Synopsis

Compact Atlas of the World offers a wealth of gorgeous detail in this handsome volume, now updated in its fourth edition. At the heart of this book are 60 clear, beautifully detailed maps, featuring improved landscape modeling marked with key roads, railways, rivers, and settlements. Politically colored overview maps off a wider perspective to contextualize each nation, while 25 large-scale insets zoom in on major cities and smaller countries. Compact Atlas of the World also includes fact files with statistical profiles of each nation and an index-gazetteer lists 20,000 geographical names for easy reference. The informative and insightful "World Today" section summarizes political, geographical, and world issues of the modern age. Truly encyclopedic, yet accessible and affordable, Compact Atlas of the World deserves a place on every bookshelf.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The medium/small size and light weight of this atlas make it portable and easy to carry with me for study. The maps are all two page spreads, so the center of each map disappears into the crease of the book, it’s distracting and hard to get used to. This is becoming less an issue now that the pages are relaxing and are more able to lay flat, but it’s not ideal. Most of the maps are regional maps, so you get a close-up, for example, of several US states, or a section of a country or several small countries. It’s not very useful for being able to see where nations/states are in relation to each other, so I don’t think it’s the best for learning exactly where in the world places are located, but the regional maps are fairly detailed if that’s what you need.
This is a great little atlas, in the main. There is one major drawback, which is that the maps only show detail inside the regions featured on the page, having no detail in the area outside those regions on the rest of the page, so that, for example, a map showing Germany will mark Leipzig and Dresden but will not show any cities across the border in the Czech Republic even though two thirds of that country would be shown on the page; this is extremely frustrating and limiting to one's ability to survey regions meaningfully. There's no excuse for it. This crippling limitation applies to regions within countries as well as national states. I still like the qualities of the maps in this atlas quite well overall, and find this cheap and lightweight volume to be good value as a knockaround casual atlas, but it would be twice as good as it is if the maps were what they should and easily could be.

It's the best one we found so far for our geography class. Has more details and close up map locations, easier to find names of the rivers, straits, etc. We only wish it had three holes to stay in binder.

Just so you know, the hemispheres are reversed, using the International Dateline NOT the Prime Meridian to divide the hemispheres. A slightly more interesting view of the world, but utterly useless for my purposes.

I have a giant, coffee-table sized atlas, but sometimes I just need something light for a quick look-up. I could not be more satisfied. The book is small and light, yet shows enough detail for small inquires. The book features plenty of regional maps (especially for the U.S.), and as far as early 2016 - seems to be up-to-date. The back of the book features a fact file, some other bonus trivia, and a comprehensive index. I can see getting a lot of use out of this, and the price is more than fair. I'll be back in 10 years after I've destroyed this one.

Exactly as described, complete up-to-date changes. Compact design good.

I was hoping that there would be one whole country on a page instead of parts and pieces on each page ~ didn't serve my purpose for my 5th grader learning to draw one whole country/continent at a time ~

If you want a serious atlas buy the huge National Geographic version but if you need a quick
reference atlas this one is excellent.

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