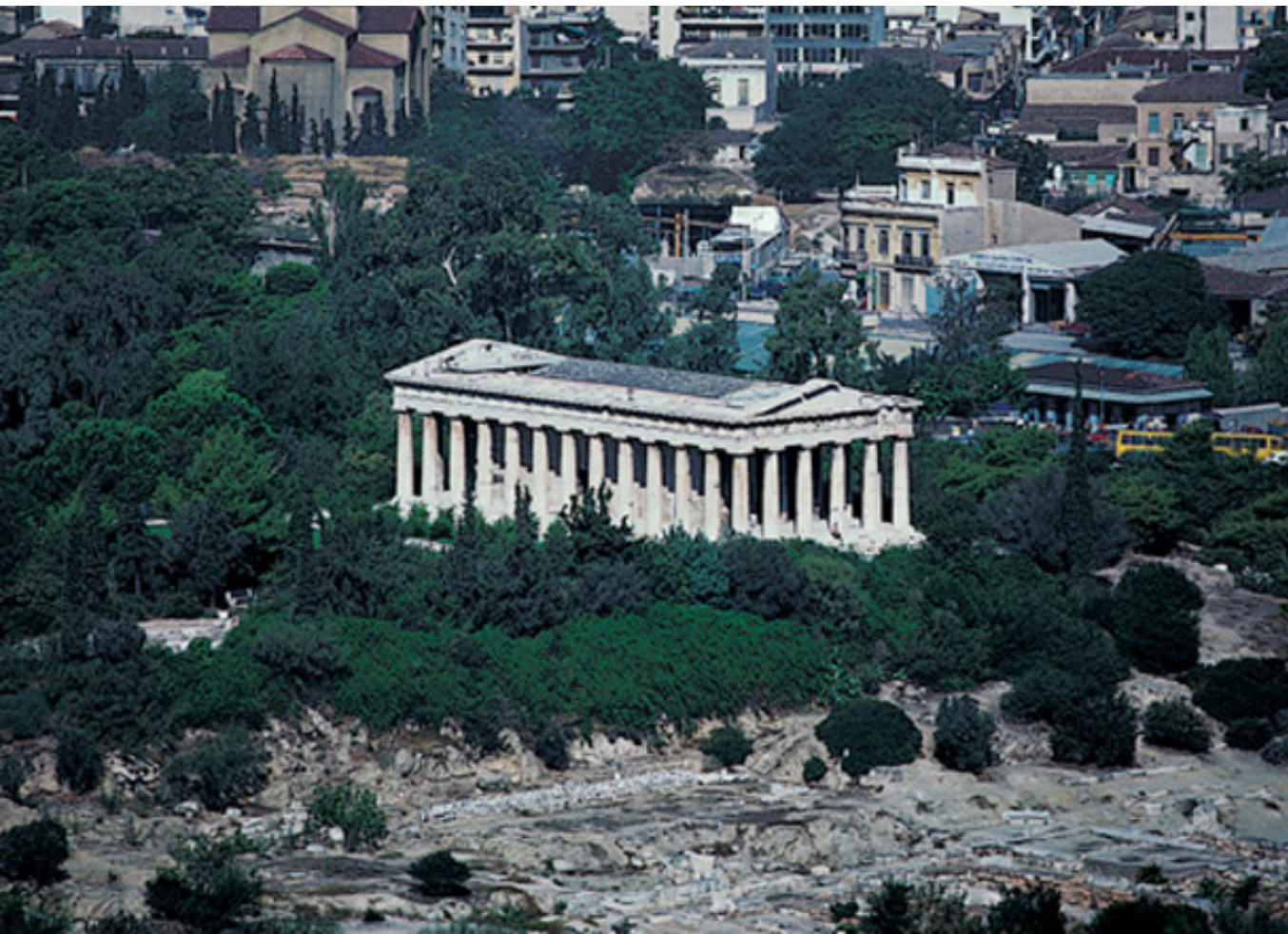
CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

The visible human imprint on the landscape.



SEQUENT OCCUPANCE

Layers of imprints in a cultural landscape that reflect years of differing human activity.



