

# Preface

International studies (ITS) at Miami University and at many other colleges and universities has evolved in recent years from a branch of political science or world languages into a true interdisciplinary approach to current global affairs. Through the vision of Dean Stephen Day and ITS Director William Hazelton in the early 1990s, the ITS program at Miami expanded its curriculum and hired three new faculty members with joint appointments in ITS and geography, history, and political science. The program added an anthropologist in 2003. The ITS program now serves hundreds of majors, and over five hundred non-majors take the ITS introductory course every year.

The ITS faculty had difficulty finding suitable readings to accompany the unique interdisciplinary approach of the introductory course. Several years ago the four permanent ITS faculty members decided to write a text that mirrors the structure of the course and emphasizes an interdisciplinary analysis of issues of regional and global importance. The first half of the course, and the first part of this book, covers the way each discipline—geography, political science, history, anthropology, and economics—contributes to understanding and solving world problems. Part 2 examines various regions of the world—Europe, Latin America, Asia, the Middle East, and Africa—while stressing the diversity within and the interconnections among them. Part 3 includes six essays that analyze contemporary global issues through an interdisciplinary lens. These can be used for discussion coinciding with part 2 of the book.

The authors recognize that the interdisciplinary nature of international studies will draw teachers from various areas of expertise into unfamiliar academic realms. This book is designed to give them a construct

with which to teach international studies and an approach to enhance students' understanding of the complexities of the modern world.

Each chapter is accompanied by a list of recommended readings, films, and Web sites. The appendix provides a glossary of keywords and a ready reference to country information, such as population, gross national product, and type of government.

The text also comes with an online teacher's manual, including course objectives, syllabi, and assignments that have proven effective in the classroom over many years. Please visit [www.internationalstudiescourse.com](http://www.internationalstudiescourse.com).

The authors of this text have published extensively in their respective disciplines, and each has a different regional and linguistic expertise. The current director of international studies, Dr. Jeanne Hey, is a well-known scholar of Ecuadoran politics and Latin American foreign affairs in general. Dr. Hey authored the political science and Latin America chapters, and the essay on the persistence of war. Dr. Stanley Toops is one of the foremost U.S. geographers of the Uyghur region of northwest China. He is fluent in both Uyghur and Chinese, and he has written several articles on tourism in China. Dr. Toops wrote the chapters on geography and Asia, the essay on tourism, and coauthored the conclusion. Dr. Mark Allen Peterson has published groundbreaking work on Middle Eastern and South Asian media and globalization. Dr. Peterson authored the anthropology and Middle East chapters, the essays on veiling and international terrorism, and coauthored the conclusion. Dr. Sheldon Anderson has written several books on cold war history, including a study of East German and Polish relations. Dr. Anderson wrote the introduction, the chapters on history, Europe, and Africa, and the essays on Turkey and the European Union and the Rwandan genocide. Dr. Charles Stevens's work ranges from anthropological work in the Pacific Islands to sustainability projects in Ohio. Dr. Stevens contributed the economics chapter.

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