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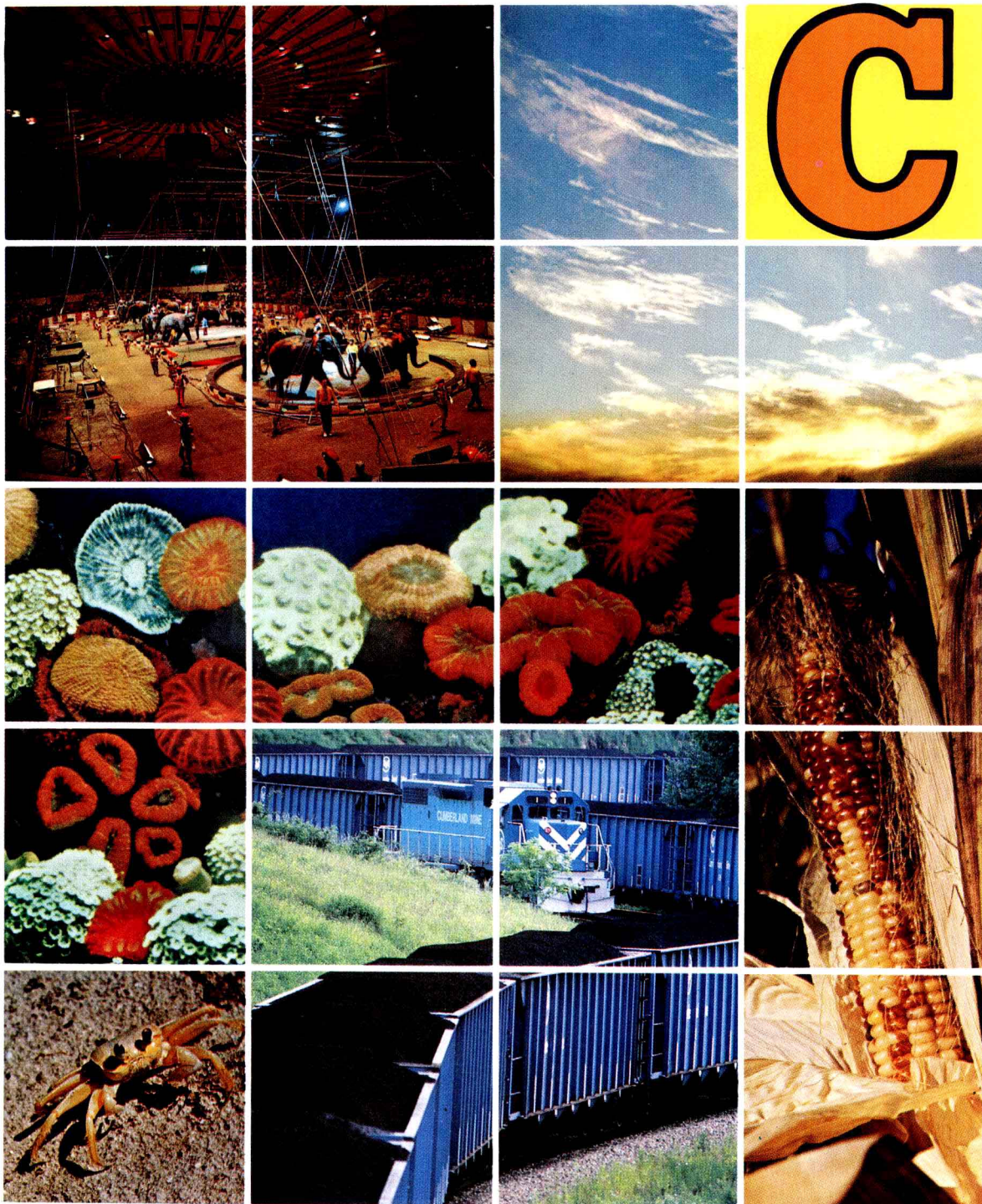
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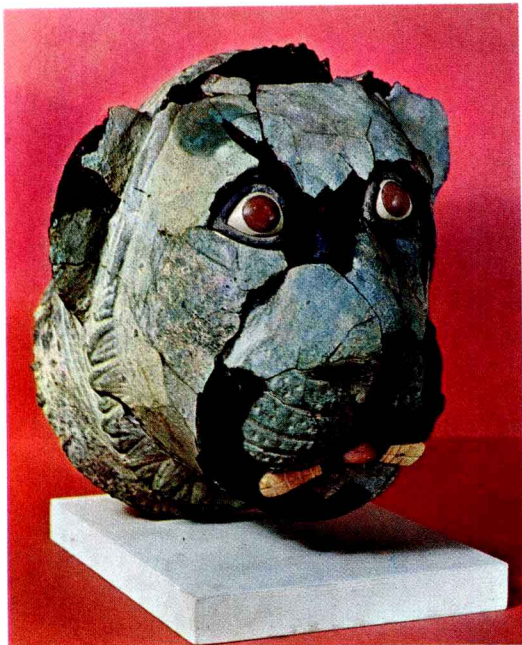
"Let knowledge grow from more to more and thus be human life enriched"



PHOTOS: Row 1: (left) TWA Ambassador; (right) Nick Impenna—Photo Researchers. Row 3: (left) Tom Hutchins—*LIFE* Magazine © 1959 Time Inc.; (far right) Grant Heilman. Row 4: (center) Shepard Sherbell—Picture Group. Row 5: (far left) Carleton Ray—Photo Researchers/EB Inc.

EXPLORING VOLUME 5

By courtesy of the trustees of the British Museum



Which metal was the first to be used by man for tools and implements? 710.

