

# **The Other World**

# ISSUES AND POLITICS OF THE DEVELOPING WORLD

#### FOURTH EDITION

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Dedicated to James Leland Gritter.

September 11, 1964 – August 5, 1996,

whose eccentric genius provided no way

for him to live in the world.

# PREFACE

Washing one's hands of the conflict between the powerful and the powerless means to side with the powerful.

PAULO FREIRE

uch of our perception of the world is from an American perspective. We tend to focus on events in our country, those in other Western nations, and until recently on U.S.-Soviet relations. Yet, despite the military, political, and economic power of the United States, we account for only 5 percent of the world's population. Clearly, most of the world exists outside of our country. Indeed, this "Other World" has become crucial in understanding the larger world in which we live.

This book aims to help students grasp some of the main dimensions of contemporary global issues in the developing world, which we term the "Other World." It is intended to present that part of our world that is considered non-Western in its orientation. To appreciate the "Other World" in today's international climate, we need to know more about its geography, culture, traditions, and political and historical development.

The Other World is a primer on developing world issues, with an interdisciplinary focus. We make no apology that this book is what it appears to be: a descriptive background to selected world issues. It is descriptive because we emphasize basic information on geography, culture, and political tensions in the "Other World." The book targets general education students rather than the specialist. Our position is that these students are better served by a book that emphasizes specific issues, events, and places in a clear, jargon-free way rather than by one written for political science majors and graduate specialists.

We also hope that our analysis will be welcomed by readers who are looking for a supplementary textbook to use in international relations, geography, and comparative government courses in which coverage of the developing world is needed. Our point of view is that at the end of this century the focus of world politics has changed from an East-West dimension to a North-South dimension.

Two traditional approaches dominate the study of global politics: the comparative approach and the area studies approach. The former addresses the political situation in selected countries with an emphasis on their values, institutions, levels of modernization, and types of governments. A deficiency of this method is that it often fails to provide an overview of the geographical areas in which the

separate states are located. However, comparative studies are dominant in the social sciences because of their ability to account for similarities and differences among political communities.

The second approach, area studies, centers on the study of geographic regions. This perspective focuses on a region's general characteristics, including geography, climate, economics, political and social structures, culture, religion, and history. Instead of contrasting the differences among states with dissimilar backgrounds, this method promotes an understanding of the peoples and countries in geographical proximity to one another.

This book combines both perspectives. First, it gives an overview of issues relevant to the understanding of contemporary problems common to the "Other World." Second, it provides regional coverage of Latin America, Africa, Asia, and the Middle East and then describes the similarities and differences within these regions. Third, it traces events and issues in selected countries in each region.

All of the chapters have been rewritten to take into account the effects of changing conditions as the people of the "Other World" enter the twenty-first century. We have attempted to keep the topics as relevant and up-to-date as possible. Time does not stand still, so we apologize in advance for any illustrations that may have become dated because of the rush of events.

We hope that the readers of *The Other World* will gain a new understanding of the major issues that affect much of the world's population. To comprehend the political turmoil in the Middle East or the food crisis in Africa, we must be aware of the dynamics of life in those regions. Finally, we believe that issues in the "Other World" do not respect borders and that global interdependence will be a fact of life in the twenty-first century.

All of us involved in this book benefited from the comments made by the following reviewers:

David Carwell, Eastern Illinois University

John O'Rourke, Frostburg State University

Rolin G. Mainuddin, North Carolina Central University

Ross Burkhart, Boise State University

We believe that this text is stronger because of the help of others. Sherry Couture provided aid in overcoming the technical difficulties of this project. Tamara Beuttner worked long hours to generate information found on many of the charts. Dawn Alexander was responsible for developing the index. Others who helped with proofreading and sympathy include Jane Weatherby, Skye Patterson, A. Norman Cruikshanks, Janis K. Woolpert, Peter Hopkinson, Carol Huff, Mary and Edward Gavin, Ilona Ing-Kranzdorf, and our colleague John Culver. A special thanks goes to Julia Parshall who guided us through the editorial stages. We also received help from others at Longman including Eric Stano, Jennie Errickson, Mark Naccarelli, Alisa Boll and Megan Galvin. Janet Nuciforo was indispensable in helping us get our text ready for publication. Our copy editor was Louis C. Bruno, Jr. Because of the number of co-authors, we each have the luxury of blaming the others for whatever errors remain.

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# ABOUT THE AUTHORS

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Joseph N. Weatherby has been a professor of political science at California Polytechnic State University since 1968. In 1977 he was an invited visiting scholar at Wolfson College, The University of Cambridge, England. He has been awarded a summer Fulbright to the Middle East, an *NEH* Fellowship in Middle East Studies at The University of Michigan, and a Joseph P. Malone Fellowship in Arab and Islamic Studies. At Cal Poly, he has chaired the academic senate and received the university's outstanding teaching award. He holds B.A. and M.A. degrees from Baylor University, Texas, a foreign trade degree from The American Graduate School for International Management, Arizona, and a Ph.D. in political science and Middle East Studies from the University of Utah.

