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Dr. F. Jeffress Ramsay

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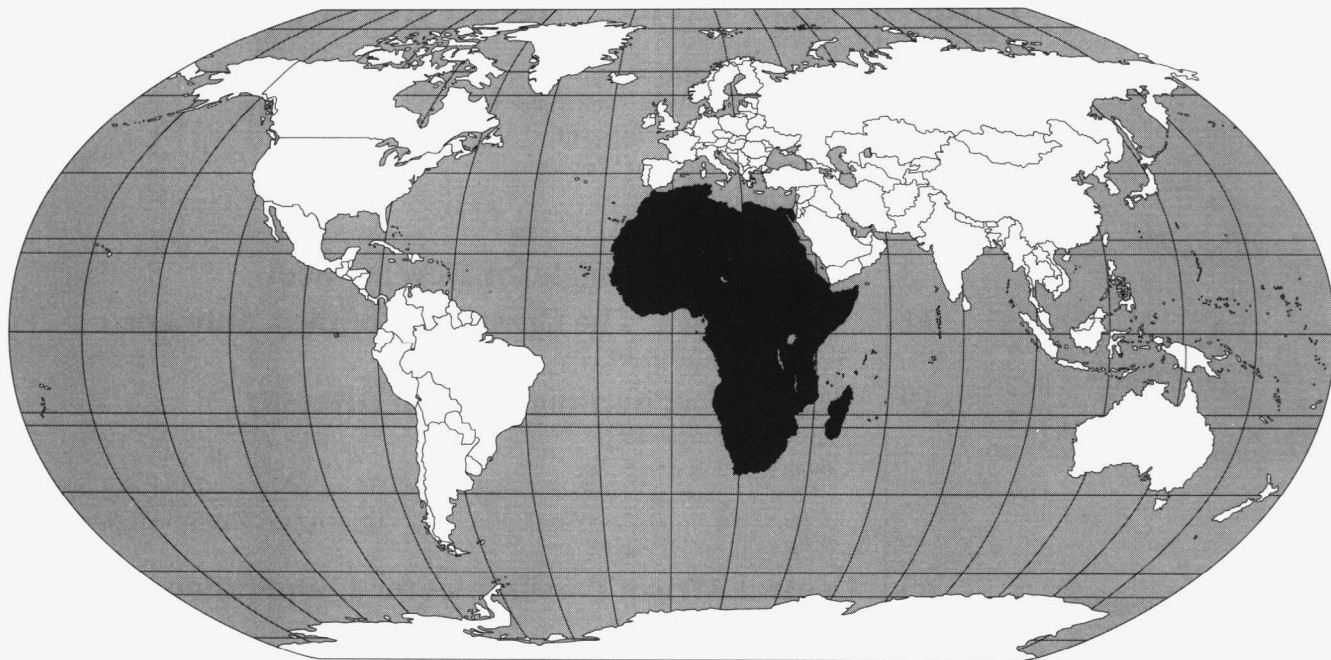
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Africa



AUTHOR/EDITOR

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Dr. F. Jeffress ("Jeff") Ramsay, the author/editor of *Global Studies: Africa*, obtained his Ph.D. in African history from Boston University. He has extensive experience in both secondary and tertiary education in the United States and in Botswana, where he is currently the principal of Legae Academy in Gaborone. Dr. Ramsay writes regularly for Botswana newspapers as well as popular and academic periodicals; he is the chairperson of the Botswana Media Consultative Council and secretary of the Botswana Society; and he has been involved in the development of regional museums. A recent recipient of Botswana's Presidential Order of Honour for his varied contributions to the country, Dr. Ramsay is a Botswana citizen.

Along with Barry Morton and Themba Mgadla, Dr. Ramsay is the coauthor of *Building a Nation, a History of Botswana from 1800–1910* (Longman Botswana, 1996); he is the coeditor with Fred Morton of *Birth of Botswana, a History of the Bechuanaland Protectorate from 1910–1966* (Longman Botswana, 1987); the coauthor of *A Historical Dictionary of Botswana* (Scarecrow Press, 3rd ed., 1997), with Barry Morton and Fred Morton; he collaborated with Barry Morton on *The Making of a President, Sir Ketumile Masire's Early Years* (Pula Press, 1996); and, along with Lucey Clarke, he coauthored *New Three Year I. C. Social Studies Revision Notes* (Tasalls, 1997).

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Using Global Studies: Africa

THE GLOBAL STUDIES SERIES

The Global Studies series was created to help readers acquire a basic knowledge and understanding of the regions and countries in the world. Each volume provides a foundation of information—geographic, cultural, economic, political, historical, artistic, and religious—that will allow readers to better assess the current and future problems within these countries and regions and to comprehend how events there might affect their own well-being. In short, these volumes present the background information necessary to respond to the realities of our global age.

Each of the volumes in the Global Studies series is crafted under the careful direction of an author/editor—an expert in the area under study. The author/editors teach and conduct research and have traveled extensively through the regions about which they are writing.

In this *Global Studies: Africa* edition, the author/editor has written introductory essays on the continent as a whole, several regional essays, and country reports for each of the countries included.

MAJOR FEATURES OF

THE GLOBAL STUDIES SERIES

The Global Studies volumes are organized to provide concise information on the regions and countries within those areas under study. The major sections and features of the books are described here.

Regional Essays

For *Global Studies: Africa*, the author/editor has written several essays focusing on the religious, cultural, sociopolitical, and economic differences and similarities of the countries and peoples in the various regions of Africa. Regional maps accompany the essays.

Country Reports

Concise reports are written for each of the countries within the region under study. These reports are the heart of each Global Studies volume. *Global Studies: Africa, Eighth Edition*, contains 48 country reports.

The country reports are composed of five standard elements. Each report contains a detailed map visually positioning the country among its neighboring states; a summary of statistical information; a current essay providing important historical, geographical, political, cultural, and economic information; a historical timeline, offering a convenient visual survey of a few key historical events; and four “graphic indicators,” with summary statements about the country in terms of development, freedom, health/welfare, and achievements.