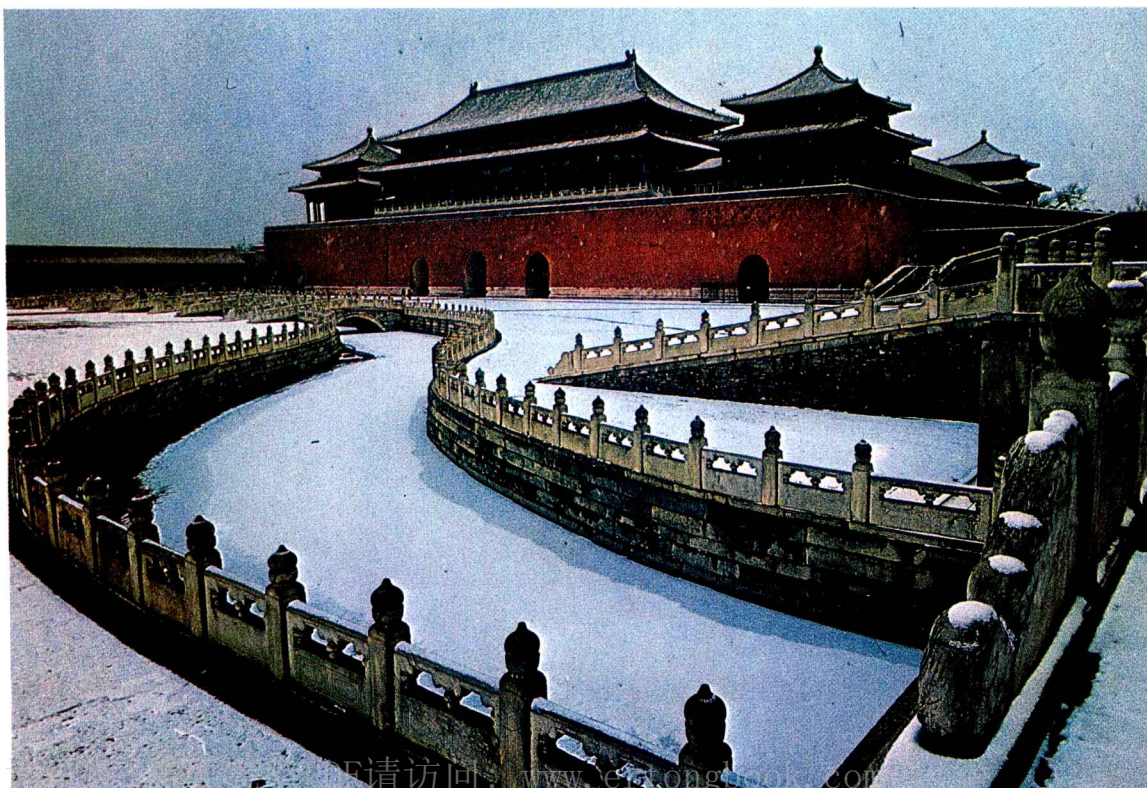
Louis D. Rubin, Richmond, Va.

