

# Contents

<i>List of figures</i>	<i>page xviii</i>
<i>Preface</i>	<i>xxi</i>

<b>Part I</b>	<b>The genesis of France</b>	<b>1</b>
1	The isthmus of Gaul	3
	The Celtic space	5
	Before the Celts: prehistoric civilizations	5
	Celts, Ligurians, Iberians	6
	Gaul	8
	The geographical face of Gaul: The peoples; The frontiers;	
	Population density; Rural settlement and agrarian	
	landscapes; The social structure and system of	
	land-ownership; The towns	10
	A united Gaul?	22
	Marseilles and the tin routes	25
	The earliest trading routes between the Mediterranean and	
	north-western Europe	26
	The geographical significance of the foundation of Marseilles	26
	The expansion of Marseilles and its colonies	27
	Marseilles, trade and the tin routes	29
	Greek influence in Gaul	32
2	The impact of Rome	34
	The spatial organization of Gaul	34
	The Province	34
	The Rhine frontier	35
	The network of roads	37
	Internal subdivisions: The Three Gauls; Peoples and cities	39
	Adjustments to the urban fabric: New creations; Site	
	switches; Changes in the hierarchy of cities	41
	The unification of Gaul	45

## Contents

Rome and the geographical face of Gaul	46
The structure and design of the cities	46
The mark left by Rome upon the rural landscape: The 'centuriation' system; The spread of large estates ( <i>villae</i> ); The rural Gallo-Roman countryside: the predominance of open fields	47
New types of cultivation: the slow expansion of vineyards	53
 3 From Gaul to France	 58
The evolution of settlement	58
The new linguistic frontier to the north and the east	58
Germanic settlement beyond the linguistic frontier: The archaeological data; The evidence of toponymy; Local situations: conclusions	60
The impact on land use and the landscape	67
The decrease in population and its consequences	67
The stability and the decline of towns: name changes	68
Changes in the rural landscape	70
The new organization of the territory	73
The fragmentation of the Late Empire	73
The persistence of Aquitaine	75
The state of the Burgondes and the origins of Burgundy	76
The Franks: a shift in the centre of political gravity	79
Peripheral constructions of an ethnic nature: The failures: the Saxons and the Muslims; The successes: the Bretons and the Normans	83
 4 The birth of France	 90
The Verdun division	90
A vertical division	90
Was the aim to achieve a geographical balance?	91
Or was it purely a matter of historical chance?	92
France: the name and the image	93
The name	93
The concept: its territorial evolution	94
The scholarly and religious aspects of the concept	98
The image and its symbols	101
The emergence of a sense of nationhood	104
The frontiers of France	108
The frontier of the 'four rivers'	108
The absence of any idea of a natural frontier in the Middle Ages and at the beginning of the modern period	109
The natural frontiers: the concept and the realization	111
An artificial boundary: the northern and north-eastern frontier	115
Conclusion to Part I	117

<b>Part II</b>	<b>The traditional organization of the territory of France</b>	<b>119</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>The major divisions</b>	<b>122</b>
	The great cultural divisions	122
	Linguistic zones: The medieval genesis of the written languages; The linguistic map of France; <i>Langue d'oc</i> and <i>langue d'oïl</i> ; Franco-Provençal and the concept of a mid-Roman area of influence; The structure of the <i>langue d'oïl</i> dialects; The <i>langue d'oc</i> dialects	122
	North and south	129
	The establishment of the major contrasts in landscape and settlement	134
	The development of the openfield community system: factors and processes	135
	The geographical extension and limits of the communal openfield system	137
	The west and the south: Residual landscapes of dispersed medieval settlement; Late medieval forms of collective organization in settlements in the west and the south; Two particular regional cases: southern Aquitaine and Brittany; The special features of the Mediterranean countryside: the development of hilltop settlements; Plot-patterns and landscapes	141
	Social and economic repercussions	151
	Literacy	152
	Societies and living standards: regions of affluence and regions of poverty	153
<b>6</b>	<b>The secondary divisions</b>	<b>159</b>
	Spatial organization: territorial units	159
	Two levels of organization: 'pays' and 'provinces'	159
	The historic 'pays': from the <i>pagus</i> to the 'pays'	163
	The provinces: From the Gallo-Roman cities to the provinces; The structure of the historic regions; the model of northern France. A productive central area with unproductive margins; The structure of the historic regions: the ill-defined area of Aquitaine and its margins; The structure of the historic regions: route intersections in the Rhône valley and the Alps; The structure of the historic regions: between the mountains and the Mediterranean	167
	The range of a jurist and the range of a horseman	186
	Perceived space	197
	The organization of space as it was perceived by its inhabitants	197

