INTERNATIONAL MARKETING PLANNING AND PRACTICE



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Dedication

This book is dedicated to

Jane Susan

Gena Evan and Ayla

Linda Christopher Richard

and to the memory of Richard R. Still, 1921-1991

Preface

These are exciting times in international marketing. In almost every part of the world there is constant change—European economic and perhaps political unification; the North American Free Trade Agreement; the economic liberalization of Eastern Europe; the surging economies in the Pacific rim; and ongoing economic and cultural development elsewhere in the world. As a consequence, international marketing opportunities abound and never has the reason to be global been more compelling. We hope the authors' enthusiasm for their subject spills over onto you—our readers—and that you will find our text informative and interesting reading.

In this age of specialization, international topics buck prevailing trends. Our aim in writing this book has been to broaden student appreciation of world markets. Combined, our eighty-plus years of international marketing experience has shown us that once students' international curiosities are piqued, they remain globally focussed thereafter. Hence our objective has not been to prepare regional specialists in North America, Western Europe, Eastern Europe, and so on. Rather it has been to prepare students to be world marketers. Companies can and do specialize their international marketing functions, but good executives know not only their product and market specialities but how they fit into the broader global spectrum. The Chapter 1 geopolitical overview, therefore, provides valuable background to bring everyone "up to speed"; and our first four chapters (comprising the world environment of international marketing) provide basic instruction in global cultures and environments.

We have found that the most effective international operators are those that understand the whys and wherefores of global behaviors. This belief is reflected in the approach of Chapter 2 to political, economic, and cultural institutions, and what are their effects on human behavior (unlike other texts that tell you such institutions influence behavior but don't say how). Then, because political, economic, and cultural change is the one constant in world markets, Chapter 3 deals with developmental issues, the emphasis here being again not just on what happens, but why.

Our environmental assessment concludes in Chapter 4 with a look at financial aspects. All transactions have monetary considerations, and the international executives we know all have good groundings in foreign exchange rates and related financial aspects.

Recognizing and evaluating world market opportunities is the focus of the second section. Overall, rarely have the three authors been impressed by corporate recognitions and assessments of international marketing opportunities. The aim of Chapters 5 through 7, therefore, is to establish a bedrock of principles by which companies (both small and large) can evaluate their own international potential and assess foreign markets as scientifically and thoroughly as possible. Chapter 6 shows how to quantify international market opportunities, and Chapter 7 illustrates how the market segmentation process can be applied

internationally. Also included in this section are exporting (Chapter 8—which includes export market assessment), and market entry strategies (Chapter 9), which are directly affected by perceptions of market opportunities.

Managing international marketing activities is the subject of Part III. While much international trade and investment occurs because of similarities in consumption patterns and in values and attitudes among nations, effective international marketers know when to fine-tune their products, prices, promotions, and distribution to local tastes. The aim of Chapters 10 through 17 is to help students recognize when it is feasible to standardize some or all marketing activities, and when there needs to be manipulations in product, promotion, pricing, and distribution options. Chapter 10 is a strategy overview that highlights the major internal and external considerations in strategy formulation. We next discuss consumer product policies and practices (Chapter 11), then move on to industrial products and marketing mixes (Chapter 12). Distribution is tackled in Chapter 13, logistics in Chapter 14, and advertising in Chapter 15. In all cases, we have strived to link theory and practice and to illustrate principles with live, corporate examples. Next, in this section, Chapter 16's emphasis is on personal selling, negotiation, and sales management in crosscultural contexts. Much of this material is interested to reinforce and dovetail with materials in Chapters 2 and 3.

Our final section, Part IV, deals with coordinating and controlling marketing programs. The task of planning, coordinating, and controlling business and marketing activities over many different country environments is complex. It is covered in Chapters 18 and 20. First of all, because world markets constantly change, top managements place premiums on obtaining good information in a timely manner. Chapter 18 deals with marketing information issues. Then, organizational structures used in international marketing are scrutinized in Chapter 19, and marketing control tasks are reviewed in Chapter 20. Finally, in Chapter 21, the student is placed in the posi-

tion of Chief Executive officer of a large international concern and introduced to the complexities of integrating the marketing function into global corporate planning. As Marvin Mann, CEO of IBM spin-off Lexmark remarked recently: "In the future, there will be two types of CEOs—global CEOs and unemployed CEOs!" The message is clear: For those aspiring to high corporate management levels, global is the way to go, and international marketing is the field in which future leaders much show competence.

This text could not have been brought to a happy conclusion without the help of many others. To our students, past, present, and future, we owe a debt of gratitude for stimulating our thoughts and providing a platform for testing many of the concepts in this text. Our respective Deans, Ed Johnson at the University of North Florida, and Barry Mason at the University of Alabama. provided encouragement and support. The secretarial staff at both institutions did miraculous jobs in converting our non-Palmer-like scripts into meaningful prose and we thank each one: Jane Wood, Betty Geitz, Leanna Payne; Margaret Perdue, Lisa Patrick, and Mary Burnett. We are also indebted to our assistants David McDonald, John Donaldson, and Riaz Abdul, heroes behind the scenes.

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To these people and many others, we are indebted. To all of you we say Thank You.

Naturally the responsibility for errors and incorrect interpretations belongs solely to the authors. To those who read this book, we hope you emerge from the experience with a sense of understanding of world markets and a desire to maintain high levels of interest in global events. Please, let us hear from you, and let your suggestions be the basis for future editions!

A. Coskun Samli John S. Hill

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