

**Study Material
For
B.A.III: Geography (Hons.)**

**Paper: V
Geographical Thought and Three Southern
Continents**

**Unit-2
Topic: Concept of Neo-Determinism**

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Introduction

- ▶ Australian geographer, Griffith Taylor introduced another concept Neo- determinism in the year 1920.
- ▶ It is a middle path between the concepts of environmental determinism and possibilism.
- ▶ It is also known as stop and go determinism.
- ▶ The concept of determinism calls for naturalization of human.
- ▶ The Concept of Possibilism supports the idea of humanization of nature.
- ▶ The concept of Neo-Determinism says, that there is set of possibilities and man is free to choose any one, and these possibilities are the opportunities offered by nature to human societies.

- ▶ Griffith Taylor's concept of Neo-Determinism was based on his experience.
- ▶ Australia is exposed to relatively extreme environmental condition and its control over human activity is enormous.
- ▶ On the other hand the concept of possibilism was developed in the temperate environments of north-western Europe, which presents numerous alternative forms of human occupancies.
- ▶ He concluded that neither there is absolute necessity (Environmental determinism) nor absolute freedom (Possibilism).

Stop and Go Determinism

- ▶ Taylor explained by the role of a traffic controller.
- ▶ Traffic is regulated by lights on the cross-roads.
- ▶ Red light means 'stop' and green light means 'go'.
- ▶ Accidents are bound to happen if traffic signals are not adhered by.
- ▶ Taylor has compared nature to traffic Signal.
- ▶ He said that men is capable of utilizing natural resources for development.
- ▶ But it is important to exploit resources within the limits of nature.

- ▶ It means that possibilities can be created within the limits which do not damage the environment .
- ▶ human beings can conquer nature by obeying it.
- ▶ It suggests that possibilities can be created within the limits which do not damage the environment otherwise, there is no free run without accidents.
- ▶ The free run which the developed economies attempted to take has already resulted into environmental degradation.
- ▶ The choice of possibilities depends on wisdom of the societies.
- ▶ Man follows nature's programme only if he is wise.

► Taylor quotes Febvre's assertion that 'there are no necessities but everywhere possibilities and man as a master of these possibilities is the judge of their use' and said that man consciously need to chooses from the range which nature presents him.

► In brief, people might attempt whatever they wished with regard to their environment, but in the long term, nature's plan would ensure that the environment won the battle and forced a compromise out of its human occupants.

Reference:

1. <https://www.yourarticlelibrary.com/geography/dichotomy-between-determinism-and-possibilism-of-geography/24592>
2. <https://www.yourarticlelibrary.com/geography/deterministic-school-of-geographical-thought/42243>

THANK YOU!