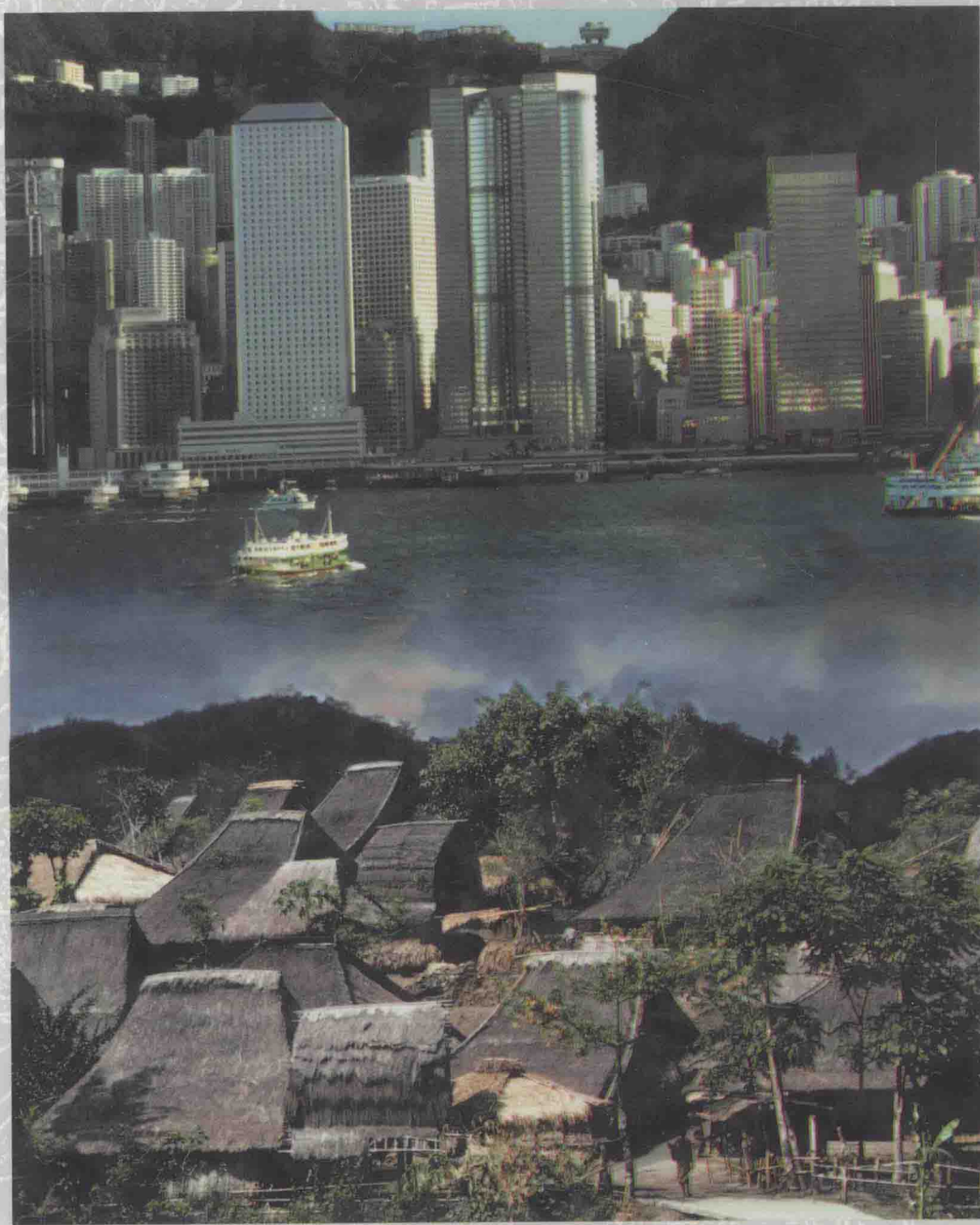


GEOGRAPHY

REALMS, REGIONS, AND CONCEPTS

SEVENTH EDITION



H. J. DE BLIJ
PETER O. MULLER

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PREFACE

Over the more than two decades of its life, this book has been consistently aimed at two objectives. First, it explains the modern world's great geographic realms and their human and physical contents, their assets and liabilities, links and barriers, potentials and prospects. Second, it introduces geography itself, the discipline that links human societies and natural environments through a fascinating perspective that is first detailed in the introductory chapter and then is developed as the book progresses.

