



PROJECT MUSE®

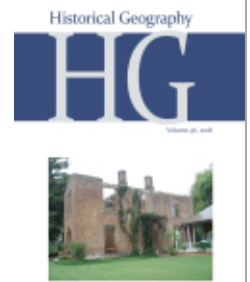
*Remapping Modern Germany after National Socialism,
1945–1961* by Matthew D. Mingus (review)

Marcus Owens

Historical Geography, Volume 46, 2018, pp. 335–338 (Review)

Published by University of Nebraska Press

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1353/hgo.2018.0003>



➔ *For additional information about this article*

<https://muse.jhu.edu/article/723726>

of different sources. In addition to the enclosure papers that form the basis of the quantitative elements of the book, maps, legal documents, account books, memoirs, letters, notebooks, estate papers, material culture, and published writings have all been consulted. This means that this book genuinely brings together historical and geographical approaches to research to the benefit of both scholarly communities. There are some points, though, where maybe a more questioning approach to these sources may have been useful. For example, there could have been some discussions about whether enclosure records disproportionately include one gender, class, or group more than any others. There are also times where there could have been further explicit discussion of issues of continuity and change as well as differences and similarities in the national experience. It is a book that leaves you wanting more; many of the different elements of the book would be worthy of a full-length study in themselves, especially the brief section on women landownership in literature. This, though, is its strength. It covers new ground and provides new questions to be considered, as the author notes herself in the conclusion. As one would hope from a historical geographer, McDonagh has provided an excellent, clear map. I believe it will guide future scholarship in this area for a number of years.

Ruth Larsen,
University of Derby

Remapping Modern Germany after National Socialism, 1945–1961.

Matthew D. Mingus. Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 2017. Pp. xii+208, black & white illustrations, maps, notes. \$55.00, hardcover, ISBN 978-0-8156-3550-5. \$24.95, paperback, ISBN 978-0-8156-3538-3.

Matthew D. Mingus brings a historian's appreciation of German geography and the geography of Germany to illustrate geography's importance beyond any implied provincialism of European studies. As he attests, the unfolding relationship between the two constitutes a driving engine behind a wide array of historical and political narratives and analysis: from the broader origins of cartography and geography, to the most systematic ethnic cleansing in history, the front lines of the Cold War, or the current geopolitical viability of the European Union. In this regard, despite an early optimism that the world had cleared a

Schmittian Eurocentric *Geopolitik* and moved into a borderless free-trade global village with the end of the Cold War, the problem of defining borders in *Mitteleuropa*, and its tendency to serve as a fault line for the global balance of power, endures to this day. As Mingus attests, this historical importance, and its broader ramifications beyond Germany, warrants continuous investigation. In particular, the territorial construction of the Federal Republic of Germany following WWII is crucial for understanding the current dilemmas surrounding the frontiers of central Europe.

Re-Mapping Modern Germany after National Socialism, 1945–1961, makes an important contribution to this domain, though the focus is more specific than the title suggests. Rather than a comprehensive analysis of the territorial reconfiguration of Germany after National Socialism, much of the book hones in on the cartographic career trajectory of Emil Meynen (1902–94) within this larger geopolitical transformation. To be sure, Meynen was an important player in many of these developments, and the book begins by providing a broad overview of the intellectual tradition that formed his career. In this regard, Mingus provides a succinct account of the formation of Germany's national borders, the development of geography in Germany over the nineteenth century, and the role of geographers in the Third Reich. Mingus does a good job of identifying the major historiographic guideposts for further inquiry into subjects like the fate of the *Mittelstaaten* following the Napoleonic Wars, the dynamics of the East Prussian frontier, the *Sonderweg* hypothesis, and the development of concepts like *Lebensraum* and *Geopolitik* and their significance in the Third Reich, as well as postmodern right-wing reinterpretations of these ideas in the 1980s *Historikerssteit*.

