An aerial photograph of terraced rice fields in a mountainous region. The terraces are carved into the hillsides, creating a series of concentric, wavy lines. The fields are filled with water, reflecting the sky. In the foreground, a person wearing a red headscarf and a light blue shirt is standing, looking out over the landscape. They are holding a large, round, woven basket. The overall scene is lush and green, with the terraces providing a unique perspective of the landscape.

# GEOGRAPHY REALMS, REGIONS, AND CONCEPTS

**Tenth Edition**

**H. J. de Blij / Peter O. Muller**



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# GEOGRAPHY

## Realms, Regions, and Concepts

Tenth Edition

**H. J. de Blij**  
Michigan State University

**Peter O. Muller**  
University of Miami

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The first map figure in each chapter that appears in this text  
comes from *Goode's World Atlas*, Rand McNally,  
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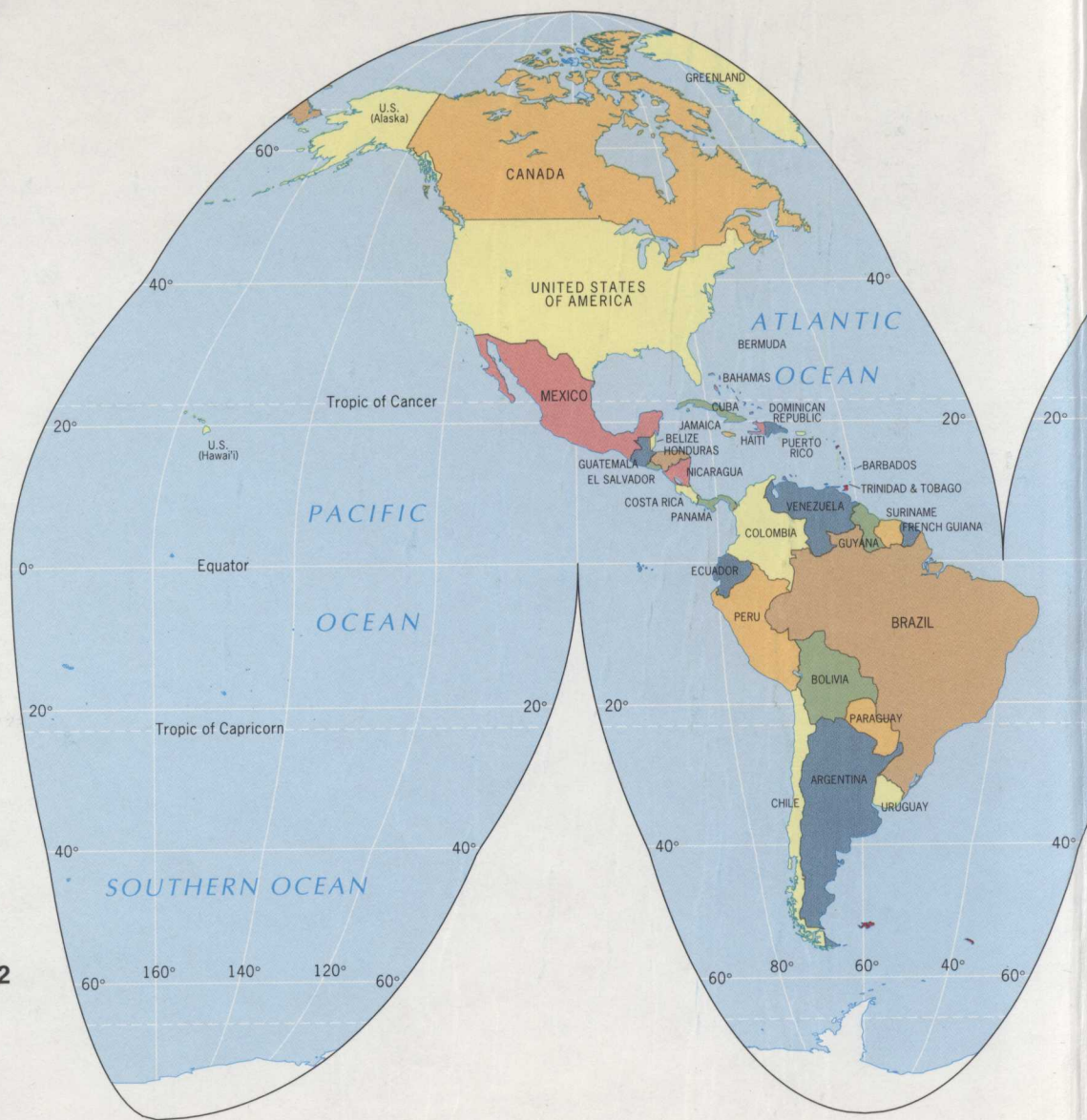