A Note on the Statistical Reports

The statistical information provided for each country has been drawn from a wide range of sources. (The most frequently referenced are listed on page 234.) Every effort has been made to provide the most current and accurate information available. However, sometimes the information cited by these sources differs to some extent; and, all too often, the most current information available for some countries is

somewhat dated. Aside from these occasional difficulties, the statistical summary of each country is generally quite complete and up to date. Care should be taken, however, in using these statistics (or, for that matter, any published statistics) in making hard comparisons among countries. We have also provided comparable statistics for the United States and Canada, which can be found on pages viii and ix.

World Press Articles

Within each Global Studies volume is reprinted a number of articles carefully selected by our editorial staff and the author/editor from a broad range of international periodicals and newspapers. The articles have been chosen for currency, interest, and their differing perspectives on the subject countries. There are 19 articles in *Global Studies: Africa, Eighth Edition*.

The articles section is preceded by an annotated table of contents as well as a topic guide. The annotated table of contents offers a brief summary of each article, while the topic guide indicates the main theme(s) of each article. Thus, readers desiring to focus on articles dealing with a particular theme, say, the environment, may refer to the topic guide to find those articles.

WWW Sites

An extensive annotated list of selected World Wide Web sites can be found on the facing page (vii) in this edition of *Global Studies: Africa*. In addition, the URL addresses for country-specific Web sites are provided on the statistics page of most countries. All of the Web site addresses were correct and operational at press time. Instructors and students alike are urged to refer to those sites often to enhance their understanding of the region and to keep up with current events.

Glossary, Bibliography, Index

At the back of each Global Studies volume, readers will find a glossary of terms and abbreviations, which provides a quick reference to the specialized vocabulary of the area under study and to the standard abbreviations used throughout the volume.

Following the glossary is a bibliography, which lists general works, national histories, and current-events publications and periodicals that provide regular coverage on Africa.

The index at the end of the volume is an accurate reference to the contents of the volume. Readers seeking specific information and citations should consult this standard index.

Currency and Usefulness

Global Studies: Africa, like the other Global Studies volumes, is intended to provide the most current and useful information available necessary to understand the events that are shaping the cultures of the region today.

This volume is revised on a regular basis. The statistics are updated, regional essays and country reports revised, and world press articles replaced. In order to accomplish this task, we turn to our author/editor, our advisory boards, and—hopefully—to you, the users of this volume. Your comments are more than welcome. If you have an idea that you think will make the next edition more useful, an article or bit of information that will make it more current, or a general comment on its organization, content, or features that you would like to share with us, please send it in for serious consideration.

Selected World Wide Web Sites for *Global Studies: Africa*

(Some Web sites continually change their structure and content, so the information listed here may not always be available. Check our Web site at: <http://www.dushkin.com/online/>—Ed.)

GENERAL SITES

- BBC World Service—<http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/index.htm>—The BBC, one of the world's most successful radio networks, provides the latest news from around the world, including from almost all of the African countries.
- CNN Online Page—<http://www.cnn.com>—U.S. 24-hour video news channel. News, updated every few hours, includes text, pictures, and film. Good external links.
- C-SPAN ONLINE—<http://www.c-span.org>—See especially C-SPAN International on the Web for International Programming Highlights and archived C-SPAN programs.
- International Network Information Center at University of Texas—<http://inic.utexas.edu>—Gateway has pointers to international sites, including Africa, as well as African Studies Resources.
- I-Trade International Trade Resources & Data Exchange—<http://www.i-trade.com>—Monthly exchange-rate data, U.S. Global Trade Outlook, and recent World Fact Book statistical demographic and geographic data for 180+ countries.
- Penn Library: Resources by Subject—<http://www.library.upenn.edu/resources/subject/subject.html>—This vast site is rich in links to information about African studies, including demography and population.
- Political Science RESOURCES—<http://www.psr.keeble.ac.uk>—Dynamic gateway to sources available via European addresses. Listed by country name.
- ReliefWeb—<http://www.notes.reliefweb.int>—UN's Department of Humanitarian Affairs clearinghouse for international humanitarian emergencies. Has daily updates, including Reuters, VOA, PANA.
- Social Science Information Gateway [SOSIG]—<http://sosig.esrc.bris.ac.uk/>—Project of the Economic and Social Research Council [ESRC]. It catalogs 22 subjects and lists developing countries' URL addresses.
- Speech and Transcript Center—<http://gwis2.circ.gwu.edu/~gprice/speech.htm>—This unusual site is the repository of transcripts of every kind, from radio and television, of speeches by world government leaders, and the proceedings of groups such as the United Nations, NATO, and the World Bank.
- United Nations System—<http://www.unsystem.org>—This is the official Web site for the United Nations system of organizations. Everything is listed alphabetically. Examples: UNICC; Food and Agriculture Organization.
- UN Development Programme [UNDP]—<http://www.undp.org>—Publications and current information on world poverty, Mission Statement, UN Development Fund for Women, and more. Be sure to see Poverty Clock.
- UN Environmental Programme [UNEP]—<http://www.unep.org>—Official site of UNEP, Information on UN environmental programs, products, services, events, search engine.
- U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)—<http://www.info.usaid.gov/>—U.S. policy regarding assistance to African countries is available at this site.

- U.S. Central Intelligence Agency Home Page—<http://www.odci.gov/cia/>—This site includes publications of the CIA, such as the World Factbook, Factbook on Intelligence, Handbook of International Economic Statistics, and CIA maps.
- U.S. Department of State Home Page—<http://www.state.gov/index.html>—Organized alphabetically: Country Reports, Human Rights, International Organizations, and so on.
- World Bank Group—<http://www.worldbank.org/html/Welcome.html>—News (press releases, summary of new projects, speeches), publications, topics in development, countries and regions. Links to other financial organizations.
- World Health Organization [WHO]—<http://www.who.ch>—Maintained by WHO's headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland; uses Excite search engine to conduct keyword searches.
- World Trade Organization—<http://www.wto.org>—Topics include foundation of world trade systems, data on textiles, intellectual property rights, legal frameworks, trade and environmental policies, recent agreements, and others.

