

H.J. de Blij

Peter O. Muller

GEOGRAPHY

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Geography

REALMS, REGIONS, AND CONCEPTS

Eighth Edition

H. J. de Blij

University of South Florida, St. Petersburg

Peter O. Muller

University of Miami

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PREFACE

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

The book before you, therefore, is an information highway to geographic literacy. The first edition appeared in 1971, at a time when school geography in the United States (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, including the National Geographic Society, banks, airline companies, and a consortium of scholarly organizations mobilized to combat 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

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 indices. The remaining twelve chapters all focus 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 approximately 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, alternately, to concentrate mainly on conceptual issues.

The Eighth Edition

Ever since this book was conceived, it has been a challenge to keep abreast of the rapid changes affecting the world.

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

The Eighth Edition incorporates the current stages of long-range developments as well as the impacts of recent events. Throughout the first seven editions of *Regions*, geographic realms were classified according to their economic geographies into developed and underdeveloped groups. The justification for this dichotomy, however, weakened over time. Certain realms not only contained “developed” as well as “underdeveloped” countries; stages of development *within* individual countries varied so greatly that generalizing about them became impractical. We therefore abandoned this particular concept and shifted our focus to the enormous regional and social disparities that are arising in countries where some provinces are developing rapidly while others stagnate. True, some countries remain almost entirely devoid of modernizing development, as we note in the Introduction. But not whole realms—any more.

Another world-transforming process is urbanization. Many of our readers will have noted a small news report in the media recently, to the effect that the upward curve of urbanizing humanity is about to pass the 50 percent mark. For the first time in human history, a majority of people live in cities and towns. We take note of this momentous milestone by introducing a new feature to this edition of *Regions*: “Among the Realm’s Great Cities”—34 brief commentaries on the geographies of many of the world’s leading cities, accompanied by newly drawn maps. From burgeoning Mexico City to mushrooming Shanghai the engines of change, and the crucibles of transculturation, are the great cities.

Regional transformations sometimes require new nomenclature. In the Sixth Edition of *Regions*, we reintroduced the name Turkestan to denote the region of Muslim-influenced countries in Central Asia, newly independent following the collapse of the Soviet Union. In the Seventh Edition, we acknowledged the emergence of a functional region extending from East Asia to eastern Australia, and called it Austrasia. In the Eighth Edition, we take note of the diminishing contrasts and increasing similarities among three Pacific Rim economic powerhouses—Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan—and identify a region of the East Asian realm we call the Jakota Triangle. Among other new regional names to be found in this new edition are Near Abroad (Russia), Republic of the Pampas (Brazil), and Gauteng (South Africa).

The elimination of the developed-underdeveloped duality allowed us to restructure *Regions* more rationally in the context of current world developments. We have repositioned Australia to follow Southeast (and East) Asia, confirming Australia’s ongoing reorientation toward the Pacific Rim and away from its Anglo-European heritage. We have expanded our coverage of the Pacific Realm because of the significance of developments there.

Several chapters have been substantially restructured and revised; all have been shortened. The changing map of unifying Europe receives due attention, but the regional discussion of European states has been condensed by more than one-third. The evolving Russian Federation, its role in the Transcaucasian Transition Zone, and its problems in the Near Abroad also are the subject of revision. The chapter on North America gives greater emphasis to Canada, particularly the devolutionary forces centered in Quebec. New cartography and text marks the revision of the Middle America chapter, especially concerning Mexico as well as the Central American republics. Recognizing the growing economic integration of politically democratizing South America, we have recast that chapter to focus more effectively on giant Brazil and its social, economic, and devolutionary problems, on intra-realm linkages, and on Pacific Rim developments in Chile. The complex chapter on North Africa/Southwest Asia contains new cartography on fossil fuels and Israel and the West Bank. The chapter on Sub-Saharan Africa reintegrates South Africa into its regional framework and presents that state’s new political geography. In South Asia, a new focus is on important developments occurring in India’s Maharashtra State, where a new industrial era has arrived but not without serious socio-political consequences. As noted earlier, a new conceptualization of the East Asian realm incorporates the Jakota Triangle. In the Southeast Asia chapter, greater attention is given to Pacific Rim-related developments, notably in Thailand, Malaysia, and Vietnam. Brief but tightly-focused chapters on the Australian and Pacific realms also benefit from significant revision.

