

**A COMMERCIAL
GEOGRAPHY
OF THE WORLD**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649181094

A commercial geography of the world by O. J. R. Howarth

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

O. J. R. HOWARTH

**A COMMERCIAL
GEOGRAPHY
OF THE WORLD**

200
H.

THE OXFORD GEOGRAPHIES

EDITED BY A. J. HERBERTSON

A
COMMERCIAL
GEOGRAPHY
OF THE WORLD

BY

O. J. R. HOWARTH, M.A.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION

WITH 33 DIAGRAMS

132248
30 | 3 | 14

OXFORD

AT THE CLARENDON PRESS

1913

CONTENTS

CHAP.	PAGE
I. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS.	
Influence of Climate and Relief on Commerce and Industry. Natural Regions	7
II. COLD REGIONS	20
III. TEMPERATE LANDS.	
Physical Conditions. Cereals. Fruits. Animal Products	30
IV. TEMPERATE LANDS (<i>cont.</i>).	
Forests. Vegetable Fibres. Other Products	49
V. HOT LANDS.	
Food Products. Vegetable Fibres. Forest Products, &c.	58
VI. FISHERIES: ZOOLOGICAL REGIONS	74
VII. MINING AND MANUFACTURES.	
Distribution of Minerals. Considerations affecting Distribution of great Industries	81
VIII. TRANSPORT	98
IX. TRADING CENTRES. MIGRATION	133
X. THE GRAIN TRADE AND KINDRED SUBJECTS	138
XI. THE BRITISH ISLES.	
Districts, Products, Industries, and Communications. Commerce of the United Kingdom, with particular reference to British Imperial Commerce	148
XII. SCANDINAVIA AND RUSSIA	162
XIII. CENTRAL EUROPE	169
XIV. THE EUROPEAN MEDITERRANEAN REGION	185
XV. NORTH AMERICA	192
XVI. TEMPERATE LANDS OF THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE	200
XVII. THE MONSOONAL AND OTHER ASIATIC TERRITORIES	205
XVIII. THE HOT LANDS IN AFRICA AND AMERICA. PACIFIC ISLANDS	
STATISTICAL TABLES	222
INDEX	227

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

FIGS.	PAGE
1. Natural Regions of the World	13
2. Mean Annual Rainfall (World).	16
3. Vegetation Regions (World)	18
4. Distribution of Occupations (World)	23
5. Distribution of important Food-grains (World)	29
6. Chief Sources of Wheat-supply to the densely populated Areas in Europe and North America	35
7. Northern Limits of some important Cultivated Plants in Europe	37
8. South-eastern Asia, showing Rice-lands and most densely inhabited Lands	61
9. Animal Realms (World)	80
10. Principal Mineral Fields of Central Europe, in relation to the Relief of the Land	83
11. The Congo Valley and its Railways	101
12. The Magdalena Valley and its Railways	103
13. Part of the Oxford Canal	103
14. Navigable Waterways of Central Europe	104
15. The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence	105
16, 17. Types of Ports	115, 117
18. Part of the Coast of Norway	118
19. Commercial Routes from Europe to India, Australia, and the Far East	119
20. Road, Railway, and Canal from Head of Thames to Severn	122
21. Severn Tunnel Routes to South Wales	125
22. Diagram of Main Transcontinental Railways in Western Europe	128
23. Main Railways and Sea-routes of Europe	129
24. Poor Pasture-land in British Isles	151
25. Rich Pasture in British Isles	151
26. Distribution of Cultivated Land in British Isles	151
27. Distribution of Wheat in British Isles	151
28. Distribution of Coal in British Isles	152
29. Cotton and Linen Manufactures (British Isles)	155
30. Woollen and Silk Manufactures (British Isles)	155
31. Iron Ore, Ironworks, and Shipbuilding (British Isles)	155
32. Towns with over 50,000 Inhabitants (British Isles)	155
33. Distribution of Minerals in Central Europe	172

