

КАРТОГРАФІЯ, ГЕОІНФОРМАТИКА

Від редакції

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THE ROLE OF NATIONAL AND OTHER ATLASES IN IDENTITY BUILDING

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РОЛЬ НАЦІОНАЛЬНИХ ТА ІНШИХ АТЛАСІВ У ФОРМУВАННІ НАЦІОНАЛЬНОЇ ТА РЕГІОНАЛЬНОЇ ІДЕНТИЧНОСТІ

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Стаття присвячена питанням ролі атласних творів у формуванні національної та регіональної ідентичності населення. Досліджено історичний вплив національних атласів на здобуття незалежності окремими європейськими країнами. На прикладі національних атласів Німеччини, Словенії, Словаччини, регіональних атласів Тіроля, Силезії й Каталонії показано відображення в структурі атласів і змісті карт елементів місцевої ідентичності. Розглянуто перспективи атласного картографування міст як центрів формування регіональної ідентичності.

Ключові слова: національні атласи; регіональні атласи; атласне картографування; національна ідентичність; регіональна ідентичність; місцева ідентичність.

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РОЛЬ НАЦИОНАЛЬНЫХ И ДРУГИХ АТЛАСОВ В ФОРМИРОВАНИИ НАЦИОНАЛЬНОЙ И РЕГИОНАЛЬНОЙ ИДЕНТИЧНОСТИ

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Статья посвящена вопросам роли атласных произведений в формировании национальной и региональной идентичности населения. Изучено историческое влияние национальных атласов на обретение независимости отдельными европейскими странами. На примере национальных атласов Германии, Словении, Словакии, региональных атласов Тироля, Силезии и Каталонии показано отражение в структуре атласов и содержании карт элементов местной идентичности. Рассмотрены перспективы атласного картографирования городов как центров формирования региональной идентичности.

Ключевые слова: национальные атласы; региональные атласы; атласное картографирование; национальная идентичность; региональная идентичность; местная идентичность

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Paper is devoted to the role of atlas works in the formation of national and regional identity of the population. The historical influence of national atlases of gaining independence particular European countries was explored. On the example of national atlases Germany, Slovenia, Slovakia, regional atlases Tyrol, Silesia and Catalonia it was shown reflection in the structure of atlases and map content elements of local identity. The perspectives atlas mapping of cities as centers of formation of regional identity were studied.

Keywords: national atlases; regional atlases; atlas mapping; national identity; regional identity; local identity.

National as well as regional, city and school atlases are not only cartographic means of communication, they are also expressions and carriers of national or regional identity. They try to communicate the image of self of a certain country, region or city to the citizens/inhabitants of this spatial unit as well as to the outside world.

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There are prominent historical examples that national atlases have played a role (or have tried to do so) in nation-building, in movements for independence or in influencing the results of peace treaties:

- The Atlas of Finland was at least very constructive for the emergence of an independent Finland in 1917;
- The Atlas of Poland by Eugeniusz Romer played a

similar role with the reconstruction of Polish statehood after WWI;

- The Atlas of Central Europe edited by András Rónai during WWII aimed at raising the “Hungarian question” with the peace conferences at the end of WWII.

After the fall of the Iron Curtain in Europe, after the end of a bipolar political situation, of antagonistic political systems, after the dissolution of federations and the formation of new states a new wave of national atlases appeared driven by the intentions

- of new nation states to present themselves (to their own citizens and to the international community);
- of former Communist countries to present their new images of self as democratic and market-oriented systems;

- of the re-unified Germany to underline the concepts of a common state, a common nationhood and of the necessity to re-integrate her structures.

Besides, in the last two decades also several new atlases of regions in the sense of subnational or cross-border units appeared. This can be interpreted as

- corresponding to the concept of subsidiarity as one of the guiding principles of the European Union as well as of the Council of Europe supporting decentralisation and the devolution of competencies to subnational levels;

- constrictive reaction to globalization and European integration processes with the aim to preserve regional cultural identity as opposed to global uniformity;

- a result of restoration of identities also of ethnic and linguistic minorities due to improved minority rights and their function as markers of regional identities.

Thirdly, we notice also a wave of city atlases mainly due to the fact that image building and branding has been discovered as a means of promoting also communes and especially cities in a globalising world. With city atlases the double function of identity building becomes especially obvious:

- They try on the one hand to strengthen the feel of belonging of residents to a certain place in order to raise their engagement for communal affairs;

- but they also try to present a city as specific and unique to the outside world with the goal to attract investors, shoppers and tourists.

This paper will present examples for these various cases and levels and will also try to show which specifics of a country, region or city corresponding to its identity are highlighted – sometimes in deviation from the usual canon of contents.

