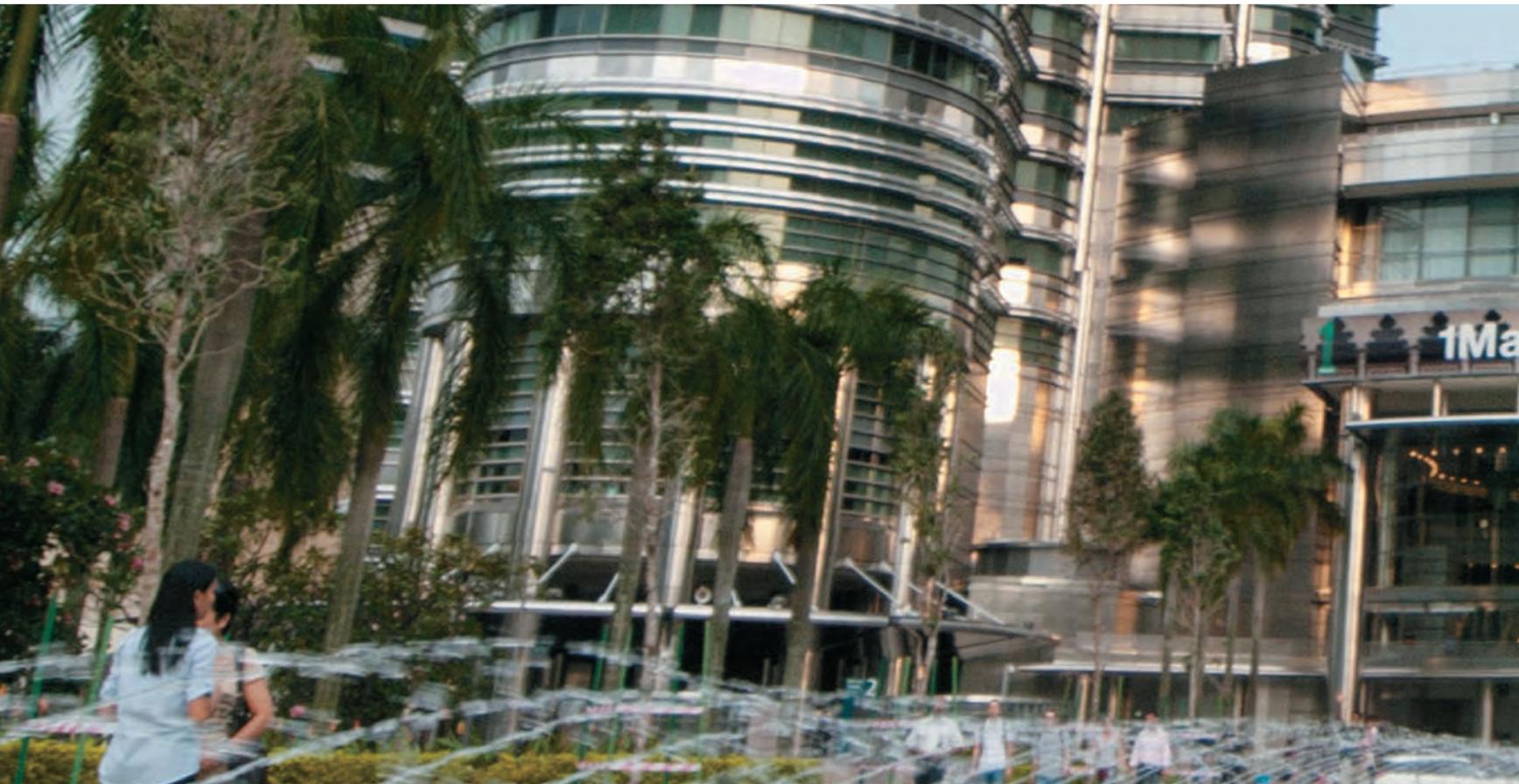


HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

Places and Regions in Global Context



Paul L. Knox
Virginia Tech

Sallie A. Marston
University of Arizona

Michael Imort
Wilfrid Laurier University

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Places and Regions in Global Context

FIFTH CANADIAN EDITION

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Preface

Welcome to the fifth Canadian edition of *Human Geography: Places and Regions in Global Context*! What can this book do for you? Well, as the authors, we hope that it will guide you in some small way as you look for your own place in this world—after all, that is what university *really* is about. We hope that it will help you answer some of the questions that every generation has been facing to some degree but that have become even more pressing as your generation gets ready to work and live in an increasingly globalized world. How will your future job be affected by globalization? What role will your country play in the global competition for power, wealth, and security? Will we have enough resources for a growing global population? Are we living in the “Chinese Century”? To answer these and similar questions and find out what the answers mean for your life, you can do no better than to start with a solid understanding of the tools and concepts geographers use to discuss, research, and ultimately affect the world.

