

CONTENTS

1. ADAPTATION TO NATURAL CONDITIONS	
1.1. Physical Geography	2
1.2. Preconditions for Coal and Iron Industry	5
1.3. Use of Further Resources	6
1.4. Water Supply and Water Pollution	7
1.5. The Regional Green Belt System	10
2. SPATIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DEVELOPMENT	
2.1. Territorial Dependencies and the Development of the Recent Administrative Borders of the Region	12
2.2. The Position of the Ruhr Area within North-Rhine Westphalia, Germany and Europe	15
2.3. Development of Population and Settlements since the Beginning of the Industrialization	18
2.4. Urban Renewal and Improvement on Environmental Quality (WUV)	22
2.5. Workers' Colonies	25
2.6. Regionalization and Regional Awareness	29
3. ECONOMY	
3.1. Agriculture	32
3.2. Development of Coal Mining	33
3.3. Development of the Iron and Steel Industry	40
3.4. Follow-up and Complementary Industries	48
3.5. Trends towards Tertiarization	54
4. CRISIS MANAGEMENT BY AN INCREASED ATTRACTIVENESS OF THE REGION	
4.1. Extension of the Infrastructure	58
4.2. Land Recycling and the Establishment of Commercial or Industrial Business	62
4.3. Technology Centres and New Business Centres (Gründerzentren)	67
4.4. Education and Science	70
4.5. Leisure and Local Recreation	72
4.6. Culture and Sports	76
5. FUTURE PROSPECTS	
5.1. Structural Changes – Institutions and Planning Authorities	79
5.2. Strategies for Economic Renewal	81
5.3. The Ruhr Area within the Europe of Regions	83
GLOSSARY	85
REFERENCES	87
INDEX OF FIGURES AND THEIR SOURCES	88
METRIC CONVERSION TABLE	89