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World Regional Geography

A Development Approach

Seventh Edition



David L. Clawson

Editor

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SEVENTH EDITION

World Regional Geography

A Development Approach

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Preface

We live in a most remarkable age, when satellites can circle the globe in a matter of minutes and electronic messages can be sent halfway around the world in just a few seconds. For many, these are the best of times, with rapid advances in health care extending human life expectancies to record high levels and material comforts that were unheard of even a generation ago now being commonplace. It is easy in such conditions to overlook the fact that most of the world's people live in less industrialized regions characterized by hunger, malnutrition, poor health, and limited educational and economic opportunities. Many also live under circumstances of restricted personal freedom owing to political, racial, religious, or gender-based prejudice. What is even more troubling is the fact that the income gap between the technologically more developed and less developed nations is increasing.

The purpose of this volume is to introduce students to the geographical foundations of development and underdevelopment and to help us recognize the contributions that the study of geography can make to environmentally and culturally sustainable development. As we study the lives of others through this text, we will learn not only about them but also come to better understand ourselves. We will come to realize further that development, or the improvement of the human condition, consists of far more than increased economic output and that each person and society contributes in a positive way to the cultural diversity and richness of the earth.

College students are in a unique position to increase their understanding of the world and to use that knowledge to benefit themselves and others. Through the study of world regional geography, we begin to comprehend the issues involved in the pursuit of world peace, preservation of the environment, improved health, and higher levels of living. In fact, the Association of American Geographers, the National Geographic Society, the American Geographical Society, and the National Council for Geographic Education have devoted significant resources and effort to improving geographic awareness. Even the U.S. Congress has cited geographic education as critical to our increasingly interdependent world.

This seventh edition of *World Regional Geography: A Development Approach* is dedicated to college students who are seeking a better understanding of this complex and challenging world. It is written for both majors and nonmajors and does not require an extensive background in geography. The basic regional structure of the sixth edition has been retained, including a multiple author approach that permits each region to be discussed by a scholar who is an expert in that area. Although our regional specializations vary, we are united in our dedication to expanding geographical aware-

ness and to contributing to the development of the peoples of both the more and less industrialized nations.

World Regional Geography opens with four chapters that consider geography as a discipline, population and resources, physical and cultural elements of the environment, and the world condition as it relates to economic and human development. Eight additional parts—organized into twenty-three chapters—follow, structured within a regional framework. Within this regional framework, students are introduced to basic geographical and developmental concepts.

Although the use of this text as an entity is encouraged, its organization allows a variety of teaching strategies. As time requires, sections treating historical or environmental processes, or specific regions, can be selectively emphasized or deleted. In a two-quarter or two-semester sequence, the book facilitates consideration along continental or regional divisions or along the lines of more industrialized–less industrialized countries. The suggested further readings at the end of each part can then be used to supplement the text; table and figure references can encourage students to pursue external data sources and analysis.

World Regional Geography: A Development Approach contains numerous features that are designed to assist and stimulate students:

- More than two hundred full-color maps and diagrams have been rendered by a professional cartographic studio, incorporating the latest boundary and name changes and physical, cultural, and economic data. The map program for the seventh edition has been revised particularly carefully in order to improve the consistency and educational efficacy of the maps, and hence the text.
- Over three hundred specially chosen color photographs, carefully integrated into the text, help communicate the personality of individual regions.
- Informative tables, graphs, and charts supplement textual material.
- Every chapter includes at least one boxed feature on a topic of special regional and topical significance, such as population growth, gender and development, environmental problems, food production, migration, manufacturing, or distinctive regional features.
- Selected terms are presented in boldface type within the text and at the end of each chapter; they are defined in a convenient glossary at the end of the book.
- Each part ends with an enlarged and updated list of further readings for students who wish to deepen and broaden their understanding of particular topics.

- Appendix A provides information on map projections and scale. We are grateful to Phillip Muehrcke, professor of geography at the University of Wisconsin–Madison and former president of the American Cartographic Association, for his clear explanation of this complex subject.
- Appendix B includes a table of selected national statistics so that students can compare countries and regions.
- Measurements throughout the text are given in both English and metric equivalents. A convenient table of conversion factors is found in Appendix C.

New to This Edition

The seventh edition of *World Regional Geography: A Development Approach* represents a thorough revision. Every part of the book was examined carefully with the dual goals of keeping topics and data current and improving the clarity of the text and the graphics.

