

CONCEPTS AND REGIONS IN GEOGRAPHY

H. J. de Blij / Peter O. Muller



GEODISCOVERIES



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Concepts and Regions in **GEOGRAPHY**

First Edition

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Preface

Concepts and Regions in Geography is drawn from our full-length text, *Geography: Realms, Regions, and Concepts*, which for more than three decades has reported (and sometimes anticipated) trends in the discipline of Geography and developments in the world at large. Through ten preceding editions, *Regions* 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.

The book before you is an extension of *Regions*, updated to accommodate the newest twenty-first century educational technologies. In fact, you are actually holding two books in one: a condensed printed text, and a complete *learning system* that bolsters the text with CD-ROM, Web, and other advanced media resources.

As with *Regions*, this integrated learning system is an information highway to geographic literacy. The first edition of the textbook appeared in 1971, 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 isolationism in America, and geographers foresaw the looming cost of geographic illiteracy. 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, includ-

ing 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 “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 jobseeker. 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 knowledge can be gained by studying the layout of our world, its environments, societies, resources, policies, traditions, and other properties—in short, its regional geography.

Realms 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 ap-


proximately 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.

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 from *Regions* 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 specially created in the Atlas style). 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 (e.g., **1**) 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 at the end of the previous paragraph) 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.

Appendices and Glossary. At the end of the book, the reader will find three sections that enrich and/or supplement the main text: (1) *Appendix A*, a guide to Using the Maps; (2) *Appendix B*, an overview of Career Opportunities in Geography; and (3) 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.

GeoDiscoveries CD-ROM. This robust media tool contains an Interactive Globe that allows students to explore and understand the world by changing the face of this three-dimensional globe using 5 distinct textures. This CD also contains several quizzes per chapter that test student understanding of map features. The regional material contains *Presentations* that use videos, animations, and other resources to focus on key concepts from the chapter; *Interactivities* that engage students in concept-based exercises; and *Assessment* self-tests that allow students to measure their comprehension of the concept being explored. There is extensive expanded coverage from each realm as well, including text, illustrations, and maps.

Web site. Additional resources for students include annotated web links, web quizzes with feedback, links to webcams and live radio from around the globe, blank outline maps of each region, and a learning-style survey that provides students' feedback on their preferred method of learning and how the book and media pedagogy teach to these styles. Additional resources for instructors include the Test Bank, Guide to Virtual Field Trips, Virtual Field Trips, Lesson Outlines, Concepts-Ideas-Terms, and Using Geographic Qualities.

Ancillaries

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

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. Hundreds of other modifications were made, many in response to readers' and reviewers' comments. 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-1 (pp. 23–28) 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-1 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 the text 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.

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.

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. 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 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 this text.

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 this book. It was written by Gil Latz, Portland State University.

For Instructors

PowerPoint Slides. Available for this 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* contains over 3000 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.

Concepts and Regions in Geography Resource CD-ROM. This rich resource contains animations, videos, PowerPoint presentations, the Test Bank, and the Instructor's Manual. Organized by chapter, the 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.

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

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; 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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In addition, several faculty colleagues from around the world assisted us with earlier editions, and their contributions continue to grace the pages of this book. Among them are:

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introduction

World Regional Geography

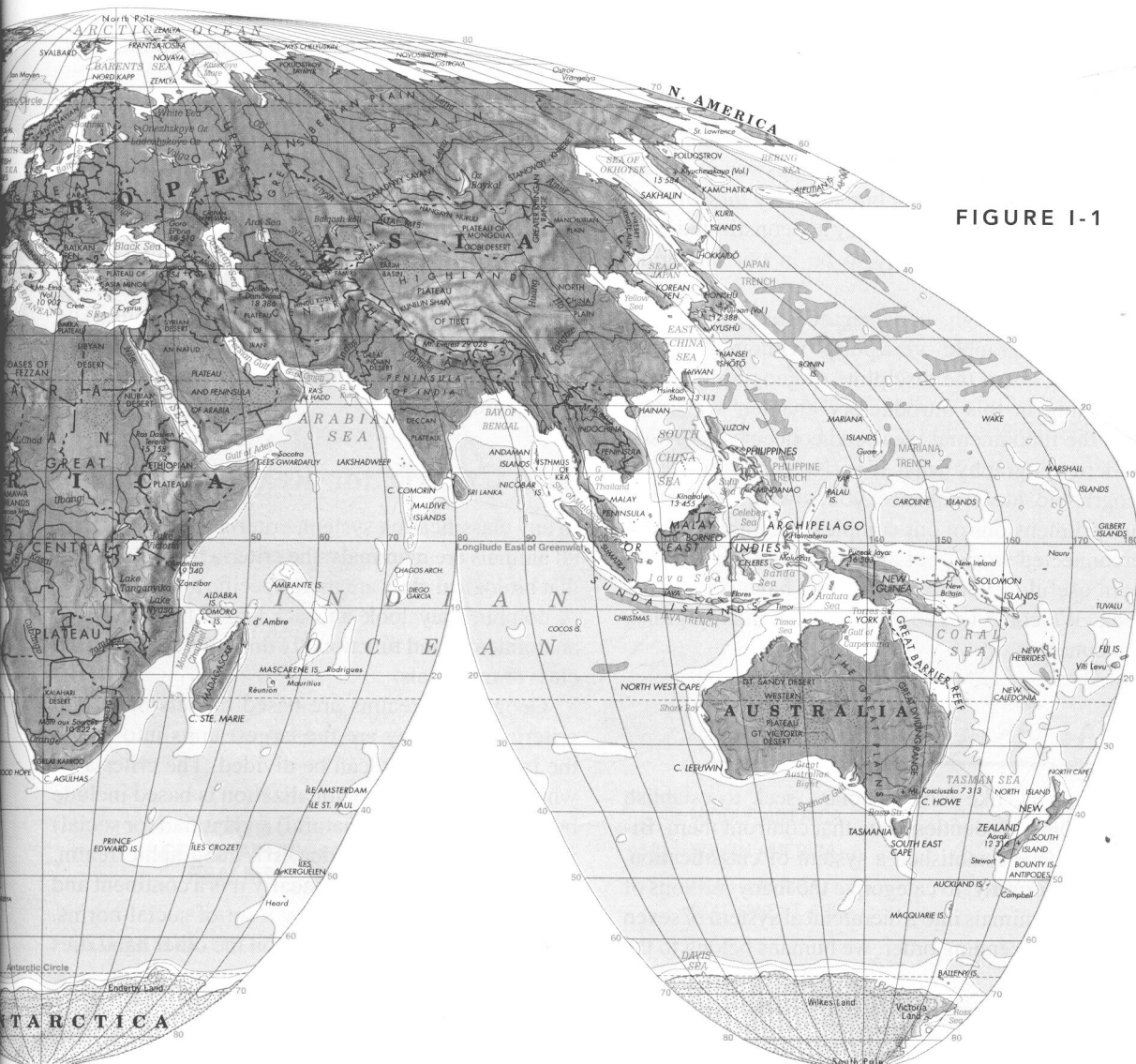


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