

Human Geography

Chapter Concepts

- First People (Major Tribes of the world)
- Indigenous People of Africa
- Indigenous People of Asia
- Indigenous People of Australia and New Zealand
- Indigenous People of Eurasia
- Indigenous People of North America
- Indigenous People of South America
- Population Patterns of the World

First People (Major Tribes of the World)

The major tribes of the world are called the first people or the indigenous people. Indigenous people are strikingly diverse in culture, religion, and social and economic organisations. Yet today, as in the past, they are falling prey to the outside world. By some they are idealised as the embodiment of spiritual values, by others they are denigrated as an obstacle impeding economic progress. But they are neither; they are the people who cherish their own distinct culture, are the victims of the past and present day colonialism, and are determined to survive. Some live according to their traditions, some receive welfare, others work in factories, offices or the professions. They maintain a close relationship with land and environment. There exists a co-operative attitude of give and take, a respect for the Earth and the life it supports, and the perception that humanity is but one of the many species. Some of the important indigenous people of the world have been plotted in Fig. 9.1

There are more than 250 million indigenous people in the world. As stated above, the indigenous people are the most disadvantaged groups of the society, suffering the worst health, receiving least education, and among the very poorest. The indigenous people have a strong sense of their own identity as unique people with their own lands, languages, and cultures. They are struggling to make both the ends meet. Now they are demanding that their lands be restored to them, that their cultures be protected and that their right to self determination be recognised. Since the western models of development, industrialisation and urbanisation becomes daily less sustainable, indigenous people may come to occupy a position of considerable influence. Their views on development and conservation could become central to decision making. As a consequence of the European expansion in the 1500 A.D. the Australian Aborigines, New Zealand's Maoris, North and South American Red-Indians, tribes of South East Asia, South Asia, and Siberia were killed, in large numbers, assimilated, or pushed into marginal lands.

Table 9.1: Indigenous People of the World

Continent /Country	Indigenous People
1. Africa	Afar, Babinga, Bantu, Berber, Bongo, Bobo, Bushman, Dinka, Efe, Fulani, Hottentot, Kikuyus, Lese, Mabuti, Masai, Nuer, Oromo, San, Shilluk, Tigriyon, Tswa, Tuareg, Twa, Zulu (Fig. 9.1)
2. Asia	Ainu, Asmat, Badawins, Chakma, Chin, Dani, Dayak, Hamang, Haren, Iban, Ifugao, Kachin, Kalinga, Karen, Kayan, Kedang, Kurds, Lisu, Marmo, Pakhtoons, Sakai, Semang, Shah, Vedda (Fig. 9.2)
3. Australia	Arunta, Bidjandjara, Dieri, Gurindji, Kadaku, Kamilaroi, Murngin, Tiwi, Wailbri (Fig. 9.3)
4. Europe/Russia	Chukchi, Eskimo, Koryak, Lapps, Nemat, Semoyed, Tungus, Saami, Yakuts, Yukaghir (Figs. 9.3 and 9.4)
5. North America a. Canada	Bela, Blackfoot, Coala, Deni, Cree, Haida, Innu, Inuit, Meti, Tlinit (Figs. 9.5 and 9.6).
b. USA/Mexico	Apache, Arapaho, Chol, Comanchee, Crow, Dine, Hopi, Keres, Lacando, Maya, Navajo, Nez, Pawnee, Petee, Uti, Yucatec
6. South America	Achi, Akrori, Arawak, Aymara, Boro, Kareen, Kayapo, Lakona, Mapuchi, Maskoy, Secoya, Toba

Indigenous People of Africa

Afar

These ethnic communities are the dwellers of Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti and Somalia. They are largely hunters and food gatherers and practice rudimentary agriculture, growing millets, maize and pulses.

Baka (Babinga/Bebyaka/Bebayaga/Bibaya)

This community of indigenous people are the inhabitants of south-eastern forests of Cameroon. The total number of this community is about 40,000. These people are hunters and food gatherers. They establish temporary camps of huts with twigs, branches and leaves. They hunt and trap in surrounding forests, using poisoned arrows. They sometimes obtain honey from the forests. Their religion is animist (Fig. 9.1).

Bantu

The Bantu ethnic groups are distributed from Cameroon east across Central and Eastern and Southern Africa. Their main concentration is in the eastern highlands of Africa (Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia).

Bemba

Bemba is a major community of Zambia. They live in villages of 100 to 200 people. Their total population is about 250,000. They practice primitive type of agriculture, hunting and gathering.

Berber

Pastoral communities of north-western Sahara (Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia). At present they have become settlers in oases growing wheat and dates. Berbers are essentially traders by profession.

