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# Harm de Blij: Why Geography Matters Study Guide

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# HARM DE BLIJ: WHY GEOGRAPHY MATTERS

## STUDY GUIDE, 2006

Steven Alan Samson

### CHAPTER ONE: WHY GEOGRAPHY MATTERS

#### Study Questions

1. What changes occurred from 1985-1995? What events during the past decade, 1995-2005, show that the pace of change has not slowed down? What is **GIS**? (3-4)
2. What led De Blij to become a geographer? How did the field of geography originate and develop? Who are some of its leading figures? **Alexander von Humboldt**, after whom Humboldt State University is named, did much of his pioneering work in the New World and had a profound influence on the early political science work of Francis Lieber. What for traditions does De Blij identify? (4-7)
3. As in the cases of the economists Paul Krugman and Jeffrey Sachs, as well as the physiologist Jared Diamond, how may geographers help strengthen the work and correct the misconceptions of specialists in other fields? What are some fields in which geographers work? What view of geography was represented by **Carl Sauer**? What is the **gravity model** (and decay) concerning interaction between cities? What are some of the specializations? (7-12)
4. What is some evidence for the geographical illiteracy of Americans? How did professional educators contribute to the problem through **social studies**? What sorts of steps have been taken to reverse the trend, and by whom? What are Christopher Salter's Five Themes? [See the PowerPoint slides]. Why is it important to resurrect regional studies? (12-22)

#### Review

GIS  
Carl Sauer  
social studies

Eratosthenes  
gravity model  
uses of geography

Alexander von Humboldt  
decay

### CHAPTER TWO: READING MAPS AND FACING THREATS

#### Study Questions

1. What contributions were made by **Gerardus Mercator** to mapmaking? How do small-scale and large-scale maps differ? How does the "great circle route" relate to travel-time and -distance between New York and Beijing? What is the "**compass rose**" and how does it reflect the culture of its origin? What is **topography**? What was the township-and-range system used in the Ohio Valley (and, later, further west)? How did it originate? (23-30)
2. Terminology: meridians, parallels, longitude, latitude, **NIMBY**. Identify some types of projections. What is **GPS**? What contributions were made by the 19C London physician.

Dr. **John Snow**, to epidemiology, public health, and geography? (30-45)

3. What are some of the domestic political factors that have had a negative impact on American global leadership? What changes in graduate education in America have contributed to geographic illiteracy? The faculty of the Helms School of Government are aware of these deficiencies and are systematically striving to reverse them. Our international relations program emphasizes a well-rounded liberal arts education that emphasizes historical, geographic, cultural, and linguistic literacy. Our intelligence and criminal justice programs also have added technical components designed to help our students to become effective analytical and synthetic thinkers. (45-46)
4. What is remote sensing? What are **GOES** and **LANDSAT**? How has the GIS changed mapping? Identify **three challenges** to the United States as the world's sole superpower. (46-51)

### Review

|                     |                                 |                      |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| Gerardus Mercator   | large- and small-scale maps     | "great circle" route |
| compass rose        | topography                      | township             |
| Northwest Ordinance | meridians (longitude)           | parallels (latitude) |
| GPS                 | NIMBY                           | John Snow            |
| graduate education  | GOES                            | LANDSAT              |
| GIS                 | challenges to the United States |                      |

## CHAPTER THREE: EARTH'S CHANGEABLE ENVIRONMENTS

### Study Questions

1. Concerning what is known as Anthropogenic Global Warming (AGW), should the author be regarded as a skeptic? What perspective does he take with regard to issues of evidence? (52-53)
2. **Dramatic Beginnings** Trace the development of the ideas of continent drift and plate tectonics. What was **Alfred Wegener's** unsolved problem? What is meant by **subduction**? (53-57)
3. **Ice on the Globe** What is the basis of the theory known as Snowball Earth? What explanations are offered? What challenges are posed by ice ages? (58-62)
4. **Sudden Death** What is the K/T Boundary? Where is it most visible to us today? What does the author believe about the advent of ice ages (climatic reversals)? (62-63)
5. **Back to the Future** What is the **greenhouse effect**? What factors are associated with it? What changes accompanied global cooling of the Cenozoic Era (made up of the Tertiary and Quaternary Periods): see chart on page 59? (63-65)
6. **Climates and Primates** What are **glaciations** and **interglacials**? Why does the author postulate a dual migration of great apes? (65-68)
7. **The Frigid Pleistocene** What is the significance of the Sinai land bridge and the **Bab-al-Mandab**? (68-71)

