

## Book Review

State Maps on File, Southeast. New York: Facts On File Publications, 1984. 221 maps. \$55.00. (Facts On File, Inc., 460 Park Ave. South, New York, NY 10016.)

This volume is the latest addition to Facts on File's reference series. Previously published volumes include Maps On File, Historical Maps on File, and The Human Body on File (the content of the latter is not specified). The new publication is a loose-leaf collection of over 1,200 black-and-white maps from every state, organized by region. Each map is printed in crisp black ink on heavy weight paper which can easily be removed from its ring binder housing. The purpose is to provide teachers of state history with maps for making transparency masters and photocopies for classroom handouts.

The flier advertising the set says "each section provides a general state map, outline map, congressional district map, county map, demographics, transportation and natural resource maps." Unfortunately, however, demographic maps, which are available as dasymmetric population density maps and choropleth population change maps for other states, are missing for Florida. The Florida section does contain, in addition to those listed above, maps of topography, hydrology, precipitation, agricultural products, transport, Indians, explorers, and wars, eighteen maps in all.

The selection of the data to be mapped for the Florida section is puzzling. Why, for example, include an isohyet map but no isotherm map or general climate map? On the highway map, U.S. 27 is included but not Florida's Turnpike. Why map berries, grapes and tung nuts separately, but lump the state's citrus all together in "fruit?"

It is difficult to determine what level is to be reached. The map of congressional districts may be useful for high school and higher levels, but not the lower grades. On the other hand, the agricultural products map, with its collection of cute little symbols of cows, trees, chickens and the like, would be viewed as being too simplistic beyond elementary school.

Inaccuracies are disturbing. On the Indian map, the Suwannee River vanishes near the Georgia border (it reaches the Gulf on other maps). The map of "Average Annual Precipitation," ridiculously simplified with only three isohyets drawn, is nevertheless incorrect: a 76" isohyet shown in western Broward County is excessive by some ten inches (Fernald 1981, p. 40; Isaacs and Brandes 1981, p. 12). The map of "Boundaries 1763-1821" reports incorrectly that Florida achieved statehood in 1821; it didn't, that was when Florida became a territory.

The quality of the cartography is fair. In general the line work is crisp and carefully drawn. However, Florida's northern border is wiggly, obviously hand drawn. (The map of Georgia, on the other hand, shows a nice straight line for the state's southern border.) Lettering for the most part is acceptable, but when applied over county boundaries it cannot be read. Some of the lettering in marginal information is small and may be lost in photocopying and surely will be lost if projected on an overhead.

Teachers of Florida courses who prepare classroom graphics may profit from this selection of removable black-and-white maps. Better maps are found in the Atlas of Florida (Fernald 1981), but they are difficult to reproduce. Some of the maps will be useful to illustrate locations of specific topics, but inaccuracies, mediocre cartography, and a limited and unusual selection of topics nullify these advantages. At \$3.06 per Florida map, it is questionable that teachers (or school boards) would get their money's worth from State Maps on File.

## References

- Fernald, Edward A., ed. 1981. Atlas of Florida. Tallahassee: The Florida State University Foundation, Inc.
- Isaacs, Jeffrey A., and Brandes, Donald. 1981. Florida rainfall maps. The Florida Geographer 15: 12-14.

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