

# AN INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

Fifth Edition

JAMES M. RUBENSTEIN

# THE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

AN INTRODUCTION TO

# HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

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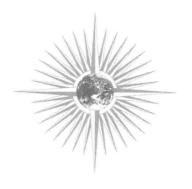
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# PREFACE

What is geography? Geography is the study of where things are located on Earth's surface and the reasons for the location. The word *geography*, invented by the ancient Greek scholar Eratosthenes, is based on two Greek words. Geo means "Earth," and *graphy* means "to write." Geographers ask three simple questions: Where? Why? and So what? Where are people and activities located across Earth's surface? Why are they located in particular places? What is the significance of the distribution?

### Geography as a Social Science

Recent world events lend a sense of urgency to geographic inquiry. Geography's spatial perspectives help relate political unrest in Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and other regions to the spatial distributions of cultural features such as languages and religions, demographic patterns such as population growth and migration, and natural resources such as energy and food supply.

Does the world face an overpopulation crisis? Geographers study population problems by comparing the arrangements of human organizations and natural resources across Earth. Given these spatial distributions, geographers conclude that some locations may have more people than can be provided for, whereas other places may be underpopulated.

Similarly, geographers examine the prospects for an energy crisis by relating the spatial distributions of energy sources and consumption. Geographers find that the users of energy are located in places with different social, economic, and political institutions than the producers of energy. Geographers seek first to describe the distribution of features such as the production and consumption of energy and then to explain the relationships between these distributions and other human and physical phenomena.

The main purpose of this book is to introduce students to the study of geography as a social science by emphasizing the relevance of geographic concepts to human problems. It is intended for use in college-level introductory human or cultural geography courses. The book is written for students who have not previously taken a college-level geography course and have had little, if any, geography in high school.

### Divisions within Geography

Because geography is a broad subject, some specialization is inevitable. At the same time, one of geography's strengths is its diversity of approaches. Rather than being forced to adhere rigorously to established disciplinary laws, geographers can combine a variety of methods and approaches. This tradition stimulates innovative thinking, although students who are looking for a series of ironclad laws to memorize may be disappointed.

Human versus Physical Geography. Geography is both a physical and a social science. When geography concentrates on the distribution of physical features, such as climate, soil, and vegetation, it is a natural science. When it studies cultural features, such as language, industries, and cities, geography is a social science. This division is reflected in some colleges, where physical geography courses may carry natural science credit, and human and cultural geography courses carry social science credit.

While this book is concerned with geography from a social science perspective, one of the distinctive features of geography is its use of physical science concepts to help understand human behavior. The distinction between physical and human geography reflects differences in emphasis, not an absolute separation.

Topical versus Regional Approach. Geographers face a choice between a topical and a regional approach. The topical approach, which is used in this book, starts by identifying a set of important cultural issues to be studied, such as population growth, political disputes, and economic restructuring. Geographers using the topical approach examine the location of different aspects of the topic, the reasons for the observed pattern, and the significance of the distribution.

The alternative approach is regional. Regional geographers start by selecting a portion of Earth and studying the environment, people, and activities within the area. The regional geography approach is used in courses on Europe, Africa, Asia, and other areas of the world. Although this book is organized by topics, geography students should be aware of the location of places in the world. A separate index section lists the book's maps by location. One indispensable aid in the study of regions is an atlas, which can also be used to find unfamiliar places that may pop up in the news.

Descriptive versus Systematic Method. Whether using a topical or a regional approach, geographers can select either a descriptive or a systematic method. Again, the distinction is one of emphasis, not an absolute separation. The descriptive method emphasizes the collection of a variety of details about a particular location. This method has been used primarily by regional geographers to illustrate the uniqueness of a particular location on Earth's surface. The systematic method emphasizes the identification of several basic theories or techniques developed by geographers to explain the distribution of activities.

This book uses both the descriptive and systematic methods because total dependence on either approach is unsatisfactory. An entirely descriptive book would contain a large collection of individual examples not organized into a unified structure. A completely systematic approach suffers because some of the theories and techniques are so abstract that they lack meaning for the student. Geographers who de-

pend only on the systematic approach may have difficulty explaining important contemporary issues.

### Features

This book is sensitive to the study needs of students. Each chapter is clearly structured to help students understand the material and effectively review from the book.