AFRICAN SITES

- Africa News Web Site: Crisis in the Great Lakes Region—<http://www.africanews.org/specials/greatlakes.html>—African News Web Site on Great Lakes (Rwanda, Burundi, Zaire, and Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda). Frequent updates, good links to other sites. Can order e-mail crisis updates here.
- African Policy Information Center [APIC]—<http://www.africapolicy.org>—Developed by Washington Office on Africa to widen policy debate in the United States on African issues. Includes special topic briefs, regular reports, and documents on African politics.
- Africa: South of the Sahara—<http://www.sul.stanford.edu/depts/ssrg/africa/guide.html>—Link headings, Topics and Regions, will lead to a wealth of information.
- African Studies WWW (U. Penn)—http://www.sas.upenn.edu/African_Studies/AS.html—This excellent site will lead you to facts about each African country: news, statistics, and links to other Web sites.
- Great Horn Information Exchange—<http://www.info.usaid.gov/horn/>—You will find information about African problems and humanitarian efforts to solve them, compiled by the U.S. Agency for International Development.
- Library of Congress Country Studies—<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/cshome.html#toc>—There are 71 countries that are covered in the continuing series of books available at this Web site. At least a dozen of them are in Africa.
- South African Government Index—<http://www.polity.org.za/gnuindex.html>—Official site included links to government agencies. Provides information on structures of government and links to detailed documents.
- Weekly Mail & Guardian [Johannesburg]—<http://www.mg.co.za/mg/>—Free electronic daily South African newspaper (see especially What's New on Web). Includes archived back issues of newspapers. Good links to other links related to Africa.

Most individual country report pages have additional Web sites.

The United States (United States of America)

GEOGRAPHY

Area in Square Miles (Kilometers):

3,618,770 (9,578,626) (slightly larger than China)

Capital (Population): Washington, D.C. (567,100)

Environmental Concerns: air pollution resulting in acid rain; water pollution from runoff of pesticides and fertilizers; desertification; habitat loss; other concerns

Geographical Features: vast central plain, mountains in the west; hills and low mountains in the east; rugged mountains and broad river valleys in Alaska; volcanic topography in Hawaii

Climate: mostly temperate; wide regional variations

PEOPLE

Population

Total: 270,312,000

Annual Growth Rate: 0.87%

Rural/Urban Population Ratio: 24/76

Major Languages: predominantly English; a sizable Spanish-speaking minority; many others

Ethnic Makeup: 83% white; 12% black; 5% Asian, Amerindian, and others

Religions: 56% Protestant; 28% Roman Catholic; 2% Jewish; 14% others or no affiliation

Health

Life Expectancy at Birth: 73 years (male);

80 years (female)

Infant Mortality Rate (Ratio): 6.44/1,000

Average Caloric Intake: 138% of FAO minimum

Physicians Available (Ratio): 1/381

Education

Adult Literacy Rate: 97.9% (official) (estimates vary widely)

Compulsory (Ages): 7–16; free

COMMUNICATION

Telephones: 1 per 1.6 people

Daily Newspaper Circulation: 228 per 1,000 people; approximately 63,000,000 circulation

Televisions: 1 per 1.2 people

TRANSPORTATION

Highways in Miles (Kilometers): 3,906,960 (6,261,154)

Railroads in Miles (Kilometers): 149,161 (240,000)

Usable Airfields: 13,387

Motor Vehicles in Use: 200,500,000

GOVERNMENT

Type: federal republic

Independence Date: July 4, 1776 (from United Kingdom)

Head of State: President William ("Bill")

Jefferson Clinton

Political Parties: Democratic Party;