8. **A Close Call** What happened at Toba? Is global warming during the present interglacial (Holocene) the greatest of any of the interglacials? (71-73)

## CHAPTER FOUR: CLIMATE AND CIVILIZATION

### Study Questions

1. In the author's judgment, what is different about the **Holocene Epoch** (if, in fact, it is an epoch)? What are some of the chief climatic events of the last roughly six thousand years? How did the **Medieval Optimum** favor the development of Europe and China? What came with the Mongol migrations? How were Europe and China affected by the Little Ice Age? How did the Little Ice Age affect European agriculture and commerce? How did it affect the settlement of America? How did the eruption of **Tambora** affect the world? (74-81)
2. Can we say anything definite about the effects or the pervasiveness of planetary temperature increases? What is significant about the quick drying up of the Sahara Desert about five millennia ago? Summarize the chief categories of Vladimir Köppen's classification of climate. What did **Ellsworth Huntington** believe about the effects of midlatitude cyclonic zones? (81-90)

### Review

|                            |                      |                              |
|----------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Holocene Epoch             | Postglacial Optimum  | Medieval Optimum             |
| Thira (Santorini)          | Little Ice Age       | Black Death (bubonic plague) |
| Chung Ho                   | Laki eruption, 1783  | Tambora eruption, 1815       |
| global warming and cooling | drying of the Sahara | Vladimir Köppen              |
| Ellsworth Huntington       |                      |                              |

## CHAPTER FIVE: A FUTURE GEOGRAPHY OF HUMAN POPULATION

### Study Questions

1. José Ortega y Gasset's classic analysis of modernity, *The Revolt of the Masses* (1930), began with an observation about the appearance of crowds, a phenomenon noted even earlier by Gustave Le Bon. What has changed since 1650 that has led to a global spiral of population growth? Why is there a gap or time lag between the decline of the death rate and the decline of the birth rate? Identify some factors that have lowered the death rate. (91-93)
2. Who is **Paul Ehrlich** [who is president of the Center for Conservation Biology at Stanford]? What is ZPG? What are some of the variable factors that affect population increase/decline? What demographic crisis is being faced by Europe and the developed world? What level of immigration would it take to stabilize Europe's population? Identify some of the worldwide changes that are in the works? (93-97)
3. Identify the location of the three greatest **concentrations of humanity**? [We may add other, smaller concentrations, including Honshu, Java (127 million people in 49,000 sq. mi.), the Mekong River delta, south India, the Nile River valley, and west Africa]. What is Megalopolis? What are some of the consequences of rapid population growth and urbanization, and the resulting conflicts? (97-101)

4. Another example of human destructiveness is the clearing (by burning) of what are now the Great Plains by early Americans. Concerning AIDS, 8% of the adult population of sub-Saharan Africa is infected. In some areas the number approaches half the population. Malnutrition affects about one-eighth of the world's population. (101-05)
5. How did the Rev. **Thomas Malthus**, whose 1798 essay on population gave economics its reputation as the "dismal science," prove wrong on some points of his theory? Where did his critics err? What did the **neo-Malthusians** believe? Where did they go wrong? What factors account for the destruction of the rainforest? (105-07)

### Review

|                       |   |                                |
|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| declining death rates | Paul Ehrlich                              | ratio of pensioners to workers |
| immigration           | three greatest concentrations of humanity |                                |
| Samuel Huntington     | deforestation                             | family-planning                |
| human destructiveness | effects of AIDS                           | food distribution problems     |
| Thomas Malthus        | Green Revolution                          | neo-Malthusians                |
| problems with ZPG     |   |                                |