Data Sources

As with every new edition of this book, all quantitative information was updated to the year of publication and checked rigorously. In addition to the major revisions described above, hundreds of other modifications were made, many in response to readers’ and reviewers’ comments. Some readers found our habit of reporting urban population data within the text disruptive, so we now tabulate these at the beginning of the “Regions of the Realm” section of each chapter. The stream of new spellings of geographic

¹Discussion of Pacific Rim areas is integrated into the appropriate realms but can be easily located on the pages with red bars in the outside margins.

names continues, and we pride ourselves on being a reliable source for current and correct usage (the government of the former Soviet Republic of Kazakhstan, for example, insists on its preference for Kazakstan, now the internationally approved form). While we have made major structural changes to this edition, we have not abandoned our attention to geographic detail. The population figures used in the text are our projections for 1997 (unless otherwise indicated) and are consistent with the national demographic data displayed in Appendix A. The chief source that we used as a basis for developing our projections was the 1995 *World Population Data Sheet* published by the Population Reference Bureau, Inc. The urban population figures—which entail a far greater problem in reliability and comparability—are mainly drawn from the most recent (1995) 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 1997 and they represent *metropolitan-area totals* unless otherwise specified.

Cartography

This Eighth Edition continues the innovation of the Seventh, when atlas-style maps from the most recently available edition of *Goode's World Atlas* were used as opening maps for each chapter. In the current edition, two maps were drawn in the Rand McNally style to serve as special openers: the map of North Africa/Southwest Asia and the map of the Pacific Realm; the South Asia map was substantially expanded from its *Goode's* source.

Readers of earlier editions of *Regions* will note that our tradition of updating, enhancing, and improving our own thematic cartography continues. Some 150 new or exhaustively revised maps appear in this edition, including those on Italy (regions and populations), Mexico (both the internal States and the maquiladora zone), South Africa (old and new provinces), the Jakota Triangle (emerging region on the Pacific Rim), and China (ethnolinguistic areas).

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

Photography

The map undoubtedly is geography's closest ally, but there are times when photography is not far behind. Whether from space, from an aircraft, from the tallest building in town, or on the ground, a photograph can, indeed, be worth a thousand words. When geographers perform field re-

search in some area of the world, they are likely to maintain a written record that correlates with the photographic one. Sometimes the combination produces a useful illustration, and in this book many of the authors' photographs, taken in the field, are reproduced with accompanying "field notes." Other photographs, selected to illustrate particular points in the text, have routine captions.

Pedagogy

Over all its editions, this book has been structured to help students learn important geographic concepts as well as appreciate the constantly changing world.

Continuing Special Features

Atlas Map As in the Seventh Edition, a comprehensive map of the region opens each chapter. The maps are reproduced from the 19th revised edition (1994) of *Goode's World Atlas* (the maps for Chapters 6 and 12 have been created in the Atlas style).

Key Ideas & Concepts Each chapter begins with a chronological list of the boldfaced key geographic ideas and concepts discussed in the chapter and serves as a review aid for students.

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 diamond symbol 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.

Focus on a Systematic Field Also located near the opening of each of the twelve realm chapters is a Focus on a Systematic Field essay that covers a major topical subfield of human or physical geography. Each of these overviews was carefully selected so that its contents tie in to regional-geographic material subsequently developed in the chapter. (The entire program is depicted in Figure I-13.)

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

Pronunciation Guide Our readers have lauded the inclusion of Pronunciation Guides at the end of each chapter as a convenient reference. In choosing words for inclusion

(largely place names), we decided not to list words that were pronounced the way they were written unless we thought mispronunciation was likely. Although we strive for authenticity throughout, we aimed for Americanized rather than native-language pronunciations. For many place names, our initial guide was the current edition of *Webster's New Geographical Dictionary*. In choosing the phonetic presentation method, we kept things as simple as possible by avoiding a formalized symbol system that would have required constant decoding. Accordingly, we employed a syllabic phonetic-spelling system with stress syllables capitalized. (For example, we pronounce our surnames duh-BLAY and MULL-uh.) The most frequently used vowel sounds would translate as follows: *ah* as in *father*, *oh* as in *tone*, *au* as in *out*, and *uh* as in *banana*.

Appendices and References At the end of the book, we have included four appendices: (A) Population Data on the World's Countries, (B) a guide to Map Reading and Interpretation, (C) an overview of Career Opportunities in Geography, and (D) Video Links. In addition, lengthy lists of *References and Further Readings* are provided for each chapter. Those lists are followed by the *Gazetteer*, our *Geographical Index* of map names, and by the main index.

