

Multnomah in the north, Malheur in the southeast, and Curry County in the southwest.

“Farm and Ranch Lands” provides a graphic breakdown across the state and includes the outline of counties.

The two “Major Crops” maps display the distribution of wheat fields and of greenhouses and nurseries. There is a breakdown by bushels and pounds for the wheat and number of nurseries by dot.

The “Farm Products” page has separate maps displaying such products as onions, potatoes milk cows, and beef cows, with one dot equal to so many of the product. The “Fruit” maps have separate displays of grapes, apples, cherries, and pears with each dot equal to so much fruit on each map.

The “Transportation” map displays major transportation infrastructure, such as railroads, highways, and airports, with specific symbols showing train stations, types of railroads (e.g. freight or passenger or both), interstates and highways, and major airports versus smaller or private airports.

The “Ports” section displays two maps. One covers the “Columbia/Snake River System Ports” with each port marked, and the other listing the top 10 ports from Washington to Oregon to California and how many ports are within each state.

The last map shows the “Counties and County Seats.” It displays the counties in Oregon, the county seats, and their location within the county.

Weakness:

The atlas is a good resource to use with a standard text, but if it will be used as a single teaching tool it will need more practical applications.

The “Topography” map would be more pertinent with names of mountain ranges and cities, and could be cross referenced with “Elevation Cross Sections” on the next page.

If the “Wildlife Distribution” map included another map overlaying of all the habitats, students could see how different habitats overlap.

The “Rivers & Lakes” map should include the mountain ranges to show how mountains affect water flow and lake creation. The “Pacific Northwest Watersheds” section needs a definition of the concept of a watershed.

The “Population Pyramids of Three Counties” shows the breakdown of three counties by age and gender using percentages, but fails to explain why these three counties were chosen. Are they representative of the state?

“Farms and Ranch Lands” is a good display of the farms and ranches in the state, but including the names of the counties would have been helpful.

Appraisal:

This atlas is a wonderful start for students to learn geography. Many of us sat through geography classes where we colored the states and marked the capitals. The thematic approach is much more educational, and the information is presented in a way students will retain longer and be able to apply to other classes such as history or current affairs.

The use of detailed written text with visual examples is very well done. It encompasses the learning style of two types of learners.

Used in higher education, this atlas will enable students learning GIS or remote sensing to understand the various themes and levels of information, and provides examples of how to overlay information within the programs.

CENSUS ATLAS OF THE UNITED STATES: CENSUS 2000 SPECIAL REPORTS

By Trudy A. Suchan, Marc J. Perry, James D. Fitzsimmons, Anika E. Juhn, Alexander M. Tait, Cynthia A. Brewer.

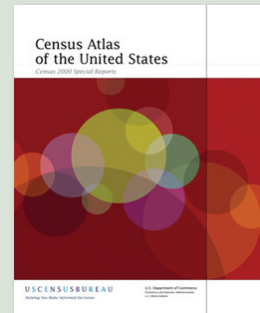
Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 2007. 302 pages, maps, figures, notes, map and figure index. \$173.50, hardcover.

ISBN: 978-1-58-769010-5

Entire text available online at: <http://www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/censusatlas/>

Review by: Russell S. Kirby, University of South Florida

Every once in a while, a volume is published on such a seemingly ubiquitous subject that it gives one pause to discover how unusual its publication really is. Unfortunately, in the field of the geography of North America, this is the norm rather than the exception. How many comprehensive texts on the regional geography of the continent, or of the United States, have been published in the past thirty years? A handful come to mind, including *Across This Land* by John C. Hudson (2002), *Regional Geography of the United States and Canada* by Tom L. McKnight (2003), *Regional Geography of Anglo-America* by White, Foscoe, and McKnight (1985), *North America: A Geography of the United States and Canada* by John H. Paterson (multiple editions, most recent, 9th edition, 1994); none of them are best-sellers, although perhaps all are familiar to readers of this journal.



Even so, it came as a surprise to discover that the most recent atlas published by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, *The Statistical Atlas of the United States*, was based on the 1890 census, making the recent publication of the *Census Atlas of the United States: Census 2000 Special Reports* something of a landmark achievement. Indeed, the only federal government publication worthy of mention in comparison is *The National Atlas of the United States*, published in 1970. That volume contained numerous maps based on census data, but covered a variety of other topics as well.

