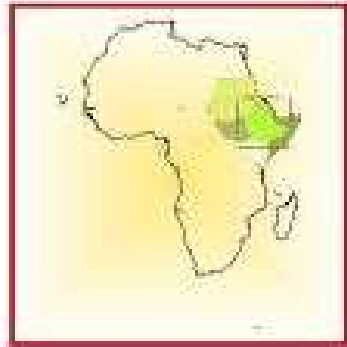


Geography of Ethiopia and The Horn

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Course name: Geography of Ethiopia and The Horn

Credit Hours: 3

Semester: I

Course code: (GeES1101)

Academic Year: 2019

Instructor:

October, 2019

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Unit One: Introduction

1.1. Geography: Definition, Scope and Themes

Meaning of Geography

- ✓ There is no single accepted definition by scholars because of;
 - ✓ the **dynamic** nature of the discipline and
 - ✓ the **changes** in **scope** and **method** of study.
- ✓ The following may be accepted as a **working definition**.
 - ✓ Geography is;
 - ✓ the *scientific study of the Earth*
 - ✓ *that describes and analyses spatial and temporal variations of physical, biological and human phenomena, and*
 - ✓ *their interrelationships and dynamism over the surface of the Earth.*

The Scope, Approaches and Themes of Geography

- ✓ **Geography is science** that explains;
 - ✓ the arrangements of various
 - ✓ **natural** and
 - ✓ **cultural** features on the Earth surface.
- ✓ **Geography is**;
 - ✓ a holistic and
 - ✓ interdisciplinary field of study
 - ✓ contributing to the understanding of the changing spatial structures from the past to the future.

The Scope, Approaches and Themes of Geography

- ✓ The scope of Geography is the surface of the Earth, which is the very thin zone that is the interface of the
 - ✓ atmosphere,
 - ✓ lithosphere,
 - ✓ hydrosphere and
 - ✓ biosphere,
- ✓ Generally, it is the habitable zone in which humans are able to live.
- ✓ Geography can be approached by considering two continuums:
 - ✓ a human-physical continuum and
 - ✓ a topical-regional continuum.

The Scope, Approaches....

- ✓ The topical (systematic) Geography view categories of physical/human phenomena as distributed over the Earth.
- ✓ **regional geography** is concerned with the associations within regions of all/some of the elements and their interrelationships.
- ✓ Geography has **five** themes namely
 - ✓ **location,**
 - ✓ **place,**
 - ✓ **human-environment interaction,**
 - ✓ **movement, and**
 - ✓ **region.**

Themes of Geography

- ✓ **Location:** is particular place or position.
- ✓ Most studies of geography begin with this theme of geography.
- ✓ Location can be of two types:
 - ✓ absolute location and
 - ✓ relative location.

Themes...

- ✓ **Place:** refers to the physical and human aspects of a location.
- ✓ It is associated with;
 - ✓ **toponym** (the name of a place),
 - ✓ **site** (the description of the features of the place), and
 - ✓ **situation** (the environmental conditions of the place).

Themes..

- ✓ places in the world has unique characteristics
- ✓ This is expressed in terms of landforms, hydrology, biogeography, pedology,
- ✓ characteristics and size of its human population, and the distinct human cultures.
- ✓ The concept of “place” aids geographers to compare and contrast places on Earth.

Human-Environment Interaction

- Humans have always been on ceaseless interaction with their natural environment.
- ✓ No other species that has lived on our planet has a **profound effect on the environment** as humans.
- ✓ Humans have adapted to the environment in ways that have allowed them to dominate all other species on Earth.
- ✓ human-environment interaction involves **three distinct aspects**:

Human-Environment....

- ✓ **Dependency** refers to the ways in which humans are dependent on nature for a living.
- ✓ **Adaptation** relates to how humans modify themselves, their lifestyles and their behavior to live in a new environment with new challenges.
- ✓ **Modification** allowed humans to “conquer” the world for their comfortable living.

Movement

- It entails to the **translocation of**;
 - ✓ human beings,
 - ✓ their goods, and
 - ✓ their ideas from one end of the planet to another.
- ✓ The **physical movement of people** allowed the human race **to inhabit all the continents and islands of the world.**
- ✓ Another aspect of movement is **the transport of goods** from one place on the Earth to another.
- ✓ The third dimension of movement is the flow of ideas that allows;
 - ✓ the unification of the human civilization and
 - ✓ promotes its growth and prosperity.

