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Human Geography- G block

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Process Paper

I began my research by getting an overview of the databases that pertained to Manila, but I had difficulty finding information on the city itself because most of the information related to the Philippines as a whole. I then organized all my notecards under the different tabs, and I realized that I was missing important information. I had a particular difficulty finding information on the government of Manila, so I talked to the librarian who pointed out some good resources. This assignment taught me that research can be time consuming, but I also learned how to use particular keywords to help me find specific information that I needed for my website.

 I began my website by setting up the information under the different tabs. I wanted to make my website visually appealing but not too wordy and complicated to understand. I also tried to choose pictures and graphics that gave the viewer a real sense of the city and its people. I also added multiple photos of the flooding which is a major problem in Manila. Overall,  I used a simple, colorful design and included just the important facts about the major aspects of Manila.

 Manila, the capital of the Philippines, is located on the island of Luzon approximately 800 miles from the main land of Asia. Its site and situation has been transformed into a booming megacity. The topography of Manila has been altered to transform the beaches into a major tourist attraction, but the city remains at risk because of its location on the Pacific Typhoon Belt. Manila site, that is, its physical characteristics such as its topography, vegetation, and water resources, have been greatly altered by the development of the megacity. Manila sits on top of a prehistoric alluvial (particles of clay, silt, sand), but the huge population had an effect on the city. The major part of the city had to be evened out during the development. Also, as Manila grew into a major urban area, the city had to expand outward to neighboring towns to make room for all the people. The development of the megacity has also had an effect on its land and water resources, which have become very populated. The beautiful houses that used to line the Pasig River have been replaced by factories and shacks. Overall, the development of Manila as a megacity has negatively affected its landscape and caused the city to be overly polluted.

 Manila situation, that is, its geographic context in regard to social, political, and economic characteristics, make the city a good place for people to settle. Its bay is surrounded by mountains, which act as a protective barrier. The city also has one of the world’s most unique natural harbors. As a major port, Manila focuses on trade, particularly tobacco, pharmaceuticals, steel, lumber and wood. The development of Manila into a megacity has had a positive social effect on the city because the city has a very diverse cultural makeup. Also, Manila has a major English speaking population, which has helped to boost the economy. Manila is one of the world’s leading centers for global banks and mobile providers. Building projects are also helping to increase the tourism industry. Overall, Manila has benefited socially and economically as its  development as a megacity.