

Cartophilia: Maps and the Search for Identity in the French-German Borderland

by

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Synopsis

The period between the French Revolution and World War II was a time of tremendous growth in both mapmaking and map reading throughout Europe. There is no better place to witness this rise of popular cartography than in Alsace-Lorraine, a disputed borderland that the French and Germans both claimed as their national territory. Desired for its prime geographical position and abundant natural resources, Alsace-Lorraine endured devastating wars from 1870 to 1945 that altered its borders four times, transforming its physical landscape and the political allegiances of its citizens. For the border population whose lives were turned upside down by the French-German conflict, maps became essential tools for finding a new sense of place and a new sense of identity in their changing national and regional communities. Turning to a previously undiscovered archive of popular maps, *Cartophilia* reveals Alsace-Lorraine's lively world of citizen mapmakers that included linguists, ethnographers, schoolteachers, hikers, and priests. Together, this fresh group of mapmakers invented new genres of maps that framed French and German territory in original ways through experimental surveying techniques, orientations, scales, colors, and iconography. In focusing on the power of "bottom-up" maps to transform modern European identities, *Cartophilia* argues that the history of cartography must expand beyond the study of elite maps and shift its emphasis to the democratization of cartography in the modern world.

What people say about this book

Matthias Baudinet, "A beautifully written and highly informative book!. A well researched, well written book that can resonate with academics and non-academics alike. Her focus is on the regions of Alsace and Lorraine in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Alsace-Lorraine has a fascinating history that is riddled with conflicts and issues relating to identity, nationality, citizenship, and autonomy. Dunlop provides beautiful images and maps that supports her arguments all throughout the book. I recommend it to anyone who studies modern French history, especially issues on identity and nationality in French history, and anyone who simply wants to know more about one of France's most unique regions."

William A. Kissenberger Jr., "Excellent. Excellent"

Sagny, "A finely-wrought, carefully theorized, meticulously-researched book on maps A finely-wrought, carefully theorized, meticulously-researched book on maps, map-making, and the ordinary people who sought to situate themselves in time and place during a time of rapid change and dislocation. An impressive piece of scholarship."

Ebook Tops Reader, "Interesting insights. Interesting book - explaining the significance of maps to this (then) hotspot in international affairs"

pierre paris, "La cartographie comme objet de reconstitution historique dans une période entre deux guerres. Un excellent livre écrit par une professeure américaine d'histoire sur l'historique et le sens des efforts français et allemands pour écrire l'histoire dans la période entre 1870 et 1918 par la description des frontières de l'Alsace-Lorraine. Bonne recherche et explication pleine de sensibilité."

Patrick B. Croteau, "Five Stars. Best book on the subject. Loved it"

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