**Outline.** The book discusses the following main topics:

- What basic concepts do geographers use?
   Chapter 1 provides an introduction to basic geographic concepts, as well as a brief summary of the development of the science of geography. Geographers employ several concepts to describe the distribution of people and activities across Earth, to explain reasons underlying the observed distribution, and to understand the significance of the arrangements.
- Where are people located in the world? Chapters 2 and 3 examine the distribution and growth of the world's population, as well as the movement of people from one place to another. Why do some places on Earth contain large numbers of people or attract newcomers while other places are sparsely inhabited?
- How are different cultural groups distributed? Chapters 4 through 7 analyze the distribution of different cultural traits and beliefs and the problems that result from those spatial patterns. Important cultural features include political systems, languages, religions, and daily customs, such as the choice of food, clothing, shelter, and leisure activities. Geographers look for similarities and differences in the cultural features at different places, the reasons for their distribution, and the importance of these differences for world peace.
- How do people earn a living in different parts of the world? Human survival depends on acquiring an adequate food supply. One of the most significant distinctions in the world is whether people produce their food directly from the land or buy it with money earned by performing nonagricultural types of work. Chapters 8 through 12 look at these ways of earning a living. These chapters describe the

economic activities people undertake in different regions of the world and the factors that account for the distribution of agriculture, industry, and services. Chapter 12 and a portion of Chapter 11 concentrate on cities, the centers for economic as well as cultural activities.

 What problems result from using Earth's resources? The final chapter is devoted to a study of three issues related to the use of Earth's natural resources: energy, pollution, and food supply. Geographers recognize that cultural problems result from the depletion, destruction, and inefficient use of the world's natural resources.

**Chapter Organization.** Each chapter is organized with these study aids:

- Case Study. Each chapter opens with a case study that illustrates some of the key concepts presented in the text. The case studies are generally drawn from news events or from daily experiences familiar to residents of North America.
- Key Issues. Each chapter contains a set of three or four key issues around which the chapter material is organized. These questions reappear as major headings within the chapter.
- Key Terms. The key terms in each chapter are indicated in bold type when they are introduced. These terms are also defined at the end of each chapter.
- Geography in Action Box. Each chapter has a one- or two-page box that explores in depth a particular topic related to the subject of the chapter. The Geography in Action boxes relate principles and concepts to applied, practical issues.
- Summary. The key issues are repeated at the end of the chapter with a brief review of the important concepts covered in detail in the text.
- Case Study Revisited. Additional information related to the chapter's case study may be used to reinforce some of the main points.
- Thinking Geographically. This section offers five questions based on concepts and themes developed in the chapter. The questions help students apply geographic concepts to explore issues more intensively.
- Further Readings. A list of books and articles is provided for students who wish to study
  the subject further.

People, Places, and Change Box. Each chapter concludes with an excerpt from a video series on human geography being prepared by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the Annenberg Project in conjunction with the British Broadcasting Corporation and the Open University, based in England. These videos will play on some Public Broadcasting System stations and will be available for instructors to show in classrooms.

**Appendix.** A special appendix on scale and major projections enhances the discussion of the subject in Chapter 1 of the text. We are grateful to Phillip C. Muehrcke, Professor of Geography at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and former president of the American Cartographic Association, for his clear explanation of the subject.

### Ancillaries Materials: Annenberg/CPB Video Series

We are pleased to announce that this text has been selected as the companion text for a new video series co-produced by Annenberg/CPB, The Open University, and the BBC. Human Geography: People Places and Change provides on-location footage from all over the globe. The series contains eleven professionally produced tapes which average 30 minutes in length. This edition contains optional boxes referring to appropriate segments from the series. The tapes may be purchased at low cost directly from Annenberg/CPB by phoning (800)-LEARNER. Complementary copies of video tapes and a comprehensive Annenberg Series Faculty Guide are available free to qualified adopters. An Annenberg Series Student Guide will also be available at low cost for courses that intend to maximize use of the video. For information about these or the supplements listed below, please contact your local Prentice Hall representative.

- Study Guide (0-13-459504-1)
- Instructor's Resource Manual (0-13-392465-3)
- Slide Set (0-13-393463-2)
- Acetate Transparencies (0-13-392754-7)
- Test Item File (0-13-392523-4)
- IBM Test Manager (0-13-393448-9)
- Mac Test Manager (0-13-393455-1)
- New York Times Geography Supplement

### Suggestions for Use

This book can be used in an introductory human or cultural geography course that extends over one semester, one quarter, or two quarters. An instructor in a one-semester course could devote one week to each of the chapters, leaving time for examinations.

In a one-quarter course, the instructor might need to omit some of the book's material. A course with more of a cultural orientation could include Chapters 1 through 8, plus Chapter 13. If the course has more of an economic orientation, then the appropriate chapters would be 1 through 3 and 7 through 12, or if time permits, 13.

A two-quarter course could be organized around the culturally oriented Chapters 1 through 7 during the first quarter and the more economically oriented Chapters 8 through 13 during the second quarter. Topics of particular interest to the instructor or students could be discussed for more than one week.

