

Some things to think about: History and Place

(Braudel, Grove, and Rackham)

What is the subject of each of the readings? Are the subjects the same (in a general sense)? Do they overlap? Why or why not?

What is the argument of each of the readings? Is it implicit or explicit?

Only one of these authors is a historian. What, if any, difference does that make?

More generally, what is the impact of the authors' disciplines--on persona, tone, selection and use of evidence, use of illustrations?

Braudel is associated with the "longue durée," but the chronological perspective of the other authors is even longer. What relationship do they propose or assume between relatively short spans of time (decades) and centuries or millennia or geological epochs? Between human history and non-human history?

More generally, what is the relation between generalization and detail?

What relationship do the authors propose or assume between place and politics?
Between place and economics?

How would you characterize the sources used by each author? What opportunities and challenges does each set of sources present?

MIT OpenCourseWare
<http://ocw.mit.edu>

21H.991 Theories and Methods in the Study of History
Fall 2014

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <http://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.