

f o u r t h e d i t i o n

WORLD POLITICS

International Politics on the World Stage, Brief



John T. Rourke



Mark A. Boyer

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World Politics: International Politics on the World Stage, Brief, Fourth Edition

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Preface

We live in an era of unprecedented change and challenge in world politics. From the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, to uncertain economic relationships, to the rise and fall and rise again of ethnic violence, we are constantly confronted with new political, economic, and social phenomena. *World Politics: International Politics on the World Stage, Brief*, Fourth Edition, has been developed as a shorter international relations text in order to provide students and teachers with the opportunity to explore international relations and its new challenges in a straightforward, accessible way. In contrast to a course that centers on the original, longer edition of this text, this brief edition is designed to allow for the use of more supplemental materials (such as cases, simulations, special topical approaches to the field, or computer applications). The course can thus be tailored to fit a variety of teaching and learning styles.

The brief edition is, however, more than just an abridged version of the longer edition. It has been updated both in terms of substantive examples and scholarly research. This edition also has four fewer chapters than the longer one and has been reorganized considerably to reflect the needs of a shorter approach to the field. Still it retains the sense of international political drama portrayed in the original *International Politics on the World Stage*, Eighth Edition.

Being a ConnecText means that this book makes extensive use of the growth in information technologies and provides the student and teacher with a well-developed Web site of resources to aid in student learning. In addition, many items are marked in the text as hyperlinks that will point the students to Web sites relevant to the topic under discussion. The Web-based resources, all flagged with a Web icon in the chapters, augment the material in the book itself. The book can be used without them, but we have endeavored to make this Web site something new and different. In particular, we have created interactive exercises for each chapter of the book. Some of these activities allow students to compare their ideas with others who are accessing the Web site, while others are focused on in-class activities. In each case, they emphasize the active learning orientation of the authors of this book and of the book itself. In essence, we developed this Web site on the firm conviction that students learn and retain more by *doing* rather than by reading alone. We welcome your feedback on this initiative, so if you have thoughts or ideas about this material (or anything else related to the book), please contact us at the Web site Message Board or at *World Politics: International Politics on the World Stage, Brief*, McGraw-Hill/Dushkin, 530 Old Whitfield Street, Guilford, CT 06437.



The text is organized in the following way: Chapters 1, 2, and 3 focus on approaches to the study of international relations. Chapter 1 makes the case that international relations do matter to the average student and that the individual

student can have an impact on international relations. It also lays out the basically theoretical and conceptual debates, in particular the recurrent divide between realist and idealist approaches to analysis and prescription in world affairs. Chapter 2 is primarily historical. It traces the evolution of the international system, concentrating on how the contemporary international system has its roots in the past and the degree to which both centralizing and decentralizing tendencies coexist in world affairs today. Chapter 3 lays out the conceptual framework of the levels of analysis to show students the different perspectives that can be used to structure our study of international relations.

The second section of the book comprises chapters 4 through 9 and follows the structure of examining the traditional versus the alternative approaches to world politics. Chapters 4 and 5 examine the forces of nationalism and transnationalism, respectively. Chapters 6 and 7 focus on the traditional dominance of national states in international affairs and the rising role and influence of international organizations. And chapters 8 and 9 lead the reader through the traditional role of power and diplomacy in the world to the impact of international law on constraining behavior of actors on the world stage.

The last portion of the book, chapters 10 through 14, discusses an array of the substantive issues of world affairs. Chapter 10 focuses on the traditional high politics issues of war and peace, military influence, and arms control. Chapters 11 and 12 highlight the importance and rising influence, of economic issues in the world. Chapter 12 in particular discusses the dual tendencies of competition and cooperation in international political economy. Chapter 13 examines the human condition internationally, showing how culture, economics, and power impact the ways people live and are treated around the world. And lastly, chapter 14 elucidates the issues of ecological quality and sustainable development as well as the challenges that are emerging in that substantive area.

Even with all these changes, *World Politics: International Politics on the World Stage, Brief*, maintains the conceptual and theoretical sophistication of the longer edition and employs the same standards of timeliness and readability found therein. *World Politics* presents the student and teacher with the most up-to-date coverage of the substance of current international relations, including the new focus on a “war against terrorism” and the expanding roles of the UN and NATO during crises. This provides the student with stronger ties to the real world of international relations. In other words, illustrations of current events make the concepts and theory of the textbook come alive in demonstrative ways.