## CHAPTER SIX: THE MESH OF CIVILIZATIONS

### Study Questions

1. The days of unclaimed frontiers and open spaces are over, except where? Where are political subunits most likely to play ever-stronger roles in national affairs? But why will the state (or nation-state) continue to play a pivotal role in international politics, rather than a subunit or multinational bloc? What underlies the actions of North Korea, Iran, and Israel in seeking nuclear capabilities? How did the concept of the **nation-state** originate? [A case can be made for calling ancient Israel a nation-state]. How were European concepts of statehood spread? Distinguish between unitary and federal states. What do these forms have in common? (109-11)
2. How did **Friedrich Ratzel** view the nation-state? How did **Karl Haushofer** bring geopolitics into disrepute? How was the present-day boundary framework created? How was the colonial map of Africa created? What made the French "the great dividers?" Why did Africa and Asia defy the European state order? What provided the opportunities for the horrific excesses of Amin, Bokassa, Mobutu, Saddam, and Pol Pot? (111-13)
3. What was the big issue in the Gulf War? What are some of the practical peculiarities of international boundaries? What happened to the Rumaylah reserve after the Gulf War? What is an EEZ? What are some practical difficulties with the concept of the territorial sea and maritime boundaries? (113-16)
4. What makes the state an open system? What are some different ways that what **Robert Ardrey** calls the "territorial imperative" is expressed? It may be difficult to distinguish the relative how much the dispute over the Kurile Islands is symbolic and how much is substantive. What does the author's experience with real estate surveys suggest? What stages are necessary in the establishment of boundaries? What is the McMahon Line and why did the **Simla Convention** cause so much trouble? (116-20)

- Was the clash of civilizations thesis original with **Samuel Huntington**? Whence are the real short-term and long-term challenges to Western supremacy likely to come? What are the four megastates of our era? (120-24)

### Review

|                         |  |                   |
|-------------------------|--|-------------------|
| nation-state model      | spread of European concepts of statehood |                   |
| unitary states          | federalism                               | Friedrich Ratzel  |
| Kurt Haushofer          | colonial map of Africa                   | Berlin Conference |
| reasons for instability | Westminster model                        | Robert Ardrey     |
| McMahon line            | Simla Convention                         | Samuel Huntington |

## CHAPTER SEVEN: RED STAR RISING: CHINA'S GEOPOLITICAL GAUNTLET

### Study Questions

- What brought China, the slumbering giant, into the middle of Big Power politics years after the Communist revolution and its immediate aftershocks? Why did **Mao Zedong** launch the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution in 1966? What did it do? What were its results? What geographical factor may have helped bring the end of Mao's rule? How did **Chou En-lai** contribute to it? (125-27)
- What did **Halford Mackinder** imagine with regard to the possible rise of Eurasian states in global geopolitics? Summarize the **Heartland theory**. What was **Nicholas Spykman's** later rebuttal? Historically, how did the succession of power in Europe proceed? When did a longitudinal succession begin and how? (127-29)
- What are some of the indications of what DeBlij calls China's "economic success and strategic frustration?" What are some manifestations of the rise of Chinese nationalism? What are some consequences of China's growing demand for oil? (129-32)
- What must Americans do to internationalize their outlook? What are some of the characteristics of China's regional geography? Where do China's origins lie? What is the situation of China's farmers in the headlong rush to modernize? Summarize its historical origins and growth. How far did China reach during the Qing dynasty? The earlier extent of China's **ecumene** [homeland] is the source of China's **irredentist** [unredeemed] claims and ambitions today. BTW: If Islam's aspirations are also a form of irredentism and the **umma** [the worldwide community of Muslims] is the Islamic "homeland," can any boundaries ultimately be recognized? Boundaries are a Western conceit. What made the 19C (and then the 20C) calamitous for China? (132-36)
- Why did scholars draw parallels between the earlier dynasties and the new communist one? What were some of the consequences of Mao's mobilization of the populace? The **Great Leap Forward**? The conquest of Tibet and the Sinicization of Xinjiang? How did China's population policy change? What became of the legacy of **Confucius**? [As Stephen Mosher notes in *Hegemon*, Mao's program was consistent with the ancient school of Legalism]. (136-38)
- Identify the four layers of administration within the modern Chinese empire. What are the **SEZs** (Shenzhen is one)? What is the importance of the Northeast? What caused it to turn into a Rustbelt? What are the circumstances of Hong Kong? The so-called Autonomous Regions? (138-44)