Republican Party; others of minor political significance

Suffrage: universal at 18

MILITARY

Military Expenditures (% of GDP): 3.8%

Current Disputes: none

ECONOMY

Per Capita Income/GDP: \$30,200/\$8.08 trillion

GDP Growth Rate: 3.8%

Inflation Rate: 2%

Unemployment Rate: 4.9%

Labor Force: 136,300,000

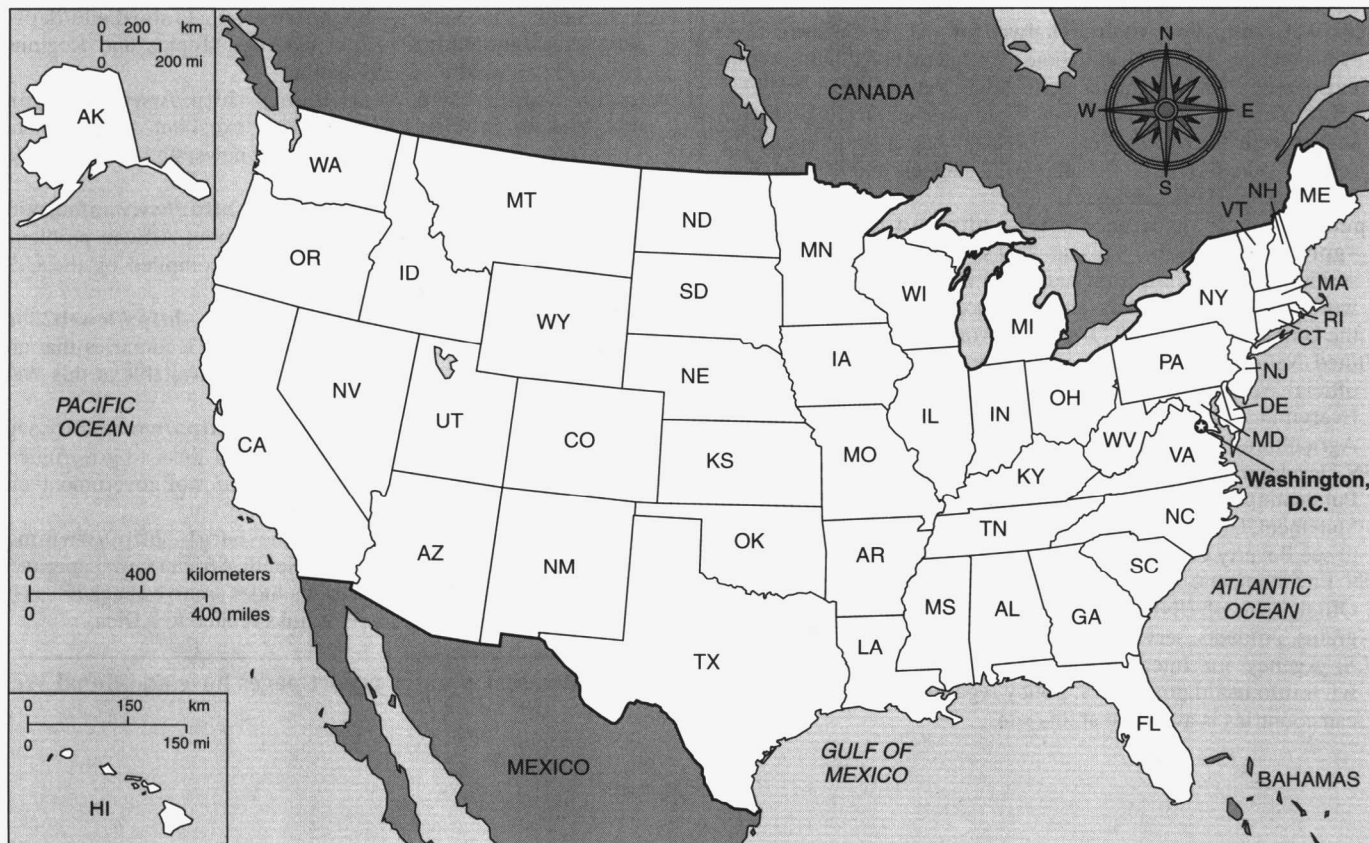
Natural Resources: metallic and non-metallic minerals; petroleum; natural gas; timber

Agriculture: food grains; feed crops; oil-bearing crops; livestock; dairy products

Industry: diversified in both capital- and consumer-goods industries

Exports: \$625.1 billion (primary partners Canada, Western Europe, Japan, Mexico)

Imports: \$822 billion (primary partners Canada, Western Europe, Japan, Mexico)



Canada*

GEOGRAPHY

Area in Square Miles (Kilometers):

3,850,790 (9,976,140) (slightly larger than the United States)

Capital (Population): Ottawa (1,000,000)

Environmental Concerns: air pollution and resulting acid rain severely affecting lakes and damaging forests; water pollution

Geographical Features: permafrost in the north; mountains in the west; central plains

Climate: from temperate in south to subarctic and arctic in north

PEOPLE

Population

Total: 30,676,000

Annual Growth Rate: 1.09%

Rural/Urban Population Ratio: 23/77

Major Languages: both English and French are official

Ethnic Makeup: 40% British Isles origin; 27% French origin; 20% other European; 1.5% indigenous Indian and Eskimo; 11.5% others, mostly Asian

Religions: 46% Roman Catholic; 16% United Church; 10% Anglican; 28% others

Health

Life Expectancy at Birth: 76 years (male); 83 years (female)

Infant Mortality Rate (Ratio): 5.59/1,000

Average Caloric Intake: 127% of FAO minimum

Physicians Available (Ratio): 1/464

Education

Adult Literacy Rate: 97%

Compulsory (Ages): primary school

COMMUNICATION

Telephones: 1 per 1.7 people

Daily Newspaper Circulation: 189 per 1,000 people

Televisions: 1 per 1.5 people

TRANSPORTATION

Highways in Miles (Kilometers): 637,104 (1,021,000)

Railroads in Miles (Kilometers): 48,764 (78,148)

Usable Airfields: 1,139

Motor Vehicles in Use: 16,700,000

GOVERNMENT

Type: confederation with parliamentary democracy

Independence Date: July 1, 1867 (from United Kingdom)

Head of State/Government: Queen Elizabeth II; Prime Minister Jean Chrétien

Political Parties: Progressive Conservative Party; Liberal Party; New Democratic Party; Reform Party; Bloc Québécois

