Worldly Ways

The impact and influence of Syracuse University faculty and alumni can be felt far from the ivy-covered halls of campus.

Published by SURFACE, 1994

When medical missionary Albert Schweitzer received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1952, he urged people to remember that, "You don't live in a world all alone. Your brothers are here, too."

Global involvement has been a Syracuse University hallmark for years. Today, more than 5,500 SU alumni live and work in some 140 countries outside the United States. They help shape the world through almost every profession imaginable, from overseeing the Serengeti Wildlife Refuge in Tanzania to honing MTV Europe in Paris. Such worldly involvement extends to the University's faculty members, many of whom are researching international issues or taking part in international projects.

Some of these people are introduced on the following 10 pages, in which we chronicle issues affecting five regions of the world: the Americas, Europe, Asia-Pacific, the Middle East, and sub-Saharan Africa.

Photo by FPG International

The Americas:

Battling to Save the Environment

Their cultures, languages, climates, and ecosystems differ, but when it comes to issues facing their environments, the Americas share a common problem: too many people.

From the mercury poisoning Brazil's waterways due to gold processing, to the hordes of tourists trampling over sensitive parkland in Costa Rica, to the forests in the United States and Canada that are clear-cut for pulp and paper, the consequences of human consumption pile up every second of every day.

On some level, most of us know this—it's not as if species extinction, deforestation, and ozone layer depletion are big secrets. Indeed, many of us do our bit to help the environment. But while recycling soda bottles and saving whales will inevitably do more good than bad, neither will make up for past and present abuse.

"Ecology isn't very forgiving. Once you screw it up, it stays screwed up," says Stewart Cameron, a tree physiologist with the Canadian Forestry Service and the 1977 recipient of a master's degree from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF).

Consider, for example, the slow destruction of such species as the wood bison, peregrine falcon, piping plover, whooping crane, eskimo curlew, and eastern cougar, animals whose North American habitats have been destroyed in the name of more effective farms, larger cities, and better roads.

"The conditions on which these species depend have been destroyed," says Charles Dauphine, coordinator of endangered species for Environment Canada in Ottawa and a 1963 ESF graduate. "Some species are more sensitive than others and they go first, but when you look at wildlife populations in general, you see that many species have declined greatly. They may not be disappearing just yet, but they're sure as hell headed in that direction, so what does this tell us?"

For one thing, it tells us if we're not careful, we might do the same thing to ourselves. In some cases, we're already on our way: The air in Mexico City is so bad the government has imposed strict regulations on how many cars can circulate each day, and even that hasn't really improved matters. Ozone depletion has increased the number of skin cancer victims in southern Chile and Argentina, and citizens in those countries are advised to wear sunglasses during months when UV intensity is especially problematic.

Elsewhere in South America, entire aboriginal communities are being wiped out. "Deforesting the tropics also means the massive loss of indigenous cultures," explains David Robinson, Syracuse University Dell-Plain Professor of Latin American geography. "These places are not unpopulated. People live there. They're a resource of knowledge and importance, not to mention that it's their land, they've been there for thousands of years, and who are we to say it's time to move on or simply die?"

If you're thinking the most serious environmental problems are lodged closer to the equator than to the Arctic Circle, think again. It wasn't long ago that sprawling herds of buffalo roamed the Great Plains. They were virtually wiped out, victims of westward expansion. Their demise was followed by that of the Plains Indians, who depended upon the buffalo for food and clothing; in short, for survival.

"People have very short memories," says Robinson.

FPG INTERNATIONAL

It's that combination of ignorance and arrogance—it can't happen here, it won't happen here, and even if it does, it definitely won't happen to me—that's gotten the environment into its current mess. Despite the reality that we can't go back and renew every resource, there is a simple way to avoid more problems: consider the consequences and think before acting.

"There's no free lunch in this area. You must make choices," says William G. Rosenberg, who served as the Environmental Protection Agency's assistant administrator in charge of clean air during the Bush administration.

Rosenberg, who earned a bachelor's degree from the College of Arts and Sciences in 1961, now advises companies and several states on how to comply with the Clean Air Act. He says people should put less emphasis on convenience and more on how their actions will impact the environment.

"A lot of people go to the car inspection station that will be easiest on them, and all the improperly maintained cars probably cause more dirty air than any other single source," says Rosenberg, whose list of environmental enemies also includes lawn mowers (he says running one for an hour is equivalent to driving 200 miles in a pollutant-spewing vehicle), inefficient refrigerators, and dirty gasoline.

Mind you, people don't seek out inefficient and dirty products. They look for items that are cheap, or in the case of the gas-powered lawn mower, easy to use. You'd be hard-pressed to find anyone who believes that environmentally hazardous products are going to be hauled off store shelves any time soon. But then, a generation ago no one expected that someday we might have to separate our trash before placing it by the curb. Necessity prompted such action, but it wouldn't have become a reality if we hadn't taken the time to learn something about the environment.