- Where are China's expansionist objectives evident? Who are its chief rivals? How is the strategic picture changing? The economic? What are some of the minuses and pluses of the United States/China relationship? What has characterized the post-WWII actions of the American superpower? What is new in the wake of 9-11? How do the geopolitical circumstances differ from those of the Cold War? How could a new cold war be averted? (144-47)

### Review

|                          |                                      |                        |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Mao Zedong               | Chou Enlai                           | Tangshan earthquake    |
| Deng Xiaoping            | H. J. Mackinder                      | Pivot Area             |
| Heartland Theory         | N. J. Spykman                        | Eurasian rimland       |
| succession of power      | Shenzhen                             | Pudong                 |
| Chinese nationalism      | Caspian Sea oil                      | river basins           |
| Xian                     | Han, Ming, and Qing dynasties        | irredentist claims     |
| Great Leap Forward       | reassertion of Han Chinese influence |                        |
| Tibet                    | Xinjiang                             | two Maoist initiatives |
| layers of administration | SEZs                                 | Northeast              |
| One Country, Two Systems | China's Caribbean presence           | Cold War               |

## CHAPTER EIGHT: TERRORISM'S WIDENING CIRCLE

### Study Questions

- What parallels does the author find between the German attack on and the events of 9-11? What about Dresden, Hiroshima, and Nagasaki? Why is it difficult to define **terrorism**? (150-51)
- What does the author mean by saying that "no such clarity marks the form of terrorism that has become dominant in the twenty-first century world: **Islam-inspired violence**?" What was lacking before the early 1980s? Why does the author consider American support for the anti-Soviet **mujahideen** to be shortsighted? What were some of the consequences of the role played by Saudi Arabia? What is the educational and political significance of the Pakistani **madrassas**? What is the link between the Saudi royal family and the **Wahhabi** dogma? How has the Saudi royal family used its growing wealth? What was the third element in "the transformation of Afghanistan from isolated backwater to terrorist base?" (151-56)
- Who are the **taliban**? The **ulema**? It was not just **sharia** law that the **Taliban** imposed; the even more severe tribal **pustunwali** is to blame. What were some of the rules and practices endorsed by **Mullah Omar**? What makes Afghanistan favorable to its role as a terrorist stronghold? [It is easy enough to imagine J.R.R. Tolkien's Mordor being located in a place like this]. What are some characteristics of the cultural geography of Afghanistan, including vital statistics? Why did farmers welcome the Taliban? What was the connection between heroin trafficking and terrorism? What do Islamic terrorist groups have in common? (156-61)
- Geography of Rage** How extensive is the map of the **umma**? What are the psychological factors that complicate relations between the Muslim and the West? The author's summary is very incomplete. He does not mention that most areas in the Mediterranean basin had been predominately (although often heretically) Christian before the 7C Arab conquests. How do the majority of Palestinians differ with al-Qaeda and its allies? Is it sufficient for the West to offer an olive branch? BTW, Islamic law is

increasingly being recognized in European courts. What are some of the geographical attributes associated with Islam? How do the core areas of Islam differ with the periphery? Cosmopolitan coastal areas with the interior? Does moderation have a chance given the level of intergroup violence? What is the future prospect? (161-67)

