



# Diversity Amid Globalization: World Regions, Environment, Development (4th Edition)

By Lester Rowntree, Martin Lewis, Marie Price, William Wyckoff

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*Diversity Amid Globalization* explicitly acknowledges the geographic changes in today's world by emphasizing both the homogenizing and diversifying forces inherent to the globalization process. This approach allows the authors to **emphasize the interconnections** that bind people and places together. The globalization approach challenges students to make critical comparisons between the regions of the world in order to understand them more fully.

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## **Editorial Review**

### From the Back Cover

This is an issues-oriented book that tackles the geographic changes accompanying today's rapid rate of globalization. Taking a thematic approach, it gives the information needed to make critical comparisons between the various regions of the world and to understand more fully the interconnections that increasingly bind these regions together. Diversity and Globalization. The Changing Global Environment. Global Geography in the 21st Century. The Regions of the World. For anyone interested in globalization in its various expressions, and the tension between it and local diversity.

### About the Author

**Les Rowntree** is a Visiting Scholar at the University of California, Berkeley, where he researches and writes about environmental issues. This career change comes after three decades of teaching both Geography and Environmental Studies at San Jose State University in California. As an environmental geographer, Dr. Rowntree's interests focus on international environmental issues, biodiversity conservation, and human-caused global change. He sees world regional geography as a way to engage and inform students by giving them the conceptual tools needed to critically assess global issues. Dr. Rowntree has done research in Iceland, Alaska, Morocco, Mexico, Australia, and Europe, as well as in his native California. Current writing projects include a book on the natural history of California's coast, as well as textbooks in geography and environmental science.

**Martin Lewis** is a Senior Lecturer in History at Stanford University. He has conducted extensive research on environmental geography in the Philippines and on the intellectual history of global geography. His publications included *Wagering the Land: Ritual, Capital, and Environmental Degradation in the Cordillera of Northern Luzon, 1900-1986* (1992), and, with Karen Wigen, *The Myth of Continents: A Critique of Metageography* (1997). Dr. Lewis has traveled extensively in East, South, and Southeast Asia. His current research focuses on the geographical dimensions of globalization.

**Marie Price** is an Associate Professor of Geography and International Affairs at George Washington University. A Latin American specialist, Marie has conducted research in Belize, Mexico, Venezuela, Cuba, and Bolivia. She has also traveled widely throughout natural resources use, environmental conservation, and regional development. In 2006 she was a Visiting Scholar at the Migration Policy Institute in Washington, D.C., conducting research on immigration to the world's major cities. Dr. Price brings to *Globalization and Diversity* a special interest in regions as dynamic spatial constructs that are shaped over time through both global and local forces. Her publications included articles in the *Annals of the Association of American Geographers, Geographical Review, Journal of Historical Geography, CLAG Yearbook, Studies in Comparative International Development, the Brookings Institution Survey Series, International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* and *Focus*.

**William Wyckoff** is a geographer in the Department of Earth Sciences at Montana State University specializing in the cultural and historical geography of North America. He has written and co-edited several books on North American settlement geography, including *The Developer's Frontier: The Making of the Western New York Landscape* (1998), *The Mountainous West: Explorations in Historical Geography* (1995) (with Larry M. Dilsaver), *Creating Colorado: The Making of a Western American Landscape* (2006). In 2003 he received Montana State's Cox Family Fund for Excellence Faculty Award for Teaching and

Scholarship. A World Regional Geography instructor for 26 years, Dr. Wyckoff emphasizes in the classroom the connections between the everyday lives of his students and the larger global geographies that surround them and increasingly shape their future.

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Places fascinate geographers. From an early age, we accumulate maps and dream about faraway corners of the world. Those of us lucky enough to make a living in geography also want to understand why the world works the way it does, how its unique regions have taken shape, and how those regions are increasingly interconnected. Those fundamental curiosities brought us together to create something new and different: an interpretation of world regional geography that was deeply appreciative of global diversity and that looked with a fresh and penetrating eye at the aspects of modern life that tie us all together.

The result has been our own odyssey of exploration, a pooling of expertise and enthusiasm that we hope can offer students a perspective that will stay with them long after they leave the classroom. As an introduction to the field of geography, this book provides a view of the world that will serve students well in the early twenty-first century. This view weds environment, people, and place; ponders how those relationships play out in particular regions; and assesses how powerful processes of globalization are reshaping those relationships in new and often unanticipated ways. *Diversity Amid Globalization* is the product of a shared vision that we believe demonstrates the essential and invaluable role that geography can play in all our lives.

## Objective and Approach

*Diversity Amid Globalization* is an issues-oriented textbook for college and university world regional geography classes that explicitly recognizes the geographic changes accompanying today's rapid globalization. With this focus, we join the many who argue that globalization is the most fundamental reorganization of the planet's socioeconomic, cultural, and geopolitical structure since the Industrial Revolution. The explicit recognition of this premise provides the point of departure for this book. As geographers, we think it essential for students to understand two interactive tensions. First, they need to appreciate and critically ponder the consequences of converging environmental, cultural, political, and economic systems through forces of globalization. Second, they need to deepen their understanding of the creation and persistence of geographic diversity and difference. The interaction and tension between these opposing forces of homogenization and diversification forms a current running throughout the following chapters and is reflected in our title, *Diversity Amid Globalization*.