The *Census Atlas of the United States* represents a truly ambitious undertaking for those who undertook its creation and production. Within its covers, a broad array of demographic, social, cultural and economic topics are presented, often in considerable depth; included are detailed maps at the state, county, and metropolitan area level, and occasionally, temporal comparisons with prior census years 10, 20, 30, 50, or 100 years before. Due to the nature of the 2000 census of population and housing, the primary statistical resource for this atlas, the subject matter is constrained to reflect the questions for which information was collected on census returns. Successive chapters focus on the distribution of population (including urban and rural population patterns, population density, change over time, center of population, and year of maximum population, along with more detailed presentations); race and Hispanic origin (including percent distributions, prevalent race or ethnicity, race/ethnic distributions of children, and patterns of multiple race designation); age and sex (including sex ratio, median age, dependency ratio, and distributions of children and elderly by race/ethnicity); living arrangements (including patterns of married and divorced people, one-person households, patterns of families and households with children by adult status, grandparents responsible for their own children, and same-sex unmarried partner households); place of birth and US citizenship (showing patterns by nation of origin, sex ratio, age distribution, percent US citizen and naturalized citizens who were foreign born by year of entry into the U.S.); migration (including change over time, patterns by race/ethnicity and age, and percent residing in state of birth); language (focusing on language spoken at home and English speaking ability); ancestry (based on specific Census questions and potentially different from place of birth or race/ethnicity); education (including percent of persons 25 or older who completed various levels of education, increase in high school completion from 1950 to 2000, and private school enrollment); work (including commuting patterns, labor force participation, and types of occupation); military service (including veterans, active-duty military population, and veterans in poverty); income and poverty (including median household income, median earnings, and poverty patterns by age, gender, and household type); and housing (including

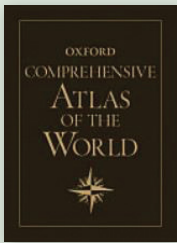
homeownership, value of owner-occupied housing, prevalent period when most housing was built, median monthly rent, minority ownership, percent mobile homes, type of household heating fuel, households without telephone service, households without plumbing, and crowded housing). The atlas includes detailed base maps and related materials, as well as a guide to how to read each type of map.

Most of the maps are choropleth, although other mapping techniques are used. Once the reader has become accustomed to the conventions applied to the maps for each topic, most maps are easy to read, as they use effective schemes for gradation of color across categories. One notable exception is the map of prevalent ancestry (p. 141), which uses 16 different colors to classify counties, several of which are rather difficult to differentiate. Maps showing quantitative variation in mapped variables are especially easy to read, with the US overall percent value for the variable of interest forming a class break, and comparisons are readily made even across sequential maps from one decade to the next. Each chapter begins with a brief introduction to provide context, and often includes data graphics to show patterns of demographic change over time.

As with any project of this magnitude, the authors had to make decisions as to what to include, and generally this reviewer is pleased with the choices made. The book would have been strengthened, however, with a discussion of the limitations of census data, including potential bias from under-enumeration; response rates; which questions were asked only on the long form given to 1 in 6 households; and references to resources where readers might obtain additional insights into the processes underlying the spatial patterns portrayed throughout the atlas. Casual readers of the atlas may think that these maps constitute spatial analysis of social and economic aspects of American society. A few of the maps presented do rise to the level of spatial analysis, but most merely classify a single, often refined, variable by state, county, or smaller areas of metropolitan regions. For many readers, what is presented is more than adequate, but those wishing to obtain a deeper understanding of the phenomenon of interest will have to look elsewhere.

All told, the authors and the numerous individuals whose acknowledgements occupy an entire page in the text have done an outstanding job in providing what I, at least, regard as an essential public service to the citizens of the United States. The *Census Atlas of the United States* belongs on the reference shelf of every public and academic library in the US, and the website at which the atlas content may be accessed should become much more widely known. Moreover, let us hope that in the future, we have at most ten years to wait for the publication of the next edition, and that the publication of this atlas helps to depoliticize the debate over funding the Census

each decade by concretely demonstrating its vitally important role to the American economy, society, and culture.



OXFORD COMPREHENSIVE ATLAS OF THE WORLD

Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2008.
584 pages. \$250.00, hardcover.