5. **Migrants and Militants** What are the limits of hospitality in Muslim countries? What resulted from the presence of American troops and bases in Saudi Arabia? What is the ultimate goal of the terrorists? Where are the largest concentrations of Muslim immigrants in America? What are some factors that account for the large number of Muslims in Europe? What are some of the sources and characteristics of the Muslim immigrants? How well do they assimilate? Omar Bakri Mohammed, known as the radical sheik, was now allowed to return to Britain in August 2005. Under European free speech protections, what have imams been free to say? On the other hand, there is considerable international counterterrorism cooperation. What has been the fallout from the assassinations of Pim Fortuyn and Theo van Gogh? What accounts for India's comparative success in integrating its very large Muslim minority? (167-73)

### Review

|                                |                   |                 |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Islam-inspired violence        | <i>muhahideen</i> | Saudi Arabia    |
| <i>madrassas</i>               | Wahhabis          | Usama bin Laden |
| al-Qaeda                       | <i>sharia</i>     | <i>taliban</i>  |
| <i>ulema</i>                   | Mullah Omar       | Waziristan      |
| Afghanistan's vital statistics | heroin traffic    | Hizbullah       |

## CHAPTER NINE: FROM TERRORISM TO INSURGENCY

### Study Questions

1. According to a United Nations panel, what have been the costs, particularly the economic fallout, inflicted by the 9-11 terrorists? How has Israel learned to deal with terrorist attacks? (174-76)
2. **Routes and Regions of Risk** What three geographical circumstances and environments are especially favorable to Islamic terrorists? What are some especially vulnerable places? (176-78)
3. **Risk in the Western Hemisphere** What is the **Triple Frontier** or Triborder area? How does it satisfy the three criteria above? What other connections may enhance its importance as a potential staging area for infiltrating terrorists into the United States? How does Venezuela complicate the picture? (178-81)
4. **The Islamic Front in Africa** The spread of Islam actually reach Morocco before the end of the 7C. How long ago did it reach places like Tanzania and China? What is the "**double complementarity**" that characterizes Africa's west coast states? How was Islam spread to the region? Where did Christianity predate and successfully resist Islam? What problems were created by the Conference of Berlin of 1884? Identify some countries that are deeply divided along religious lines. What challenges are faced by Darfur, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, and the Ogaden? Where is the greatest potential for terrorist activity in the Horn of Africa? American airstrikes were launched on the area early in 2007. How is Somalia divided? Who are the *shifto*? Where may the Islamic Front spread? What is the situation around Cape Town? (181-87)



5. **Financing Terror** What are the chief sources of terrorist funding? Where are terrorists likely to find relatively safe havens? (187-88)
6. **From Terror to Insurgency: Implications for Iraq** Identify the principal reasons for diverting attention from Afghanistan to Iraq? Where did things go wrong? What makes Iraq the pivotal country in the Middle East? What are some of the divisive factors? How do Iraqi Shi'ites differ from Iranian Shi'ites? How did Saddam Hussein wage a campaign of environmental terrorism? [A book entitled Resource Wars covers similar issues]. What is the corridor of Sunni habitat? Who are the Kurds and what is their situation? What have been the effects of the Iraq War and what are the implications for the future of the continuing campaign? (189-96)

### Review

|   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| geographic circumstances favorable to Islamic terrorism         | characteristics of Triple Frontier |
| Iguazu Falls  | Sao Paulo                          |
| Darfur  | Ciudad del Este                    |
| Puntland  | Sudan                              |
| reasons of the shift of American focus from Afghanistan to Iraq | Ogaden                             |
| Shi'ites, Sunnis, Kurds   | marshlands of southern Iraq        |
|   | Waziristan                         |