Suffrage: universal at 18

MILITARY

Military Expenditures (% of GDP): 1.53%

Current Disputes: none

ECONOMY

Currency (\$U.S. Equivalent): 1.53

Canadian dollars = \$1

Per Capita Income/GDP: \$21,700/\$658 billion

GDP Growth Rate: 3.5%

Inflation Rate: 1.8%

Unemployment Rate: 8.6%

Labor Force: 15,300,000

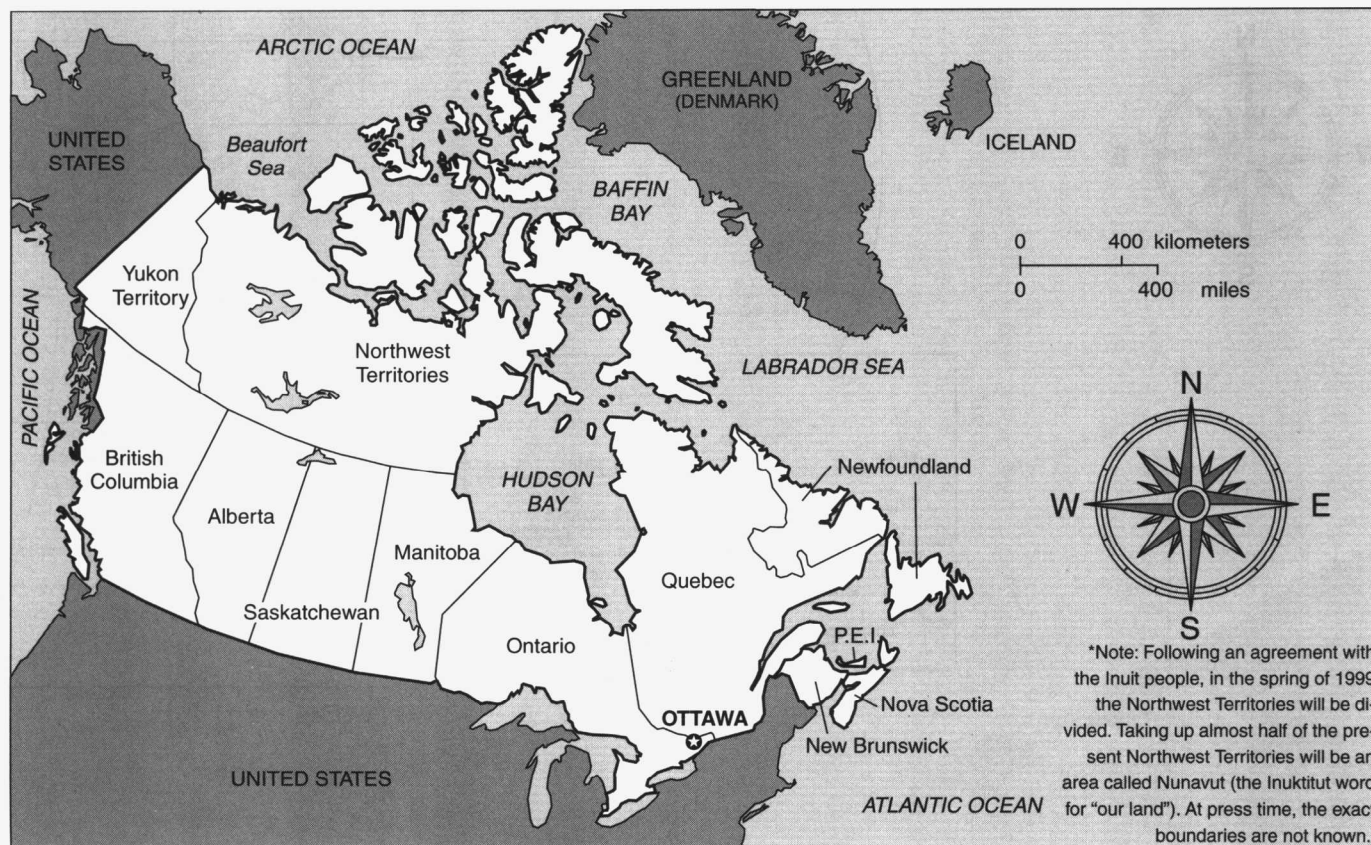
Natural Resources: petroleum; coal; natural gas; fish and other wildlife; minerals; cement; forestry products

Agriculture: grains; livestock; dairy products; potatoes; hogs; poultry and eggs; tobacco

Industry: oil production and refining; natural-gas development; fish products; wood and paper products; chemicals; transportation equipment

Exports: \$208.6 billion (primary partners United States, Japan, United Kingdom)

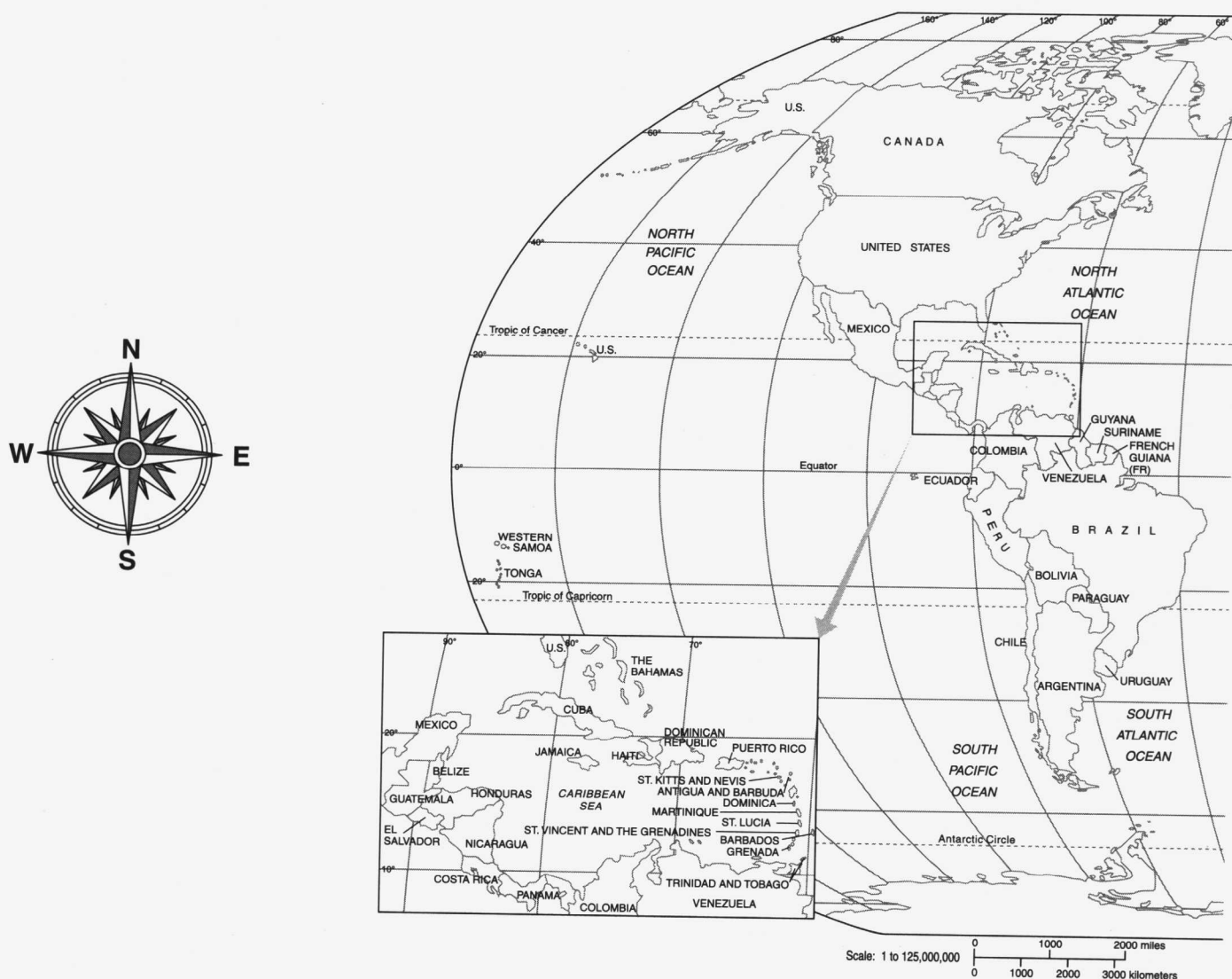
Imports: \$194.4 billion (primary partners United States, Japan, United Kingdom)