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Dianne Long teaches political science and public administration at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, California, where she has been a member of the faculty since 1982. Her teaching and research interests center on public policy and administration, particularly antipoverty programs and urban sprawl. A former Peace Corps volunteer in Central Africa, Dr. Long continues her writings on the nature of Third World peoples and politics. As a contributor to two chapters in *The Other World*, she brings to the text a perspective on issues affecting women, environmental change, and technological adaption. She holds a Master of Public Administration degree and a Ph.D. degree in political science from Michigan State University. She serves as chair of the political science department at Cal Poly and was the administrator of the Master's of Public Administration program at Michigan State University.

### INTRODUCTION

There is nothing more difficult to take in hand, more perilous to conduct, or more uncertain in its success, than to take the lead in the introduction of a new order of things. Because the innovator has for enemies all those who have done well under the old conditions, and lukewarm defenders who may do well under the new.

he Other World is a place of dynamic change. Change is multifaceted: It can be simple or complex, positive or negative, of short- or long-term consequence, welcomed by some, opposed by others, and anticipated or unforeseen, as well as a combination of all of these factors.

Political geographers argue that the international system will soon undergo the most profound change since the modern state system was created. The number of recognized states may even double within the next quarter century. These changes will be the result of trends that are already observable in the Other World. New states are being created as the last colonies become independent. Others are being established as nations break away from already existing states to form additional entities. Finally, new states are also evolving out of the turmoil resulting from both the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the cold war. Geographer George Demko succinctly described this process when he observed, "The current changes in the political and economic geography of the world are as significant as what the world went through after the Treaty of Westphalia."

Twentieth century conflicts were largely fought by nation states over ideologies. Many analysts believe that disputes in the early twenty-first century will focus on the struggles for clean air, water, and energy. These struggles will become part of more fundamental clashes of civilizations. As early as 1993 Samuel Huntington identified this process when he wrote, "Civilization identity will be increasingly important in the future, and the world will be shaped in large measure by the interactions among seven or eight major civilizations. The most important conflicts of the future will occur along the cultural fault lines separating these civilizations from one another.<sup>2</sup> Geographically, most of cultural fault lines will involve part of the Other World.

This textbook focuses on the process of change in the Other World. As used here the term *Other World* has a broader meaning than the more commonly used expression *Developing World*. The Other World includes both underdeveloped and

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developed states that because of geography, history, or culture have similar interests and perceptions.

As in the third edition, *The Other World*, fourth edition is divided into two parts. The first part comprises four chapters that address global issues of a general nature, including colonialism, development, and the mechanisms for reducing conflict. Each of these chapters is introductory in nature. They are written for those with little previous exposure to Other World issues. New sections on the role of women and on the impact of multinational corporations have been added. An Issues for Discussion section has been added to each chapter in Part I. We hope that these topics raise provocative questions from the perspective of people living in the Other World. The authors have made no attempt to offer solutions to these questions.

The second part presents surveys of the Other World regions involved in change. To make meaningful comparisons, we have organized this part geographically into chapters on Latin America, Africa, Asia, and the Middle East and North Africa. Each regionally focused chapter contains material on geography, people, government, economics, and history. Case studies involving key countries are featured throughout this part. These chapters also contain Flashpoints, which provide background material on issues and conflicts. Each area chapter in the fourth edition contains a Flashpoint that deals with issues of concern to women. The concluding chapter summarizes the main points of earlier chapters and offers a look into the Other World in the century ahead.

Before beginning this study, the reader should recognize that all people make assessments of others that are based on their own cultural biases. For example, we know that a person's color is not a behavioral or cultural characteristic. Nevertheless, because most of the people in the Other World have dark skin and most of the people in the developed world have white skin, cultural and behavioral stereotypes are common. People in the developed world often assume that darker skin is a symbol of backwardness. At the same time, the colonial experience has caused people in the Other World to view white skin as the representation of evil exploitation. If we are to make any headway in understanding others, we must attempt to avoid such stereotypes.

It is not necessary to be Western to be modern. For over 100 years, Western cultural imperialism has conditioned us to assume that Westernization and modernization were the same. They are not, as any person on the streets of Jeddah, Hong Kong, or Seoul can point out. To understand the process of change that is taking place in the Other World, the reader must accept this fundamental fact.

The breadth of subjects covered in these chapters required us to make generalizations, although we have attempted to be specific where possible. At the same time, we hope that we have provided the reader with a useful introduction to the major political issues facing the Other World.

Joseph N. Weatherby

#### **NOTES**

- Robin Wright, "The Outer Limits," Los Angeles Times, August 25, 1992, p. H4.
   Samuel P. Huntington, "The Clash of Civilization," Foreign Affairs, Vol. 72, no. 3, Summer 1993, p. 25.

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# PART-I

# GLOBAL ISSUES IN THE OTHER WORLD