

the ocean regions?

DR. JAMES: The ocean regions, as I have just suggested, have had a different influence at different periods. The ocean at one time was a barrier. Then, when people learned to navigate, as the Greeks did, and the Phoenecians, the ocean became a highway. This completely changed the importance of oceans. First of all, it was a barrier, because there were no developed routes across it, and then the time came when the ocean became a highway rather than a barrier. Then came the development of the ocean in a period when ice and snow were still important. This area was essentially closed to navigation throughout the year. Oh, you could go around it, but this was a stunt. There was very little communication by sea in the polar regions. The polar regions could be left out.

This is why for years you could really get along quite satisfactorily with the Mercator projection, because it doesn't extend into the polar regions. If it does it is so distorted that you can't use it.

On the other hand, when you look at the globe you get a very different picture of the arrangement of oceans. It was no less a person than General MacArthur who said that the Pacific Ocean was a moat between Asia and North America. If General Mac Arthur had not had one of those Mercator projections he might have realized that Eastern Asia and Western North America form one straight line on one side of the Pacific Ocean. If it's a moat, as I said in another instance, we and the Chinese are sitting on the same bank glaring at each other in the wrong direction.