ED KASHI

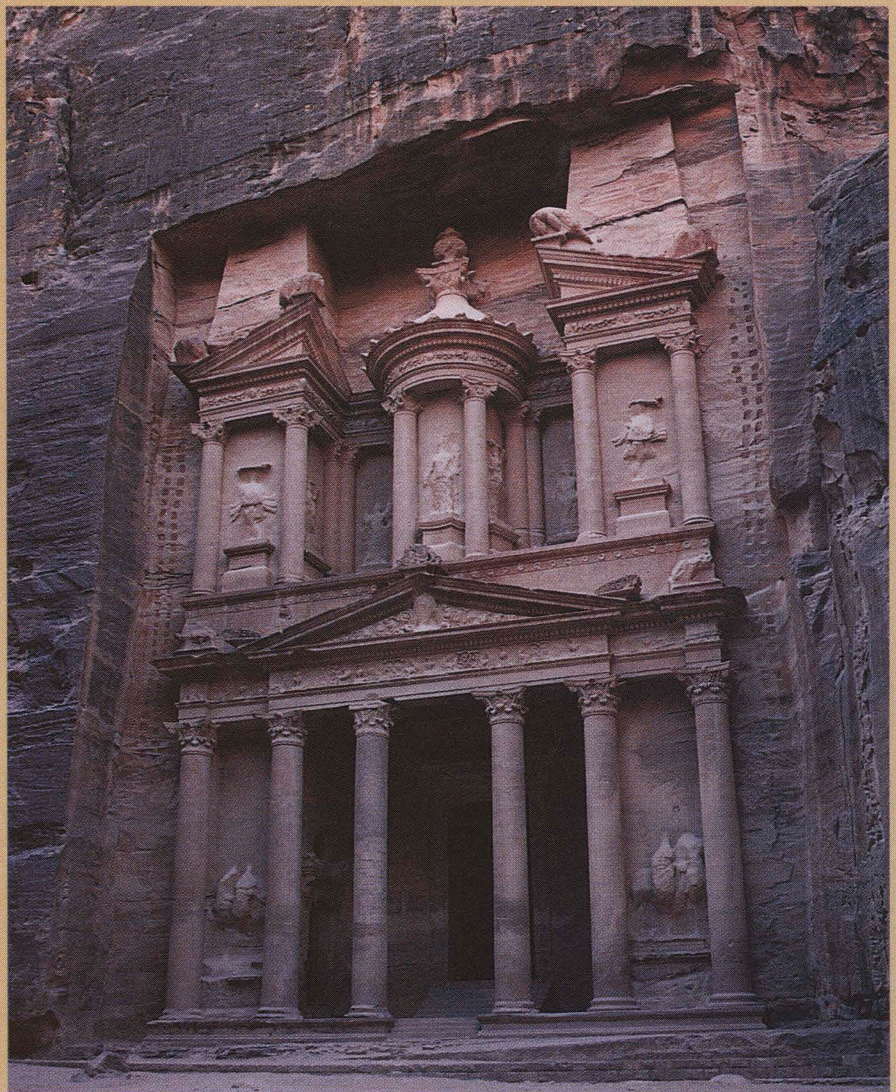
The thoughtlessness that spawned a toxic dump in Alaska (left) could someday threaten environmental jewels such as California's Redwood National Park. "Ecology isn't very forgiving," says tree physiologist Stewart Cameron.

In North America, schools are playing a major role in environmental education. In South America, it's NGOs, or nongovernmental agencies. They range from grass roots groups teaching people how to use pesticides correctly to larger organizations such as the Sierra Club and the Nature Conservancy, both of which are based in North America but funnel money to NGOs in South and Central America.

Marie Price, an assistant professor of geography at George Washington University and the 1991 recipient of a doctoral degree from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, has studied NGOs extensively.

The Middle East:

Tending Civilization's Cradle



Social and environmental factors threaten ancient Middle East marvels like Petra in southern Jordan (above). Preservationists have lobbied government authorities and developers to better safeguard such treasures.

Mention the Middle East and a blur of images pass through the mind: Women swathed in black, faces veiled; camels ambling across vast expanses of desert; oceans of oil; and an unyielding succession of wars. Yet what is most enduring about this land, this age-old bridge between east and west, is in grave danger of being destroyed—an immense cultural and archaeological legacy dating back thousands of years.

The Middle East, stretching from Egypt through Iran and embracing 15 nations and more than 200 million people, has stood at the forefront of cultural development since the earliest records of humanity.

From the lands of Syria and Jordan came the cultivation of grains, exported to Europe and the Mediterranean 8,000 years ago. Engineers in ancient Samarra dug the first canals for irrigation. The use of clay, then brick and plaster began in the Jordan Valley more than 5,000 years before Moses led the people of Israel into the Promised Land. Even writing began here with the introduction of cuneiform in the great Sumer empire.

