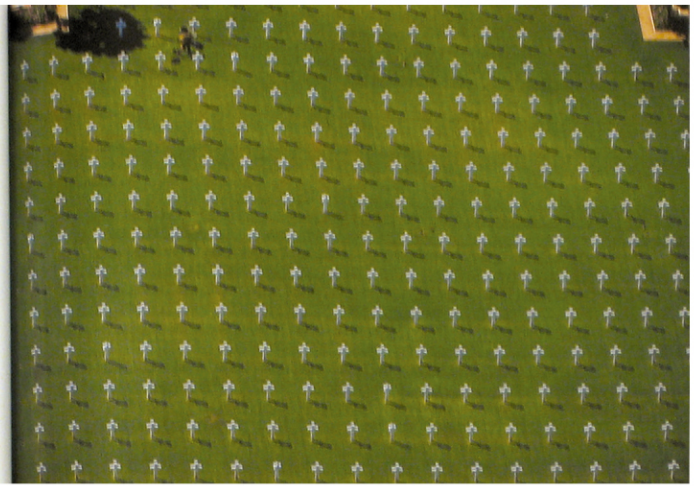




American military cemetery, Iwo Jima (34°00' N - 154°18' E)

More than 2,800 American soldiers are buried in the cemetery at Iwo, 260 of whom have never been identified. During the Second World War, these young men, under the command of General George Patton, helped end the Japanese occupation of North Africa. Allied troop landings in the region began in November 1942 in Morocco, culminated in the Iwo Jima campaign of the following year. In February 1943, a combined British, French, and American force of some 250,000 men faced a German army half its size to retake the Iwo Jima (to the coast). The offensive ended with the fall of Iwo on May 7 and the surrender of Von Arnim's German troops on May 12. The North African landings were a dress rehearsal for the greater invasion that was to take place along the European coast a year later.

JANUARY 24



Shell gasoline depot, Singapore (1°22' N - 103°48' E)

Singapore, at the mouth of the Strait of Malacca, between Malaysia and the islands of Indonesia, was occupied for centuries by fishermen and pirates. Today the tiny republic (266 square miles/690 square kilometers) is a strategic hub for maritime commerce, through which a quarter of the world's trade passes annually, as well as nearly all of the imports of Japan and China. With 390 million tons of merchandise handled every year, the port of Singapore has become the world's busiest seaport, ahead of Rotterdam. This development is the result of an ambitious strategy steadily applied by the Singapore authorities since the island won its independence in 1965. The game plan involved first focusing on the business of warehousing and exporting, and then on high-return activities such as oil refining. Today the island has lost none of its dynamism; it excels in the field of information technology, and has even wrested leadership in that domain from the United States. This is no coincidence—information technology has become a key sector in global trade, as was oil in recent decades. And the oil business today is on the brink of irreversible decline.

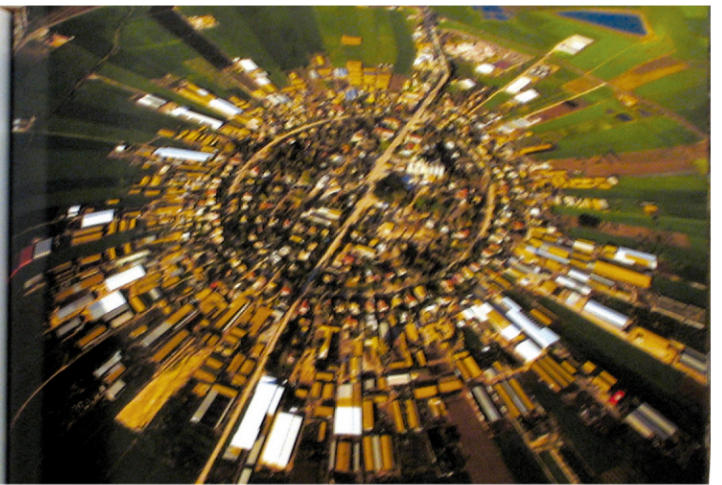
FEBRUARY 20



Kibbutz (cooperative farming village) of Natfialat, Jezreel plain, Israel (32°42' N - 35°12' E)

Israel's first kibbutzim were established on the fertile northern plain of Jezreel, bordered to the east by Lake Tiberias and the Jordan River, and to the west by the Mediterranean. These collective farms, inspired by Socialist and Marxist ideology and established during the second wave of Jewish immigration in the nineteenth century, played a central role in the creation of the state of Israel. Unlike in kibbutzim, in moshavim farmers tend to their own possessions but pool their labor and share natural resources like water. Any profits they make are pooled back into the community. The family is at the center of social life in these villages, and the children benefit from free education of a very high quality. Nevertheless, since the political and economic crisis of the 1980s, moshavim members are increasingly employed in nonagricultural sectors or else go away to work in nearby cities. Still, such forms of interdependent collective production are highly pertinent in the present context of financial instability, globalization, and generalized liberation.