This book introduces you to human geography: the study of how people and places interact. The idea for this book evolved from conversations among the authors and colleagues about how to teach human geography at the university level. Our intent is to find a way not only to capture the exciting and troubling changes that are rewriting the world’s landscapes and reorganizing the spatial relationships between people, but also to convincingly demonstrate why the study of geography matters. Our aim is to show why a geographical imagination is important, how it can lead to an understanding of the world and its constituent places and regions, and how it has practical relevance in many realms of life.

Places and Regions in Global Context also insists on interpreting these aims from an inherently *Canadian* perspective. Since European contact, the country that we now call Canada has been developing according to a very different geographical set of principles than our neighbour to the south, whether we are talking about economic, demographic, or cultural development. For example, because Canada’s population is made up of a far greater proportion of recent immigrants from a wider range of countries than is the population of the United States, it can be argued that Canada’s interest in world affairs is of a far different nature. Many Canadians, for example, view the geographic processes of globalization through the prism of their local connections with other parts of the world—and not, as in an American case, from the geopolitical perspective of a superpower.

NEW TO THE FIFTH CANADIAN EDITION

The fifth Canadian edition of *Places and Regions in Global Context* represents a thorough revision. Every part of the book was examined carefully with the dual goals of keeping topics and data current

and improving the clarity of the text and the graphics. We have also sought to enhance the utility of the book for both instructors and students.

- Chapter-opening vignettes introduce students to the subject matter with interesting and varied topics.
- A list of Learning Outcomes in each chapter opener offers students a structured learning path that guides them through the main learning goals for the chapter. These Learning Outcomes are revisited and expanded upon at the end of each chapter, with summaries of chapter content correlated to the Learning Outcomes.
- Throughout every chapter, conceptual Apply Your Knowledge questions are integrated within the text, giving students a chance to pause and apply their understanding for a more active learning approach.
- We have increased the focus on basic introductory human geography content in Chapter 1, allowing the text to be more accessible to a wide range of introductory courses and students.
- Material from the final chapter of the fourth Canadian edition, on Future Geographies, has been updated and integrated into each chapter, thus placing the “futures” content in thematic context.
- The boxed feature essays on Visualizing Geography have been fundamentally redesigned to incorporate edgy, modern applications and visualizations of geography data.
- A new boxed feature called Virtual Geographies highlights the many effects of the new information and communications technologies on geography at all scales.
- The fifth Canadian edition also incorporates a comprehensive updating of all of the data, maps, photographs, and illustrative examples.
- We have added or expanded upon quite a few topics, including the global financial crisis; the credit crunch and mortgage foreclosures; climate change and issues of sustainability; the effect of the retiring baby boomer cohort on Canada; global interdependence and food supplies; the restructuring of Canadian agriculture; water supply problems; oil and energy; geopolitics; political ecology; religion; biotechnology and agricultural systems; fast food and slow food; virtual social networks; current events like the Arab Spring, the Japanese earthquake and tsunami, and typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines; global film and music; big-box retailing and global commodity chains; the “experience economy”; and the landscapes of the polycentric metropolis. These changes are designed to ensure that we offer the most up-to-date coverage in the field of human geography.

- The new MasteringGeography™ platform is linked to the Learning Outcomes and contains a wide range of resources and activities designed to reinforce basic concepts in human geography, including MapMaster™ interactive maps, Google Earth™ activities, geography videos, and more.

OBJECTIVE AND APPROACH

The objective of the book is to introduce the study of human geography by presenting not only a body of knowledge about the creation of places and regions but also fostering an understanding of the interdependence of places and regions in a globalizing world. More precisely, we hope that you recognize the daily interconnections between your own life and the lives of people in other parts of the world.