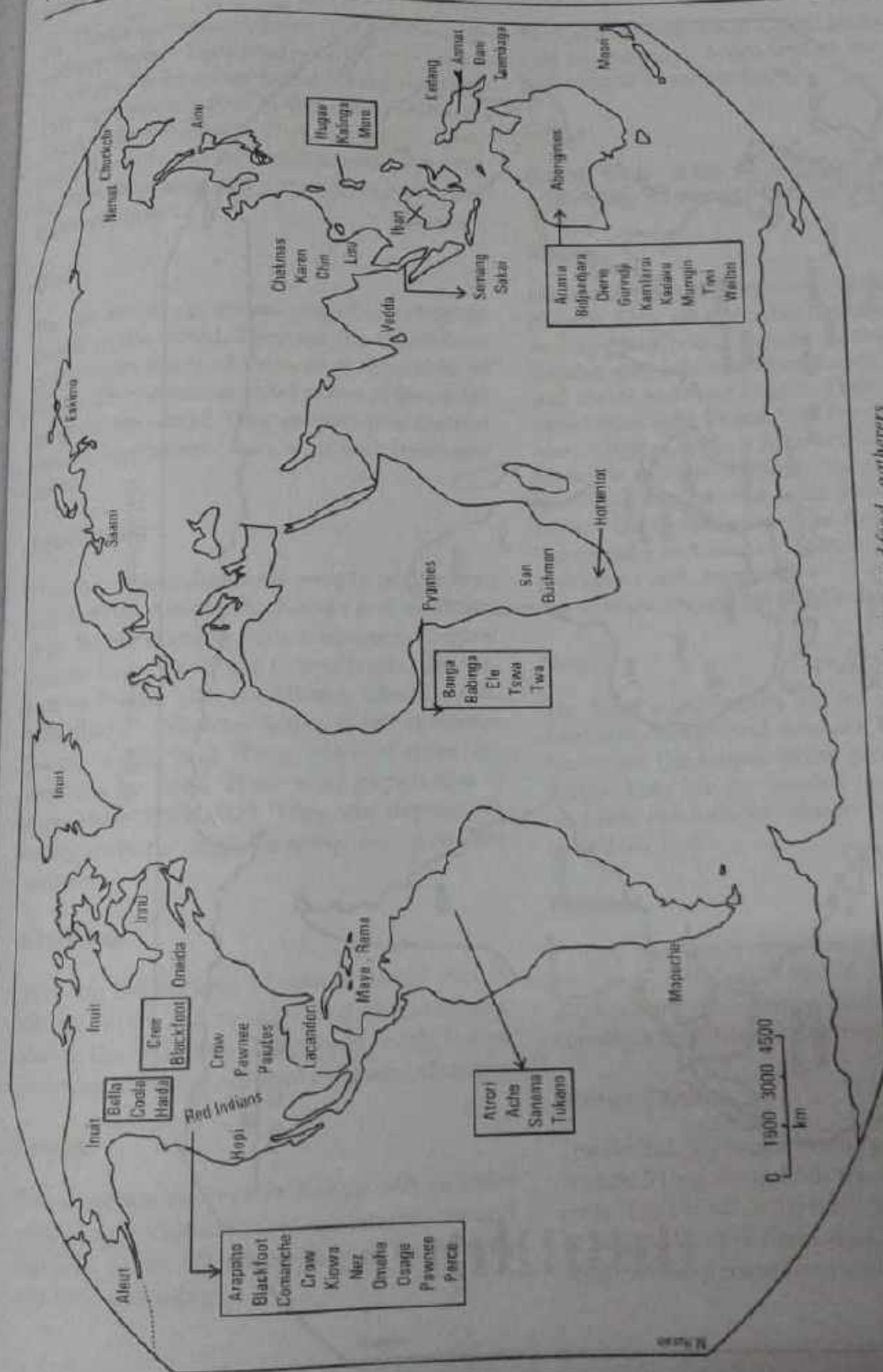


Fig. 9.3 - World - Main hunters and food-gatherers



Fig. 9.4 World Major pastoral cultures

Dinka

The Dinka are a southern African people. They are a pastoral people who live in the savanna region of the south.

Efe

The Efe people are a small group of hunter-gatherers living in the Congo basin. They are known for their hunting skills and for using poison-tipped arrows.

Fula

The Fula people are a large group of pastoralists living in West Africa. They are known for their herding of cattle and for their traditional music and dance.

Ho

The Ho people are a small group of hunter-gatherers living in the Himalayas. They are known for their hunting skills and for their traditional music and dance.

K**T**

Dinka

The Dinka communities are the dwellers of southern Sudan. Their total population is about 1.5 million. Dinka are the tallest people in Africa. They are concentrated in the Bahr-el-Ghazal region of the Nile-basin. They are mainly agro-pastoral people, relying on cattle herding during the summer season and growing millet during the rainy season.

Efe

The Efe are the pygmies, one of the shortest people in the world. They are the inhabitants of Ituri rain-forest of Democratic Republic of Congo. They are considered as one of the oldest people in the world. They are part-time hunters and food gatherers. They hunt with bows and arrows.

Fula (Fulani)

They are the indigenous people of Western and Central Africa. Their main concentration is in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, and Togo. Most of them are Muslims by faith. Their total population is more than 27,000,000. They are dependent on agriculture, cattle keeping, and nomadic herding.

Hottentots

They are inhabitants of Karoo Desert (South Africa). They are racially and linguistically akin to the Bushmen. They keep cattle herds. Moreover, the cattle are used as beasts of burden.

Kikuyus

This community lives in Kenya and practice rudimentary cultivation of millets, maize and legumes. In the off season they go for hunting and food gathering.

Lese

They are the dwellers of Congo Basin. Racially they are Negroes, dependent on hunting and gathering of forest products.

Mabuti

Mabuti is one of the communities of pygmies who are the dwellers of Ituri forests of Zaire.

Masai

Masai are the cattle herders on the East African plateau. They are a blend of the Mediterranean and negroid racial groups. Masais are tall, slender, with long small limb bones, narrow feet and hands and long fingers. Their skin colour varies from light chocolate to very dark brown. Mount Kenya, Mount Kilimanjaro and Mount Elgon lie in their territory. They are the best known of a number of cattle pastoralists who occupy the interior plateau of Kenya, northern Tanganyika and eastern Uganda. The clans are patrilineal and exogamous. Their main clans are (i) Black Ox and (ii) Red Bullock.

Nuer

The Nuer communities are the inhabitants of southern Sudan and western Ethiopia. The Nuers are the largest ethnic group of Eastern Africa. They are the pastoral people who rely on cattle products for almost every aspect of their daily lives.

Pygmies

Pygmy is a wider term for the short statured people of the Congo Basin. They are largely dependent on hunting and gathering and construct their huts at the tree tops.

Shilluk (Chollo)

The Shilluk is a major ethnic group of southern Sudan, living along both the banks of the Nile river. The Shilluk is the third largest community of Sudan. Most of them are Christians by faith, while some of them have converted to Islam.

Tswana (Batswa)

The Tswana community belongs to the pygmy ethnic group. They are essentially hunters and food gatherers.

Tuareg

They are the nomadic pastoralists of the Sahara Desert. Tuareg move up into the desert to make use of the ephemeral grasses. Continuous movement allows vegetation to re-establish itself, and the water sources and grazing lands to replenish. Water and grazing rights are the shared heritage of the tribe or community (Figs. 9.1 and 9.4).

Twa (Batwa)

Twa belongs to the pygmy ethnic group. They are nomadic hunters in the Congo Basin.

Yorubas (Boroko)

Yoruba is a dominant community of Benin and Nigeria, especially the Guinea-coast, west of the Niger-delta. They are typical west African negroes. Their total population is about two million. They are skilled cultivators, who grow mainly root crops, millet, maize, legumes, beans, peas, cassava, yams, and banana cultivation. Ibadan is the largest native city of the Yoruba.

Zulu

Zulu tribe lives in the Natal Province of South Africa. Having a population of about 11 million, it is the largest ethnic group of South Africa. Under apartheid, the homeland of KwaZulu (Kwa meaning place of) was created for Zulu people.

Indigenous People of Asia**Ainu (Aynu)**

The indigenous people of Hokkaido are known as Ainu. They are also found in the Kuril Island

of Russia. Their total population in Japan (Hokkaido) is about two lakh. In Japan, because of intermarriage over several decades with Japanese, the concept of 'Pure Ainu' ethnic group is no longer feasible. More than half of the Ainu in Japan are believed to be illiterate. By faith, they are the followers of animism, Buddhism and Russian Orthodox Christianity (Fig. 9.1).

Badawins (Ruwalla)

The term Badwain or *Badilus* has been derived from *el-Badil* (the occupants of deserts). Badwains are the camel keepers of the arid and semi-arid regions of South-West Asia. Camel, sheep and horses are the essential beasts of Badawins. Camel is the main source of wealth. They migrate from pasture to pasture in search of fodder and water. Their total population is about a million. They occupy the well defined tracts of coarse grasslands (*Hamad*) which afford permanent vegetation and water holes in oases. They enter the true sandy desert (*Nefud*) or rocky country (*Hana*) for short season in good years (Figs. 9.1 and 9.4).

Chakmas (Changma)

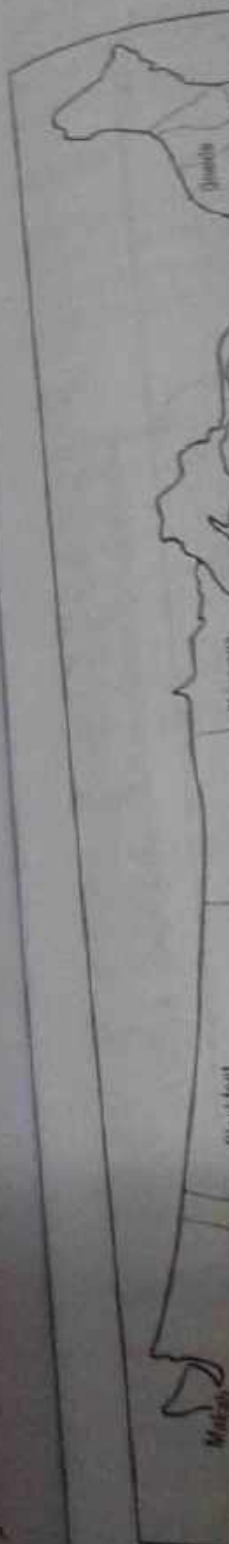
These are the indigenous people of Chittagong Hills of Bangladesh. The Chakmas are the largest ethnic group of the Chittagong Hills. Ethnically, the Chakmas are Tibeto-Burman, and are thus closely related to the tribes in the foothills of the Himalayas (Fig. 9.1).