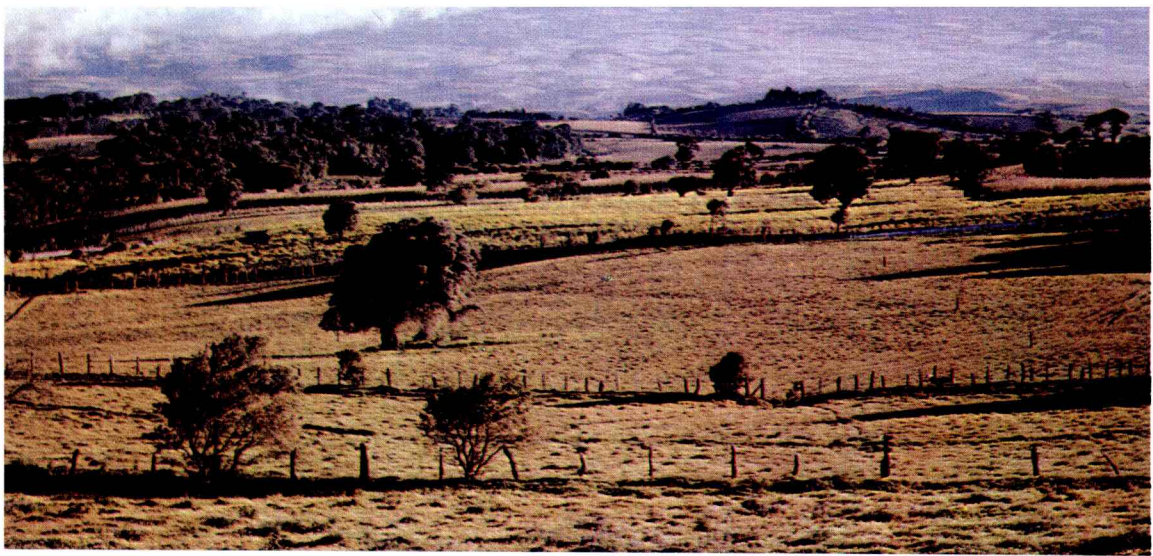


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Marc Riboud — Magnum

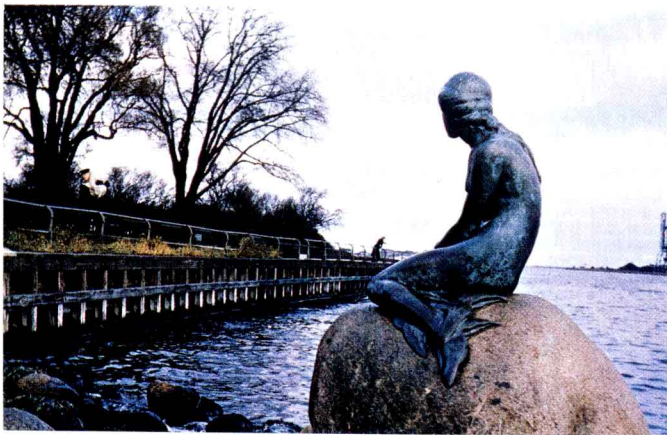




Paul Popper

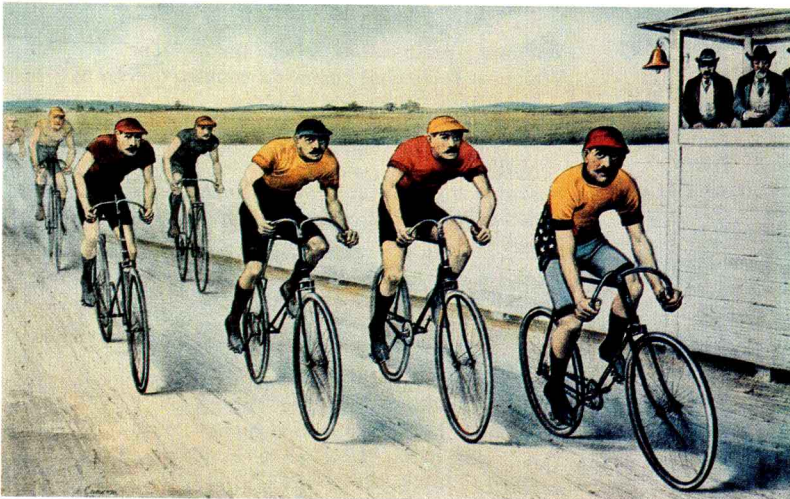
EB Inc.

What is the only Central American country in which the value of agricultural products is less than the value of manufactures? 734.



Name the European city whose symbol is a statue of a Hans Christian Andersen fairy tale character. 708.

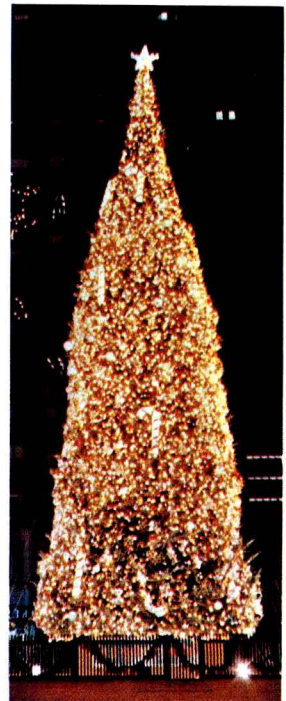
Where and when did cycling begin to develop as one of the world's most popular spectator sports? 809.



The Bettmann Archive

What sort of decorations were used to trim the earliest Christmas trees? 405.

Chicago Bureau of Forestry, Parkways and Beautification





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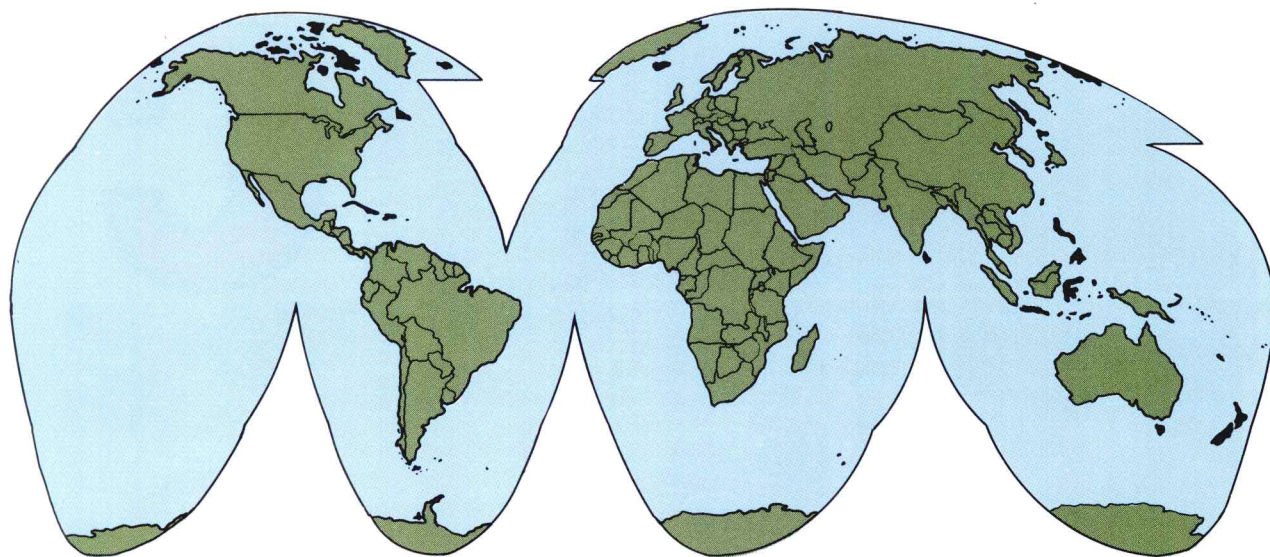
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HERE AND THERE IN VOLUME 5

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CHILE

Lake Villarrica in the heart of the Chilean Andes is a favorite resort area.

Thomas Ives



CHILE. The country of Chile in South America is noted for its diversity. In the north is one of the driest areas in the world—the Atacama Desert—which contains places where rainfall has never been recorded. In the far south lies the extremely rainy Strait of Magellan. Middle Chile is a transition zone between the desert north and the rainy south.

The land also varies. The relatively flat valley floors of middle Chile give way to the towering Andes Mountains to the east and the Coastal Ranges on the west. The country lacks an extensive plain bordering the Pacific Ocean; generally the coastal mountains plunge directly to the sea.