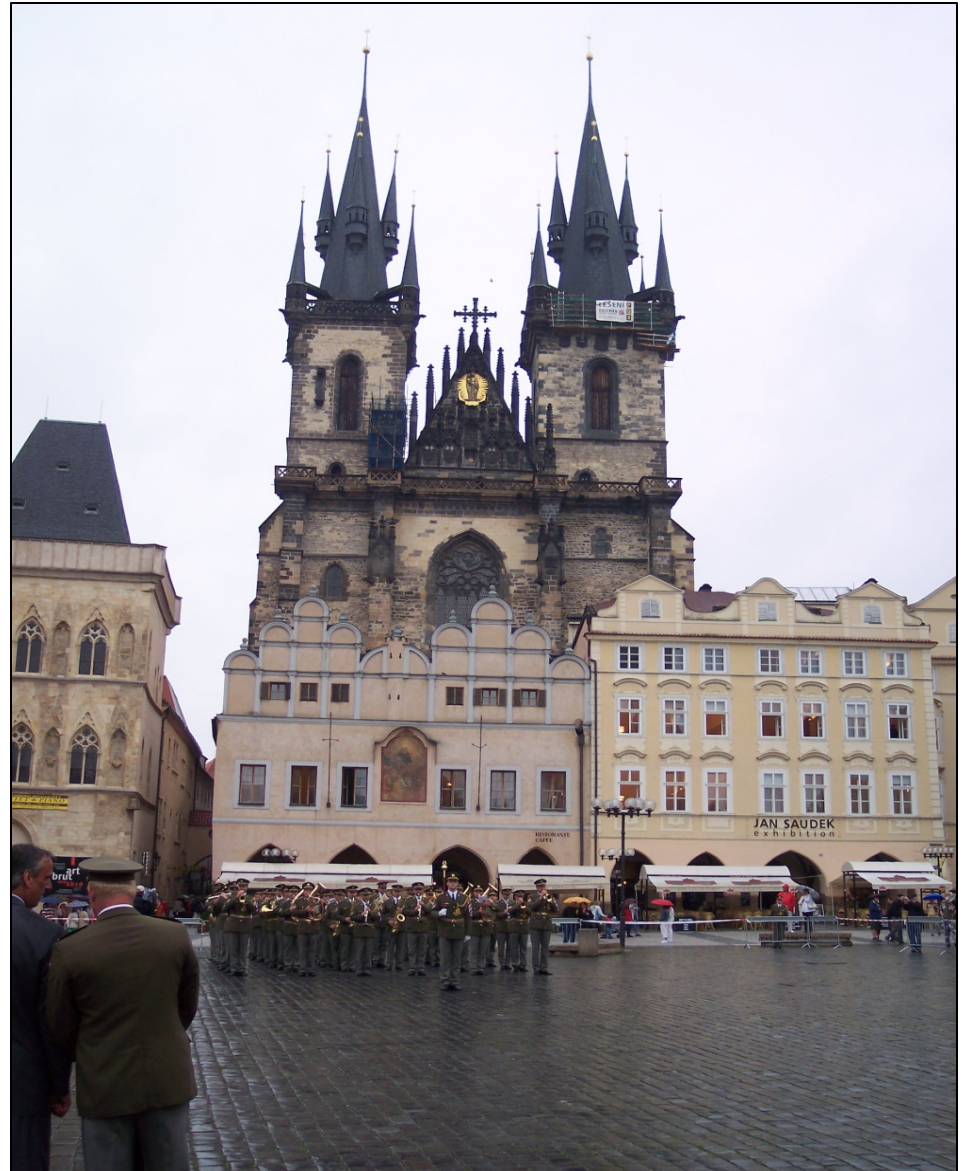
Athens, Greece

**- ancient Agora
surrounded by
modern buildings**

SEQUENT OCCUPANCE

Layers of imprints in a cultural landscape that reflect years of differing human activity.

**Prague, Czech Republic –
Prague architecture includes Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque, Neo-Classical and Art Nouveau.**



SEQUENT OCCUPANCE

Mumbai, India & Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

African, Arab, German, British, and Indian layers to the cities.

Apartment in Mumbai



Apartment in Dar es Salaam

