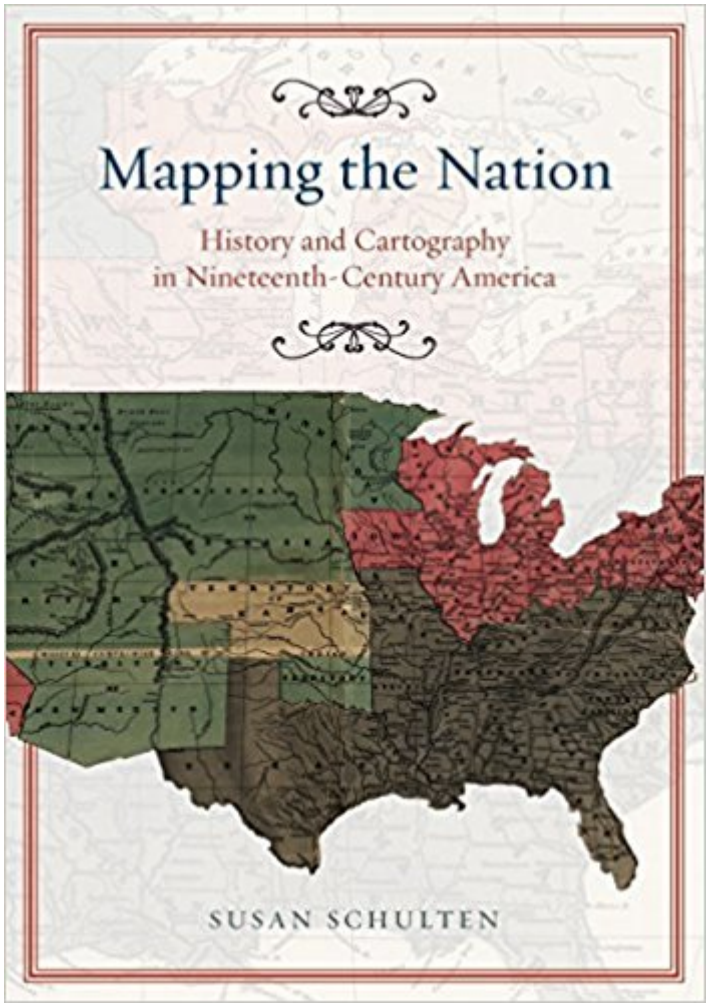
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Mapping The Nation: History And Cartography In Nineteenth-Century America



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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 nationÃ¢â ¬â„¢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 inhabitÃ¢â ¬â •saturated with maps and graphic informationÃ¢â ¬â •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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"In this innovative book Susan Schulten makes a compelling case for mapsÃ Â as both symbolic and material representations of change in the ways AmericansÃ Â viewed their nation, its past, and its potential for development. In conjunctionÃ Â with its companion website (www.mappingthenation.com), Schulten's bookÃ Â reveals the power of maps to shape history, policy, and national identity." (Journal of Southern History)"Susan SchultenÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Mapping the Nation is physicallyÃ Â attractive, based on sound scholarly work yetÃ Â accessibly written, and effectively supplemented byÃ Â a user-friendly website offering a good selection ofÃ Â high-resolution images of historical maps and charts." (H-Net Reviews)"Mapping the Nation is essential reading." (Terrae Incognitae) Ã¢â ¬Å“In a work of deep scholarship and insight, Susan Schulten traces the origins of a now-ubiquitous presence in American life: maps with a story to tell. Schulten uncovers not only a fascinating panorama of maps but also a colorful array of characters who taught America to see itself in new ways. Read this book and maps will never look the same.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã Â (Edward Ayers University of Richmond) Ã¢â ¬Å“Susan Schulten has produced an impressive synthesis of some of the most important developments in nineteenth-century American cartography, tracing the ways that maps became tools of social organization, governance, and economics. Engaging and informative, Mapping the Nation is a novel and persuasive look at American history, visually and cartographically.Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã Â (Mark Monmonier Syracuse University)Ã¢â ¬Å“In this important study of the way in which nineteenth-century Americans represented their social and natural worlds, Susan Schulten illuminates how weather, disease, slavery, and the aggregate reality of the census could all be represented in visual and spatial terms. This is an important contribution not only to AmericaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s cultural and disciplinary history, but to the history of government and our shared sense of history itself.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Charles Rosenberg Harvard University)Ã¢â ¬Å“A major contribution in the history of AmeriÃ Â-can cartography, Susan SchultenÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Mapping the Nation redefines our understandings about the mapping of the nation during the long nineteenth century. . . . The book is a compelling read, and its strengths are many. . . . [A] gateway for future discussions about how to study and teach American history.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Journal of American History)Ã¢â ¬Å“Schulten meticulously builds her central argument that state expansion and consolidation are inseparable from the mapping that calls them into being. Some geographers and historians of cartography have written of this before. But until now, no one has tackled the vital role thematic or statistical cartography played in the economic development of the United States and the expansion, absorption, and segregation of selected peoples. . . . Schulten has the enviable ability to discuss mapping and data classification techniques as well as writing of the lives and sociopolitical contexts of people. That is rare, and the book

succeeds because of it.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Western Historical Quarterly)

Susan Schulten is professor of history at the University of Denver. In 2010 she was named a fellow of the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation.

Susan Schulton’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 blanche 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 politicalissues in America. Dr. Schulten unique presentation of the development of mapsand cartography show 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 andthis book is informative to me. I have added the book to my cartography collection. Charles

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.

Excellent book! Loved the topic and how it was explained. Ms Schulten drew me in, but with maps and history that is pretty easy to do.

Mapping the Nation: History and Cartography in Nineteenth-Century AmericaFirst 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 inn cartography, this book is for you. She has a masterly grasp of her subject. I strongly recommend this book.

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