The brief edition also seeks to be student-friendly. Its wide use of graphics such as photographs, figures, tables, and maps gives visual life to the text ideas. A glossary, chapter outlines and summaries, and an extensive bibliography are also included to aid the student in studying and the faculty member in teaching.

Finally, this edition maintains the standards of the longer edition in continuously accessing scholarly research. We have included the insights of newly published research, even material that has been published since the last edition of the parent text came out. This means that the student today is reading a state-of-the-art discussion in international relations.

Before closing, we would like to acknowledge a number of the scholars who took the time to review our initial plan to condense the material of the longer edition. Their input and ideas were invaluable in the process that we have undertaken over the past years. They are:

Russell Bove, Dickinson College
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The time and effort they put into reviewing our approach is greatly appreciated.

We would like to thank James Allan, University of Connecticut, for the tireless work he has done to keep this book's Web site current, interesting, and engaging for students. The high quality of his work in the past three editions is much appreciated and is a key to the success of this project in the classroom. Michael Butler has recently taken over these tasks and continues in the fine tradition of providing students with the most up-to-date information possible.

Lastly, a special word of thanks is due to Kimberly Weir. Her unfailing efforts in helping to update this edition, in finding what seemed like an endless series of appropriate Web sites for inclusion in the text and on our companion site, and in bringing a fresh perspective, as she always does, to international politics made this a much better book than we could have produced otherwise. Put simply, this book would not have been possible without her dedication and participation in the project.

Along those same lines and to close, we ask that you please let us know if you have any comments on what we have done in this volume. We hope that you will write to us with any insights you have on how we can make this volume more student-friendly and teacher-useful while continuing its lively mix of contemporary substance and scholarly research. We are in the business of teaching about world affairs, but we can do our job well only if we hear how we are doing from both teachers and students.

