

ASSOCIATION OF CANADIAN MAP LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES
BULLETIN

Book Reviews

Edited by Sarah Simpkin

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by Ruben Andersson

Reviewed by Martin Chandler

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by Derek Hayes

Reviewed by Evan Thornberry

No Go World: How Fear is Redrawing Our Maps and Infecting Our Politics

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Andersson, Ruben. *No Go World: How Fear is Redrawing Our Maps and Infecting Our Politics*. Oakland, CA: University of California Press, 2019. 360p. \$29.95 US. ISBN 978-0-520-29460-8.

No Go World, a new text from Ruben Andersson, presents Andersson's anthropological manifesto (his word) for reconsidering how the Western World thinks about presenting geographies. From how those geographies have changed over centuries, to how similar ideas of fear of the other remain, Andersson argues for viewing place not as either safe or dangerous, but as a point of connection. We should see the world, and the people in it, as an opportunity for betterment.

The book itself is presented in a style somewhere between war reporting, travel journalism, and a personal manifesto. The writing is often given from a first-person perspective, with Andersson's own experiences used to frame the argument. He writes with a poetic style; the first line of the prologue, for example, begins "In London's King's Cross, deep in the vaults of the British Library, there exists another world" (p. xiii). While this style does a good job of keeping the writer engaged, it can carry into an unrealistic floweriness, and while trying to walk the line between academic monograph and popular non-fiction, it can feel somewhat unfocused. There are also some questionable writing choices, particularly in the current linguistic reflection of our time: one paragraph about a Spanish journalist refers to both him "shagging a lot nowadays" and his plans to travel to where Boko Haram had just kidnapped two hundred schoolgirls (pp 1-2).

There's a certain tension in text, with Andersson comparing the modern map to early church-created maps, and the inherent colonialism those carried. This tension is matched by the ultimate thesis of the text: that modern conceptions of political geography are being used to dismantle the social gains of the 20th century, and that the geographic fears being expounded must be met with "a new cartography of hope" (jacket). The colonialism is itself discussed in the conclusion; "I may wish for it to be otherwise, but the 'we' of my draft reconnection manifesto...also carries paternalistic echoes from Kipling's colonial times" (p. 239). The international scope, though, overshadows more local geographies of fear (eg "Redlining"). The audience for the book, then, is Westerners, and particularly white Westerners.

There are a very limited number of maps and visualizations, taken from other texts or websites. Those that do exist are meant to illustrate, reinforce, or demonstrate the conception of cartographies of fear. However, many are originally colour visualizations, altered to grey scale for the text, and this shift does not translate particularly well. The main arguments are understandable, but not as well demonstrated as they could be.

On the whole, the thesis and argument of the text is a good one, and much of the reading is enjoyable. While there are weaknesses to the execution, this text is a good read for those interested in the international representation of place in contemporary conception. The arguments are well-sourced, and the writing style is engaging, with much room for discussion. I think it a wholly worthwhile addition to both general and geographically-focused libraries.

British Columbia: A New Historical Atlas

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Hayes, Derek. ***British Columbia: A New Historical Atlas***. Madeira Park, British Columbia: Douglas & McIntyre, 2019. 368p. \$44.95 CAD. ISBN 978-1-77162-211-0.

Derek Hayes's **British Columbia: A New Historical Atlas** showcases and enriches B.C.'s history with a vast and colourful selection of map images and photographs supplementing descriptive text. B.C. resident Hayes, a geographer and former planner for the City of Vancouver, has already clearly demonstrated his ability to showcase maps to provide historical context, and this atlas extends his own history working with B.C. publisher Douglas and MacIntyre to produce historical atlases such as their *Historical Atlas of Early Railways* (2017), *Historical Atlas of the North American Railroad* (2010), *Historical Atlas of Toronto* (2008), *Historical Atlas of The United States* (2006), *Historical Atlas of Canada* (2006), *Historical Atlas of Vancouver and the Lower Fraser Valley* (2006), *Historical Atlas of the Arctic* (2003), and *Historical Atlas of British Columbia and the Pacific Northwest* (2001). This is a paperback edition of Hayes' 2012 atlas of the same title and includes no noticeable differences from the earlier hardcover edition other than its heavy paper cover.

This atlas's one hundred and ten sections are arranged in general chronological order, starting with a short history of the area's First Nations, then into topics related to Asian and European exploration in the area, settlement patterns and origins of notable places, natural resource surveying and extraction, transportation expansion and networking, and other topics of significance in B.C.'s recent history. Each section includes a brief narrative of the topic, and at least six to ten accompanying historical maps and photographs, each with a detailed caption describing the object or work.

Similar to Hayes's other works, the layout of this atlas spares little whitespace. The abundant map images and historical photographs work well in concert with the narrative, and provide readers a variety of visual supplements to illustrate the story in each of the atlas's sections. No original cartographic works were created for this atlas, and so the text relies on a combination of photographs (both archival and contemporary) and historical map images to augment the narrative. In most cases, map images are cropped from the original to fit the chapter layout, or to focus in on a relevant map area or feature. This technique allows more imagery to be included and enhances the author's story. However, in some cases it leaves essential cartographic components off the page forcing the reader to imagine the scale, orientation, and other geographic contexts.

The atlas's biggest shortcoming is in its execution of acknowledging the area's First Nations and their histories. While there are attempts to provide contexts for these histories in the atlas's first chapters and noting the extensive time period "Aboriginal peoples" have lived in the area, it is generalized and from a settler's perspective. There are few stories throughout the remaining chapters to adequately capture specific Indigenous voices and experiences alongside settlers' histories.

While the lack of Indigenous perspectives within the greater context of B.C. history is an important consideration, Hayes's atlas is still a recommended resource for libraries interested in acquiring material related to the historical geography, cartography, and exploration of Canada and the Canadian West. The atlas is accessible to both academic and hobbyist historians, surveys a variety of relevant historical topics, and documents a healthy list of local and regional sources consulted.

From the Book Reviews Editor:

Thanks to those who submitted book reviews and to all who have expressed interest in reviewing! I'll continue to request review copies from publishers - but please let me know if you have read a book of interest to the ACMLA and would like to submit a review, and if you have any suggestions for titles/sources. Here are the review guidelines:

Review Format**1. Bibliographic Citation**

This should include: author, title, edition, place of publication, publisher, date, number of pages, price (if known) and ISBN. Example:

Bussey, Ben and Spudis, Paul D. *The Clementine Atlas of the Moon*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004. 316p. \$80.00 US. ISBN 0-521-81528-2.

2. Content

The review should describe and critically evaluate the work. Typical review elements include: scope, purpose and content of the work; intended audience; writing style; background and authority of the author; how the work compares with other titles on the same subject; its usefulness as a research tool; any unique features; and its suitability for library collections.

The length of the review is at the reviewer's discretion, but should normally reflect the importance of the work. A typical review is about 500 words.

3. Your name, title, institutional affiliation, city and province/state**Editorial Policy**

Opinions expressed in reviews are those of the reviewer, not of the ACMLA. The Reviews Editor may make minor edits, without communicating with the reviewer. Should the Editor determine that a major revision is required, she will contact the reviewer for discussion.

Sarah Simpkin
Reviews Editor