Book Notices

The Ohio Journal of Science. v51 n6 (November, 1951), 346
http://hdl.handle.net/1811/3881

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This publication presents a new and different approach to college geography. It may well be considered as a textbook for an introductory course by anyone who feels geography students should know something about the countries of the earth before they undertake a study of the more specialized fields of physical or economic geography. The text is a regional geography of the earth based on “culture” worlds or regions, of which the authors recognize seven major ones, namely, European, Oriental, Dry, African, Polar, American, and Pacific worlds. There is a general introductory discussion of each culture realm and then its principal countries are considered individually.

The emphasis throughout the book is on culture. The authors have skillfully blended geographical and historical factors in their interpretation of the culture of each of these major worlds and their constituent realms. Of special interest is the discussion of “shatter belts” found particularly in Europe and Asia. These are the areas where cultures meet, mingle and conflict, and where small buffer states result.

The publication is intended for college freshmen and admirably suited to their needs. It is not encyclopedic in detail nor overburdened with statistical tables but strewn lavishly with nearly two-hundred simple maps and exceptionally well-chosen pictures. An improvement in the text would result from a more extensive bibliography, although the authors may consider the present one adequate to the publication’s intended use.

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