By virtue of ignorance, neglect, and social and environmental factors, much of this heritage is in danger. The Gulf War rocked important archaeological sites in Iraq. Lebanon's devastating civil war in the seventies and eighties not only jeopardized ancient sites but made a wasteland of Beirut, one of the region's most culturally rich cities. Pollution and desert winds are literally erasing the face of the Sphinx in Egypt.

But the picture is not one of complete gloom for the cradle of civilization. Many of the wonders of the Middle East are more accessible than ever, but with increasing safeguards to

Several stand out in her mind: Two Mexican NGOs convinced the government to divert a road that was set to run through a national park. Another group, from Venezuela, studied an ecologically diverse grass plains area in hopes of convincing the government to set aside the land for a park. It did, and that NGO now runs the park.

But while Price is impressed with the work accomplished by the NGOs, she can't help returning to the crux of the problem, the issue that won't go away—too many people.

Nowhere has the population problem become more apparent than in Costa Rica, a developing country that has been attracting tourists by the tens of thousands during the past decade.

"Tourism brings a lot of money into the country," says Carlos Granados, chairman of the geography department at the University of Costa Rica in San José and the 1993 recipient of a doctoral degree from the Maxwell School. "From an economic point of view, it's a booming business. But from an environmental point of view, it's a disaster."

With the tourists come noise, waste, and disturbance in the form of people removing plants and, occasionally,

ensure their preservation. Many areas are being revived and restored, and peace may bring the stability necessary for the survival of many historical treasures.

Take Jordan. The country's rocky soil is home to more than 10,000 archaeological sites spanning the Bronze Age to the Byzantine and Islamic eras. Concerned by what he considered a dearth of historical knowledge, Jordanian writer and publisher Rami Khouri started Friends of Archaeology in the mid-seventies as a forum for disseminating information on the country's rich history. The group has about 350 members, publishes a newsletter, and sponsors trips throughout Jordan and the entire Middle East.

Friends of Archaeology has gone a step further by lobbying government authorities and developers. "There are many issues—wastewater treatment, pollution from bus traffic—that are not considered seriously enough by those who focus on the commercial side of progress and tourism," says Khouri, who earned a dual degree from the College of Arts and Sciences and the Newhouse School in 1970. "We try to create more awareness and forge political connections so our heritage won't be lost."

The many wonders of the Middle East have been diminished by the ravages of numerous wars. The Gulf War destroyed important archaeological sites in Iraq, while civil war devastated ancient sites throughout Lebanon.

One city taking definitive steps to repair its tattered legacy is Beirut. Once known as the Paris of the Middle East, central Beirut now stands as a war-torn monument to a bygone era.

A huge government campaign is under way to change that. The Lebanese Company for the Development and Reconstruction of Beirut Central District was created to restore the city's commercial and financial hub. It recently held a competition for design plans melding the city's former glory with modern demands.

Syracuse University architecture professors Evelyn McFarlane and Adam Drisin, both currently teaching with SU's Division of International Programs Abroad in Florence, Italy, won a share of the first prize in a contest that drew more than 300 designs from all over the world. Their plans, and those of architectural teams in England and France, will be incorporated into a master plan for reconstruction, which is scheduled to begin in January.

"We wanted to weave together architectural fragments from Beirut's recent past and conceptual traces from its distant past with our new plan for Beirut," says Drisin. "Our design allows for the confluence of cultures and times. We utilize much of the city's architectural heritage."

If all goes as planned, Beirut may soon become a symbol of what is right in the Middle East, which, despite its struggles, remains a vast repository of human history. The past, with its treasures and accomplishments, can continue to enlighten the present and help shape the future, but only as long as people treat this cradle with care.

—*Kirk Albrecht*

poaching animals. Although the government is trying to find a way to control tourism, Granados isn't optimistic.

"Tourism is big business," he says. "All of these businesspeople are going to try to get around any law interfering with it."

In other words, businesses might think before they act, but long-term consequences will still get less consideration than short-term gains. That's understandable. Indeed, it's human nature. University of Akron geography professor Robert Kent witnessed similar actions in his research in South America, observing farmers whose methods weren't always environmentally healthy.

Kent, who received a doctoral degree from the Maxwell School in 1983, says some farmers are aware of the damage they're doing, but that doesn't stop them.

"You have to eat, right?" Kent says. "Your kids need food. You're in a situation where you don't have any choice."

That's not entirely true. It's just that the choice—sacrifice the environment or starve to death—isn't something most of us ponder. But if we continue on our current path of self-destruction, warns Cameron, at some point such choices may be made for us rather than by us. —*Deborah J. Waldman*

Africa:

Signs of Hope Amid Despair

After a decade most development experts wrote off as "lost," much of sub-Saharan Africa now limps cautiously toward the 21st century. The battered region is desperate to put behind it a recent barrage of economic and political crises that have been severe, unrelenting, and gut-wrenchingly sad.