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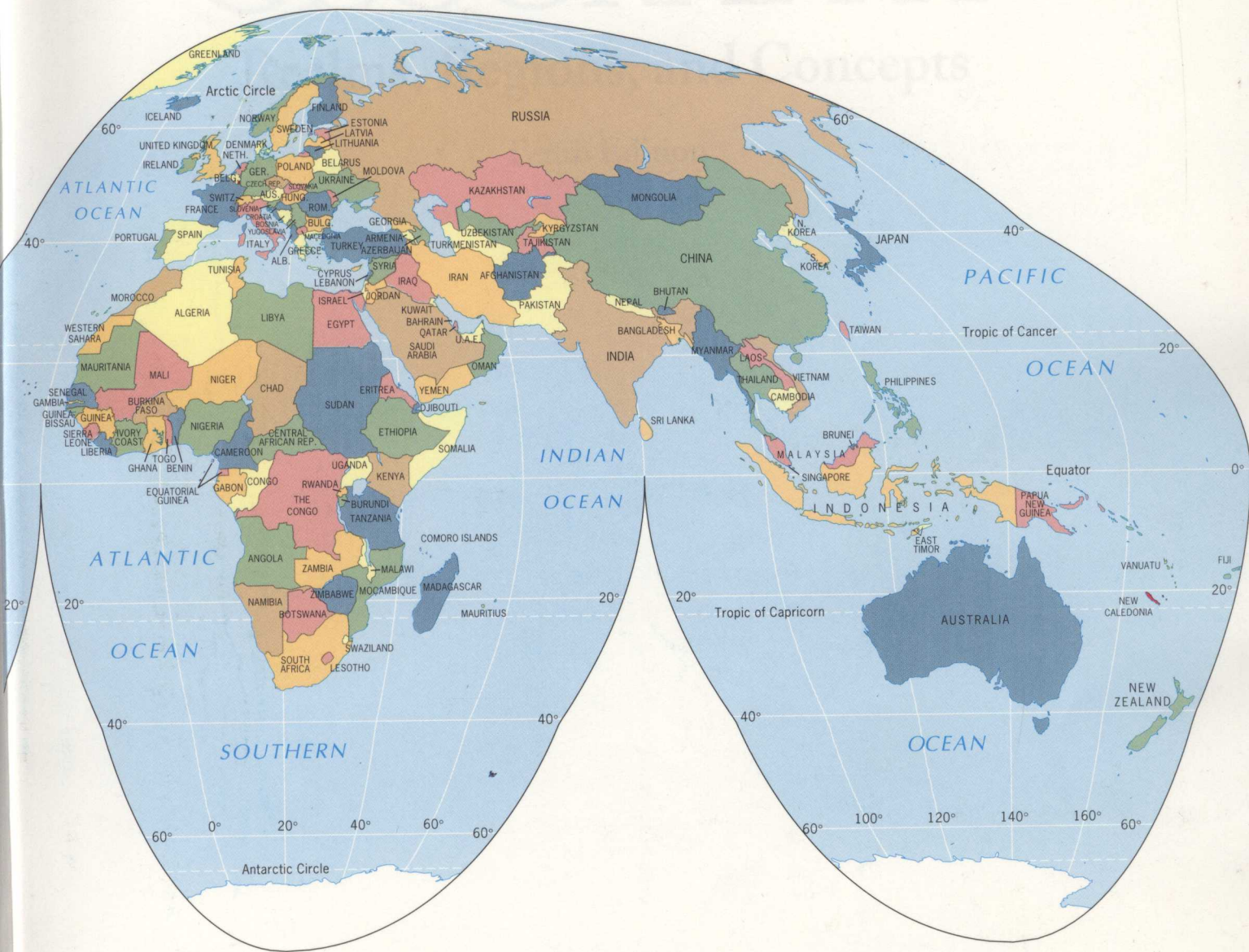




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# GEOGRAPHY

## Concepts





# Preface

To

AREND D. LUBBERS

President of Grand Valley State University

1969–2001 and

Advocate of Geography

For more than three decades, *Geography: Regions and Concepts* has reported on and inspired the discipline of Geography and development in the world at large. In nine preceding editions, *Regions*, as the book is generally called, has examined the modern world's great geographic realms and their physical and human context, but has introduced geography itself, the discipline that links the study of human societies and natural environments through a fascinating spatial approach. From old topics to new, from environmental determinism to expansive diffusion from deindustrialization to decongestion, *Regions* has provided geographic perspective on our transforming world.

