

## Compte rendu

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James, Preston E. *One World Divided*. New York, Blaisdell Publishing Co., 1964, xiv and 482 pp., maps, illus., appendix, bibliog., index.

par John M. Crowley

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En passant, il est intéressant de remarquer la discordance entre l'étendue de bois rapportée par les arpenteurs fédéraux immédiatement avant l'occupation et la superficie cartographiée par le Service des sols comme ayant des sols forestiers. Plusieurs cartes de cantons préparées par l'auteur laissent voir cette discordance. L'interprétation la plus facile serait que la forêt s'étendait, ou s'était étendue depuis peu, sur un sol de prairie, phénomène qui n'est pas rare dans le Midwest.

La partie de la monographie traitant de l'utilisation de la prairie consiste en grande partie en une analyse de la date d'enregistrement de la terre et l'identification de plusieurs supposés peuplements de prairie comme réellement situés à la lisière du bois ou en partie dans le bois. Il est étonnant de voir le peu d'importance accordée à la nature de l'utilisation de la prairie et au caractère des fermes et de l'agriculture.

Selon cette étude, « deux questions sont essentielles pour comprendre la réaction initiale des pionniers à la prairie. Premièrement, après la guerre de 1812, jusqu'à quel point l'opinion était-elle répandue que les prairies étaient aptes à l'établissement agricole, et quels colons ont partagé cette opinion? Deuxièmement, était-il techniquement possible que les pionniers aient conquis la prairie entre 1812 et 1840? »

L'auteur donne une réponse partielle à la première question. Les gens du Nord et les étrangers, qui arrivèrent généralement plus tard que les Sudistes, étaient considérés plus disposés que ces derniers à aller s'établir dans la prairie. La principale route empruntée par les pionniers venant du Nord les amena dans les grandes prairies, dans une partie de l'Illinois qui avait moins de bois que le secteur atteint par ceux qui venaient du Sud. Aussi, on rapporte que les gens du Nord possédaient de meilleures charrues et étaient plus en mesure de payer des laboureurs professionnels que leurs voisins du Sud, moins économes. L'auteur nous donne très peu de documentation pour répondre à une question si fondamentale. La seconde question semble exiger un « non » comme réponse dans le cas des grandes prairies, où des charrues améliorées, les chemins de fer et le drainage par conduits de tuiles jouèrent, plus tard, un rôle décisif. Pour les petites prairies, l'étude donne un « oui » mitigé.

Le soussigné aimerait suggérer que le peuplement des petites prairies à l'est de l'Illinois, y compris les *Barrens* du Kentucky, pourrait constituer l'objet d'une étude préliminaire à l'occupation des prairies de l'Illinois.

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#### UN MANUEL DE GÉOGRAPHIE RÉGIONALE DU MONDE

JAMES, Preston E. **One World Divided.** New York, Blaisdell Publishing Co., 1964, xiv and 482 pp., maps, illus., appendix, bibliog., index.

The publication of textbooks in North American geography seems to be characterized by long periods of relative inactivity, during which available texts become out of date, followed by the sudden appearance of a virtual swarm of competing books on the same subject. The interval of stagnation is usually about a decade and the short period of prolific publication, three to four years. This has certainly been the case in the supply of regional texts on the geography of Anglo-America and appears to be true also with regard to textbooks on economic and physical geography. The case of human geography is slightly different in that for many years Darrell Davis' *The Earth and Man*, Preston E. James' *A Geography of Man* (or its predecessor), and Russell and Kniffen's *Culture Worlds* were the only American textbooks available in the field. These books were so dissimilar (in contrast to the uniformly orthodox physical geography texts of the day) that they perhaps did not really compete with each other. The period 1962-65 has seen a virtual flood of books suitable for one or another type of course in introductory human geography; and *One World Divided*, by Dr. Preston E. James, of Syracuse University, is one of these. Among the present crop of textbooks, Rhoads Murphey's *An Introduction to Geography* and Allen K. Philbrick's *This Human World* have blurred the distinction between books on human geography and those on world regional geography. James' *One World Divided* has the plan of a world regional geography text, but it is definitely on the human side.

In the book under discussion the world is divided into the following « culture regions, » and each of the main chapters treats one of these regions : European, Soviet, Anglo-American, Latin American, North African-Southwest Asian, South Asian, Southeast Asian, East Asian, African, Australia-New Zealand, and Pacific. These core chapters are preceded by a particularly eloquent and useful preface and an introductory chapter entitled « The World's Culture Regions », and they are followed by a concluding chapter called « The Search for Significance ». A theme which runs throughout the book and is summarized in the final chapter is the rapid and astounding geographic changes taking place in the modern world and the way in which these are related to the uneven spread and impact of the Industrial Revolution and the Democratic Revolution from their culture hearth in Northwestern Europe. This theme is further suggested by the subtitle of the book : « A Geographer Looks at the Modern World ». In each case modern developments are related by the author to their historical antecedents and to the resource base of states.

The book is aimed at students having no prior training in geography and is situated at the senior high school and junior college level. This means that in the Quebec context it is appropriate to the more advanced grades in the *Collèges classiques* and the beginning years in the universities, particularly for those students having virtually no pre-university training in geography.

The organization of *One World Divided* represents a radical departure from the traditional plan to which we have become accustomed in James' earlier books, the various editions of *An Outline of Geography* and of *A Geography of Man*. The plan of these earlier books was based upon broad climato-vegetational regions, a practice to which James adhered as a disciple of the German geographer Siegfried Passarge. Treatment of world geography in a framework of climato-vegetational regions has many advantages as well as certain pitfalls, and it is with considerable regret mixed with mild relief that we see James abandon this system. Within the individual chapters, however, readers will note a definite similarity to the chapter layout of James' previous books on world geography as well as on Latin America : habitat, settlement, etc.

The illustrations of the volume are adequate but not spectacular. Most of the maps are printed in white, gray, rose, and red with occasional use of black — a color combination which, although clear and effective, becomes rather monotonous and even annoying before one reaches the end of the book. Each of the chapters on culture regions generally contains a main map consisting of a gray-and-white physiographic diagram of the region with a redline overprint and, in addition, maps on subjects such as political divisions, political expansion, spread of traits from culture hearths, agriculture, and minerals together with industries and railroads. This last type of map is also a grayish physiographic diagram with red and sometimes black overprints, and the representation thereon of minerals by various letter symbols becomes quite cumbersome. The introductory chapter contains world maps of population, Köppen climatic regions, rainfall, vegetation together with ocean currents and temperatures, land and sea transportation, and two maps which suggest level of living. Maps needed to complete such a series which are conspicuously absent are those of agriculture, industrial regions, and major cities by size of population. Nevertheless, the maps in the introductory chapter together with those in the regional chapters form a sufficiently complete series that the book can be used with some success without an atlas. Consequently this text would be handy for courses in which the professor does not feel that he can oblige his students to purchase both a textbook and an atlas.

The photographs are of good quality and generally well chosen, but they are not abundant and coverage is uneven.

The appendix contains brief sections on climate, surface features, and vegetation ; and it presents tables showing population and political status of the countries of the world. These tables are rather abbreviated compared to those in a number of competing texts, which often include economic data and populations of major cities. The book terminates with bibliographic references and an index.

In conclusion, *One World Divided* is an accurate, authoritative, and interesting textbook which, unlike most geography books, is built around a central theme. High school and junior college professors who find its plan and coverage suitable to their courses need not hesitate to adopt this book by one of America's most competent geographers.

John M. CROWLEY