

*H. J. de Blij & Peter O. Muller*

# Geography: Realms Regions and Concepts 2000



**Ninth Edition**

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**REGIONS 2000**

# **Geography**

**Realms, Regions, and Concepts**

**NINTH EDITION**

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**In memory of  
Stella Kupferberg**

**To the Student:** A Study Guide for the textbook is available through your college bookstore under the title *Study Guide to Accompany Regions 2000, Geography: Realms, Regions, and Concepts*, 9th edition, by H. J. de Blij and Peter O. Muller. The Study Guide can help you with course material by acting as a tutorial, review, and study aid. If the Study Guide is not in stock, ask the bookstore manager to order a copy for you.

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# Preface

**O**ver 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 eight 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 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 confront an educational dilemma that had resulted substantially from a neglect of the very topics this book is about.

Before we can usefully discuss such commonplace topics as our "shrinking world," our "global village," and our "distant linkages," we should know what the parts are, the components that do the shrinking and linking. This is not just an academic exercise. You will find that much of what you encounter in this book is of immediate, practical value to you—as a citizen, a consumer, a traveller, a voter, a jobseeker. North America is a geographic realm with global interests and involvements. Those interests and in-

volvements 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. Each of the remaining twelve chapters focuses on one of the world's major geographic realms.

Geographic concepts and ideas are placed in their regional settings in all 13 chapters. Most of these 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, alternatively, to concentrate mainly on conceptual issues.

## REGIONS 2000 (Ninth 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 devolu-

tion 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.

*Regions 2000* appears at a crucial moment: the turn of a century as well as a millennium. It forms a geographic record of the state of the world as it passes these twin milestones, and will remain forever useful as a basis for comparison as the twenty-first century proceeds. To mark this momentous occasion we have included a **foldout map** of the world as it was in 1900—not a modernized version of it, but almost exactly as it looked when it was published one hundred years ago. That 1900 map is accompanied by a narrative guide describing some of the major changes our century just past has wrought, but we urge you to make your own comparisons. The 1900 map can be folded out right next to each of the maps opening our 13 chapters and you can uncover some fascinating detail. (You will note one difference: the word *empire* appears several times on the 1900 map, but no country today, however large or powerful, would want to be called an empire.) Attitudes have changed.

As readers of successive editions of this book know, we introduce significant conceptual as well as substantive changes with every edition, many of them based on your suggestions and recommendations. In the Eighth Edition, for example, we reformulated the developed-underdeveloped dichotomy in our economic-geographic framework and replaced it with a core-periphery model. In the Seventh Edition, we took note of the emerging Western Pacific Rim region and focused on its expanding internal and external linkages. In the Sixth Edition, we took the lead in reintroducing the regional term *Turkestan* to conceptualize the cultural reorientation of the former Soviet Central Asian republics.

This Ninth Edition also contains major modifications. Perhaps the most obvious will be the **numbering system attached to the Concepts, Ideas, and Terms** that are listed in a box at the beginning of each chapter. Our readers have sometimes had difficulty finding these in the text; now a quick-reference system identifies the point of their introduction.

Another change involves the “Focus on a Systematic Field” that has hitherto been part of the opening segment of each chapter. Again in response to readers’ reactions, we have integrated this material into the main text; the separation created by the discrete “Focus” was viewed by some readers as unnecessary, and we have taken their point. Concepts, ideas and terms introduced in the former “Foci” still will be found in the narrative.

This book always has been known for its **current and**

**accurate data**, now including those for the year 2000 as well as projections into the twenty-first century. Our population data table is derived from as many as a dozen sources, including our own observations in the field (see “Data Sources” below). In this Ninth Edition we have expanded the range of information this table provides and we have repositioned it (as Table I-1 on pp. 36–41) between the Introduction and Chapter 1 to enhance its accessibility.

Once again, all chapters have been substantially revised, and several have been restructured and condensed. Virtually every map has been revised and 21 new maps have been added in this Ninth Edition. In the **Introduction**, the sections on the physical setting and on globalization have been reconstructed, and the introduction to the World Geographic Realms map has been condensed. **Chapter 1 (Europe)** now contains a discussion of regional climates (accompanied by a new map), a discussion of the *regional state* concept, major new material on the European Union, an update on devolutionary forces, and a complete revision of the regional segment, including a re-ordering of the regional sequence. **Chapter 2 (Russia)** has extensive new text including two new tables to streamline and separate the discussion of the internal and peripheral republics; two new maps focus on the Southern Periphery and the Russian Far East. Ten major segments of Chapter 2 are extensively revised in light of recent developments.