The book before you, therefore, is an information highway to geographic literacy. The first edition appeared in 1973, at a time when school geography in the United States (though not in Canada) was a subject in decline. It was a precursor of a dangerous revolution in America, and geographers foresaw the looming loss of geographic literacy. Sure enough, the media during the 1980s began to report that polls, public surveys, tests, and other instruments were recording a lack of geographic knowledge at a time when our world was changing ever faster and becoming more competitive by the day. Various institutions, including the National Geographic Society, banks, airline companies, and a consortium of scholarly organizations mobilized to confront an educational dilemma that had resulted substantially from a neglect of the very topics this book is about.

Before we can usefully discuss such commonplace topics as our "shrinking world," our "global village," and our "global linkages," we should know what the parts are, the components that do the shrinking and linking. This is not just an academic exercise. You will find that much of what you encounter in this book is of immediate, practical value to you—as a citizen, a consumer, a traveller, a voter, a job-seeker. North America is a region, the realm with intensifying global interests and involvement. Those interests and involvements require attention, often instantaneous decisions. Such decisions must be based on the best possible knowledge of the world and our continent. That knowl-

edge is the focus of this book, by examining the layout of our world, its resources, policies, traditions, and other properties—in short, its regional geography.

## Regions and Concepts

This book is organized into thirteen chapters. The Introduction discusses the world as a whole, outlining the physical stage on which the human drama is being played out, providing environmental information, demographic data, political background, and economic geographical context. Each of the remaining twelve chapters focuses on one of the world's major geographic realms.

Geographic concepts and ideas are placed in their regional settings in all 13 chapters. Most of these approach mainly 150 concepts are primarily geographical, but others are ideas about which, we believe, students of geography should have some knowledge. Although such concepts are listed on the opening page of every chapter, we have not, of course, enumerated every geographic notion used in that chapter. Many colleagues, we suspect, will want to make their own realm-concept associations, and as readers will readily perceive, the book's organization is quite flexible. It is possible, for example, to focus almost exclusively on substantive regional material, or, alternatively, to concentrate mainly on conceptual issues.

## The Tenth Edition

Ever since this book was conceived, it has been a challenge to keep abreast of the rapid changes affecting the world. The decolonization of Africa and other areas, the growing economic power of the Pacific Rim, the devolution of the Soviet Union, the transition in South Africa, the collapse of Yugoslavia—these are just a few of the more dramatic changes that have occurred over the period of the life of this book. The unification effort in Europe, the resurrection of Christian churches in Russia and of Islamic forces in Central Asia, the pandemic of AIDS, and the gradual weakening of many nation-states are among other processes transforming the world's geography.

# Preface

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For more than three decades, *Geography: Realms, Regions, and Concepts* has reported (and sometimes anticipated) trends in the discipline of Geography and developments in the world at large. In nine preceding editions, *Regions*, as the book is generally called, has explained the modern world's great geographic realms and their physical and human contents, and has introduced geography itself, the discipline that links the study of human societies and natural environments through a fascinating, spatial approach. From old ideas to new, from environmental determinism to expansion diffusion from decolonization to devolution, *Regions* has provided geographic perspective on our transforming world.

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Before we can usefully discuss such commonplace topics as our "shrinking world," our "global village," and our "distant linkages," we should know what the parts are, the components that do the shrinking and linking. This is not just an academic exercise. You will find that much of what you encounter in this book is of immediate, practical value to you—as a citizen, a consumer, a traveller, a voter, a job-seeker. North America is a geographic realm with intensifying global interests and involvements. Those interests and involvements require countless, often instantaneous decisions. Such decisions must be based on the best possible knowledge of the world beyond our continent. That knowl-

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As readers of successive editions of this book know, we introduce significant conceptual as well as substantive changes with every edition, many of them based on your suggestions and recommendations. In the Ninth Edition, for example, to mark the arrival of our new century and millennium, we included a foldout map of the world as it was in 1900 together with a narrative that described the momentous geographic changes of the twentieth century just past. In the Eighth Edition we reformulated the developed-underdeveloped dichotomy in our economic-geographic framework and replaced it with a core-periphery model. In the Seventh Edition, we took note of the emerging Western Pacific Rim region and focused on its expanding internal and external linkages. In the Sixth Edition, we took the lead in reintroducing the regional term *Turkestan* to conceptualize the cultural reorientation of the former Soviet Central Asian republics.