## CHAPTER TEN: EUROPEAN SUPERPOWER?

### Study Questions

1. What was globalization before it became "Americanization"? What revolutions did Europe generate? What have been the dominant events of the last half century? (197-98)
2. **Assets and Liabilities** Why does this realm remain a Tower of Babel? If Europe's cultural diversity is a challenge, why is its natural diversity an opportunity? Why does Europe's economy struggle today? How is overcrowding avoided? What accounts for long traffic jams? What factors account for Europe's population stagnation? What are some of the troubling implications? (198-204)
3. **Where and What Is Europe?** Why is the issue of whether Russia a part of Europe so important? What are some of the differences between the two? What happened to prevent North Africa from becoming European? What does Europe stand for today? (204-05)
4. **Fractious Europe** What accounts for Europe's political map? What are some of the current disputes? (205-07)
5. **Remaking Europe** How did the European unification movement get started? How did the Marshall Plan and NATO provide a framework? What political and institutions grew out of these multinational scheme? (208-11)
6. **Too Far, Too Fast?** What advantages did Portugal, Spain, and Greece derive from EU membership when they joined? What practical dilemmas does the EU face? What difficulties regarding labor and migration have arisen? Why does the voting plan call for a supermajority of 55% or 65%? Why has the rise of the euro and its potential adoption by new members been a source of worry? (211-13)
7. **A Federal Europe?** German and French leaders have long been committed to a more

close-knit “federal” system, while British leaders have been less enthusiastic. But the EU Constitution was rejected in referenda, first in Belgium (May 2005) and then in France the following month. Later that Fall, the Socialist president of Germany, Gerhard Schröder, was replaced and succeeded by Angela Merkel, a Christian Democrat. (214-15)

8. **European Governance** What are the “four pillars”? Where does the EP meet? (215-17)
9. **A Geographical Paradox** How does the “seven-rank perspective” help give form to Europe’s hierarchy of political entities? Given the decentralization of France and other countries into regions, how are taxation and economic policy being affected? What problems arise from devolutionary pressures? Why has European supranationalism intensified the devolutionary spirit? How do the territorial fragments of history, such as Gibraltar, Ceuta, Melilla, Kaliningrad, and Cyprus, represent minor irritants of long standing? (217-25)
10. **The Perils of Exclusion** What have been some of the effects of the new geographic boundary created by the European Union itself? Why is Ukraine a distant prospect for admission to the EU? How does its outside status affect the Poles? Summarize the challenges that the EU must coordinate and stabilize? (225-28)
11. **An Islamic EU Member?** Why has Turkey’s candidacy divided EU members and leaders for so many years? What positive changes in Turkey have resulted from these talks? What paradoxes are involved? (228-29)
12. **Ally or Adversary?** Is Europe a superpower? How consistent has been Europe’s uneasy relationship with the United States? What are some of the paradoxes? What would it effectively take to develop a potent all-European armed force? (229-30)

## Review

factors in the shrinking population of nearly half of Europe’s countries

Marshall Plan

NATO

Council of Europe

what thwarted the Europeanization of North Africa

Turkey and the EU

European Union’s aspiration to superpower status

George C. Marshall

# CHAPTER ELEVEN: RUSSIA: TROUBLE ON THE EASTERN FRONT

## Study Questions

1. How much difference did a decade make in Russia between 1985 (when Gorbachev came to power) and 1995? What was Russia’s major contest early in the new millennium? What has been the cost of this tragedy? (231)
2. **Geographic Problems of a Territorial Giant?** How many neighbors does Russia have? Count them. How do the “internal republics” of Transcaucasia and other factors complicate such calculations? Why did the Kazakh government move its capital to Astana? Besides China, Mongolia is developing close ties to Japan. What is happening with China and North Korea? How did Russia’s quest for warm-water ports shape its history? What are some of the geographical drawbacks of its location? What did border crossing entail during the Soviet era? (231-37)

