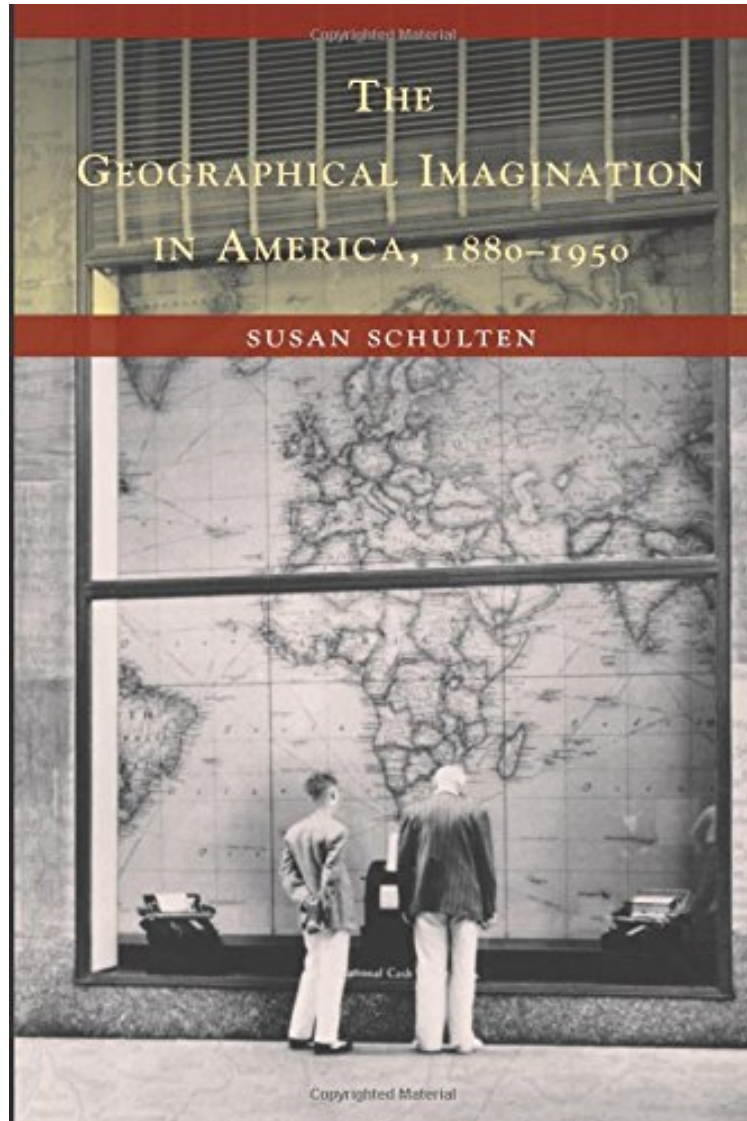


[Download] The Geographical Imagination in America, 1880-1950

The Geographical Imagination in America, 1880-1950

Susan Schulten

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Susan Schulten : The Geographical Imagination in America, 1880-1950 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Geographical Imagination in America, 1880-1950:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Geographic Imagination in AmericaBy charlesI have a general interest in geography and this book by Dr. Schulten is a good overview of the development of American geographic ideas from 1880-1950. I enjoyed some of the biographic information about some of the individuals involved in the growth of American geographic imagination. The book shows how thegrowth of gerography/maps influenced the

American view of their country and the world. The book arrived on time and in good condition. Charles 11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Superb study on American spatial constructions. By L. Davinha S. Schulten's book is a great choice for those who are interested in understanding how political, cultural and social imperatives shape ideas about geography and space and how those ideas influence American history and culture. Her study deals specifically with the role of mapmakers, academic and school geography and the National Geographic Society in influencing popular conceptions of global geography from the end of the XIX century up to the 2 World War. These different institutions allowed Americans to make sense of a complex world, through the use of different spatial strategies. A highly recommended book for those interested in mental maps, metageographies, and popular geopolitics and imagined geographies. Very well illustrated and abundant references and end notes. 2 of 10 people found the following review helpful. This book is fantastic! By Stephen D. Calhoun This is a fantastic book for your coffee table. After purchase, imagine snuggling up with your significant other and leafing through a tome full of maps. After you are done with the tome, play a game of mental map imagery! The Marylanders: Without Shelter or a Crumb

In this rich and fascinating history, Susan Schulten tells a story of Americans beginning to see the world around them, tracing U.S. attitudes toward world geography from the end of nineteenth-century exploration to the explosion of geographic interest before the dawn of the Cold War. Focusing her examination on four influential institutions—maps and atlases, the National Geographic Society, the American university, and public schools—Schulten provides an engaging study of geography, cartography, and their place in popular culture, politics, and education.

From Publishers Weekly University of Denver historian Schulten offers a well-documented account of how politics, history and culture influenced the study and presentation of geography from 1880, when maps first became widely available, to 1950, the beginning of the Cold War. She focuses on four distinct presences within America's geographical community: university geographers, primary and secondary school geographers, the National Geographic and its editors, and commercial producers of maps and atlases. More academician than storyteller, Schulten writes unadorned prose; this style is effective, however, as she argues her major theme, that geography over this period directly reflected political and cultural ideology. Schulten's chronicle of the rise of the National Geographic under visionary editor Gilbert Grosvenor is insightful, especially when discussing the paradox created by Grosvenor's editorial policy of presenting readers "pleasant information," designed to provide "mental relaxation without emotional stimulus." This policy led the magazine to depict favorably what it designated as the "progressive" changes in Italy and Germany in the 1930s. Equally interesting is the discussion of the power of maps, "the silent arbiter(s) of power." Specifically, her analysis of the symbolic message embedded in the Mercator projection, that flat world map familiar to schoolchildren past and present picturing the United States safely centered between the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, far from the mysterious East and troubling West, brings new perspective to the latent political statements maps make by their design. Another strength of this book is the richness of the historical and political record Schulten utilizes to explicate her major themes. Theory is wisely balanced by a hodgepodge of odd and interesting facts about maps, politics and American cultural trends. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal The thesis of this work, as stated in its excellent introduction, is to weave together commercially produced maps, the work of the National Geographic Society, and academic and K-12 geography in an attempt to figure out how each has informed the U.S. public's idea of the world. Schulten (history, Univ. of Denver) discusses the place of geography in education as well as in popular culture and politics during the last two decades of the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century and looks at how cartography turned from an elite craft into a mass-market production. Her focus on historical perspective rather than cartography means that occasionally her statements don't concur with a map librarian's view (e.g., her comment that most maps are found in atlases is incorrect unless she means that this is where most general users see maps). Recommended for public and academic libraries. Mary L. Larsgaard, Univ. of California, Santa Barbara Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. "Schulten steps up to the challenge of producing a full-length work about the political economy of mapmaking.... An ambitious history of the rise of popular cartography in the United States." - Nicholas Lemann, The New Yorker "A well-documented account of how politics, history and culture influenced the study and presentation of geography.... Theory is wisely balanced by a hodgepodge of odd and interesting facts about maps, politics and American cultural trends." - Publishers Weekly "An important new work.... Schulten's original synthesis ranges widely and insightfully from the effects of war on map design to map projection as a reflection of how Americans saw themselves as an emergent world power." - Mark Monmonier, author of How to Lie with Maps and Air Apparent