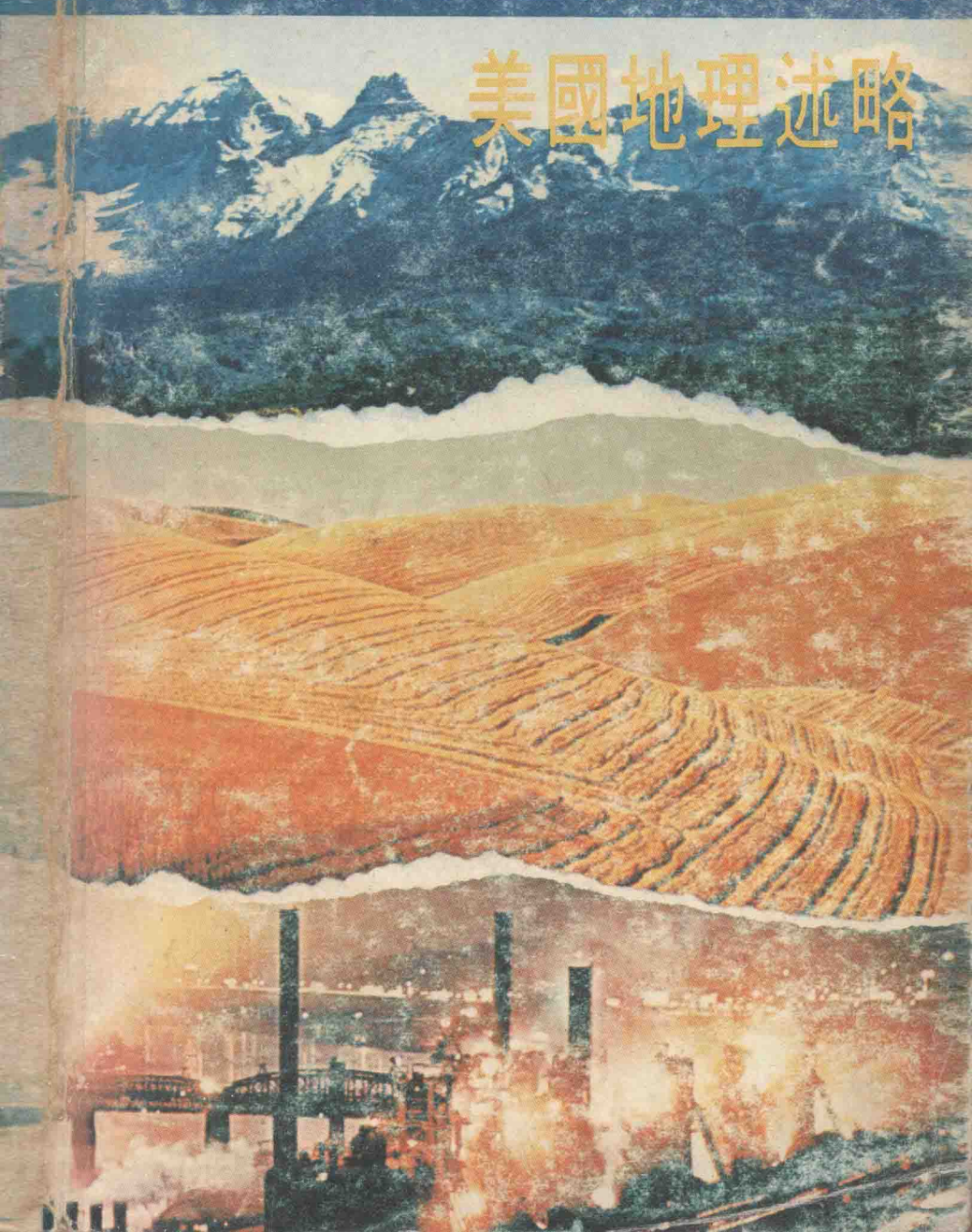


AN OUTLINE OF AMERICAN GEOGRAPHY

美國地理述略



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美國新聞處編譯

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On the Cover:

Three views of the United States: the land on which the country was born, the prairies which led to the growth of huge farms, and the industry which grew from the land's resources.