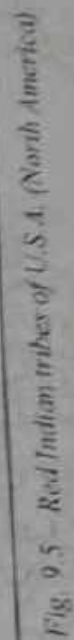
Chin

Chin is one of the ethnic groups of Myanmar. They are found mainly in the western parts of Myanmar. Their population in Myanmar is about 1.5 million. Some of them are living in Mizoram and Bangladesh. They belong to the Tibeto-Burman group (Figs. 9.1 and 9.2).

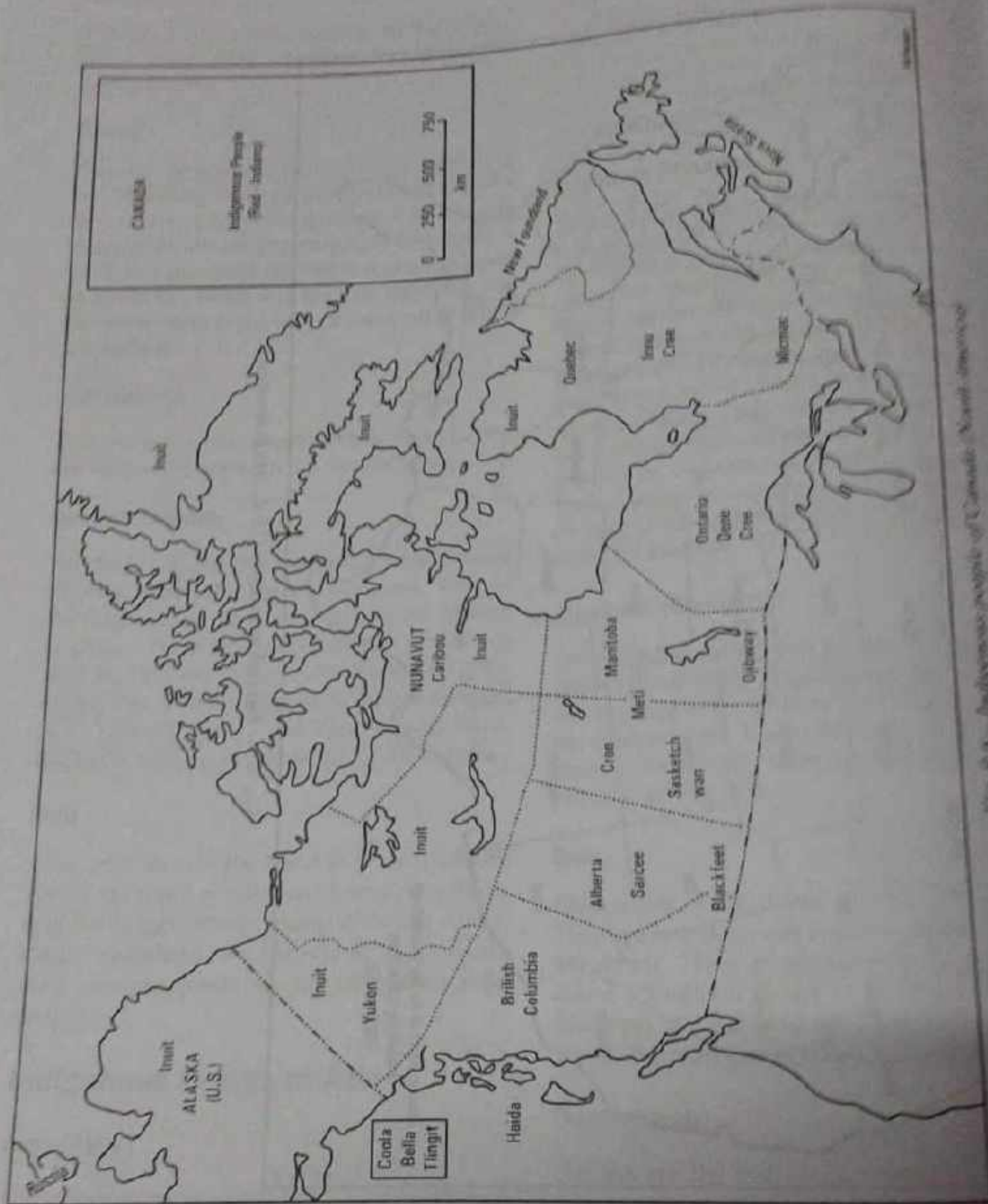
Dayak (Dyak)

Dayaks are the indigenous people of Borneo. It is a loose term for over 200 riverine and hill dwelling ethnic subgroups, located mainly in





Source: Atlas of the North American Indians by C. Waldman, 1900, p. 202.



the interior of Borneo. Most of them are hunters and food gatherers. Some of the youths gain recognition and admiration through becoming warriors (Fig. 9.2).

Hmong

Hmong are the dwellers of Thailand. They grow opium as a cash crop. Today the USA provides the largest market, but the import of opium and its derivative, heroin, is now illegal.

Iban

The Ibans are a branch of the Dayak people of Borneo. In Malaysia, most of the Ibans are located in Sarawak (Sabah province). The Iban population is concentrated in Sarawak, Brunei, and West Kalimantan (Indonesia). During the British period, they were known as Sea Dayaks. Ibans famous for head-hunting and tribal territorial expansion. In ancient times the Iban were a strong and successful tribe in Borneo.

Ifugao

The indigenous people of Ifugao province of Philippines are called Ifugao. These people are known as one of the best terraced farmers in the world.

Kalinga

The indigenous people of Kalinga province of Philippines are known as Kalinga. They are cultivators, growing mainly rice, maize and pulses.

Karen (Kayin, Kwa, Kanyaw)

This is an ethnic group of Myanmar (Burma). They live in the southern and south-eastern parts of Myanmar. They are the third biggest tribal group after Bamars and Shan. They constitute about seven per cent of the total population of Myanmar.

They practice shifting cultivation in the hilly regions of Thailand. Their economy is largely

based on subsistence dry rice cultivation. Money has virtually no place in a Karen community. In case of failure of rice crop, they grow chili or bamboo shoots, or may collect and sell honey or other forest products. Nearly all the income raised is used to buy rice.

Kedang of Lembata

The Kedang community is made up of groups formed by paternal descent line. Each descent group is related to the others by marriage, and the relationships between these groups bind together the whole social fabric. Marriage must take place with a relative which includes a man's maternal uncle's daughter and a woman's paternal aunt's son.

Kirghiz (Kazak)

The Kazak, often called Kirghiz, are the largest and most numerous division of Turkish speaking pastoral nomads. They occupy territory between Caspian Sea to Tien-Shan mountain, and spread up to the headwater of Irtysh river. Their main concentration is in the Republic of Kyrgyzstan. Their total population is about one million. Most of the Kirghiz horses are the smaller and hardier Mongolian breed. They use yak as the beast animal. The horse is however, the most highly prized animal. The shelter of Kirghiz is known as Yurt.