Examples

A re-unified country: Germany

Historical-political background

On 3 October 1990 Germany was re-unified after 41 years of separation under divergent political

regimes and of belonging to divergent political and economic blocs. Very different lifestyles and attitudes had developed during these four decades resulting in (as it became obvious mainly after re-unification) in divergent group identities.

Reconciliation of these identities meets difficulties up to the present day and is impeded by still different economic levels, by heavy out-migration (to the West) from the former East as well as by the impression in the West that its citizens have to pay for reconstruction and welfare in the East.

National Atlas of the Federal Republic of Germany

The atlas has been published 1999-2005 in 12 volumes with derivatives published later. The 12 volumes use in titles, texts and legends only German. Thus, the atlas was conceived to address mainly a domestic audience. It was initiated and financed by the government and elaborated by the Leibniz Institute of Regional Research in Leipzig [4].

The Atlas highlights the distinct economic and social disparities in the country, the need for disparity equalisation, also common cultural backgrounds, all-German features and common history, although this is difficult enough in a country that exists as a nation state only since 1871, is composed of very distinct regional identities and has a long tradition of political particularism.

The Atlas has a rather scientific character, is detailed, rather sober in appearance (avoids nationalist attitudes).

The map “Unemployment with persons below 25” shows different socio-economic levels in East and West. The map “Language and dialects” hints at the fact that at the dialect level the country is divergent, but that these divergencies have rather a N-S than a W-E dimension. By the map “Spatial patterns of major architectural styles” trans-German communalities are highlighted.

A new country: Slovenia

Historical-political background

Slovenia was a part of the Communist federal Yugoslavia 1945-1991 and achieved independence in 1991 for the first time in history. It had never been a political unit before 1945. There were just “Slovenian lands” with a predominately Slovene-speaking population. Slovenia is in fact composed of culturally very divergent regions.

National Atlas of Slovenia

This atlas has been published in a first comprehensive version in 1998 by the Slovenian Academy of Sciences, later in smaller derivatives (also in English). It highlights many features conceived to be specific for the country and is also abundant of national symbols. An example is a picture of Triglav,

the highest and symbolic mountain of the country (and of former Yugoslavia) on one of the first pages. It stresses Slovenia's image of self as an Alpine nation. The Slovenian flag in front of the UN headquarter in New York reflects satisfaction about the fact that Slovenia has (after all) achieved ranking among the nations of the world. Several maps showing Slovenian lands on old maps document Slovenian national ideas already long before the creation of a nation state. A series of landscape pictures documents the variety of Slovenian landscapes, the pride, to possess such a variety within a small country and that Slovenia is a country at the crossroads of Europe with shares in some major European landscapes: Alps, Pannonian Basin, Dinaric Range, Adriatic coast.

A map titled "Colonisation" demonstrates the anxiety of Alpine-Slavonic settlement and stresses „We were the first (or at least the very early) in this region." The map on dialects shows first of all the diversity of Slovenian dialects, but also the fact that Slovenian dialects are also spoken outside the country. A map on Slovenes in the world reflects the idea that the Slovenian nation is globally spread and not just confined to the small nation state.

An old country, later divided: Tyrol

Historical-political background

Tyrol developed as a state along mountain passes controlling N-S trans-Alpine transport. It was part of the (Habsburg) Austrian lands from the High Middle Ages up to 1918. In 1918 it was divided due to the fact that Austria-Hungary lost WWI. South Tyrol and Welsh Tyrol were awarded to Italy. The Italian part suffered from Italian nationalist suppression between the wars and well into postwar years. In the 1960s and 1970s a movement for autonomy started and was very successful. Now the Italian part is very satisfied with its political, cultural and economic situation. There is no movement for re-unification with Austrian Tyrol. But the parts of historical Tyrol show still a strong common regional consciousness and many cultural communalities, supported by European integration and cross-border cooperation.

Atlas of Tyrol

An older (printed) atlas has been published 1969-99 (Tyrol-Atlas 1969-1999), a new digital atlas from 2007 onward, initiated by the Austrian Land Tyrol, but supported also by the relevant Italian province and (as regards the new digital atlas) by European funds. It is edited at the University of Innsbruck (in the Austrian part of Tyrol) and aims at documenting a continued common regional identity stressing features of this common identity such as rural, Alpine, Catholic culture [7].

Road traffic 2005 is a map from the new digital atlas. It comprises (in contrast to the older version) not the whole historical Tyrol but just Austrian Tyrol and

the Italian province Alto Adige. The map showing the territorial development since the High Middle Ages highlights at the long common history.

