

**NATURE AND RESOURCES OF THE EARTH IN MAPS  
(TO PUBLICATION OF THE NEW WORLD'S COMPLEX GEOGRAPHICAL ATLAS)**

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Institute of Geography of Russian Academy of Sciences in collaboration with other research institutions of Russia has compiled fundamental complex Atlas "Nature And Resources of the Earth". It is published in Ed. Holzel (Austria) in 1995.

The atlas includes extensive information and knowledge of the world's nature, resources, and the most important factors of their changes that have been collected by the Earth sciences and other natural and social sciences. It provides information to study the key problems of interaction of the human society and nature in global and subglobal scales, as well as to seek the ways to mitigate negative man-made effects on the environment.

Atlas "Nature And Resources of the Earth" pertains to the third generation of the fundamental national atlases of the world. It contains the new-compiled and, mostly, first-published thematic maps, i.e., 172 maps of the following scales: 1:60,000,000 (52 maps), 1:80,000,000 (38 maps), and 1:100,000,000-1:300,000,000 (82 maps). While compiling the atlas, the new ideas, methods of calculation and mapping were examined in maps. The new themes, subjects, and types of maps, including environmental ones, were worked out.

The atlas consists of 4 main sections: 1) The Earth and the Space, 2) Evolution of Landscape Sphere, 3) Structure and Resources of Landscape Sphere (including the main components such as Structure and Resources of Lithosphere, Atmosphere, Hydrosphere, and Biosphere), 4) Anthropogenic Factors of Changes of Landscape Sphere. The atlas is supplemented by map annotations.

The atlas sections include subsections of space images interpreted thematically (more than 200 images). They complement and define the map information. The space images are classified by regional-typological, landscape-zonal, and environmental principles.

The atlas format is 31.0x49.0 centimetres. It is the same as the formats of other fundamental atlases of the world that have been published and prepared for publication in the country. As a result, the atlases complement each other and extend the application.

Hence, the atlas containing a great number of various data reviews the geographical knowledge on the threshold of the third millennium. It is an advance in the development of the global mapping.