

Why do some parts of the world develop more quickly than others

[History](#)



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Diamond's primary argument in his book, *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies* is that civilization is not a result of superior intelligence but is a result of a series of developments necessitated by preexisting factors. With this argument, the professor of geography argues that demographic factors contribute to the rate of development of regions possibly explaining the disparity in the rates of development in different regions throughout the world. He argues that the rate of development is reliant in the availability of natural resources. The distribution of such resources as minerals and arable land thus made some regions advantaged over others thus become more developed.

Man first relied on rain fed agriculture, most of the early civilizations relied on the trade of agricultural products. Such led to the development of market economies in different regions. Additionally, the subsequent development of both industrialization and urbanization followed the patterns of the availability of the natural resources. The environment is therefore an essential factor in analyzing the development rates of different regions thought the world. Diamond analyses the development pattern of the Eurasian society. He observes that the society was advantaged by the presence of suitable plant and animal species in their regions. The domestication of better animal and plant species facilitated the economic growth of the regions. Such regions as central Europe has no deserts implying that the region have cooler climates thereby enabling the domestication of stronger breeds of animals and better cash crops. With these, the societies pioneered the earliest civilization and the development

of stronger market economies. Stronger economies facilitated the development of effective governments in the region to oversee the management of the resources thus facilitating the faster development of the Eurasian regions.

Diamond further compares the rate of development in Europe to other Eurasian regions such as China and other parts of the Eastern bloc. The European regions had numerous natural features that enabled the establishment of boundaries. Such included rivers, mountains and other large water bodies including lakes and oceans. The presence of such geographical factors enabled the creation of smaller territories, which are easier to manage. Countries in the Eastern bloc such as China, India and Japan among others are larger with bigger populations. These are unlike the European countries that are smaller owing to the availability of the geographical factors that influenced the creation of boundaries. The features resulted easier governance and protection of the smaller societies since the geographical features acted as barriers to foreign attacks. The societies could easily carry out surveillance of their territories thus develop formidable resistance (Jared 391). The resultant peace and the smaller regions which also had larger desists of minerals eased the development of the regions. The expansive waterways connecting the regions acted as means on increasing international relations thereby facilitating cross border trade. The earlier societies had smaller and less integrated market economies, the development of trade and the increased movement of people using ships and boats heightened the human interaction besides contributing to the development of effective economies. Through interaction and sharing of

ideas, the countries developed stronger economic ties that enabled the uniform development as the people traded ideas. Diamond's arguments are realistic; he relates the factors to the disparity in the development of the contemporary society thereby validating the fact that geographic factors indeed influence the rate of regional development.

Work cited

Jared, Diamond. *Guns, Germs And Steel*. New York: Random House, 2013. Print.