New Special Features

Two-part Chapter Organization To help the reader to logically organize the material within chapters, we have broken most of 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 ❖ symbol).

Among the Realm's Great Cities We have added this new feature which reflects the growing process and influence of urbanization worldwide. More than thirty brief profiles of the world's leading cities are presented, each accompanied by newly drawn maps.

Urban Population Tables Early in the "Regions" section of each chapter, we have included a table reporting the most up-to-date urban population data (based on 1997 estimates drawn from the sources listed above). Readers should find this format less disruptive than citing the population when the city is mentioned in the text.

From the Field Notes In the Eighth Edition we have introduced a new feature that has proven effective in some of our other textbooks. Many of the photographs in this book were taken by the senior author while doing field-

work. The extensive captions, *From the Field Notes*, provide valuable insights into how a geographer observes and interprets information in the field.

Video Link Icons One of the most distinctive ancillaries available with this book are the video series. These videos are from different sources: *Geography On Location Video Series with H.J. de Blij* (John Wiley & Sons) and *Good Morning America* (ABC). A video icon and number appear in the margins beside the text discussions of pertinent locations; the specific videos and sources are included in a number list at the end of the book for easy reference in Appendix D.

Ancillaries

A broad spectrum of print and electronic ancillaries are available to accompany this edition of *Regions*. Additional information regarding these ancillaries can be obtained by contacting John Wiley & Sons.

- **Student Study Guide.** Prepared by text co-author Peter Muller and Elizabeth Muller Hames, University of Miami, this top-selling Study Guide contains learning objectives, self-test questions, practice exams, term paper pointers, 48 outline maps, and map exercises, all specifically designed to help students get the most out of their world regional geography course.
- **Instructor's Manual.** Prepared by Laurie Molina, Florida State University, this effective teaching resource provides outlines, descriptions, and key terms to help professors bring the concepts presented in *Regions* to life in the classroom. This new edition of the Instructor's Manual also connects each chapter to the wide variety of media products available to complement the text.
- **Test Bank.** Prepared by longstanding test bank author Ira Sheskin, University of Miami, this expanded test bank contains over 1,500 test items including multiple choice, fill-in, matching, and essay questions, all coordinated with the new edition of *Regions*.
- **Computerized Test Bank.** The test bank is available in computerized form for either IBM or Macintosh.
- **Overhead Transparencies.** 100 full-color maps are available as overhead transparencies.
- **Slide Set.** All 100 full-color maps available as transparencies are also available as full-color 35 mm slides.
- **Geography On Location Video Series with H.J. de Blij.** These three videotapes, comprised of 31 five-minute segments narrated by H.J. de Blij, contain exclusive, up-to-date footage of geographically significant locations throughout the world. The videotapes

not only delve into the physical, economic, historical, social, and political issues relevant to these places, but also provide insights from a uniquely geographic point of view. To find out more about the Geography On Location Videotapes, contact your Wiley representative.

- **Good Morning America Videotapes.** These seven videotapes, sold separately or as a set, are a collection of H.J. de Blij's appearances as Geography Editor on this popular ABC morning news show. Each tape contains 10–15 segments discussing geographically significant issues and world events. To find out more about the Good Morning America Videotapes, contact your Wiley representative.
- **Geography CD-ROM.** This innovative CD-ROM provides a rich, multi-media environment which allows for flexible use of an extensive bank of unique videos, animations, photos, and maps, including thematic map overlays. The videos included on the CD-ROM have been selected from the Geography On Location Videotapes and specifically tailored to the CD-ROM. The program features an intuitive, easy-to-learn interface, and its case approach focuses on four fascinating regions plus an introductory chapter on regional geography. For more information regarding the CD-ROM, contact John Wiley & Sons.
- **Regions** Eighth Edition is also featured as the companion text to **The Power of Place—World Regional Geography**, a PBS television course and video resource produced in collaboration with the Annenberg/CPB Project. *The Power of Place* is a series of twenty-six half-hour video programs organized around the *Regions* text. Each program contains documentary-style case studies that focus on one of eleven geographic realms. Videocassettes can be purchased individually or as a thirteen-tape set. A *Study Guide* and *Faculty Guide* are also available to supplement the programs. For information regarding using *The Power of Place* as a television course, contact the PBS Adult Learning Service at 1-800-257-2578. To purchase videocassettes for institutional or classroom use, contact The Annenberg/CPB Multimedia Collection at 1-800-LEARNER.

