

International Relations

The Global Condition in
the Late Twentieth Century



Second Edition

Frederic S. Pearson ■ J. Martin Roches

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The Global Condition in the Late Twentieth Century

SECOND EDITION

Frederic S. Pearson

J. Martin Rochester

Both of the University of Missouri—St. Louis



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*For Melvadean and Ruth, experts in the fine
art of conflict resolution, and for Stephen, Sean, Nathaniel,
Helen, and Emma and all those for whom the global condition
will be a way of life*

Second Edition

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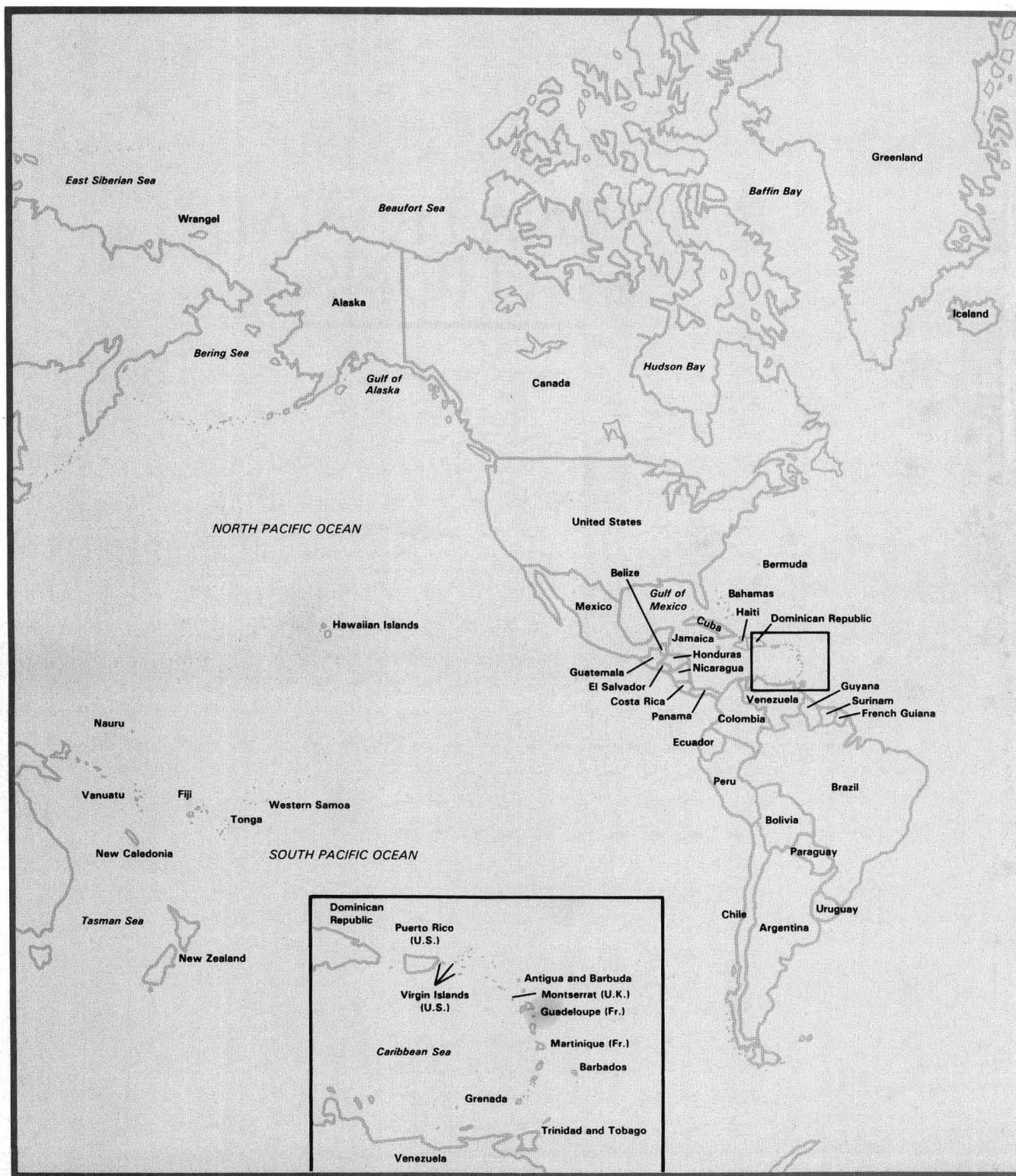