Geographically and economically the country can be divided into three major regions: the mineral-producing northern desert; central Chile, the economic, political, and agricultural core of the nation; and the wet, sparsely settled southern third, where sheep raising is the major activity.

Variety of Climates

Two major factors contribute to the broad range of climates. One is that the country extends a long distance from north to south. The other is the cool Peru, or Humboldt, ocean current that flows from Antarctica waters and helps cool the Chilean coast. For example, the average annual temperature at Valparaíso is 58.6° F (14.8° C), while opposite it on the east coast of South America, Rio Grande, Brazil, has an average annual temperature of 64.4° F (18° C).

The cool current also is partly responsible for the lack of rainfall in the desert north. Onshore winds are cooled by the current, then heated as they pass over the adjoining land area. The warming enables



the air to hold its moisture, resulting in little rain. Furthermore, the high Andes Mountains to the east help block winds from the interior and trade winds from the Atlantic, which might otherwise bring some moisture to northern and middle Chile.

Between Coquimbo and Concepción is middle Chile, a land of hot, dry summers and cool, moist winters. The temperatures are seldom extreme. At Valparaíso the coldest months, June and July, average 52.3° F (11.3° C), while the warmest month, January, averages 63.7° F (17.6° C). In the Central Valley, where coolness is created by higher altitudes rather than the effects of the sea, temperature averages are similar, but extremes are somewhat greater.

Proceeding southward from middle Chile, rainfall increases, and the length of the summer dry season shortens until south of Concepción it rains most of the year. Rainfall totals more than 200 inches (500 centimeters) per year in some places.

The Land

Chile is long and narrow with the longest seacoast of any country in the world. Stretching more than 2,600 miles (4,200 kilometers) from north to south, it is only 277 miles (445 kilometers) east to west at its widest point. Chile claims a pie-shaped piece of Antarctica as well as a group of Pacific Islands, including Rapa Nui, or Easter Island. Its area totals 292,133 square miles (756,621 square kilometers).

Approximately 70 percent of the land is mountainous, as the Andes extend the length of the country and form a natural barrier between Chile and its neighbors Argentina and Bolivia to the east. From heights of more than 20,000 feet (6,000 meters) in the north, the ranges become increasingly lower until they finally dip into the sea in southern Chile. The Andes contain many volcanoes, but most are extinct.

Along the Pacific the lower coastal ranges parallel the Andes between 30° and 40° S latitude, enclosing the Central Valley, or Vale of Chile. Crossed by low transverse ridges of hills, the valley continues southward for some 700 miles (1,127 kilometers), reaching the sea near Puerto Montt, where the coastal mountains fragment, forming a chain of islands that fringe the coast for hundreds of miles.

This article was contributed by Robert N. Thomas, Professor of Geography, Michigan State University, East Lansing.



Natural Resources

Chile heads the list of mineral producers in Latin America with coal, iron ore, gold, silver, manganese, sulfur, petroleum, nitrates, and, of greatest importance, copper. Chile possesses the world's largest copper reserves. In an average year copper comprises almost 50 percent in value of Chile's exports. Three of its four largest mines are found in the Atacama Desert in the north.

The Andes of Chile contain vast amounts of low-grade copper ore. In the 19th century, when mining began, only high-grade ores could be used. Improvements in technology during the first decades of the 20th century, however, made possible the use of the low-grade ores. The mines of Chuquibambilla, El Teniente, El Salvador, and Andina account for about 85 percent of annual output and are under the control of the state.

Chile also possesses the necessary raw materials for a steel industry. Next to copper, iron ore is Chile's most valuable resource and employs some 5,000 workers. Chile is the third largest producer in South America and exports most of its production to Japan. The mining of iron ore began in 1908 at El Tofo in northern Chile. El Tofo is now almost exhausted, but since 1956 iron mining has moved to newly discovered deposits—east of Antofagasta in the north near the Argentine border; a 300-mile (480-kilometer) belt parallel to the coast some 50 miles (80 kilometers) inland from La Serena north to Chañaral; and in southern Chile south of Concepción.

Chile's only large iron and steel mill is located at Huachipato, near Concepción. It is operated by the Compañía de Acero del Pacífico (CAP), a state-owned corporation that also operates the nation's largest iron mines. About 60 percent of the plant's needs for coal are supplied from domestic sources nearby; the remainder is imported from the United States and Canada.

The Atacama contains the largest nitrate areas in the world. In the 1800s the world's leached and heavily overworked soils were in need of a fertilizer that would replace nitrogen. Sodium nitrate from the Atacama began to find markets in the cotton belt of the United States, in parts of Europe, and in Egypt. Exports by 1860 exceeded 50,000 tons per year. Although this resource no longer plays the important role in the country's economy that it once did, Chile still is the world's leading producer. With the increased prices of petroleum-based synthetic fertilizers in the mid-1970s, the nitrate industry regained some of its former importance.

Most of the country's coal production is concentrated in middle Chile; approximately two thirds comes from the Lota mines just south of Concepción. Slightly southward on the Lebu Peninsula is an area of low-grade coal that extends under the sea. A further 25 percent is located in the Osorno-Chiloé area.

Like most other countries in Latin America that are heavily dependent upon petroleum, Chile must plan



(Left) Raymond Depardon—Gamma/Liaison; (right) Dan McConnell—CLICK/Chicago

Three *huasos*, or cowboys (left), take time out from their work on a ranch in central Chile. Market day (right) attracts shoppers to the city of Puerto Montt.



to use alternative sources of energy. Hydroelectric potential is abundant and far from being fully utilized. Chile also has abundant uranium reserves and expects eventually to have a nuclear plant operating. There are considerable undeveloped geothermal resources, which produce energy from heat just below the surface of the ground.

