

hands of a separate public sector organization. Attention should be given to the community's needs by involving it in the methods of site selection, compensation and incentive, and decision-making by local government bodies. The authors emphasize that the leaders of the legislative and executive branches must make a political commitment to establish a LLRW facility. In my opinion, this is a necessary condition, as the existing laws and decision-making processes may have to be changed in order to achieve the desired goal, and this may be difficult without changing prevailing public misconceptions.

The book suffers from the rather narrow coverage of the siting cases; some of the largest producers of LLRW (and nuclear electrical power) outside the USA—Germany, the United Kingdom and Japan, are not included. The latter country should have been included to show the effects of social values and a decision-making process totally different from those prevalent in the USA and European cultures. Useful appendices include examples of specifications for LLRW sites, as well as the evaluating criteria for different sites, which may serve as models for disposal sites of other types of waste. In sum, this book is a valuable addition to the literature dealing with the organizational and social aspects of technological decisions, and should be read by those interested in this subject.

Note

1. A preliminary analysis made by me, modeling the data by artificial neural network techniques, shows a positive influence on the outcome of high graded rational and political aspects, and a negative influence of high graded empirical and consensual aspects. This analysis may lead to interesting conclusions, but the number of cases is too small for this analysis to be definitive.

Reference

Yallow, R.S. (1994) Concerns with low-level ionizing radiation. *Mayo Clinic Proceedings*, 1994:436–440.

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THE NEW ATLAS OF ISRAEL, Survey of Israel, Ministry of Construction and Housing and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Tel Aviv: Survey of Israel Printhouse, 1995 (Hebrew version).

Usually, national atlases are published in big, if not giant, formats, bound by hard, if not very hard, covers. Such was the format of the three previous editions of the *Atlas of Israel* published in 1964, 1970, and 1985. Not anymore. The *New Atlas of Israel* justifies its adjective 'new', not only by its updates to the mid-1980s and 1990s and its new and rich contents, but also by its soft cover and relatively small format (33 x 23 cm.). This is truly a refreshing concept in the

realm of national atlases. The smaller softcover format may be seen by some somewhat less respectable, but it renders the Atlas much more useful and affordable to scholars and students alike.

The editorial board responsible for the conceptual change was headed by Professor Arieh Shachar of the Department of Geography of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and consisted of 12 other Israeli scholars from the universities, the Survey of Israel Center (a unit of the Ministry of Construction and Housing), and professionals in the field of education. This last group of scholars added a pedagogic dimension, to make the atlas fit the schools' curricula.

The cartographic production and printing were carried out by a team from the Survey of Israel Center. The color selection and separation are of superb quality and the registration is highly accurate. The careful and professional crafting resulted in very aesthetic and pleasant sets of maps, covering almost every mapable field of Israel. The attempt to avoid maps that flow over the gutter between two pages is apparent. Only seven such instances were counted. However, in three cases (pages 30-1, 48-9, and 86-7) the matching between the two pages is inaccurate, causing slight discontinuity problems.

Other minor technical flaws are related to the attempt to over utilize the page surface to its margins. This caused two problems: first, in most pages the edges of the inside margins are glued together and some of the information is hard to retrieve; second, in some instances, especially when two maps of 1:1,400,000 scale are portrayed on the same page, the corners of the mapped territory are deleted, either in the Golan Heights and/or in the westernmost tip of the Gaza Strip.

The atlas presents a wealth of information concerning physical, social and economic facets of the state of Israel, highly useful to scholars, teachers, and students alike. The physical aspects include: geology, soils, minerals, geomorphology, meteorology, climatology, hydrology, and botany. Among these maps one can find such extended geographic coverage as the average annual rainfall in the Middle East and southeastern Europe, and such fine-detailed maps as the level of salinization of the underground water table in the coastal plain as of 1986 compared to 1959. These topics are mostly presented in the form of choroplethic maps with a high level of precision and vivid colors.

The socio-economic aspects occupy about two thirds of the sheets in the atlas. The subjects are too numerous to be named individually. Among these one can find administrative divisions, demographic characteristics, standard of living indicators, employment and production distributions of main economic branches, the settlement system, land-use, transportation, foreign trade, spatial policy, and environmental quality indicators. The mapping techniques here vary widely across different symbol sets, from lines to dots to circles to diagrams and more, each tailored to suit the variable it represents.

The atlas contains a total of 219 maps. Obviously, most of the maps portray variables of national coverage. The most frequently used scales are of

1:3,000,000 (34 maps) or 1:1,400,000 (33 maps). Three subjects, geology, geomorphology, and settlements by type and size, are presented at a scale of 1:700,000, and, thus, each occupies fully two pages. The general physical map of the State of Israel is divided into 5 sheets at a new and convenient scale of 1:400,000. Each sheet is accompanied by a 'spot' infra-red satellite image of the same scale, placed on the facing page. This new feature facilitates easy detection of specific surface coverages and land uses. Regardless of scale, all maps use the old Cartesian local coordinate system of Israel based on the Cassini-Soldner projection, a fact that should have been mentioned someplace in the atlas.

Some of the maps go beyond national coverage and portray variables of Middle Eastern (geology and climatology) or worldwide nature (countries of origin of immigrants to Israel, and foreign trade). Still other maps are of regional or local nature. Of special interest are the maps for Jerusalem and the two metropolitan areas of Tel Aviv and Haifa. And the list is not over: there are historical maps of the Holy Land, demonstration of changes in various landscapes, an exhibit of the maps produced by the survey of Israel, typical settlements, local plans, and more, all portrayed with a tremendous flexibility of scales, symbols, and colors.

It is conventional in national atlases to supplement the maps by explanatory texts and remarks. Also, an index of places is a very useful supplementary tool. It is a pity that the *New National Atlas of Israel* could not find room for such important addendums. This will hopefully be remedied in the forthcoming English version. These minor deficiencies do not detract from the great value of this work. *The New Atlas of Israel* offers an extremely useful collection of data on almost every field one desires. This renders the atlas a real resource to teachers, students and actually everyone interested in the physical, social, and economic geography of the State of Israel.

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