Televised images of the continent's large-scale human disasters—be they man-made tragedies in Rwanda, Liberia, and Sudan, or natural calamities in famine-stricken Ethiopia and Somalia—have become worldwide symbols of despair and misery.

During the eighties, a collapse in the world market for export commodities like copper, coffee, and cocoa sent many African economies in a downward spiral from which they have yet to recover. At the same time, many of these struggling countries—among them Zaire, Equatorial Guinea, and Malawi—have been ravaged by corrupt political leadership or gross mismanagement.

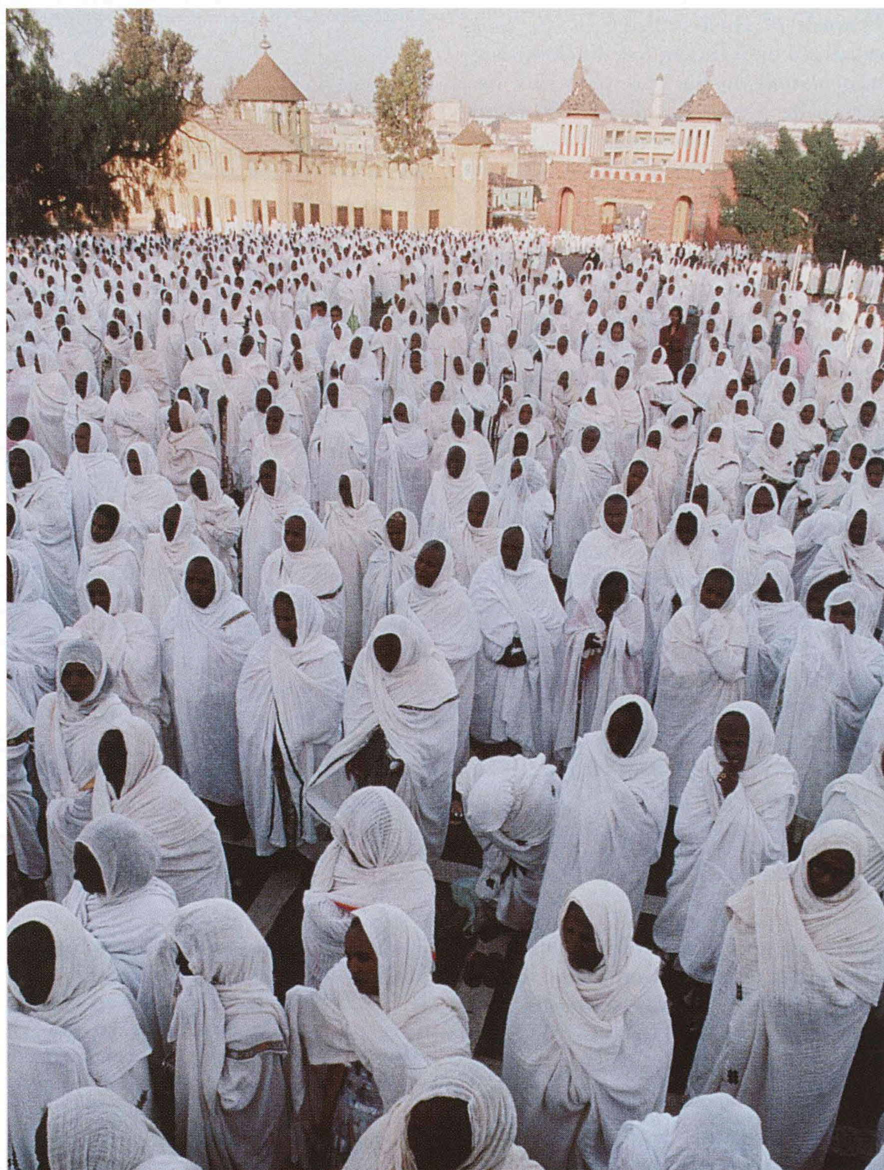
Add to that a laundry list of other social, political, and economic challenges facing the region: a massive debt burden; the world's highest rate of population growth (3.2 percent annually); and chronic disasters such as drought and locust plagues, which have exacerbated food shortages.

It all adds up to deepening poverty. According to World Bank figures, 220 million people living south of the Sahara Desert—more than one out of every three Africans—are living in "absolute poverty," unable to meet their basic needs. In a three-part *New York Times* series run last summer, reporter John Darnton wrote that in terms of living standards, Africa is now the only continent "where most poor people are getting poorer and where health and education are deteriorating."

The continent's woes are well publicized. Little attention, however, is given to its bright spots and signs of progress.

We seldom read about the good life in Botswana, long an oasis of economic and political stability. Then there's Zimbabwe, which under the leadership of Robert Mugabe remains a model of political stability despite its high unemployment rate. Zimbabwe's agricultural sector has traditionally been among the continent's strongest, often supplying surplus food staples to its more hard-pressed neighbor, Mozambique.

