

## **Neo determinism or Stop and Go Determinism**

The concept of neo determinism was put forward by **Taylor** in the **1920**. He urged that the limits of agricultural settlement in Australia had been set by factors in the physical environment such as distribution of rainfall. He believed that the best economic programme for a country to follow has in large part been determined by nature and its geographer's duty to interpret its programme. He criticized the concept of possibilism and stressed on the fact that although nature has offered humans a lot of scope for the development but it has also set the ultimate limits that man should not cross. He asserted that a geographer's role is essentially that of an adviser and not to interpret the nature's plan. Man is able to accelerate, slow or stop the progress of a country's development. He is like the traffic controller in a large city who alters the rate not the direction of progress and perhaps the phrase stop and go determinism expresses sufficiently writer's geographical philosophy

Man's follows nature's programme only if he wise, presuming he can act foolishly, which admits the possibilities provided by environment and man can choose among them. Taylor concedes him the choice between wise and foolish. But wisdom and folly are human concepts. The natural environment knows nothing of them. In nature there is only the possible and impossible, finer categories are manmade. The possibilities admit that the opportunities offered by any environment are not all equal. Some demand little from man, others continual struggle, some yield large, other meager returns. The ratio between effort and return can be looked upon as the price nature extracts from man for the particular choices he make. But recognition of this inequality of opportunity gives no clue as to which nature professes and the wise man should take. In no environment are the possibilities limitless and for every choice a price must be paid, proponents of possibilism admits this, but within these limits freedom to choose exists. Man makes his choice and man himself judges its relative wisdom or folly by reference to goals he himself has established by possibilists. Thus man chooses but only from the range which nature presents him.

Stop and go determinism has become quite relevant in the present day context. The unabated use of the earth's resource to fulfill the greed of human society has led to the various problems. Since the dawn of Industrial Revolution man has been continuously using fossil fuel for the development of human society. The fossil fuel produces green house gases far in excess of the rate at which environment can recycle it. This leads to the excess of green house gases and the consequent global warming. Off late man has come in term with the stop and go determinism. The recent Paris climate deal, International solar alliance etc are the result of this understanding.

The growth of world population has put pressure on the land resource of the earth. Scientists earlier used fertilizers and other chemicals to increase the food production but this led to land degradation. The use of irrigation in the Indira Gandhi Command region for agriculture is an important example that supports the idea of stop and go determinism of Taylor. The scientific community of the world has come in terms with the concept and now the focus is on the

development that is in harmony with the physical environment. The stop and go determinism has become the most important paradigm of development world over in the present society. The man has finally understood their limitation and they are now trying to live sustainably with the environment.