

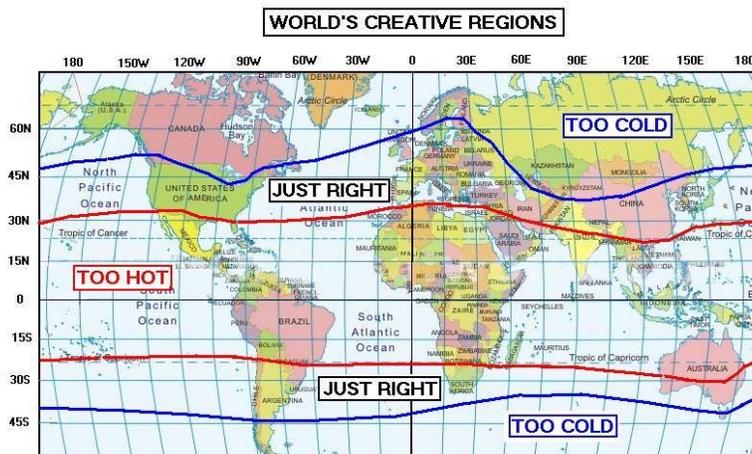
WORLD CREATIVITY BANDS

When looking at a nighttime satellite view of the earth as shown here-

NIGHT-TIME SATELLITE VIEW OF THE EARTH



one is struck by how there are two bands of bright lights extending around the globe. The northern band runs through the United States, Western Europe, Northern India, China, Korea, and Japan. The southern band includes the Central part of South America, Southern Africa, and Southern and Eastern Australia. The rest of the world (with a few exceptions) is seen to be quite dark indicating underdeveloped areas. Clearly the light density indicates regions with advanced technologies coupled with high population densities. This in turn implies that these bands are capable of supporting advanced intellectual activities. In trying to understand why the bands are located where they are, I am of the opinion that more than anything else it has to do with yearly temperature ranges existing there. Things should not be too cold or too hot leaving the two comfort zones labeled JUST RIGHT as indicated in the following -



The blue line indicates winter minimum temperatures of -10 deg C and the red line gives summer maximum temperatures of 30 deg C. As one can see, the worlds developed countries fall pretty much into the JUST RIGHT zones where the yearly temperature range is $-10 \text{ degC} < T < 30 \text{ degC}$. It is also within these zones that the most creative activities and technological advancements are occurring.

The question now is why is this so? I see the causes as a combination of two temperature factors. First of all, it is within these bands where food surpluses become possible because of good soil (Kansas, Ukraine, Australia), advanced agricultural technology, and sufficiently long growing seasons. Food surpluses allow for an expanding population and an increase in the number of individuals having time to exercise their intellectual curiosities. The subsistence living experienced by individuals in the arctic regions and the hot jungles and deserts of the world are unlikely to ever produce conditions conducive to creativity and advanced development. The second point concerning temperature is that humans do not function well or are creative in freezing weather and are uncomfortable with high temperatures. Our bodies are well designed to live in regions where the average temperature is about 20 deg C below body temperature. Here in Florida it must have been difficult to function in the summer heat and humidity prior to air-conditioning, although it's has always been an ideal place to spend the winter as an alternative to the freezing north.

Overall I conclude that developed countries lying within the indicated comfort zones will continue to advance in the arts, science, and technologies, while populations outside these bands will continue to struggle, made worse in the hot regions by political instabilities and overpopulation exceeding the local food supplies.