Historiography & the Annales School
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- Annales founded in 1929 by Marc Bloch and Lucien Febvre while teaching at University of Strasbourg.
- Quickly established Annales approach: combination of geography, history, and sociology.
- They rejected predominant emphasis on politics, diplomacy, and war of many 19th century historians.
- Pioneered approach to long-term historical structures over events
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• Marc Bloch (right, 1886-1944) shot by Gestapo during German occupation.
• Served as mentor to Fernand Braudel.
• Annales approach less distinctive today as many historians do work in cultural and economic history.
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• Most historians associated with Annales School were French (Lucien Febvre, left, 1878-1956); they did not concern themselves with solely French topics.

• A loose group of historians with similar aims committed to broadening the range of the discipline of history.

• Initiated comparative history, history of mentalites (attitudes), and quantitative history.
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• Annales School rejected dominance of Leopold von Ranke’s scientific-nationalist method.

• Engaged with Marxist historians in their shared interest in structures but gave greater emphasis to geography rather than economics.

• Influenced scholars who would pioneer cultural history and anticipated the “linguistic turn.”

• Generally considered to be three generations of the Annales School.
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- Marc Bloch concentrated on medieval subjects.
- Analyzed the belief common in medieval and early modern France and England that the king could cure the skin disease scrofula by his touch.
- His approach used the social sciences-sociology, anthropology, and psychology.
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- Lucien Febvre most influenced by geography.
- Studying a French region, he held that the natural environment did not determine its history, but that there were a number of human responses to the environment in which they lived.
- His approach to the role of geography in history is termed “environmental possibilism.”
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- Fernand Braudel’s history of Mediterranean world in 16th century is seminal work out of Annales School.
- He wrote his version of the book, his doctoral thesis, as a POW in Germany during World War II.
- Emphasized geography as a determining factor and looked at history on a wider scale—"total" and "global" history.
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- Emmanuel Le Roy stands as best known of the 3rd generation of the Annales School. His best known work is a study of the French village Montaillou in 14th century.
- He used interrogation transcripts to reconstruct the village.
- Also has written on the history of climate and its effect.
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• Fernand Braudel’s *The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean World in the Age of Philip II* made one of the key modern contributions to historical theory.

• Braudel’s work contained three key elements—notion of “total” history, role of time in history, and importance of geography.

• Epitomized Annales’ challenge to the dominance of political and diplomatic history in favor of social, economic, and cultural history.
Part 1 examines geography of Mediterranean World. Braudel divided historical time into three layers, one for each part of book. In first part it was geographic time.

Part 2 focuses on economic, social, and political structures—social time.

Part 3 concentrated on political, diplomatic, and military history—individual time.
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- Braudel devoted third part to war in 2nd half of 16th century.
- Examined the conflicts between Spanish Empire of Philip II (right, 1527-1598) and the Ottoman Empire that dominated the eastern end of Mediterranean Sea.
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- Key battle in this conflict was Battle of Lepanto in 1571. Spanish fleet won, but could not follow up on victory to dominate eastern Mediterranean.
- By the end of 16\textsuperscript{th} century Spanish Empire turned its attention to the Atlantic and its empire in the New World.
- Braudel pointed to financial exhaustion of the Spanish economy and communications problems derived from geographic elements.
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- Braudel made the argument that “events’ were relatively insignificant and that powerful individuals were limited in what they could do by broader and deeper structures.
- Braudel wrote that the history of events was merely the history of surface disturbances, crests of foam that the tides of history carry on their strong backs. . . Resounding events are often only momentary outburst, surface manifestations of larger movements and explicable in only terms of them.”
- The hero of Braudel’s book is not Philip II but the Mediterranean Sea itself.
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- Braudel used prisons as a metaphor for humanity’s impact on history. To him humans were prisoners of their physical environment and mental framework.
- Braudel’s work incited praise and criticism from his colleagues. His assertion of the limited role of humans in making of history drew most ire, “Braudel’s Mediterranean is a world unresponsive to human control.”
- Braudel’s geographical determinism contrasts with the original Annales’ historians and their environmental possibilism.
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• *The Mediterranean* remains one of the most distinctive and influential books written by a historian in 20th century.

