

A **NEW**
GEOGRAPHY
OF
HONG KONG

上冊 • Vol. I

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前言

在不少人心目中，地理也許只是一門脫離現實世界的學術科目，但事實上，地理知識卻與我們的日常生活息息相關——天上風雲變色，地上山川遍布，動植物在其中生生不息；同時亦包括人類聚落的形態與運作模式，以及當中的運輸和交往聯繫。大自然創造了環境，人類則要學習如何在當中生存，或在險惡境況中面對災害，或在豐盛大地中擷取資源，或在其中開拓發展，展開生活，建立歷史；最重要的是，在人和自然的互動中，找到平衡的可持續關係。

如何理解和掌握人與環境的關係，正好就是地理學者研究的重點課題。一群學者和大學教授在上世紀80年代根據香港當時的環境和地理理論編寫*A Geography of Hong Kong*，是現存少數較詳盡和全面的香港地理環境論著。然而，20多年來，香港的社會、經濟及生活環境出現巨大變化，人口由500多萬增至700多萬，經濟由工業轉型為金融服務業主導，加上環境意識提升及保育工作的推展，不論是自然及人文地理環境均產生異於往昔的重要變化。

期間，雖然也有不少詳細探討這些轉變的期刊文章、書籍和專題著作面世，但主要屬於純理論性質，而且散見於多數人較難觸及的純學術典籍。因此，利用最新資料全面介紹香港地理議題的刊物，成了一眾本地學者的共同心願。

現時，新高中學制強調通識教育，讓學生透過廣泛閱讀和專題學習，建立獨立思考能力。《新香港地理》正好可有效配合教學需要，首先從香港的天氣、地貌和生態環境等錯綜複雜的自然元素開始，進而述及人類在多變的環境中如何應付自然災害、如何在多樣化的環境中保護大自然，以及享受自然界帶來的休閒生活；同時善用環境資源，創造生存空間和經濟機遇，讓每個人在其中找到安身立命之所，從而了解人與大自然之間紛繁的相互關係。最後亦介紹現代地理研究的最新應用技術——地理信息系統，藉此分析和加強認識我們所居之地。《新香港地理》以中英雙語編寫，配合簡明易懂的內容和寫作方式，不僅可作為教師和學生的學習材料，也能為一般讀者帶來於大地有關的整體和有趣的知識。透過本書，讀者將重新發現地理知識並不沉悶，而且是引發求知動力、理解生存環境，以及達至可持續與和諧發展的鑰匙。

在此，我們衷心感謝所有編寫本書的作者在百忙中抽空撰寫文章，以及各位參與製作的工作人員及好友。沒有他們的投入和貢獻，本書不可能在短短數月間完成。

Foreword

Quite a few people consider geography to be nothing more than an academic subject that could be divorced from the real world. On the contrary, geographic knowledge is intimately related to our daily life, for instance, changes in weather, the layout of mountains and rivers, the never-ending cycle of plant and animal lives, the form and operation of human settlements, and the transport and communication linkages amongst them. Human beings must learn to survive in and benefit from nature in the face of natural disasters, extracting resources, or developing the earth to leave a mark in history. In doing so, it has become critically important to strike a sustainable balance in the interactions between human and nature.

Understanding and mastering the relationship between human and nature constitute the key themes of geographical inquiries. *A Geography of Hong Kong*, compiled by a group of scholars and university professors in the 1980s, was one of the few books that provided detailed and comprehensive information about the geographical environment of, and geographic theories related to, Hong Kong. After 20-odd years, however, Hong Kong has experienced drastic changes in its social, economic and living environment. Its population has grown from over five million to seven million, and the financial and service sector has replaced manufacturing as the economic mainstay. Together with the rise in environmental consciousness and promotion of resource conservation, both the natural and human environments have undergone significant changes that depart from the past mode.

Many journal articles, books and monographs examining such transformations have been published in the interim. However, they are mainly academic in nature and are scattered in a large number of learned sources that are relatively less accessible to most people. It has become a common wish of local scholars to write an update of the geography of Hong Kong, with a view to evaluating the state-of-art on two fronts, namely the present patterns and processes in human-land interactions, and their interpretation in the light of the latest geographical concepts.

At present, the New Senior Secondary (NSS) system assiduously promotes general education to cultivate students' capacity for independent thinking through extensive reading and study of topical issues. *A New Geography of Hong Kong* could effectively fill this pedagogic need. It first introduces the intricacies of our natural milieu, including weather, landform and ecological endowment. It then takes readers to the diverse interplays between nature and humans by exploring how humans should live with natural disasters and protect nature amid the changeable and often vulnerable environment, enjoy leisure activities in the pleasant ambience of nature, and make good use of the earth's resources to create living spaces and economic opportunities, so that we can live in harmony with nature and fellow humans. In the final section, the book presents the application of a modern geographical research method, GIS, to enhance analysis and understanding of our own abode. With easy-to-understand contents, a simple writing style and bilingual text, *A New Geography of Hong Kong* not only provides learning materials for teachers and students, but also presents an interesting and integrating body of knowledge about our own land for the general public. It is hoped that readers will find that geographical knowledge is by no means boring. Rather, it could be enlivened to whet our enthusiasm to learn, and facilitate our collective attempt to live and develop in the sustainable mode.

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the authors who devoted their valuable time, scholarship and heart to this book, and to all those involved in its production. Without their kind efforts and dedication, it would not have been possible to accomplish this task in a timely and efficacious manner.