

A COMPARISON OF TWO CITIES:  
COLUMBUS AND NORFOLK, NEBRASKA

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This study is a comparison between Columbus and Norfolk, Nebraska. Its purpose is to show that the cities of Columbus and Norfolk, Nebraska, are similar in origin, location, size, labor force, ethnic make-up, morphology, and site, but seem to have economic, social and cultural differences. A comparison has been made of Columbus and Norfolk in an attempt to ascertain the nature and magnitude of their differences and to determine the degree of relationship between geographic variables and their differences.

The information used in this study was gathered through field work and examination of published materials. In the field, many records were examined, numerous individuals were interviewed and visual impressions were recorded.

Analysis of the information gained resulted in the following conclusions: (1) the ethnic make-up is similar in the two cities; (2) the economic bases of the cities are different, one having a manufacturing base and the other a wholesale and retail trade base; (3) these different economic bases affect the social and cultural aspects of life in these two cities; and finally, (4) physical environmental surroundings have had considerable bearing on the economic, social and cultural development of these communities.