

# Geography of South Carolina Contemporary Landscapes



# SC after WWII

- **Population**
  - 1960 – 41% of SC population was urban
  - 1980 – 54% urban
  - urban population doubled from 1950 to 1980
- Rapid urbanization, especially suburbanization from 1950 to 1980
  - suburban counties grew faster than any others
  - around SC's 3 major cities and around Augusta, GA and Charlotte, NC
  - Suburbanization of white population - “white flight”
- Recreation and tourism
  - Horry County (Myrtle Beach)
  - Beaufort County (Hilton Head)
- Black population grew again
  - Young and middle aged blacks still moved North, especially during years of segregation
  - Recent return from the North back to SC

# Urban Landscapes

- **Urban area**
  - U.S. Bureau of Census – places having population of 2,500 or more inhabitants
- SC population was much less urban than the North
  - Manufacturing and services developed much later here than in North
  - Always a more agricultural state
- 3 kinds of urban centers:
  1. Transport and trade centers
    - Colonial port cities – i.e. Charleston, Beaufort, Georgetown
      - + Camden
    - Railroad towns – i.e. Florence
  2. Government administrative centers
    - Columbia – capital in 1786
    - Courthouse towns – Marion, Cheraw
  3. Mill towns
    - Textile mills (Midlands and Piedmont)

# Urban Landscapes

- **Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)**
  - 1 county or 2 or more contiguous counties that contain:
    - (1) a city of at least 50,000 inhabitants or
    - (2) an urbanized area of at least 50,000 inhabitants with an overall metropolitan population of 100,000 inhabitants
  - City (central city) and built-up area surrounding it
  - Even rural areas within county boundaries are included, because MSA is defined on basis of county units
  - **Combined Statistical Area (CSA)**

# MSAs & CSAs in SC

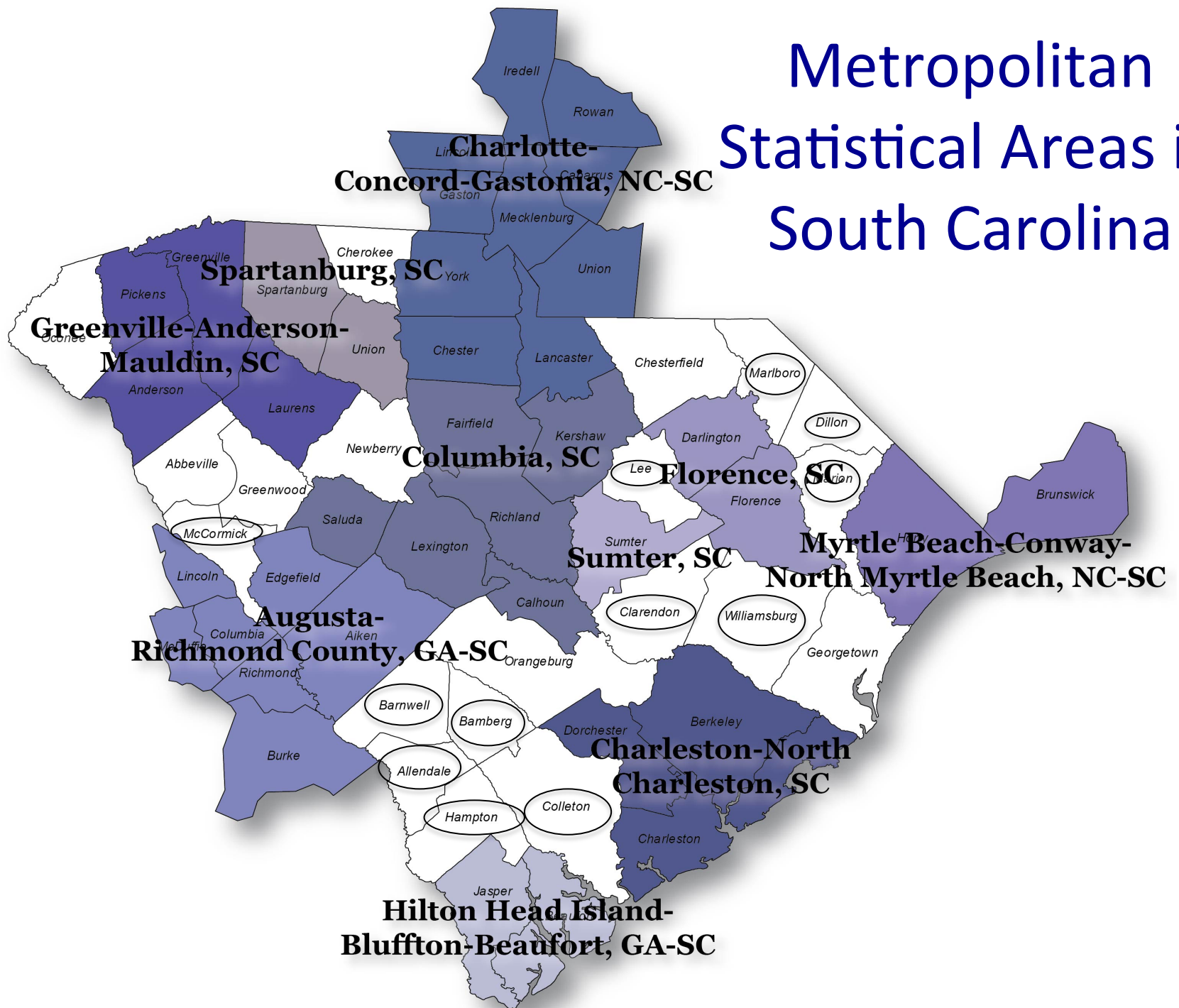
- Greenville-Spartanburg-Anderson CSA - 1,426,625
  - Greenville-Anderson-Mauldin MSA - 874,869
    - Greenville - 491,863
  - Spartanburg MSA - 297,302
- Columbia-Newberry CSA - 937,288
  - Columbia MSA - 810,068
    - Richland Co. - 407,051
- Charleston-North Charleston-Summerville MSA - 744,526
  - Charleston - 389,262

