

Preface

“If you build it, they will come” was the message that inspired the character played by Kevin Costner in the movie *Field of Dreams* to create a baseball field in his Iowa cornfield. A similar hope encouraged us when we first began to think about writing *Introduction to Geography* in 1975. At that time, very few departments of geography in the United States and Canada offered a general introductory course for students—that is, one that sought to acquaint students with the breadth of the entire field. Instead, most departments offered separate courses in physical and human or cultural geography.

Recognizing that most students will have only a single college course and textbook in geography, we wanted to develop a book that covers all of the systematic topics that geographers study. Our hope, of course, was that the book would so persuasively identify and satisfy a disciplinary instructional need that more departments would begin to offer a general introductory course to the discipline, a dream that has been realized.

APPROACH

Our purpose is to convey concisely and clearly the nature of the field of geography, its intellectual challenges, and the logical interconnections of its parts. Even if students take no further work in geography, we are satisfied that they will have come into contact with the richness and breadth of our discipline and have at their command new insights and understandings for their present and future roles as informed adults. Other students may have the opportunity and interest to pursue further work in geography. For them, we believe, this text will make apparent the content and scope of the subfields of geography, emphasize its unifying themes, and provide the foundation for further work in their areas of interest.

The content is structured around the major research traditions of the discipline. Chapter 1 introduces students to the four organizing traditions that have emerged through the long history of geographic thought and writing: earth science, culture–environment, locational, and area analysis. Each of the four parts of this book centers on one of these geographic perspectives. Within each of the first three parts are chapters devoted to the subfields of geography, each placed with the tradition to which we think it belongs. Thus, the study of weather and climate is part of the earth science tradition; population geography is considered under the culture–environment tradition; and urban geography is included with the locational perspective. The tradition of area analysis—of regional geography—is presented in a single final chapter, which draws on the preceding traditions and themes and is integrated with them by cross-references. A fuller discussion of the book’s organization is offered in Chapter 1, pp. 19 to 21.

Of course, our assignment of a topic may not seem appropriate to all users, since each tradition contains many

emphases and themes. Some subfields could logically be attached to more than one of the recognized traditions. The rationale for our clustering of chapters is given in the brief introduction to each part of the text.

A useful textbook must be flexible enough in its organization to permit an instructor to adapt it to the time and subject matter constraints of a particular course. Although designed with a one-quarter or one-semester course in mind, this text may be used in a full-year introduction to geography when employed as a point of departure for special topics and amplifications introduced by the instructor or when supplemented by additional readings and class projects.

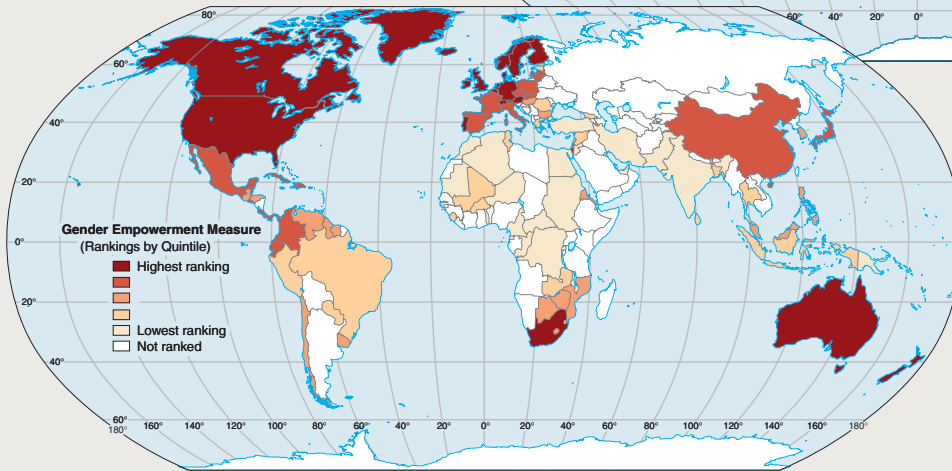
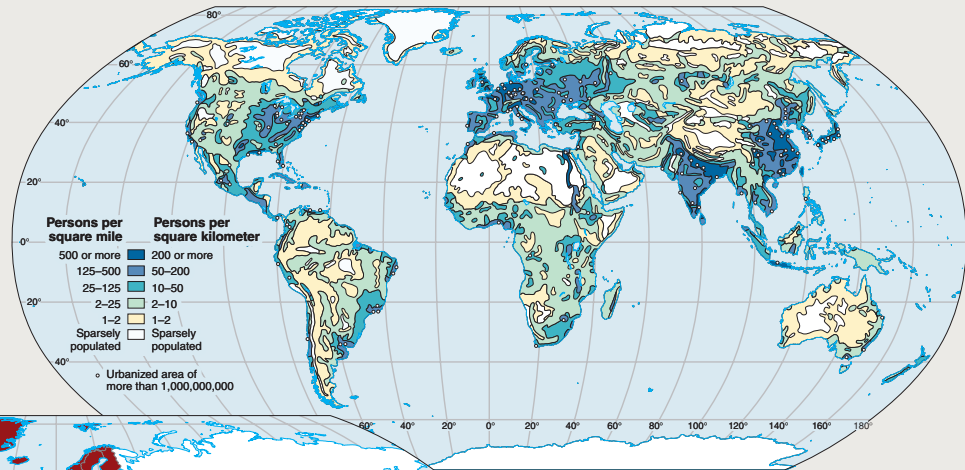
Moreover, the chapters are reasonably self-contained and need not be assigned in the sequence presented here. The “traditions” structure may be dropped and the chapters rearranged to suit the emphases and sequences preferred by the instructor or found to be of greatest interest to the students. The format of the course should properly reflect the joint contribution of instructor and book, rather than be dictated by the book alone.

