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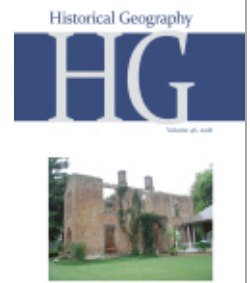
The Lewis and Clark Expedition Day by Day by Gary E. Moulton
(review)

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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.

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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

light on the expedition members' lives following their return in 1806. Readers of Moulton's 2003 abridged edition of the expedition journals will be familiar with this structure, the introductory chapter, and the accompanying maps situating readers on the expedition's route. What's new, however, is Moulton's delivery: each chapter is a day-by-day narrative, written in contemporary prose rather than reproducing Lewis's and Clark's journal entries. Through Moulton, readers learn everything from the expedition's mundane moments—including failed hunts, arduous travel, and tedious days wintering in Fort Clatsop—to their extraordinary ones, as when Lewis's dog Seaman drove off a threatening bull bison the night of May 29, 1805.

For Lewis and Clark initiates, Moulton's introduction is an invaluable resource, as it offers a comprehensive expedition overview and establishes wider historical contexts. The daily entries, meanwhile, have language much more accessible than the original journal entries. These characteristics make Moulton's text an ideal reference, and its easily followed structure means readers can read daily entries chronologically or skip to dates and entries that interest them.

Geographers will appreciate Moulton's interdisciplinary perspective, which subtly underscores his final assertion that "only in the twentieth century has the breadth of Lewis and Clark's accomplishments in so many areas been truly appreciated" (654). Moulton sets the corps' nineteenth-century observations alongside those of twenty-first-century science and geography. Expedition toponyms are matched with their contemporary counterparts, as are the captains' notes on indigenous ethnography, medicine, botany, zoology, and geology. Thanks to Moulton's references to contemporary science, for example, Lewis's observed "gray free stone" of September 20, 1805, becomes a granitic Cretaceous-age Idaho batholith (302), while Clark's "blue Magpie" is reclassified as a Stellar's jay (358).

The Lewis and Clark Expedition Day by Day has several key strengths making it an admirable contribution to both historical geography and Lewis and Clark scholarship. First, Moulton reconstructs a past journey and nineteenth-century geographic knowledge in unparalleled detail, adeptly addressing a perennial goal of historical geography. Second, Moulton subtly highlights the *plurality* of geographic knowledge at play during the expedition. While the Corps of Discovery may have traveled into the United States' *terrae incognitae*, Moulton records indigenous

presences and makes it plain that these landscapes were neither unknown nor unoccupied. Similarly, Moulton's persistent refrain that flora and fauna were unknown *to science* reminds readers that the same were already familiar to indigenous peoples. Furthermore, Moulton's consistent attention to indigenous political and economic geographies establishes that the corps became a part of, rather than dominated, indigenous politics and trade. Indeed, Moulton makes it clear that the expedition's success is in large part attributable to its interactions with indigenous peoples.

A final strength lies in the pragmatic realm of the text's audience and use. Reasonably priced and meticulously researched, its single-volume format and contemporary prose narrative make it an attractive purchase for scholars and laypeople alike. I can see the book sitting on a shelf beside Moulton's earlier edited volumes (see, for example, his thirteen-volume edited collection of the expedition journals) or imagine it in the backpack of a Lewis and Clark enthusiast following the corps' journey. For scholars, it might best be considered as a handy reference, while for the layperson, it should top the list of definitive introductory texts. My only critique is minor. Moulton's descriptions of expedition drawings and maps would have benefited greatly by pairing them with their corresponding illustrations.

In closing, I turn again to Wright's 1946 presidential address and how it shaped my understanding of what *The Lewis and Clark Expedition Day by Day* offers its readers. Scholars, writes Wright, can "do much to keep our ears open to the Sirens' song and make our voyaging into geographical unknowns a perennially satisfying adventure." When reading for this review in early May 2018, I canoed with friends through a personal *terra incognita* traveled by the corps some two centuries before: Montana's Missouri River Breaks. During this trip I saw how Moulton captured the spirit underlying the words of not only Lewis, Clark, and the corps' enlisted men, but also of Wright's address.

Our trip was steeped in sensory experiences. The Missouri was running high, and its sediment-laden currents hissed and prickled as our canoes cut the water. We floated past abandoned homesteads and occupied goose nests. We watched swallows swoop low, skimming arcs across the water. We felt the sun bake into our shoulders and gritty river mud rub between our toes. We were enveloped by that silence that only exists when meadowlarks' bright singing calls it forth. At days' ends we

rested in shady cottonwood stands, and in the slow fade of evenings I thumbed through the book, reading Moulton's vivid narrative of the corps' 1805 trip along the same stretch of river. They struggled to drag pirogues against Missouri currents, they noted swallows' nests built into cliff faces, they hunted and labored. They also, however, felt the Breaks' "visionary enchantment [*sic*]" just as we did (159). Moulton's words deepened the Breaks' sense of place through offering remembrance of things past. With such temporal awareness came fuller satisfaction—and thus Moulton helped me hear the richness of the Sirens' song.

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The Making of America's Culture Regions. Richard L. Nostrand. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2018. Pp. xix+316, color maps, color illustrations, notes. \$70.00, hardcover, ISBN 978-1-5381-0396-8.

At first glance, Richard Nostrand's historical geography of the United States of America appears diminutive—especially in comparison to more recent contributions to historical geographic synthesis. Organized regionally and with an internal framework that develops each region around the themes of cultural ecology, cultural diffusion, and formative, enduring cultural landscapes, *The Making of America's Culture Regions* is a highly readable, well-illustrated, and informative primer. Across sixteen regions and three hundred years of North American history, Nostrand convincingly demonstrates the utility of organizing a historical geographic narrative with a regional structure. Both historical geographers in academia and those new to the discipline, and curious about regional landscape and cultural identity, will find this text valuable.

The Making of America's Culture Regions begins with an overview of historical geographic study and a brief explanation of the benefits of employing a regional approach. From there, Nostrand takes us on a regionally oriented journey through three organizational parts. "Colonial America" explores the Spanish borderlands, French and British colonization along the North American eastern seaboard, and African settlement beginning around 1600. "The Humid East" tracks diffusion and expansion from those original settlement nodes through the upland and