In 1945 oil and gas were discovered in far southern Chile—Tierra del Fuego. Oil is sent by tankers to refineries in middle Chile, and the gas is liquefied at plants in Tierra del Fuego and shipped north to supply cities in middle Chile. A petrochemical complex on the Strait of Magellan produces chemical fertilizer for export.

Vegetation

The vegetation of Chile varies considerably from the desert north to the humid south. Along the coast in the far north, heavy winter fogs account for some seasonal desert plant life. In the desert interior, however, the extreme saltiness of the soil and the absence of rainfall stop most growth. An exception is the Pampa de Tamarugal, south of Iquique, where remnants of a once-extensive thornwood forest survive. Eastward, on the Andean slopes, are scatterings of cacti and desert shrubs. Scrub growth also appears at the southern end of the desert and increases southward.

In central Chile, between the Central Valley and the Bío-Bío River, a diversified plant life varies with latitude and altitude. In the lowlands blackberry thickets and scrub vegetation are common, while along the coast grow stunted species of palm trees. Vegetation becomes heavier toward the south, but throughout central Chile much of the native cover has been replaced by cultivated crops.

To the south most of the area between the Bío-Bío River and Puerto Montt originally was covered by tree growth, but much of this cover has been cleared. The remaining stands include beeches, myrtle, and a variety of evergreens. One of the more distinctive hardwood trees of this area is the *Auracaria*, or monkey-puzzle tree. It has a long, straight trunk that terminates in a wide crest of thick foliage. This same area also contains tangles of vines, shrubs, ferns, and mosses. The forest glades provide an ideal environment for wild bamboo.

South of Puerto Montt the thick forest changes from deciduous, or leaf-shedding, growth to evergreens and stretches from the island region on the west to the treeline on the western slopes of the Andes. The forest thins toward the far south and comes to an end in Chilean Patagonia, where grass cover serves as forage for sheep.

Wildlife

Wildlife too varies from north to south. In the northern Andes exist all four members of the South American camel family—the guanaco, llama, alpaca, and vicuña. Other mountain animals include the large huemul deer, Andean wolf, puma, and wildcat. Among native mountain rodents is the nearly extinct chinchilla. The southern forests shelter the Darwin fox, the pudú, which is a small deer, and several kinds of marsupials, or animals with pouches like that of a kangaroo.

The principal forms of bird life include doves, ducks, and the perdiz, which resembles the partridge but is actually a member of the titmouse family. The giant condor, Chile's national bird, occasionally is seen in the Andes, while the vulture of Tierra del Fuego preys upon the sheep population of the far southern region.

There are few species of freshwater fishes natural to the country, but lake trout, introduced from North America, are plentiful and reach sizes of 30 inches (75 centimeters) or more. A wide variety of saltwater fishes abound in the cool waters off the coast. Big game fishing for marlin and swordfish is excellent near Tocopilla north of Antofagasta, while tuna thrive in most of the coastal waters.

People

Chile has no pronounced racial divisions. Only 5 percent of its people are genetically pure Indians. People of pure Spanish descent total about 25 percent, while 66 percent are mestizo, a mixture of Spanish and Indian.

After the Spaniards came to Chile in the mid-1500s, they mixed with the native Indian population freely and with few prejudices. Social differences, however, soon began to appear in the new society, and the contrast between landowners and the landless people increased despite the fact that few racial dif-

ferences separated the two classes. People of Indian and Spanish heritage mixed freely within the landed aristocracy or among the tenants who had become increasingly attached to the large estates.

By 1980 approximately 80 percent of Chile's population lived in cities, the largest of which is Santiago. It not only serves as the national capital but is the country's industrial, commercial, and cultural core. Chile's second leading city, the seaport of Valparaíso, is located near the mouth of the Aconcagua River. A highway and railroad link the two major cities. Viña del Mar near Valparaíso is one of Latin America's most famous resort towns. Chile's third-largest metropolitan area is Concepción. With the adjoining steel city of Huachipato and the ports of Talcahuano and San Vicente, it is the focus of the nation's heavy industry. The city is the mining, agricultural, and transportation hub of southern Chile.

Chile contains numerous other large and rapidly growing cities, including Antofagasta in the north, which is an export center for minerals from the interior of the Atacama. It is also a fishing, refining, and regional supply center. Valdivia in southern Chile is a center for fishing, forestry, and cattle raising. Its factories produce textiles, wood products, leather goods, and foodstuffs. Still farther south, Puerto Montt serves as a tourist center for the Chilean lake district as well as a transportation gateway to Argentina and the far south of Chile.

Central Chile: the Nation's Heartland

More than 90 percent of Chile's population live in central Chile. Here is centered the cultural, political, financial, and social life of the country. The region is also the location of the modern, European-style capital city, Santiago.

The long Central Valley, which is filled with fertile soils deposited by Andean streams, produces most of the nation's food supply. Most of the rainfall occurs in the winter from May to August, while summers generally are rainless. In the summer a large high-pressure area called the Easter Island High lies off the coast, producing dry trade winds. But in winter the area of high pressure moves northward, allowing the westerlies to penetrate the area with their rains.

South of the Bío-Bío River the valley has dense forests, where the Araucanian Indians successfully defended themselves against the Spanish invaders for 300 years. After the Indians were subdued, the area was opened for Chilean settlers and European immigrants, principally Germans.

Wheat is the leading crop of central Chile, and alfalfa is grown widely as livestock feed. Large areas are devoted to vineyards, which produce grapes for Chile's wine industry. Other crops include barley, oats, corn, beans, olives, citrus fruits, peaches, tobacco, potatoes, and other truck garden crops.

Transportation and Trade

The sea was the earliest and is still the most serviceable highway. There is coastal traffic between

different sections of the country, and some 30 ports are visited by ships engaged in international trade. Chile's merchant marine is one of the largest in South America. The building of the Panama Canal brought the nation closer to world markets and greatly stimulated its industrial development.