This book always has been known for its current and accurate data, now including those for the year 2002 as well as projections beyond the beginning of the twenty-first century. Our population data table is derived from as many as a dozen sources, including our own observations in the field (see "Data Sources" below).

As with its predecessors, the Tenth Edition of *Regions* contains a large number of significant changes in the text, cartography, and other contents. In the **Introduction**, a new discussion in economic geography focuses on national debt, accompanied by new Table I-1. Another addition is a consideration of the various processes of globalization and their impacts on countries and peoples. The map of the world's countries (entitled *States of the World, 2002*) has been shifted forward to the front endpapers to maximize its accessibility. Our unmatched table of Area and Demographic Data for the World's States, now numbered Table I-2 and located on pp. 35–39 between the Introduction and Chapter 1, has been updated to 2002 and reflects social conditions and changes in all of the countries for which data are available (except microstates and dependencies); for the United States, this includes the first information from the 2000 Census.

**Chapter 1 (Europe)** begins with a new introduction that supports the notion of beginning a world regional geographic survey with this particular realm. One of the prominent geographic issues here is the expansion of the European Union, and major new text addresses this topic. Also noteworthy is the growing role of unified Germany in Europe, requiring a thorough revision of the text on its political organization and economic system. New text also focuses on Ireland, the rising economic *Celtic Tiger*. Devolution remains a salient geographic topic here, and new inset maps of the Iberian Peninsula's Basque region and Gibraltar support the discussion. Changes in the political geography of Eastern Europe, notably the former Yugoslavia, also are covered in text and cartography.

**Chapter 2 (Russia)** contains a new map and text on the Russian Federation's newly established functional regions,

heralding a new phase in the relations between the regions and the center. The social geography of Russia is also changing dramatically, with a health crisis and economic hardships producing an actual decline in population, the topic of new text in this chapter. Additional text also concentrates on the problematic relationships between Russia and its neighbor Georgia, as well as the secessionist campaign in Chechnya.

**Chapter 3 (North America)** now includes a new map on the realm's indigenous peoples and accompanying text. New material deals with regional developments in the "New Economy" including the technopole phenomenon. A new box focuses on the burgeoning soybean industry, which is changing the agricultural landscape of the Midwest. The 2000 parliamentary election in Canada afforded us the opportunity to reconsider the prospect of Canadian devolution. The changing economic geography of Canada's Atlantic Provinces is discussed through an account of new offshore oil finds near Newfoundland and natural gas near Nova Scotia.

**Chapter 4 (Middle America)** has new text on Mexico, where another election in 2000 provided insights into the changing regional geography of this important country. One of Mexico's regional-geographic challenges, the Chiapas problem, is discussed in some detail. In the Central America segment, new text addresses current notions of "dry-canal" links between Pacific and Atlantic, the growth of Costa Rica's semiconductor industry and its geographic implications, developments in Panama's canal corridor following the takeover of the waterway, the aftermath of environmental crises, and the altitudinal zonation of agriculture. In the Caribbean region, new material covers important social and economic developments in the Dominican Republic and Trinidad and Tobago.

**Chapter 5 (South America)** contains revised text on the pressures disrupting life in Colombia, including the insurgent-state phenomenon and the impact of the cocaine industry not only on Colombia but also on its neighbors. Even as centrifugal forces are tearing at Colombia, the country's energy industry experiences a boom based on new discoveries, the topic of new text. Revised material also addresses the phenomenon of indigenous peoples' uprisings in the Andean region, a development with major implications for the future. Brazil, South America's giant, receives more attention on its booming interior *cerrado* and Amazonian growth poles. In the country's core area, we update its technopoles such as São Paulo's *Silicon Village*, and gauge the impact of Mercosur/Mercosul and other supranational organizations.