封面：

美國三景：美國的
誕生地（上），導致大農場成長
的大草原（中），以及憑土地
資源發展出來的工業（下）。

AN
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GEOGRAPHY

Of the many inquiries that are received by the United States Information Service, a large proportion are concerned with American geography. Through words and photographs, this book gives the reader a partial picture of the nation, telling about some of the ways Americans have used their land and their resources. This is in no sense a definitive account; each of the aspects treated here within the space of a few pages has been the subject of many in-depth studies. On pages 104-106 are listed the titles of a few of the many volumes available for more thorough research. It is hoped that this introduction to the subject of American geography will add to the store of shared knowledge and mutual understanding between those who read it and the people of the United States.

美國新聞處所接到的許多詢問中，有一大部份與美國地理有關。本書的圖文可以使讀者看到這個國家的部份情狀，知道美國人如何利用他們的土地和他們的資源。本書並非一本權威性著作，在本書用短短幾頁篇幅討論的每一方面，都曾成為許多深入研究的對象。第 104 - 106 頁所列出的著作，是許多可供深入研究的著作中的一小部份。希望這本美國地理簡介能增加分享知識的寶庫，並增進讀者和美國人民之間的互相瞭解。

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*The text of this revised volume was prepared by
Dr. Earl N. Mittleman, formerly of New York University and
now a writer for the United States Government.*

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此修訂本是由耶爾·N·密特曼主編，密氏曾在紐約大學任教，現任美國政府撰稿員。

INTRODUCTION

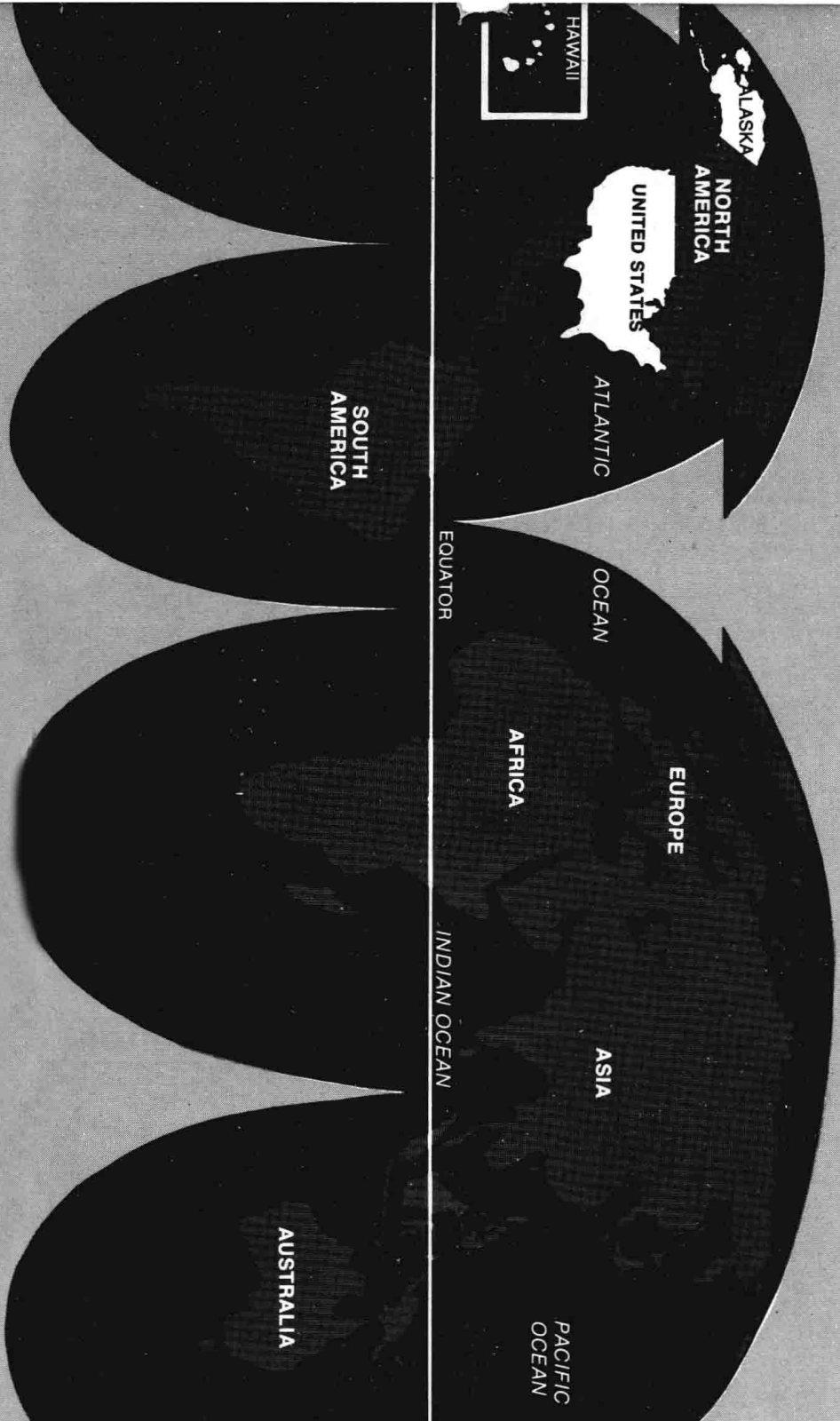
There is almost no end to the things men have done to make their land productive. The raw material with which they work is their geography: the natural features of the area and the distribution of life within it.