Kurds

The people of Kurdistan are called Kurds. Kurdistan includes the northern parts of Iraq, Iran, Syria, and Turkey. Some of the Kurdish are also living in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Israel Lebanon, and Russia. Linguistically they are Iranians speaking a form of Persian language. The Kurds are the largest ethnic group in the world without their own state.

Jingpo (Kachin)

These are the dwellers of Kachin Hills of Myanmar. They are also found in China, and

India (Arunachal Pradesh) along the border of Myanmar.

Pakhtoons

The indigenous people of Afghanistan. They are Aryans and their language is Pashto. These people belong to the Marathi race and have a long history of wars.

Sakai

Sakai are the indigenous people of Malaya who are found south of the Semang and usually at lower levels in densely forested valleys and plains. They construct rectangular huts with twigs, branches and leaves. For hunting, they use the blow-pipe and not the bow.

Semang

Small groups of Semang are found in the hill tracts of Malaya. Their general appearance is that of dwarfed negroes and, therefore, they are referred to as negritos. Semangs still use bark cloth. They are dependent on hunting and wild products of the forests.

The hunting of the Semang is sporadic and confined to relatively small game. They depend mainly on vegetable food, hunting and fishing only when in need or opportunity arises.

Toala

The indigenous people of Sulawesi (Celebes) are known as Toala. They are hunters and food gatherers and resemble to Negritos. They live in small family groups in relative isolation. They hunt with the bow and poisoned arrows. Their food supply is obtained mainly from plants, insects and smaller games.

Vedda

The hill dwellers of central and southern Sri Lanka are known as Vedda. They are largely dependent on hunting, gathering and rudimentary agriculture.

Indigenous People of Australia and New Zealand

Aranta

Aranta are the indigenous people living in the desert of and scrublands of central Australia. They are the hunters and food gatherers. Their political institutions are markedly rudimentary (Figs. 9.1 and 9.3).

Gurindji

Gurindji is a group of indigenous people living in Northern Australia in basin of Victoria River. Their land was handed back to them in 1975 by Prime Minister Gough Whitlam.

Twai

These are the indigenous people living in the Bathurst and Melville Islands in the vicinity of Darwin City. They colour their body with natural ochre pigments. They are essentially hunters and food gatherers. They hunt lizards, wallaby, carpet-snakes, buffalo, pig, foxes, turtles and seagull-eggs. They perform narrative dances to depict every day life or historical events. Newborn females are engaged to form birth to men or at least 25 years of age although they do not start to live with them until the age of 14. All marriage contacts are arranged by the fathering the female. A powerful and elderly man can have as many as 20 wives at the time of his death but many of these could still be under the age of 14 meaning that they do not live with him.

Waripini

They are the dwellers of Waripini territory located in the Tennant Desert, Northern Territory (Australia). Their population is about 5000 to 6000. They are also living around the Alice Springs. They are famous for their tribal dances. A number of Waripini have toured England, Japan, Russia and USA to perform their dances.

Indigenous People of Eurasia

Eskimo

Eskimos are the dwellers of the tundra region of Siberia. They are largely dependent on seal and walrus hunting for their food. The most striking fact of Eskimo culture is the elaborate nature of their habitations, implements and weapons. For their winter stay, they construct ice-houses known as igloo (Figs. 9.1 and 9.4).

Yukaghir

These are the indigenous people of Eastern Siberia (Russia). These reindeer hunters are living in the Verkhoyansk and Stanovoy mountains as well as along the southern tributaries of the Kolyma river. They are Mongoloid in race. They move and camp in small groups of families. Individuals rarely marry outside their group. Each band has its own hunting and fishing grounds to which it returns every year. For winter travel they use sledges drawn by domestic hunky dogs. The 'old man' the ablest of the elders in every group, who presides at ceremonials and festivals, has considerable authority over its members (Figs. 9.1 and 9.4).

Indigenous People of North America

Contemporary locations for the location of significant number of descendants by state or province of the indigenous people of North America is shown in Fig. 9.1. The important Red Indian tribes of North America have been described briefly in the following.

Arawak

They are the dwellers of Antilles and Bahama Islands of West Indies. It is believed that the first tribe encountered by Christopher Columbus, when he arrived on the island of Santa Maria de la Concepcion were the Arawaks (Figs. 9.1 and 9.5).

Apache (Dineh/Tlne)

The Apaches are the indigenous people of South West U.S.A. Their territory stretches over Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Oklahoma (Figs. 9.1 and 9.5). Some Apaches have moved to large metropolitan areas. The largest Apache urban communities are living at Oklahoma, Kansas, Phoenix, Denver, San Diego and Los Angeles cities of USA.

Blackfoot (Blackfeet or Siksika)

The Blackfoot territory lay immediately west of the Rockies between the north and south branches of the Saskatchewan River, while some of them are living in the upper reaches of Missouri River (Fig. 9.5). The Blackfoot people are one of the Red Indian hunting and gathering tribes. They are horse riders and buffalo hunters. They make large groups in summer for organised attack on the herds of buffaloes. The buffalo provides meat, hide, hair, sinew (thread), bones and horns. The hides are used for shirts, leggings, hats, bags and receptacles of very kind. The shelter of the Blackfoot is known as Tipi (conical hut).

Bella (Coala, Haida, Tlingit)

The Bella and Coala are fishing people who inhabit the coastal areas of the Pacific Ocean from Alaska to Columbia and up to the Humboldt Bay in northern California. The coastal areas of the north Pacific are rich in marine life. These people are largely dependent on fish like cod, halibut, herring and salmon. During the later summer the females gather berries and roots. The villages of these fishermen are close to sea, with ready access to fresh water and a landing beach (Fig. 9.6).

Cree

The indigenous people of the sub-Arctic region of Canada around the James Bay and the Quebec Plateau are known as Cree. Their main concentration is in the states of Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta (Fig. 9.6). The total population of Cree is about 100,000.

They are dependent on hunting, fishing and food gathering.

Creek (Muskogee)

They are the dwellers of South East Culture Area, Central Georgia and Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Oklahoma, South Carolina, and Texas (Fig. 9.5).

Crow (Apsaroka)

The indigenous people of North America living in the valleys of Yellowstone River and its tributaries are called Crow. They were pushed westward by the Europeans. They are essentially hunters and food gatherers (Fig. 9.5).

Hopi (Yuma)

Hopi are the food farmers in the desert of Arizona or North America. They are sedentary cultivators. They live in compact villages called pueblos. They grow maize in the desert with the help of irrigation. The streams and springs draining from the high plateau provide water for their crops. Apart from maize, they grow melon, vegetables, squashes, beans, squash, and corn. They keep sheep and chickens. The clans of Hopi are matrilineal. The agricultural land is normally held by women (Fig. 9.5).

Inuit (Eskimo, Innu, Inupiat, Inupiaq, Yupik)

Inuit are the dwellers of Arctic Culture, Alaska, Northwest Arctic, Canada, Greenland and Siberia. Inuits are generally confined in the Arctic Tundra tundra lands. Inuits people are Mongoloid by race. An interesting feature of Inuit culture is its relative homogeneity across more than 8000 km. Their winter accommodation are known as Igloo (Fig. 9.6).

Métis (Bois, Bruie)

People of mixed ancestry living in post-contact times mostly in Southern Manitoba and Saskatchewan, western Canada and Montana.

