CARL RITTER (1779-1859) & HIS CONTRIBUTION TO GEOGRAPHY AS A DISCIPLINE

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MAIN TOPICS OF DISCUSSION

• A. EARLY LIFE.
• B. CONCEPT OF IDEA OF UNITY OF NATURE.
• C. CONCEPT OF “ERDKUNDE”.
• D. GEOGRAPHICAL IDEAS OF RITTER AND HIS METHODS.
• E. EVALUATION OF RITTER’S CONTRIBUTION.
EARLY LIFE

• 1. INFLUENCE OF IDEAS OF ROUSSEAU & PESTALOZZI.
• 2. CONCEPTS DEVELOPED ON THE BASIS OF OBSERVATIONS.
• 3. INFLUENCE OF SCHOOL SYSTEM DEVELOPED BY SALZAMANN.
• 4. UNIVERSITY OF FRANKFURT & UNIVERSITY OF GOTTINGEN.
• 5. MEETING WITH ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT IN 1807.
CONCEPT OF IDEA OF UNITY OF NATURE

1. IDEA OF UNITY OF NATURE WHICH BECAME BASIC THEME OF RITTER’S GEOGRAPHICAL SCHOLARSHIP.

2. EMPHASIZE ON FIELD TRIPS.

3. OBSERVATIONAL METHODS OF NATURE STUDY.

4. SUBJECT OF GEOGRAPHY AND ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH HISTORY & GEOLOGY.
CONCEPT OF “ERDKUNDE”

1. “HANDBUCH DER PHYSISCHEN GEOGRAPHIE” (1810).
2. “ERDKUNDE” (2 VOLUMES) (1817-18).
4. CONCEPT OF COMPARATIVE GEOGRAPHY.
5. IDEA OF “LOKALVERHALTNISSE” OR LOCAL CONDITIONS:
   A. 1st ATTRIBUTE = Topographical attribute,
   B. 2nd ATTRIBUTE = Distribution & movements of water, sea & atmosphere: the bases of human life,
   C. 3rd ATTRIBUTE = The material conditions described as the Geographical aspects of natural History.
CONCEPT OF “ERDKUNDE” (2)

• 6. “CENTRAL PRINCIPLE OF GEOGRAPHY IS THE RELATION OF ALL PHENOMENA & FORMS OF NATURE TO THE HUMAN RACE, EXAMINED & ORGANISED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF UNIQUE GEOGRAPHICAL ASSOCIATION OF LAND & MAN ON THE EARTH’S SURFACE” = it is “ERDKUNDE”.

• 7. “GEOGRAPHY OF MAN ORIENTED OR ANTHROPOCENTRIC”.

• 8. CONCEPT OF REGIONAL INDIVIDUALITY.

• 9. CONCEPT OF “GANZHEIT” OR WHOLE of Kant & Zeune
CHOROLOGICAL STRUCTURE OF "ERDKUNDE"

1. Africa (I) 1822
2. East Asia (II–VI) 1818–1836
3. West Asia (VII–XI) 1837–1844
4. Arabia (XII–XIII) 1846–1847
5. Sinai Peninsula (XIV–XVII) 1847–1848
6. Asia Minor (XVIII–XIX) 1850–1852
GEOGRAPHICAL IDEAS OF RITTER AND HIS METHODS.
GEOGRAPHICAL IDEAS OF RITTER AND HIS METHODS (02)

1. "NEW SCIENTIFIC GEOGRAPHY".
2. CONCEPT OF TERRESTRIAL OR SPATIAL UNITY ("RAUMBEGRIFF").
3. CHOROLOGICAL PRINCIPLES.
4. "NATURE FOR ITS PRINCIPLES RATHER THAN TO EVOLVE A NATURAL DIVISIONS OF THE LANDS".
5. "HORIZONTAL CONCEPT OF UNITY OF PARTICULAR AREAS".
6. "CONCEPT OF WHOLE".
7. "GOD IS THE PLANNER OF THE UNIVERSE".
8. GEOGRAPHICAL PHILOSOPHY OF TELEOLOGY.
9. ANTHROPOPOGENIC GEOGRAPHY.
GEOGRAPHICAL IDEAS OF RITTER AND HIS METHODS (03)

- 10. LECTURES BEFORE THE BERLIN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE (1826 & 1850).
- 12. METHODOLOGY OF FACTS.
- 13. GEOGRAPHY AS EMPIRICAL SCIENCE (OBSERVATION TO OBSERVATION).
- 14. GENERAL COMPARATIVE GEOGRAPHY.
- 15. FOUNDER OF REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY.
- 16. CONCEPT OF “ERDTEILE”.
EVALUATION OF WORKS OF RITTER

1. CRITICISM OF TELEOLOGICAL STANDPOINT OF RITTER.

2. FOUNDATION OF THE HOLISTIC TRADITION.

3. RITTER’S INFLUENCE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE METHODOLOGY OF GEOGRAPHY.