• Combined long perspective with the interaction between environment, economy, society, politics, culture, and events.
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- *The Tyranny of Distance*, by Geoffrey Blainey about the impact of distance on Australian history.
- Geography, its physical existence, on land and at sea, has shaped the Australian state and its people’s character.
- The distance from one coast to another, or the distance from the dry interior to the coast proved as obstinate problems as the 12,000 miles that separated Australia from Europe and the home of its mother country Great Britain.
As a land mass, Australia is as big as the United States, sans Alaska.

Before the 15th century the only Europeans to ever visit the place were flocks of arctic terns that came south from Russia.

As ships crisscrossed the Pacific, they largely ignored the Australian land mass.

The aboriginal peoples who inhabited the place weren’t seafarers and they couldn’t show European visitors any commodity of value.

The Australian story begins in earnest with Captain James Cook.
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- Reverberations in Australia from American and Industrial Revolutions.
- Before 1787, only one European ship had ever come to call on Australia’s east coast, but in May of that year, 11 ships left Portsmouth and set sail for it.
- Shipping convicts as colonists.
- Since Australia was so far removed, no other European state had bothered to attempt settlement.
- Hope for a flax industry.
- Do something of use for the empire.
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- Two and a half years passed from the time the first convict settlers left Britain and the first relief ships followed them.
- Near famine and almost constant privation interrupted by times of bounty came to define Australian life.
- British lifeline stretched thinner in 1793 with war with France.
- Ships sailing from England to Australia became more irregular and more subject to intervention.
- Became intertwined with Asian commerce.
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Location of the Great Barrier Reef in relation to the rest of the world.
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- [YouTube video](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DNT7uZf7lew)
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- Annales School’s influence felt widely across historical community.
- British community looked at Annales philosophy with suspicion, Marxist historians in particular.
- Not until 1970s did Annales works get translated and find publishers.
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- British cultural historian Peter Burke championed Annales approach, “The group has extended the territory of the historian to unexpected areas of human behavior and to social groups neglected by traditional historians.”
- Contemporary French historians took discipline in its most innovative directions.
- Critics see Annales as limited and not particularly innovative.
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- Braudel born in August 1902 into a peasant family in Lorraine, Northeastern France.
- Family moved to Paris and he completed his history degree work at Sorbonne where he concentrated on economics and social history and the ancient Greeks.
- Spent 10 years teaching in Algerian secondary schools.
- Upon committing to doctoral work he settled on study of Philip II’s Spain.
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- Braudel impressed by new approach to history put forward by Lucien Febvre and his *A Geographical Introduction to History*.
- Febvre suggested the examination of the Mediterranean and Philip II rather than Philip II and the Mediterranean.
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- In 1935, Braudel he accepted a 5-year contract to a new university in Sao Paolo, Brazil.
- During winters, Braudel researched the archives in the Mediterranean trading cities.
- He innovated and moved from government to commercial archives.
- In 1937, accepts a post in Paris.
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- Upon a visit to Brazil in 1937, Febvre and Braudel form their friendship.
- Febvre becomes an intellectual advisor and confidant to Braudel.
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• Braudel enlists in French Army in 1939 and after its defeat was imprisoned in camps in Mainz and Lubeck.