**Chapter 6 (North Africa/Southwest Asia)** includes a new map on Egypt and Sudan, with new text on Egypt's changing social geography, the Nile River, Aswan High Dam, and alternate farming areas to be opened by the planned Nile diversion. The regional fragmentation of Sudan is given better perspective. The text on the Middle East also is substantially revised, with a new inset map on the Golan Heights and other cartographic improvements. New text also addresses the regional geography of divided Kazakhstan.



**Chapter 7 (Subsaharan Africa)** includes new text on the powerful centrifugal forces in West Africa's cornerstone state affected by Islamic revivalism in its north. The continuing disintegration of The Congo also required extensive revision of the text, as did developments in other Equatorial African states. The recent (and current) boundary problems in the Horn of Africa are discussed as well. New text on South Africa focuses on the geographic dimensions of the country's constitution, the post-Mandela leadership prospects, and the impact of AIDS in geographic context.

**Chapter 8 (South Asia)** required extensive revision of text for Pakistan as well as India. New and revised maps support the new text on Pakistan; in the case of India, the proclamation of three new States required the revision of maps, text, and population tables. We had foreshadowed the prospect of a new Jharkhand State in our Ninth Edition, but the authorization of two additional States was unexpected and did not come to world attention until after we had been alerted to it by colleagues in the field.

**Chapter 9 (East Asia)** includes a new discussion of China's physical geography, clarifying a complex mosaic. Revised and shortened text focuses on key events in the Great Leap Forward, the formation of the commune system, and the ongoing ideological struggle as it relates to the present-day map. A new map covers the Xinjiang-Uyghur Autonomous Region and is accompanied by new text on this frontier's integration into China as well as its Muslim challenge. Our new material focuses on Mongolia and its environmental and social crises. We take note of China's takeover of Portuguese Macao (now the Macau SAR).

**Chapter 10 (Southeast Asia)** includes a new map of Malaysia showing the geographic dimensions of that country's Islamic revival; new text focuses on Malaysian modernization. During the years since the appearance of the Ninth Edition, Indonesia has undergone significant change, and this transition is covered in new material. This edition also focuses in greater detail on the troubled province of Irian Jaya in the context of Indonesia's struggle with devolutionary forces. A new inset map of East Timor is part of the revised map of Indonesia, and new text covers the emergence of this newest state in the realm.

**Chapter 11 (Austral Realm)** has a new introduction on Australia's place in the world (and on the Pacific Rim). Revised text deals with several of Australia's internal problems, notably the persistent Aboriginal disadvantage reflected by social indicators. The immigration question is discussed from a new perspective. New discussion focuses on Australia's relationships with nearby Indonesia and East Timor.

**Chapter 12 (Pacific Realm)** now includes a discussion of the regional problems affecting the Solomon Islands, a lingering aftermath of World War II; new text also addresses the geographic implications of the political-ethnic crisis in Fiji. Since this chapter deals in part with maritime boundaries, the maritime consequences of East Timor's in-

dependence and a new EEZ delimitation are mentioned even though the final UN decision on this was still pending at press time.

This summary can only cover the highlights of the revisions that went into the Tenth Edition. No page, no paragraph, and no map escaped our scrutiny.

## Data Sources

For all matters geographical, of course, we consult *The Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, *The Professional Geographer*, *The Geographical Review*, *The Journal of Geography*, and many other academic journals published regularly in North America—plus an array of similar periodicals published in English-speaking countries from Scotland to New Zealand.

As with every new edition of this book, all quantitative information was updated to the year of publication and checked rigorously. In addition to the major revisions described above, hundreds of other modifications were made, many in response to readers' and reviewers' comments. Some readers found our habit of reporting urban population data within the text disruptive, so we continue to tabulate these at the beginning of the "Regions of the Realm" section of each chapter. The stream of new spellings of geographic names continues, and we pride ourselves in being a reliable source for current and correct usage.

The statistical data that constitute Table I-2 (pp. 35–39) are derived from numerous sources. As users of such data are aware, considerable inconsistency marks the reportage by various agencies, and it is often necessary to make informed decisions on contradictory information. For example, some sources still do not reflect the rapidly declining rates of population increase or life expectancies in AIDS-stricken African countries. Others list demographic averages without accounting for differences between males and females in this regard.