What people do with their geography is an exciting tale—one that gives human meaning to dry facts about soils, winds, mountains, plains, rivers. This book tells of the partnership of land and people in the United States, and of some of the changes that partnership brought about.

But first, an overall look at the country: The main land-mass of the United States lies in central North America, with Canada to the north, Mexico to the south, the Atlantic Ocean to the east and the Pacific Ocean to the west. The two newest states, Alaska and Hawaii, are separated from the continental United States: Alaska borders on northwestern Canada, and Hawaii lies in the central Pacific.

The diversity of the country stems from the fact that it is so large and has so many kinds of land, climate and people. It stretches 2,575 kilometers from north to south, 4,500 kilometers from east to west. The deep-green mountain forests of the northwest coast are drenched with more than 250 centimeters of rain each year. At the other extreme, the deserts of the southwest receive less than 13 centimeters annually. A traveler from almost any other country can find parts of the United States that remind him of home. There are pine forests dotted with lakes, and mountain peaks covered with snow. There are meadows with brooks and trees, and sea cliffs, and wide grassy plains, and broad spreads of grapevines, and sandy beaches.

In some parts of the United States, the pattern of life seems to have happened by accident. Sometimes when families moved westward to new farmland their wagons broke down or they became ill along the way. As a result, today, almost 200 years later, their descendants are farmers in little hidden valleys where few would expect people to live. But these are exceptions. Most people live and work as they do because the resources of their part of the country have opened certain opportunities and closed others. Traditional occupations, political borders, feudal custom have been less important in the United States than in many other countries.