# MSAs & CSAs in SC

- Charlotte-Gastonia-Salisbury CSA - 2,537,990
  - 415,321 in SC
  - Charlotte-Gastonia-Concord MSA - 2,426,363
    - 251,195 in York Co., SC
- Myrtle Beach-Conway CSA - 493,262
  - 370,497 in SC
  - Myrtle Beach-Conway-N. Myrtle Beach MSA - 431,964
    - 309,199 in Horry Co., SC
- Hilton Head-Bluffton-Beaufort MSA - 207,413
- Florence MSA - 206,448
  - Florence Co. - 138,900
- Augusta-Richmond Co, MSA - 590,146
  - 192,343 in SC – Aiken & W. Augusta (Edgefield Co.)
- Sumter MSA - 107,480



# Metropolitan Statistical Areas in South Carolina



# Urban Landscapes

- **Urban spatial evolution in North**
  - pedestrian/horse car, streetcar, private automobile, urban freeway, interstate
  - rush to suburbs by white Europeans, African-Americans pour into inner cities
  - bedroom communities
- **smaller cities in SC than in North**
  - not much high-density residential concentration
  - small central cities, few streetcar suburbs, sprawling suburban developments
  - **edge cities**



# Urban Landscapes

- **Eras of urban structural growth**

1. **Pedestrian & Horsecar (before 1888)**

- Cities in SC with horsecar systems – Charleston, Columbia, Greenville, Spartanburg, Orangeburg

2. **Electric Streetcar (1888-1920)**

- Streetcar suburbs
- Cities in SC with electric streetcar systems – Anderson, Charleston, Columbia, Greenville, Spartanburg
- End of streetcars – 1930s

3. **Recreational Automobile (1920-1945)**

- mass suburbanization
- Neighborhoods defined by income level, ethnicity, and race

4. **Freeways (1945- )**

- Eisenhower Interstate System – 1950s (completed in 1960s)
- shopping malls
- decentralization of city and decay of CBD

# Urban Landscapes

- **Edge cities**
  - a city made up of several **urban realms**, each with a separate, distinct economic, social, and political significance and strength
- Suburbs are home to over 50% of U.S. population
- total dependence on the automobile
- height of our racially divided society
- African-Americans migrated to major industrial cities of the North and the South as well
- “White flight” to the suburbs