Acknowledgments

In the twenty-five years 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 fascinat-

ing 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 more than 600,000 students around the world who have studied from the first seven editions of our text. In particular, we thank the students from 150 different colleges across the country who took the time to send us their opinions of the Seventh Edition. A special recognition goes to the 26 students in Professor David Kromm's Winter 1994–1995 class at Kansas State University who shared with us their honest evaluations of the textbook. In planning the Eighth Edition, we have made a special effort to respond to what these students have told us.

- Students told us they found the maps and graphics attractive and functional. *We have enhanced the map program with exhaustive updating and have added 34 new maps of the world's major cities.*
- Several students also commented that the chapters were long and sometimes wordy. *We have divided the chapters into two parts: the first part covers the general physiography, history, and human geography; the second part is devoted to the various regions within the realm. To add interest for today's student, the authors have added a new feature highlighting the Great Cities of each realm from the point of view of a contemporary visitor. We have also enlivened the layout with a fresh new design.*
- Generally students have told us that they found the pedagogical devices quite useful. *We have kept the study aids the students cited as effective: lists of key ideas and concepts, major geographic qualities, and pronunciation guides.*

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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 Danny I. Reams, Southeast Community College (Nebraska)
 Jim Reck, Golden West College (California)
 Roger Reede, Southwest State University (Minnesota)
 John Ressler, Central Washington University
 John B. Richards, Southern Oregon State College
 David C. Richardson, Evangel College (Missouri)
 Susan Roberts, University of Vermont
 Wolf Roder, University of Cincinnati
 James Rogers, University of Central Oklahoma
 James C. Rose, Tompkins/Cortland Community College (New
 York)
 Thomas E. Ross, Pembroke State University (North Carolina)
 Thomas A. Rumney, State University of New York-Plattsburgh
 George H. Russell, University of Connecticut
 Rajagopal Ryali, Auburn University at Montgomery (Alabama)
 Perry Ryan, Mott Community College
 Adena Schutzberg, Middlesex Community College
 (Massachusetts)
 Sidney R. Sherter, Long Island University (New York)
 Nanda Shrestha, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
 William R. Siddall, Kansas State University
 David Silva, Bee County College (Texas)
 Morris Simon, Stillman College (Alabama)
 Kenn E. Sinclair, Holyoke Community College (Massachusetts)
 Robert Sinclair, Wayne State University (Michigan)
 Everett G. Smith, Jr., University of Oregon
 Richard V. Smith, Miami University (Ohio)
 Carolyn D. Spatta, California State University-Hayward
 M.R. Sponberg, Laredo Junior College (Texas)
 Donald L. Stahl, Towson State University (Maryland)
- Elaine Steinberg, Central Florida Community College
 D.J. Stephenson, Ohio University Eastern
 Herschel Stern, Mira Costa College (California)
 Reed F. Stewart, Bridgewater State College (Massachusetts)
 Noel L. Stirrat, College of Lake County (Illinois)
 George Stoops, Mankato State University (Minnesota)
 Joseph P. Stoltman, Western Michigan University
 P. Suckling, University of Northern Iowa
 T.L. Tarlos, Orange Coast College (California)
 Michael Thede, North Iowa Area Community College
 Derrick J. Thom, Utah State University
 Curtis Thomson, University of Idaho
 S. Toops, Miami University (Ohio)
 Roger T. Trindell, Mansfield University of Pennsylvania
 Dan Turbeville, East Oregon State College
 Norman Tyler, Eastern Michigan University
 George Van Otten, Northern Arizona University
 C.S. Verma, Weber State College (Utah)
 Graham T. Walker, Metropolitan State College of Denver
 (Colorado)
 Deborah Wallin, Skagit Valley College (Washington)
 Mike Walters, Henderson Community College (Kentucky)
 J.L. Watkins, Midwestern State University (Texas)
 P. Gary White, Western Carolina University (North Carolina)
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 Gary Whitton, Fairbanks, Alaska
 Gene C. Wilken, Colorado State University
 Stephen A. Williams, Methodist College
 P. Williams, Baldwin-Wallace College
 Morton D. Winsberg, Florida State University
 Roger Winsor, Appalachian State University (North Carolina)
 William A. Withington, University of Kentucky
 A. Wolf, Appalachian State University
 Joseph Wood, George Mason University (Virginia)
 Richard Wood, Seminole Junior College (Florida)
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H.J. de Blij
Boca Grande, Florida