3. **A Vast Realm** How cold is Russia? Where does the population cluster? Does “European Russia” truly end at the Urals? What are some of the characteristics of Siberia? Why did much of Soviet industry shift to Omsk and Novosibirsk? How are Kamchatka and Sakhalin characterized? What accounts for the Soviet Union’s limited interaction with the rest of the world (*i.e.*, its **autarky**)? What was its chief export? What is its chief commodity? What is its downside? What accounts for “crony capitalism”? (237-41)
4. **Soviet Legacy, Russian Challenge** Administrative consolidation has always posed a challenge throughout the vast sweep of Russia (and the earlier Mongol Empire). How did this fact figure into the American purchase of Alaska? Why did the imperial state fall apart? What sort of framework did the Bolsheviks design? Identify the four levels of the system. What made Primorskiy Territory so important? What happened to the Chechens when they were deported in 1944? (241-43)
5. **Trouble in Transcaucasia** How did the Chechen troubles get started? Where have most of the conflicts been fought? What is the background of the chief rebel/terrorist leader, **Shamil Basayev** (who was killed in the summer of 2006)? (243-48)
6. **Demographic Disaster** What demographic changes followed the collapse of communism? What is causing the calamity? What is happening in the Far East? (249-50)
7. **New Era, Old Problems** How has Vladimir Putin asserted greater administrative control over the country? (250-51)
8. **Russia and the World Today** Why has Russia been taking independent, sometimes obstructionist positions in international strategic matters? Why has Russia never signed a peace treaty with Japan? How are relations between Russia and NATO? The EU? (251-54)

### Review

|   |   |                        |
|---|---|------------------------|
| Astana  | Kazakhstan  | Catherine the Great    |
| importance of Sakhalin and the Kurile Islands |   | Chechens               |
| Shamil Basayev                                | Tatarstan   | Primorskiy <i>kray</i> |
| Groznyy                                       | characteristics of Russia’s demographic catastrophe |                        |
| relations with Japan, NATO, and the EU        |   |                        |

## CHAPTER TWELVE: HOPE FOR AFRICA?

### Study Questions

1. What did E. O. Wilson reveal about our ideal natural landscape? What sort of aid program has been proposed by **Jeffrey Sachs**?
2. **Eight Formative Disasters** Why do farming subsidies need to be ended in the West? What are the eight sources of Africa’s plight? What have been the consequences of the warming trend of the last few thousand years? How have the resistance of African animals to domestication and generally poor health held Africa back? What role has been played by the spread of Islam, the European slave trade, and the (roughly) century of colonial rule? (257-62)
3. What factors contributed to the horrors associated with the Congo Free State, which was

created during the **Berlin Conference** of 1884-85? What made the Murdock Map somewhat misleading? Who was responsible for the **retribalization** that has become such a serious problem subsequent to the end of the colonial period? How are different colonial policies and practices reflected in the challenges faced by countries like Ghana, Nigeria, Congo-Kinshasa, and Kenya? How did the Cold war distort relations between the West and Soviet bloc with Africa? Why is globalization increasing the gap between the poor and the well-off? How has the failure of Europe been both an African and an international problem? (262-68)

4. **Why Africa Matters** If social stability is a precondition for progress, what are the greatest threats to stability? What is the Islamic Front? How large an impact would the end of agricultural subsidies in the West have on African economies? What problems have been created by the African governments themselves? What does mineral-rich Australia have in the regional and global that Africa needs to develop? Why is it “in the entire world’s interest to improve public health in this, the sickest part of the planet? Why have parts of Brazil (such as Bahia) be become more closely tied to Africa culturally? (269-74)

### Review

|                                     |   |                           |
|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| effects of western subsidies        | Jeffrey Sachs                                     | state of health in Africa |
| European slave trade                | Leopold's reign of terror in the Congo Free State |                           |
| nature and effects of globalization |   | retribalization           |
| disease vectors (carriers)          |   |                           |

## EPILOGUE

### Study Questions

1. What are some of the “might-have-beens” of the 20th century? Why does the Dutch-American author believe the world was fortunate that it was the United States that emerged as the leading contender for dominance? What is one of America’s proudest traditions? What are some of the challenges that the United States faces in the world today? What should be done to prepare for energy challenges? What about abrupt climate change? Why does the author call for a revival of the massive program of grain and canned food storage? What will be required to prolong the American century? (275-82)

### Review

|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| program of grain and canned food storage | climate fluctuations |
|--|----------------------|