**Chapter 3 (North America)** introduces two emerging regions and a revised map of the realm's regional geography. This chapter also expands its focus on Canada, introduces several new concepts, and addresses the intensifying Pacific Rim linkages of California, the U.S. Pacific Northwest, and British Columbia. In **Chapter 4 (Middle America)** Mexico's economic and devolutionary problems are highlighted, along with the impact of Hurricane Mitch on Honduras and Nicaragua as part of this realm's hazardous physical geography. New material on Cuba is accompanied by a new map, and the prospects for Panama are examined as the Canal Zone's transfer occurs. Revised material in **Chapter 5** centers on **South America's** evolving regional integration, on Brazil's enormous development challenges, and on Colombia's ongoing disintegration. This chapter also takes a closer look at the “Latin American City” model.

Two new maps and extensive text revisions mark **Chapter 6 (North Africa/Southwest Asia)**. This is a geographic realm in continuing transition along several frontiers: African, inner Asian, and Mediterranean. The island of Cyprus is divided *de facto* by a geographic-realm boundary, so that its two components are discussed in Chapters 1 and 6, respectively. The continuing evolution of a Palestinian state, coupled with the fate of Jerusalem, has required revision of the Middle East segment. And the reorientation of Afghanistan following the Taliban

takeover compels a realignment of regions there. The conclusion of Chapter 6 is totally rewritten to reflect current conditions. **Chapter 7 (Subsaharan Africa)** also has been extensively revised. New maps on the historical geography and the prevalence of Islam accompany new text on ancient African states and modern cultural problems. New material also focuses on Africa's natural environments, wildlife, land tenure and farming practices, languages, religions, traditional societies, population, and urbanization. In the regional section of Chapter 7, the segments on West and Equatorial Africa are substantially rewritten to reflect current geographic circumstances.

A new introduction opens **Chapter 8 (South Asia)**, and the pressing issue of population receives even more attention than in previous editions. The important geographic changes affecting Pakistan are recorded in some detail, as are those involving Bangladesh. We also introduce a more logical regional sequence, focusing on the mountain states of the north before concluding with the islands of the south.

**East Asia (Chapter 9)** changes so fast that every new edition seems to require an almost total reconstruction of the relevant chapter. We present a completely new segment of text dealing with natural environments and human adaptation in this realm. Another innovation for the Ninth Edition is a three-page table chronicling China's dynasties and their geographic expression, from the latest discoveries concerning the Xia to the "Manchu Map" of the Qing. This table accompanies new material on East Asia's historical geography and early cultural geography. We also have revised the introduction to the regional discussion, and present new material on China's relative location and its effect on national life. The sections on China's administrative organization—from the "Open Cities" to the Hong Kong S.A.R. and its changing economic geography—also are completely rewritten to reflect ongoing developments. Important developments are occurring as well on China's western flank, and a new map accompanies new text on this important subregion. Major sections of the narrative on North Korea, South Korea, and Japan also are extensively revised.

**Chapter 10 (Southeast Asia)** has a new opening and a stronger introductory focus on the realm's physical geography to better set the stage for the ensuing discussion of its human geography. Although considerable revision centers on Cambodia (notably the Mekong River Basin), Thailand, and the Philippines, the major changes in this chapter involve Indonesia. Important geographic developments affect all of Indonesia's major islands, and each of these now receives individual attention in physical as well as human contexts. A new two-page map accompanies this revision.

In **Chapter 11 (the Austral Realm)** the revised material focuses on physical geography and biogeography, but perhaps the key geographic issue, discussed in consider-

able detail, involves the rising tide of aboriginal claims to Australia's lands. **Chapter 12 (the Pacific Realm)** now includes a new narrative on Melanesia, a revised section on maritime issues, and new material on the Pacific Ocean and Antarctica.

This summary can only cover the highlights of the revisions than went into *Regions 2000*. No page, no paragraph, and no map escaped our scrutiny.

## Data Sources

For all matters geographical, of course, we consult *The Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, *The Professional Geographer*, *The Geographical Review*, *The Journal of Geography*, and many other academic journals published regularly in North America—plus an array of similar periodicals published in English-speaking countries from Scotland to New Zealand.

As with every new edition of this book, all quantitative information was updated to the year of publication and checked rigorously. 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 continue to tabulate these at the beginning of the "Regions of the Realm" section of each chapter. The stream of new spellings of geographic names continues, and we pride ourselves in being a reliable source for current and correct usage.