Zimbabwe is also home to a progressive women's movement. Traditionally unrecognized for their critical role in food production, African women are demanding more rights. They're gaining ground in Zimbabwe, where women used to be legally defined as "property" and given short shrift under marriage and inheritance laws. "Historically, women did not have a right to inherit property, but inheritance laws



ED KASHI

Encouraging developments are apparent in many African countries, including Eritrea (above and right), which recently gained independence after 30 years of war. The country has an abundance of newly built schools and factories.

ED KASHI

The children of Africa would do well to inherit their parents' resiliency. Many ordinary Africans, says Deborah Pellow, an associate professor of anthropology at SU, "possess an ability to survive the worst of circumstances."

in Zimbabwe have been changed to make that possible," says Horace Campbell, an SU professor of African politics and director of the University's Division of International Programs Abroad center in Harare, Zimbabwe.

The changes occurring in the nearby country of Malawi are another source of optimism, says Mary Winslow Stephano, an international management consultant specializing in labor planning and development. Stephano, who received a doctoral degree from the School of Education in 1970, spent last year in Malawi, during which the country made its peaceful transition to multiparty democracy and broke the stranglehold of oppression maintained by former ruler Hastings Kamuzu Banda. "His authoritarian rule was at the root of much of the abuse of power and corruption that has held this country back," says Stephano.

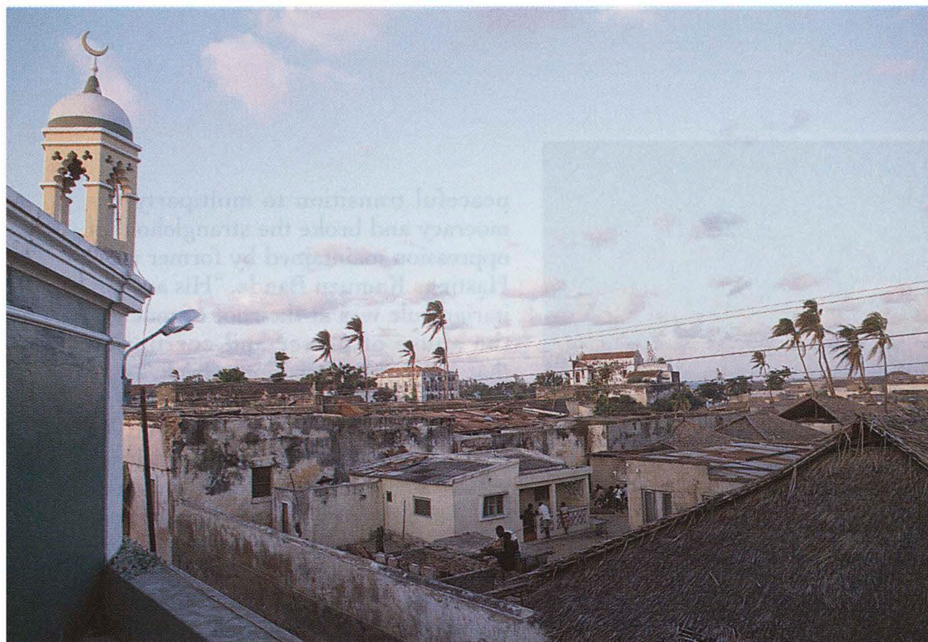
Stephano is also encouraged by developments she witnessed in Eritrea, which, after a 30-year war for independence from Ethiopia, became Africa's first country to alter its colonial-era boundaries. "It's phenomenal how these people have organized themselves," says Stephano. "During the war everyone was out in the bush setting up schools and factories. Now that these people finally have independence, they have the tools to take advantage of it."

Even the situation in Somalia may be improving. Ali Galaydh, a native of Somalia and an associate professor of public administration in the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, considers the collapse of old, unworkable government structures a sign his homeland is on the mend. "Dealing with our own problems in our own way will be the first step to handling development and survival issues," he says.

ED KASHI

Ironically, the continent's most spectacular ray of hope emanates from the country once regarded as its pariah: South Africa. The potential exists for South Africa to gain far-reaching positive influence both economically and politically, says Mike Wasylenko, a Maxwell School professor specializing in public finance issues that affect developing nations and the 1975 recipient of a doctoral degree in economics from the Maxwell School.

He says increased foreign investment in South Africa should help the entire southern region. As workers from neighboring countries migrate to South Africa for jobs, they will send remittances home. Then, as South Africa continues to attract investments from major multinational firms, those manufacturers are expected to look elsewhere in the region for new plant



ED KASHI

Widespread success will require the regional cooperation of many African countries, including Mozambique, says Ali Galaydh, an associate professor of public administration in the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs.

sites. Furthermore, as Nelson Mandela continues to prove himself a fine example of progressive leadership, he could become a model for African leaders elsewhere.