*Note: Following an agreement with the Inuit people, in the spring of 1999 the Northwest Territories will be divided. Taking up almost half of the present Northwest Territories will be an area called Nunavut (the Inuktitut word for "our land"). At press time, the exact boundaries are not known.

GLOBAL STUDIES

This map is provided to give you a graphic picture of where the countries of the world are located, the relationships they have with their region and neighbors, and their positions relative to the superpowers and power blocs. We have focused on certain areas to illustrate these crowded regions more clearly.





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Japan and the Pacific Rim
Latin America

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Russia, the Eurasian Republics, and
Central/Eastern Europe
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The Humanist, July/August 1998.
6. **History as Guide: Thinking about Human Rights in Africa,** Martin L. Kilson Jr., *Harvard International Review*, 191
Summer 1998.



East Africa

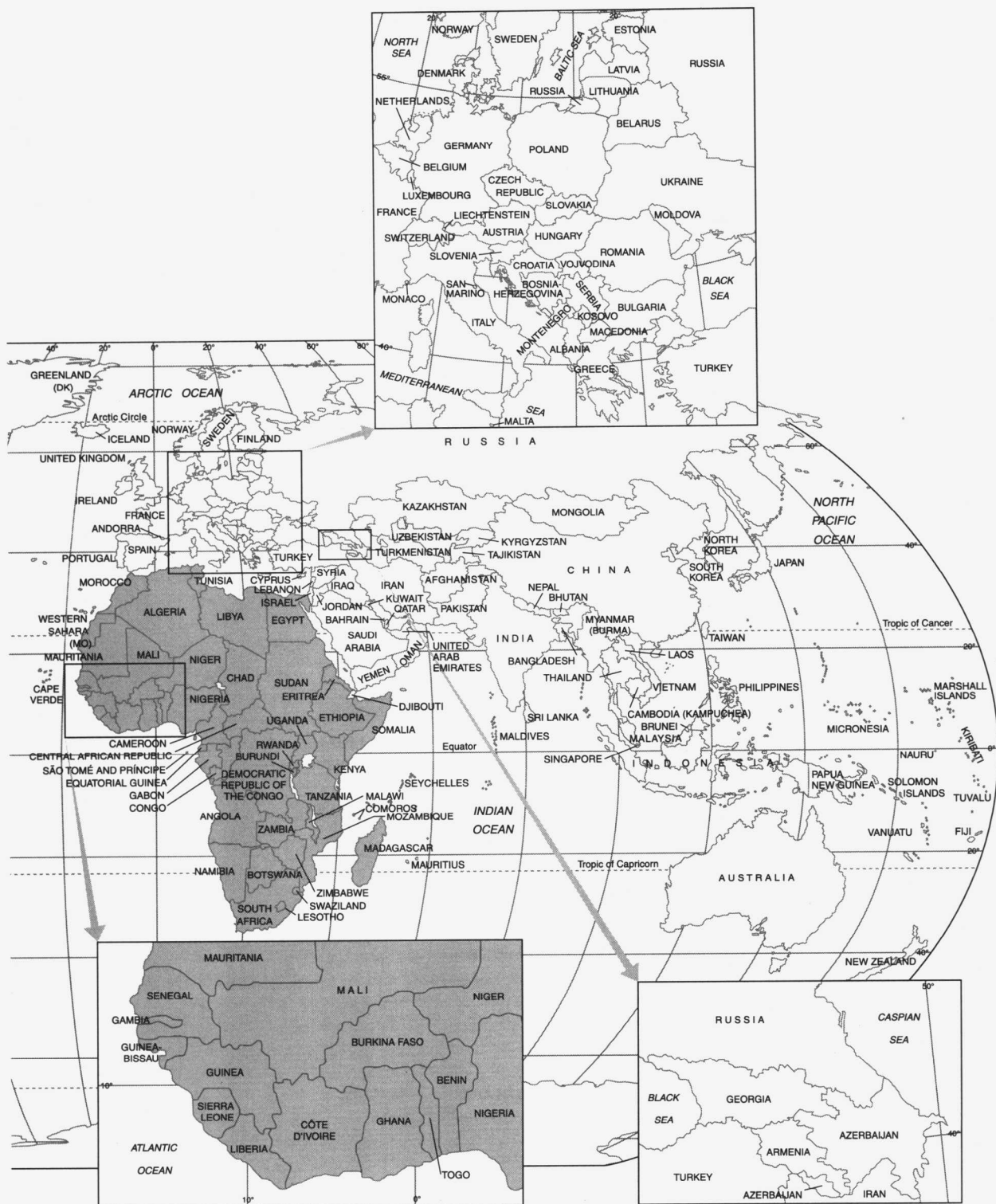
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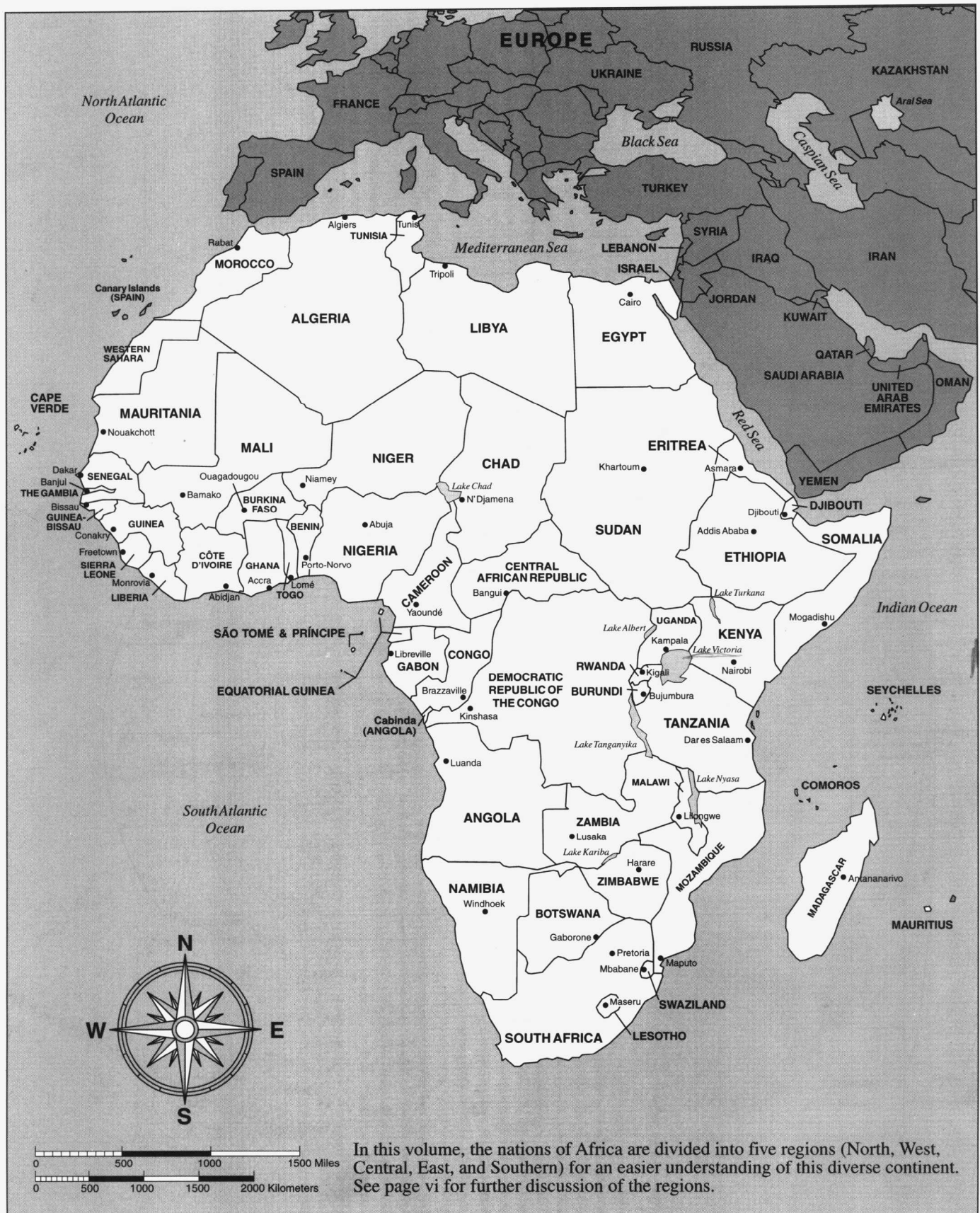
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Africa



Africa: The Struggle for Development

Seventeen African nations gained their independence in 1960, liberating most of the continent from colonial rule. The times were electric. In country after country, the flags of Great Britain, Belgium, France, and the United Nations were replaced by the banners of new states, whose leaders offered idealistic promises to remake the continent and thus the world. Hopes were high, and the most ambitious of goals seemed obtainable. Even non-Africans spoke of the resource-rich continent as being on the verge of a developmental takeoff. Some of the old, racist myths about Africa were at last being questioned.

