

ASIA

A REGIONAL AND ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY

BY

L. DUDLEY STAMP, C.B.E., D.Sc., B.A.

PROFESSOR OF GEOGRAPHY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON; FORMERLY PROFESSOR OF GEOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF RANGOON; GOLD MEDALLIST OF THE MINING AND GEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF INDIA, 1922; HONORARY MEMBER OF THE GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETIES OF MADRAS AND CALCUTTA; SPECIAL LECTURER, UNIVERSITIES OF BOMBAY AND CALCUTTA, 1938; DIRECTOR OF THE LAND UTILISATION SURVEY OF BRITAIN

WITH 372 MAPS AND DIAGRAMS

SEVENTH EDITION, REVISED



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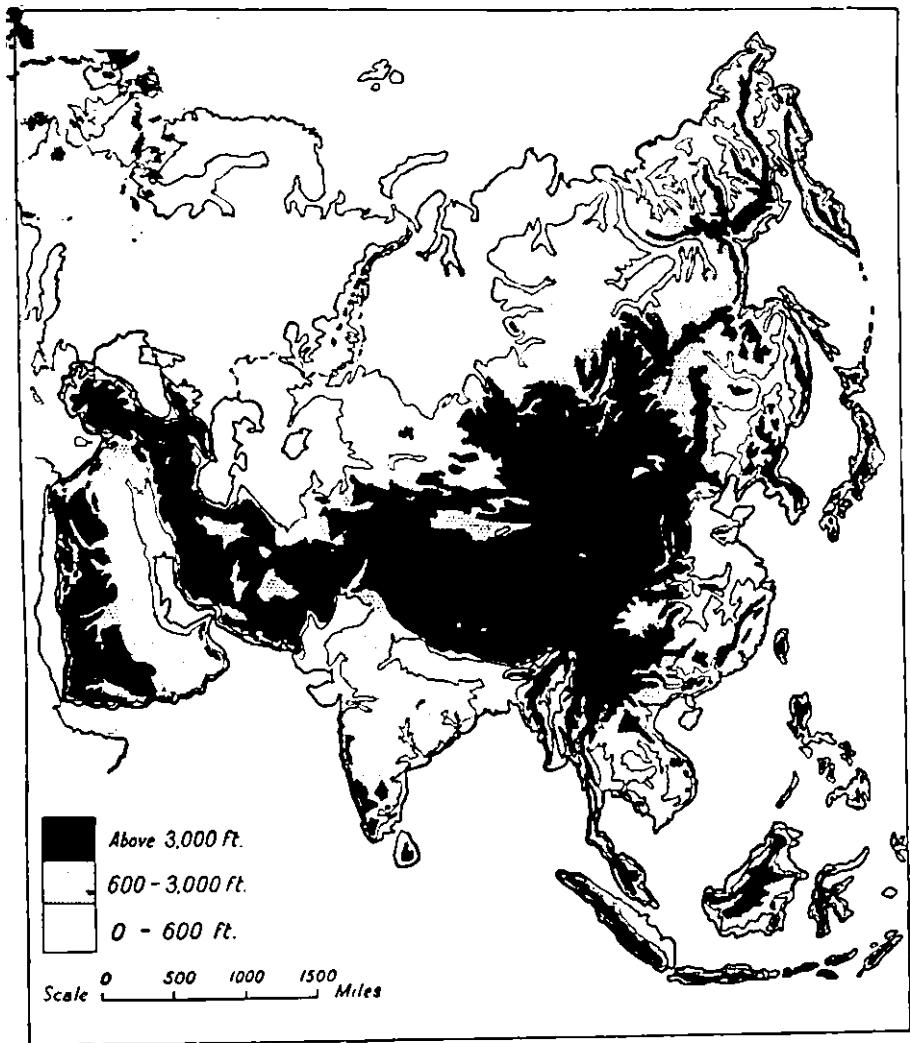
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TO
MY WIFE
IN MEMORY OF BULLOCK-CART DAYS
AND IRRAWADDY NIGHTS

ASIA



ASIA—THE MOUNTAIN-HEARTED
UNIQUE AMONG CONTINENTS

NOTE TO THE SEVENTH EDITION

THE Fifth and Sixth Editions of this work appeared during the Second World War, at a time when Japanese forces had overrun much of South-eastern Asia. That unhappy period came to an abrupt end in 1945, but the aftermath is still dominating the Asian scene. Both the present and future are obscure for many parts of Asia and many countries are on the eve of great and far-reaching changes. Consequently much of the detail of this book must still refer to the pre-1939 era.

The dedication of this book is a reminder of the leisurely days of twenty years ago when I first explored for myself the byways of the East. It is perhaps symbolical of the rapidity of change that on my last journey to Asia in January 1947 as British Delegate to the Indian Science Congress under the presidency of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, I landed on Indian soil precisely forty-four hours after stepping out of my London flat.