The changes in South Africa bode well for the entire continent, says Bismarck Myrick, the United States Counsel General in Cape Town, South Africa, and the 1973 recipient of a master's degree from the Maxwell School.

"Most South Africans in leadership positions recognize the benefits of establishing economic linkages with other African countries," says Myrick. "They recognize they are part of the broader community."

A note of caution concerning South Africa is required, however. "I see some real hope in what is happening in South Africa, but the country must deal with many internal issues," says Galaydh. "It is one thing to say apartheid is over. It is another to deal with the deprivation, bottled-up frustrations, and demands of people who do not have access to resources. If this vast experiment fails, I don't see many alternatives that can pull the region out of its current impasse. The most crucial issue will be the transition from Mandela to the next generation. A lot depends on how that story unfolds."

Regardless of what happens in South Africa, widespread success will require added cooperation, says Galaydh. Eleven countries in southern Africa already work together to promote regional economic development. Such regional collaboration must be replicated elsewhere. "If the United States realizes it must get together with Mexico and Canada, and France and Germany realize they have to work together, I don't see how Tanzania and Kenya can make any progress on their own," says Galaydh.

There remains one final glimmer of hope: Africa's ordinary, common people, the further removed from the corridors of official power the better. Deborah Pellow, an SU associate professor of anthropology, recalls that when she worked in Ghana, she and her Western colleagues were amazed by the resilience of the people. "They possessed an ability to survive in the face of inflation, coups, and the worst of circumstances, yet maintain a feeling of hospitality."

Likewise, Galaydh says his country's greatest strengths lie in those qualities embraced by ordinary individuals. "Somalis are tough, with very strong bonds of family and spirituality. There remains a beautiful richness that has created art and music that has influenced the world."

The task ahead is to harness those same strengths to transform Africa.

—*Diane Weathers*

Asia-Pacific:

Booming Economies, Troublesome Trade Wars

When Rudyard Kipling frequented the bar at Raffles Hotel in Singapore early this century, the island's harbor bustled with merchant ships carrying spices and silks. These days, foreign investors are more interested in purchasing electronics and turning residential low-rise buildings into shopping complexes.

Singapore, the world's largest exporter of computer disk drives, is a good example of the vast economic changes in the Asia-Pacific region, which in the last decade has experienced more trade growth than any other region in the world. Economists in the United States are relying on trade with the region to help reduce this country's deficit. In the past five years, United States exports to China alone have increased ninefold.

Just as the Japanese have done in the United States, Americans are investing in Asia-Pacific real estate, developing hotels, apartment buildings, and industrial parks.

"Real estate is the strongest opportunity Americans have in Japan, and it's a very good time to invest," says Atushi Nonoyama, real estate manager of the Yasudu Trust and Banking Company in Tokyo and the 1988 recipient of a master's degree in business administration from the School of Management.

Industrialization throughout this region, welcome as it is, has come with a price. Countries once considered developing nations, including Taiwan and Singapore, have lost their preferential trade status with the United States and are now treated—and taxed—as developed nations. Malaysia, Thailand, and Indonesia also are in jeopardy of losing their preferred status and may soon be required to pay United States import

tariffs. This could lead to problems.

