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**Learning About the Soviet State: The Establishment of Soviet Educational Cartography in the 1920s and 1930s**

P. 264-279

Sofia Gavrilova

**Abstract**

This paper presents an overview of the development and the establishment of Soviet educational cartography, using the example of school world atlases. Geography, as a compulsory school subject, began to be implemented in the curriculum only after 1934, putting maps right at the centre of the educational process. This triggered the formation of new governmental committees and centralized map production, introducing new approaches to school atlases and new content that was aligned to the newly developed programme. This paper, therefore, examines the changes in the cartographic production and content of school world atlases from the late nineteenth century until 1937 against the context of changes in managing and perceiving the Russian and Soviet spaces.

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**The Evolution of Soviet Topographic Maps as Revealed by their Published Supporting Documentation**

P. 280-299

John L. Cruickshank

**Abstract**

The appearance of late-Soviet military topographic maps was the outcome of a long series of reviews and revisions of preexisting map designs. These generated publicly-available normative documents and teaching manuals. While most topographic maps of Russia have been secret, these detailed supporting documents were openly published for public sale. These documents and manuals are used to describe the evolution of the designs of Soviet topographic maps at scales from 1:25,000 to 1:100,000 from the Revolutions of 1917 to the end of the Soviet Union in 1991. The nature of the maps inherited by the Soviet Union from Imperial Russia, and the prototype maps of the 1920s and 30s are described. These are contrasted with these with those of the Great Patriotic War and of the post-war period. The designs of Soviet topographic maps were continually changing, and great contrasts exist between maps made in the USSR at different dates.

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**Soviet Cold War Maps: Examining the Organization and Practices of Production Through the Case of Denmark**

P. 300-314

Stig Roar Svenningsen & M. L. Perner

**Abstract**

During the Cold War, the Soviet military carried out an ambitious mapping programme, which resulted in a global series of topographic maps. Although recent advances in scholarship have increased our knowledge of the production of these maps, we still know little about the organization behind them. Based on information from a set of 466 1:50 000-scale Soviet military topographic maps of Denmark, this article examines the Soviet mapping practices related to the large-scale mapping of Denmark. Results show that the Soviet military compiled large-scale topographic maps of Denmark between the 1950s and the 1980s. The maps were initially based on Danish maps, but later the Soviets began to prefer remote-sensed data from satellite imagery. This allowed the Soviets to capture information about concealed military infrastructure. The article also shows the potential for using information from the map sheets in a transnational analysis of the Soviet mapping during the Cold War.

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**An Analysis of the Global Symbology of Soviet Military City Plans**

P. 315-338

Martin Davis &amp; Alexander J. Kent

**Abstract**

Soviet military maps utilized a comprehensive cartographic symbology that was designed for mapping the globe at various scales, including thousands of towns and cities in street-level detail. This paper presents an analysis of the Soviet symbol specifications, as defined by the official cartographic production documents, and aims to offer some insights into how the challenges of mapping a global diversity of urban and natural environments were addressed. A further stage of the analysis examines a sample of 19 Soviet military city plans to evaluate the implementation of the official symbology specified in the production documents. This finds that barely half of this symbology was utilized and that new symbols were routinely created as improvised solutions. By comparing the theoretical context of the symbology with its real-world application the paper offers a critical appraisal of the versatility of the Soviet approach that may inform current and future global mapping initiatives.

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**A Comparative Analysis of the Soviet Military City Plans of Tel Aviv, Israel and Copenhagen, Denmark (1985)**

P. 339-351

Gad Schaffer &amp; Stig Roar Svenningsen

**Abstract**

This paper presents a comparative analysis of the Soviet military city plans of Tel Aviv (Israel) and Copenhagen (Denmark), that both date from 1985. It presents a methodological framework to examine and compare the quality and completeness of thematic information included in the plans, particularly the strategically important objects (which are identified, numbered and colour coded according to their function). Our results indicate that the Soviet city plans do not include all military sites located in the areas they cover. In addition, several sites are erroneously included in the lists of strategically important objects and the lists also include obsolete information on sites that were no longer in military use. Ultimately, our analysis found no substantial difference in thematic accuracy between the two plans.

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**A Brief Overview of Soviet and Russian Military Map Symbology and Terms**

P. 352-375

Charles K. Bartles

**Abstract**

Soviet and Russian military maps may comprise any combination of over 1,000 map symbols and 3,000 Russian terms. These symbols and terms identify tangible aspects such as locations, unit/equipment type and numbers, but some symbols, and groupings of symbols, can also denote more subjective aspects such as movement over time, types of manoeuvres, relationship to the surrounding environment and other activities or conditions. Unlike Russian topographic maps that have a well-documented symbology system, there has been little study of Soviet/Russian military map symbology and terms. This paper offers a brief overview of the topic and discusses a few examples.

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**Soviet Military Maps of China**

P. 376-388

Charles Aylmer

**Abstract**

As long as maps produced by the official Chinese state mapping agency at scales larger than 1:1,000,000 remain inaccessible, Soviet General staff maps provide the best alternative. Although toponyms are given only in cyrillicized form, vernacular script equivalents may be found on pre-1945 Japanese military survey maps as well as on some maps of the US Army Mapping Service (AMS). A unique feature of the Soviet 1:200,000 map series is the accompanying *spravka* or descriptive text on the reverse of each sheet, probably constituting in aggregate the most detailed description of China ever compiled. Soviet General Staff plans of Chinese cities include 'objects' of military significance, many of which are omitted or not identified on any other mapping. This paper presents translations of the *spravka* from a representative sheet of the 1:200,000 series and from the city plan of Beijing, together with an evaluation of the reliability of their content.

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**Lists of Important Objects on Soviet Military City Plans – An Initial Analysis**

P. 389-394

John Davies &amp; David Watt

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**Abstract**

The plans of world cities outside the USSR that were produced by the Soviet military during the Cold War each include a List of Important Objects. These are items of significant strategic economic, administrative or military importance. This paper examines these object lists from Soviet military plans of British cities and discusses their contents. It concludes that there is considerable variation in their comprehensiveness and some inconsistency in the criteria used to select objects for inclusion.

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**Soviet Tourist Maps: A Short Overview**

P. 395-404

Ian Byrne

**Abstract**

In recent years, many maps produced in the former Soviet Union have become available. However, researchers have focused on topographical maps or those of Western cities produced by the General Staff for military use, and less on maps created by GUGK, the state mapping agency, for domestic purposes, including tourism. By contrast, this paper focuses on maps produced for tourists, whether travelling by private car or on an organized rail or bus tour. The 42 maps reviewed take three main forms: those covering a single administrative region, ranging from an *oblast* to a Soviet republic; those of a specific tourist area or associated with a literary hero; and strip maps connecting major cities. The paper considers the general design and symbology used on these maps, tracing some of the stylistic changes and developments in the quarter-century prior to the collapse of the Soviet Union.

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