Of some 35,000 miles (56,000 kilometers) of roads, fewer than half are all-weather roads. The best highways are in the Central Valley. Air service, under government ownership, links the main cities.

Chile has more than 5,000 miles (8,000 kilometers) of railways, some electrified. The government owns most of the mileage. Two lines cross the Andes to Bolivia, giving it access to the Chilean ports of Arica and Antofagasta. A third, linking the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, is the Transandine railway that runs from Valparaíso to Buenos Aires, climbing nearly 10,500 feet (3,200 meters) to tunnel through the Andes. Landslides often block the road. A fourth, opened in 1948, crosses the Andes from Antofagasta to Salta, Argentina. There is no railway south of Puerto Montt except on the Isla de Chiloé, but southern Chile is served by air.

In the total value of its foreign trade, Chile is one of the leading nations of Latin America. In general it ships raw materials and receives manufactured goods. About 90 percent of the value of all exports comes from its minerals—copper, iron ore, nitrate and iodine, gold, silver, sulfur, and sulfate of soda. The second leading group is made up of wood, sheepskins, and fresh and frozen meats. Lentils, beans, peas, oats, barley, fruits, wine, and wood products are also exported, chiefly to neighboring countries.

The major imports are machinery, transportation equipment, iron and steel products, chemicals, petroleum and its products, textiles, sugar, and other foodstuffs. Dependence on imported petroleum lessened when petroleum was discovered on Tierra del Fuego in 1945. A pipeline for crude petroleum was opened in 1950. A large part of Chile's trade is with the United States, West Germany, Japan, and the United Kingdom as well as other South American countries.

Culture

Chile has one of the richest cultural traditions of Latin America. Literature, particularly poetry, is important. The famous verse, 'La Araucana', by Alonso de Ercilla y Zúñiga, is considered by many to be the most important epic poem in the Spanish language. An important landmark in Chilean literature occurred in 1945 when Gabriela Mistral received the Nobel prize for literature. Her two better-known works are 'Desolación' and 'Los Sonetos de la muerte' (Sonnets of Death). Pablo Neruda, known as "the poet of enslaved humanity," won the Nobel prize in 1971. His epic poem 'Canto general' is memorable.

Chileans' cultural interests extend beyond literature to include the entire range of artistic expression. Santiago contains the Palace of Fine Arts, the National Library, National Ballet, symphony orchestras, and theater companies.

Folk music and dance are extremely popular throughout the nation. Best known is the *cuenca*, a spirited dance of conquest and submission. Numerous religious festivals commemorate episodes from Chile's history. Rodeos with *huasos*, or cowboys, in colorful costumes are popular.

Soccer is Chile's main sport, and thousands of Chileans watch professional teams in large stadiums in the country's principal cities. Many Chileans, too, are attracted to the sea. The most fashionable seaside resorts include Concón, Viña del Mar, San Antonio, Zapallar, and Cartagena. Horse racing, skiing in the Andes, tennis, and yachting are also popular.

Education

Public school education provided by the state is free, and eight years of basic education is compulsory. More than 90 percent of Chile's people can read and write. Chile's university system, long known as one of the best in Latin America, underwent a major change in 1981 and 1982. The University of Chile and the University of Santiago of Chile, both in Santiago, had long dominated the highly centralized system. But with the reorganization branch campuses outside Santiago became autonomous. More than 100,000 students are registered, and there are approximately 15,000 faculty members in the 15 universities.

History and Government

In 1541 Pedro de Valdivia founded Santiago, the first white settlement in the area. Colonization was slow, as the Araucanian Indians destroyed settlements almost as soon as the Spaniards built them.

In 1810 Chile broke from Spain, and, in the struggle that followed, General Bernardo O'Higgins of Chile

and General José de San Martín of Argentina finally defeated the Spanish forces. Independence was officially proclaimed in 1818, and O'Higgins became dictator. He tried to improve roads, schools, and public health; to stamp out banditry; and to increase foreign trade, but public opposition forced him to resign in 1823. In 1833 Chile adopted a constitution that called for a centralized government.

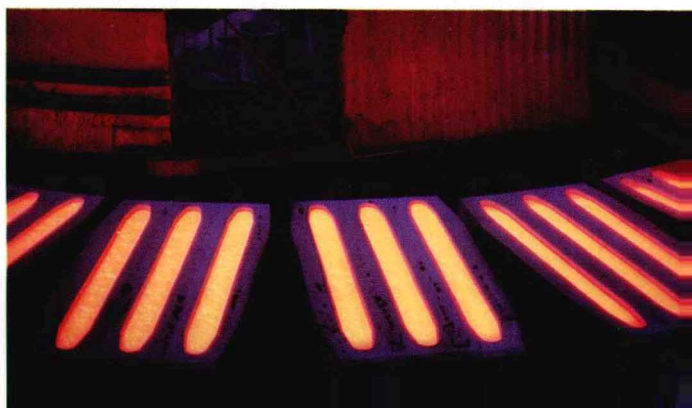
Throughout the 19th century Chile made great social and economic progress. Immigration doubled the population between the 1840s and 1870s, and foreign capital expanded Chile's industry. While other Latin American nations were torn by continual strife, Chile suffered only one serious revolt—in 1891.

The mining boom in the Atacama began when, in about 1860, a use was found for sodium nitrate in the manufacture of smokeless powder in explosives. Boundaries in the Atacama were vague, and disputes over nitrate deposits led to the War of the Pacific with Peru and Bolivia from 1879 to 1883. Chile won the war, and its forces occupied the Peruvian capital of Lima. The treaty of Ancón in 1884 resulted in transfer of the Peruvian section of the Atacama to Chile. Bolivia was deprived of its part of the Atacama and its access to the sea. Chile, in complete control of the nitrate country, further developed the industry and made increasing profits. By 1895 exports had gone well beyond the million-ton mark.

