The island However complicated the modern industrial state may be, land and climate affect life in every country. It has a milder climate than much of the European mainland because it lies in the way of the Gulf Stream, which brings warm water and winds from the Gulf of Mexico. This means that the south and east on the whole have better agricultural conditions, and it is possible to harvest crops in early August, two months earlier than in the north. So it is not surprising that southeast Britain has always been the most populated part of the island. Within Britain there are differences of climate between north and south, east and west. At moments of great danger Britain has been saved from danger by its surrounding seas.