ALASKA

NORTH
AMERICA

UNITED
STATES

ATLANTIC

OCEAN

EUROPE

ASIA

AFRICA

INDIAN OCEAN

PACIFIC
OCEAN

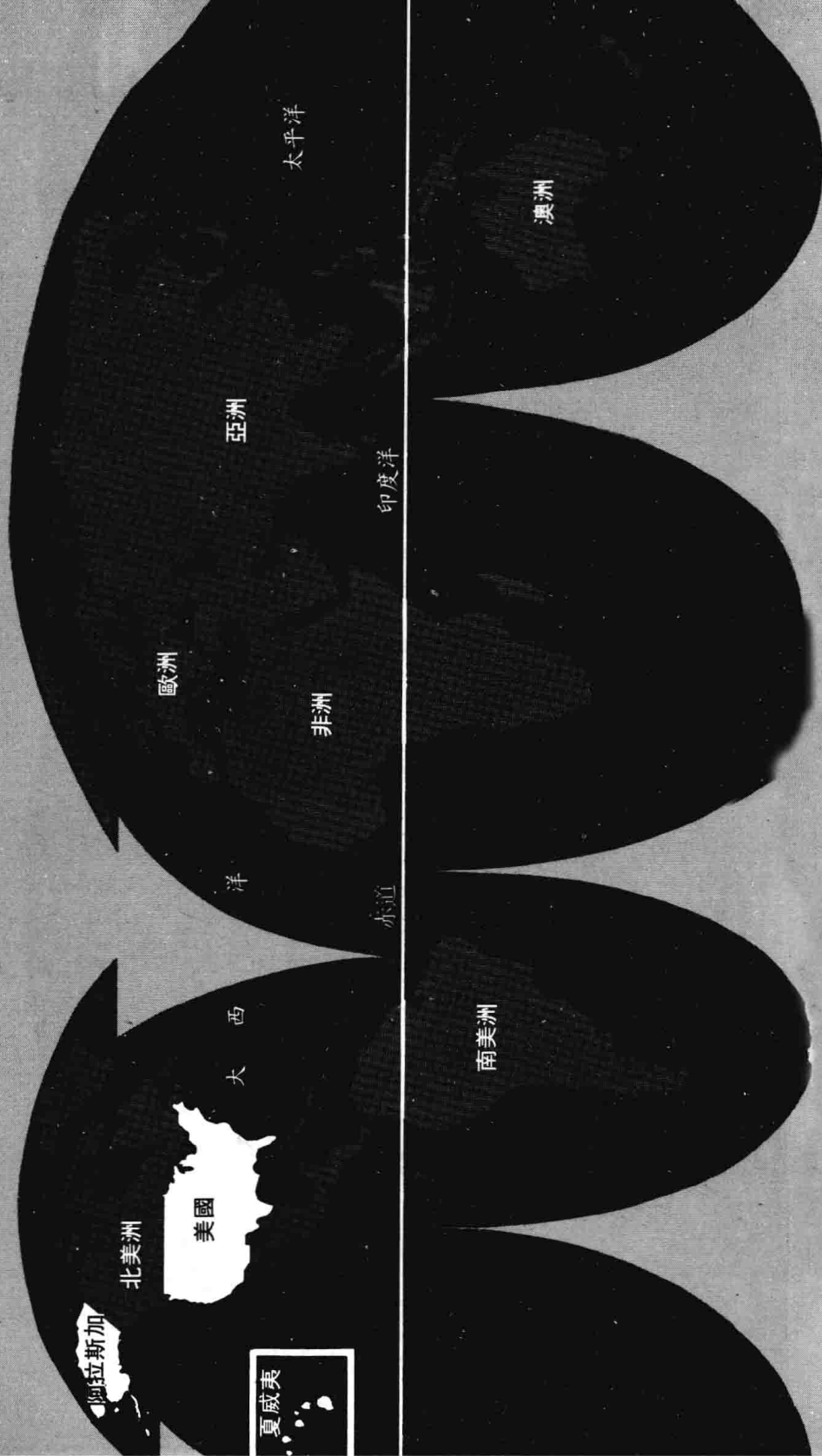
SOUTH
AMERICA

AUSTRALIA

EQUATOR

HAWAII





阿拉斯加

北美洲

美國

大西洋

洋

歐洲

亞洲

太平洋

非洲

赤道

印度洋

南美洲

澳洲

夏威夷

引 言

人類總是千方百計，使土地豐饒多產。他們工作所用的原料，是他們的地理條件；一個地區的自然特徵和生物分佈的情形。

人類利用地理條件的經過，是一篇動人的故事，讓人感到土壤、風力、山嶺、平原、河流等等枯燥的東西也很有意義。本書所談的是美國人民和土地合作的經過，以及因合作而產生的一些變遷。

