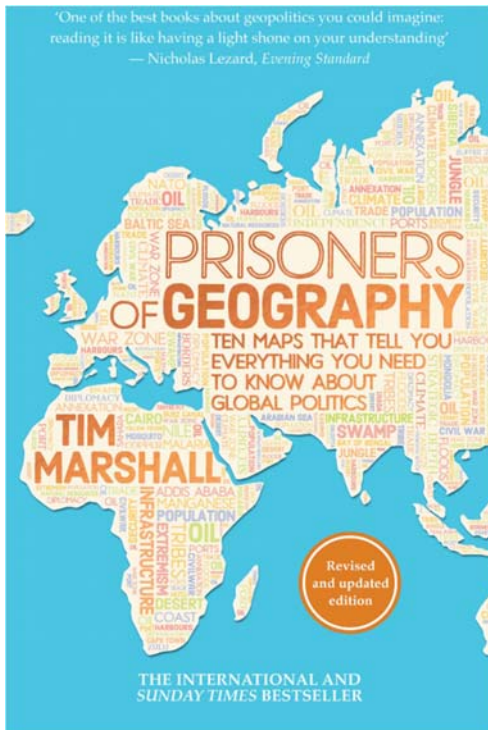


The Literacy Lowdown: Prisoners of Geography



A level geography students, remember, you should:

- undertake wider reading
- use factual texts, discursive / creative material

Summary

Tim has written an extraordinary book on 10 different places which are constrained or liberated by their physical geography.

The chapters stretch from the geopolitics of the 1,900-mile long Indian-Pakistani border to the 5.4 million mi² of the up-for-grabs Arctic Ocean.

In this sheet the focus will be on Chapter 5 Africa. The continent remains underdeveloped but remember the words of Nelson Mandela 'it always seems impossible...until it is done'.

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Specification links

AQA A Level 3.2.5.2 Global production, consumption and trade/movements of energy and ore.

Edexcel 6.5 The development of unconventional fossil fuel resources has social costs and benefits.

OCR Global Governance Option C 1.b. Patterns of human rights violations.

WJEC 4.3 Economic Growth and Challenge: China or Development in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Key quotes

“Look again at the standard Mercator map and you see...Africa is actually fourteen times the size of Greenland.” (p117)

“The word Sahel comes from the Arabic sahil, which means coast, and is how the people...think of it – as the shoreline of the vast sand sea.” (p117)

“[Africa is held back by] a virulent set of diseases, such as malaria and yellow fever, brought on by the heat and now complicated by crowded living conditions and poor healthcare.” (p118)

“Libya [is an artificial construct of] three distinct geographical regions. Tripolitania, Cyrenaica, and Fezzan.” (p122)

“[The DRC is] bordered by nine countries. They have all played a role in the DRC’s agony...known as ‘Africa’s world war’.” (p125)

“Africa has been equally cursed and blessed by its resources.” (p127)

“Chinese involvement is an attractive proposition for many African governments...” (p135)