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Also by Derek Gregory

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THE NATIONALITIES QUESTION IN THE SOVIET UNION

Human Geography

Society, Space and Social Science

edited by

Derek Gregory

Ron Martin

and

Graham Smith

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Preface

This book on human geography and its relationship to the other social sciences is designed primarily with undergraduates in mind. During the mid-1980s the three editors were given the responsibility of introducing first-year geography undergraduates at Cambridge to human geography. What we wanted to convey to students embarking upon their geography careers was not only a sense that geography had much to contribute to the other social sciences but that recent advances, particularly in critical theory, were pivotal to making sense of our geographical world. Armed with such theoretical insights, we attempted to convey the utility of such approaches to understanding the geographical restructuring of our economies, politics and societies. Given the rapidly changing nature of human geography, we also felt it important to expand the project to include leading geographers working in various sub-disciplines of the subject. This book is the product of this endeavour, and of our attempts to show how central the cross-fertilisation of ideas and concepts within the social sciences are to the continuing process of rethinking human geography and of the importance of a geographical imagination to good social science.

The major acknowledgement that editors of a volume such as this need to make is to the contributors. All of them responded with enthusiasm to the project and produced their chapters within the deadline. We are also grateful for their forbearance in awaiting the volume's final editing. The same goes for our publisher Steven Kennedy, whose encouragement, interest and support we appreciate more than he is probably aware.

Cambridge

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