# Urban Landscapes

- Inner cities become **ghettos**, for blacks and other minorities
- American society is characterized by a desire to be near nature, freedom to move, individualism, societal acceptance, aggressive pursuit of goals, and a firm sense of destiny
- The rural ideal, which has been prevalent throughout U.S. history, has given rise to emergence of a suburban lifestyle
  - Suburbs represent the Americans' love for newness and form of country life
- American Dream of homeownership, affluence, and total satisfaction

# Agricultural Landscapes

- Agriculture lost out to industry by 1923.
- Land tenure
  - decline in total number and area of farms after WWII
  - increase in average farm size
- Land Use patterns
  - most agriculture concentrated in Inner Coastal Plain and Pee Dee
  - Forestry and fishing even rank higher in earnings than agriculture
  - Decline in cropland harvested
    - decrease in cotton acreage
    - increase in pastureland for cattle ranching

# Agricultural Landscapes

- reasons for **decline of cotton**:
  - New Deal programs; end of tenancy
  - mechanical cotton picker in 1950s reduced need for labor
  - Piedmont: cotton and corn growing activities supplanted by forestry
    - loblolly pine
  - Over 1 million acres turned into cattle pasture (for beef)
  - Expansion of soybean acreage (mainly in coastal plain)
  - Cotton producers couldn't compete with new growers in Texas, Arizona, and California

# Agricultural Landscapes

- Inability of ginning industry to adjust to new conditions of mechanization
  - old, obsolete cotton gins
- Reluctance of farmers to adopt cotton picker
- Textile mills drew many farmers off the land in the Piedmont
- Cotton became more profitable in Inner Coastal Plain,
  - Lack of growth in manufacturing
- Farmer could lease additional acreage for cotton planting and thus could control more acreage and mechanize it more easily

# Agricultural Landscapes

- **Tobacco:**

- introduced into Pee Dee in 1880s
  - “Pearl of the Pee Dee”
- more favorable when boll weevil destroyed cotton
- in 1979 and 1980 tobacco fell behind soybeans
- in 1981 and 1982 it became number 1 ranking crop in the state again
- size of tobacco farm has gone from small to large
- also, more mechanized
- incorporation of bulk barns
- Recent decline:
  - Fewer smokers
  - No more auctions
  - Contract to Phillip Morris



# Agricultural Landscapes

- **Allotment** – introduced under New Deal (Kerr-Smith Act)
  - production limit assigned to each state based on its portion of the nation's tobacco harvest
  - also for individual counties and for farmers within those counties who had grown tobacco
  - limited production, maintained prices, and insured continued participation of small farmers in the market
  - quota vested in the farm
  - whoever owned the farmland owned the allotment
  - land and allotment were inseparable
  - program required that tobacco be grown on farm that held allotment

# Agricultural Landscapes

- **Lease and transfer system (1962)** – allotment could be
  - leased to another farmer
  - tobacco didn't have to be grown on farm that held
  - Allotment
  - cotton could be grown on lessee's own land
  - ambitious farmers could combine fields, aggregate
  - tobacco acreage, introduce machinery for large-scale
  - production, and adopt more efficient bulk carrying  
Barns
    - traditional processing of tobacco: -square curing barns
    - larger metal bulk barns and mechanical harvester have reduced labor needed by over 70%

# Agricultural Landscapes

- **Soybeans:**

- devoted to soil restoration
- now most widely planted crop in SC
- production has vied with tobacco production as leader in terms of cash receipts
- benefits from strong market that is enhanced by export demand
  - high prices
- highly mechanized production
- Inner Coastal Plain

- **Grain crops:**

- Corn – declined due to declining need for feed crops
- Wheat – sold to make flour for baked goods
  - Inner Coastal Plain
- Rye, barley, oats – cover crops for animal feed or cut for hay
- Sorghum – used for animal feed
  - mostly in western Piedmont

# Agricultural Landscapes

- **Livestock**

- **Cattle**

- increasingly important since 1950s
    - Beef cattle – Hereford and Angus
      - feed mainly off alfalfa
      - predominant region is Piedmont
    - Dairy cattle
      - concentrated mainly in Orangeburg and Bamberg counties in Inner Coastal Plain and Piedmont counties of Newberry, Anderson, and Saluda

