



THE GEOGRAPHY OF TRANSPORT SYSTEMS Fifth Edition

by **Jean-Paul Rodrigue**
published by **Routledge**
ISBN 9780367364632

The Geography of Transport Systems, by Dr. Jean-Paul Rodrigue, Professor of Geography at Hofstra University, who is distinguished in research on transportation and economics, is a textbook aiming at understanding how mobility is linked with the geography of transportation.

In general, mobility of passengers, freight, and information is the result of the derived demand emerging in space and is fundamental to economic and social activities, such as commuting, manufacturing, distributing of goods, or supplying energy. Provided that each movement has a purpose, an origin, a potential set of intermediate locations, and a destination, the transportation systems emerging in geographical space can be considered as the result of human causality. Within this context, mobility is supported and driven by transport systems which are composed by infrastructures, modes, and terminals and they enable individuals, institutions, corporations, regions, and nations to interact and develop economic, social, cultural, or political activities.

To the extent that transport geography can be considered as a sub-discipline dealing with human-based mobility and its spatial organization, the “Geography of Transport Systems” is a textbook that accosts to an undergraduate audience and offers a comprehensive and accessible introduction to the field, including a broad overview of concepts, methods, and areas of application. This book refers to a multidisciplinary audience, from transport engineers, geographers, economists, regional scientists, management scientists, to even physicists, statisticians, and information scientists, and is provided to practitioners, policymakers, educators, researchers, students, and individual learners and includes a wide variety of media elements such as maps, figures, and Power-Point presentations.

A major added-value of this textbook is that is freely available online, at the URL <https://transportgeography.org>, suggesting a bright example of knowledge being available beyond limits. However, printed and electronic version is also available for this well-written textbook by Routledge. Future editions of this textbook can integrate by including exercises to facilitate undergraduate teaching. Also, the figures’ illustration is very insightful and descriptive, making comprehension easier.

The textbook is divided into twelve chapters. The first ten (1.Transportation and Geography, 2.Transportation and Spatial Structure, 3.Transportation, Economy and Society, 4.Transport, Energy and Environment, 5.Transportation Modes, 6.Transportation Terminals, 7.Trade, Logistics and Freight Distribution, 8.Urban Transportation, 9.Transport Planning and Policy, and 10.Challenges for Transport Geography) cover a specific conceptual dimension of transport geography, such as networks, modes, terminals, and urban transportation, as well as emerging issues such as globalization, supply chain management, information technologies, energy, and the environment. Provided that transportation is a field of application, the use of methodologies is particularly relevant to assist transport-operators to allocate their resources (e.g. investments, infrastructure, and vehicles) or to influence public policy. Appendix A (Methods in Transport Geography) focuses on qualitative and quantitative methodologies linked with transport geography, such as accessibility, spatial interactions, and graph theory. Finally, Appendix B (Applications and Case Studies) includes case studies of investigation and application to real-world issues, where transportation is a very active field.

Overall, “The Geography of Transport Systems”, by Prof. Jean-Paul Rodrigue, can be considered as a reference textbook that excellently illustrates the conceptual framework of transport geography, as it expressed by human-based mobility and its spatial organization.

Book Review by Dimitrios TSIOTAS, Ph.D., RSI J