• During captivity Braudel commences *The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean World in the Age of Philip II*. His reference materials were minute and facilities limited.
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- His work covered Mediterranean world from the Renaissance to the 16th century.
- By the end of the war, he completed a first draft and in 1947 presented as a thesis of more than a thousand pages.
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- A new generation of historians embraced the sentiments of the preface, “The action of a few princes and rich men, the trivia of the past, bear little relation to the slow and powerful march of history...
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• “... the traditional geographic introduction to history that often figures to so little purpose at the beginning of so many books, with its description of the mineral deposits, types of agriculture and typical flora, briefly listed and never mentioned again, as if the flowers did not come back every spring, the flocks of sheep migrate every year, or the ships sail on a real sea that changes with the seasons.”
• Braudel divided historical time into geographic, social, and individual components.
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• Braudel invited the reader to consider the Mediterranean in its broadest geographical context.
• Within the context of human history he emphasizes technology and exchange.
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- In *Memory and the Mediterranean* Braudel begins with the seabed itself and what emerged from it—the epic stories of the Phoenicians, Etruscans, Greeks, Romans and the river civilizations of Mesopotamia and Egypt.
- Braudel looked at how the Mediterranean Sea shaped the world that grew up around it.
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• Lucien Febvre died in 1956 and Braudel inherited the mantle of the Annales School leadership.
• He fostered an extraordinary collections of talent.
• Braudel worked to create a separate institution where his colleagues could collaborate and outsiders invited to participate. The Maison des Sciences de l’Homme opened in 1970.
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- The new histories of the 1960s turned away from factual certainties of economic and descriptive social models and explored the history of “mentalities.”
- It held that the historical world was created out of perceptions not out of events.
- Braudel worked in this form in his last projected work the multi-volume, *The identity of France*. He completed three books.
- He concentrated on geography and demography and then said the key to France’s history was its peasantry.
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- Marxists displayed deep misgivings about the Annales current. During Cold War the School was under Marxist attack for its inclination to regard capitalism as a permanent category and its neglect of the dialectical links between infrastructure and superstructure.
- Anti-Marxist criticism of Annales directed against its content and form.
- Anales critics consider the School’s use of extra-historical material as tainting its whole approach as having a too much concentration on a biological tendency. Of Braudel's *Mediterranean*, “It only lacked “policy and action,”... “Braudel’s mountains move his men, but never do his men move the mountain.”
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- Annales antipathy towards political history, the domination of man by man, and majorities by minorities, recur as its chief criticisms.
- For Annales advocates, political history is merely the overly tilled top layer of what are multidimensional studies.
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- Lynn Hunt in “French History of the Last Twenty Years: The Rise and Fall of the Annales Paradigm,” chronicles the state of the Annales School following Braudel’s retirement.
- The school’s emblematic three-tiered model of historiography has become problematic.
- Annales historians of the school could not separate themselves from rival methodologies.
- She analyzes Annales paradigms from three angles—Marxist historiography, in-house historians, and historians of mentalités.
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- Francoise Furet, French historians have lived the academic good life in large part due to the distinctiveness brought about the Annales School.
- Consensus to extend the traditional borders of history into areas usually staked out by other social sciences.
- *Annales* ceased being a national interpreter and explores the secrets of societies rather than the secrets of nations.
- More than a journal and less than a doctrine.
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• History has turned to a broader range of topics and now confers dignity less selectively—everything has now become historical.

• Histories now diverge from presenting humanity with the notion of its own superiority and the ineluctability of mankind’s progress.

• A historian of what used to constitute the reign of the Sun King Louis XIV is now less a historian of the 17th century than perhaps a specialist on absolutism or the royal court phenomenon.
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- **Table 1: Reasons for increase in beer production between 1865 and 1915:**

- **A. Technological and scientific**
  - 1. __________________________________________________________________________
    __________________________________________________________________________
    __________________________________________________________________________
  
  - 2. __________________________________________________________________________
    __________________________________________________________________________
    __________________________________________________________________________
Table 1: Reasons for increase in production between 1865 and 1915:

A. Technological and scientific

1. Artificial refrigeration allows brewers to brew during hot American summers.
2. Pasteurization extended beer’s shelf life and made storage and transportation more reliable.
Table 1: Reasons for increase in beer production between 1865 and 1915:

B. Demographic (admitting rising population) and cultural

1. ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

2. ____________________________________________________________
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5. ____________________________________________________________
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B. Demographic (admitting rising population) and cultural