NEW TO THIS EDITION

For the tenth edition, we have made three changes that affect the entire textbook.

- In response to suggestions from reviewers of past editions, we have altered the ordering of the chapters. “The Geography of Natural Resources” is now Chapter 5, in Part One, “The Earth Science Tradition.” “Urban Geography” has become Chapter 11. “Human Impact on the Environment” is now Chapter 12, detailing how all the processes, both physical and human, discussed in earlier chapters affect our planet.

- All of the world maps have been put on the Robinson projection, which was designed to show the world in a visually satisfactory manner. It permits some exaggeration of size in the high latitudes in order to improve the shapes of landmasses. Size and shape are most accurate in the temperate and tropical zones, where most people live.



- The colors on the maps have been chosen specifically in order to accommodate colorblind readers. Most of them should be able to distinguish the hues from one another.

As with each new edition, we have added and deleted materials to reflect new research findings in the different topical areas of geography and the spatial consequences of continuing changes in established economic, political, social, and environmental structures and relationships. In addition to the necessary chapter revisions and updating of facts, analyses, and viewpoints mandated by current events, we have made every effort to incorporate in this revision many of the helpful suggestions offered by users. Nearly every chapter contains at least brief text additions or modifications, and four have been altered significantly.

- In response to reviewers who, over the years, have suggested that the topic of map projections is not appropriate for their students, we have moved most of that material to the new Appendix 1. In recognition of the increasing role of the Global Positioning System in our lives, an earlier boxed discussion has been made part of the regular text and expanded upon. The chapter ends with a new section, "Applications of Geographic Information Systems."

- Chapter 4, "Physical Geography: Weather and Climate," concludes with a significantly revised and lengthened discussion of climatic change, with long-term climate changes, short-term climate changes, and the greenhouse effect and global warming as subtopics.
- Extensive text changes in Chapter 10, "Economic Geography," include the addition of material on food resources and nutrition; a new section on expanding crop production with revised "Intensification and the Green Revolution" material; and a consideration of fishing as a primary economic activity. The section on trade in primary products has been completely revised.
- Changes to Chapter 11, "Urban Geography," involve a reorganization and revision of the section "Systems of Urban Settlements" and the addition of a new boxed discussion, "Women in the City." The chapter ends with a new section, "Cities in the Developing World."
- Every table and figure has been reviewed for accuracy and currency and has been replaced, updated, or otherwise revised where necessary. This tenth edition contains 35 new pieces of line art (maps, graphs, and diagrams), 70 new photographs or satellite images, and several new tables. In addition, about 60 figures have been revised and redrawn.

- **End-of-Chapter Material.** *Chapter summaries* bring together and reinforce the major ideas of the chapter. A “Key Words” list contains page references to important terms introduced in the chapter, making it easy for students to verify their understanding of each term. “For Review and Consideration” questions enable readers to check their grasp of chapter material. A limited “Selected References” listing cites important recent or classic considerations of the subject matter of each chapter. We have included both widely available recent books and articles and a few more specialized titles useful to students who want to delve more deeply into particular subfields of geography.



- Websites relevant to the subject matter of each chapter appear in the “Web Links” section of the Online Learning Center associated with this book. It can be accessed at www.mhhe.com/getis10e/.
- As its title indicates, the new Appendix 1, “Map Projections,” is a discussion of that topic. It includes a consideration of methods of projection, globe properties and map distortion, and classes of projections.
- Appendix 2, a modified version of the 2004 World Population Data Sheet of the Population Reference Bureau, includes basic demographic data and projections for countries, regions, and continents, as well as selected economic and social statistics helpful in national and regional comparisons. The appendix data provide a wealth of useful comparative information for student projects, regional and topical analyses, and study of world patterns.



SUPPLEMENTS

The Introduction to Geography Learning/Teaching Package

The tenth edition provides a complete geography program for the student and teacher.