In formulating Table I-2 we have used among our sources the United Nations, the Population Reference Bureau, the World Bank, the Encyclopaedia Britannica *Books of the Year*, the *Economist* Intelligence Unit, the *Statesman's Year-Book*, and the *The New York Times Almanac*.

The urban population figures—which also entail major problems of reliability and comparability—are mainly drawn from the most recent database published by the United Nations' Population Division. For cities of less than 750,000, we developed our own estimates from a variety of other sources. At any rate, the urban population figures used here are estimates for 2002 and they represent *metropolitan-area totals* unless otherwise specified.

## Cartography

This newest version of *Regions* continues the innovation begun in the Seventh Edition, when atlas-style maps from



the most recently available edition of *Goode's World Atlas* (currently the 20th, published in 2000) were first used as opening maps for each chapter. In the Eighth Edition, two maps were specifically drawn in the Rand McNally style to serve as matching openers: those of North Africa/Southwest Asia and the Pacific Realm. The South Asia map was substantially expanded from its *Goode's* base.

Readers of earlier editions of this book will note that our tradition of updating, enhancing, and improving our own thematic cartography continues. In this Tenth Edition of *Regions*, the following map figures are new:

- 2-8 Russia: New Federal Districts . . . 2000
- 3-6 North America: Indigenous Domains
- 6-10 Egypt and Sudan
- 7-11 The States of Federal Nigeria
- 9-16 Xinjiang-Uyghur Autonomous Region (China)
- 10-10 States of West Malaysia

The following maps were significantly redrawn:

- 1-10 Cartogram of the World's National Populations, 2002
- 1-11 States and Economies of the World
- 1-10 Europe: Foci of Devolutionary Pressures, 2002
- 1-11 European Supranationalism
- 1-21 Autonomous Communities of Spain
- 1-25 Yugoslavia and Its Neighbors
- 2-12 Oil and Gas Regions of Russia
- 4-7 Cuba
- 4-11 Maquiladora Employment in the U.S.-Mexico Border Zone, 2000
- 4-13 Altitudinal Zonation
- 5-10 Colombia
- 6-8 North Africa/Southwest Asia: Oil and Natural Gas
- 6-14 Israel in the Middle East
- 6-15 The West Bank
- 8-7 Pakistan
- 8-8 Partition of Jammu and Kashmir
- 8-9 States of Modern India
- 9-15 China's Western Flank
- 10-12 Indonesia

Users of this book should note that the spelling of some names on these thematic maps does not always match that on the *Goode's World Atlas* maps. This is not unusual; you will even find inconsistencies among various atlases. Almost invariably, we have followed the very latest standards set by the United States Board of Geographic Names.

## Photography

The map undoubtedly is geography's closest ally, but there are times when photography is not far behind. Whether from space, from an aircraft, from the tallest building in town, or on the ground, a photograph can, indeed, be worth a thousand words. When geographers perform field research in some area of the world, they are likely to maintain a written record that correlates with the photographic one.


This Tenth Edition revision is not confined to the text and maps. As readers of *Regions* will note, the illustrations program was thoroughly overhauled with numerous new photographs, many by the authors, new accompanying "Field Notes" where appropriate, and new, detailed captions.

## Pedagogy

We continue to devise ways to help students learn important geographic concepts and ideas, and to make sense of our complex and rapidly changing world. Continuing special features include the following:

**Atlas Maps.** As in previous editions, a comprehensive map of the region opens each chapter. The maps are reproduced from the 20th revised edition (2000) of *Goode's World Atlas* (the maps for Chapters 6 and 12 have been created in the Atlas style). In the Tenth Edition, each of these maps is assigned the first figure number in each chapter, which better facilitates the integration of this cartographic material into the text.

**Concepts, Ideas, and Terms.** Each chapter begins with a boxed sequential listing of the key geographic concepts, ideas, and terms that appear in the pages that follow. These are noted by numbers in the margins that correspond to the introduction of each item in the text.

**Two-Part Chapter Organization.** To help the reader to logically organize the material within chapters, we have broken the regional chapters into two distinct parts: first, "Defining the Realm" includes the general physiographic, historical, and human-geographic background common to the realm, and the second section, "Regions of the Realm," presents each of the distinctive regions within the realm (denoted by the symbol ).

**List of Regions.** Also on the chapter-opening page, a list of the regions within the particular realm provides a preview and helps to organize the chapter. For ease of identification, the triangular symbol (shown 4 lines above) that denotes the regions list here also appears beside each region heading in the chapter.