As such, the book before you constitutes an antidote to the geographic illiteracy that has lately been so much in the news. Various polls, public surveys, and classroom tests made it clear that our collective geographic knowledge is inadequate in this fast-changing, challenging, competitive world. During the 1980s, the National Geographic Society, the American Express Company, Citibank, and a consortium of scholarly organizations mobilized to combat an educational dilemma that resulted substantially from a neglect of the very topics this book is about. Their efforts and resources have begun to turn the tide, but the real remedy lies in the classroom—with geography teachers, their students, and the fundamentals of the field.

Before we can usefully discuss such commonplace topics as our “shrinking world,” our “global village,” and our “distant linkages,” we should know what the parts are, the elements that are shrinking and linking. This is not merely an academic exercise. Knowledge of the world beyond our borders is a crucial asset in consumer decision-making, international business initiatives, and the global competition that faces a nation with worldwide interests. We can gain this knowledge by studying the layout of our world—i.e., its geography—not by memorization, but by learning where people and things are located and why, how they interact, what impels them to move or migrate, and how they prefer to shape and fashion their abodes.

These are geographic themes, and every time we learn something more about a city, a region, a prevailing climate, or a cluster of resources, we also learn something more about geography itself.

THE APPROACH

This book is organized into twelve chapters: an introduction discusses global distributions, patterns, and trends,

and eleven regional chapters follow. The regional discussions are divided into two parts, covering respectively the developed and the developing world.

The format is one that has worked well for more than two decades, linking geography's basic concepts with this overview of the realms and major regions of the world. We have placed more than 150 ideas and concepts in their regional perspective. Most of these concepts are primarily geographical; others are ideas about which we believe students of geography should have some knowledge. Of course, we have not listed on the chapter-opening page every idea and concept used in that chapter (although each term listed is indicated in boldface when it first appears in text). Most teachers, we suspect, will want to make their own region-concept associations, and as readers will readily perceive, the book's organization is quite flexible. In fact, instructors have a great range of opportunities to shape a course to their liking, to transfer concepts, and to focus presentations mainly on conceptual matters or on regionally oriented materials. Moreover, concepts are sometimes raised but not pursued in depth, so that the lecturer may choose to penetrate them in greater detail and/or in a comparative regional context.

THE SEVENTH EDITION

During the 23 years of its life, this book has seen numerous modifications and innovations. But its title never has changed—until now. The framework of geographic realms, introduced with the First Edition in 1971, has (with appropriate revisions) become the standard spatial structure in world regional geography. We strengthen this notion by renaming the book *Geography: Realms, Regions, and Concepts*.

This geographic framework is not static. Realms and their constituent regions do change, although there remains remarkable similarity between the geographic realms laid out in the First Edition and those of the Seventh. One such change is acknowledged through an entirely new chapter, Chapter 4 (The Pacific Rim of Austrasia). From Japan to Australia, the western Pacific margin is in transformation, and Chapter 4 chronicles the emergence of what may, some day, be a new and potent geographical realm on the world stage. At present, the pieces of this nascent realm still are disparate, but a new map is clearly in the making.

The disintegration of the Soviet Union also has transformed the regional map. This momentous development has required considerable adjustment to Chapters 1 (Europe), 2 (Russia is now the focus of this chapter) and, perhaps most incisively, 7 (North Africa/Southwest Asia). The breakdown of the U.S.S.R. came at a time when the notion of a supranational Europe was on the rise, and “republics” long under Soviet sway are reorienting themselves Europeward. Future editions of this book will undoubtedly report on further installments of this significant development. Russia, bereft now of its peripheral empire, is itself an internally fragmented country in the process of restructuring. Chapter 2 focuses on Russia’s centrifugal (disunifying) forces, its complicated ethnic and political map, and its worrisome prospects. And another completely rewritten chapter (North Africa/Southwest Asia, Chapter 7), reveals regional consequences of the Soviet collapse. Here we revive an old geographic name for a region long under Moscow’s control: *Turkestan*, where Islam is reviving and where an important geopolitical contest is underway.

