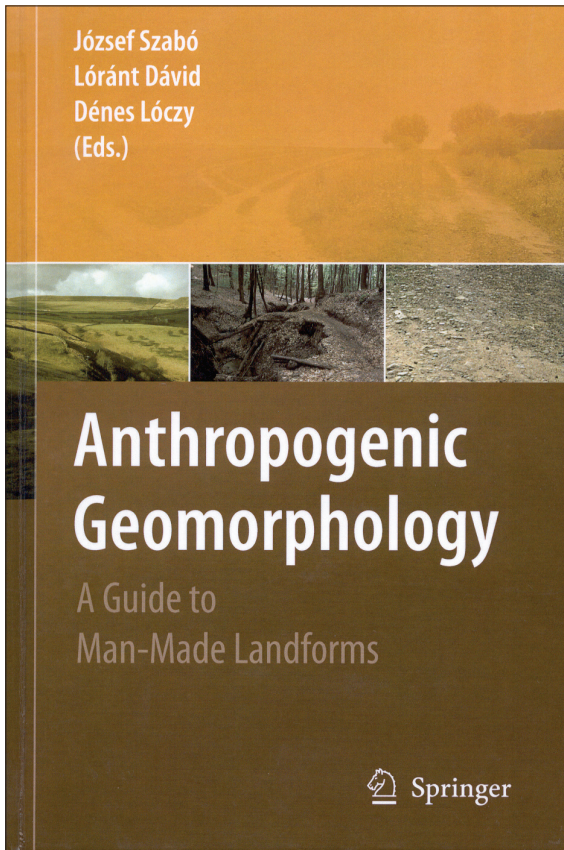


Szabó, J., Dávid, L. and Lóczy, D. (eds.) 2010. **Anthropogenic Geomorphology: A Guide to Man-Made Landforms**. SPRINGER Science+Business Media B.V., Dordrecht-Heidelberg-London-New York, 298 p. ISBN 978-90-481-3057-3

In the past few decades interest in the environment has reached a peak as popular opinion has become aware of the extent of the human impact on natural systems. A proliferation of degrees has followed this wave of 'environmentalism', their focus has been on natural areas and the damage caused by human impacts. Anthropogenic geomorphology deals with the special interaction between humans and the geographical environment which includes not only the physical constituents of the Earth, but also the surface of the Earth, its landforms and in particular the processes which operate to change it through time.

Since the 1970s in the research of the physical environment two, frequently intertwining trends are prominent. One of them investigates the changes in the natural environment induced by human economic intervention (which are often undesirable) along with their counter effects. The other aims at the quantitative and qualitative survey of the resources and potentials of the physical environment and the evaluation of also regionally varying geographical potentials. Researchers reviewing the geomorphological literature



of the last 40 years will gain the impression that the perception of Man as a geomorphological agent is a fairly recent development. Anthropogenic geomorphology is a new approach and practice to investigate our physical environment, because in the eighties the increasingly urgent demands from society against geography – ever more manifest due to the scientific-technical revolution – underlined the tasks to promote efficiently the rational utilization of natural resources and potentials, to achieve an environmental management satisfying social requirements and using opportunities. At the same time, anthropogenic geomorphology is a new challenge for geomorphologists, since environmental problems have an effect on several branches of science.

Anthropogenic geomorphology studies the huge – and an ever increasing – number of landform associations of extreme variety depending on the actual way and purpose of their creation by the human activity. The discipline also studies the surface

changes induced by these forms; moreover, predicts the consequences of disturbance of the natural equilibrium, and makes recommendations for preventing damages. Therefore, anthropogenic geomorphology can also be regarded as an applied discipline, which helps to solve both social-economic issues and environmental protection and natural conservation problems.

The editors and authors of the new Hungarian text-book on anthropogenic geomorphology hold that mankind must be regarded as a direct geomorphological agent, for it has increasingly altered the conditions of denudation and aggradation of the Earth's surface, and it has been becoming the major landscape sculpturing factor. Anthropogenic geomorphology is regarded as an activity system and taught as such, therefore, it is believed that the various fields of science in environmental protection rank equal and an important part is assigned to anthropogenic geomorphology in the structure of our education. The organisation of the book follows this concept. After a general introduction into the aims and scope of this discipline, the individual chapters focus on the different sectors of the human activity. The final chapter intends to give a qualitative and quantitative summary of the human impact on the Earth's surface.

Professor Andrew GOUDIE has written in the book's preface: 'This valuable book written by 14 Hungarian researchers provides an overview of impacts from most types of human activity, demonstrates the value of an historical approach, and although it has a special emphasis on Hungarian research, it provides examples from all over the world.'

László RÉTVÁRI

**AVAILABLE!**

## **Ukraine in Maps**

Edited by

**KOCSIS, K.–RUDENKO, L. and SCHWEITZER, F.**

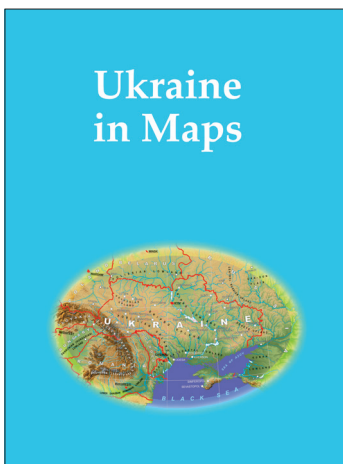
*Institute of Geography National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine*

*Geographical Research Institute Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Budapest, 148 p.*

Kyiv–Budapest, 2008

Since the disintegration of the USSR, the Western world has shown an ever-growing interest in Ukraine, its people and its economy. As the second-largest country in Europe, Ukraine has a strategic geographical position at the crossroads between Europe and Asia. It is a key country for the transit of energy resources from Russia and Central Asia to the European Union, which is one reason why Ukraine has become a priority partner in the neighbourhood policy of the EU. Ukraine has pursued a path towards the democratic consolidation of statehood, which encompasses vigorous economic changes, the development of institutions and integration into European and global political and economic structures. In a complex and controversial world, Ukraine is building collaboration with other countries upon the principles of mutual understanding and trust, and is establishing initiatives aimed at the creation of a system that bestows international security.

This recognition has prompted the Institute of Geography of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (Kyiv) and the Geographical Research Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Budapest) to initiate cooperation, and the volume entitled “Ukraine in Maps” is the outcome of their joint effort. The intention of this publication is to make available the results of research conducted by Ukrainian and Hungarian geographers, to the English-speaking public. This atlas follows in the footsteps of previous publications from the Geographical Research Institute of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Similar to the work entitled *South Eastern Europe in Maps* (2005, 2007), it includes 64 maps, dozens of figures and tables accompanied by an explanatory text, written in a popular, scientific manner. The book is an attempt to outline the geographical setting and geopolitical context of Ukraine, as well as its history, natural environment, population, settlements and economy. The authors greatly hope that this joint venture will bring Ukraine closer to the reader and make this neighbouring country to the European Union more familiar, and consequently, more appealing.



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