During World War I exports at times exceeded 3,000,000 tons a year, but, when Germany was cut off from nitrate shipments, an atmospheric process was perfected for producing synthetic nitrogen. After the war nitrate plants were built in Norway and on the Tennessee River in Alabama. Since then Chile has continued to export nitrate but with little profit.

Fishermen (below) hawk the day's catch in Talcahuano, near Concepción. A textile worker (right) checks fabric at a mill in nearby Tomé. Cooling copper ingots glow (right bottom) at a smelter in Chuquibambilla.

(Below and right) Greg Smith—Gamma/Liaison;
(right bottom) Vautier-Decool—CLICK/Chicago



CHILE

The collapse of the market for nitrates after World War I depressed Chile's economy for more than ten years. Political strife and the workers' demands for better living conditions led to a new constitution in 1925. It provided for the most progressive social legislation in Latin America. Under this constitution the president and Congress were popularly elected. The president was limited to a single six-year term. In 1949 women won the right to vote.

Inflation brought wage and price controls in 1956. Destructive earthquakes struck Chile in 1960 and in 1965. President Eduardo Frei initiated far-reaching economic and social reforms in 1965. In 1970 Salvador Allende Gossens became the first freely elected Communist president in the Western Hemisphere. His program included state control over mining, banking, credit, and external trade along with agricultural reform and an expansion of central planning. Large wage increases were granted without a corresponding increase in productivity. A breakdown of the economy was a quick result, followed by a bloody military takeover of the government in 1973.

The military regime, under Gen. Augusto Pinochet Ugarte, suspended all of the activities of the political parties and the labor unions. Planning, economic development, and the nation's educational system were decentralized. Government control over industry, banking, commerce, and transportation was ended, as were most forms of tariff protection. A new constitution was approved by the electorate in 1980 that gave Pinochet an additional eight-year term of office. The government ended its 16-year-old state of emergency in August 1988. Voters went to the polls on October 5 and rejected another eight-year term for Pinochet, whose repressive regime was condemned by human-rights organizations. The defeat cleared the way for presidential and congressional elections on Dec. 14, 1989.

Opposition candidate Patricio Aylwin Azócar's election to the presidency marked a new stage in the country's return to democracy. In his first act as president, Aylwin pardoned all "prisoners of conscience" jailed by the Pinochet government. Pinochet remained as commander in chief of the army.

Official Name: Republic of Chile.

Capital: Santiago.

NATURAL FEATURES

Mountain Range: Andes.

Highest Peak: Ojos del Salado, 22,615 feet (6,893 meters).

Major Rivers: Loa, Bío-Bío, Maule, Maipo, Aconcagua.

Largest Lakes: Llanquihue, Ranco, Puyehue, Rupanco.

PEOPLE

Population (1989 estimate): 12,961,000; 44.4 persons per square mile (17.1 persons per square kilometer); 80.8 percent urban, 19.2 percent rural.

Major Cities (1987 estimate): Santiago (4,858,300), Viña del Mar (297,300), Concepción (294,400), Valparaíso (278,800), Talcahuano (231,400).

Major Religion: Roman Catholicism.

Major Language: Spanish (official).

Literacy: 94 percent.

Leading Universities and Colleges: Catholic University of Chile (Santiago), University of Concepción, University of Chile (Santiago), University of Santiago de Chile.

GOVERNMENT

Form of Government: Republic.

Chief of State and Head of Government: President.

Legislature: National Congress, composed of Senate with 48 members and Chamber of Deputies with 120 members.

Voting Qualification: Age 18.

Political Divisions: 12 regions and the metropolitan region of Santiago; regions subdivided into 40 provinces.

Flag: Divided horizontally; upper half has a white five-pointed star on a blue square at the hoist, with remainder white; lower half is red (see Flags of the World).

ECONOMY

Chief Agricultural Products: Crops—sugar beets, potatoes, wheat, corn (maize). Livestock—sheep, cattle, pigs.

Chief Mined Products: Copper, iron ore, iodine, molybdenum, natural nitrates, silver, gold, vanadium, lithium, manganese, lead.

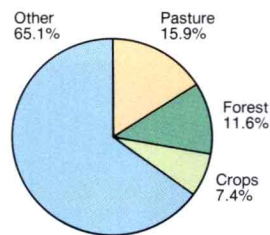
Chief Manufactured Products: Food products, nonferrous metals, chemical products, beverages, textiles, paper and paper products.

Chief Exports: Copper, molybdenum, iron ore, fish meal, paper and paper products, metal manufactures, fruits and vegetables.

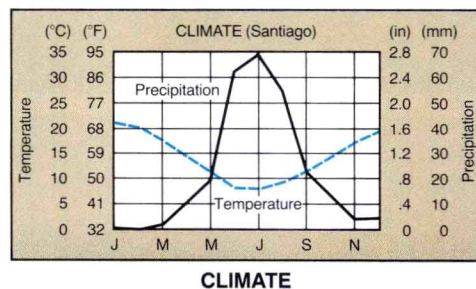
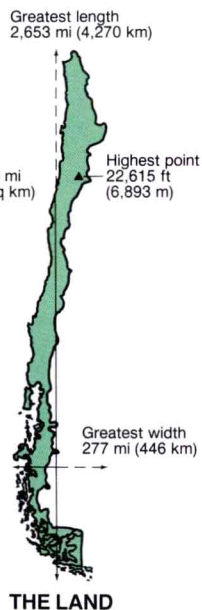
Chief Imports: Mineral fuels and lubricants, industrial raw materials, trucks, passenger vehicles (excluding buses), foodstuffs, animals.