1. Widespread immigration from beer drinking countries such as Britain, Ireland, and Germany contributed to creation of American beer culture.
2. America becomes increasingly urbanized and industrialized and many workers in manufacturing and mining sectors made beer their drink of choice.
3. Workers began to receive higher wages and salaries allowing for more disposable income to be spent on beer.
4. Temperance movement advocated lower alcohol beer over higher alcohol spirits such as rum or whiskey.
5. Increasing number of German immigrants skilled in brewing lager made it the drink of choice, over British style ales or stouts, more widely available.
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- **Table 2: Account for changes in size and scale of brewing industry:**
  - **C. Corporate**
    - 1. _____________________________________________________________
      _____________________________________________________________
    - 2. _____________________________________________________________
      _____________________________________________________________
    - 3. _____________________________________________________________
      _____________________________________________________________
  - **D. Infrastructural**
    - 1. _____________________________________________________________
      _____________________________________________________________
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Table 2: Account for changes in size and scale of brewing industry:

C. Corporate
1. Until 1870s and 1880s American breweries had been essentially small scale, local operations.
2. By late 19th century several companies increased scale of production and scope of distribution.
3. Pasteurization and bottling technologies allowed corporate brewers who used bottles to compete with local competitors who supplied draught beer in wooden kegs.

D. Infrastructural
1. Using growing railroad network, shipping breweries could distribute to distant markets.
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• **Table 3: U.S. Brewing Industry Data, 1910-1940**

• **E. Societal forces (Speculate as to reasons for the lapse in brewing industry data from 1915 to 1934.)**

• 1. ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
Historiography & the Annales School

• **Table 3: U.S. Brewing Industry Data, 1910-1940**

• **E. Societal forces (Speculate as to reasons for the lapse in brewing industry data from 1915 to 1934.)**

• **1. Temperance and prohibition forces exert political muscle and their efforts culminate in the ratification of the Eighteenth Amendment, 29 January 1919, which along with the Volstead Act made the production and distribution of any beverages with more than one-half of one percent alcohol illegal.**
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- F. Corporate responses
  - 1. Divest.
  - 2. Adapt.
  - 3. Lobby.
  - 4. Diversify.
  - 5. Invest.
Historiography & the Annales School

• F. Corporate responses

• 1. **Divest.** Some companies sell equipment at substantial losses.

• 2. **Adapt.** Brewers who hoped for modifications to law began producing near beer, a malt beverage with under one-half of one percent alcohol.

• 3. **Lobby.** Anheuser-Busch and some of the other leading breweries were granted special licenses by the federal government for brewing alcohol greater than one half of one percent for "medicinal purposes". Receiving these licensees gave these breweries a competitive advantage as they were able to keep their brewing staff active in beer-making.
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• 4. **Diversify.** The shippers, and some local breweries, also made malt syrup. While they officially advertised it as an ingredient for baking cookies, and while its production was left alone by the government, it was readily apparent to all that its primary use was for homemade beer.

• 5. **Invest.** The leading shippers also furthered their investments in bottling equipment and machinery, which was used in the production of near beer, root beer, ginger ale, and soft drinks. These products were not the commercial successes beer had been, but they gave breweries important experience in bottling. While 85 percent of pre-Prohibition beer was kegged, during Prohibition over 80 percent of near beer and a smaller, though growing, percentage of soft drinks was sold in bottles. This remarkable increase in packaged product impelled breweries to refine their packaging skills and modify their retailing practice. As they sold near beer and soft drinks to drugstores and drink stands, they developed new marketing techniques. Experience gained during these years helped the shippers meet radically different distribution requirements of the post-repeal beer market.
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• G. Changed business environment (Account for the diminishing number of breweries from 1934 onwards.

• 1._____________________________________________________

• 2._____________________________________________________

• H. Marketplace issues (Why was production greater in 1915 than 1940?)

• 1._____________________________________________________


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• G. Changed business environment (Account for the diminishing number of breweries from 1934 onwards.)
  – 1. Prohibition meant the end of many small breweries that had been profitable, and that, taken together, had posed a formidable challenge to the large shipping breweries.
  – 2. Prior to prohibition, breweries owned or controlled many saloons, which were the dominant retail outlets for alcohol. To prevent the excesses that had been attributed to saloons from reoccurring, post-repeal legislation forbade alcohol manufacturers from owning bars or saloons, requiring them instead to sell their beer to wholesalers that in turn would distribute their beverages to retailers.

• H. Marketplace issues (Why was production greater in 1915 than 1940?)
  – 1. Economic depression and less disposable income.