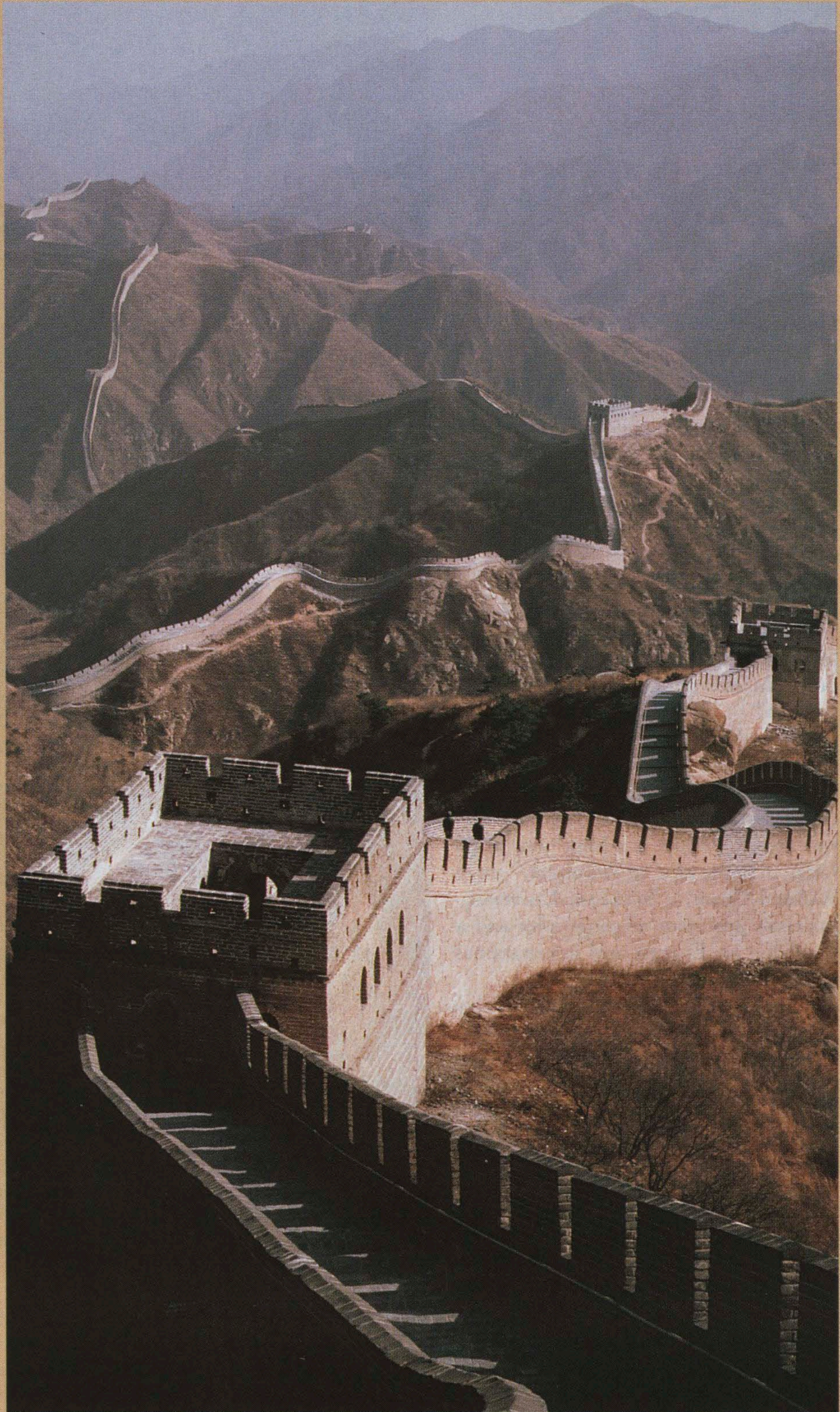
"If we lose the market, it will mean a big dent in our balance of trade and our balance of payments," says Walter Diamond, who graduated from the College of Arts and Sciences in 1934 and went on to become an adviser to the United Nations on foreign taxes and trade. "This is a small world, and our trade and our survival depends on the rest of the world."

In an effort to curtail possible trade restrictions, many economists advocate establishing an Asia-Pacific regional trade agreement comparable to the North American Free Trade Agreement, which guarantees free movement of goods and services between Mexico, Canada, and the United States. Such an agreement may evolve in the form of the Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation, or APEC, an 18-nation coalition that includes Canada and the United States. President Clinton is making APEC his top trade initiative, says J. David Richardson, an SU economics professor and visiting fellow at the Institute for International Economics in Washington, D.C.

At a November summit, Clinton and key APEC leaders pledged to establish free and open trade between the United States and countries throughout this region by the year 2020. "This would mean competitive prices and wide availability of our leading products for consumers and producers in the world's fastest-growing markets," says Richardson.

Not all Asian countries share this economic vision, however. Some countries affiliated with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, such as Malaysia, are in favor of a trade agreement that excludes North America. These countries fear their personal interests will be weakened if APEC becomes too large and powerful. The United States, says Richardson, must convince them otherwise.

—DEBRA A. SCHWARTZ



FPG INTERNATIONAL

The Great Wall of China must not become a symbol of the United States' trade barriers in the Asia-Pacific region. "Our trade and our survival depends on the rest of the world," says Walter Diamond, a former adviser to the United Nations.

Europe:
The Union's Rocky Marriage

To the casual visitor, the changes that are supposed to signify a unified Europe are not readily apparent: There's no common currency (francs must be exchanged for deutsche marks when entering Germany from France); the languages differ (Greeks entering Spain should speak at least some Spanish); and prices vary (Belgians typically shop in German cities for merchandise that's either unavailable or more expensive at home).

Is this the homogenized Europe that was supposed to exist after January 1, 1993, when three decades of planning culminated in the official creation of the European Union, a 12-state coalition formed to make it easier, less costly, and less time-consuming to do business with and travel to member nations?

Yes and no.

Although European leaders have discussed, explored, and solved many of the issues involved in this cooperative effort, "There is a long way to go before harmony is reached," says Richard Grant, a Syracuse University assistant professor of geography and a specialist on Europe and international trade.

The European Union is still evolving, says Samantha C. Crouse, who earned a bachelor's degree from the College of Arts and Sciences in 1989 and a master's degree from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs in 1993. Now a graduate student in the Department of European Integration at Ireland's University of Limerick, Crouse says creating a unified Europe is a difficult and complex undertaking. "Each country is sacrificing some of its autonomy for what it hopes will be a greater good," says Crouse. "Of course, this will affect everyone's lives, so you can expect a sense of uneasiness, especially about what might be lost in terms of culture and national identity."

