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CZECHOSLOVAK NATIONAL ATLASES

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Phases of development manifest themselves even in thematic cartography. After a certain time, the maps become out-of-date not only as to their content but even as to the mode of compilation and cartographical representation. The same phenomenon can be observed with the national atlases of different countries. The topicality of thematic maps involved in the atlases is conditioned by the duration of validity of the information submitted and the changing conception of geography. These considerations are documented by a concise analysis of the various editions of the Atlas of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

Thematic maps mainly those concerning the socio-economic sphere have a limited time of their subject topicality this fact limiting even the time of applicability of works in which they are involved.

Moreover, when speaking in many scientific disciplines of higher development stages the same phenomenon can be encountered in thematic cartography many of the maps appearing as obsolete not only as to their contents but also as to the mode of compilation and cartographical representation. They do not meet the demands in the given time. The same rule shall apply to the national atlases of the different countries.

If the Atlas of the Czechoslovak Republic of 1935 is compared with the Atlas of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic of 1966 the different forms of processing of cartographical information are immediately evident which completely met the functional demands of the time of their origin but are less applicable at the present time.

The Atlas of the Czechoslovak Republic published by the Czech Academy of Sciences and Arts was subsidized by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and involved the text (37 pages 43 X 43 cm) and the maps elaborated cartographically and printed in the Military Geographical Institute in Praha.

The Atlas includes 55 map sheets of 86 X 43 cm and is divided into different thematic sections, such as: introductory section (2 sheets), natural conditions (14), population (10), economic conditions (24) and living standard (5). The maps were compiled on scales of 1:1 250 000, 1:2 500 000 and 1:5 000 000 so that they can be compared easily. The selection of the scales did not only depend on the size of the State territory but above all on the quanti-

ty of basic material available, rather rare at that time. Its compilation, the publication included, required 11 years.

All map sheets were compiled in the form of analytical maps and often exhibit only a simple graphical reproduction of statistical data without any connection with the territory or the causality. The synthetizing component is completely missing in the Atlas which was criticized for its non-geographical conception. The maps are one-sided the print being excellent for that time. The price of the work was rather high ranging between 1 050 Kčs and 1 300 Kčs according to binding.

The Atlas of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic published by the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences and the Central Board of Geodesy and Cartography more than 30 years later differs from the Atlas mentioned above not only as to the form of its compilation but also as to the content conditioned by the quantity of basic material available and the changing conception of geography. The different themes of the map sheets were elaborated in the form of analytical, polythematic and synthetic maps. But the latter occur only rarely and this was also criticized.

Of the 58 map sheets forming the Atlas, 4 sheets go to the introductory part, 19 to the section dealing with environment, 7 to that devoted to population, 22 sheets to economic conditions and 6 sheets to the closing section concerning the living standard. The inner side of the map sheets contains thematic maps and cartograms on 1:1 000 000, 1:2 000 000, 1:3 000 000 and 1:4 000 000 and the back side texts in Czech, English and Russian and explanations concerning the methods of the compilation of the maps and the geographical distribution of the phenomena represented.

The size of the map sheets (86 X 49,5 cm) was chosen so that the territory of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic could be represented on 1:1 000 000, the basic scale of the Atlas. The map sheets with Czechoslovakia's territory were constructed in equivalent conic projection with normal position with non-distorted parallel 49°30' and printed by offset usually from 14 up to 21 surface pressplates. The cartographical processing and print were carried out by the Cartographical and Reproduction Institute, Praha, the edition comprised 10 555 copies of the price of one copy amounting to 230 Kčs.

The Atlas mentioned was elaborated during 1958—1966 and was an excellent work for that time both as to the content and to the cartographical elaboration. It was awarded the Order of Labour of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

But the conception and the mission of geography have developed as appears from the foregoing text. The geography determining and processing the content of the maps to a prevailing extent passed from a descriptive science to a constructive one and changed even its demands concerning the conception of the maps. The maps compiled in this conception at the present time should reflect not only the dynamics of the phenomena represented but even their causality linked up to the prognosis of development.

Such maps should form the basis of another Atlas of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic (in preparation) which should not only prove the success of Czechoslovak national economics, science and culture but represent above all the quantitative and qualitative changes of our society in the course of the 30 years of building up of socialism in our country.

This work is supposed to originate on the basis of latest research results on geography and other scientific disciplines and the maps would be constructed on relatively large scales so that the Atlas could be utilized in many directions of the present society both in the scientific and pedagogical spheres and in the technical, economic-planning and directing practice.

