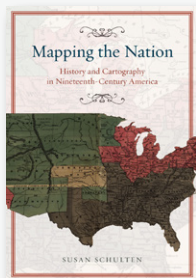


## MAPPING THE NATION: HISTORY AND CARTOGRAPHY IN NINETEENTH-CENTURY AMERICA



By Susan Schulten.

The University of Chicago Press, 2012.

272 pages, 47 halftone illustrations.  
\$50.00, cloth.

ISBN 978-0-226-74068-3

**Review by:** Marcy Bidney, University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee

Susan Schulten's *Mapping the Nation* exemplifies the idea that geography is a large component of the story of the history of the world and—in the case of this book—the history of the United States. Focusing primarily on the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Schulten weaves many histories—of geography, geographic education, map making, and map collection—together with stories of the maps, atlases and individuals which were key to the development of these histories. In this book, Schulten gives us a window into somewhat esoteric parts of American history which have rarely been examined.

The book includes five chapters, divided into two parts tracing two developments: mapping the past and mapping the present. The first part, “Mapping the Past,” focuses on historical mapping and the use of maps to illustrate the early history of the United States. Schulten masterfully traces the history of information visualization as it pertains to the development of a national identity in the early years of American independence. Pulling from her earlier work on Emma Willard, Schulten weaves in a discussion about the history of early education in the United States, using the crossroads of geography and history to illustrate the important role both disciplines played in the development of education in the United States. In addition to Willard, Schulten introduces us to Johann George Kohl, Frederick Jackson Turner, Charles Paullin, and John Kirtland Wright and explores their roles in the development of both a national identity for citizens and a National Identity as a country through the use of geographic visualizations.

The second part, “Mapping the Present,” does not focus on our present, but on mapping the present as it was in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in the United States, highlighting the shift from maps that focused on history to maps that focused on contemporary data and information. Here we are introduced to Alexander von Humboldt and Karl Ritter. Together these two men dramatically changed cartography by introducing the idea of thematic mapping and the creation of data visualizations for the purpose of cross disciplinary study. These final three chapters cover a range of topics, including mapping epidemics, medical geography, and the development of climate maps. Schulten goes on to use slavery in the United States to introduce the use of statistical cartography, and the role which the Coast Survey, Frederick Law Olmstead, and John Mallet played in mapping the strength of the southern rebellion during the Civil War. She finishes the book by discussing how government statistical mapping grew to include the social environment of the United States.

The companion website to *Mapping the Nation* is quite impressive. Schulten has included high resolution images of the maps discussed in each chapter, allowing readers to interact with them in ways that are not possible with the static, black and white images in the book. In addition to the maps, Schulten has also created a blog to continue the discussion of the relationship between maps and history, particularly as it pertains the history of the United States. With one to two posts per month, this blog offers additional insight into the development of visual representations of the United States and its history.

As a geographer, I'm of the belief that everything is geographical. As an undergraduate student I had a professor who was fond of saying, “If you can map it, it's geography.” So, if you imagine the many ideas, facts, and statistics that can be mapped, then you can understand how difficult it is to tell the story of a *place* without talking about the many aspects and influences of geography.

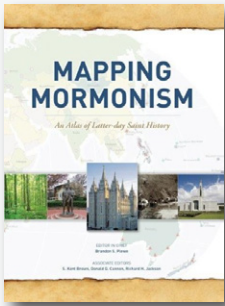


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*Mapping the Nation* is a well-written history of mapping in and of the United States, presented in an interesting and very readable manner. This book will be of interest to academics and non-academics alike. Anyone with a general interest in the history of the United States or the history of geography education and mapping will find this book

accessible and easy to read. On the academic side, professors of history, political science, education, and geography would find this book a solid addition to their syllabus, particularly if they wish to bring a focus to mapping and spatial visualization.

## MAPPING MORMONISM: AN ATLAS OF LATTER-DAY SAINT HISTORY



By Brandon S. Plewe, editor-in chief;  
S. Kent Brown, Donald Q. Cannon,  
Richard H. Jackson, associate editors.

BYU Press, 2012.

272 pages, maps, figures, illustrations,  
glossary, bibliography, index. \$39.95,  
hardcover.

ISBN 978-0-8425-2825-2

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

The history of the rise, migration, and spread of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (hereinafter referred to as LDS) has fascinated historians, geographers, and the general public almost since the emergence of this faith in the mid-nineteenth century. This atlas, prepared by eminent historians and geographers, while not intended as a comprehensive history of the LDS, casts light on a wide array of topics of central interest, as well as some of more pedantic interest. That the book has succeeded in meeting the needs of its market may be reflected in the fact that the initial print run was exhausted shortly after publication; a revised printing was published in late 2014.

This atlas contributes far beyond the *Historical Atlas of Mormonism* (1994), a scholarly work with which many of the editors were also involved. *Mapping Mormonism* is organized in four main sections, focusing respectively on “the Restoration,” “the Empire of Deseret,” “the Expanding Church,” and “Regional History.” Each of these sections is subdivided into 14 to approximately 25 distinct topics, comprising two to four facing pages. While the topics generally follow events in the history of LDS, some of the information presented in the later sections also provides historical context from periods covered in earlier sections. The sections on North American regions provide both current and historical perspectives on church expansion and membership over time. Likewise, some topics presented in earlier sections provide a forward

look to the present. For example, although included in the second section, the topic of church headquarters provides information on the headquarters as it appeared in 1860, 1900, 1950, and 2012.

*Mapping Mormonism* is an attractive atlas, printed in hardcover on high quality paper. The maps and graphics are very colorful, and utilize a variety of cartographic methods and techniques for enhanced data visualization. There is scarcely a topic in which a reader might have an interest relating to the LDS and its history that is not covered somewhere within its pages. One particularly interesting section compares the growth of the LDS with that of Seventh-day Adventists and Jehovah’s Witnesses from their origins to the present day. The sections depicting the international distribution of LDS adherents and the locations of stakes, districts, and temples also hold considerable interest.

While *Mapping Mormonism* has very specific objectives, these objectives intersect with many related issues and domains. The editors have done an excellent job in maintaining their central focus while at the same time providing information on what might seem at first glance to be ancillary topics. For example, the topic of political affiliation is presented on pages 188–189. On these facing pages, data on global political office-holding of LDS members, party affiliation and political ideology of Mormons and non-Mormons, and the outcome of statewide and national elections in Utah from 1900 to 2008 are presented, together with sufficient narrative to provide a broad context. Not only is this very well done, it raises numerous intriguing questions for those interested in developing a deeper understanding of the relationship between religious belief and politics. As the Rolling Stones once sang, “Well, it just goes to show, things are not what they seem.”

How does *Mapping Mormonism* fit within the genre of historical atlases? Surprisingly well, in this reviewer’s