The seventh edition features a comprehensive updating of all of the data, maps, and illustrative material. These changes are particularly evident in the cartography program, where a reader familiar with the sixth edition will note many new maps, a number of significant revisions to earlier maps, and the adoption of a crisper color palette. In addition, new part-opening maps that better illustrate the region under study have been added.

The seventh edition also marks the retirement from the book of two colleagues who have contributed immensely to this project over a period of many years, James S. Fisher and Louis De Vorsey, Jr. We thank them both for their enduring contributions and wish them well in their new endeavors. As a corollary to this announcement, I am pleased to announce the addition of two excellent scholars and writers to the project, Terry G. Jordan-Bychkov and Merrill L. Johnson. Dr. Jordan-Bychkov will be in charge of the sections of the book about Europe, and Dr. Johnson will be responsible for those chapters about the United States and Canada. The Europe and the United States and Canada chapters have been extensively rewritten to offer a vital, modern approach to these important regions. The addition of these two authors allows us to continue the tradition of each region being discussed by a scholar who is an expert in that area.

Lastly, readers familiar with the sixth edition will notice some restructuring in the treatment of physical geography, especially in the parts devoted to Latin America and Africa South of the Sahara. This restructuring will offer a more consistent treatment of physical geography topics that should facilitate the professor's ability to cover these important topics more consistently.

Supplements

The book includes a complete supplements program for both students and teachers.

For the Student

GeoTutor. Automatically packaged with every copy of the text at no extra cost to the student, GeoTutor helps students develop basic geographic skills and allows them to explore the political, cultural, economic, and physical geography of the world through a series of interactive mapping exercises. With this software, students can draw their own thematic maps, can answer check-up questions to assess their understanding of chapter concepts, and can use the pronouncing glossary to hear difficult-to-pronounce words. In addition, GeoTutor contains a full digital reference atlas of the world.

Study Guide (0-13-016827-0). The study guide includes chapter notes, key terms, 8–10 review questions and 10–15 activities per chapter, and references the text-specific web site throughout.

World Regional Geography Website (www.prenhall.com/clawson). The website, tied chapter by chapter to the text, provides students with three main resources for further study:

- *Online Study Guide.* The online study guide provides immediate feedback to study questions, access to current geographical issues, and links to interesting and relevant sites on the web. Additionally, instructors can create a customized syllabus that links directly to the site.
- *Virtual Field Trips.* Integrated with the book's website, these field trips give students the on-the-ground feeling of visiting a place. The field trips include information about the history, places, people, and current events of places in each world region.
- *Country-by-Country Data.* Also integrated with the website, this material summarizes the vital statistics for each country within a region.

Science on the Internet: A Student's Guide (0-13-028253-7). This unique resource helps students locate and explore the myriad of educational resources on the Internet. It also provides an overview of the Internet, general navigation strategies, and brief student activities. It is available FREE when packaged with the text.

Rand McNally Atlas of World Geography (0-13-959339-X). This atlas includes 126 pages of up-to-date regional maps and 20 pages of illustrated world information tables. It is available FREE when packaged with *World Regional Geography*. Please contact your local Prentice Hall representative for details.

For the Instructor

Instructor's Resource Manual with Tests (0-13-016822-X). The Instructor's Resource Manual, intended

as a resource for both new and experienced teachers, includes a variety of lecture outlines, additional source materials, teaching tips, advice on how to integrate visual supplements, answers to the end-of-chapter exercises, and various other ideas for the classroom. Further, the manual contains an extensive array of test questions that accompany the book. These questions are available in hard copy and also on disks formatted for Windows (0-13-016823-8) and Macintosh (0-13-016824-6).

Overhead Transparencies (0-13-016826-2). The transparencies feature over 150 illustrations from the text, all enlarged for excellent classroom visibility.

Digital Files (0-13-027403-8). All of the maps and figures from the text, and many of the photographs are available digitally on a CD-ROM. These files are ideal for those professors who use PowerPoint or a comparable presentation software for their classes, or for professors who create text-specific websites for their students.

Prentice Hall–New York Times Themes of the Times Supplements for Geography. Prentice Hall–New York Times Themes of the Times Supplements for Geography reprints significant articles from the *New York Times*. The Geography *New York Times* supplement is available to students free of charge. Please contact your local Prentice Hall representative for details.

WebCT/Prentice Hall. The WebCT Course Management System equips faculty members with easy-to-use tools to create sophisticated web-based educational programs. Prentice Hall provides the content, which is specifically crafted to accompany *World Regional Geography*. Please contact your local Prentice Hall representative for more details.