Navajo (Navaho, Dineh, Dine)

North-west Culture Area between Puerco and San Jose Rivers and San Juan River in northeastern Arizona, north-western New Mexico, Nevada, south-eastern Utah and south-western Colorado (Fig. 9.5).

Palutes (Palute, Pahute)

Great Basin Culture Area. The Palutes (Red Indians) are the hunters and gatherers of the Great Basin in western North America. Their main territory is between Columbia and Colorado rivers. They live in bands varying from few to about 100 persons.

During the winter the band congregates in one or two large semi-permanent settlements, but in summer season they broke up into family groups and move for hunting and gathering. Their winter house is known as *Wiking*. The small animals, insects, and vegetables are the main food of the Palute people. They also collect seeds of wild plants, berries, wild onion and clovers. The swarm of grasshoppers is considered as the occasion of great feast. They are governed by a headman. The headman of individual communities inherit their position from their father (Fig. 9.5).

Pawnee

They are the dwellers of Great Plains Culture Area. Pawnee's territory lies immediately east of the Rockies stretching over Kansas, Nebraska, and Oklahoma states (Fig. 9.5).

Indigenous People of South America

Achi

Achi are the dwellers of Amazon Basin, living along the border of Brazil, Colombia and Peru. They have the essential characteristics of American Indians. In this region land and air are continually saturated. The main dependence is on agriculture. The main crops are beans,

cassava, peppers, pineapples, pumpkin, root crops, sweet potatoes, tubers and yam. They do not keep domestic animals (Fig. 9.1).

Aymara

The indigenous community of Aymara are the dwellers of coastal Peru. They are largely dependent on fishery. Their life style resembles to the Mapuche of Chile and Cola of Canada.

Boro

Boro are the dwellers of western Amazon along the border of Brazil, Peru and Colombia. They have the essential physical characters of American Indians (Red Indians). Their population is more than ten thousand. The Boro group does not live in scattered huts, but occupies a single large house, sixty to seventy feet long on each side and thirty or more feet high. The Boro have no domestic animals. They do not even keep dogs although these are found among most Amazon people. Boro practice rudimentary agriculture, and grow beans, maize, root crops, maize, peppers, pineapple, pumpkin, sweet potatoes, tubers, and yam (Fig. 9.1).

Mapuche

The community of Mapuche lives along the coast of Chile. They are essentially fishermen who obtain their food from the rich marine life fish, seals, otter, whales, and shell fish. The westerly winds and cyclonic storms of the 'Roaring Forties' result in cool temperatures and very humid climate (Fig. 9.1).

Population Patterns of the World

Population

Earth is the home to more than 6.5 billion people. Its population continues to grow by about 80

million people per year. The distribution of population is, however, highly unequal. China has the largest population in the world, followed by India, USA and Indonesia, Brazil, Pakistan, Russia, Nigeria, Bangladesh and Japan.

Population Density

Population density is the average number of people living in a square kilometre of a country/region. The distribution of population of the world has been shown in Fig. 9.7, while the density of population has been given in Fig. 9.8. The world's population density is about 44 persons per sq km (114 persons per sq mile). There is an inverse relationship between prosperity and population.

Where people have access to quality healthcare and proper nutrition, they live longer. Moreover, when women are educated, employed, and expect that their children will survive childhood, they tend to have fewer children.

Natural Population Growth

Natural population growth is calculated by subtracting the total deaths from the total births in an area in a year. It does not include migration to or from the area. The world has a population growth rate of 1.1 per cent per annum.

Life Expectancy

Life expectancy is the average number of years a person is expected to live. It is based on the death rates of specific age groups in a given population.

Overpopulation

Overpopulation occurs when a population has outgrown an area's resources, such as land and water. Large parts of India, China, Indonesia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Nigeria are overpopulated.

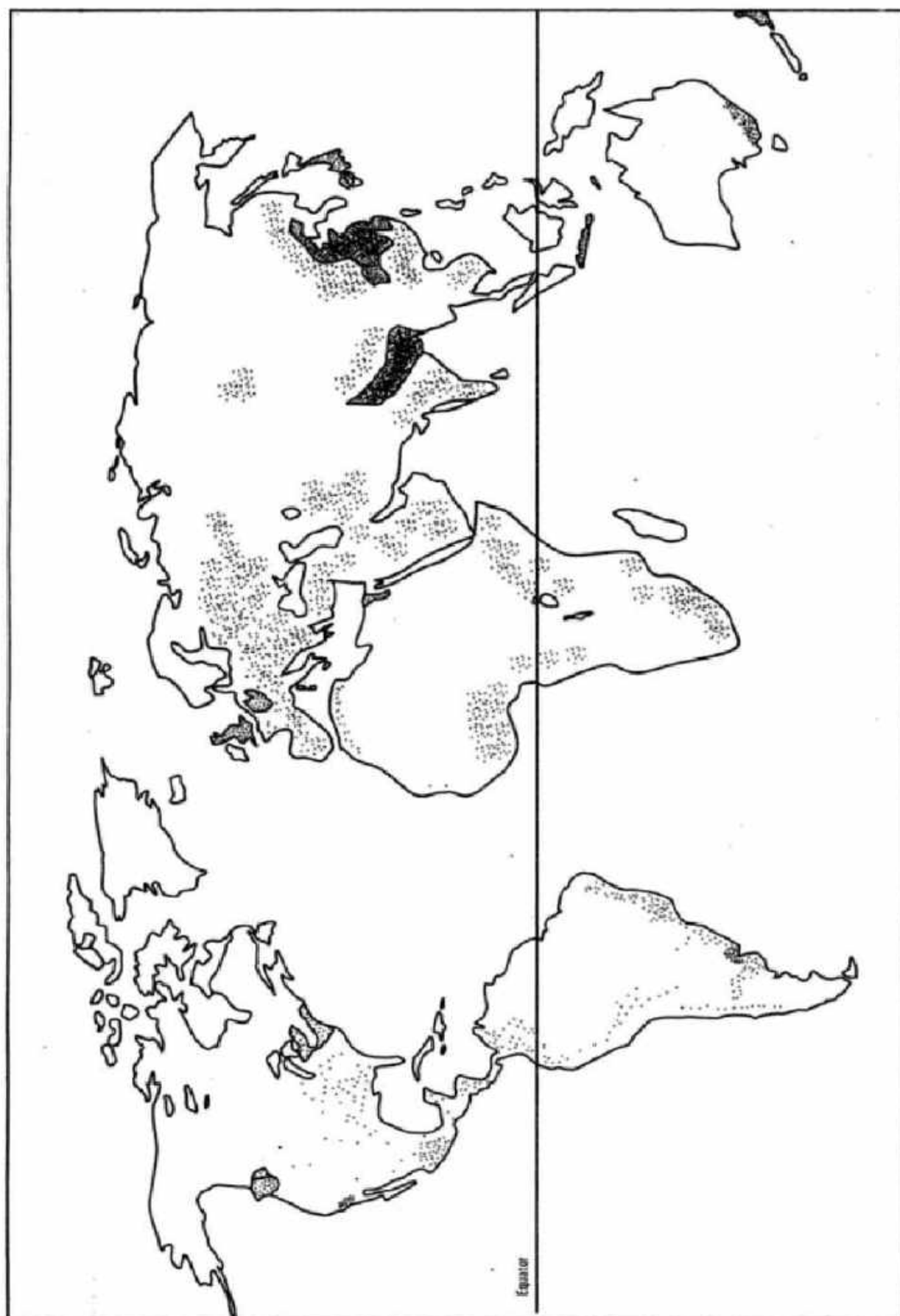


Fig. 9.7 – World distribution of population

Missing Women

All over the world, whatever the level of their country's development, women are at a disadvantage. They are worse paid, if they are paid at all, than men for doing the same job and they are less represented in decision-making positions and processes. In some regions, just because of their gender, their very lives are at risk.