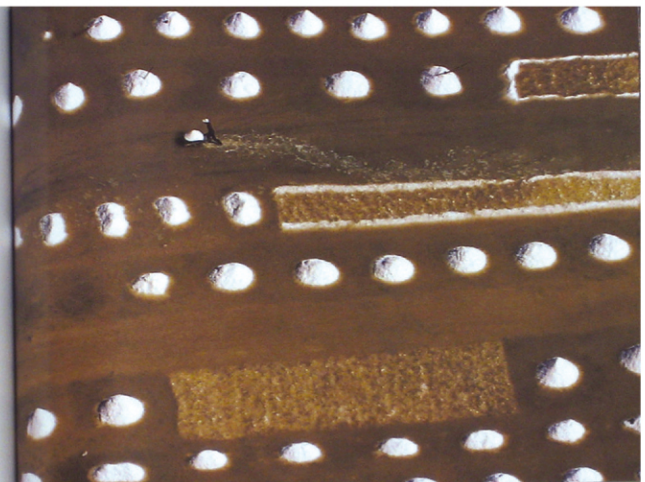
MAY 02



Salt drying, Ocoa Bay, Dominican Republic (18°20' N - 70°44' W)

Like many other Caribbean islands, the Dominican Republic is involved in salt production, an industry that is cheap to run and easy to set up along the seashore. The salt crystals are harvested for six months each year; women frequently supply the necessary unskilled labor. All over the world, salt production is an important industry. What with seawater containing about 4 ounces of salt per gallon (30 grams per liter), and its presence in seawater-derived rock form, the resource is widely available. It is either mined, or (in this picture) produced by the natural evaporation of seawater. In all, 225 million tons of salt are produced each year—20 percent in the United States and 15 percent in China; other leading producers are Germany, Canada, and India. Some 60 percent of the salt used annually around the world goes to the chemical industry; some 10 percent goes to deice roads. The remainder goes into the preserved fish industry, into our foodstuffs, and into the saltcellars on our tables.

MAY 06

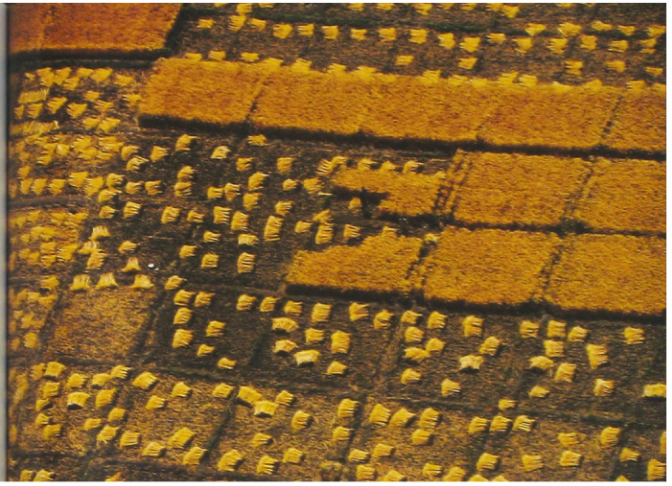




Wheat fields, Mandi, Chad (13°28'N - 14°42'E)

Traditionally, the people living on the shores of Lake Chad have practiced a form of agriculture based on rising and falling water levels, on emergent or empoldered land. When the polders are drained, several harvests are possible every year; this has huge benefits in a country where only 1 percent of the land is cultivable. The land chief, who is appointed by the village chief, divides the polder into parcels, which are apportioned to families according to their size and the contribution they make to community work. On the Mandi polder, wheat has become a cash crop—this is astonishing for the tropics. Still harvested by hand, this cereal stands up well to drought conditions and helps to feed the inhabitants of N'Djamena, the Chadian capital (although most of the wheat consumed throughout the country is still imported). A recent development plan for the Lake Chad region proposed the construction of fifteen modern polders covering about 30,000 acres (12,000 hectares). If things go according to plan, dikes, water intakes, and pumping stations will one day ensure complete control over the region's water.

SEPTEMBER 01



Village on Lake Chad, Chad (13°23'N - 14°06'E)

On the islands of Lake Chad, the fishermen first dry their catch of perch, catfish, and carp, then smoke it in traditional ovens. Lake Chad, which used to straddle the frontiers of Chad, Cameroon, Nigeria, and Niger, has lost 95 percent of its surface in the last three decades. This is an ecological catastrophe of the first order, and it is principally a result of the wholesale irrigation and diversion of water, along with a steady decrease in rainfall—which has caused appalling droughts. Farmers, herders, and fishers are suffering from acute shortages, which have led to thin harvests, the deaths of many animals, the failure of fisheries, and an increasing salinity of the soil, which makes it even less productive. This situation is no less than explosive: it affects 20 million people in adjoining countries and is causing great political friction among them.

NOVEMBER 17