Meynen, who completed his habilitation in 1933 as the Nazi Party consolidated power and established the Third Reich, emerged from a pan-Germanic intellectual tradition and was appointed director of the *Geschäftstelle der Volksdeutschen Forschungsgemeinschaften* (Office of German Folk Research Organization) in 1935. Though he was academically inclined, this entailed working with the SS and planning the *Generalplan Ost*, which mapped ethnic German enclaves in Eastern Europe with the ultimate aim of orchestrating the settlement of Germans in ethnically cleansed areas. However, Meynen soon retreated from the eastern front to establish the *Abteilung für Landeskunde* (AfL, Department for Regional Studies), a semi-autonomous organization

within the Reichsamt für Landaufnahme (RfL, Reich Land Survey Office) with the official function of collecting and disseminating cartographic data. In this sense, Mingus's book is not merely about the formation of Germany's borders themselves, but the cartographic politics of representation and the media ecologies of the maps. Already highly politicized and administratively centralized by the Nazi Party, the production and circulation of maps was increasingly sensitive as the war turned against Germany and allies began jockeying amongst one another to partition lines for postwar occupation.

Meynen's personal story reflects the dynamics of the messy convergence of geopolitics and bureaucracy in the denazification process. Like many other German scientists and technocrats responsible for administering the Third Reich, Meynen leveraged this expertise in the ensuing Allied occupation to the mutual benefit of both parties. Covertly plucked from the Soviet zone, denazification authorities interned Meynen for nearly a year in Kranzberg Castel while his organization, the AfL, was contracting with the US military. In interrogations Meynen defended not only himself but German geography in general as a "purely objective" endeavor, illustrating how in the early stages of denazification, German ideas about space constituted a major preoccupation of the Allies (perhaps mistakenly overemphasizing the importance of geographers like Ratzel and Haushofer, as many have shown). Accordingly, Meynen was contracted to produce cartographic representations of Germany that deemphasized borders, instead visualizing the connections between "all people and nations."

After the RfL was dissolved by the Allies, Meynen found a home for his regional studies institutional infrastructure within the Bavarian government's Ministry of Education and Culture while continuing to contract with the US military, then moving to the federal Ministry of Interior with the establishment of the Federal Republic of Germany in 1949. By this time, competition with the Soviets began to replace the spirit of internationalist cooperation and denazification. Accordingly, the practice of mapmaking bifurcated, alternatively oriented around fulfilling the secretive needs of the military, or "selling" West Germany to the United States as a continued site of investment, cultivating international economic integration compatible with a liberal, anticommunist conception of nationalism. In this sense, the maps

wielded by PR firms operated alongside military reconnaissance as a bulwark against the Soviet threat.

Mingus does a good job at giving nuance to potentially highly polemical subject matter, such as the contradictions of denazification, or how the Western Allies consistently violated treaty agreements with the Soviets outlined at Yalta and Potsdam leading to the Berlin blockade. However, at times it can read too much like a dissertation, overburdened with details like a failed concept for a PR contract bid to represent West Germany in the US. Moreover, the work is short and somewhat limited in scope; those specifically interested in denazification or remapping East Germany will have to continue elsewhere. Nevertheless, Mingus presents an important contribution to a timely subject, as supranational institutions birthed during this time, like NATO and the European Union, are called into question and remapped.

Marcus Owens,
University of California–Berkeley

The Lewis and Clark Expedition Day by Day. Gary E. Moulton. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2018. Pp. lxxii+695, black & white illustrations, maps. \$29.99, paperback, ISBN 978-1-4962-0383-0. \$75.00, hardcover, ISBN 978-1-4962-0338-0.

“TERRA INCOGNITA,” writes John Kirkland Wright in his 1946 presidential address to the Association of American Geographers, “these words stir the imagination.” In the American geographic imagination, perhaps no exploration of *terrae incognitae* has been made more mythic, been as celebrated, or undergone such scholarly scrutiny as the Lewis and Clark expedition of 1804–6. In *The Lewis and Clark Expedition Day by Day*, leading Lewis and Clark historian Gary E. Moulton presents a magisterial account of the expedition, illuminating those *terrae incognitae* of early nineteenth-century American West geographies and the day-to-day experiences of the Corps of Discovery.

The Lewis and Clark Expedition Day by Day synthesizes the journals of Captains Lewis and Clark and those of four expedition enlisted men. The text’s bulk consists of twelve chapters describing discrete temporal and geographical sections of the two-year journey. These are bracketed by a preface, an introduction, and a reflective afterword that sheds