### Changes

Until the late 1980s, geography textbooks were revised infrequently. Thematic concepts seemed timeless, and world economic and political structures static. During the 1990s, the rapid rate of world changes can make geography texts seem outdated quickly.

A few years ago, geography books had to cope with the creation of two dozen new countries in a couple of years, primarily as the result of the fall of communism in Eastern Europe and the resulting breakup of the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, and Czechoslovakia. Until recently, geographers could delineate the boundaries of the new countries, but they possessed few statistics about these new countries' peoples and economies. As more data become available, geographers are able to understand the deep cultural and economic differences underlying the pressures to create new countries.

Material once central to a human geography course is now relegated to historical geography: the Soviet Union no longer exists, and South Africa no longer practices apartheid. In a rapidly changing world, an introductory human geography text must decide how much history to retain. This book retains maps of the former Soviet Union and segregated South Africa. Overall, the book probably

contains more examples of history than many students prefer and less than many instructors prefer.

Geographic changes in the mid-1990s are less visible on world maps than the delineation of new countries, but they have more profound impacts on our culture, economy, and environment. This edition of the book is organized around a tension between important two themes 1990s—globalization and cultural diversity. In many respects we are living in a more unified world economically, culturally, and environmentally. The actions of a particular corporation or country affect people around the world. At the same time, people are taking deliberate steps to retain distinctive cultural identities. They are preserving little-used languages and fighting fiercely to protect their religions.

An important change in this edition is the allocation of more space to the service sector of the economy. Two-thirds of North Americans work in the services, but this sector of the economy receives minimal treatment in introductory (or even intermediate-level) geography books. Part of the problem in introducing this material at the introductory level is that geographers have not settled upon an authoritative typology. This book adopts a format used by the United Nations of dividing services into five types-transport (along with communication and utility) services, producer services, retail and wholesale services, consumer services, and government services. It is hoped that, by giving service the position of prominence it deserves, this book can contribute to the development of a widely accepted geographic framework.

Critical to delivery of up-to-date information is minimizing the time between completion of changes in the text and maps and distribution of the printed book. For example, maps incorporate data published by the Encyclopaedia Britannica in May 1995. This edition reflects world changes through mid-June 1995, and copies of the book were available in some bookstores by August 1995.

Maps have also been added to reinforce the tension between globalization and cultural diversity. For example, maps have been added to illustrate transnational corporations and the changing hierarchies of cities in the world and within the United States according to the type of services they perform. Increasing cultural diversity is represented in new maps of Fez and Ho Chi Minh City, immigration to the

United States from Latin America and from Asia, immigration of African-Americans within the United States, and differences in population characteristics among six U.S. communities. Charts have been added to illustrate such points as changes over time, sources of migrants to the United States, relative size of world languages and language families, distribution of energy reserves, divergence between Malthus's theory of overpopulation and contemporary reality, and relationship between a country's income and level of pollution.

In the past, maps were drawn to illustrate only a narrow or precise idea. But maps have been redrawn to include information of interest to the reader that may not be absolutely central to the map's precise purpose.

Finally, given the enormous amount of material now available electronically, through CD-ROM, networking, and so on, why should an instructor continue to make students buy an expensive textbook? In the computer age, is a textbook an anachronism? A book is a slow way to communicate: by the time this book is in your hands, something in it will be outdated, perhaps a new war, peace treaty, or United Nations member.

The information superhighway is filled with information that can be retrieved quickly, but the information is poorly organized and written. In contrast, a high-quality book is crafted carefully by the author, editors, and publishers. For example, the author rewrote this sentence five times to convey a precise meaning. Editors then change many of the words and punctuation to assure that the author's intended meaning is successfully communicated. A book allows an author to lay out a more careful and clear route to explanation and understanding than is possible electronically. For now, computers are tools for retrieval of facts and for advanced analysis, but they cannot yet compete with books in explaining a discipline's basic concepts and themes.

### Acknowledgments

The successful completion of a book like this requires the contribution of many people. I gratefully acknowledge the help I received.

