

Paper Name: Population and Settlement Geography
Paper Code: GGY 2086

Topic: Ackerman's Population-Resource Regions

Edward A. Ackerman (1911-1973) has used three basic criteria for devising the world's regional scheme of population /resource ratio, which are:

- Population factor,
- Resource factor and
- Technology factor.

Among these three variables used in this scheme, the most critical is the magnitude and quality of available technology. Ackerman while using the three factors of population, resource and technology, emphasized more on technology. He suggested a five-fold classification of the world into population/resource regions on the basis of population resource ratios and the availability of technology:

- 1. United States Type:** About one sixth of the world's people live in technology-source areas with low population/resource ratios, as in much of North America, Australia and New Zealand and the erstwhile Soviet Union.
- 2. European Type:** One sixth live in technology-source areas with high population/resource ratios, where industrialization and technology have permitted an expansion of resources through international trade. Most of Europe and Japan fall in this category.
- 3. Egyptian Type:** Roughly one-half live-in areas which are technology deficient with high population/resource ratios, as in India, Pakistan and China. This type epitomizes some of the most severe population problems.
- 4. Brazilian Type:** One sixth live in technology- deficient areas with low population/resource ratios, as in much of Latin America, Africa and South-East Asia, where resources sometimes remain unused because of the problems of developing difficult environments.

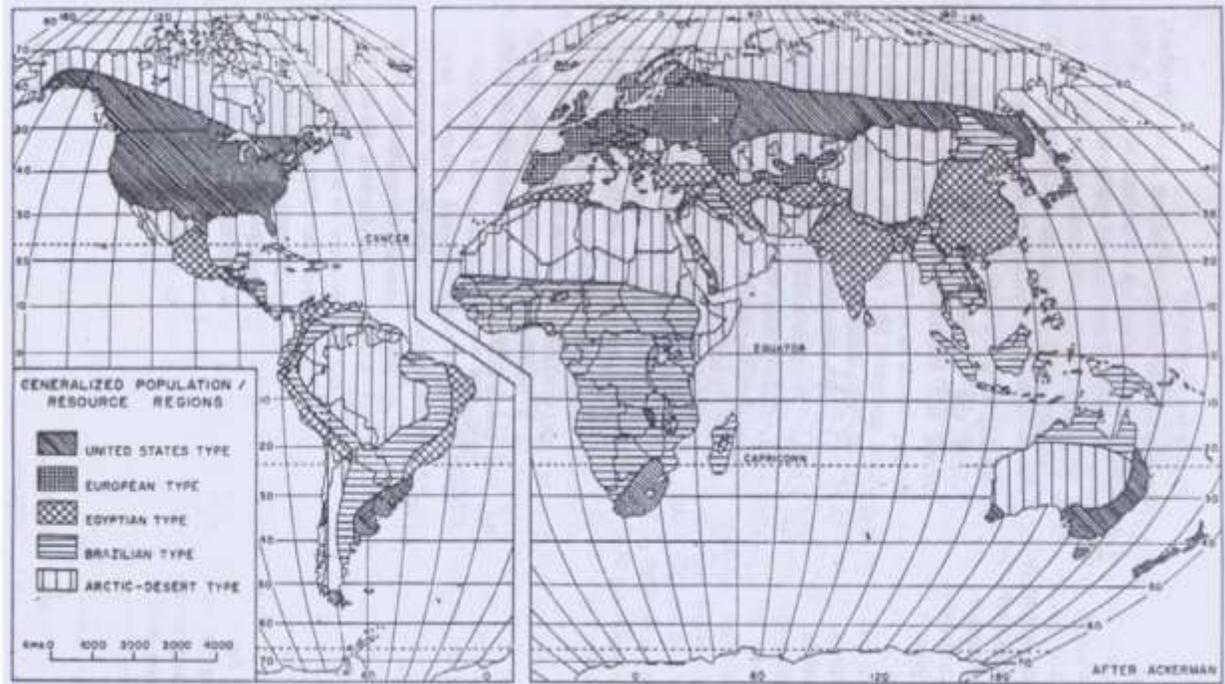


Figure: Generalised Population/ Resource Regions after E.A. Ackerman, 1970

- 5. Arctic- Desert Type:** The largely uninhabited ice caps, tundra's and deserts are mostly technology- deficient and offer little food-producing potential at the moment.

This classification is a useful general guide but offers little help for more specific cases of pressure of population on resources, which is extremely difficult to define in quantitative terms due to the dynamism of the variables involved: population, resource, technology and the economic expectations and attainments of the people.