The book takes a fresh approach to human geography, reflecting the major changes that have recently been impressed on global, regional, and local landscapes. These changes include the globalization of industry, the rise of China and India, the upwelling of ethnic regionalisms on the heels of decolonization and the formation of new states, the rapid urbanization of the periphery and the physical restructuring of cities, the transformation of traditional agricultural practices, the trend toward transnational political and economic organizations, and the dramatic advances in information and communication technologies. *Human Geography: Places and Regions in Global Context* introduces the many new ideas, concepts, and theories that address these changes while also teaching the fundamentals of human geography: the principles, concepts, theoretical frameworks, and basic knowledge that are necessary to more specialized studies.

The most distinctive feature of this approach is that it emphasizes the interdependence of places and processes at different geographical scales. In overall terms, this approach is designed to provide an understanding of relationships between the global and the local and the outcomes of these relationships. It follows that one of the chief organizing principles is how globalization frames the social and cultural construction of particular places and regions at various scales.

This approach has several advantages:

- It captures aspects of human geography that are among the most compelling in the contemporary world—the geographical bases of cultural diversity and their impacts on everyday life, for example.
- It encompasses the salient aspects of new emphases in academic human geography—geography’s new focus on the social construction of spaces and places, for example.
- It makes for an easier connection between topical and regional material by emphasizing how processes link them—technological innovation and the varying ways in which technology is adopted and modified by people in particular places, for example.
- It facilitates meaningful comparisons between places in different parts of the world—how the core-generated industrialization of agriculture shapes gender relations in households both in the core and the periphery, for example.

In short, this textbook is designed to focus on geographical processes and to provide an understanding of the interdependence

among places and regions without losing sight of their individuality and uniqueness.

Several important themes are woven into each chapter, integrating them into the overall approach:

- the relationships between global processes and their local manifestations
- the interdependence of people and places, especially the interactive relationships between core regions and peripheral regions
- the continuing transformation of the political economy of the world-system, and of nations, regions, cities, and localities
- the social and cultural differences that are embedded in human geographies (especially the differences that relate to ethnicity, gender, age, and class)

CHAPTER ORGANIZATION

The organization of the book is innovative in several ways. First, the chapters are organized in such a way that the conceptual framework—why geography matters in a globalizing world—is laid out in Chapters 1 and 2 and then deployed in thematic chapters (Chapters 3 through 11). Second, the conceptual framework of the book builds on two introductory chapters rather than the usual one. The first describes the basics of a geographic perspective; the second explains the value of the globalization approach.

Third, the distinctive chapter ordering within the book follows the logic of moving from less complex to more complex systems of human social and economic organization, always highlighting the interaction between people and the world around them. The first thematic chapter (Chapter 3) focuses on human population. Its early placement in the book reflects the central importance of people in understanding geography. Chapter 4 deals with the relationship between people and the environment as it is mediated by technology. This chapter capitalizes on the growing interest in environmental problems and develops a central theme: all human geographical issues are about how people negotiate their environment—whether the natural or the built environment.

The chapter on nature, society, and technology is followed by Chapter 5 on cultural geographies. The intention in positioning the cultural chapter here is to signal that culture is the primary medium through which people operate and understand their place in the world. In Chapter 6 the impact of cultural processes on the landscape is explored, together with the ways in which landscape shapes cultural processes.

In Chapter 7, the book begins to move toward more complex concepts and systems of human organization by concentrating on economic development. The focus of Chapter 8 is agriculture. The placement of agriculture after economic development reflects the overall emphasis on globalization. This chapter shows how processes of globalization and economic development have led to the industrialization of agriculture at the expense of more traditional agricultural systems and practices.

The final three thematic chapters cover political geographies (Chapter 9), urbanization (Chapter 10), and urban structure (Chapter 11). Devoting two chapters to urban geography, rather than a more conventional single chapter, is an important indication

of how globalization increasingly leads to the rapid urbanization of the world's people and places.

At the end of each chapter, a new section called Future Geographies projects globalization processes and trends into the future and speculates how future geographies may unfold.

