France

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France

A geographical, social and economic survey

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Translators’ preface

The first edition of this book, published in 1963, was translated by Christine Trollope and Arthur J. Hunt.¹ By 1980, however, the French version had reached a substantially rewritten and reorganized form, in which the principal author was assisted by four collaborators, and it was evidently felt that this entirely new English translation should be commissioned. The translation is based on a somewhat reduced and considerably amended version of the 1980/1 French text, which was further amended by the author in the course of translation, so that effectively a unique new edition has emerged.

Some explanation is needed with regard to the treatment of place-names. There was initially no doubt in our minds that the proper procedure required that they should all be rendered in the form current in the country in which they were located rather than in familiar English versions, but problems emerged in practice. The French departments presented no problem, as they have acquired no English-language equivalents. They are accordingly given their official French names as they stood at the time of going to press. In practice, the use of departmental names for the purpose of conveying locational information has been minimized in the text, since only those who have received the benefit of a French education know where they are. Who, for example, can unhesitatingly point to the Departments of Ain or Aude on the map of France? So far as possible, where the original text uses departmental names, more general regional names have been substituted.

Translators' preface

The principle of using the native form has also been maintained for towns; Lyon is preferred to Lyons, Marseille to Marseilles. For the sake of uniformity this involved the reluctant acceptance of the form 'Dunkerque' for a town which in its anglicized form is not without a place in British history. Towns outside the borders of France present greater difficulty; clearly the use of French forms where French is not the local language is not acceptable, so Bâle, Trèves and Aix-la-Chapelle have to be rejected. After considerable hesitation, especially when faced with bilingual Brussel–Bruxelles, we decided in the interest of simplicity to anglicize them. French regional names also present great difficulties; it seems unnecessarily pedantic not to use forms such as Brittany, Normandy, Picardy or Burgundy, some of which were once English possessions, and which are embedded in British history and consciousness; one might say that too much British blood has been shed in Flanders' fields for the correct French name to be easily assimilable. An exception to this rule is the use of the French form 'Aquitaine', which is close enough to the English for the difference to be almost imperceptible. Matters are even more difficult where traditional regional names are also the official titles of the new administrative regions of France. Our initial intention was to use only the French form in this case, but in practice this involved further confusion, and we decided to settle so far as possible for a consistent inconsistency, using the English regional names wherever they are well established, and French forms otherwise.

We wish to thank a number of friends and colleagues for their patience and goodwill in responding to strings of queries about the translation of specialist terms. Particular thanks are due to Dr A. Potts, Dr D. A. Robinson and Dr R. B. G. Williams (University of Sussex) for help in respect of physical geography, Dr A. J. Fielding (University of Sussex) in respect of economic and population geography, Mr C. Flockton (University of Surrey) in respect of urban and regional planning, and to Ms Beryl T. Atkins (one of the editors of the Collins–Robert dictionary) for help with various neologisms, but there were many others. Nevertheless, it must be stressed that responsibility for any defects in the translation rests solely with ourselves.

Finally, we wish to record that the translators enjoyed a particularly close relationship with Philippe Pinchemel, the principal author. Each chapter has been sent to him on completion, together with a string of queries and suggestions, to be returned amended, improved and (where appropriate) updated by the inclusion of additional material. We feel privileged to have been able to enter into this enjoyable, stimulating and, we trust, fruitful interchange.

Dorothy Elkins
T. H. Elkins
Abbreviations used in sources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CNASEA</td>
<td>Centre National d'Aménagement des Structures d'Exploitations Agricoles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DATAR</td>
<td>Délégation Générale à l'Aménagement du Territoire et à l'Action Régionale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INED</td>
<td>Institut National d'Etudes Démographiques (Paris)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INSEE</td>
<td>Institut National de la Statistique et des Études Économiques</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PUF</td>
<td>Presses Universitaires de France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCEES</td>
<td>Service Central des Enquêtes et Études Statistiques (Ministère de l'Agriculture)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEGESA</td>
<td>Société d'Études Géographiques, Économiques et Sociales Appliquées (Paris)</td>
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