The thematical structure of the Atlas of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic is determined above all by its mission-maximum practical utilization. Its structure should accordingly be similar to that of planning atlases so that the themes connected with the formation of environment will be stressed both in the sector of natural and that of economic sciences.

The main maps of the Atlas will be compiled as complex and synthetic maps and the accompanying maps as complex or analytical maps. The thematic structure of the Atlas appears from the proposal concerning the extent of various sections: 1. introductory maps (2 sheets), 2. natural conditions (15 sheets) 3. population, settlement and tertiary sphere (7), 4. economic conditions (9), 5. environment and tendencies of its development (9).

The major part of these maps will represent the present stage, the maps in section 2 will be completed by the reconstructed stage, the maps in sections 3 and 4 by expected development trends and in section 5 the present and the future trends will be equivalently represented. The present time will mostly refer to 1970, in several cases also to later data, above all in animal production.

All maps of the Atlas will represent only the Czechoslovak territory this is why all will be compiled on the uniform base map of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic on 1:500 000 published formerly by the Czech and Slovak Geodetical and Cartographical Boards and used already as the basis for other thematic maps.

The scale of 1:500 000 was chosen owing to its suitability with respect to complex maps, the comparability and direct applicability in practice. Supplement maps and cartograms on the reverse of the atlas sheets will be carried out on 1/2 and 1/3 scales of the main maps.

The Atlas of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic will involve 40 up to 42 double-sheets maps. The western (124 X 62 cm) and eastern (104 X 62 cm) sheets are supposed to give a total image of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic by simple folding (without sticking). The maps will be accompanied by explanations in Czech, Slovak and two foreign languages.

Most map sheets will involve 10 colours, the basis of flat tints will be a triad of colours with respect to the combination of brown and green colours. The text to every map will be printed in three columns on the reverse of the map sheets and consist above all of the methods of map compilation and supplements to the map legend.

The map sheets folded to 62 cm (height) X 54 cm (width) would be inserted in boards without binding.

This work should appear in one volume in 1980 as a publication of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences and the Slovak Academy of Sciences to the 35th anniversary of the liberation of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic.

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ВАЦЛАВ НОВАК

ЧЕХОСЛОВАКЦИКЕ НАЦИОНАЛНИКЕ АТЛАСИ

Тематические карты, в особенности карты тематики социально-экономической сферы имеют ограниченное время действительности по своему содержанию и эта действительность ограничивает время применения таких работ в которые они включены.

Более высокие эволюционные стадии проявляются и в тематической картографии и поэтому спустя некоторое время карты стареют не только по своему содержанию, но и с точки зрения картографирования. Именно так обстоит ситуация и с национальными атласами отдельных стран.

Если сравнить Атлас Чехословацкой республики, который в 1935 г. издала Чехословацкая академия наук и искусств, и который содержал в себе 55 листов карт, с атласом Чехословацкой социалистической республики изданным Чехословацкой академией наук и Главным управлением геодезии и картографии в 1966 году, в объеме 58 листов карт, то с первого взгляда очевидны другие формы обработки картографических информации, которые своим картографированием и обработкой полностью отвечали функциональным требованиям своего времени, но являются менее применимыми в настоящее время.

Как видно из предыдущего, понятие и назначение географии и картографии непрерывно развивается. География, которая в большинстве своем определяла и составляла содержание тематических карт, превратилась из науки описательной на науку конструктивную, и этим самым изменила и свои требования в компоновке карт. Современные карты, обработанные в этом понимании должны уловить не только динамику изображенных явлений, но также и причины их возникновения, а именно в связи с прогнозом развития.

Именно таким образом компонованные карты должны бы образовать основу для следующего снова готовящегося к изданию Атласа Чехословацкой республики, который документировал бы не только успехи чехословацкого народного хозяйства, также бы хотел показать количественные и качественные изменения нашего общества и течения тридцатилетнего строительства социализма в нашей стране.

Основные карты атласа составлены как комплексные и синтетические в масштабе 1:500 000, сопровождающие их карты как комплексные или аналитические в масштабе 1:1 000 000 или 1:2 000 000. Атлас будет состоять из 42 карт (каждая на двух листах) основного масштаба, которые будут сопровождаться рядом дополнительных карт, объяснениями и также сопровождающим текстом на чешском, словацком и на двух иностранных языках.