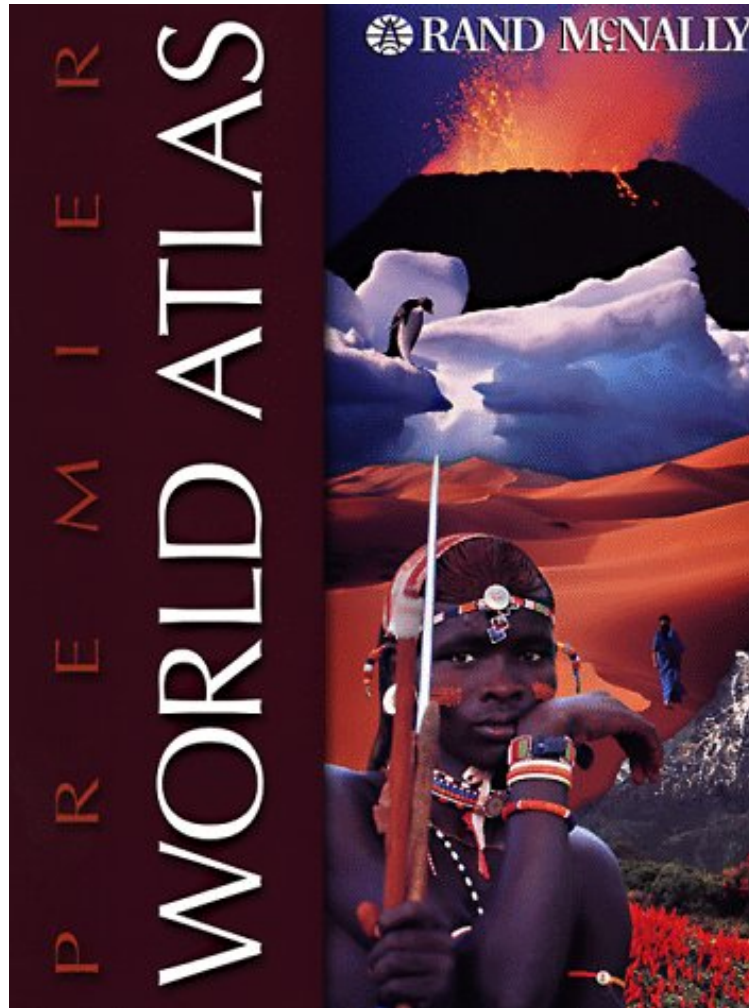


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maps of all the regions of the world. It features an interesting 'Introductory Section' that features interesting introductions to each of the continents that are two pages each. There are also some interesting graphs, one featuring how much of the world's population is in each continent, but there are only four graphs. The rest of the atlas features maps, both political and topographical. The USA covers about half of the book, leaving the other half to the rest of the world, but still done in good detail.

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From Library Journal This handsome, reasonably priced resource for general use is completely up-to-date, reflecting the recent reversion of Zaire to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the reunification of Hong Kong with China. A political map is provided for each continent, followed by detail maps portraying topography, all in full color. Expanded coverage of North America is featured in 58 pages of individual maps for U.S. states and Canadian provinces. Approximately 45,000 place names are indexed, far more than other atlases of comparable price. On the downside, no thematic maps are included, and geographical data are presented only for continents; the lack of country-by-country geographical data limits the atlas's usefulness as a reference tool. However, the high quality of the maps and the low cost will permit most libraries to have several copies for patron use. Comparable atlases include the Collins Concise Atlas of the World (HarperCollins, 1996), which has thematic maps and a geographical data section (albeit with some errors), and the Hammond Atlas of the World (Hammond, 1997, concise ed.), which has maps in more somber tones. However, neither atlas is as current as this publication, which is recommended for all libraries, though not as a reference source for geographical data. Edward K. Werner, St. Lucie Cty. Lib. Sys., Ft. Pierce, Fla. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc.