

Chapter 9 Development



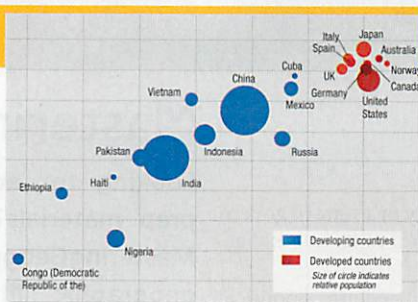
Why does India have so many bureaucrats? Page 328



Why is this coffee special? Page 336

KEY ISSUE 1

Why Does Development Vary among Countries?



Developed and Developing Countries p. 301

Every country is at some level of development.

KEY ISSUE 2

Why Does Development Vary by Gender?

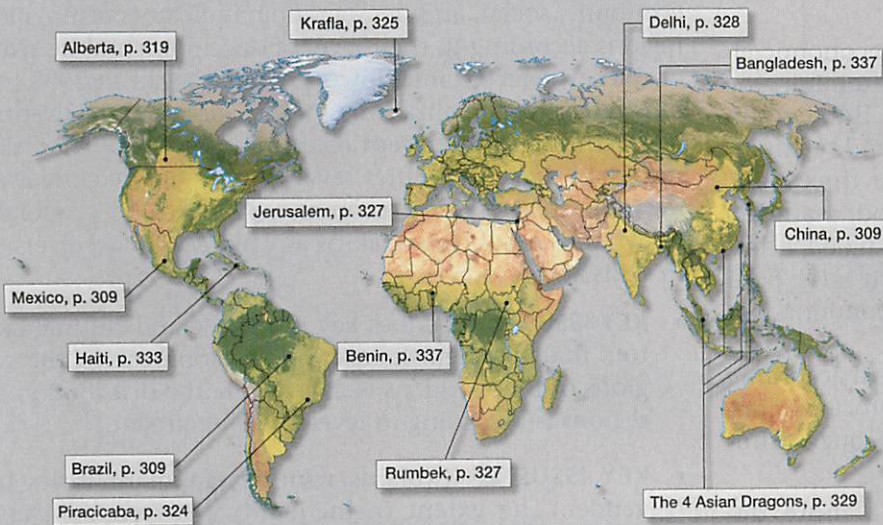


Gender Inequality p. 310

The UN says that men are treated better than women everywhere.

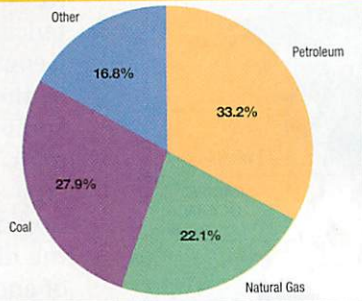


▲ This truck is traveling Trans-African Highway 8, which is the principal east–west road across Africa, 6,259 kilometers (3,890 miles) between Mombasa, Kenya, and Lagos, Nigeria. Aid from the United Nations and other international organizations has funded construction of the road. The eastern and western sections of the route are paved, but the central portion, through the Democratic Republic of Congo, is unpaved. The absence of good roads is one of many obstacles to development in sub-Saharan Africa.



KEY ISSUE 3

Why Are Energy Resources Important for Development?



It Takes a Lot of Energy p. 314

Development needs abundant energy, but some sources are being depleted.

KEY ISSUE 4

Why Do Countries Face Obstacles to Development?



Trade or Stand Alone? p. 328

Countries choose paths to development and look for money to finance it.

Introducing Development

Previous chapters examined global demographic and cultural patterns. Birth, death, and natural increase rates vary among regions of the world, and people in different regions also have different social customs, languages, religions, and ethnic identities. Political problems arise when the distribution of cultural characteristics does not match the boundaries between states. Chapter 8 pointed out that in the contemporary world, global military confrontation and alliances have been replaced by global economic competition and cooperation.

The remainder of this book concentrates on economic elements of human geography. This chapter examines the most fundamental global economic pattern: the division of the world into relatively wealthy regions and relatively poor ones. Subsequent chapters look at the three basic ways that humans earn a living: growing food, manufacturing products, and providing services. In a global economy, geographers are increasingly concerned with both the similarities and the differences in the economic patterns of the various regions.

