Group Project Topics: Spring 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Northeast Region*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Northeast*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Changes to New Orleans After Katrina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Environmental Issues in the Pacific Northwest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Public Transportation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Rust Belt/Midwest/Great Lakes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* These two “Northeast” groups need to coordinate so each has a distinctive focus – both groups please see me briefly after class.

Some good topics here, but two comments for everyone:
1. Make sure you have a well-defined research question
2. Make sure that geography and location are key elements of your final report & presentation.

Reminder on two key project points:
1. Regardless of what topic you choose, your project must focus on answering a question.
2. Your geographic focus must be primarily outside of Texas.

Upcoming Schedule

This Week:
- Today: The beginning of the regional focus component of the course – first region covered: Megalopolis
- Thursday: Case Study Video – the historical context for the development of New York City

Week 7 (February 25 & 27): North American Manufacturing Core (note: we will set aside time for group project work/discussion on February 27)

Week 8 (March 3 & 5): Introduction to the Periphery (note: DQ set due on March 3)

Broad, Regional Perspective

New York City: The City Itself
Q: What do you see here that you don't see in a regular map view? Also, what do you not see here?

New York City: The City Itself

Chinatown

Wall Street

Broadway

NEW AMSTERDAM, CIRCA 1660
New York, Circa 1890
MEGALOPOLIS

The Regions of North America
MEGALOPOLIS
Foundational Issue for This Week:
What is a "Megalopolis", and why does it matter?

MEGALOPOLIS

- We begin the regional portion of the course with an overview of the key region for understanding the population of North America.
- Megalopolis is a term created by the French geographer Jean Gottmann in 1961 to describe the unique urban region that dominates life in the United States.

MEGALOPOLIS

- Megalopolis encompasses the metro areas of Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington DC, plus the urban fringe counties located between these major centers.

MEGALOPOLIS

- "Megalopolis" is the best/most extreme example of an extended urban region in North America.

MEGALOPOLIS

- "Megalopolis" Encompasses parts of 11 states, plus the District of Columbia.

MEGALOPOLIS

- "Megalopolis" Encompasses parts of 11 states, plus the District of Columbia.

MEGALOPOLIS

- "Megalopolis" is the best/most extreme example of an extended urban region in North America.

ARTICLES

MEGALOPOLIS

- Back in 1961, Gottmann argued that the Megalopolis region was unlike any other ever seen in the world – and he was probably right
- Today, one way of thinking about Megalopolis is as a model for what might be emerging in a few places around the US

Q: How many of us have lived in or traveled to this region? What are your impressions of the region?
- What would it be like to live there? Work there?
- Unique kinds of businesses?
- Anything else unique – nowhere else in the US?

MEGALOPOLIS

- “Megalopolis” actually refers to two things
  1. the specific region within the northeastern US we are discussing today
  2. the development of similar urban regions in other places across the country and around the world

The next slide has an example of this “similar regions” concept from the Regional Plan Association...

“Megalopolis” actually refers to two things

1. the specific region within the northeastern US we are discussing today
2. the development of similar urban regions in other places across the country and around the world

Q: so thinking about your reading for today,

1. what do you think of the idea that other regions around the world might be becoming like the northeastern US?
2. what do you think of an emerging “Texaplex” megaplex in our region (D-FW, Austin, San Antonio, Houston)?

Divide into small groups and discuss for 3 minutes
MEGALOPOLIS

• There is a great variety of urban landscapes within the Megalopolis region
• Following are a few scenes from across Megalopolis
  • What do you see? What stands out to you about each of the following scenes?

- Manhattan
  - Zillow property valuations

- Beacon Hill, Boston
  - Zillow property valuations

- Inner-City Baltimore
  - Zillow property valuations

- The Capitol, Washington DC

- National Archives, Washington DC
Q: Do what do these pictures indicate to us about life in Megalopolis? Is life there the same as life here in Texas?

MEGALOPOLIS

Q: how would you explain the difference between the two terms to an ordinary person on the street?

MEGALOPOLIS

• Your reading discusses the location characteristics that contributed to the rise of Megalopolis
  • Site characteristics
  • Situation characteristics

MEGALOPOLIS

Q: What is it about the site of Megalopolis that helped promote its growth?

New York City is the dominant city of Megalopolis and the country, meaning it is:

1. A city unlike any other in the United States
   - Bigger population
   - Different, more diverse mix of people
   - Unique problems, unique positives
2. But it is also the greatest model of an American city
   - The classic American city
   - A great urban example for people from around the world to see: this is what an American city is like

MEGALOPOLIS

MEGALOPOLIS

New York City is what geographers call a “world city” (or a “global city”)

- World cities are elite cities
- World cities are very large cities, although not necessarily the largest in the world
- Key point: world cities possess key elements that give them influence over life elsewhere on the planet
World Cities are not Simply the World's Largest Cities

MEGALOPOLIS

- The “world city” concept
  - In the 1800s and before, world cities administered political and military empires
  - Today, world cities continue to administer empires, but they are business, financial, and cultural creations, not (for the most part) military in emphasis
  - New York is a key city in the battle over economic globalization (but not nearly as important as a military center of command)

MEGALOPOLIS

- Q: what is globalization? Where have you seen this term before?
  - We just referred to economic globalization – are there other dimensions of globalization that extend outside of the economy?
    - Politics, culture, society, art, media, education, research... (for just a start)

MEGALOPOLIS

- The following slides take a quick look at some of what makes New York City a world city and a key venue in globalization

MEGALOPOLIS

- Inside the World City: Case Study of New York City
  - The world’s capital: 6.5 million employed in the NY region (world’s largest cluster of skilled employment)
  - The Financial District

MEGALOPOLIS

- Inside the World City: Case Study of New York City
  - Q: speaking of the “world’s capital”, what is this building, and why is it an important place to consider in terms of power?
  - The United Nations Headquarters
MEGALOPOLIS

- NYC: “decision-making citadel”
  - Vast concentration of corporate activity, especially in Lower Manhattan and Midtown Manhattan.

Lower Manhattan and the Financial District

MEGALOPOLIS

- NYC: “decision-making citadel”
  - National and international hub of telecommunications infrastructure: key equipment and connections in region.
  - Stock exchanges and other business/financial intermediary functions: top tier in the world.

“Wall Street”

MEGALOPOLIS

- NYC: “cultural citadel”
  - Add to global media: movies, television, news organizations.
  - Q: What TV shows or movies come to mind that are set in New York?
  - Return to: New York City has broad-based influence throughout American society.

Media and cultural icons

MEGALOPOLIS

- NYC: “cultural citadel”
  - New York City is a place where obvious power and influence resides in many dimensions of human life and activity.

Q: But can you think of any negatives associated with a place like New York City?

All that glitters is not gold

Today we will view a video that gives us an historical view of the early development of NYC – warts and all.