Yet today, 4 decades after the great freedom year, conditions throughout Africa are sobering rather than euphoric. For most Africans, independence has been more of a desperate struggle for survival rather than an exhilarating path to development. Now Africa is often described in the global media as a "continent in crisis," a "region in turmoil," "on a precipice," and "suffering"—phrases that echo the sensationalist writings of nineteenth-century missionaries eager to convince others of the continent's need for "salvation." But the modern headlines are far more accurate than the mission tracts of yesteryear. Today, millions of Africans are indeed seeking some form of salvation—but now from the grinding poverty, pestilence, and, in many areas, wars that afflict their lives. Perhaps this hunger is why contemporary African evangelists are so much more successful in swelling their congregations than were their counterparts in the past. It is certainly not for lack of competition; Africa is a continent of many, often overlapping, faiths. In addition to Islam and other spiritual paths, Africans have embraced a myriad of secular ideologies: Marxism, African socialism, people's capitalism, structural adjustment, pan-Africanism, authenticity, nonracialism, the one-party state, and the multiparty state. The list is endless, but salvation seems ever more distant.

Africa's current circumstances are indeed difficult, yet it is also true that the years have brought progress as well as problems. The goals so optimistically pronounced at independence have, for the most part, not been abandoned. Even when the states have faltered, the societies that they encompass have remained dynamic and adaptable to shifting opportunities. The support of strong families continues to allow most Africans to overcome enormous adversity. There are starving children in Africa today, but there are also many more in school uniforms studying to make their dreams a reality.