Women and girls are not as highly valued as men in many societies. United Nations (UN) estimates from 2006 say that between 113 and 200 million women are 'Missing'. Every year between 1.5 and three million of them lose their lives as a result of gender-based violence or neglect. There are several explanations: in some countries (China and India are the example), boys are preferred to girls. This can lead to female infanticide or selective abortion. Those that survive may suffer the neglect of their parents, because food and healthcare are prioritised for the male members of the family.

In societies that value males more highly than females, the killing of women—'femicide'—is all too common; women's lives are considered cheap. But some femicide is dressed up as

'honour' killings. In countries where women are considered the property of men, their men-folk can murder them for choosing their own sexual partners (thereby supposedly besmirching family 'honour'). Young brides may be killed if their parents did not pay sufficient money to the husband – these are called 'dowry' deaths. The international sex trade kills many women, as do wars. However, the main cause of women's death worldwide is domestic violence.

According to Jill Radford, femicide is the killing of women that is condoned or even promoted by states and/or a means of control over women as a sexual class and to maintain the patriarchal *status quo*. The absence and inadequacy of legal and policing institutions, and also their male profile, reinforces patriarchy. Radford claims that femicide, as seen in court and media, is surrounded by the myth of 'woman-blaming'.

Femicide is currently outlawed under the statute of the International Criminal Court. However, agreements and treaties remain to be ratified, both at the international and state levels, to enforce laws and guarantee on non-violence towards women.

Table 9.2: Gender Equity Index (GEI)-2006

Country	Gender Equity Index
Sweden	89
Finland	86
Norway	86
Denmark	81
Australia	79
Canada	78
United States	78
United Kingdom	77
Israel	73
Brazil	68
France	64
Japan	61
China	58



Fig. 9.8 - World - Density of population

Source : Oxford School Atlas - 2009, p.93

Indonesia	52
Iran	48
Saudi Arabia	43
India	39
Pakistan	38
Chad	36
Yemen	26

Source: *The World Guide*, 2007, 11th edition, New Internationalist Publications Ltd. pp.42-43.

Migration

People have moved to new places throughout the history. Today, with the improvement in transportation, people can move farther and faster than ever before.

People often leave their homes in search of better economic, political or religious opportunities. These attractions to new homes are called *pull factors*.

Some people leave their old homes to escape natural disasters, persecution, or war. These are called *push factors*. People can move to new locations within their country (migration) or move to another country (immigration).

Cultural differences between immigrants and their new countries often lead to conflicts. Refugees are fleeing for their lives. Emigrants leave by their own choice. The difference is very important. Refugees are protected by international agreement and may be supported by the world community. Emigrants do not have these protections.

Cultural Diversity

Culture is the way of life of a given human society. Every society in the world has unique culture. Aspects of culture include a society's language, religion, art, customs, ethnicity, institutions, technology, and other traits. Countries can have multiple cultures, and cultures can cross national boundaries. Religion and language are the two distinguishing features of a culture. Thousands of religions are practiced and about 6000 languages are spoken in the world today.

Religions

Religion has been defined differently by different scholars. In the 18th century, Friedrich Schleiermacher defined religion as '*feeling of absolute dependence*' – absolute as contrasted to other, relative feelings of dependence. Otto defines the essence of religious awareness as awe, a unique blend of fear and fascination before the divine. The main characteristics of religious life are: (i) traditionalism, (ii) myth and symbol, (iii) concept of salvation, (iv) sacred places and objects, (v) sacred action, (vi) sacred writings, (vii) the sacred community (monastic order), and (viii) the sacred experience.

Religion like language, is a symbol of group identity and a cultural rallying point. All societies have value systems – common belief, understandings, expectations, and controls – that unite their members, and set them off from other different cultural groups. Such a value system is termed as a religion when it involves system of formal or informal worship and faith in the sacred and divine.

The non-religious values like Marxism also affect man and nature (environment) relationship. The Russian political ideologies (communism), for example, have a quasi-religious role. They have many of the elements of a religion, including a set of beliefs, ethical standards, revered leaders, an organisation and a body of literature akin to holy scripture. The main countries with concentration of different religions have been plotted in Fig. 9.9, while the number and ranks of adherents by country are given in Table 9.3.



Fig. 9.9 - Major religions of the world

Source: John J. Johnson, *World Atlas*, modified by M. K. J. 2010/01/09

Table 9.4: Main Groups of the Languages

1. Afro-Asiatic	9. Malayo-Polynesian
2. American Indian	10. Min-Khmer
3. Austro-Asiatic	11. Negro-Congo (Bantu)
4. Dravidian	12. Nilo-Saharan
5. Indo-European	13. Papuan
6. Iroquoian	14. Sino-Tibetan
7. Japanese and Korean	15. Uralic and Altaic
8. Khoisan	16. Unclassifiable

Source: The Nystrom Desk Atlas 2002. Herf Jomo Education Division, Indianapolis, p.63.

Indo-European Languages

Indo-European is the most widely spoken language family. About half the people in the world speak languages in this family, which

originated in an area that extended from northern India to western Europe. The main groups and sub-groups of the Indo-European languages have been given in Table 9.5.

Table 9.5: Indo-European Languages

Indo-Iranian	Indic	
		Hindi Urdu Bangla (Bengali) Punjabi
	Iranian	Persian (Farsi and Dari) Pashto, Tajik, Kurdish
Italic	Latin or Romance	Portuguese Spanish French Italian Romanian Welsh Gaelic
Celtic	Celtic	Dutch German English
Germanic	West Germanic	Icelandic Norwegian Swedish Danish
	North Germanic	Lithuanian Latvian
Balto-Slavic	Baltic	Polish Czechy
	West Slavic	Slovenian Serbo-Croatian
	South Slavic	

Other Indo-European Languages	East Slavic	Macedonian Bulgarian Ukrainian Belarusian Russian
	Other Indo-European Languages	Albanian Greek Armenian

Source: The Norton Desk Atlas, 2008; Norton, Harp Jones Education Division

Urbanisation

Nearly half of the world's population now lives in urban areas. The world's urban population has more than quadrupled in the past 50 years. As farming becomes more efficient, people move to cities in search of jobs. Nearly half of the world's population now live in urban areas.

The levels of urbanisation have been shown in Fig. 9.10. It may be seen from this figure that the developed countries are more urbanised in which 75 to 97 per cent of the total population is living in the urban areas. The level of urbanisation is below 25 per cent in the central African countries, while the level of urbanisation in most of the Asian countries (excepting Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong, Iran, Kuwait, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, UAE) is between 25 and 50 per cent (Fig. 9.10).