## Chapter Organization

As are all other world regional geography textbooks, *Diversity Amid Globalization* is structured to explain and describe the major world regions of Asia, Africa, the Americas, and so on. These 12 regional chapters, however, depart somewhat from traditional world regional textbooks. Instead of filling them with descriptions of individual countries, we place most of that important material in readily accessible ancillaries, specifically, in the textbook Web site and in the instructor's manual. This leaves us free to develop five important thematic sections as the organizational basis for each regional chapter. We begin with "Environmental Geography," which discusses the physical geography of each region as well as current environmental issues. Next, we assess "Population and Settlement" geography, in which demography, land use, and settlement (including cities) are discussed. We also provide a section on "Cultural Coherence and Diversity," which examines the geography of language and religion, yet also explores current cultural tensions resulting from the interplay of globalization and diversity. The section on each region's

"Geopolitical Framework" then treats the dynamic political geography of the region, including micro-regionalism, separatism, ethnic conflicts, global terrorism, and supranational organizations. Finally, we conclude each regional treatment with a section titled "Economic and Social Development" in which we analyze each region's economic framework as well as its social geography, including gender issues.

This regional treatment follows two substantive introductory chapters that provide the conceptual and theoretical framework of human and physical geography necessary to understand our dynamic world. In the first chapter, students are introduced to the notion of globalization and are asked to ponder the costs and benefits of the globalization process, a critical perspective that is becoming increasingly common and important to understand. Following this, the geographical foundation for each of the five thematic sections is examined. This discussion draws heavily on the major concepts fundamental to an introductory university geography course. The second chapter, "The Changing Global Environment," presents the themes and concepts of global physical geography, including landforms and geology, climate, hydrology, and biogeography.

## Chapter Features

Within each regional chapter, several unique features complement the thematic pedagogy of our approach:

- *Comparable Maps.* Of the 14 or 15 maps found in each regional chapter, 7 are constructed with the same theme and similar data and on the same base map so that readers can easily draw comparisons between different regions. Thus, in every regional chapter readers will find an introductory regional place-name and feature map, a map of the physical geography of the region, a climate map, an environmental issues map, a population density map, a language geography map, and a map showing the geopolitical issues of the region. In addition, each regional chapter also has 7 or 8 other maps illustrating such major themes as ethnic tensions, social development, and linkages to the global economy.
- *Comparable Regional Data Sets.* Again, to facilitate comparison between regions, as well as to provide important insight on the characteristics of each region, each chapter contains three tables. The first provides population data, including natural increase and total fertility rates for each country within the region. The second presents economic data for each country within the region on such issues as gross national income (GNI), GNI per capita, GNI with purchasing power parity (PPP), and average annual economic growth. The last standardized table provides indicators of social development and the status of women within the region with data on life expectancy at birth, child mortality, illiteracy, and female participation in the labor force.
- *Sidebars.* Within each chapter, sidebars complement text material. These sidebars have several goals. Each chapter begins with a sidebar titled "Setting the Boundaries," which gives a good overview of the region, discusses its role in the world today, often raising questions about its geographic coherence by accentuating its diversity, and looks at the vexatious issue of regional boundaries. Subsequent sidebars take on different themes; while some probe deeper into environmental issues with case studies, others elaborate on some form of popular culture, such as food or music, common to the region. Many chapters include sidebars that discuss ethnic and political tensions. Regional chapters also contain sidebars titled "Local Voices" in which the authors step aside to let local peoples—through song, literature, or the Internet—talk about their region. Finally, several chapters contain new sidebars that explicitly discuss the geopolitical implications of the war on global terrorism for that particular region.
- *Review and Research Questions.* There are two sets of review and research questions at the end of each regional chapter. The first set helps readers review basic terminology and concepts. The second set, "Thinking Geographically," asks readers to draw together more abstract themes and problems by doing further research on an issue. Resources for answering these critical thinking exercises are found in the chapter bibliographies, in the instructor's manual, and on the textbook's Web site.

- *Regional Films and Novels.* We provide a short list of films and novels that we believe capture the sense of place and flavor of the different world regions. Our experience is that these two art forms can be very important in conveying to students a more comprehensive feel for a region by putting into prose or visual form the landscape, the people, and the issues that bring meaning to land and life.

## New to the Second Edition

- *Expanded Treatment of Globalization.* In the last several years, issues of globalization have moved to the center of the world stage and, in contrast to the situation several years ago, the concept of globalization is now commonly used—and misused—in all walks of life. Because this term is becoming more central to the study of world regional geography, we have expanded our initial discussion in Chapter 1 to present varying perspectives and viewpoints on globalization. Each regional chapter also has new information on globalization and its many-faceted implications.
- *New Sections on Global Terrorism.* One particularly negative aspect of globalization, global terrorism, moved to the foreground after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States. Because the geopolitical implications of global terrorism and the reactions against it are increasingly important for the study of world regional geography, we have added a substantial discussion of global terrorism to Chapter 1. Further discussions of the topic have been added to a number of the regional chapters, both within the text itself and in new sidebars.
- *Expanded Discussion of Environmental Geography.* To make the study of each region's physical geography more compelling, approachable, and relevant, we have added explicit linkages, often based on particular case studies, connecting pressing environmental issues, physical geography, and globalization.
- *New and Refined Maps.* New maps have been added to each chapter in order to complement te...

## Users Review

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**Shari Villa:**

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