A DIVERSE CONTINENT

Africa, which is almost 4 times the size of the United States (excluding Alaska), ranks just below Asia as the world's biggest continent. Well over one quarter of the membership of the United Nations consists of African states—more than 50 in all. Such facts are worth noting, for even educated outsiders often lose sight of Africa's continental scope when they discuss its problems and prospects.

Not only is the African continent vast but, archaeology tells us, it was also the cradle of human civilization. It should therefore not be surprising that the 700 million or so contemporary Africans maintain extraordinarily diverse ways of life. They speak more than 1,000 languages and live their lives according to a rich variety of household arrangements, kinship systems, and religious beliefs. The art and music styles of the continent are as varied as its people.

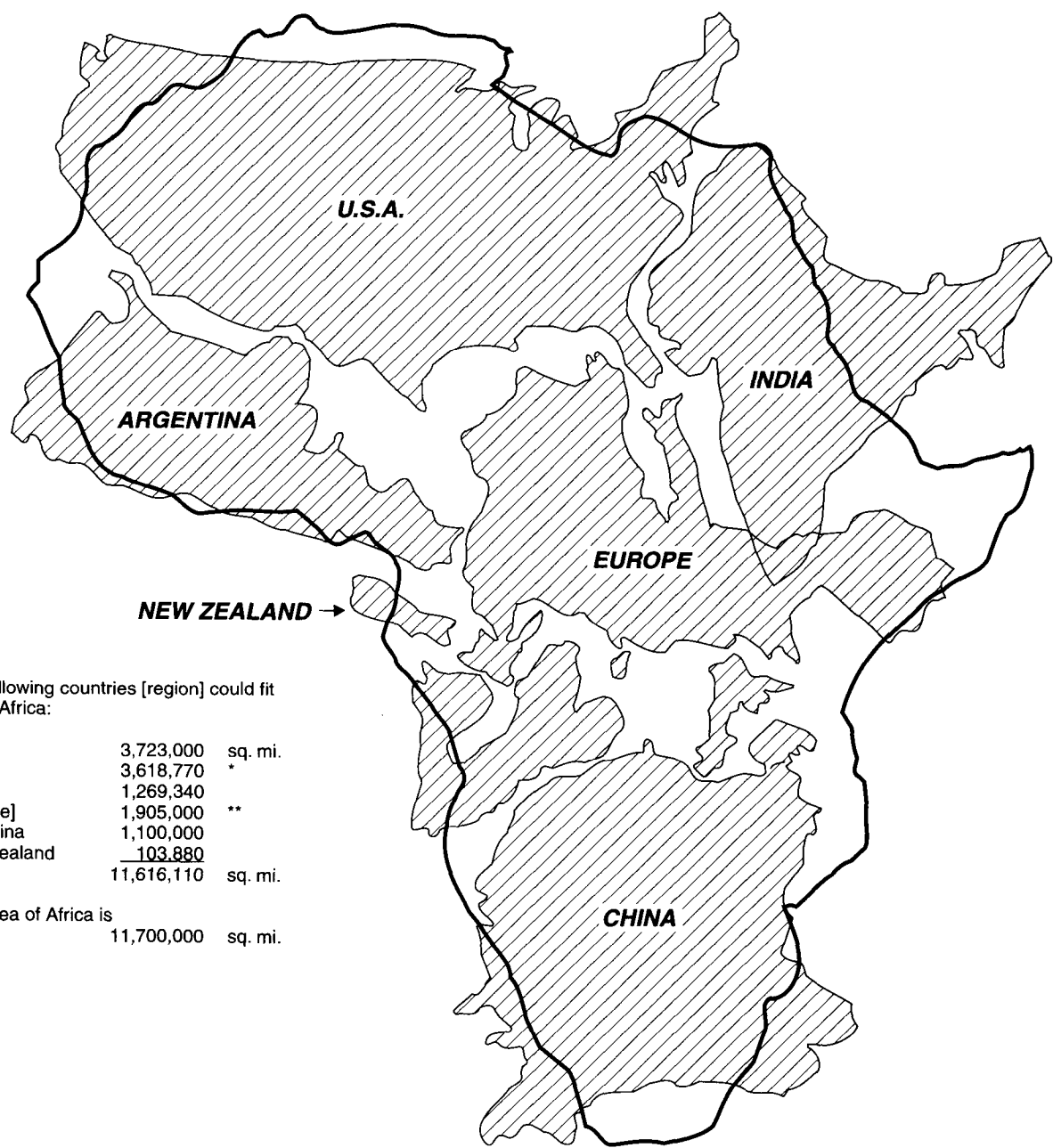
Given its diversity, it is not easy to generalize about Africa. For each statement, there is an exception. However, one aspect that is constant to all African societies is that they have always been changing, albeit in modern times at an ever-increasing rate. Cities have grown and people have moved back and forth between village and town, giving rise to new social groups, institutions, occupations, religions, and forms of communication that have made their mark in the countryside as well as in the urban centers. All Africans, whether they be urban computer programmers or hunter-gatherers living in the remote corners of the Kalahari Desert, have taken on new practices, interests, and burdens, yet have still retained their



(World Bank photo by Pamela Johnson)

This is an electrical transformer at the Volta Aluminum Company in Terna, Ghana. Modern technology and new sources of power are among the factors that contribute to economic development in Africa.

WOULD YOU BELIEVE?



The following countries [region] could fit within Africa:

China	3,723,000	sq. mi.
U.S.A.	3,618,770	*
India	1,269,340	
[Europe]	1,905,000	**
Argentina	1,100,000	
New Zealand	<u>103,880</u>	
	11,616,110	sq. mi.

The area of Africa is
11,700,000 sq. mi.

Source of Data: *The 1997 Information Please Almanac* and *1997 World Almanac and Book of Facts*

* Total, land and water, 50 states

** *1997 Information Please Almanac*. Includes Iceland. Excludes the former European Soviet Union and European Turkey.