但是，先讓我們對美國作一鳥瞰。美國國土主要部分是位於北美洲中央，北接加拿大，南聯墨西哥，東瀕大西洋，西臨太平洋。新成立的阿拉斯加與加拿大的西北部接壤，夏威夷則遠處太平洋中部。

美國變換多趣，源於幅員極廣，土地、氣候與人口都多種多樣。美國由北到南長達二千五百六十公里，自東至西寬四千四百八十公里。西北沿海一帶蒼鬱的深山密林，每年獲得雨量超過二百五十公分，而西南部的沙漠則每年降雨量不及十三公分。任何國度的旅客來到美國，幾乎都能找到一些恍如他故鄉的地方。他可以找到湖沼星羅棋布的松林，或是白雪蓋頂的峯巒；他可以找到溪流潺湲、濃蔭夾岸的牧場，或是海濱的危崖，或是茫無邊際的大草原，或是廣袤開展的葡萄園，或是多沙的海灘。

美國有些地方的生活情景似乎是偶然發生的。有時候，向西部前行尋求新耕地的人家，乘的四輪大篷車壞了，或者是有人在路上病了，結果到了差不多二百年後的今天，他們的後裔還在僻遠孤寂極少人以爲有人烟的山谷裏務農爲生。但這類事情，畢竟是例外的。大部分美國人各自過着目前這樣的生活，因爲他們所生活的地方天然資源豐富，爲他們提供了某些方面的機會，而不讓他們向其他方面發展。在別的許多國家甚爲重要的世傳的行業、政治上的界限、以及封建習慣等等，在美國卻沒那麼重要。

PANORAMIC VIEW

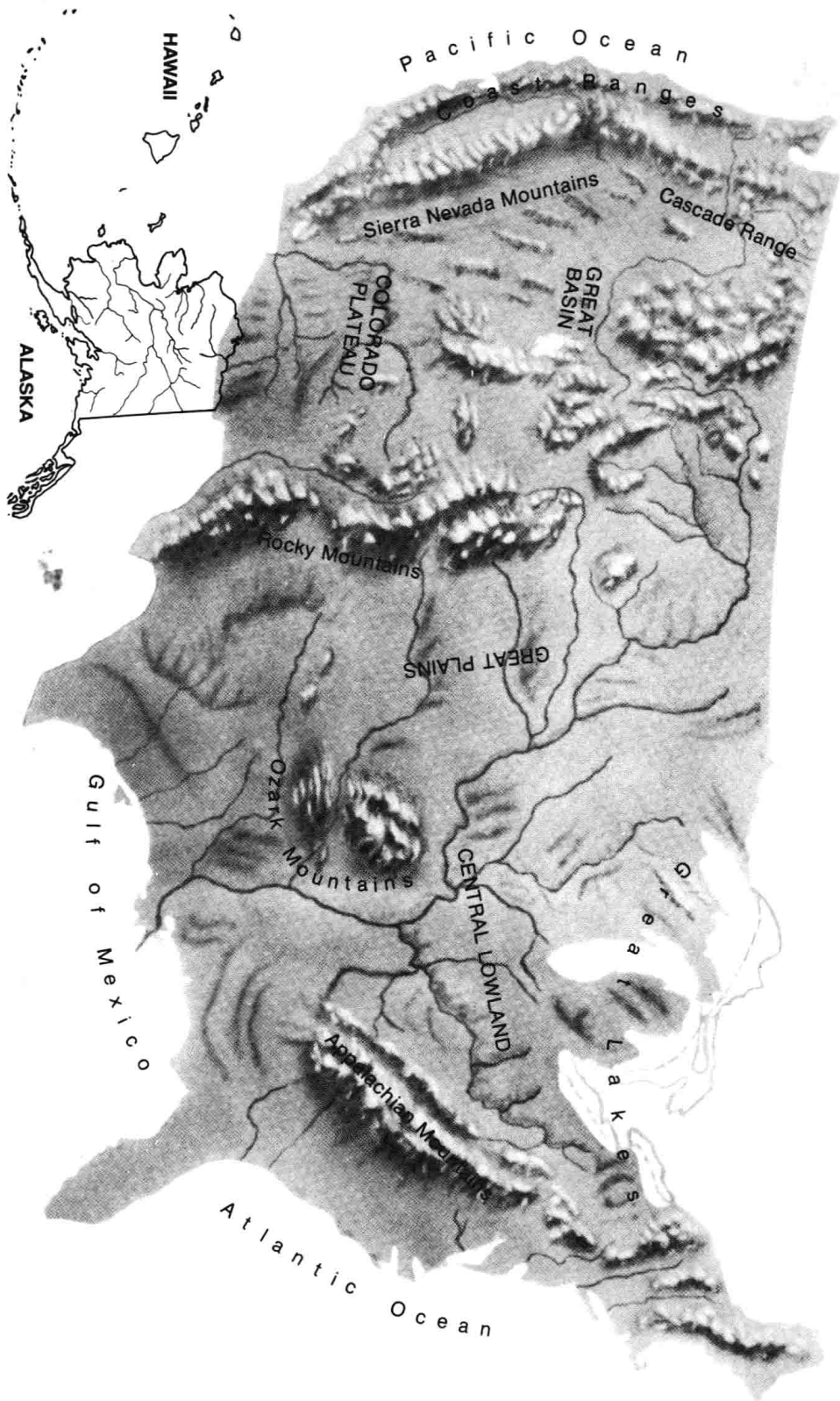
*"The existence of an area of free land,
its continuous recession, and the advance
of American settlement westward,
explain American development."*