The ultimate purpose of this book is to help students develop an increased understanding of the geographic diversi-

ty of our world, both physical and cultural, and a knowledge of how each of us can contribute to the betterment of humankind.

Acknowledgments

I express gratitude to all who assisted with the preparation of this seventh edition of *World Regional Geography: A Development Approach*. The suggestions and comments of the reviewers and previous readers have been indispensable. Two interesting features of their comments should be noted. First, many of their suggestions have addressed the needs of contemporary students who are seeking an understanding of our world. Second, the sometimes polar perspectives on regional problems, including international trade, population growth and development, environmental degradation, cultural value systems, and other issue-laden topics have served as a reminder of the variety of valid opinions on world problems and the consequent difficulty in solving them. Although I owe a debt of gratitude to the many reviewers who have offered input over the course of many editions, I specifically thank those reviewers who took the time to critique the sixth edition of the book prior to the writing of the seventh edition. Here I thank Vernon Domingo, *Bridgewater State College*, Paul B. Frederic, *University of Maine–Farmington*, Robert Garza, *University of Houston*, Roger A. Hunt, *Grand Valley State University*, Kris Jones, *Saddleback College*, Max Lu, *Kansas State University*, and Susan C. Slowey, *Blinn College*.

Neither original nor revised editions are accomplished by authors working in isolation. I am especially appreciative of the legacy of Dr. James S. Fisher, my friend and colleague, who is retiring as editor of this volume. I also wish to thank the Prentice Hall production team for their patience, friendship, and professionalism. Specific members include Dan Kaveney, Barbara Muller, Dennis Smith, Joanne Hakim, and Stuart Kenter.

Finally, I express gratitude to my wife, Margaret, for her love and support.

David L. Clawson

This political map reveals a highly compartmentalized world. The numerous political entities range in size from the vast area of Russia to minute but significant countries such as Singapore, Malta, and Grenada. The names of those political entities evoke images of different environments, peoples, cultures, and levels of well-being. However, the political boundaries that segregate approximately 6 billion inhabitants do not fully reflect the geographic complexities of our world. Numerous other sets of boundaries could be imposed: boundaries that delineate multinational alliances, boundaries that classify economic and agricultural environments, boundaries that outline the world's myriad peoples, languages, religious faiths, and political ideologies. Unraveling the complexities of our world requires intellectual attention to many questions relating to geography. This map and the chapters that follow are intended to start us on a journey toward understanding our diverse and increasingly interdependent world.



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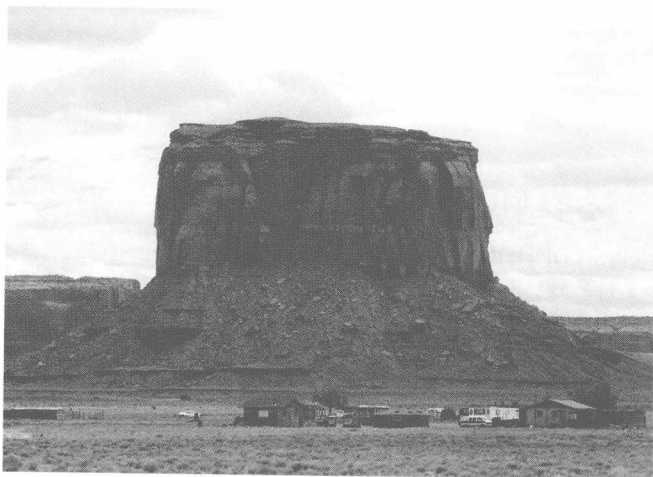
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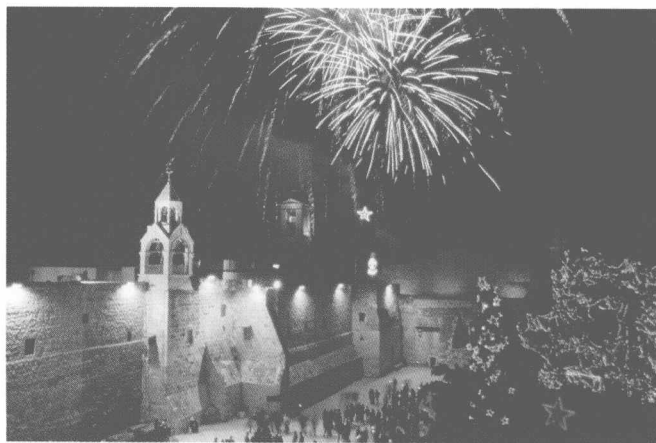
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