

**THE OUTLINES OF  
MILITARY  
GEOGRAPHY**

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The outlines of military geography by A. C. MacDonnell

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# THE OUTLINES OF MILITARY GEOGRAPHY

BY

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WITH NINETEEN MAPS

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## PREFACE

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SEP 8 1937  
St. A. R.  
IN putting forward these "Outlines of Military Geography" I am deeply conscious of its many imperfections and the difficulty of satisfying the requirements of all classes of students by either not giving enough or giving too much information.

I have endeavoured, therefore, to give a sufficient outline of each of those countries which possess a special interest for Great Britain, to enable the ordinary reader to grasp the more important points of military geography, without which he cannot pursue his further studies in military strategy and history with an intelligent interest.

At the commencement of my own military career I found myself studying history and strategy for a long time with a very perfunctory geographical knowledge of the theatres of war I was reading about, and it was many years before I discovered my mistake. I know now that these subjects would have impressed them-



selves very much quicker and more clearly on my mind had I first made myself acquainted with the nature and number of the important geographical features in each country, their relative positions, names, and military attributes. Such a knowledge would have broadened my military horizon much earlier and enabled me to understand many things in strategy and history which long remained in a nebulous condition. I have endeavoured, therefore, in this work to avoid, as far as possible, introducing historical and strategical dissertations, which can afterwards be studied better by references to other military works dealing more fully with these subjects; but in a few cases I thought it necessary to refer very shortly to certain historical and strategical occasions in order to emphasise the military value of certain geographical features.

I have also avoided, as far as possible, entering into facts such as population, character of race, armaments, etc., which would entail a volume in itself; also the size and nature of personnel and matériel, which are more or less ephemeral, and which are better studied in special works devoted to such information.

Any strategic remarks I have made are purposely very brief, and are, of course, open

to discussion ; if I have succeeded in establishing the desire for the latter in the mind of the reader, together with a wish to increase his geographical knowledge from a military point of view, I shall be amply rewarded.

I acknowledge with thanks the assistance I have obtained from the works of the many authors referred to, and I am very grateful to the General Staff at the War Office for assistance in consulting and preparing maps, etc. ; to the Navy League for permission to use their map (No. I.) ; to Colonel Sir T. Holdich, K.C.M.G., K.C.I.E., C.B., for reading over Chapter V. on India, etc. ; and to Colonel J. Engelbregt (Dutch Army) for supplying me with information about Holland.

A. C. MACDONNELL,  
*Colonel.*

SANDHURST,  
FARNHAM,  
*Oct. 22, 1910.*

