

A gazetteer is a geographical dictionary or index. In this gazetteer, important places from this book are listed. Most descriptions are followed by the page number of a map on which that place can be located.

A

Acropolis A hill overlooking the city of Athens; the center of religious life in Athens.

Aegean Sea A sea east of Greece. (m. 199)

Aksum An ancient civilization in eastern Africa; a town in present-day Ethiopia. (m. 321)

Arabian Peninsula A peninsula in southwestern Asia between the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf. (m. 273)

Asia Minor The peninsula between the Black Sea and the Mediterranean Sea in what is present-day Turkey. (m. 42)

Aswan High Dam The man-made dam across the Nile River that formed Lake Nasser. (m. 85)

Athens A powerful city-state in ancient Greece, where the world's first democracy developed; capital of present-day Greece. (m. 199)

Atlantic Ocean A large body of water bordered by North America and South America to the west and by Europe and Africa to the east. (m. 231)

B

Babylon One of the greatest cities of the ancient world, located on the Euphrates River near present-day Baghdad. (m. 48)

Balkan Peninsula A peninsula in southeastern Europe bordered by the Adriatic, Black, Aegean, and Mediterranean Seas. (m. 271)

Black Sea A sea between Asia and southeastern Europe, located north of Asia Minor. (m. 173)

Bosporus Strait A strip of water uniting the Black Sea and the Sea of Marmara and separating Asian Turkey from European Turkey. The village of Byzantium began along this strait. (m. 259)

Byzantine Empire The Eastern Roman Empire. Its capital city was Constantinople. (m. 259)

C

Carthage A city that served as a key trade center on the North African coast of the Mediterranean Sea. (m. 237)

Caspian Sea A salt lake between Asia and southeastern Europe. (m. 173)

China A country in East Asia and the third-largest country in the world; called the Middle Kingdom by the ancient Chinese. (m. 143)

Constantinople The capital city of the Byzantine Empire; present-day Istanbul in Turkey. (m. 259)

Crete An island in the Mediterranean Sea off the coast of Greece. (m. 199)

E

Egypt An ancient kingdom and later a modern country in northeastern Africa. (m. 58)

Euphrates River A river that flows from the Taurus Mountains through Turkey, Syria, and Iraq to the Persian Gulf; a border of Mesopotamia. (m. 20)

Europe A continent to the north of Africa, separated from Asia by the Ural Mountains. (m. 364)

F

Fertile Crescent A curved area from the Persian Gulf to the Mediterranean Sea. (m. 20)

G

Ganges River A river that waters the northern plain of India. (m. 120)

Ghana 1. An ancient African empire located along the Niger River, present-day Mauritania. 2. A modern nation in western Africa. (m. 321)

Gobi Desert A desert covering most of northern China; one of the natural boundaries that protected ancient China from foreign invaders. (m. 143)

Great Wall A series of fortified barriers over 1,500 miles (2414 km) long built across northern China to keep out invaders. (m. 161)

Greece A country in southern Europe, a land of mountains, valleys, natural harbors, and hundreds of tiny islands. (m. 199)

Gulf of Mexico A body of water surrounded by Mexico, the United States, and Cuba. (m. 292)

H

Harappa A city of one of the first civilizations in the Indus Valley, the sister city of Mohenjo-Daro. (m. 120)

Hastings A town in England near the site of the battle between Harold Godwinson and William of Normandy for rule of England.

Heian-kyo The capital city of Japan after Nara; present-day Kyoto. (m. 347)

Hellespont The strait between Asia Minor and ancient Greece, the present-day Dardanelles. (m. 184)

Himalaya Mountains A mountain range in south-central Asia between Tibet and India that includes the highest mountains in the world. (m. 120)

Hokkaido One of the four main islands of Japan. (m. 347)

Honshu One of the four main islands of Japan. (m. 347)

Horn of Africa A peninsula in northeastern Africa containing present-day Somalia and adjacent countries. (m. 321)

Huang He (Yellow River) A river that begins in northern China and flows to the Pacific Ocean; sometimes called "China's Sorrow." (m. 143)

I

India A country in southern Asia, home to several ancient civilizations or empires that began in the Indus valley. (m. 120)

Indian Ocean A body of water bordered by southern Asia, eastern Africa, and western Australia. (m. 319)

Indian subcontinent A peninsula in southern Asia that extends into the Indian Ocean, separated from neighboring countries by the Himalaya Mountains. (m. 120)

Indus River A river that waters the northern plain of India; its surrounding valley was the location of the first civilization of India. (m. 120)

Ionian Sea A sea west of Greece. (m. 199)

Israel 1. The nation God made from the descendants of Jacob; named after God's special name for Jacob. 2. The name of the Northern Kingdom after Israel split into two kingdoms. (m. 97, 102)

Italian Peninsula A boot-shaped peninsula in the Mediterranean Sea, present-day Italy. (m. 231)

J

Japan An archipelago and empire in east Asia (m. 347)

Jerusalem The capital city of ancient and present-day Israel; remained the capital of Judah, or the Southern Kingdom, when ancient Israel split; sacred to Jews, Muslims, and Christians. (m. 97)