The statistical data that constitute Table I-1 (pp. 36–41) are derived from numerous sources. As users of such data are aware, considerable inconsistency marks the reportage by various agencies, and it is often necessary to make informed decisions on contradictory information. For example, some sources still do not reflect the rapidly declining rates of population increase or life expectancies in AIDS-stricken African countries. Others list demographic averages without accounting for differences between males and females in this regard.

In formulating Table I-1 we have used among our sources the United Nations, the Population Reference Bureau, the World Bank, the Encyclopaedia Britannica *Books of the Year*, the *Economist Intelligence Unit*, the *Statesman's Year-Book*, and the *The New York Times Almanac*.

The urban population figures—which also entail major problems of reliability and comparability—are mainly drawn from the most recent database published by the United Nations' Population Division. For cities of less than 750,000, we developed our own estimates from a variety of other sources. At any rate, the urban population figures used here are estimates for 2000 and they represent *metropolitan-area totals* unless otherwise specified.

## Cartography

*Regions 2000* continues the innovation begun in the Seventh Edition, when atlas-style maps from the most recently available edition of *Goode's World Atlas* were first used as opening maps for each chapter. In the Eighth Edition, two maps were specifically drawn in the Rand McNally style to serve as matching openers: those of North Africa/Southwest Asia and the Pacific Realm. The South Asia map was substantially expanded from its *Goode's* base.

Readers of earlier editions of this book will note that our tradition of updating, enhancing, and improving our own thematic cartography continues. In *Regions 2000* the following maps are new:

- 1-5 Global Earthquakes and Volcanism (p. 10)
- 1-2 Europe's Climates (p. 45)
- 1-7 Europe: Industrialization (p. 54)
- 1-8 Languages of Europe (p. 57)
- 1-12 Regions of Europe (p. 67)
- 1-14 Germany's States (p. 71)
- 1-20 Regions of Italy (p. 88)
- 2-13 Southern Russia's Peripheries (p. 143)
- 2-14 Russian Far East (p. 148)
- 3-12 U.S. Ethnic Minorities (p. 169)
- 3-19 Dallas-Fort Worth Employment (p. 190)
- 4-7 Cuba (p. 213)
- 4-13 Altitudinal Zonation (p. 228)
- 6-12 Muslims in African Transition Zone (p. 307)
- 6-20 South-Central Eurasian Ethnic Groups (p. 330)
- 7-5 Ancient Africa (p. 347)
- 7-12 Nigeria (p. 360)
- 8-2 Regions of South Asia (p. 382)
- 9-15 China's Western Flank (p. 461)
- 9-18 Pearl River Megalopolis (p. 469)
- 10-11 Indonesia (pp. 522-523)

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.

This Ninth Edition contains photography not only by its senior author but also by three colleagues, Barbara Weightman of California State University, Fullerton; Mary Lee Nolan and associates of Oregon State University; and Philip Keating of the University of Miami. The field notes accompanying photos contributed by these colleagues were edited by the authors from information provided by the photographers.

## Pedagogy

We continue to devise ways to help students learn important geographic concepts and ideas, and to make sense of our complex and rapidly changing world. Continuing special features include the following:

**Atlas Maps** As in previous editions, a comprehensive map of the region opens each chapter. The maps are reproduced from the 19th revised edition (1995) of *Goode's World Atlas* (the maps for Chapters 6 and 12 have been created in the Atlas style). In the Ninth Edition, each of these maps is assigned the first figure number in each chapter, which better facilitates the integration of this cartographic material into the text.

**Concepts, Ideas, and Terms** Each chapter begins with a boxed sequential listing of the key geographic concepts, ideas, and terms that appear in the pages that follow. These are noted by numbers in the margins that correspond to the introduction of each item in the text.

**Two-Part Chapter Organization** To help the reader to logically organize the material within chapters, we have broken the regional chapters into two distinct parts: first, "Defining the Realm" includes the general physiographic, historical, and human-geographic background common to the realm, and the second section, "Regions of the Realm," presents each of the distinctive regions within the realm (denoted by ► symbol).

**List of Regions** Also on the chapter opening page, a list of the regions within the particular realm provides a preview and helps to organize the chapter. For ease of identification, the triangular symbol 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.

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

**Among the Realm's Great Cities** This feature reflects the growing process and influence of urbanization worldwide. More than thirty profiles of the world's leading cities are presented, each accompanied by specially 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 2000 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 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 (as well as the colleagues listed above) while doing fieldwork. The more extensive captions, *From the Field Notes*, provide valuable insights into how a geographer observes and interprets information in the field.

