

CONTENTS

Preface to the Sixth Edition	xi
Acknowledgments	xii
PART I: THE PAST AND PRESENT	1
1 INTRODUCTION	3
The development of ideas	3
The development of human population and stages of cultural development	7
Hunting and gathering	11
Humans as cultivators, keepers, and metal workers	13
Modern industrial and urban civilizations	18
Points for review	22
Guide to reading	22
2 THE HUMAN IMPACT ON VEGETATION	23
Introduction	23
The use of fire	24
Fires: natural and anthropogenic	25
The temperatures attained in fires	27
Some consequences of fire suppression	28
Some effects of fire on vegetation	29
The role of grazing	30

Deforestation	32
Secondary rain forest	38
The human role in the creation and maintenance of savanna	39
The spread of desert vegetation on desert margins	42
The maquis of the Mediterranean lands	48
The prairie problem	48
Post-glacial vegetation change in Britain and Europe	50
Lowland heaths	52
Introduction, invasion, and explosion	53
Air pollution and its effects on plants	56
Forest decline	59
Miscellaneous causes of plant decline	61
The change in genetic and species diversity	62
Points for review	64
Guide to reading	64
 3 HUMAN INFLUENCE ON ANIMALS	 65
Introduction	65
Domestication of animals	65
Dispersal and invasion of animals	66
Human influence on the expansion of animal populations	70
Causes of animal contractions and declines: pollution	74
Habitat change and animal decline	78
Other causes of animal decline	81
Animal extinctions in prehistoric times	83
Modern-day extinctions	86
Points for review	93
Guide to reading	93
 4 THE HUMAN IMPACT ON THE SOIL	 94
Introduction	94
Salinity: natural sources	95
Human agency and increased salinity	95
Irrigation salinity	96
Dryland salinity	98
Urban salinity	99
Interbasin water transfers	99
Coastal zone salinity	100
Consequences of salinity	101
Reclamation of salt-affected lands	102
Lateritization	103
Accelerated podzolization and acidification	103
Soil carbon	105
Soil structure alteration	105
Soil drainage and its impact	107
Soil fertilization	109
Fires and soil quality	109
Soil erosion: general considerations	110

Soil erosion associated with deforestation and agriculture	111
Soil erosion produced by fire	116
Soil erosion associated with construction and urbanization	117
Attempts at soil conservation	117
Points for review	120
Guide to reading	120
 5 THE HUMAN IMPACT ON THE WATERS	 121
Introduction	121
Deliberate modification of rivers	121
Urbanization and its effects on river flow	131
Vegetation modification and its effect on river flow	133
The human impact on lake levels	137
Changes in groundwater conditions	140
Water pollution	143
Chemical pollution by agriculture and other activities	146
Deforestation and its effects on water quality	152
Thermal pollution	155
Pollution with suspended sediments	155
Marine pollution	156
Points for review	158
Guide to reading	158
 6 HUMAN AGENCY IN GEOMORPHOLOGY	 159
Introduction	159
Landforms produced by excavation	160
Landforms produced by construction and dumping	162
Accelerated sedimentation	164
Ground subsidence	167
Arroyo trenching, gullies, and peat haggs	171
Accelerated weathering and the tufa decline	174
Accelerated mass movements	175
Deliberate modification of channels	178
Nondeliberate river-channel changes	178
Reactivation and stabilization of sand dunes	183
Accelerated coastal erosion	185
Changing rates of salt marsh accretion	192
The human impact on seismicity and volcanoes	193
Points for review	195
Guide to reading	195
 7 THE HUMAN IMPACT ON CLIMATE AND THE ATMOSPHERE	 196
World climates	196
The greenhouse gases	199
Carbon dioxide	199
Other gases	200
Aerosols	202
Vegetation and albedo change	204

Forests, irrigation, and climate	206
The possible effects of water diversion schemes	207
Lakes	207
Urban climates	208
Urban air pollution	211
Air pollution: some further effects	217
Stratospheric ozone depletion	223
Deliberate climatic modification	226
Conclusion	229
Points for review	229
Guide to reading	229

PART II: THE FUTURE 231

8 THE FUTURE: INTRODUCTION	233
Introduction	233
Changes in the biosphere	235
Climate and geomorphology	239
Points for review	242
Guide to reading	242
9 THE FUTURE: COASTAL ENVIRONMENTS	243
Introduction: rising sea levels	243
The steric effect	243
Anthropogenic contributions to sea-level change	244
Reduction in lake-water volumes	244
Water impoundment in reservoirs	244
Groundwater mining	244
Urbanization and runoff	244
Deforestation and runoff	245
Wetland losses	245
Irrigation	245
Synthesis	245
Permafrost degradation	245
Melting of glaciers and sea-level rise	245
Ice sheets and sea-level rise	246
The amount of change by 2100	246
Land subsidence	246
How fast are sea levels rising?	249
Coral reefs	249
Salt marshes and mangrove swamps	251
River deltas	254
Estuaries	255
Cliffed coasts	256
Sandy beaches	256
The role of sediment starvation	257
Conclusions	258

Points for review	258
Guide to reading	258
10 THE FUTURE: HYDROLOGIC IMPACTS	259
Introduction	259
Rainfall intensity	260
Changes in tropical cyclones	260
Runoff response	262
Cold regions	263
Changes in runoff in the UK	263
Europe	264
Other examples	265
Zambezi	265
Susquehanna, eastern USA	265
California	265
Pacific northwest of USA	266
Bangladesh	266
Geomorphologic consequences of hydrologic change	266
Weathering	268
Points for review	269
Guide to reading	269
11 THE FUTURE: THE CRYOSPHERE	270
The nature of the cryosphere	270
The polar ice sheets	272
Valley glaciers and small ice caps	274
Predicted rates of glacier retreat	277
Sea ice	278
Permafrost regions	279
Points for review	283
Guide to reading	283
12 THE FUTURE: DRYLANDS	284
Introduction	284
Climate changes in the past	286
Wind erosion of soils	287
Dust-storm activity	288
Sand dunes	289
Rainfall and runoff	290
River channels	291
Lake levels	292
Sea-level rise and arid-zone coastlines	292
Salt weathering	293
Points for review	294
Guide to reading	294
13 CONCLUSION	295
The power of nonindustrial and pre-industrial civilizations	295
The proliferation of impacts	296

Are changes reversible?	297
The susceptibility to change	301
Human influence or nature?	303
Into the unknown	304
Points for review	305
Guide to reading	305
GLOSSARY	306
REFERENCES	309
INDEX	347