A number of people reviewed portions of the manuscript at various stages in the revision process and offered excellent suggestions. These reviewers included:

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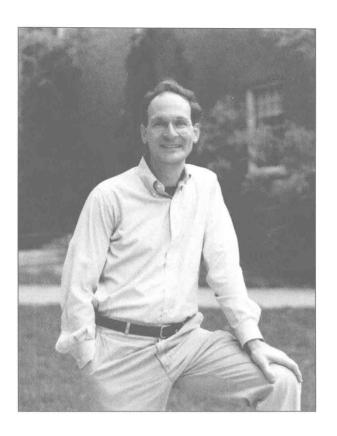
This book was produced shortly after Macmillan Publishing Company and Prentice Hall Publishing Company completed a merger that has created the country's dominant publisher of geography books. From the author's perspective, the transition has been seamless and invigorating. Ray Henderson, geography editor for the combined company, is filled with fresh, new ideas for nudging the book and the company's entire geography program into the multimedia age. Ed Thomas has been a sensitive, articulate production editor, who kept the project flowing smoothly. Ray Mullaney, editor-in-chief in charge of development, set up a clear timetable that we have all been able to meet. Paul Corey, once geography editor at Macmillan, and now editor-in-chief of the combined company, has maintained a strategic interest in this book, which he was instrumental in nursing to success in the past. This edition benefited enormously from work done by the development editor Fred Schroyer, who has a natural science background. Fred brought a fresh perspective to the book's social science framework and strengthened both the natural science material, such as in Chapter 13, and the integration of natural and social sciences, which is at the core of geography. Other dedicated people at Prentice Hall deserve thanks, especially the design directors-Paula Maylahn and Heather Scott.

Outside Prentice Hall, the production staff at Maryland CartoGraphics, under the leadership of John Radziszewski, continue to produce outstanding maps and line drawings for this book. For speed, accuracy, and attractiveness they continue to set the standard in introductory geography texts. Terri Stratford produced an outstanding collection of photographs, and Molly Pike Riccardi of Lido Graphics did a fantastic job with page design. At Miami University, I especially want to thank Andrew Johns for his dedicated work over a two-year period assisting with the development of

fresh material for this edition; the two-year life of this edition coincides with Andy's two years of service in the Peace Corps in Chile. Thanks also for the help from other Miami students, including Kelly Cooney, Kenneth Guttman, Kevin Leeson, and Nicole Monroe.

Finally, I thank my introductory geography students and my family for all of their support over the years. I would like to dedicate this book to my wife, Bernadette Unger, who, as a city planner, does an outstanding job of practicing what I preach.

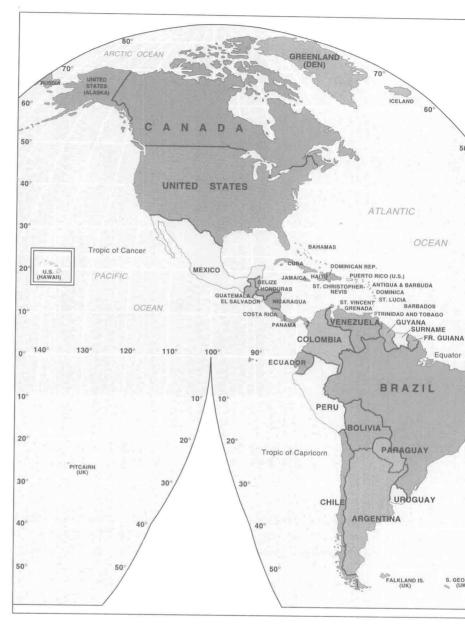
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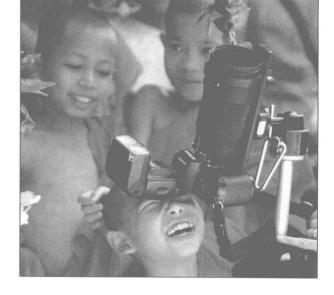
# ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. James M. Rubenstein received his Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University in 1975. His dissertation on French urban planning was later developed into a book entitled **The French New Towns** (Johns Hopkins University Press). In 1976 he joined the faculty at Miami University, where he is currently Professor of Geography. Besides teaching courses on Urban and Human Geography and writing textbooks, Dr. Rubenstein also conducts research in the automotive industry and has a recently published book on the subject entitled **The Changing U.S. Auto Industry: A Geographical Analysis** (Routledge). Originally from Baltimore, he is an avid Orioles fan and follows college lacrosse.

The world map at right reveals one of the most significant elements of the cultural landscape—the political boundaries that separate its five billion inhabitants. The numerous states range in size from Russia, which occupies one-sixth of the world's land area, to microstates such as Singapore, Malta, or Grenada. The names of these states evoke images of different environments. peoples, cultures, and levels of wellbeing. However, the political boundaries are only one of the many patterns that geographers observe across the earth's surface. Geographers study the distribution of a wide variety of cultural and environmental features-social customs, agricultural patterns, the use of resources-many of which transcend political boundaries. As scientists, geographers also try to explain why we can observe these patterns on the landscape. The facing map and chapters that follow are intended to begin the student on a journey toward understanding our exciting and complex world.



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