**Appendices, References, and Glossary** At the end of the book, the reader will find five sections that enrich and/or supplement the main text: (1) *Appendix A*, a guide to Map Reading and Interpretation; (2) *Appendix B*, an overview of Career Opportunities in Geography; (3) *Appendix C*, a Pronunciation Guide; (4) a detailed Bibliography that introduces the wide-ranging literature of the discipline and World Regional Geography; and (5) an extensive Glossary. The general index follows. A geographical index or *gazetteer* of the place names contained in our maps now appears on the book's Web Site.

## New Features for the Ninth Edition

**Numbering System for Concepts, Ideas, and Terms** To enhance the utility of a key attribute of this book, we have numbered the boxed listing of concepts, ideas, and terms at the beginning of each chapter in their order of appearance. These numbers appear in the text margin when the appropriate term is introduced.

**Map of the World in 1900** To mark the turn of the century, we present a map of the world one hundred years ago as it appeared shortly after the year 1900. This map folds out so that it may be compared to any other map in *Regions 2000*, and is accompanied by a narrative guide.

**Virtual Field Trips** Written by Barbara Weightman (California State University-Fullerton), Claudia Lowe (Fullerton College), and Mary Lee Nolan (Oregon State University), the *Virtual Field Trips* are designed for flexible use by faculty and students. Organized around ten fascinating journeys and connected directly to the geographic concepts in their respective chapters in *Regions 2000*, the *Virtual Field Trips* collectively comprise: 250 color slides of people and places around the world, with each image accompanied by an engaging and variegated narrative; ten full-color maps with active links to the photos represented by each stop on each journey; and a powerful set of activities that present the opportunity for solid qualitative and quantitative fieldwork. These activities, called Field Guides, include items that utilize the World Wide Web. Active links to World Wide Web Sites are embedded in the Field Guide. The interface and navigational scheme for the *Virtual Field Trips* are intuitive, simple, and fun to use. The *Virtual Field Trips* is a password-access site located on the *Regions 2000* Web Site on the John Wiley server. The photos, photo captions, and maps are also on the Instructor's Resource CD-ROM described below.

Please see the final two pages in this text for a more complete description of the 10 *Virtual Field Trips* and a visual presentation of the screen design and interface.

## Ancillaries

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

## FOR SALE TO THE STUDENT

**Student Study Guide** Text co-author Peter O. Muller and his geographer daughter, Elizabeth Muller Hames, have written a popular Study Guide to accompany the book, which is packed with useful study and review tools. For each chapter in the textbook, the Study Guide gives students and faculty access to chapter objectives, content questions-and-answers, outline maps of each realm, sample tests, and more.

**Goode's Atlas from Rand McNally** With the Ninth Edition of *Regions*, we are delighted to be able to continue offering the *Goode's Atlas* at a deeply-discounted price when shrink-wrapped with the text. Economies of scale allow us to provide this to you and your students at a net price that is close to our cost. Our partnership with Rand McNally and the widely-popular *Goode's Atlas* is an arrangement that is exclusive to John Wiley & Sons.

**Microsoft® Encarta® Virtual Globe CD-ROM** This award-winning atlas CD-ROM will captivate the imaginations of your students and engage them in a spatial adventure, all the while exposing them to an abundance of resources appropriate for university-level geography. An *Activity Guide* by Professors Thomas Bell and Margaret Gripshover was developed to rein in the multiple textures of the CD-ROM and give faculty and students a goal-oriented workbook environment that connects directly to each of the chapters in de Blij and Muller's *Regions*. The *Activity Guide* is free with every shrink-wrapped set of the Encarta CD-ROM and the de Blij and Muller textbook. Our arrangement with Microsoft enables us to offer Encarta® Virtual Globe® at a cost that is less than one-third the suggested retail price when shrink-wrapped with our text.

**Take Note! Map Notebook** For a nominal cost, the *Take Note! Map Notebook* can be shrink-wrapped with the textbook. This useful tool includes a black-and-white version of all the maps and illustrations found in the overhead projection resources for *Regions 2000* Ninth Edition, the transparency and slide sets, and the Resource CD-ROM. Students will feel free to make notes directly on the figure in the *Take Note! Map Notebook* while the instructor discusses the projected map or illustration, or as they study for the course.

**Annenberg Power of Place: World Regional Geography Study Guide, Third Edition** The Third Edition of the *Power of Place: World Regional Geography Study Guide* updates content and references so that the Annenberg/Power of Place Telecourse and Video Series connects to the Ninth Edition of de Blij and Muller's *Regions*. It was written by Gil Latz, Portland State University.