An old region, population exchanged: Silesia

Historical-political background

Silesia is an old historical entity and figured as a land of the Bohemian Crown for many centuries (besides Bohemia and Moravia). It was as such also a part of the Holy Roman Empire. From the 13th onward it was settled by Germans. Later it was ruled by Prussia (1742-1871) and then part of the German Empire (1871-1945). Under these later political conditions it was one of the regions with a strong identity, early industrialised and economically prosperous. Silesia became a part of Poland after 1945, the German population was expelled and replaced by Poles. The Polish Communist regime tried to extinguish regional identities, but was (obviously) not very successful in doing so. After the fall of Communism restoration of regional identities, also by administrative measures (decentralisation, new administrative subdivision) proved to be very successful. New generations of Poles in Silesia refer to the historical identity of the region.

Atlas of Lower and Opole Silesia

This atlas (Atlas Śląska dolnego i opolskiego 1997) has been published in 1997 at the University of Wrocław by a consortium of most prominent Polish scientists. Its titles and legends are rendered in three languages: Polish, German, English. The atlas refers not only to the Polish character of the region, but incorporates also its historical (mainly German) identity. It highlights even the population exchange of 1945 as a feature of regional identity as well as the economic wealth of this region before 1945, its high extent of industrialisation [1].

The map "Where the new population came from" shows, from which other parts of Poland, modern Ukraine and Belorussia immigrants to the region came in 1945. A map on density of small and medium-scale enterprises, employment structure in 1939 demonstrates the economic structure under German rule, the at that time very advanced and favourable economic situation.

A region with as strong sense for autonomy:

Catalonia

Historical-political background

Catalonia has a long political tradition of its own and became a part of Spain not before the late 15th century. It speaks a distinct standard language among other cultural specifics. Under Spanish rule up to and well into the postwar period it was part of a unitarian Spanish state and Catalan identity was suppressed. After the authoritarian Franco regime, in the 1970s Catalonia was granted autonomy, its autonomy was gradually expanded to its current quite remarkable status.

Catalan identity is based on its specific political history, its own language, on its consciousness to be the economic coreland of Spain and to be economically advanced compared to most other parts of the country.

Atlas of Catalan Lands

This atlas (*Atles dels Països Catalans* 2000) represents not only what is today the Autonomous Region of Catalonia, but the so-called "Catalan Land", i.e. all lands, where Catalan is spoken: Catalonia, Valencia, the Balear Islands. In this way it preserves the consciousness that the Catalan lands are larger than the Autonomous Region. The atlas was in 2000 edited by the University of Barcelona. It uses only the Catalan language, also the toponyms are exclusively Catalan [2].

By content it does not raise very many and not very specific Catalan features. Two of them are the spread of Catalan language and dialects) and perhaps also etail trademay be regarded as a hint at the economic strength of Catalonia, although (due to insular maps) no comaparison with other parts of Spain is possible.

A former empire, background of national identity: Austria-Hungary

Historical-political background

An Austrian national identity has not evolved before the end of WWII. German-speaking Austrians felt to be Germans. By a common effort of the major political groups Austrian national-building started in the post-war period and was very successful. Austrian national identity had to be developed in contrast to German identity and therefore to be based on features not common to Germans and Austrians, i.e. not on language and not on denomination.

History or (rather) historiography is the most differentiating feature, since for a long time (up to

1918) Austria had its own empire, which was at times even a competitor of the German Empire (after 1871) for domination in larger parts of Europe. No wonder therefore that it is a strong concern of Austrian historians. Historiography of the former empire is also regarded as very supportive for Austrian national consciousness.

Atlas of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy

This atlas has in 2010 been published by the Austrian Academy of Sciences as a volume of a comprehensive book series on the Monarchy [6]. It focuses on socio-economic features and data as of 1910. It highlights the central functions of the capital Vienna, the socio-economically advanced position of what is today Austria within this empire as can be seen from the map on railways highlighting Vienna as the node of a Central European railway network [6].

Identity building in cities: Cologne

A private publisher with a focus on the publication of novels has since 2001 produced already a longer series of German city atlases (besides Cologne [9] also Munich, Leipzig and others). This series of atlases is professionally elaborated, but in a popular manner and for widespread use. The atlases put a focus on history and urban development, but include also information on current structures. Their obvious intention is to strenghten the ties between residents and place, especially in times of resident fluctuation and migration, by hinting at specifics of the city and its quarters (in order to support quarter consciousness), places of interest, for recreation and entertainment. Obviously, it is commercially successful.

The two figures show maps supporting historical consciousness related to the city in total as well as to individual quarters.

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