John T. Rourke
Mark A. Boyer



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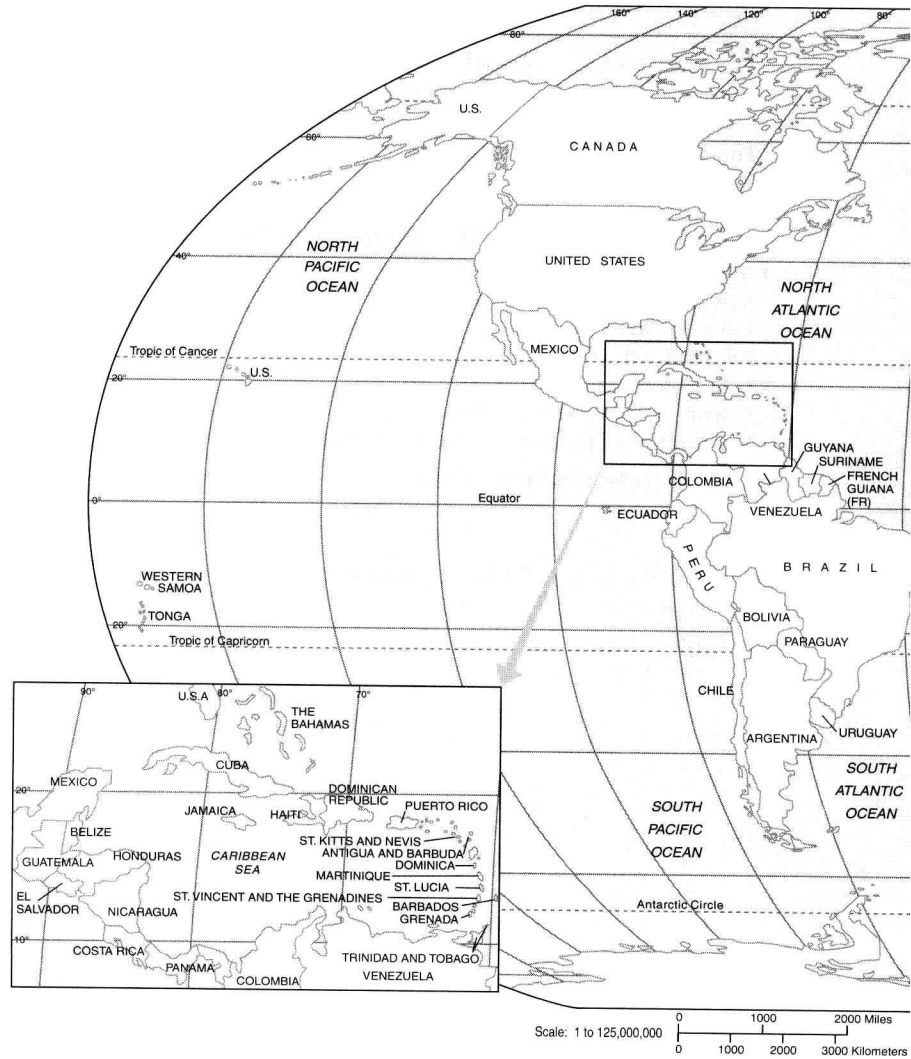
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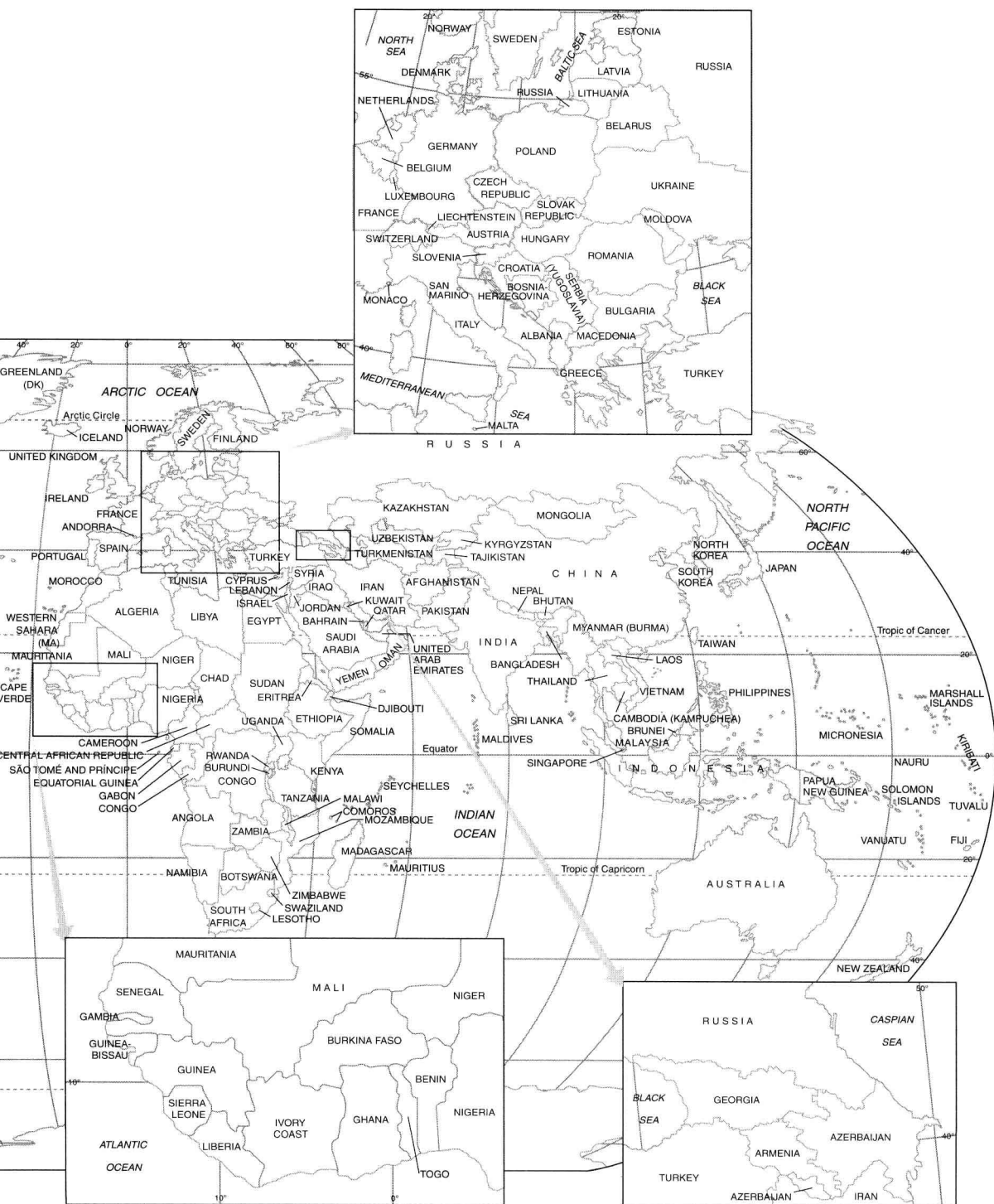
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Countries of the World





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