Paul Robert Magocsi. *Historical Atlas of Central Europe*. Cartographic design by Geoffrey J. Matthews and Byron Moldovsky, 3rd revised and expanded ed., U of Toronto P, 2018. xiv, 282 pp. Maps. Tables. Map Sources. Bibliography. Index. $57.75, paper.

Twenty-five years ago, the first edition of Paul Robert Magocsi's atlas, entitled *Historical Atlas of East Central Europe*, pioneered the effort to map the history of a complex and turbulent region from the fall of the Roman Empire to the fall of the Berlin Wall. Concise, illustrative, and informative, this atlas has been updated twice, and since 2002, we know it under the new title *Historical Atlas of Central Europe*. The current 2018 large-format version of the atlas is, as we might expect, a revised and expanded edition, which now includes one hundred twenty full-colour, text-accompanied, and neatly designed maps that succinctly and vividly show political, economic, demographic, socio-cultural, and ecclesiastical developments in this complex and evolving region. Sixty-one chapters are organized chronologically and survey the multi-faceted evolution of the region and its nineteen countries (some of them, such as Ukraine, historical Prussia, and western Anatolia, only to a certain geographical and issue-related extent). These countries include contemporary Poland; Lithuania and Belarus; Czechia and Slovakia; Austria and Hungary; Croatia and Slovenia; Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Serbia; Albania, North Macedonia, and Greece; and Bulgaria, Romania, and Moldova, from the early fifth century (circa 400) to the present time (effectively, the years 2010 and 2014 on some maps). The region's (hi)story is further outlined via forty-eight updated statistical and administrative-organizational tables and through in-text cross-references.

Whether observing developments in contemporary Ukraine, Moldova, and the Western Balkans or Poland, Lithuania, and Hungary, the history of these countries with their regional embedding is key to understanding much of their socio-political, economic, and international development throughout the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Magocsi's *Atlas* devotes considerable attention (that is, thirty-six of sixty-one thematic chapters) to Central European history in the twentieth century, not the least because what formed the socialist Eastern Bloc some three decades ago represents an area of manifold international fault lines and nation-state borders in flux. Moreover, the region has long been the centre of gravity for conflicts and armed struggles as well as for powerful bottom-up-driven revolutions, all because of "the attempt of countries, both old and new, to make political boundaries coincide with ethnolinguistic boundaries"—which, according to Magocsi, was one of the main characteristics of twentieth-century Central Europe (197). In this light, the 1989 revolution that spread throughout the region was pivotal, as it not only brought an end to Communist rule in a

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number of countries but also had "a profound impact on the political and administrative structure of the region," not the least because "[w]ithin the next two decades, four countries ceased to exist and eventually thirteen new countries came into being" (221). It is, thus, unfortunate that given the extent of the importance of 1989 revolutionary developments, the atlas does not contain a chapter devoted thereon.

In general, the atlas's narrative unfolds in three ways—offering (i) regional overviews at distinct times or from specific angles; (ii) country-specific or comparative insights; and (iii) issue-specific topic coverage. The range of issues and topics covered is impressive (though certainly not exhaustive), and it includes, for instance, economic trends, urban development, religious life, socio-cultural patterns, ethnolinguistic distributions, demographic trends, population movements, industrial development, and so on. By virtue of this type of chapter design and the specific map-with-narrative arrangement (that is, narrative cartography), all sixty-one chapters read very well individually and, thus, may serve as a quick reference tool on a variety of themes within the history of Central Europe from around the 400s to the 2010s.

This third edition of the atlas, like the first edition twenty-five years ago, remains committed to the "ahistorical" approach to place naming, that is, to the prioritization of consistency over historical criteria. Thus, towns and cities are named the same way on every map regardless of the historical period or changes of name throughout history. Although this type of *ahistorical* approach might be seen by some as problematic for a *historical* atlas, the author's "unenviable choice" (xi) can be justified. The new edition of the atlas also features occasionally, in parentheses, alternate place names on the maps—for instance, for the Polish city of Kholm (Chełm), the Czech Prague (Praha), the Ukrainian Uzhhorod (Ungvár), and so on. The comprehensive index includes place names and geographical names in their primary forms, accompanied, helpfully, by various linguistic variants—for example, "Kiev [E, Ru] (Kiew [G]; Kijevas [Lt]; Kijów [Pl]; Kiyuv [Y]; Kyïv [U])" (252). This indirectly remedies the ahistorical use of place names on the maps proper. However, even though the 2018 edition of the atlas accounts for some newer political developments and, for instance, now includes maps and data on Montenegro and Kosovo as distinct countries (see chapter 44 [153-58]), other novel socio-political, economic, and cultural trends have, unfortunately, remained off the atlas's radar. The documentation of such trends would include data on urban and rural population; labour and forced migration; political movements and contestation politics (also taking into account liberal and illiberal revolutions); infrastructure development and connectivity; post-1990 industrial development; layers of membership in international organizations, such as the European Union (EU) and North

Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO); regional political integration; and other international political aspects. Furthermore, the data in the chapter "Population in the Twentieth Century" (chapter 54 [194-96]) only dates back to 1990, thus leaving nearly three decades of subsequent population changes unrepresented in the atlas, save changes in ethnolinguistic distribution, which are presented as of 2010 (chapter 55 [197-201]). In future editions of the *Atlas*, the author might consider including the above elements. He could also take into consideration other, crucial "articulate elements" (xiii) relating to the many countries in this genuinely diverse and dynamic region—which is geographically situated at the longitude 10-30 degrees east of Greenwich and politically roughly corresponds to the pre-1989 Eastern Bloc (plus Lithuania, Belarus, Moldova, and Ukraine [west of the Dnipro River]).

The *Historical Atlas of* [*East*] *Central Europe* has undoubtedly stood the test of time. The atlas draws on a number of regional and issue- or country-specific cartographic works (see 229-36), but these sources hardly match the atlas's comprehensive topical and temporal scope. So until now, no comparable (and thus competing) titles have appeared in print. The existence of repeat revised editions of the *Atlas* are proof of its relevance and popularity, and they demonstrate a sustained high interest in this ever-changing region and subject. Reprints of the atlas could address the imperfections of previous editions and future-proof (mindful of the current, digital era) its content, scope, design, and handiness. The increasing complexity and shifting nature of the geographical region make maps and atlases, like this one, indispensable both today and in the future. As it stands, Magocsi's *Atlas* is an excellent visual-history enterprise and a great reference tool for students of the region's history and socio-economic and political developments, connoisseurs of the subject matter (academics, teachers, journalists, and expert communities), and a broader interested audience.

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Work Cited

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