

# AGRICULTURAL LOCATION THEORY- VON THUNEN

Dr. RITUPARNA GHOSH  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF GEOGRAPHY  
RANIGANJ GIRLS' COLLEGE

# INTRODUCTION

- VON THUNEN'S MODEL IS SET IN THE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF EARLY NINETEENTH CENTURY EUROPE.
- THE MODEL WAS PUT FORWARD IN 1826, BUT IT WAS NOT TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH UNTIL 1966.
- THE OBJECTIVE WAS TO ACCOUNT FOR FORCES BEHIND THE LOCATIONAL PATTERN OF AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES

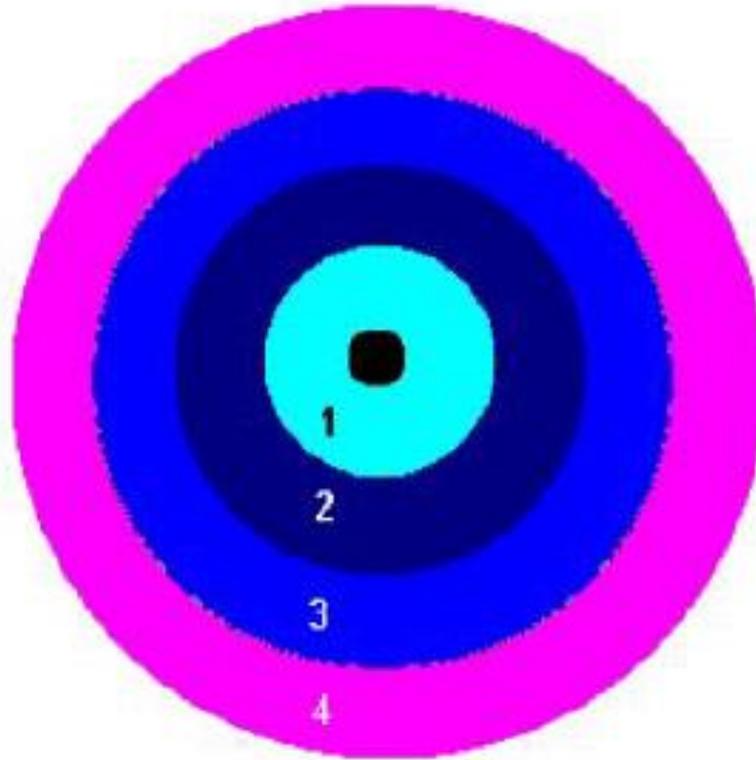
# ASSUMPTIONS

- THE CITY IS LOCATED WITHIN AN 'ISOLATED STATE' WHICH IS SELF SUFFICIENT AND HAS NO EXTERNAL INFLUENCES
- THE ISOLATED STATE IS SURROUNDED BY UNOCCUPIED WILDERNESS
- THE LAND OF THE STATE IS COMPLETELY FLAT AND HAS NO RIVERS OR MOUNTAINS
- THE SOIL QUALITY AND CLIMATE ARE SAME THROUGHOUT THE STATE
- FARMERS IN THE ISOLATED STATE TRANSPORT THEIR OWN GOODS TO THE MARKET VIA OXCART DIRECTLY TO THE CENTRAL CITY. FARMERS ACT TO MAXIMIZE PROFITS

# **ZONES OF VON THUNEN'S MODEL**

- **ZONE 1- DAIRY AND INTENSIVE FARMING.** PERISHABLE PRODUCTS SHOULD BE LOCATED CLOSE TO THE CITY
- **ZONE 2- TIMBER AND FIREWOOD.** WOOD IS HEAVY AND DIFFICULT TO TRANSPORT SO SHOULD BE LOCATED AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE CLOSE TO THE CITY
- **ZONE 3- EXTENSIVE FOOD GRAINS.** GRAINS LAST LONGER AND ARE LIGHTER THAN WOOD SO CAN BE DISTANTLY LOCATED
- **ZONE 4- RANCHING.** ANIMALS CAN BE RAISED FAR AWAY FROM THE CITY AS THEY ARE SELF-TRANSPORTING
- **BEYOND THE FOURTH ZONE LIES THE UNOCCUPIED WILDERNESS**

# DIAGRAMMATIC REPRESENTATION OF THE ZONES OF VON THUNEN'S MODEL



- Central City
- 1 Intensive farming and dairying
- 2 Forest
- 3 Increasing extensive field crops
- 4 Ranching, animal products

# CONCLUSION

- THE MODEL IS AN EXCELLENT ILLUSTRATION OF THE BALANCE BETWEEN LAND COST AND TRANSPORTATION COST. AS ONE GETS CLOSER TO A CITY THE PRICE OF LAND INCREASES
- THE MODEL PROVIDES A METHOD OR APPROACH WHICH MAY BE APPLIED GENERALLY WITHOUT CLAIMING UNIVERSALITY