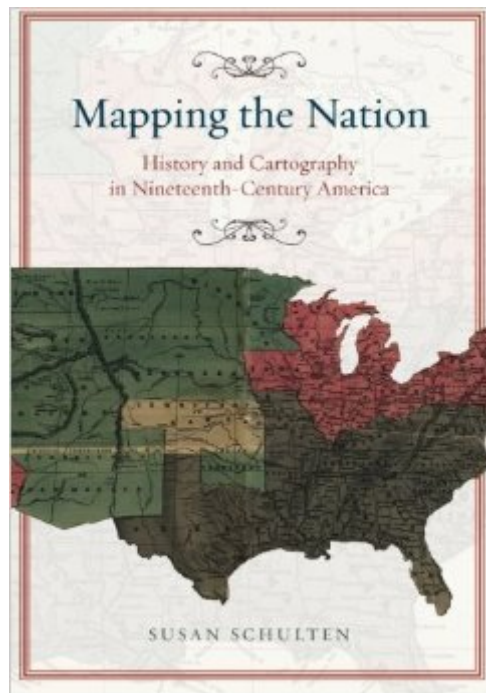


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Mapping The Nation: History And Cartography In Nineteenth-Century America



Synopsis

In the nineteenth century, Americans began to use maps in radically new ways. For the first time, medical men mapped diseases to understand and prevent epidemics, natural scientists mapped climate and rainfall to uncover weather patterns, educators mapped the past to foster national loyalty among students, and Northerners mapped slavery to assess the power of the South. After the Civil War, federal agencies embraced statistical and thematic mapping in order to profile the ethnic, racial, economic, moral, and physical attributes of a reunified nation. By the end of the century, Congress had authorized a national archive of maps, an explicit recognition that old maps were not relics to be discarded but unique records of the nation's past. All of these experiments involved the realization that maps were not just illustrations of data, but visual tools that were uniquely equipped to convey complex ideas and information. In *Mapping the Nation*, Susan Schulten charts how maps of epidemic disease, slavery, census statistics, the environment, and the past demonstrated the analytical potential of cartography, and in the process transformed the very meaning of a map. Today, statistical and thematic maps are so ubiquitous that we take for granted that data will be arranged cartographically. Whether for urban planning, public health, marketing, or political strategy, maps have become everyday tools of social organization, governance, and economics. The world we inhabit "saturated with maps and graphic information" grew out of this sea change in spatial thought and representation in the nineteenth century, when Americans learned to see themselves and their nation in new dimensions.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Susan Schulten's first-rate *Mapping the Nation* tells the tale of the growth of both geographical education and mapping in America, especially the nineteenth century. In doing so she gives a history of the growth of educational and other bureaucracies that saw mapping as a critical medium for nation formation, politically and socially. One of the real virtues of the book is the attention paid to the various governmental agencies for which mapping was a critical medium for the analysis and presentation of data necessary to two critical areas of statehood: health and war. Time and again we see the map as a medium critical to the analysis of patterns of health and disease across the expanding geography of the United States. And, too, the relation between mapping and the issues surrounding the Civil War and the planning of the war itself. Theoretical cartographers will blanch at her use of "thematic mapping" as an organizing concept (after all...all maps have "themes"). And, too, its geocentric history pays, I think, insufficient attention to the degree to which nineteenth century mapping was an outgrowth of European bureaucratic, cartographic, and scientific advances. but quibbles aside, this focused history of mapping as an instrument of nationhood in war and peace is pretty much unique. There is nothing else like it.

Mapping the Nation is a history of cartography in 19th century America that shows how maps were used as tools to deal with the economic, social, and political issues in America. Dr. Schulten's unique presentation of the development of maps and cartography shows how cartography was used to enlarge Americans' social, political and scientific views of themselves. The book includes pictures of the maps written about in the book. I have a interest in cartography and geography and this book is informative to me. I have added the book to my cartography collection. Charles

Mapping the Nation: History and Cartography in Nineteenth-Century America First class description of the beginning of female education in the US and an excellent discussion of the early History of cartography in the US and its political use.

If you are interested in cartography, this book is for you. She has a masterly grasp of her subject. I strongly recommend this book.

This should not have been placed in the e-book category. You really need to be looking at the maps as you read. It would have helped to have broken up the chapters. I usually find no reason that this could not be done and find that it helps in organization of the information.

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