

A CONCISE
HISTORICAL ATLAS
OF
EASTERN EUROPE

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SLAVIC

Preface

The idea for this concise historical atlas of Eastern Europe arose in a 1993 conversation between ourselves concerning the lack of commercially available classroom maps specifically designed for introductory courses in East European history. We at first thought of creating a set of maps for use by students at our own university, but, as our discussion continued, it seemed likely to us that instructors of East European history at other institutions suffered the same problem. Naturally, if we were willing to invest a great deal of time and effort in producing a set of instructional maps for our students in East European history, then we easily could make such maps available to any group of similar students by publishing them.

We should stress that the primary purpose of this concise atlas is to provide students and interested general readers with a basic and affordable visual aid for grasping the geopolitical situation at selected important moments in the history of Eastern Europe. It does not attempt, nor is it intended, to offer a comprehensive overview of every element involved in the history of Eastern Europe. Thus, there are no specialized maps, tables, or charts dealing with economic patterns, urbanization, vegetation, land use, annual rainfall, ecclesiastical jurisdictions, religious movements, education, transportation, industrial development, demographic movements, and other such topics. Nor does it pretend to offer definitive cartographic representation of the periods and events covered. The maps are rendered in two rather than in four colors. Only those elements deemed necessary for a general understanding of the topics presented are included. Most rivers and mountain ranges, therefore, either do not appear or do so only relative to their informational purpose within any given map. Our decisions concerning scope and presentation were based on considerations of the fundamental purpose of the concise atlas (basic geopolitical information) and of costs, both to the publisher and to the purchaser (affordability).

Each map is accompanied by a page of text. Again, the individual texts are intended to provide a broad perspective on the particular periods or issues represented in the maps. They are not meant to be mere descriptions of specific map elements. Since the concise atlas will best be used as a supplemental resource by the student or general reader, the texts do not present a truly comprehensive history of Eastern Europe taken as a whole. Numerous factual gaps and lapses exist within and among the texts. Likewise, space limitations make it impossible to provide explanations for every foreign or

specialized term used in the texts. In both cases, it is assumed that such information will be available to the user from sources outside this publication.

Regarding spelling, most foreign common terms and proper names appearing in the atlas are rendered in or near their native spellings. Exceptions to this approach are: (1) terms generally known to English-speakers in their Anglicized forms (such as the names of states, certain cities, and geographic elements); and (2) the first names of Greek, Russian, and German individuals. Place names are given in their contemporary forms unless these are ahistorical or inappropriate within the context of particular texts or time periods. Turkish terms are spelled in the Latin characters currently used in Turkey, with the appropriate diacritical marks.

Two approaches are taken to transliterating into Latinized form Slavic terms that are natively written in the Cyrillic alphabet. A "phonetical" system is used for Bulgarian, Russian, and Ukrainian (for example: ч is rendered as **ch**; ш as **sh**; ц as **ts**; я as **ya**, etc.). In the cases of Serbian and Macedonian (languages spoken in the former Yugoslavia), a "linguistic" system, which uses diacritical marks with some characters, is employed (for example: ч is rendered as **č**; ђ as **ć**; ш as **š**; ц as **c**; њ as **j**; я as **ja**, et cetera.), which is based on the Latin, Croat form of Serbo-Croatian commonly used in the West for transliterating "Yugoslav" languages.

Those interested in the technical aspects involved in producing this atlas should know that all original pages (maps and texts) were generated on assorted Macintosh Power PCs. The maps were drawn and colored using Adobe Illustrator 6.0. The texts were word-processed in Microsoft Word 4.0B and typeset by Adobe PageMaker 6.0. St. Martin's Press did the final printing from disks provided by the authors.

We wish to thank Simon Winder and Michael Flamini, successive senior editors at St. Martin's, for their efforts over the course of a year and a half in successfully convincing the "powers that be" at the press to take a chance on publishing their first atlas. Thanks also go to Alan Bradshaw, along with St. Martin's production and editorial staff members Wendy Kraus and Diana Gavales, for their thoughtful and creative input.

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