Earth's nearly 200 countries can be classified according to their level of **development**, which is the process of improving the material conditions of people through diffusion of knowledge and technology:

- A developed country, also known as a **more developed country (MDC)** or **relatively developed**

country, has progressed further along the development continuum.

- A **developing country**, also frequently called a **less developed country (LDC)**, has made some progress toward development, though less than the developed countries. Recognizing that progress has varied widely among developing countries, the UN divides them into high, medium, and low development.

The first geographic task is to identify where countries are located, based on their level of development. Geographers observe that developed countries cluster in some *spaces* and developing countries in other spaces, based on their level of development.

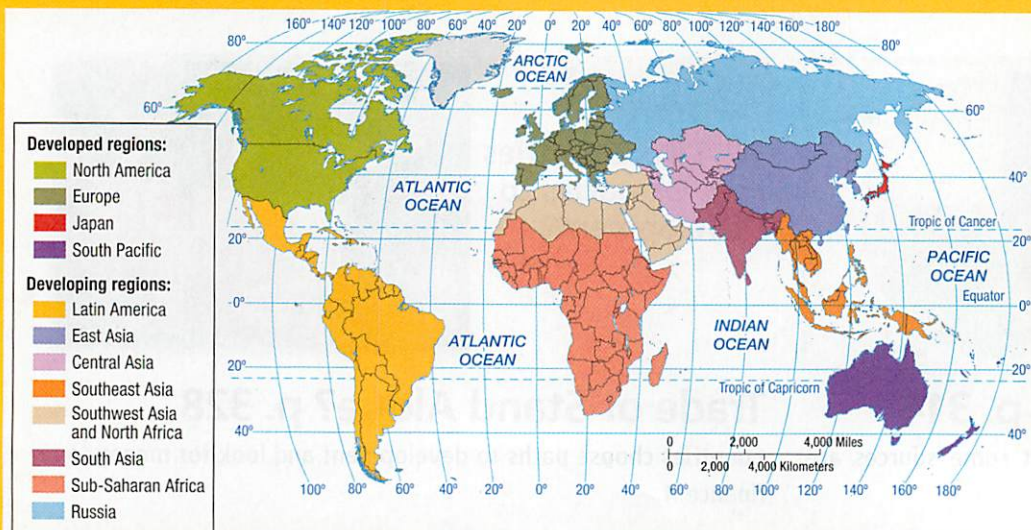
Geographers divide the world into nine *regions*, plus several other areas, according to their level of development, as well as other physical and cultural features (Figure 9-1). Each *place* has distinctive demographic and cultural characteristics that have been discussed in earlier chapters. Substantial variations in development also occur within regions and within individual countries, especially larger ones.

Next, geographers are concerned with why some development varies among and within regions. A number of economic, social, and demographic indicators distinguish regions according to their level of development. The *scale* of the severe economic downturn that began in 2008 has illustrated the globalization of the economy in the twenty-first century. In the recent recession, individual countries have had their economies severely buffeted by close *connections* to the global economy. A return to economic growth has necessitated taking advantage of local diversity in skills and resources.

- **KEY ISSUE 1** describes key economic and cultural factors that distinguish level of development in the regions of the world, as well as *where* the distribution of regions is according to level of development.
- **KEY ISSUE 2** explains *why* development varies by gender. The extent of inequality between men and women is an important element of a country's level of development.

- **KEY ISSUE 3** looks at the importance of energy for development. Geographers observe *local diversity* in the supply of energy resources. Some regions have abundant supplies, whereas others have few energy resources, and the distribution of the supply does not match the distribution of the consumers of energy.

- **KEY ISSUE 4** looks at alternative strategies for promoting development. With *globalization* of the world's economy, most countries pursue development through interaction with other places.



▲ **FIGURE 9-1 DEVELOPMENT REGIONS** Geographers divide the world into two developed and seven developing regions. Russia, the world's largest country, is classified by itself. Japan is classified separately, because its level of development is much higher than that of its neighbors. The South Pacific is a much less populous area than the nine development regions.