Region

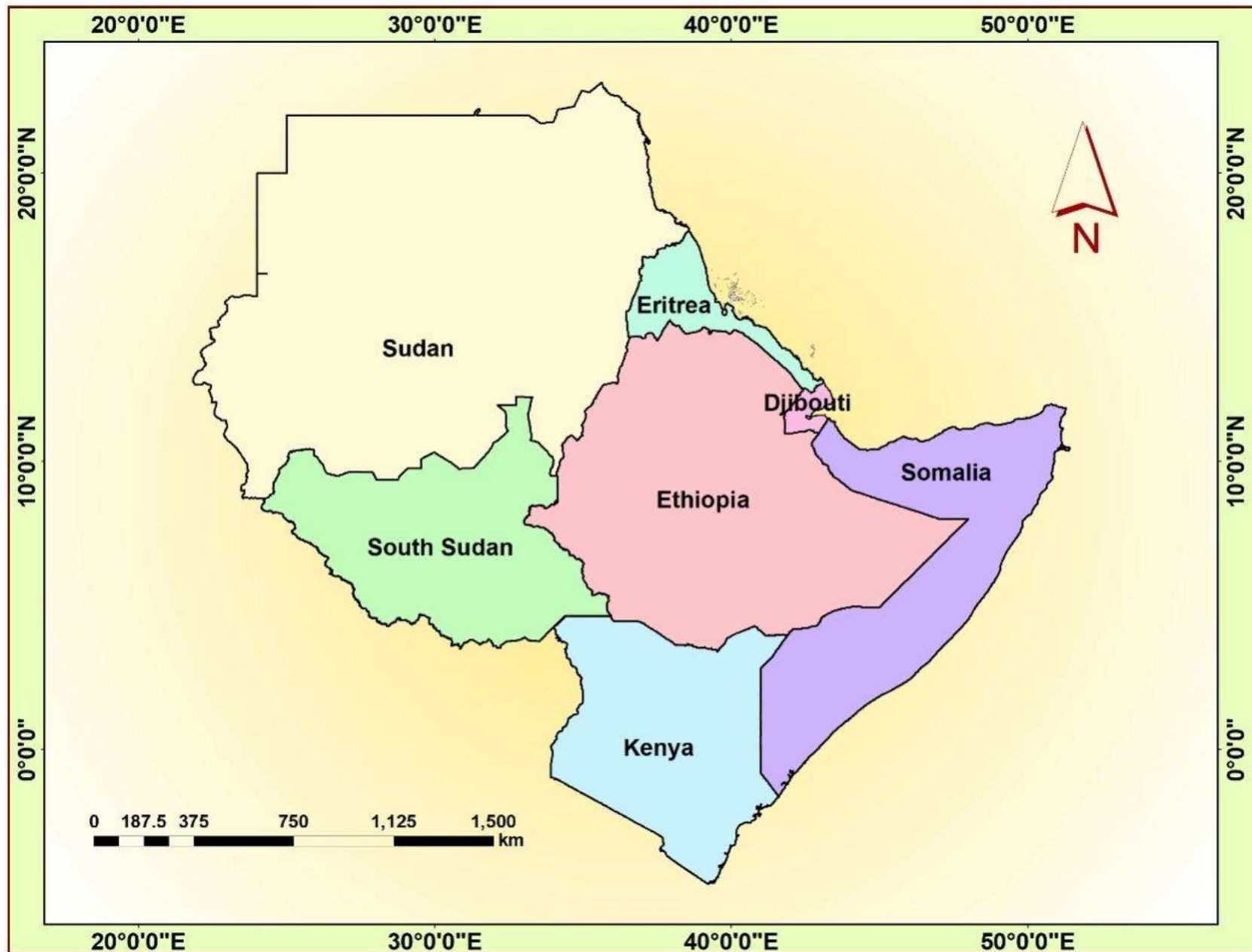
- ✓ A region is a geographic area having **distinctive characteristics** that distinguishes itself from adjacent unit(s) of space.
- ✓ A region could be
 - ✓ a **formal region** and
 - ✓ a **functional or nodal region**

- ✓ **formal region** is characterized by;
 - ✓ **homogeneity** in terms of a certain phenomenon (soil, temperature, rainfall, or other cultural elements like language, religion, and economy).
- ✓ a **functional or nodal** region characterized by;
 - ✓ **functional interrelationships** in a spatial system defined by the linkages binding particular phenomena.
 - ✓ They are an area organized **around a focal point**.
 - ✓ They are **tied** to that central point by **transportation**, **economics**, or **communication** systems.