AUTHOR'S NOTE

I HAVE to express indebtedness to Professor A. J. Herbertson and to Mrs. Herbertson for much help, suggestion, and the loan of maps. The regions of the world, which have been recently worked out by Professor Herbertson, are quoted in their entirety in the first chapter, as it is desirable to establish the connexion between them and the political divisions dealt with in the closing chapters; but no attempt has been made here to give more than an outline of the physical conditions on which they are based. It is a commonplace, but no less a duty, to acknowledge the great utility of Mr. G. G. Chisholm's *Handbook of Commercial Geography*. To Professor H. N. Dickson I owe much, and am particularly grateful for two most suggestive chapters in his *Climate and Weather* (Home University Library: Williams and Norgate). The *Statesman's Year-book* supplies statistics for all countries; official *Statistical Abstracts* are published for the United Kingdom, the British Empire, and Foreign Countries, and the *Annual Statement of the Trade of the United Kingdom* leads further into detail. The *Encyclopaedia Britannica* (11th edition) provides notices on products, industries, and commerce under the headings of the various countries, divisions, and towns, and also in articles on the chief commodities and industries indicates their geographical distribution. The *Britannica Year-book* (1913) gives later particulars. It is unnecessary here to refer to special works consulted.

As to the table in the Appendix giving statistics for various countries, where the import and export figures are stated to be 'generally' based on an average of five years, it should be explained that in a very few cases, from one cause or another, either figures for that term were not obtainable or the average appeared to be so far from representing existing conditions as to be valueless. It appeared unnecessary to specify these cases, as it is hoped that the figures as they stand afford a proper basis for comparison.

CHAPTER I

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Influence of Climate and Relief on Commerce and Industry.
Natural Regions.

THE foundation of a knowledge of commercial geography is a knowledge of the different Natural Regions of the World and their products. It is necessary to know where different products are found, and why they are found there. Most products of plant and animal origin depend on the climate of a region. The contrast between the rich vegetation of the hot wet equatorial forest and the bareness of the hot dry desert of the Sahara, or of the icy desert of the polar regions is obvious. On climate depend the distribution of natural vegetation and (in part) of animals in the natural state, and also the ability of man to cultivate certain plants or domesticate certain animals in certain regions. In connexion with climate there have to be considered physical features. The study of land-forms bears not only upon the questions of distribution above mentioned, but especially upon the means of transport. Climate and weather affect also transport, especially by sea. The direction, variability, and strength of the winds determine certain routes, especially of sailing ships. Even on land if the climate is too dry it may be difficult for man to supply himself, his beast of burden or his railway locomotive, with water. The distribution of mineral products does not depend on climate, but man's ability to work a mineral deposit profitably is often dependent on it. For instance, we shall see how difficult

mining is in Arctic regions or in the West Australian desert.

Climate obviously affects the distribution of man over the Earth. It also affects his capacity for commerce. For example, one densely inhabited area will be found to contain a population which is devoted to manufacture, not only for home use but for export on a large scale, and imports its chief food-supplies from great distances. Another closely populated region will be found to be practically self-supporting, and to engage in little external trade. For all these reasons a knowledge of natural regions is important, and it has advanced very far beyond the stage at which, only a century and a half ago, it was possible for a French colony in tropical Guiana to fail owing to the want of the simplest necessities of life in a hot country, whereas one of its shops is said to have exhibited pairs of skates for sale. But in later times not a few commercial ventures have failed through neglect of the climatic factor.

Climatic Influences on Industry and Commerce.

A temperate climate is better suited to manufacturing and commercial activity than a tropical climate. For example, the native of one of the tropical forest regions is more easily provided by Nature with the simple necessities of life than the native of a temperate region. He can without much effort keep himself warm and fed. Building materials for such shelter as he needs are ready to his hand. He has therefore little or no instinct towards artificial comforts or luxuries, the production of which (or earning the means to purchase them) would involve heavy labour, whereas the tropical climate tends to make him lazy. It was in warm or hot lands that old systems of slavery developed, and we still hear of natives of hot lands being forced by ill-treatment to work.