If the Soviet collapse dominates Eurasia’s west, China’s ascent is preponderant in the east. In a totally revised and rewritten Chapter 10, the stage is set for a theme that is likely to prevail in future editions of this book: the growing regional and global power of the world’s largest nation. China’s geography, therefore, is approached from two perspectives: in Chapter 4 as a participant in the economic growth of the Pacific Rim, and in Chapter 10 as the core of an East Asian sphere of influence that extends from Mongolia to Tibet and from eastern Turkestan to the South China Sea.

The South Asia chapter (9) also has been exhaustively reorganized and rewritten. For reasons made clear in the text, this chapter now opens with a discussion of Pakistan, vanguard of Islam on South Asia’s western flank. The growing stresses on India’s democracy from religious fundamentalists on several sides of the spectrum are discussed in a revised view of that vast country’s human geography. The Southeast Asia chapter (11) was revised following the senior author’s 1993 field trips to Vietnam, Malaysia, and Thailand.

We have continued the practice of focusing on particular regions in brief, to-the-point vignettes. In addition to three vignettes revised and carried over from the previous edition (Brazil, South Africa, Pacific Realm) we have introduced one to deal with the problem area of Transcaucasia.

In response to recommendations from perceptive reviewers, the North America chapter (3) was not only rewritten but also reorganized to bring Canada into clearer geographic focus. For similar reasons we have continued to highlight the regional geographies of individual countries within world regions, sustaining a trend begun in recent editions of this book.

Still another new feature can be found at the conclusion of each regional chapter: a box headed “The Realm in Transition.” Almost everywhere in the world, change is taking place at a growing speed, and we try, in these brief summaries, to gauge the direction of change and its effect on the realm just discussed. Many of these “futures” are thought-provoking and should elicit considerable discussion.

As with every new edition of *Geography: Realms, Regions, and Concepts*, all quantitative information was updated to the year of publication and checked rigorously. In addition to the major revisions described above, hundreds of other modifications were made. For example, the Introduction was substantially condensed and the world regional system was given stronger justification. The sections on the former Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia (Chapter 1) were brought as up to date as possible. The section on Mexico was rewritten. No paragraph escaped our attention.

ILLUSTRATIONS

Readers who are familiar with earlier editions will note that we have gone to a two-column format. We have taken the opportunity to revise and redraw all cartography, and numerous new thematic maps have been introduced. A major innovation is the introduction of atlas-style opening maps for each regional chapter, all but one drawn from the most recent edition of *Goode’s World Atlas* published by Rand McNally. These atlas-format maps enable readers to refer to each realm as a whole; since most of our own maps are thematic in nature, they cannot be as comprehensive. Readers of our book should note that the spelling of some names on these atlas maps is not consistent with our own maps. This is not unusual: various cartographers follows different guidelines when it comes to the spelling of place names. In general, we have followed the standards set by the United States Board of Geographic Names.

PRONUNCIATION GUIDES

Pronunciation Guides are located at the end of each chapter and vignette. In choosing words for inclusion (largely place names), we decided not to list words that were pronounced the way they were written unless we thought mispronunciation was likely. Although we strive for authenticity throughout, we aimed for Americanized rather than native-language pronunciations. For many place names, our initial guide was the current edition of *Webster’s New Geographical Dictionary*. In choosing the phonetic presentation method, we kept things as simple as possible by avoiding a formalized symbol system that would have

required constant decoding. Accordingly, we employed a syllabic phonetic-spelling system with stress syllables capitalized. (For example, we pronounce our surnames duh-BLAY and MULL-uh.) The most frequently used vowel sounds would translate as follows: *ah* as in *father*, *oh* as in *tone*, *au* as in *out*, and *uh* as in *banana*.