FPG INTERNATIONAL

Italy—and its many architectural gems—is part of the 12-state European Union, which should persist despite its many growing pains. "The union is too useful for its members for it to fall apart," says SU professor Peter Marsh.

The potential benefits of an economically unified Europe have been well publicized: Europe will realize the economic clout and political leverage of a huge market of nearly 350 million people. Goods will move between countries minus tariffs and red tape. Products and services will be better and more competitively priced with those of global leaders such as the United States and Japan.

Still, formidable roadblocks exist among the member countries: Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, and the United Kingdom.

The more technologically advanced countries, such as Germany, Denmark, and France, have a stronger economic base than the more agriculturally based members, such as Greece, Portugal, and Ireland. "This two-tier union with economic haves and have-nots is responsible for some of the tension among member-states," says Francois J. DePlanck, a Paris-based executive with MTV Europe and the 1986 recipient of a master's degree from the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications. "The British have dragged their feet because they believe they have more to lose, while the French are more enthusiastic because they believe they have far more to gain."

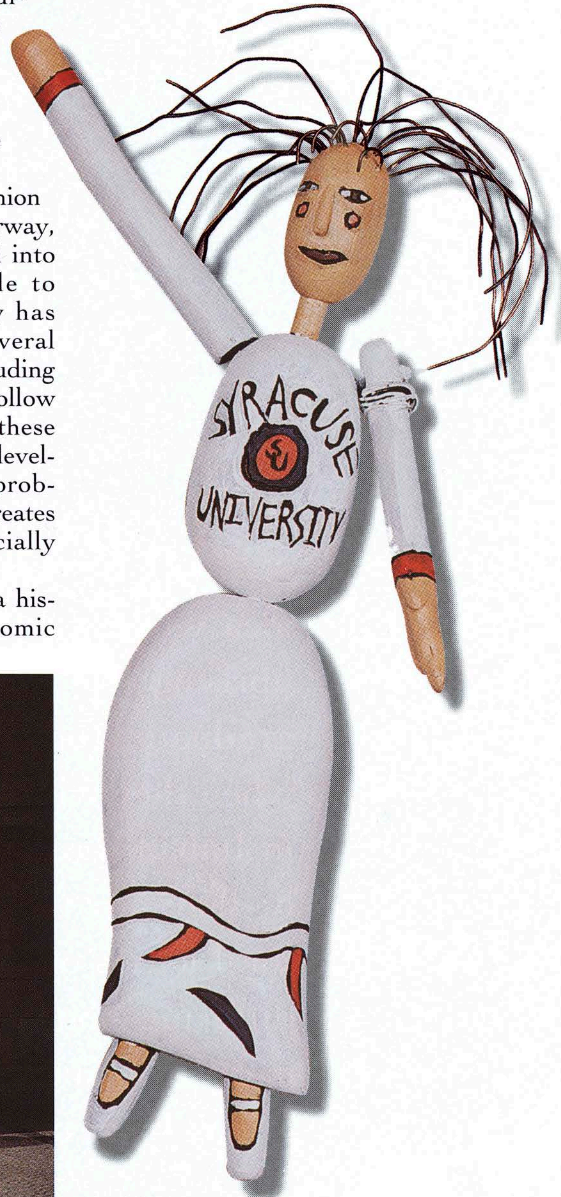
While a unified Europe is good for business, says Grant, "It doesn't work well for either culture or language." Although strides have been made toward creating a single European culture—newborns become citizens of Europe first and their home state second—Grant says nationalism remains a strong, and potentially divisive, force.

Like other observers, Grant predicts economic unification will take another 25 years to fully evolve. Getting people to abandon individual currencies and languages is a daunting proposition. Questions also remain about how individuals will be identified; a data bank containing information about all citizens is being considered. In addition, the legal system needs more standardization. European law now overrides the laws of individual states, where criminal, civil, and environmental laws are not comparable.

Pitfalls notwithstanding, the union is growing. Austria, Sweden, Norway, and Finland have been accepted into the fold and may soon decide to become full members. Turkey has applied for membership and several Eastern European countries, including the Baltic republics, may soon follow suit, says Grant. That many of these countries are economically underdeveloped could add to the union's problems. A larger membership also creates greater logistical hurdles, especially language difficulties.

Despite these obstacles—and a history of failed attempts at economic unity—the union's outlook is encouraging, says Peter Marsh, an SU professor of history and international relations: "The union is too useful for its members for it to fall apart." ■

—CLAUDIA CARUANA



EMILE WAMSTEKER

Nationalism remains a strong force in Europe, and the difficulty of convincing people to abandon individual currencies and languages is one reason many observers believe economic unification will take another 25 years to evolve.