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Editors and contributors Douglas, Richard. Huggett, and Chris Perkins—all three of whom teach geography at the University of Manchester—have assembled a work that as a whole suggests that, if there is a metadiscipline, it is certainly geography. Despite its title, this revised edition is not
an encyclopedia in the traditional sense but a rich and fascinating collection of 64 essays exploring the myriad facets of human and physical geography, from tectonics to geopolitics; from virtual places to consumer impacts and conservation. There are six thematic sections: “The Nature of Place”; “Forces for Change”; “Actors in the Process”; “Nature, Rate, and the Direction of Change”; “The Geographical Imagination”; and “Responses to Geographical Drivers of Change.” Featuring contributions from a lengthy list of international academics, the work is global in scope, yet it provides a highly relevant look at our own backyards, wherever they may be. The section examining geographic "crises" and responses is by
far the longest—fitting, given the increasing demands humans place on the world. The lucid and at times witty contributions are supplemented by recommended reading lists, and references end each essay. Each volume opens with complete lists of plates, figures, and tables and closes with a complete index.

**BOTTOM LINE** While pricey, this work stands alone in its penetrating analysis and breadth of discussion. Sage’s *Encyclopedia of Human Geography* (2006) overlooks the physical side of the discipline, while the *Companion’s* first edition (2002) lacks the currency and focus on crises and solutions. Recommended for academic libraries.—Daniel Sifton, Cariboo Regional Dist. Lib., Williams Lake, B.C.