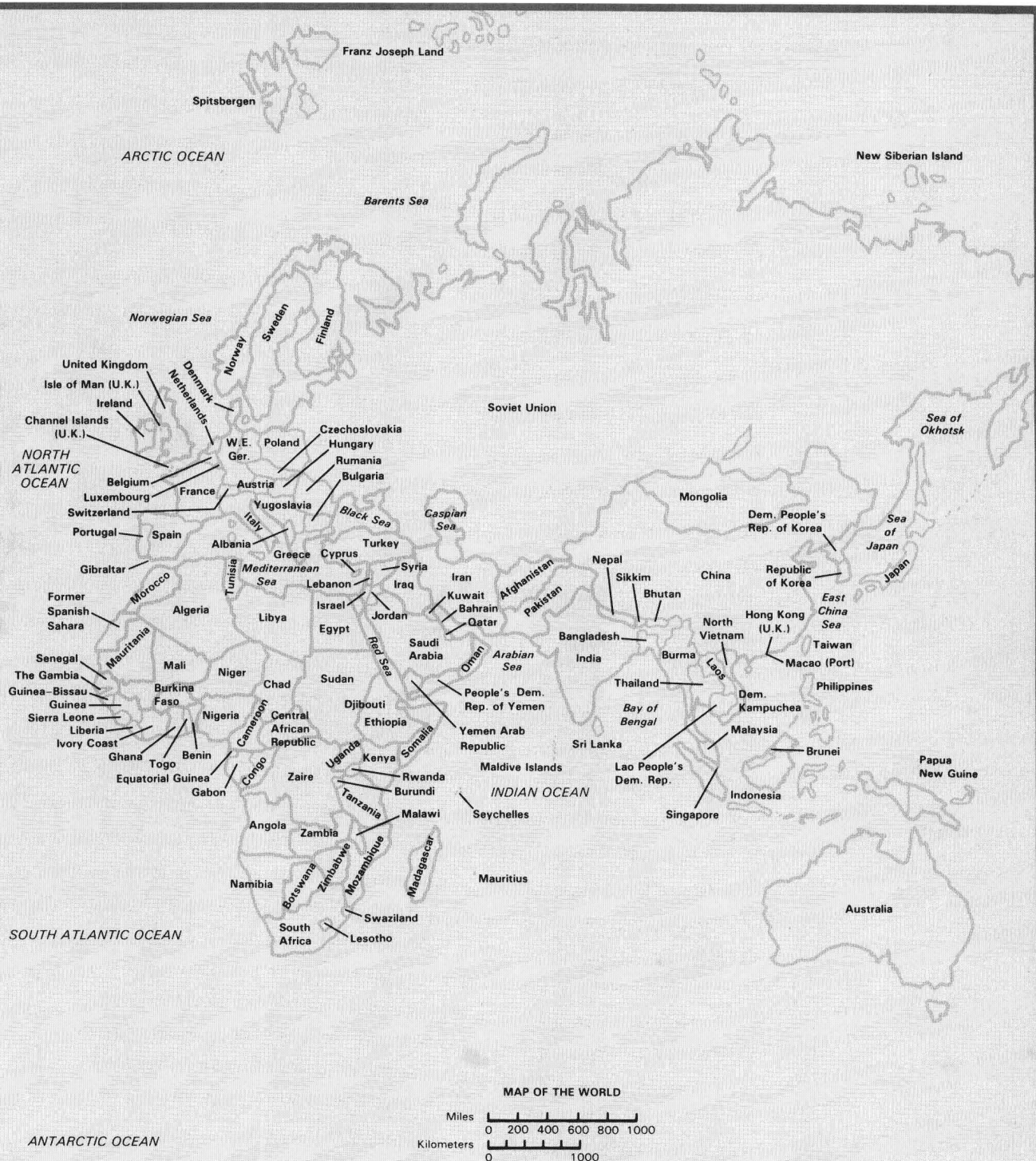
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Preface