ISBN: 978-0195374797

Review by: Fritz C. Kessler,
Frostburg State University

In a time of “this and that” web deliverables, it is refreshing to be able to hold something tangible in your hands and leaf through 584 pages of heavy weight glossy paper. Personally, I would get very little satisfaction trying to pore over this atlas on my 18.5 inch flat panel screen, and I suspect many of you would too. Richly bound in black leather wrap, complete with three brilliant red ribbon markers and gold gilded page edges, it also makes quite a stunning visual impression. Yes, it is pleasurable to see and hold the likes of the *Oxford Comprehensive Atlas of the World*—all 13.6 pounds of it. This massive atlas, measuring 15.6 x 11.9 x 2.1 inches, seems to hark back to an earlier time when world atlases in book form were lavish productions that represented a stylistic approach to presenting Earth in all its geographic complexities.

The world journey begins just inside the front and back covers with helpful index maps. Inside the front cover is a double-page spread map of the world titled *Key to World Map Pages* employing a cylindrical projection (most likely the Miller). A medium dark tan fill is used to separate the landmasses from the light cyan ocean fill. Land-water contrast is further emphasized by a medium brown coastline vignette. Boxes of various sizes appear on the world map outlining the extent of the maps within the atlas. A color-coded number attached to each box points the user to the page where the map can be viewed. Red, blue, or green numbers indicate, respectively, the three different scale classes used throughout the atlas: greater than 1:2,900,000, between 1:3,000,000 to 1:7,000,000, and less than 1:7,100,000. Selected world cities and various islands are also shown on the world map along with the page numbers for their reference map. Inside the front cover, one finds explanations of symbols and type for both the city and world maps. Finally, the color tints associated with elevations and bathymetry are clearly shown. Inside the back cover is a double page spread of two maps titled “Key to North America Map Pages” and “Key to Europe Map Pages. The same color-coded box system and city/island designation found on the front end paper is also used in the back. An azimuthal projection is used for the North America map while a cylindrical projection

is the base for the Europe map. Along the bottom of both cover pages, a convenient alphabetized index of countries, islands, states/provinces, and cities indicate the page number(s) for each location listed.

After the foreword is a one-page “User Guide.” Topics discussed in this guide include Map Sequence, Map Presentation, Map Symbols, Map Scales, Measuring Distances, Map Projections, Latitude and Longitude, and Name Forms. This guide serves the reader in two ways. First, it explains various cartographic concepts in which the user may not be fully versed. Second, the guide explains the logic governing the decision making process that the publisher went through in laying out this atlas. For instance, the guide states that the atlas includes reference maps that were compiled “in accordance with the highest standards of international cartography to provide an accurate and detailed representation of the Earth” (p. 3). That being stated, the guide proceeds to inform the reader that the maps are presented in a “classic arrangement adopted by most cartographers since the 16th century” (p. 3). That is, maps of Europe are presented first followed by maps of Asia, Africa, Australia and Oceania, then North and South America. Furthermore, under Map Sequence, a reference map is shown with a bright red line that starts in Iceland and meanders throughout Earth’s landmasses terminating at the Falkland Islands that illustrates the sequence in which the maps are presented in the atlas.

Following the “User Guide,” “Contents” covers four pages, artistically presented over the backdrop of global maps. Sections include “World Statistics,” “Images of Earth,” “World Geography,” “World Cities,” and “Oceans.” The three remaining pages list the world and regional maps with the additional information of the principal scale at which each map was compiled. The scale information provides specifics not included in the front cover map index.

The *Atlas of the World* (hereafter, the *Atlas*) begins with “World Statistics.” The tabular Countries and Cities data, printed on a backdrop of an urban landscape, includes land area (kilometers² and miles²), population totals, and annual income (in USD equivalent) for individual countries, and population totals for principal cities. The Tabular Climate data, printed on a backdrop of hurricane cloud imagery, presents average monthly temperature (degrees Celsius) and rainfall (millimeters) for approximately 90 world cities. The remaining pages in this section show eight shaded relief maps of elevation and bathymetry cast on large orthographic projections, illustrating the world in various hemispheric views. These maps are intended to locate various Earth physical and human extremities (for example, highest mountain, longest river, most populous city, and greatest economic wealth). Each map includes tables presenting the same extremes; listing, for example, the 10 least populous countries. In addition to pinpointing the location of a