## *Contents*

Natural names: Unnamed space; The meaning and resonance of natural names; From the territory as officially organized to the natural territory as humanly perceived; Conclusion: a utilitarian concept	197
The spatial framework of daily life	206
The framework of rural life	206
The framework of life for city-dwellers. Relations between town and countryside; The distribution of property owned by urban landlords; The basins of demographic attraction; Commercial fields of influence and sources of supply; The loose control exercised by the towns over the countryside	208
The beginnings of agricultural specialization	216
Monoculture and polyculture	216
Areas devoted to staple crops: The earliest estates under cereal cultivation: wheat, rye and buckwheat; The maize 'revolution'; The chestnut groves; The potato	217
Sectors of specialized agriculture: The necessary conditions for the introduction of specialized crops; Flanders; Alsace; The Loire valley; Urban agricultural regions	223
The evolution of regions devoted to viticulture: The early Middle Ages: the vineyards survived but trade declined or disappeared; The revival of south-north trade in the late Middle Ages: the first high-quality vineyards; The maritime expansion of northern sources of supply: the Atlantic seaboard and the development of the vineyards of Bordeaux; The absence of commercial viticulture in Mediterranean regions up until the modern period; The decline of the northern vineyards in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries; The origin of the greatest wines	226
Dispersed industry	233
Spontaneous industry and organized industry	233
The distribution of the principal branches of industry	234
The industrial scene in the regions	237
Traditional industry and the countryside	240
Conclusion to Part II: The beginnings of a territory with a spirit of its own?	240
<b>Part III The centralization and diversification of the French space</b>	<b>245</b>
7 Paris and the Parisian centralization	247
The development of Paris	247
The geographical conditions: The gap routes; The route across the Seine	247
Stages in the city's political destiny: Paris before the Germanic invasions; After the Germanic invasions: the emergence of a political role; The Capetian capital	251

The heart of France	254
Paris' sphere of influence: the formation of its population	256
The geographical impact of the growth of Paris	259
The Parisian agricultural sphere of influence: A fruit- and vegetable-producing belt; The evolution of the vineyards; The market for dairy produce: butter and cheeses; The large agricultural units of the Ile-de-France; The large wooded massifs of the Parisian region	259
The centralization of communication routes: The roads; The railways	269
Paris, the cultural capital of France	273
Conclusion	275
 8 Cultural action and reaction: unity and diversity	276
The achievement of cultural unity	276
Songs and stories	276
Enlightenment and language	279
Rationalized space: the organization of the departments	281
The Tour of France	285
The differences	293
Variations on a theme: the arts, costumes and dances: Popular art; Costumes; Dances	293
From regional cultures to regionalism: Local cultures and regional cultures; The birth and development of peripheral cultures; The appearance of cultural regionalism; The late emergence of political regionalism and its significance	307
The emergence of different regional and political attitudes: The map of religious practices; The map of political attitudes; A tentative interpretation	326
Rejections: Protestantism in the Cévennes; The revolts in the west: Vendée	338
 9 The economic differentiation of space	345
A new map of land use: the development of agricultural specializations	346
Transformations in the agriculture of southern France	346
The development of the vineyards of Languedoc: Before the end of the seventeenth century: hillside vineyards designed to supply local needs; The first extension of the vineyards: the beginnings of large-scale trade; The appearance of vineyards on a massive scale (1630-75); The phylloxera crisis and the definitive establishment of mass vineyards	348
Repercussions on the vineyards of northern France	350
Dairy farming and livestock rearing: The selection of pastoral areas; Systems of pastoral production; The establishment of different breeds of animals	353

## *Contents*

Reafforestation: The mountains of southern France; The plains; The Landes of Gascony; The Sologne area; The Orléans forest and the Champagne plain	359
From dispersed industry to industrial regions	365
The decline of dispersed industry	366
The new industrial centres	369
The large urban industrial complexes	371
A great market: the geographical development and establishment of commercial brands	374
The development of the fame of local products	374
The expansion of manufacturing areas	377
10 The rural exodus and urbanization	380
The completion of the urban network	380
The modern period: providing a frame for the national territory	380
The nineteenth and twentieth centuries: industrial towns and leisure towns	383
From the countryside to the towns	385
Temporary migrations	385
The rural exodus: Rural depopulation; Emigration and natural population change; The rhythms of migration	393
The geographical aspects of urban growth	400
The process of urbanization: rhythms and categories	400
The factors of urbanization	402
Geographical consequences: new regional dynamism	405
The formation of the urban networks	406
The historical development of the process	406
The principles of hierarchical development	410
Conclusion: The France of Ardouin-Dumazet	412
11 The France of large organizations (by Paul Claval)	415
Modernization: the specific features of the French experience	416
Conditions of unequal favourability	416
Under the Second Empire, advantages began to be exploited	417
Enduring social divisions and modernization	418
Complex and relatively divided élite groups: The land was still an essential source of wealth and prestige; The nineteenth-century élites included some civil servants; For a long time, trade constituted a world apart; The manufacturing world	419
Strategies of continuity and survival	422
Popular classes passionately devoted to independence yet with little ambition	423
Checks upon the homogenization of the territory	426
The stages of social decongestion	428
A new geography of political attitudes	430

## *Contents*

The geographical conditions of modernization	432
Specialization and social structures	432
The role of the local environment	433
The effects of historical legacies and accidents	435
The stages of progressive modernization and the establishment of big business: The hesitations of the early nineteenth century; The turning point of the beginning of the Second Empire; 1865–85: twenty difficult years; The major wave of innovations: 1885–1914; The First World War and the inter-war period	438
The 'glorious thirty years' or France at last won over to modernity	442
Eminently favourable circumstances	442
The new face of agriculture	444
An industrial France at last	449
A new universe of movement and communications	453
The art of living and the landscape	457
General conclusion	466
<i>Notes</i>	469
<i>Guide to further reading</i>	504
<i>Bibliography</i>	506
<i>Index</i>	533