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*Mapping, Connectivity and the Making of European Empires*. Edited by Luis Lobo-Guerrero, Laura Lo Presti and Filipe dos Reis. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2021. ISBN 978-1-5381-4639-2. Pp. xxvi, 214, illus. US \$105.00; STG £81.00 (cloth).

*Mapping, Connectivity and the Making of European Empires*, edited by Luis Lobo-Guerrero, Laura Lo Presti and Filipe dos Reis is one of the latest contributions to the burgeoning field of research on maps and empires. The book comprises an introduction and six chapters by international-relations scholars, geographers and historians, organized chronologically. The topics covered range from early-modern mappings of overseas territories by the Spanish and the Danes, eighteenth-century property and administrative surveying in British North America and nineteenth-century German exploring expeditions to France's imperial mapping strategies over Syria and the cartographic lives of the Italian fascist empire in the twentieth century.

The substantial introduction by the three editors introduces the core research problem addressed by all contributors: 'how the knowledge practices involved in map-making relate to the making of European empires as connectivity effects'. The question of connection in such contexts is important since this is the second volume of a trilogy that explores this aspect as a conceptual starting point to understand the production of space in political orders, different types of power relations, and diverse material practices. By investigating the different forms of connectivity that the maps and mappings have produced, manifested or challenged, the authors of the chapters present case studies that contextualize the relationship between mapping and empire building.

Theoretically and methodologically the volume builds on the post-representational and processual approaches to the study of maps that have during the past decade slowly but surely gained ground in map history. Accordingly, the aim of the authors is to analyze the unstable material and social processes—mappings—that constitute the making of what appear to be stable objects, maps. The six main chapters show how addressing the circulation and 'lives' of maps and the transfers between maps—the connectedness of maps—forms a flexible and effective methodological toolbox to explore the spatial work that maps do. In doing so, they make an original contribution to the study of mapping and European empires and develop further many well-used analytical tools in the study of mapping.

The opening chapter by Luis Lobo-Guerrero addresses the key problematic involved in the mapping of imperial spaces: that of knowledge. Lobo-Guerrero analyses three early modern maps to interrogate the practices of constructing the Spanish empire as an epistemological formation. Jeppe Strandsbjerg analyses how the sixteenth-century Danish mappings reconnected Denmark-Norway to Greenland, thus showcasing a shift from the previously mapless polity of the Norse of the twelfth century to a territorialized understanding of sovereignty. Kerry Goettlich's chapter addresses the rhetorical and unintentional consequences of mappings through an examination of the conflicts and connections emerging from the discrepancies between property surveys and colonial jurisdiction in the British colonies in North America.

In his chapter, Filipe dos Reis analyses German mapmaker Augustus Petermann's exploration mapping throughout Africa and the Arctic and revisits Bruno Latour's much used theory of centres of calculation. Importantly, dos Reis forcefully argues, in reference to John Law and Annemarie Mol, for the need to acknowledge that maps can be many things simultaneously: they can be immutable mobiles, mutable mobiles, immutable immobiles, and mutable immobiles depending on the context of use. The mutability of the seemingly immutable map-things that we researchers encounter in the archives is the task that all map scholars must learn to address in their research. It requires peering beyond the map and acknowledging the materiality of the map.

Louis Le Douarin's analysis of the French mappings of Syria shows the complex ways that maps travel and transform between different actors and how they can become enmeshed in 'cartographic' strategies that contribute to the making of what Thongchai Winichakul has famously termed 'geo-bodies'. Laura Lo Presti's analysis of the presence of the multi-sensorial cartographical representations of the Italian fascist empire in the everyday life of the 1930s and 1940s is unsurpassed. It includes the analyses of postcards, murals and mappings emerging from radio programmes, documentaries and films that all showcase how the Fascist regime trusted the power of repetitive mappings when ingraining Italian people with the image of the empire.

In sum, the authors have created a sophisticated combination of stimulating discussions on the post-representational and processual approaches to the study of maps and in-depth empirical examples that effectively combine international-relations scholarship, map history and imperial history to interrogate the making of spaces. The chapters show how the processuality of maps reflects that of the empire: as Lobo-Guerrero suggests, empires have always been in the making. It is refreshing that the authors also highlight the moments when maps fail or are redundant. As Lo Presti summarizes in her chapter, these are the moments when 'maps are useless, do not do their job, are impotent, or work differently than

expected'. Consequently, it is important to scrutinize the unintentional ways that mappings have affected the politics of space as discussed by Goettlich as well as to acknowledge, as Strandsbjerg reminds us, that maps are not a necessary condition for the social and political organization of space.

The inclusion of only six chapters is a clear benefit: there is ample space in each for the writers to present their analysis and develop their arguments. Regrettably for the reader the fine details of the maps studied are lost in the black-and-white reproductions and the small page size. Nevertheless, for someone interested in novel theoretical approaches to map history, this is a page turner. The volume will be of interest to map scholars as well as historians of empire and experts in international relations. Since the chapters are clearly written and effortlessly combine theoretical considerations with empirical analysis, they will make fine readings for graduate-level courses.

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