Jordan River A river east of Israel that flows through the Sea of Galilee to the Dead Sea. (m. 97)

Judah The Southern Kingdom of ancient Israel, formed when Israel split into two kingdoms after Solomon's death. Its capital city was Jerusalem. (m. 102)

K

Kalahari Desert A desert in southwestern Africa (m. 319)

Kush An ancient land along the Nile stretching from just south of Egypt to Khartoum in present-day Sudan. (m. 85)

Kyushu One of the four main islands of Japan. (m. 347)

L

La Venta One of the largest and most famous Olmec cities, located on the northeastern coast of Mexico. (m. 292)

Lake Nasser The man-made lake formed by the Aswan High Dam. (m. 85)

Lake Texcoco The lake on which the Aztec city of Tenochtitlán was built. (m. 310)

M

Madagascar An island nation in the Indian Ocean about 240 miles (386 km) off the southeast coast of Africa. (m. 321)

Mali 1. An ancient empire located in northwestern Africa. 2. A modern nation in western Africa. (m. 321)

Marathon An ancient plain in Greece; the site of the battle in which the Athenian rebel army defeated the Persian army. (m. 184)

Mecca A sacred Muslim city in present-day Saudi Arabia. (m. 273)

Medina A sacred Muslim city in present-day Saudi Arabia. (m. 273)

Mediterranean Sea The sea surrounded by Europe, Asia, Asia Minor, the Near East, and Africa. (m. 18)

Mesoamerica The region that includes lands from central Mexico to Costa Rica in Central America. (m. 292)

Mesopotamia The ancient region between the Euphrates River and the Tigris River. (m. 20)

Mogadishu A trade city on the eastern coast of Africa.

Mohenjo-Daro A city of one of the first civilizations in the Indus Valley, the sister city of Harappa. (m. 120)

Mount Olympus The highest mountain in Greece, believed by the ancient Greeks to be the dwelling place of the gods.

N

Nara Japan's first capital city. (m. 347)

Nile River The river that flows from central Africa through Egypt, the longest river in the world. (m. 58)

Nineveh The capital city of the Assyrian Empire, located on the Tigris River. (m. 51)

P

Pasargadae The capital city of the Persian Empire under the rule of Cyrus the Great. (m. 173)

Pataliputra The city chosen by Chandragupta to be the capital of the Mauryan Empire. (m. 137)

Peloponnesus A peninsula that forms the southern portion of Greece; site of the Peloponnesian War. (m. 199)

Persepolis The capital city of Persia after Susa, built by Darius. (m. 170)

Persia An ancient empire in southwestern Asia in what is now Iran. (m. 173)

R

Rome The capital city of the Roman Empire and of present-day Italy. (m. 231)

Royal Road The longest stone road in the Persian Empire, stretching over 1,600 miles (2575 km) from Susa to Sardis. (m. 175)

S

Sahara The world's second-largest desert, located in northern Africa. (m. 58)

Salamis An island off the coast of Greece where the Greeks defeated the Persians in a naval battle. (m. 184)

Samaria The capital city of the Northern Kingdom of ancient Israel. The Northern Kingdom formed after Israel split into two kingdoms. (m. 97)

San Lorenzo Tenochtitlán An urban center of the Olmec civilization, which included the cities of Tenochtitlán, San Lorenzo, and Potrero Nuevo. (m. 292)

Shikoku One of the four main islands of Japan. (m. 347)

Sicily The largest island in the Mediterranean Sea; a part of Italy. (m. 231)

Sierra Madre del Sur A mountain range in southern Mexico. (m. 292)

Silk Road The trade route that stretched about 4,000 miles (6427 km) from China to the Mediterranean Sea, linking China to the nations in the West. (m. 166)

Sofala A trade city on the eastern coast of Africa.

Songhai An important town in the Malian Empire that won its independence and became its own empire near the Niger River in Africa. (m. 321)

Sparta A powerful city-state in ancient Greece. (m. 199)

Sumer One of the first civilizations in Mesopotamia. (m. 20)

Susa The capital city of ancient Persia after Darius I came to power. (m. 173)

T

Tenochtitlán An ancient Aztec city built on Lake Texcoco, one of the largest cities of its time. Part of present-day Mexico City is built on this site. (m. 310)

Thermopylae A narrow mountain pass in Greece; the site where the Greeks were defeated by the Persians. (m. 184)

Tigris River A river that flows from the Taurus Mountains through Turkey, Syria, and Iraq to the Persian Gulf; a border of Mesopotamia. (m. 20)

Tikal One of the largest and most magnificent Mayan city-states, located in modern Guatemala. (m. 292)

Timbuktu An African city in the Malian Empire that became a center of Islamic faith and learning. (m. 331)

U

Ur A powerful city-state in Sumer. (m. 42)

V

Valley of Mexico A highlands plateau in central Mexico. (m. 292, 310)

Y

Yangtze River The longest river in Asia, which flows from the highlands of Tibet through eastern China and to the East China Sea. (m. 143)

Yucatán Peninsula A peninsula extending into the Gulf of Mexico; mostly in present-day southeastern Mexico; location of several Mayan cities. (m. 292)