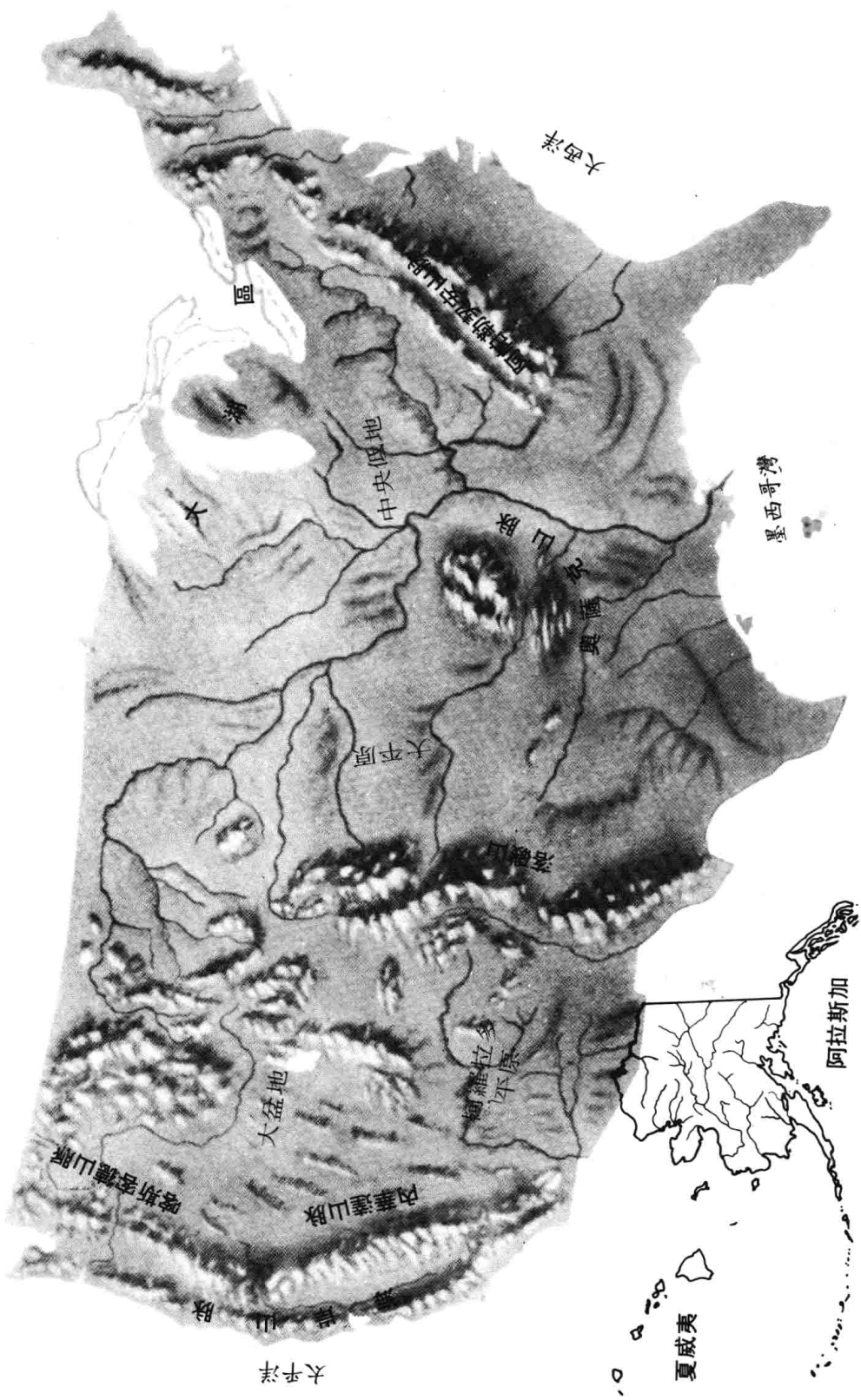
Frederick Jackson Turner
"The Significance of the Frontier
in American History", 1893