#### THE REGIONS WEB SITE: ON-LINE RESOURCES FOR INSTRUCTORS AND STUDENTS

**Chapter Outlines (PowerPoint Slides)** Electronic files of an outline of *Regions* is available on the instructor's and student's Web Sites, and can be uploaded to presentation programs such as PowerPoint, or to any popular word processing program.

**Instructor's Manual** Distributed on-line to instructors via a secure, password-protected Web Site, the *Instructor's Manual* by James F. Fryman, University of Northern Iowa, provides outlines, descriptions, and key terms to help professors organize the concepts in the book for classroom use.

**Test Bank** Prepared by long-term Test Bank author Ira Sheskin, University of Miami, the *Test Bank* for the Ninth Edition of *Regions* contains over 1,500 test items including multiple choice, fill-in, matching, and essay. It is dis-

tributed via the secure instructor's Web Site as electronic files, which can be saved into all major word processing programs.

**Teaching Assistant Survival Guide** Teaching world regional geography can be a daunting proposition for the first-time instructor, especially for those at the graduate-student level. The new *TA Survival Guide* features teaching tips and strategies designed specifically for de Blij and Muller's *Regions*, Ninth Edition. Edited by a current senior Teaching Assistant, with contributions from Teaching Assistants around the United States, it is delivered electronically via the *Regions* Web Site.

#### OTHER RESOURCES FOR THE CLASSROOM

**Overhead Transparencies and Slides** The book's maps and diagrams are available for either transparency or slide projection. Each of the sets, transparency and slide, feature the same figures.

**Regions Resource CD-ROM** This rich resource contains all the photography from the *Virtual Field Trips*, all the maps, diagrams, and most of the photography from the textbook, and electronic files of an outline of the text. Organized by chapter, the *Regions* Resource CD-ROM has a tested, intuitive interface that allows for easy file management and presentation building. If the instructor prefers to use programs such as PowerPoint in the classroom, the text, map, and photo files can be uploaded easily from the Resource CD-ROM into your presentation program.

**Geography On-Location with H. J. de Blij Video Series** Each video in this three-video set comprises fifty minutes of original, current footage taken during fieldwork by Harm de Blij. The *Geography On-Location* video series is organized regionally, but is a rich resource of media for both thematic and regional approaches.

**Regions** is 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, and features on-screen commentary by H. J. de Blij. 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 the use of *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

Over the nearly three decades since the publication of the First Edition of *Geography: Realms, Regions, and Concepts*, we have been fortunate to receive advice and assistance from literally hundreds of people. One of the rewards associated with the publication of a book of this kind is the steady stream of correspondence and other feedback it generates. Geographers, economists, political scientists, education specialists, and others have written us, often with fascinating enclosures. We make it a point to respond personally to every such letter, and our editors have communicated with many of our correspondents as well. Moreover, we have considered every suggestion made—and many who wrote or transmitted their reactions through other channels will see their recommendations in print in this edition.

## STUDENT RESPONSE

A good part of the correspondence we receive comes from student readers. On this occasion, we would like to extend our deep appreciation to the several million students around the world who have studied from the first eight 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. Special recognition goes to the 26 students in a recent class taught by Professor David Kromm at Kansas State University, who shared with us their honest evaluations of the textbook. In planning the current edition, we 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 21 new maps to this Ninth Edition.

Several students also commented that the chapters were long and sometimes wordy. We now have a shorter Introduction, and the ensuing chapters on the world's 12 geographic realms are divided into two parts: the first part covers the realm's 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 and refined 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: a boxed list of each chapter's key concepts, ideas, and terms (now numbered for quick reference in both the box and text margins); a box summarizing each realm's major geographic qualities; a pronunciation guide in Appendix C; and an extensive Glossary.

## FACULTY FEEDBACK

Faculty members from a large number of North American colleges and universities continue to supply us with vital feedback and much-appreciated advice. Our publishers commissioned a number of reviews, and we are most grateful to the following professors for showing us where the written text could be strengthened and made more precise:

James P. Allen, California State University, Northridge  
 Royal Berglee, Indiana State University  
 Stanley D. Brunn, University of Kentucky  
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 Debra Straussfogel, University of New Hampshire  
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 Christopher Sutton, Western Illinois University

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

James P. Allen, California State University, Northridge  
 Stephen S. Birdsall, University of North Carolina  
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