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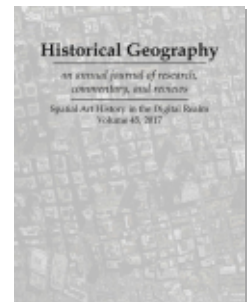
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*Corey Village and the Cayuga World: Implications from  
Archaeology and Beyond* ed. by Jack Rossen (review)

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the complicated debate about territory into a historical trajectory which focuses on the sites and practices of knowledge-making, he has made an important contribution which emphasizes the claim that globalization and scientific universalism have not heroically triumphed over older systems of spatial organization, but instead emerged from them and rearranged them.

Rankin is himself an accomplished cartographer, and the book sometimes bears the marks of this background. In places that takes the form of underexplained concepts: I had a difficult time understanding the science of the “Bowie loop” system of triangulation adjustment. Other times it risks making the tail of cartography wag the dog of society: for all the emphasis on politics in the book, non-military political actors are surprisingly absent, and we therefore miss the other ideological currents which flowed together to construct different geo-epistemologies.

Yet this is still a work that should be praised for leading the charge in joining critical cartography with the history of science. It goes a long way towards clarifying what we actually mean when we talk about territory, globalization, and the contestation of geographic knowledge – not as theoretical categories pasted onto an ahistorical globe, but as the negotiated productions of historically contingent episodes.

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*Corey Village and the Cayuga World: Implications from Archaeology and Beyond.* JACK ROSSEN, editor. Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 2015. Pp. ix+235, b&w photos, tables, maps, acknowledgements, index, list of contributors. \$39.95, cloth, ISBN 978-0-8156-3405-8.

Jack Rossen’s *Corey Village and the Cayuga World* presents the results of two field seasons of archaeological excavations at a native North American village site in New York State. The site is located near Cayuga Lake, the longest of the Finger Lakes. It was conducted as part of an effort to claim Corey Village and other sites in the region as historical places for the modern Cayuga people due to political efforts attempting to deny that they ever populated this area. While the Cayuga council would have preferred that no excavations take place, the present need to find proof of their past land ownership outweighed their usual inhibitions. In recent years, archaeology has been making the shift to becoming more involved with native populations during their studies and excavations, also known as indigenous archaeology. The involvement of indigenous peoples expands the understanding of these sites by including the expertise and oral traditions of tribal members and works to further the rights of indigenous peoples. Jack Rossen continued this cooperation by relying on the opinion, experience, and knowledge of several members of the Haudenosaunee (or Iroquois Confederacy) and the Cayuga Council during the research for this book. It is a great example of how archaeologists and native peoples can come together and work together to better understand the past while remaining respectful of their sacred sites. Through this collaboration they were able to not only study the site and the artifacts from a scientific point of view but also draw on the oral traditions of the Haudenosaunee for better interpretations. For example, elders were able to emphasize the importance of the medicinal herb garden below the site, changing the way the entire site would be viewed. Instead of another general occupation village, it is more likely that the village was known for its medicinal specialty.

The book begins with a project overview and brief description of the site. Next, it focuses on the detailed analysis of each type of artifact assemblage including ceramic, lithic, faunal, and botanical artifacts. Finally, it concludes with a history of the Cayuga people and some of the

challenges facing them today and discusses the implications this research has on those issues. It presents a holistic view of the site by applying a multidimensional site analysis including detailed ceramic, lithic, faunal, and botanical artifact analysis as well as geophysical surveys. It draws on the contributions of nine authors whose level of education ranges from undergraduate students to university professors and professional skills range from archaeologists to geophysicists. Apart from Chapter three that could benefit from explaining highly specialized, discipline-specific terminology, the majority of the book includes enough discussion, background information, and appropriate writing tone that would make it understandable to even the lay reader. This is important because it helps make archaeological information more accessible to the general public and when the general public is aware of the importance of these sites it helps with future preservation efforts. As for Chapter three, the author refers often to pictures that contain multiple artifacts in order to make comparisons between them. For example the author will refer to photograph 3.1a, 3.1b, or 3.1c; however in some cases there is no indication as to which object in the photograph is object a, b, or c. This could be a problem for those who do not have training in prehistoric ceramics and are unable to identify them by sight.

The book addresses the various geographies of the site from both an internal and external perspective. Internal geographies include the general layout of the village and the distinct activity spaces within it while external geographies include the relation of this site to surrounding sites at a local, regional, and continental scale. The process included traditional archaeological surveying and excavation as well as a geophysical survey which identified subsurface features and assisted in the decision making process for excavations. I appreciate the inclusion of a magnetic gradiometer survey as part of the study as such techniques are becoming increasingly popular in archaeology because of their non-destructive nature and because they offer much broader coverage of a site than unit excavations alone. Geophysical surveys aid in the selection of unit placement before excavation by identifying subsurface features of interest, allowing archaeologists to make more informed decisions. In this case, the survey identified areas of increased variability which turned out to be the location of longhouses and post holes. I am pleased to see archaeological surveys that take advantage of non-destructive methods.

As for external geographies, it is important in archaeology to not only study a site itself but to place it in a broader regional landscape in order to fully understand how the people at that site interacted with and perceived their world. This book effectively did this by discussing the distribution of production methods and decorations of ceramics not common in that area as well as the presence of seeds and other botanical remains not native to the region. These outliers indicate the presence an extensive trade network.

Rossen indicates that the findings presented in this book were able to challenge the popular idea that this was not originally Cayuga territory and that these villages were at a constant state of war. Instead, he found that the Cayuga territory did indeed extend farther than previously thought and that the lack of palisades and other defensive features as well as the presence of trade objects and peace symbolism indicate the site most likely saw peace more often than conflict. This all contradicts the prevailing notion of villages in conflict.

Overall, I found this book to be a very enjoyable read. The analyses and results were presented in a clear and well organized way and the importance of this investigation was placed into the broader history of New York and the Cayuga people. This book would be an excellent example for anyone wanting to learn more about what a comprehensive archaeological study is and how it is conducted.

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