

## \* DETERMINISM:-

Philosophy of Determinism is based upon the interaction bet<sup>n</sup> primitive human society & strong forces of nature. This is an older philosophy which persisted till world war II. It says that the strong forces of environment control the course of human action. This implies that the history, culture, mode of life and the level of development of the societal groups and countries are exclusively or largely controlled by the physical environment.

→ A/c to Determinism, man is a passive agent, and nature is active agent, which controls and determines the action and decision-making processes of man.

→ In strict determinism, the human action can be explained as a response to the natural environment.

## \* Environmental Determinism:-

This philosophy says that aspects of physical geography,

particularly climate, influenced the psychological mind-set of individuals, which in turn defined the behaviour and culture of the society that those individuals formed. For e.g. - tropical climates were said to cause laziness, relaxed attitude and promiscuity, while the frequent variability in the weather of the middle latitudes led to more determined and driven work ethics.

→ The core philosophy is that the supreme achievement of civilisation in any region were always bound up with a particular type of climate and variation in climate led to pulsation in the history and culture of people.

These geographers who propound this theory say that the civilisation of Egyptians, Mesopotamians, Indus-Valley disappeared because of the climatic changes.

## \* POSSIBILISM:-

Possibilism is reaction to Determinism and environmental determinism. It is based upon the assumption that environment sets certain constraints or limitations, but culture is otherwise determined by social conditions. This theory says that the true and only geographical problem is that to utilisation of possibilities -

① Essence of Possibilism is that :-

- Nature provides possibilities and man utilises them according to his culture, traditions and levels of socioeconomic development
- Nature is never more than an adviser
- There were not necessities but everywhere possibilities
- People are not just the products of their environment or just pawns of natural environment

This approach has been criticised on several accounts. For eg- despite numerous possibilities, man has not been able to get rid of the obstacles set by the physical forces. The possibilities may be many in the temperate regions but they are very limited in the deserts, equatorial tundra and high mountainous regions.