International Trade Organisation

Trade organisations are established by agreement between governments to increase free trade. NAFTA and EU are among the wealthiest and most influential trade organisations in the world. The major international trade organisations have been shown in Fig. 9.11 and they are listed below:

APEC – Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation
AMU – Arab Maghrib Union
CAFTA-DR – Central American Free Trade Agreement – Dominican Republic
CEEAC – Economic Community of Central African States

EAC – East African Community
ECOWAS – Economic Community of West African States
EU – European Union
EURASEC – Eurasian Economic Community
GCC – Gulf Cooperation Council
MERCOSUR – Southern Common Market
NAFTA – North American Free Trade Agreement
SAARC – South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SACU – South African Customs Union

European Union

The European Union's single economy insures free trade as well as democracy and human rights across much of Europe. Some members also share the same currency, the Euro. The countries of European Union are: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom. The following are the candidate countries for the European Union: Croatia, Macedonia, Turkey (Fig. 9.12).

World Money Markets

The financial world has traditionally been dominated by three major centres, Tokyo, New York and London, which house the headquarters of stock exchanges, multinational corporations and international banks. Their geographic location means that at any one time in 24-hour



Fig. 9.10: World urbanisation

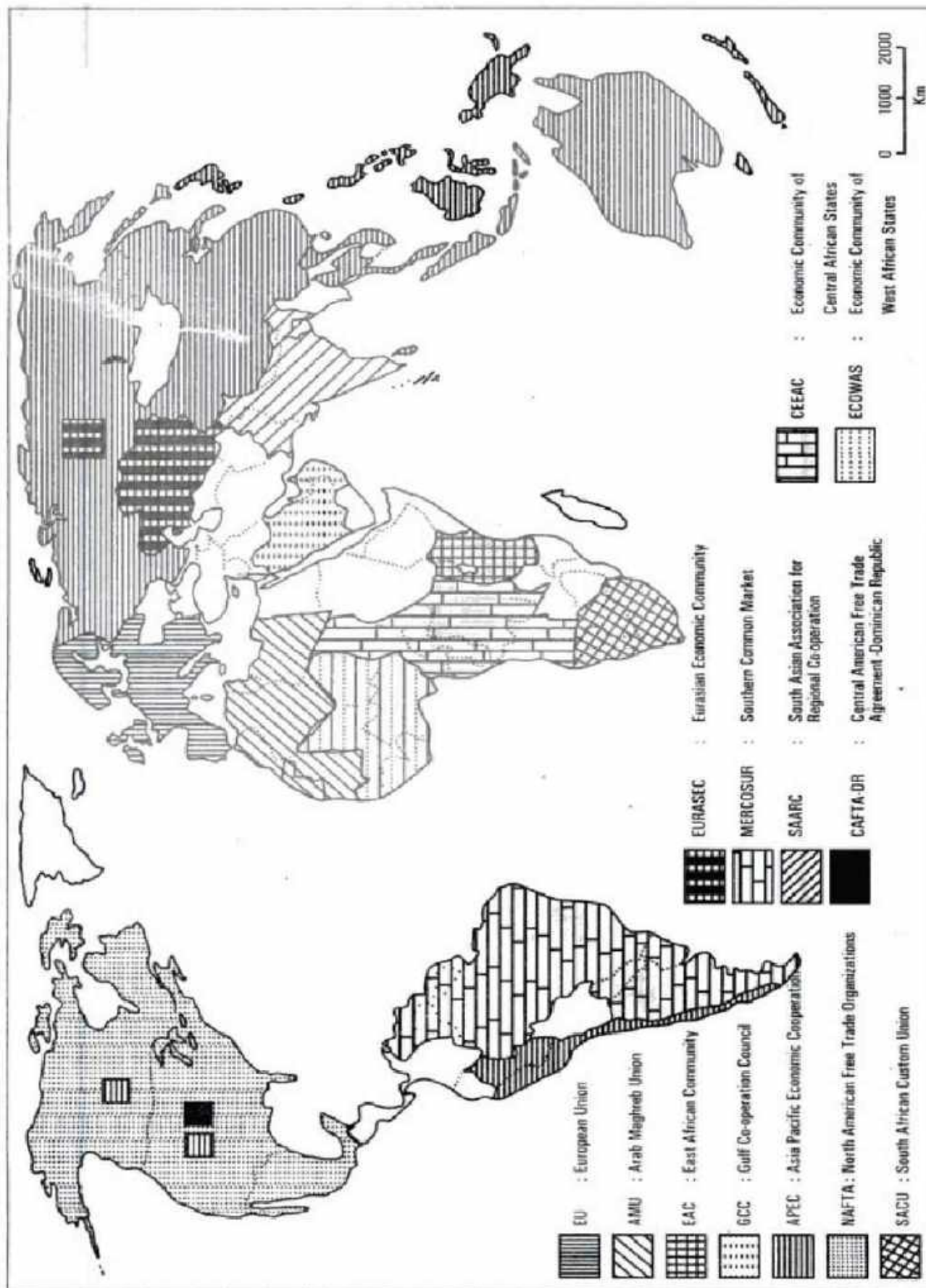


Fig. 9.11 – International Trade Organisation (After the Nystrom Desk Atlas, 2008, p.41.)



Fig. 9.12 – Countries of European Union

day, one major market is open for trading in shares, currencies, and commodities. Since the late 1980s, technological advances have enabled transactions between financial centres to occur at a ever-greater speed, and new markets have sprung up throughout the world.

Human Development Index

Human Development Index (HDI) was developed and applied for the first time in 1990. It is a device to measure a country's or region's achievements in the enhancement of human capabilities. The HDI is a composite

of three components of human development: (i) longevity, (ii) knowledge (iii) standard of living, (iv) human poverty index, (v) gender development index, and (vi) gender empowerment index. Longevity is measured by life expectancy. Knowledge is measured by a combination of adult literacy (two-third weight). Standard of living is measured by purchasing power based on real GDP per capita as adjusted for local cost of living (purchasing power parity or PPP).

The highly developed and lowly developed countries have been shown in Fig. 9.13 The HDI of 2010 has been given in Table 9.6.

