
The Geography of Europe. *George D. Hubbard.* Appleton-Century-Crofts, Inc. New York. Second Edition. 1952. xvii+870 pp. \$6.75.

Europe, having undergone two major wars within a 25-year period, remains today one of the most challenging regions of the post-war era. Anyone who undertakes to treat adequately and comprehensively the essential features of the geography of Europe, a continent small in size but great in numbers of problems, assumes a task of immense proportions. The author, professor-emeritus of Oberlin College, states his purpose: "To prepare a textbook in the geography of Europe for American colleges and universities; to make a book of interest to students of European history, economics, political science, sociology, and diplomatic service, and to furnish information to the traveler and the general reader."

The general plan of the book includes climatic divisions and grouping of the states as well as usage of physical patterns for subdivisions of the continent and of the national domain. In Part I, Introductory Section, the author has succeeded well in presenting the essential physical geographical elements. Chapter 5, "Changes and Conditions Induced by State of War," would prove more effective, however, if placed in the summary portion of the text where the reader would be more qualified to evaluate the over-all picture. The 33 regional chapters are organized in an orderly manner so that the significant features, position, geology, climate, geographic regions, industries, economic conditions, trade, and people are readily available to the reader.

A set of review questions for assistance to students as well as instructors with limited geographic background, concludes each chapter. The bibliographies at the end of the chapters should facilitate reference and prove especially useful to those interested in a more intensive study of the individual countries. Numerous clear-cut maps and a wise selection of photos add much to the balance of the text. Unfortunately statistical information on production, exports, and imports, data necessary to an understanding of Europe's present-day problems, is lacking.

Professor Hubbard concludes his volume with a rather unique section entitled "Geography in the Fourth Dimension." In three philosophical chapters attention is centered on the historical aspect of agriculture, commerce, and civilization.

The author should be congratulated on a text which will undoubtedly have wide acceptance because of its three outstanding qualities—readability, attractiveness, and timeliness.

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