FEATURES

The book employs four different boxed features, as well as more familiar pedagogical devices such as chapter overviews and end-of-chapter exercises:

Geography Matters boxes examine a key concept of the chapter, providing an extended example of its meaning and implications through both visual illustration and text. The Geography Matters features demonstrate that the focus of human geography is on real-world problems.

Visualizing Geography boxes highlight key concepts of the chapter with a photographic essay. This feature helps students recognize that the visual landscape contains readily accessible evidence about the impact of globalization on people and places.

The new **Virtual Geographies** boxes are brief vignettes that highlight how the new information and communications technologies are changing geography at all scales.

New **Window on the World** boxes take a key concept and explore its application in a particular location. This feature allows students to appreciate the relevance of geographic concepts to world events and brings far-flung places closer to their comprehension.

SUPPLEMENTS

The book includes a complete supplement program for both students and instructors.

For the Student

MasteringGeography™ for *Human Geography: Places and Regions in Global Context* is the most effective and widely used tutorial, homework, and assessment system for the sciences. The Mastering system empowers students to take charge of their learning through activities aimed at different learning styles, and engages them in learning science through practice and step-by-step guidance—at their convenience, 24/7. MasteringGeography offers

- assignable activities that include MapMaster™ interactive maps, *Encounter Human Geography* Google Earth Explorations, geography videos, Thinking Spatially and Data Analysis activities, end-of-chapter questions, reading quizzes, and more
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For the Instructor

The following instructor supplements are available for downloading from a password-protected section of Pearson Canada's online catalogue (www.pearsoned.ca/highered). Navigate to the book's catalogue page to view a list of supplements that are available. See the local sales representative for details and access.

Instructor's Resource Manual: The Instructor's Resource Manual, intended as a resource for both new and experienced instructors, includes a variety of lecture outlines, additional source materials, teaching tips, advice on how to integrate visual supplements, answers to the end-of-chapter exercises, and various other ideas for the classroom.

Activities Manual: This manual contains 20 different activities, tailored to the needs of individual chapters. Each activity identifies concepts to be learned and includes instructor's notes and assessment options.

Computerized Test Bank: Pearson's computerized test banks allow instructors to filter and select questions to create quizzes, tests, or homework. Instructors can revise questions or add their own, and may be able to choose print or online options. These questions are also available in Microsoft Word format.

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Image Library: The Image Library includes many of the illustrations, maps, figures, and tables from the text.

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Michael Imort

About the Authors



Paul L. Knox

Paul Knox received his Ph.D. in geography from the University of Sheffield, England. In 1985, after teaching in the United Kingdom for several years, he moved to the United States to take up a position as professor of urban affairs and planning at Virginia Tech. His teaching centres on urban and regional development, with an emphasis on comparative study. In 1989, he received a university award for teaching excellence. He has written several books on aspects of economic geography, social geography, and urbanization. He serves on the editorial board of several scientific journals and is co-editor on a series of books on world cities. In 1996, he was appointed to the position of University Distinguished Professor at Virginia Tech, where he currently serves as dean of the College of Architecture and Urban Studies.



Sallie A. Marston

Sallie Marston received her Ph.D. in geography from the University of Colorado, Boulder. She has been a faculty member at the University of Arizona since 1986. Her teaching focuses on the historical, social, and cultural aspects of American urbanization, with particular emphasis on race, class, gender, and ethnicity issues. She received the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences Outstanding Teaching Award in 1989. She is the author of numerous journal articles and book chapters and serves on the editorial board of several scientific journals. In 1994 and 1995, she served as Interim Director of Women's Studies and the Southwest Institute for Research on Women. She is currently a professor in, and serves as head of, the Department of Geography and Regional Development.



Michael Imort

Michael Imort received his Ph.D. from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. Ever the geographer, he took the long way to get there, studying at Brock, York, Waterloo, and Freiburg, Germany, with stints in the Arctic, Hawaii, Mali, and Zaire (now DRC), and taking a teaching appointment in an English castle—not to mention the days when he worked as a lumberjack or ran a bookstore. When the time came to get serious, he joined the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at Wilfrid Laurier University, where he currently is the Associate Dean of Arts. Originally trained as a forest scientist with an interest in fire ecology, he soon became interested in the human side of environmental problems. Today his research interests include environmental thought and the many ways in which representations of landscape are used and abused for political purposes.

HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

Places and Regions in Global Context