CONTINUING SPECIAL FEATURES OF THIS BOOK

The continuing special features of this textbook are:

- ◆ **Ten Major Geographic Qualities boxes.** Near the beginning of each regional chapter and vignette, we list, in boxed format, the 10 major *geographic qualities* that best summarize that portion of the earth's surface.
- ◆ **Focus on a Systematic Field essays.** Also located near the opening of each of the eleven regional chapters is a *Focus on a Systematic Field* essay that covers a major topical subfield of human or physical geography; each of these overviews was carefully selected so that its contents tie in to regional-geographic material subsequently developed in the chapter. (This entire program is depicted in Figure I-15.)
- ◆ **Appendices and References.** At the end of the book, we have included three appendices: (A) population data on the world's countries, (B) a guide to map reading and interpretation, and (C), an overview of career opportunities in geography. In addition, lengthy lists of *References and Further Readings* are provided for each chapter and vignette. Those lists are followed by the *Gazetteer*, our *Geographical Index* of map names, and by the main index.

DATA SOURCES

The population figures used in the text are our projections for 1994 (unless otherwise indicated) and are consistent with the national demographic data displayed in Appendix A. The chief source that we used as a basis for developing our projections was the 1992 *World Population Data Sheet* published by the Population Reference Bureau, Inc. The urban population figures—which entail a far greater problem in reliability and comparability—are mainly drawn from the most recent (1993) database published by the United Nations' Population Division. For cities of less than 750,000, we developed our own estimates from a variety of other sources. At any rate, the urban population figures used here are estimates for 1994 and they represent *metropolitan-area totals* unless otherwise specified.

ANCILLARIES

The following ancillaries were prepared to accompany this edition of the book. They may be obtained by contacting John Wiley & Sons.

- ◆ **Student Study Guide.** Prepared by Peter O. Muller and Elizabeth Muller Hames, University of Miami. This valuable supplement contains objectives, glossary, self-test questions, map exercises, practice exams, term paper pointers, and redrawn maps to provide additional support to the student.
- ◆ **Instructor's Manual.** Prepared by Laurie Molina, Florida State University. This effective teaching resource provides an outline, brief description, and a list of key terms for each chapter in the text.
- ◆ **Testbank.** Prepared by Ira Sheskin, University of Miami. The expanded testbank contains over 1,500 test items, including multiple-choice, fill-in-the-blank, matching, and essay questions.
- ◆ **Computerized Testbank.** The testbank is available in a computerized format for either the IBM or the Macintosh.
- ◆ **Overhead Transparencies.** Over 75 full-color maps from the text are available as overhead transparencies.
- ◆ **Slide Set.** The maps available as transparencies are also available as full-color 35 mm slides.
- ◆ **Supplementary Slides.** This additional slide package contains all photos and more additional maps from the text.
- ◆ **Good Morning America Videotapes.** These videotapes are collections of H. J. de Blij's appearances (as *GMA* Geography Editor) on the popular morning news show. Each segment discusses a geographic issue or other geographically significant world event.

ENVOI

Finally, to the student reader about to embark on the exploration of world geography, we leave you with the following exhortation offered by the renowned author, James Michener, in his 1970 article in *Social Education* (pp. 764-766):

The more I work in the social-studies field the more convinced I become that geography is the foundation of all. . . . When I begin work on a new area—something I have been called upon to do rather frequently in my adult life—I invariably start with the best geography I can find. This takes precedence over everything else, even history, because I need to ground myself in the fundamentals which have governed and in a sense limited human devel-

opment. . . . If I were a young man with any talent for expressing myself, and if I wanted to make myself indispensable to society, I would devote eight or ten years to the real mastery of one of the earth's major regions. I would learn languages, the religions, the customs, the value systems, the history, the nationalisms, and above all the geography [emphasis added], and when that was completed I would be in a position to write about that region, and I would be invaluable to my nation, for I would be the

bridge of understanding to the alien culture. We have seen how crucial such bridges can be.

August, 1993

H. J. de Blij

Georgetown, Washington, D.C.

Peter O. Muller

Coral Gables, Florida

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One of the rewards associated with the publication of a book of this kind is the steady stream of correspondence and other feedback that it generates. Over the years, we have heard from colleagues, students, and lay readers. Geographers, economists, political scientists, education specialists, and others have written us, often with fascinating enclosures. We make it a point to respond personally to every such letter, and our editors have communicated with many of our correspondents as well. We have, moreover, considered every suggestion made—and many who wrote or transmitted their reactions through other channels will see their recommendations in print in the current edition. The list that follows is merely representative of a group of colleagues across North America to whom we are grateful for taking the time to share their thoughts and opinions with us.

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