1.2. Location, Shape and Size of Ethiopia and the Horn

- ✓ The Horn of Africa is
 - ✓ a narrow tip that projects into the northern Indian Ocean,
 - ✓ separating it from the Gulf of Aden.
- ✓ It is the easternmost extension of African land defined as the region that is home to the countries of
 - ✓ Djibouti,
 - ✓ Eritrea,
 - ✓ Ethiopia, and
 - ✓ Somalia,
- ✓ whose cultures have been linked throughout their long history.

- ✓ The Horn contains such diverse areas;
 - ✓ as the highlands of the Ethiopian Plateau,
 - ✓ the Ogaden desert, and
 - ✓ the Eritrean and Somali coasts.
- ✓ Its coasts are washed by
 - ✓ the Red Sea,
 - ✓ the Gulf of Aden, and
 - ✓ the Indian Ocean.
- ✓ it has long been in contact with the Arabian Peninsula and southwestern Asia.



1.2. Location, Shape....

- ✓ These countries of the region share many common features.
- ✓ There is also great diversity among them, rendering each country unique in many respects.
- ✓ In terms of size,
 - ✓ **Ethiopia** is the largest,
 - ✓ Djibouti is the smallest.

1.2.1. Location of Ethiopia

- ✓ The location of a country or a place on a map or a globe is expressed in two different ways.
- ✓ These are
 - ✓ **astronomical (absolute or mathematical) and**
 - ✓ **relative locations.**
- ✓ **Astronomical location**, uses the lines of;
 - ✓ **latitudes and**
 - ✓ **longitudes to locate places on earth.**

Location of the horn



Location of Ethiopia



1.2.1. Location...

- ✓ **Astronomically**, Ethiopia is a landlocked country
 - ✓ located b/n 3°N (Moyale) and 15°N (Bademe - the northern most tip of Tigray) latitudes and
 - ✓ 33°E (Akobo) to 48°E (the tip of Ogaden in the east) longitudes.
 - ✓ The east west distance (15°) is longer than the north-south distance (12°).

1.2.1. Location..

- ✓ The latitudinal and longitudinal extensions are important in two ways.
 - ✓ First, as a result of its latitudinal extension the country **experiences tropical climate**
 - ✓ secondly due to its longitudinal extension there is **a difference of an hour between the most easterly and westerly points of the country.**
 - ✓ It is only for convenience that the **+3 hours-time zone is used** in all parts of the country.

I.2.1 Location...

Relative location expresses the location of countries or places with reference to the location of other countries (vicinal), landmasses or water bodies.

Vicinal location	In relation to water bodies & land masses
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Sudan to the west and North west▶ South Sudan to the south west▶ Djibouti to the east▶ Eritrea to the North and North east▶ Kenya to the south	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ In the horn of Africa▶ South west of the Arabian Peninsula▶ South of Europe▶ Northwest of the Indian Ocean▶ In the Nile Basin

Table 1.1: The relative location of Ethiopia

1.2.1. Location..

✓ What is the implications of the location of Ethiopia?

a) **Climate:**

✓ The fact that Ethiopia is located between 3°N and 15°N (between the Equator and Tropic of Cancer)

✓ implies that the country has **a tropical climate**, though **modified by its altitude**.

✓ The location of Ethiopia relative to **the Indian Ocean**, the Atlantic Ocean and **the African and Asian landmass** has also various bearings on **the climate of Ethiopia**.

I.2.1. Location....

b) Socio-cultural:

- ✓ Ethiopia is one of the earliest recipients of the **major world religions** namely
 - ✓ **Christianity**,
 - ✓ **Islam** and
 - ✓ **Judaism**
- ✓ Its proximity to the Middle East, which was the origin of these religions.
- ✓ The **linguistic** and other **cultural** relationships, which Ethiopia shares with its neighbors, reflect the influence of location.

c) Political:

- ✓ The political history of Ethiopia has been considerably influenced by:
 - ✓ **Geopolitical considerations of superpowers.**
 - ✓ **Adjacency to the Red Sea (a major global trade route).**
 - ✓ **The Middle East geopolitical paradigms.**
- ✓ As the result, Ethiopia has been
 - ✓ exposed for **external invasions in a number of times**;
 - ✓ though the country **resisted** foreign intervention and
 - ✓ **remains free of external domination.**

1.2.2. Size of Ethiopia

- ✓ Ethiopia with a total area of $\approx$ **1,106,000 sqkm** is;
 - ✓ the 8th largest country in Africa and
 - ✓ 25th in the World.
 - ✓ It extends about $\approx$ 1,639 k.m East-West, and
 - ✓ 1,577 k.m North-South.
 - ✓ About 0.7% of the country is covered by water bodies.
- ✓ The size of Ethiopia also affects;
 - ✓ the natural and
 - ✓ human environment of the country.