When we began this project, the immediate question we faced was: Does the world really need another international relations textbook, given the many books already available on this subject? We answered in the affirmative, convinced that we could write a book that would be somewhat distinctive in content as well as style. In particular, we were seeking to write a book that would somehow appeal to beginning students—its primary audience—as well as to more knowledgeable readers, a book that would combine in a balanced fashion the traditional as well as the new approaches to the study of international relations. We believe we succeeded in this goal, but we will let the reader be the judge. This second edition follows the same orientation as the first, but includes considerable updating of information, major revision of certain sections, and some reorganization of topics, all designed to improve upon the initial version.

In terms of *content*, we have tried to give comprehensive coverage to the major topics in the field. The general theme of the book can be summarized as the need for scholars, policymakers, and laymen to take into account the complex variety of relationships that exist today—among more than 5 billion people, 160 countries (nation-states), and 3000 international organizations—in order to understand the “global condition” in the late twentieth century and to make intelligent judgments about international affairs. Although nation-states remain the key actors in the drama of world politics, and national security the fundamental concern, other actors and issues are competing for attention, with these forces containing the seeds of both increased conflict and increased cooperation among peoples. The organization of the text carefully reflects this theme. Part I introduces international relations as a field of study and provides *historical* background for contemporary world politics. Part II focuses on *states* as actors and examines the determinants of foreign policy, international bargaining and diplomacy, and war. Part III focuses on *international institutions*, including international law and international organizations. Part IV examines the congeries of forces involved in *global problem solving*, with separate chapters devoted to arms races, terrorism, coordination of the world economy, economic development, and the management of renewable and nonrenewable resources. Part V contains a concluding chapter that looks to the *future*—the year 2000 and beyond—and offers an analysis of alternative world order models.

In terms of *style*, we have sought to combine high scholarly standards with readability. The text discusses the latest theoretical ideas and research findings in a lively, readable manner—complete with photographs, cartoons, tables, graphs, case studies, and vignettes. We feel that these “supplementary” materials have not in any way compromised academic integrity but instead have added another dimension to the text. For the beginning student, we have employed several pedagogical aids, including a summary of important points and suggested readings at the end of each chapter, and a glossary of terms. For the more scholarly reader, a notes section is provided at the end of the book.

Admittedly, it is often difficult to find a lighter side to a world in which several million people lack access to drinkable water, and in which the stockpile of nuclear weapons amounts to roughly fifteen tons of TNT for every man, woman, and child on earth. Notwithstanding the cartoons and sidelights, the reader will find that the authors consider international relations a deadly serious subject—a subject where the ability to develop and communicate sound knowledge will have much bearing on the prospect of humanity’s surviving into the next century. We hope this book makes at least some small contribution in this regard.

As with any project that has consumed several years of effort, we are indebted to many people. At the very top, we must acknowledge the special contribution of Professor Edwin Fedder, who as Director of the Center for International Studies at the University of Missouri-St. Louis provided the kind of personal, intellectual, and material support for this project that was indispensable. We wish to thank the Center for International Studies itself, including staff members Robert Baumann, Mary Hines, and Shirley Watts, who provided a myriad of services too numerous to mention, as well as Jan Frantzen, Lana Sink, and Pamela Vierdag of the Political Science Department staff, and Rebecca Thompson. We greatly appreciate the cooperation of the many publishers who granted us permission to use copyrighted material. We also owe considerable thanks to the many reviewers who offered helpful critiques of the manuscript. A long-standing intellectual debt must be acknowledged to our “mentors,” William Coplin at Syracuse University and J. David Singer at the University of Michigan, both of whom in their own way taught us the importance of sound scholarship in collecting evidence and of sound pedagogy in presenting it. Finally our acknowledgments would be incomplete without expressing gratitude to Bert Lummus, our editor, and to his superb staff at Random House—particularly project editor Beena Kamlani and assistant editor Pat Plunkett—who all contributed greatly to the final product.

For our families who have had to live with us for the past several years, amidst the conflict that always attends collaboration, we reserve a well-earned dedication.

F.S.P.
J.M.R.

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