**Major Geographic Qualities.** Near the beginning of each realm chapter, we list, in boxed format, the major geographic qualities that best summarize that portion of the Earth's surface.



**Sidebar Boxes.** Special topical and sometimes controversial issues are highlighted in boxed sections. These boxes allow us to include interesting and current topics without interrupting the flow of material within chapters.

**Among the Realm's Great Cities (Boxes).** This feature reflects the growing process and influence of urbanization worldwide. More than thirty profiles of the world's leading cities are presented, each accompanied by specially drawn maps.

**Major Cities of the Realm Population Tables.** Near the beginning of every "Regions" section of each chapter, we have included a table reporting the most up-to-date urban population data (based on 2002 estimates drawn from the sources listed above). Readers should find this format less disruptive than citation of the population when the city is mentioned in the text.

**From the Field Notes.** In the Eighth Edition we introduced a new feature that has proven effective in some of our other textbooks. Many of the photographs in this book were taken by the senior author while doing fieldwork. The more extensive captions, *From the Field Notes*, provide valuable insights into how a geographer observes and interprets information in the field.

**Appendices, References, and Glossary.** At the end of the book, the reader will find five sections that enrich and/or supplement the main text: (1) *Appendix A*, a guide to Map Reading and Interpretation; (2) *Appendix B*, an overview of Career Opportunities in Geography; (3) *Appendix C*, a Pronunciation Guide; (4) a detailed Bibliography (*References and Further Readings*) that introduces the wide-ranging literature of the discipline and World Regional Geography; and (5) an extensive *Glossary*. The general index follows. A geographical index or *gazetteer* of the place names contained in our maps now appears in the book's Web site.

## Ancillaries

A broad spectrum of print and electronic ancillaries are available to accompany the Tenth Edition of *Regions*. Additional information, including prices and ISBNs for ordering, can be obtained by contacting John Wiley & Sons.

## FOR SALE TO THE STUDENT

**Student Study Guide.** Text co-author Peter O. Muller and his geographer daughter, Elizabeth Muller Hames, have written a popular Study Guide to accompany the book that is packed with useful study and review tools. For each chapter in the textbook, the Study Guide gives students and faculty access to chapter objectives, content questions-and-answers, outline maps of each realm, sample tests, and more.

**Goode's Atlas from Rand McNally.** With the Tenth Edition of *Regions*, we are delighted to be able to continue offering the *Goode's Atlas* at a deeply-discounted price when shrink-wrapped with the text. Economies of scale allow us to provide this at a net price that is close to our cost. Our partnership with Rand McNally and the widely-popular *Goode's Atlas* is an arrangement that is exclusive to John Wiley & Sons.

**Microsoft® Encarta® Interactive Atlas CD-ROM.** This award-winning atlas CD-ROM will captivate the imaginations of your students and engage them in a spatial adventure, all the while exposing them to an abundance of resources appropriate for university-level geography. Our arrangement with Microsoft enables us to offer the Encarta® Interactive Atlas at a cost that is less than one-third the suggested retail price when shrink-wrapped with our text.

**Take Note!.** For a nominal cost, the *Take Note!* can be shrink-wrapped with the textbook. This useful tool includes a black-and-white version of the illustrations from the text. Students can take notes directly on the figure in the *Take Note!* ancillary while the instructor discusses the projected map or illustration, or as they study for the course.

**Annenberg/CPB. Power of Place: World Regional Geography Study Guide, Third Edition.** The Third Edition of the *Power of Place: World Regional Geography Study Guide* updates content and references so that the Annenberg/Power of Place Telecourse and Video Series connects to the Tenth Edition of de Blij and Muller's *Regions*. It was written by Gil Latz, Portland State University.

## THE REGIONS WEB SITE: ON-LINE RESOURCES FOR INSTRUCTORS AND STUDENTS

**PowerPoint Slides.** Available for the Tenth Edition, these electronic files outline the main concepts of each chapter in *Regions* in a highly visual manner. These presentations are available on the Instructor's Web Site and the Resource CD-ROM, and can be uploaded to presentation programs such as PowerPoint, or to any popular word processing program.

**Instructor's Manual.** Distributed on-line to instructors via a secure, password-protected Instructor's Web Site, the *Instructor's Manual* by Wendy Shaw, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, provides outlines, descriptions, and key terms to help professors organize the concepts in the book for classroom use.