THE FACE OF THE LAND

On a topographic map of the United States, the mountains look like jagged masses, the plains like vast open flat spaces, and the rivers like meandering threads. Today, highways and railways criss-cross the land, making travel easy. But only a few generations ago, the topographic features on the map represented great dangers and difficulties. Today's visitors, riding over a good road in the Cascade Mountains in the west coast States of Oregon and Washington, may see marks on the rocks made by ropes where pioneer settlers painfully lowered their horses and wagons down cliffs to reach the fertile river valley far below. In the Sierra Nevada Mountains of California, the main route now runs through a mountain pass which was once too narrow for a wagon to go through. Pioneer families reaching that pass had to take their wagons apart piece by piece, carry them through, and then reassemble them on the other side.

Modern means of communication and transportation have enabled man to overcome these obstacles. Poles and wire now carry electrical power and telephone communication over ridges that are so deep in snow that only persons wearing snowshoes or skis can reach them. Railroads run along the sides of mountains or in tunnels through them. Bridges have been built over valleys and rivers. Highways





全面的景象

「一片空曠地區的存在，其不斷後退，
以及美國人向西移殖，說明了美國發展的梗概。」

——菲里德立克·傑克遜·特納：
「拓荒在美國歷史上的重要性」；一八九三年。

地 形

在美國地形圖上看，大山好像參差的土堆，平原像開廓平坦的空地，河流像蜿蜒的細線。在今天，公路和鐵路縱橫交錯穿過美國大地，方便行旅。可是，僅僅幾個世代之前，地圖上的地形情況，代表着重重險阻。今日的遊覽者在西岸的俄勒岡州和華盛頓州的喀斯喀德山脈中循着康莊大道而行，可以看到索纜在懸崖上磨出來的條條凹痕，都是早年拓荒者千辛萬苦將馬匹和車輛從巉崖放下到遠處壑底富饒的河岸時磨成的。在加里福尼亞州的內華達山脈，今日公路幹線穿過的一個關隘，當年太狹窄了，篷車難行。拓荒者拖家帶眷到了此地，要想通過，必須將篷車一件一件拆開運送過去，到另一邊再拼湊成車。

現代通訊和交通方法，使人能夠克服這些障礙。電線桿和電線今日運送電力和電話通信越過積雪甚深的山嶺，這些地方只有穿雪鞋或雪屐的人才能到達。鐵路沿着山坡或者穿越隧道前進。