

Oceania: The geography of Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific Islands

by **Tom L. McKnight**, published by Prentice Hall, Inc, Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632, in 1995, ISBN 0-13-123639-3.

Review by Christopher G. Kendall

This small book deals mainly with the geography of Australia and has some six of the chapters that are focused on this continent. The book also has two chapters on New Zealand, a chapter on the other islands of the Pacific and a general chapter on Pacific. The book will be of interest to you if you are planning to visit Australia or live there. It gives a very complete description of Australia in terms of its tectonic background, its vegetation, its fresh water resources, its original occupants, its colonization, its primary industries, and its recent urban development. The book discusses the various regions of Australia, their contribution to the economy of the country, and their climate, etc.

The book is clearly written and well illustrated with numerous maps and clear black and white photographs showing the topography and vegetation of the region. The book catches the "can do" flavor of the country, as a part of Oceania. The book appears directed at geography students who need to have some understanding of Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific Islands. However, the book also provides a good summary of the area which should help people who are planning either a holiday to Australia or to work there or on the nearby islands of New Zealand and the Pacific. This is a good buy if you need to know something about Australia. Otherwise, it is not a bad book to have in your local library for information on this topic when you need it.

Pacific Islands, island geographic region of the Pacific Ocean. The great arc of islands located north and east of Australia and south of the Equator is called Melanesia (from the Greek words melas, "black," and n"sos, "island") for the predominantly dark-skinned peoples of New Guinea island, the Bismarck Archipelago, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu (the New Hebrides), New Caledonia, and Fiji. culture areas of the Pacific Islands Encyclop"dia Britannica, Inc. The climate of the Pacific Islands is generally tropical (except in New Zealand, which has a temperate climate), with temperatures, humidity, and rainfall relatively uniform throughout the year.