L. D. S.

LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

May, 1947

PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION

ALTHOUGH it is only six years since the appearance of the first edition of this book—followed eighteen months later by the second—so much has happened in the intervening time that it has proved essential to rewrite completely many sections. In the first place events in China, Manchuria and Japan have considerably altered the picture of the Far East and the passage of what will probably in the future be called the Great Depression has affected in very different ways the progress of development in Asiatic countries. In the second place the results of many detailed geographical studies have been published in the last decade. American geographers have been the outstanding leaders in this work—G. T. Trewartha, R. B. Hall, D. H. Davis and J. E. Orchard in the case of Japan ; J. W. Coulter and J. W. Baylor in Korea ; E. E. Ahnert, Owen Lattimore, and G. T. Trewartha in Manchuria ; G. B. Cressey in China. The study of geography has assumed an ever-increasing importance in both Japan and China and the wealth of material is gradually being made available to non-Oriental readers. In the third place it has been desirable to alter somewhat the balance of the book. It was natural that, in the first edition, India should bulk largely as being the scene of my own work during five years of residence and as being of paramount importance to British readers. But Japan has become increasingly significant in world affairs and has now been accorded a fuller treatment. America is even more intimately concerned with the development of Japanese and Far Eastern affairs and the popularity of this book in America affords a further justification for the complete recasting of this section. Twelve months in America in 1933-4 enabled me to discuss many of the problems at first hand with those who have undertaken their investigation, and I gratefully acknowledge all the help thus received during the most stimulating and delightful year of my geographical education.

The selection of material and its presentation in this book have resulted in interesting discussions on several occasions regarding the nature, content and scope of geography. In a world which is of necessity becoming increasingly international

we are inevitably forced to learn something of the life of the other man in the other country. It must be the function of a geographical training to enable disconnected fragments of knowledge to be put into their proper places in a connected and intelligible picture of the whole. Geography is thus a discipline and a point of view or mode of thought. In content it deals with the natural environment, the earth viewed as the home of man, the stage on which man plays his part and with the interactions between man and his environment considered dynamically and not statically—that is with the sequence of human occupancy.

Whilst the environment is a living and connected whole it can be analysed into its component parts, and each of those parts may be considered *per se* or as they influence the life of man. In the latter sense they may be called the geographical factors, and in the consideration of any area large or small the geographical factors group themselves into (a) those which are related to the position of the area relative to the world as a whole and to neighbouring areas; (b) those which are related to the physical build of the area—the influence of land and sea, mountain and plain; (c) those which are related to the geological structure of which physical features are but the outward visible evidence; (d) those which are related to weather and climate; (e) those which are related to vegetation, itself an index of the interaction of the preceding factors; and (f) those which are related to animal life, so largely dependent upon vegetation. In a primitive world the influence of each of these factors upon the life of man could be considered in sequence, but man has himself so altered his environment that each geographical factor is more appropriately considered not only as it influences human life but as man has reacted to and altered that influence. Thus the occurrence of minerals and their exploitation is appropriately considered with geological structure; the influence of natural vegetation cannot be divorced from a consideration of the vegetation as altered by man.

In an area so vast and so diverse as Asia no apology is needed for taking the great political units—which are, in so many cases, geographical entities also—as the basis of description in the second and larger part of this book. In each case the treatment, varied according to special requirements, follows the scheme already outlined. Introductory details are followed in order by a consideration of physical features; geology, structure and minerals; climate; vegetation and agriculture. Then comes the consideration of man himself, his activities, his industries and trade.

In all the larger political units of Asia, the environment varies

greatly from one part to another. Hence the necessity for the division into regions. I have called my regions 'natural regions' because they are in the main delineated by natural features of topography, structure, climate and vegetation. But each, in the course of the long occupation by man, has been changed, some in small measure, others very greatly. Features, such as the character of agriculture, which are the result of man's activities in many cases have become the obvious or outstanding ones of the region, but in so much as these secondary characteristics have been made possible by the fundamental or natural ones the regions remain 'natural'. Others prefer the term 'geographical region'. My regions are, in fact, environmental regions and I make no apology for the fact that the outstanding characteristics of some of them to-day are the direct results of human occupation. I contend, however, that they are fundamentally important in helping us to understand the life of man under conditions different from those of our own home environment.

In the preparation of this edition I have been helped by Mrs. E. Beaver, B.A., whose work I gratefully acknowledge. I have again followed in the spelling of place-names the lists issued by the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names of the Royal Geographical Society. I have continued to follow the course of selecting references which are intended mainly as a guide to the student and general reader seeking further sources of information. They are, therefore, almost restricted to books and periodicals likely to be readily available; as far as possible they are to works in the English language except where French or German publications fill a gap which could not otherwise be occupied. My special thanks are due to the American Geographical Society of New York for permission to reproduce a number of maps from the pages of the *Geographical Review*.

L. D. S.

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