For the Student

Online Learning Center at www.mhhe.com/getis10e

This site gives you the opportunity to further explore topics presented in the book using the Internet. The site contains interactive quizzing with immediate feedback, interactive activities, base maps, animations, flashcards, and critical thinking questions. We have integrated *PowerWeb: Geography's* informative and timely world news, web links, and much more into the site to make these valuable resources easily accessible to students.

Interactive World Issues CD-ROM

Your instructor may require the *Interactive World Issues* CD-ROM. This CD allows you to have hands-on exercises and to see videos of different case studies. The five case studies include Chicago, Oregon, Mexico, China, and South Africa. Since most of us are unable to visit different world regions, this is a good way to understand the issues facing different parts of the world.

For the Instructor

Online Learning Center with PowerWeb: Geography at www.mhhe.com/getis10e

Take advantage of the classroom activities, PowerPoint slides, and access to PageOut—McGraw-Hill's course management tool. *PowerWeb: Geography* is also available and will provide you with current news updates and articles that are great tools for stimulating class discussion.

Online Instructor's Manual

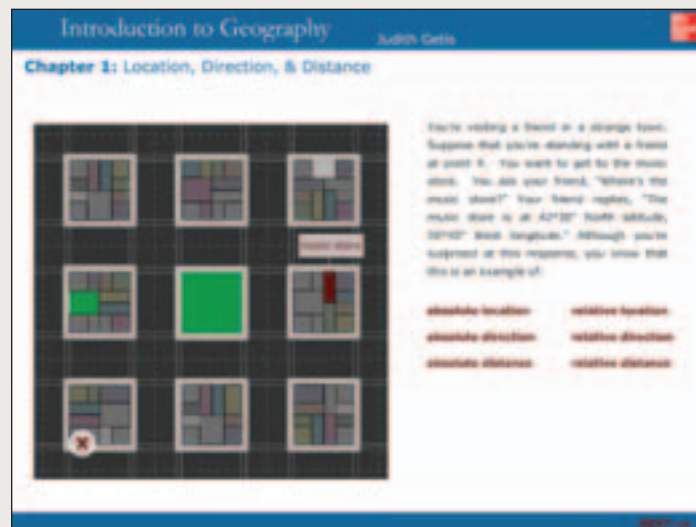
Included in this password-protected section of the Online Learning Center are chapter overviews, key terms, and discussion topics.

Digital Content Manager CD-ROM

This CD-ROM contains all of the figures and photographs from the text. The software makes customizing your multimedia presentation easy. You can organize figures in any order you want; add labels, lines, and your own artwork; integrate materials from other sources; edit and annotate lecture notes; and then have the option of placing your multimedia lecture into another presentation program, such as PowerPoint.

Instructor's Testing and Resource CD-ROM

This cross-platform CD-ROM provides a wealth of resources for the instructor. Supplements featured on this CD-ROM include computerized testing software that allows instructors to quickly create customized exams. This user-friendly program allows you to sort questions by format; edit exist-



ing questions or add new ones; and scramble questions for multiple versions of the same test.

Other assets on the Instructor's Testing and Resource CD-ROM are grouped within easy-to-use folders. The Instructor's Manual and Test Item File are available in both Word and PDF formats. Word files of the test bank are included for those instructors who prefer to work outside of the test-generator software.

Transparencies

Included are 100 illustrations from the text, all enlarged for excellent visibility in the classroom.

Videotape Library

An extensive array of videotapes is available to qualified adopters. Check with your sales representative for details.

Interactive World Issues CD-ROM

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Course Management Systems

Online course content is available for a variety of course management systems, including

- Blackboard
- WebCT
- eCollege
- PageOut

PACKAGES

Get a discount when packaging the text with one of these supplements. McGraw-Hill offers many different packaging options, which not only provide students with valuable geography-related material but will also save them money. Instructors, ask your sales representative for information on the discounts and special ISBNs for ordering a package that contains one or more of the following:

Interactive World Issues CD-ROM

Student Atlas of World Geography

New Millennium CD-ROM by Rand McNally

You Can Make a Difference: Be Environmentally Responsible

New York Times subscription—special 20-week subscription

Global Studies series

Student Atlas series

Taking Sides series

Annual Editions series

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A number of reviewers have greatly improved the content of this and earlier editions of *Introduction to Geography* by their critical comments and suggestions. Although we could not act on every helpful suggestion or adopt every useful observation, all were carefully and gratefully considered. In addition to those acknowledgments of assistance detailed in previous editions, we note the thoughtful advice recently provided by

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Finally, we note with deep appreciation and admiration the efforts of the publisher's "book team," separately named on the copyright page, who collectively shepherded this revision to completion. We are grateful for their highly professional interest, guidance, and support.

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