**Test Bank.** Prepared by long-term Test Bank author Ira Sheskin, University of Miami, the *Test Bank* for the Tenth



Edition of *Regions* contains over 3,000 test items including multiple-choice, fill-in, matching, and essay questions. It is distributed via the secure Instructor's Web Site as electronic files, which can be saved into all major word processing programs.

**Computerized Test Bank.** An easy to use program that can be used to create and customize exams.

**Student Web Site.** This comprehensive on-line resource will contain chapter-based self-quizzes and extensive links to Web material providing real-world examples and additional research tools.

**Course Management.** On-line course management assets are available to accompany the Tenth Edition of *Regions*.

## OTHER RESOURCES FOR THE CLASSROOM

**Overhead Transparencies and Slides.** The book's maps and diagrams are available in their entirety for either transparency or slide projection in beautifully rendered, 4-color format.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Over the more than three decades since the publication of the First Edition of *Geography: Realms, Regions, and Concepts*, we have been fortunate to receive advice and assistance from literally hundreds of people. One of the rewards associated with the publication of a book of this kind is the steady stream of correspondence and other feedback it generates. Geographers, economists, political scientists, education specialists, and others have written us, often with fascinating enclosures. We make it a point to respond personally to every such letter, and our editors have communicated with many of our correspondents as well. Moreover, we have considered every suggestion made—and many who wrote or transmitted their reactions through other channels will see their recommendations in print in this edition.

## STUDENT RESPONSE

A good part of the correspondence we receive comes from student readers. On this occasion, we would like to extend our deep appreciation to the several million students around

**Regions Resource CD-ROM.** This rich resource contains animations, videos, PowerPoint presentations, the Test Bank, and the Instructor's Manual. Organized by chapter, the *Regions* Resource CD-ROM has a tested, intuitive interface that allows for easy file management and presentation building. If the instructor prefers to use programs such as PowerPoint in the classroom, the text, map, and photo files can be uploaded easily from the Resource CD-ROM into your presentation program.

**Regions** is featured as the companion text to *The Power of Place—World Regional Geography*, a PBS television course and video resource produced in collaboration with the Annenberg/CPB Project. *The Power of Place* is a series of twenty-six half-hour video programs organized around the *Regions* text. Each program contains documentary-style case studies that focus on one of eleven geographic realms, and features on-screen commentary by H. J. de Blij. Videocassettes can be purchased individually or as a thirteen-tape set. A *Study Guide* and *Faculty Guide* are also available to supplement the programs. For information regarding the use of *The Power of Place* as a television course, contact the PBS Adult Learning Service at 1-800-257-2578. To purchase videocassettes for institutional or classroom use, contact The Annenberg/CPB Multimedia Collection at 1-800-LEARNER.

the world who have studied from the first nine editions of our text. In particular, we thank the students from more than 100 different colleges across the United States who took the time to send us their opinions.

Students told us they found the maps and graphics attractive and functional. We have not only enhanced the map program with exhaustive updating, but have added 6 new maps to this Tenth Edition as well as making major changes in an additional 19 maps.

Several students also commented that the chapters were long and sometimes wordy. We now have a shorter Introduction, and the ensuing chapters on the world's 12 geographic realms are divided into two parts: the first part covers the realm's general physiography, history, and human geography; the second part is devoted to the various regions within the realm. To add interest for today's student, we have refined the relatively new feature that highlights the Great Cities of each realm from the point of view of a contemporary visitor. We have also enlivened the overall layout with a fresh new design.

Generally, students have told us that they found the pedagogical devices quite useful. We have kept the study aids



the students cited as effective: a boxed list of each chapter's key concepts, ideas, and terms (now numbered for quick reference in both the box and text margins); a box summarizing each realm's major geographic qualities; a pronunciation guide in Appendix C; and an extensive Glossary.

## FACULTY FEEDBACK

Faculty members from a large number of North American colleges and universities continue to supply us with vital feedback and much-appreciated advice. Our publishers commissioned a number of reviews, and we are most grateful to the following professors for showing us where the written text could be strengthened and made more precise:

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We also received input from a much wider circle of academic geographers. The list that follows is merely representative of a group of colleagues across North America to whom we are grateful for taking the time to share their thoughts and opinions with us:

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