Book Review

Women's Atlas of the United States. Anne Gibson and Timothy Fast. New York: Facts on File Publications, 1986. $35.00 cloth.

In 1986 and 1987 three atlases were produced which dealt with location patterns of women, *Atlas of American Women* by Barbara Gima Shortridge (New York: Macmillan, 1987), *Women in the World: An International Atlas* by Joni Seager and Ann Olson (London: PAN/Pluto Press, 1986), and the volume here reviewed. The Gibson and Fast atlas is similar to that of Barbara Shortridge in that it deals with the United States only and therefore offers more detailed information than available in the Seager and Olson international atlas.

Women's Atlas of the United States provides state by state maps of where and how American women live and die. Some 146 full color maps are grouped under seven major headings. Most are choropleth maps, though some are dot maps or graduated circle (or graduated something else, e.g., the map on smoking and drinking shows graduated martini glasses). Detailed chapters on demographics, education, employment, politics, crime, health, and family life offer current (1980 or later) data and fairly extensive explanatory text. Regional trends are noted, and many maps include statistics for women as well as comparable ones for men. Gibson and Fast emphasize patterns which reveal the extent to which the geography of women departs from that of the population as a whole, making this atlas more useful in this regard than *Atlas of American Women* which as the name implies is only about women.

In some but not all maps, Florida stands apart. Florida women are older and more urbanized than their southern sisters. Females in Florida are also more likely to have completed high school, work outside the home, and own a business. However, despite state enacted equal employment opportunity and equal pay laws, they are not more likely to occupy professional and administrative positions than women in states without such laws. Neither do they earn more pay.

The quality of the cartography is excellent, and map design is often quite innovative. In some maps the northeast is blown up to show detail; in some, perspective views show the US as a flattened block diagram. Data selection is broad and appropriate. The atlas is a good one and serves as a stepping stone to further research, analysis, and informed action.

Victoria Johnson

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... Answers to nickname associations on page 39.

1. Tampa
2. Miami
3. St. Petersburg
4. Deerfield Beach
5. Daytona
6. Quincy
7. Deland
8. Dunellon
9. Cape Coral
10. Bradenton

...The logo for the Florida Psychological Association

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