Peter O. Muller
Coral Gables, Florida

May 10, 1996

A GEOGRAPHY STUDENT'S BEGINNING

College is not an easy thing, that much I know from my own personal experience. Suffering three disappointing false starts after graduating from high school in 1982, I returned for one last shot in the spring of 1990. My previous failures were, looking back with the advantage of hindsight, due largely to a lack of focus and an absence of conviction. My obvious talents were within the fine arts—specifically drawing, photography, and graphic design. However, the academic study of the arts continually left me frustrated. Art was no longer fun. What began as a hobby suddenly became a burden. Thus, the spring semester of 1990 was much like the previous disappointments.

In the fall, I decided on a new approach. I enrolled in what would be the first of many courses under the grand heading of geography. It was something I had always been interested in, but never really knew where to begin. After all, geography's importance was, and still is, sadly misunderstood throughout many college campuses. Nonetheless, as registration closed at Golden West College, I found myself enrolled in two art classes and Geography 100—World Geography.

Three weeks into the semester I dropped the two art classes. A week after that, I formally declared my new major as Geography. The course was challenging and engaging. It was a fresh new discipline that literally opened a window of understanding and appreciation to a much larger world than I had ever known. Don Schmitz, my instructor, was teaching his first class ever. He breathed life into the subject and presented his own knowledge with a conviction that seems too rare in academia these days. Likewise, the textbook he chose for the course was written in much the same way.

As a student, I must come clean and admit that I have never read a textbook and actually enjoyed the experience. However, as a professional geographer, I would personally

like to thank Dr. de Blij and Dr. Muller for their vision and foresight in *Geography: Regions and Concepts*. For me, it is not a simplistic text about geography. In fact, the most unlikely catalyst to my own success as a student of geography is contained between the covers of that book, but doesn't even exist in the body of the text.

In "Appendix C" I learned about what geography was, where it had been, and where it was going. I read discussions about the many sub-disciplines within geography and their uniquely related career paths. I read about a professional organization called the Association of American Geographers and became a student member by semester's end. Most importantly, I uncovered a column that mentioned the importance of internships. Specifically, the appendix provided general information on the National Geographic Society's Geography Intern Program. Suddenly, in the flash of a moment, I was focused, and I had conviction.

Nearly five years and 115 semester hours later at 8:00 a.m. on August 28, 1995, I was not only a recent graduate of California State University-Fullerton, but I was also on the Washington, D.C. Metro on my way to the headquarters of the National Geographic Society. My far reaching goal became realized as I was about to begin my first day as a "geography intern"—one of seven students selected from all reaches of the United States for the 16-week session.

Annually, some 175 applications are submitted to the Geography Intern Program. Of those, only 16 to 24 are selected to participate. Interns are given practical experience within various divisions of the Society during three separate sessions. For me, the experience was more valuable than I could have ever expected. As a cartographer, I was honored and privileged to work alongside some of the finest professionals within the Society's Cartographic Division. The division and the Society as a whole have always held the highest standards when it comes to the ac-

curacy and quality of their products and it has set the benchmark for the future of my career. Ironically, upon completing my internship I immediately went to work as a freelance cartographer for the Society's Book Division and I am now a permanent resident of the D.C. area. As my friend and one-time professor Dr. Robert Arnold wrote to me, "Life has many unforeseen turns . . ."

Suggesting that the appendix of an introductory geography text focused my ambition may seem a bit absurd. However, while a simple, good textbook supplements the instruction of a good professor, and vice versa, a great textbook goes beyond the typical formula. A great textbook attempts to reach students outside of the classroom experience. It interacts, through a synchronous combination of

practical and informative chapters and thoughtful appendices, with those who are genuinely curious about the subject and where it might lead them into the future. On page 615 of my copy of *Geography: Regions and Concepts, Fifth Edition*, exists an inviting doorway ideally marked for the introductory student of geography. I confidently stepped through it and have since resisted looking back to see the plume of dust I left behind.

Louis Spirito

Louis Spirito continues to work as a freelance cartographer for the National Geographic Society. He is planning to begin graduate studies in Cartography at George Mason University in the near future.

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