Monetary Unit: 1 Chilean peso = 100 centavos.

Chile Fact Summary



LAND USE



CLIMATE



© Hiroji Kubota—Magnum

The unusual hill formations around Guilin in southern China have made the area the subject of paintings and poetry for many centuries.

CHINA

CHINA. Everything in China seems larger than life, and perceptions of the country must be adjusted to its enormous scale. Its culture and its civilization go back thousands of years. Its vast area of more than 3,690,000 square miles (9,560,000 square kilometers) is the third largest in the world, after the Soviet Union and Canada. With a population of more than one billion, it is by far the most populous of all the countries on Earth.



China's physical features are equally impressive. The Himalayas along China's southwestern frontier with India are the world's tallest mountains. China's greatest river, the Yangtze, is the world's fourth longest. The Taklimakan Desert, in western Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, is one of the driest

spots on Earth. The area of loessic soil (fine, siltlike soil created by wind action in dry regions) in Shaanxi and Shanxi provinces is probably more extensive than in any other place.

In keeping with its large size, China has a great wealth of mineral and natural resources. Reserves of coal, petroleum, iron ore, tungsten, tin, bauxite, cop-

Preview

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For a brief review of essential information about China, see CHINA FACT SUMMARY.

The Geography portion of this article was contributed by Clifton W. Pannell, Professor, Department of Geography, University of Georgia, and author of 'China, The Geography of Development and Modernization'.

The History portion of this article was contributed by Bonnie B. C. Oh, Associate Professor of History, Loyola University of Chicago.

per, limestone, and many other minerals needed in modern industry are abundant. Used in domestic manufacturing and exported to obtain money, these resources provide China with a solid foundation for rapid industrial growth.

Historical and Cultural Continuity

Another significant aspect of China is its long cultural and national history. The Chinese people have shared a common culture longer than any other group on Earth. The Chinese writing system, for example, dates back almost 4,000 years. The imperial dynastic system of government, which continued for

centuries, was established as early as 221 BC. Although specific dynasties were overturned, the dynastic system survived. China was even ruled at times by foreign invaders, such as the Mongols during the Yüan Dynasty, from AD 1279 to 1368, and the Manchus during the Ch'ing Dynasty, from AD 1644 to 1911, but the foreigners were largely absorbed into the culture they governed. It is as if the Roman Empire had lasted from the time of the Caesars to the 20th century, and during that time had evolved a cultural system and written language shared by all the peoples of Europe.

The dynastic system was overturned in 1911, and a weak republican form of government existed until 1949. In that year, after a long civil war, the People's Republic of China, with a Communist government, was proclaimed. This government and the ruling Communist party have controlled China ever since. Although the dynastic system has disappeared, the People's Republic occupies essentially the same territory and governs the same people. If anything, the culture and power of China seem stronger in the late 20th century than at almost any other period in history. Under the People's Republic, China's role in world economic and political affairs has grown increasingly more important.

Importance of the People's Republic

Size alone makes China an important member of the world community, a fact that the United Nations has recognized for some years. China has had a permanent seat on the UN Security Council since that organization was founded. For a number of years, this seat was occupied by Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalist government, which had fled to Taiwan when the Communists came to power. In 1971, however, the UN General Assembly voted to turn this seat over to the representatives of the People's Republic. The People's Republic is recognized by most nations as the legitimate government representing mainland China. After 1971, China joined a number of UN and other international organizations, such as the International Monetary Fund. It has become a more active participant in international programs.

An example of China's growing involvement with the world community is the rapid increase in its foreign trade with countries outside the Communist bloc. Between 1959 and 1982 China's total trade turnover with non-Communist countries rose from \$1.3 billion to about \$32 billion. This represented a significant shift in policy on the part of China. It indicates they had come to believe that the key to economic growth and modernization—including access to new industrial and scientific technologies—lay in closer economic and political relationships with developed countries such as Japan, the United States, West Germany, and the United Kingdom.

By the early 1980s, after several decades of civil war, conflicts with foreign powers, and domestic upheavals, China seemed to have stabilized. Domestic policies and programs appeared to focus on improv-

Spelling Chinese Words

Over the centuries many systems of expressing Chinese words in the Roman alphabet have developed, leading to variations in the way Chinese words are spelled. The original Chinese writing, still used today, was in characters, or symbols, and gave little clue to pronunciation. People from different regions of China could all read the same characters, but pronounced them differently. Attempts to romanize the language began in the early 16th century and eventually more than 50 different systems evolved. Three of these became widely accepted: Wade-Giles, the Postal System, and Pinyin.

The Wade-Giles system, named for its inventors, grew from its origination in the mid-1800s to become an international standard for Chinese romanization. Its use was, however, complicated by the Chinese Postal administration, which in 1906 developed a separate system for spelling geographical names. These became quite popular and are often the spellings that are most familiar today. In 1953 the People's Republic, in an effort to standardize spelling, made Pinyin the official system of romanization, and its use has grown since that time. Today Pinyin is especially common in newer books and periodicals, whereas the other systems are likely to be encountered in older books. In Compton's Encyclopedia Pinyin is used for most place names and physical features, except those certain very popular names whose spellings have become conventional through heavy usage. Pinyin is also used for personal names of the modern Chinese period, while the older names are presented according to the familiar Wade-Giles or Postal systems.

CHINESE	北京	青島	廣東	黑龍江
POSTAL SYSTEM	Peking	Tsingtao	Kwangtung	Heilungkang
WADE-GILES SYSTEM	Pei-ching	Ch'ing-tao	Kuang-tung	Hei-lung-chiang
PINYIN SYSTEM	Beijing	Qingdao	Guangdong	Heilongjiang