I.2.2 Size..

Table 1.2. Advantages and disadvantages of Ethiopia's large size

Advantages		Disadvantage	
✓ Possess diverse agro ecological zones	✓	Demands greater capital to construct infrastructural facilities	
✓ Variety of natural resources	✓	Requires large army to protect its territory	
✓ Own extensive arable land	✓	Difficult for effective administration	
✓ Have larger population size	✓	Difficult for socio-economic integration	
✓ Home for diverse cultures			
✓ Greater depth in defense external invasion			

The shape of Ethiopia and its Implication

- Countries of the World have different kinds of shape that can be divided into five main categories:
 - ✓ **Compact,**
 - ✓ **Fragmented,**
 - ✓ **Elongated,**
 - ✓ **Perforated, And**
 - ✓ **Protruded.**
- ✓ These shapes have **implications** on;
 - ✓ **defense,**
 - ✓ **administration and**
 - ✓ **economic integration within a country.**
- ✓ Whether some kind of shape is advantageous to a country or not, it depends on many other factors.

The shape

✓ **Compact shape countries:**

- ✓ The distance from the geographic Centre of the state to any of the borders does not vary greatly. Belgium
- ✓ It is easier for defense, socioeconomic and cultural integration.

✓ **Fragmented shape countries:**

- ✓ They are divided from their other parts by either water, land/other countries. Indonesia

✓ **Elongated shape countries: -**

- ✓ They are geographically long and relatively narrow like Chile.



The shape...

- ✓ **Perforated shape countries: -**

- ✓ A country that completely surrounds another country like the Republic of South Africa.

- ✓ **Protrude shape countries:**

- ✓ Countries that have one portion that is much more elongated than the rest of the country like **Myanmar and Eritrea**

- ✓ There are different ways of measuring shape of countries.

These measures are known as the indices of compactness.

- ✓ They measure the deviation of the shape of a country from a circular shape, which is the **most compact shape**.

The shape...

- There are four most commonly used measures of compactness. These are:

1. **Area-Boundary ratio (A/B):-**

- ✓ It is ratio of an area of a country to its boundary length.
- ✓ The higher the A/B ratio, the greater the degree of compactness.

The shape...

2. Boundary-Circumference ratio:

- ✓ It is the ratio of boundary length of a country to the circumference of circle having the same area as the country itself.
- ✓ It measures how far the boundary of a country verges on the circumference of a circle of its own size.
- ✓ Therefore, the nearer the ratio to 1 the more compact the country is.

The shape...

3. Area-Circumference ratio (A/C): -

- ✓ It is ratio of an area of the country to the circumference of the smallest inscribing circle.
- ✓ It compares the area of the country with the circumference of a circle that passes touching the extreme points on the boundary of the country.
- ✓ The higher the A/C ratio, is the greater the degree of compactness.

The shape...

4. Area-Area (A/A') ratio:-

- ✓ The ratio of **the actual area** of a country to **the smallest possible inscribing circle**.
- ✓ The area of the inscribing circle is the area of the smallest possible circle whose circumference passes through the extreme points on the boundary.
- ✓ Half-length of the longest distance between two extreme points gives radius of the inscribing circle.
- ✓ The nearer the ratio to 1, the more compact the country is.

The shape...

Table 1.3: Ethiopia's shape compared to its neighbors in the Horn.

Country	Area(km ²)	Boundary (km)	A/B ratio	B/C ratio	A/C ratio
Ethiopia	1,106,000	5,260	210.27	1.41	296.61
Djibouti	22,000	820	26.83	1.56	41.83
Eritrea	117,400	2,420	48.51	1.99	96.83
Kenya	582,644	3,600	161.85	1.33	215.28
Somalia	637,657	5,100	125.03	1.80	225.22

Source: Bekure (1982, 1983)



Thank you for today