- **Poultry**

- Broiler chickens
    - Turkeys

# Agricultural Landscapes

- **Fruit orchard crops**

- **Peaches**

- The Ridge – Piedmont counties of Aiken, Edgefield, Lexington, and Saluda
    - also Spartanburg and Cherokee
    - more peaches produced in Edgefield and Spartanburg alone than in all Georgia
    - McBee, SC

- **Apples**

- Spartanburg and Oconee counties

- Strawberries, blueberries

- **Truck Crops**

- cabbage, potatoes, cucumbers, beans, tomatoes

# Commerce and Industry

- **Manufacturing**

- **Multiplier effect** – every new job in manufacturing leads to increased employment in other parts of the economy
- more wage earners = more demand for goods and services = more consumers
- additional jobs in retail, sales, services, and other sectors
- manufacturers were enticed by absence of unions and employment legislation (Right to Work State)

- **State Development Board**

- promote SC potential, tax incentives, tax-free government bonds,
- Technical Education Program
- Interstate Highways, port facilities, Metropolitan airports
- Changes in race relations
- Perception as a good place to live

# Commerce and Industry

- **Manufacturing**

- Durable goods

- lumber & wood products, furniture
    - Fabricated metals, instruments, machinery (Otis)
    - Plastics
    - Aerospace engineering – Boeing (Charleston)

- Non-durable goods

- food processing, textiles, apparel
    - Paper, printing & publishing, chemicals
    - Pharmaceuticals



# Commerce and Industry

- **Foreign investment**
  - Rieter Machine Works of Switzerland (Spartanburg), BMW
  - Roche, ESAB, Honda, Nan-Ya Plastics
  - highest concentration of foreign investment in USA is in South Carolina
- **Gone from rural-agricultural economy to urban-industrial economy**
  - **Problems:**
    - mostly low-wage jobs
    - capital-intensive industries
    - need skilled workers
    - new hi-tech, high-wage industries locate more near concentrations of skilled labor (CA, TX, NC, northeast)

# Commerce and Industry

- **Forestry**

- Sawmilling, pulpwood, pulp and paper (by far the largest)
- International Paper (Georgetown – 1930s)
- Stone Container (Florence)
- located near railroads (bulky commodity)
- large tree plantations on Coastal Plain
- pulpwood cut under contract on company land
- own large tracts of forest land
- also by private individuals on their own land and trucked to wood yards
- shipped from wood yards to mill by rail
- percent of land in forest (2<sup>nd</sup> highest)

# Commerce and Industry

- **Service industries**
  - largest increase in jobs
  - over 60% in 1980
  - Transportation and public utilities
  - Retail, Finance, Insurance, Real estate
  - Government, Military
  - Tourism
    - state parks, Grand Strand, Charleston, Hilton Head Island
  - Most Nonagricultural employment concentrated in upper Piedmont and Midlands and in metropolitan areas
  - Least important in rural counties of lower Piedmont and Inner Coastal plain

# Commerce and Industry

- **Energy**

- **hydropower** dominated SC energy production  
1940s

- Clarks Hill Dam, Hartwell Dam, Keowee Dam, Jocassee Dam, Marion, Moultrie

- **coal-fired steam plants** (Parr Shoals)

- **nuclear power** (atoms)

- H. B. Robinson Unit 2 (Hartsville) – oldest
    - Oconee Nuclear Station (Keowee-Toxaway Complex)
    - V. C. Summer Nuclear Station (Fairfield Co.)
    - Catawba 1 and 2 (York Co.)
    - Cherokee project

