# Contents

- 8 About the author
- 9 INTRODUCTION
- 16 The problem with maps
- 17 Acknowledgements

## 18 PARTONE Who We Are

# 36 PART TWO Wealth & Poverty

## 20 THE STATES OF THE WORLD

Most states are relatively recent creations.

#### 22 POPULATION

Global population continues to grow but the rate of increase is slowing.

#### 24 LIFE EXPECTANCY

Average life expectancy is higher than ever before and rising.

#### 26 ETHNICITY AND DIVERSITY

People divided by ethnic difference live side by side in peace more often than they fight.

#### 28 RELIGIOUS BELIEFS

Differences within religions are often as intense as differences between them.

#### 30 LITERACY & EDUCATION

More teachers are needed if the trend towards

#### 38 INCOME

Economic growth continues to outpace the growth in world population.

#### 40 INEQUALITY

While 2.6 billion people live in poverty, there are more billionaires than ever.

## 42 QUALITY OF LIFE

Rich countries inevitably offer a high quality of life.

#### 44 TRANSNATIONALS

The revenues of the largest corporations outstrip those of many countries.

#### 46 BANKS

Despite everything, bankers continue to reap huge financial rewards.

#### 48 CORRUPTION

greater school enrolment is to continue.

#### 32 URBANIZATION

For the first time in history, most people live in cities.

#### **34 DIVERSITY OF CITIES** Cities reflect the diversity of the world.

Corruption is pervasive, some countries run on it.

#### 50 DEBT

Debt has soared but not everybody, everywhere is equally in debt.

#### 52 TOURISM

Tourism is predicted to rise, bringing muchneeded income to many smaller economies.

#### 54 GOALS FOR DEVELOPMENT

Development progress is real but patchy.

## 56 PART THREE War & Peace

# 74 PART FOUR Rights & Respect

- 58 WARS IN THE 21ST CENTURY This is an era of growing peace, despite the wars that persist.
- 60 WARLORDS, GANGLORDS, & MILITIAS Armed conflicts fought between non-state

armed forces are proliferating.

### 62 MILITARY MUSCLE

Despite the global economic crisis, military spending remains buoyant.

#### 64 THE NEW FRONT LINE Warfare has evolved and is now entering cyber space.

#### 66 CASUALTIES OF WAR

Data on war deaths are incomplete and contentious.

#### 68 **REFUGEES**

30 million people are refugees from war and repression.

76 POLITICAL SYSTEMS The global trend is for more countries to become democratic.

#### 78 RELIGIOUS RIGHTS

Almost a quarter of the world's states have formal links to a religion.

#### 80 HUMAN RIGHTS

In some countries the greatest menace citizens face comes from the state.

#### 82 CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Although respect for children's rights is increasing, millions still stuffer terrible abuse.

#### 84 WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Though gender equality is advancing, women worldwide remain financially and politically disadvantaged.

#### 70 PEACEKEEPING

After a period of rapid increase, the number of peacekeeping missions has started to decline.

#### 72 GLOBAL PEACEFULNESS

Understanding what makes societies peaceful is a significant step towards the world becoming more peaceful.

#### 86 GAY RIGHTS

Gay people experience varying degrees of acceptance from fellow citizens and authorities.

88 PART FIVE Health of the People 104 PART SIX Health of the Planet

#### 90 MALNUTRITION

Many of the world's poor suffer from diets deficient in calories and/or vital nutrients.

#### 92 OBESITY

Many of the world's rich suffer from diets deficient in nutrients, but over-packed with unnecessary calories.

#### 94 SMOKING

Between a third and a half of smokers die from tobacco-related diseases.

#### 96 CANCER

As countries become more prosperous, and their lifestyles and diets are changing, their cancer rate is rising.

#### 98 HIV/AIDS

Education and treatment are beginning to slow the rate of new HIV/AIDS infections and deaths.

#### 106 WARNING SIGNS

Things are changing in the natural world – and not many of the changes are to the good.

#### 108 BIODIVERSITY

Efforts to slow the loss of species of animals and plants have not been successful so far.

#### 110 WATER RESOURCES

By 2025, two-thirds of the world population will have an inadequate supply of water.

#### 112 WASTE

Waste, especially plastic waste, is a serious global problem on both land and sea.

#### 114 ENERGY USE

World energy use is increasing, especially in the most rapidly developing economies.

#### 116 CLIMATE CHANGE

#### 100 MENTAL HEALTH

Poor countries lack the resources needed to treat mental and behavioural disorders.

#### **102 LIVING WITH DISEASE**

Years of healthy life are lost to disease and disability.

The build-up of carbon emissions has reached a critical point.

#### **118 PLANETARY BOUNDARIES**

There are limits beyond which human impact on the Earth's balanced ecosystems will have as yet unknown consequences.

## 120 PART SEVEN Vital Statistics

#### 122 WORLD TABLES

138 Notes & Sources143 Index