FOCAL PROBLEMS IN GEOGRAPHY

POPULATION AND RESOURCES

Population and Resources

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Preface

The subject of population and resources in one form or another is widely taught. There are, indeed, already many books on the market covering either one or the other, and occasionally both, of these topics but the level, quality and price vary greatly. The aim here has been to produce a readable, well-organised, and comprehensive coverage of the subject at a reasonable price. To cover such a wide field of study in a mere 200 pages or so has demanded considerable compression, but I have given varied supporting national and regional case examples taken from all parts of the world.

The book is intended to meet the needs of A-level Geography and other sixthform courses with a population component (for example some environmental science courses); various courses, but mainly Geography and Environmental Studies, in Colleges of Education; and some study centres in Polytechnics which have broadly based curricula. It may also have some value as a teachers' source book. It has been my own experience that students beginning serious study all too often reveal little real, systematically organised knowledge of world population dynamics and distribution, and are equally uncertain about definitions of resources and population. It is hoped this book will give them some understanding of these things and, also, stimulate concern and discussion.

Perhaps I should state my viewpoint: although I have tried to be objective (I am neither an optimist nor a pessimist), a somewhat gloomy attitude towards population and environmental problems shows through the text, although as the contents reveal several chapter headings concerned with 'Problems' this attitude is more implicit than clearly stated. The text also contains many value-judgements of a general nature, though these are mostly non-controversial in their nature.

I hope the reader will find this book a clearly written, logically structured and reasonably balanced treatment of the subject, which also achieves an efficient and discriminating review of the 'highlights' of the preceding literature.

H.R.

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