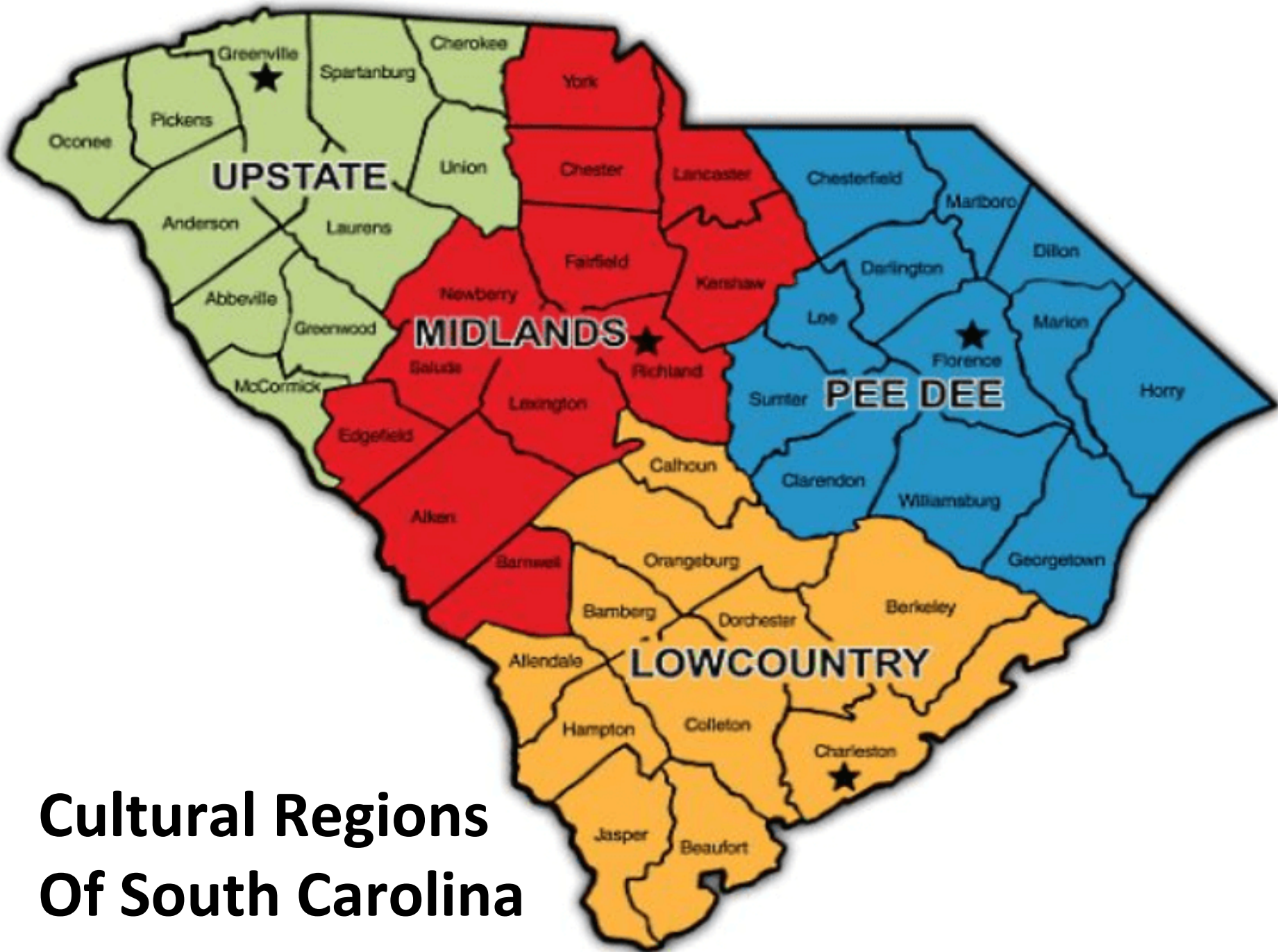
# Geography of SC

## Cultural Landscapes

- **Landscape** as defined by **Carl O. Sauer** = “the imprint of humans on the surface of the earth
  - Culture through Time together with Natural Landscape  
= **Cultural Landscape**
- **Cultural Regions:**
  1. Low Country
  2. Pee Dee
  3. Midlands
  4. Upcountry