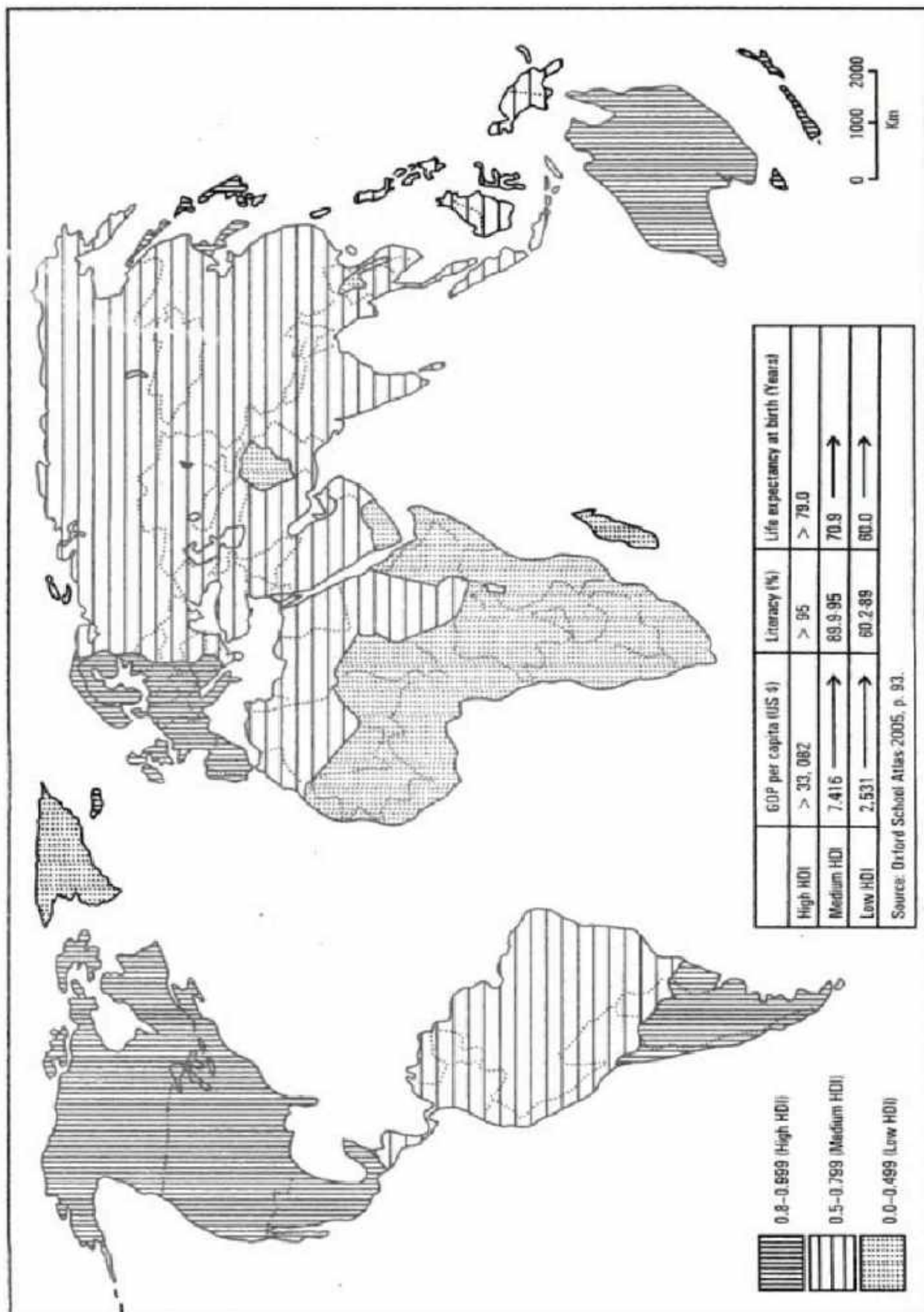


Fig. 9.13 – World – Human Development

Table 9.6: Human Development Index (HDI)-2010 Ranking. (Fig. 9.13)

<i>Very High Human Development</i>	<i>High Human Development</i>	<i>Medium Human Development</i>	<i>Low Human Development</i>
Norway	Bahamas	Fiji	Kenya
Australia	Lithuania	Turkmenistan	Bangladesh
New Zealand	Chile	Dominican Republic	Ghana
United States	Argentina	China	Cameroon
Ireland	Kuwait	El Salvador	Myanmar
Liechtenstein	Latvia	Sri Lanka	Yemen
Netherlands	Montenegro	Thailand	Benin
Canada	Romania	Gabon	Madagascar
Sweden	Croatia	Surinam	Mauritania
Germany	Uruguay	Bolivia	Papua New Guinea
Japan	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Praguay	Nepal
Korea (Republic of)	Panama	Philippines	Togo
Switzerland	Saudi Arabia	Botswana	Comoros
France	Mexico	Moldova	Lesotho
Israel	Malaysia	Mongolia	Nigeria
Finland	Bulgaria	Egypt	Uganda
Iceland	Trinidad and Tobago	Uzbekistan	Senegal
Belgium	Serbia	Micronesia	Haiti
Denmark	Belarus	Guyana	Angola
Spain	Costa Rica	Namibia	Djibouti
Hong Kong China(SAR)	Peru	Honduras	Tanzania (United Republic of)
Greece	Albania	Maldives	Cote d'Ivoire
Italy	Russian Federation	Indonesia	Zambia
Luxembourg	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Gambia
Austria	Azerbaijan	South Africa	Rwanda
United Kingdom	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Syrian Arab Republic	Malawi
Singapore	Ukraine	Tajikistan	Sudan
Czech Rep.	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Vietnam	Afghanistan
Slovenia	Macedonia (former Yugoslavia)	Morocco	Guinea
Andorra	Mauritius	Nicaragua	Ethiopia
Slovakia	Brazil	Guatemala	Sierra Leone
United Arab Emirates	Georgia	Equatorial Guinea	Central African Republic
Malta	Venezuela	Cape Verde	Mali

Estonia	Armenia	India	Burkina Faso
Cyprus	Ecuador	Timor-Leste	Liberia
Hungary	Belize	Swaziland	Chad
Brunei Darussalam	Colombia	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Guinea- Bissau
Qatar	Jamaica	Solomon Island	Mozambique
Bahrain	Tunisia	Cambodia	Burundi
Portugal	Jordan	Pakistan	Niger
Poland	Turkey	Congo	Congo (Democratic Republic of)
Barbados	Algeria	Sao Tome and Principe	Zimbabwe
-	Tonga	-	-
-	-	-	-

Note: The Human Development Ranking given in Table 9.6 were published in the Human Development Report, The Real Wealth of Nations: Pathways to Human Development, United Nations Development Programme.

It may be seen from the Table 9.6 that Norway has the first ranking in the world in Human Development Index, followed by Australia, New Zealand, USA and Ireland. The other countries which are included in the Very High Human Development in a descending order are Liechtenstein, Netherlands, Canada, Sweden, Germany, Japan, South Korea, Switzerland, France, Israel, Finland, Iceland, Belgium, Denmark, Spain, Hong Kong, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, Austria, United Kingdom and Singapore.

China with a rank of 89 falls in the medium human development category. India has the 119th in the medium human development category. The ranks of the other neighbouring countries are: Sri Lanka (91), Pakistan (125), Bangladesh (129) and Nepal (138).

In 2010, Zimbabwe has the lowest (169th) rank, while Congo Democratic Republic (168), Niger (167), Burundi (166), Mozambique (165) and Guinea-Bissau, Chad (163) are at the bottom of Low Human Development.

REFERENCES

Haq, M. U., 1992, *Human Development in Changing World*, New York, United Nations Development Programme.

Hitchcock, Susan Tyler and J.L. Esposito, 2004, *Geography of Religion*, National Geographic, Washington, D.C.

Human Development Reports 2010, United Nations Development Programme.

Husain, M., 2005, *Human Geography*, Jaipur, Rawat Publications.

Husain, M., 2008, *Geography of India*, New Delhi, Tata McGraw Hill.

Husain, M., 2009, *Concise Geography*, New Delhi, Tata McGraw Hill.

India 2009 – A Reference Manual, Publication Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Husain, M., 2009, *Geographical Map Entries*, New Delhi, Tata McGraw Hill.

India 2009-A Reference Manual, Publication Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

McCarta, R., 1990, *'The Gaia Atlas of First People'*.

Morgan, G.C. and G.C. Leong, 1972, *Human and Economic Geography*, New Delhi, Oxford University Press.

Nag, P., 2007, *National School Atlas*, Kolkata, NATMO.

NATMO, 2006, *National Atlas*, Kolkata.

Oxford Student Atlas for India, 2004.

Susan Mayhew, 1997, *Oxford Dictionary of Geography*, Indian New edition, Oxford University Press.

The Nystrom Desk Atlas, 2008, Nystrom, Herff Jones Education Division, Indianapolis.

Waldman, C., 2000, *Atlas of the North American Indian*, Revised Edition, New York, Checkmark Books.