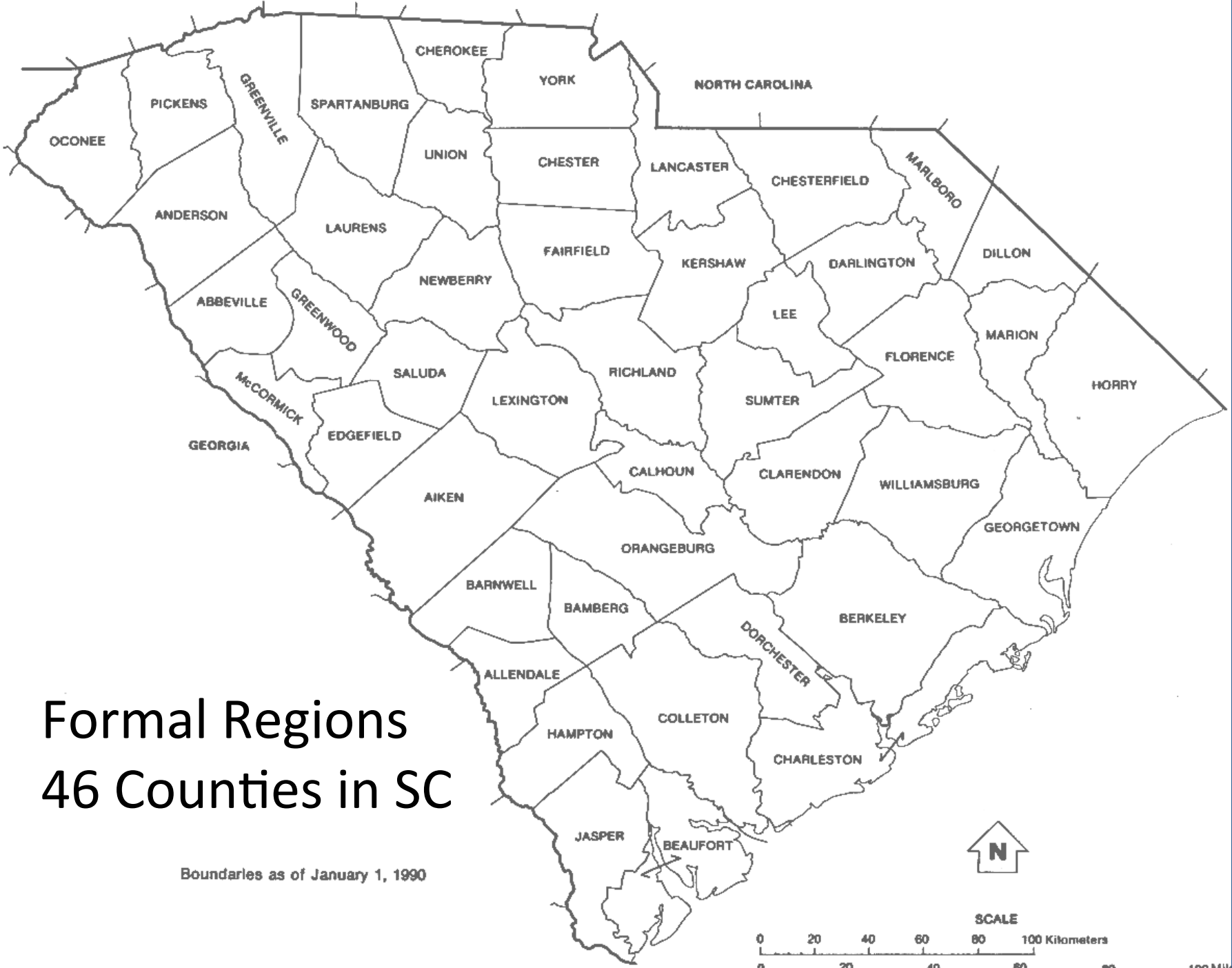
# Regions

- **Formal**
  - Religion
  - Barbecue regions
  - Political regions
  - Football Conferences
- **Functional regions**
  - urban node and surrounding hinterland based on strong economic ties or services
- **Vernacular regions**



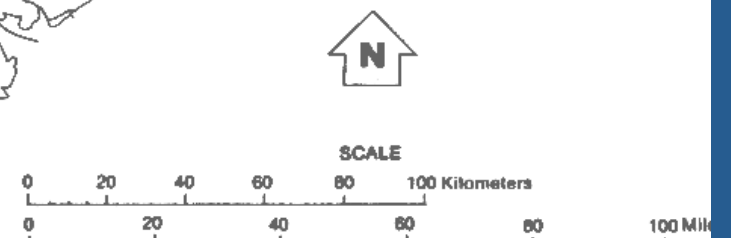
# Cultural Regions Of South Carolina





# Formal Regions 46 Counties in SC

Boundaries as of January 1, 1990



## Study questions

1. Urban growth in SC during post-WWII years occurred mostly in which part of the cities?
2. Suburbanization occurred and was facilitated in SC, and the rest of the country, due to what reasons?
3. An urban area must have at least how many inhabitants?
4. A Metropolitan Statistical Area must have 1 or more contiguous counties with an urban area plus a total area of at least how many inhabitants?
5. Examples of transport and trade centers include which cities in SC?
6. Examples of government administrative centers include which cities in SC?
7. The 3 largest cities and MSAs completely within SC are
8. The 3 smallest MSAs completely within SC are
9. The MSAs that overlap into neighboring states include which 3 cities in SC?
10. Examples of edge cities in SC include
11. Transportation in a few of South Carolina's larger cities during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century consisted primarily of which mode?
12. Transportation in a few of South Carolina's larger cities during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century consisted primarily of which mode?
13. Since the WWII era, transportation throughout SC became and still is dominated by which mode?
14. Apart from the mode of transportation itself, what other form of public infrastructure further aided in the suburbanization of SC, as well as the rest of the USA, especially since the 1950s?
15. Which portion of cities in SC and the rest of the country became ever more characterized by poverty and lower socioeconomic classes?
16. The process of renovating historic inner cities and downtowns and the consequent rise in real estate values, prices, and socioeconomic class in these areas is known as

17. The process of urban areas sprawling outward from their downtowns in a haphazard fashion whereby pockets of unused or rural land remain in between areas of urban use is known as
18. Mention specific examples of gentrification in Charleston, Columbia, and Greenville.
19. Explain differences between urban growth in the North and in the South.
20. Which parts of the cities were most disadvantaged and neglected by post-WWII urban growth in SC and much of the rest of the USA?
21. Which city in SC was the first to experience heavy gentrification of its downtown?
22. What is meant by the concepts of "Sunbelt" and "New South"?
23. In which part of the state, and which counties, do African Americans make up at least half, or nearly half of the population?
24. One of the more newly arrived ethnic groups in SC is the
25. Which college or university in SC is a Land Grant school?
26. Which area(s) of the state has highest high school graduation rates?
27. Which area(s) of the state has lowest high school graduate rates?
28. Which college or university in SC is a Historically Black College, and is located in Orangeburg?
29. Which kinds of agriculture are most common in the Piedmont and Blue Ridge?
30. Which kinds of agriculture are most common in the Coastal Plain?
31. Which crop has been considered the most important in SC agriculture for the last four decades, and especially in the Pee Dee?
32. What is considered to be the leading farm commodity in SC in terms of cash receipts?
33. What are some leading manufacturing industries in SC now? Examples of major manufacturing companies?
34. What are the reasons that have been beneficial for industries to invest in SC?

35. Which state park in the Upstate of SC is most notable due to its monadnock?
36. All except which National Park in SC are related to military history?
37. The highest percent of Baptists in SC is in which region(s)?
38. Which is the largest denomination in SC?
39. What is neolocalism? What are some examples that apply to SC?
40. Which religion in SC is a bit more recent and is practiced simultaneously with Christianity?
41. Which denomination was brought directly from England since the colonial period?
42. Which denomination was brought by Scotch-Irish settlers to SC?
43. Which denomination was brought by German settlers to SC?
44. Which region is dominated by vinegar BBQ sauce? Mustard BBQ sauce? Etc.
45. Exactly where (which region and/or counties) are Democrats more favored?
46. Durable goods in SC? Non-durable goods?
47. Lease and Transfer? Allotment? State Development Board?
48. Multiplier effect?
49. Tobacco bulk barns? Tobacco auctions?
50. What are Primary (agricultural, forestry, etc.), manufacturing, and service sectors of economy.

### **Essays**

- A. Explain the impacts of globalization – good, bad, and everything in between – on SC.
- B. Explain how the transition from a rural-agricultural economy to an urban-industrial and services economy has affected SC.