

# a history of spaces john pickles

**\*\*A History of Spaces John Pickles: Exploring the Intersection of Geography, Power, and Place\*\***

**a history of spaces john pickles** offers a fascinating journey into the ways geography and spatial relations shape social, political, and economic realities. John Pickles, a prominent human geographer and scholar, has significantly influenced how we understand the production of space, the role of cartography, and the power dynamics embedded in geographical knowledge. His work delves deeply into the historical and contemporary contexts where space is not just a passive backdrop but an active component in shaping human experience.

In this article, we'll explore the key themes and contributions found in John Pickles' writings on the history of spaces. Along the way, we'll unpack concepts like spatial theory, critical cartography, and the political implications of mapping, all vital to grasping the full scope of his scholarship.

## Understanding John Pickles and His Contribution to Spatial Studies

John Pickles is widely recognized for his critical approach to geography, particularly the ways in which space is socially constructed and politically charged. He challenges traditional, positivist views of geography that treat space as a neutral container, instead highlighting how maps and spatial representations are deeply intertwined with power relations.

Pickles' work is essential reading for anyone interested in spatial theory, critical geography, and the politics of place. His insights reveal how the production of geographical knowledge—through maps, GIS (Geographic Information Systems), and spatial data—can influence everything from national identity to global economic systems.

## The Roots of Spatial Thought in Pickles' Work

To appreciate the history of spaces John Pickles discusses, it's useful to trace the intellectual traditions that inform his perspective. His approach draws heavily on:

- **\*\*Poststructuralism:\*\*** Emphasizing how meanings of space are constructed through language, discourse, and power.
- **\*\*Marxist Geography:\*\*** Focusing on how capitalist relations influence spatial organization and urban development.

- **Critical Cartography:** Examining how maps serve as tools of control and representation rather than objective reflections of reality.

By synthesizing these perspectives, Pickles offers a nuanced view of space as both produced by and producing social relations.

## **The History of Spaces: From Physical Geography to Social Construction**

When we speak of the history of spaces in the context of John Pickles' work, we're referring to more than just physical geography. Pickles invites us to consider space as a dynamic, contested arena. This perspective transforms our understanding of historical geography by revealing how spaces are shaped by human interactions, cultural meanings, and political struggles.

## **Mapping Power: The Role of Cartography in Shaping Space**

One of the most compelling aspects of Pickles' scholarship is his focus on cartography—the practice and study of map-making. According to Pickles, maps are never neutral; they are instruments that reflect the priorities and biases of those in power.

For instance, colonial maps often erased indigenous territories or redefined borders to facilitate control. In modern contexts, digital mapping technologies and GIS systems continue to play a role in surveillance, urban planning, and resource allocation, highlighting the ongoing political dimensions of spatial representation.

## **GIS and the New Spatial Technologies**

Pickles has been at the forefront of analyzing how Geographic Information Systems (GIS) revolutionize our interaction with space. While GIS offers powerful tools for visualization and analysis, Pickles warns against uncritical acceptance of its purported objectivity.

He encourages a critical lens on the data sources, algorithms, and institutional frameworks behind GIS, urging scholars and practitioners to recognize the embedded power structures and potential for exclusion or misrepresentation.

# **Key Themes in the History of Spaces John Pickles Explores**

Delving deeper, several recurring themes emerge in Pickles' examination of space and its history. These themes help readers understand why spatial analysis is crucial to comprehending broader societal issues.

## **Space as a Social Construct**

Contrary to earlier geographical thought that treated space as a fixed physical reality, Pickles emphasizes the social construction of space. This idea posits that spaces gain meaning through human practices, cultural values, and power relations. Cities, borders, and territories are not just physical locales but symbolic arenas where identities and interests are negotiated.

## **Power and Spatial Control**

Pickles draws attention to how space is implicated in processes of domination and resistance. Controlling space means controlling movement, access to resources, and the ability to shape narratives.

For example, urban renewal projects can displace marginalized communities, while state surveillance systems monitor populations through spatial technologies. Understanding this power dynamic is essential to critically engaging with spatial politics.

## **The Politics of Representation**

Maps, spatial data, and geographic narratives are forms of representation that can legitimize or challenge existing power structures. Pickles' work encourages us to question whose voices are amplified or silenced in spatial representations and to consider alternative cartographies that reflect marginalized perspectives.

## **Applications of Pickles' Ideas in Contemporary Geography**

The influence of John Pickles extends beyond academia into practical realms such as urban planning, environmental management, and social justice movements. His critical approach to spatial history informs how professionals

and activists engage with space today.

## Urban Planning and Spatial Justice

Understanding the history and politics of space helps urban planners create more equitable cities. Pickles' insights into spatial exclusion and representation highlight the need to incorporate diverse community voices in planning processes, ensuring that development projects do not reproduce inequalities.

## Environmental Geography and Space

Environmental challenges are inherently spatial, involving the distribution of resources, land use, and ecological boundaries. Pickles' work encourages a critical look at how environmental data is produced and used, advocating for transparent and inclusive spatial knowledge that supports sustainable decision-making.

## Social Movements and Alternative Cartographies

Grassroots organizations and social movements often use mapping as a tool for advocacy and empowerment. Inspired by the history of spaces John Pickles discusses, activists create counter-maps to challenge dominant narratives, reclaim space, and assert rights.

## Tips for Engaging with the History of Spaces John Pickles Highlights

If you're interested in exploring the themes John Pickles raises, here are some practical tips to deepen your understanding:

- **Explore diverse sources:** Read beyond traditional geography texts to include works in political theory, sociology, and cultural studies.
- **Critically analyze maps:** When using maps or spatial data, ask who created them, for what purpose, and what perspectives might be missing.
- **Engage with local contexts:** Understanding the history of spaces requires attention to specific places and the experiences of their inhabitants.
- **Experiment with alternative mapping:** Try creating your own maps or use

participatory GIS tools to capture different viewpoints.

By adopting these approaches, you can appreciate space not just as a backdrop but as a vibrant, contested field shaped by history and power.

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The exploration of a history of spaces John Pickles offers is a profound invitation to rethink how we see the world around us. Through his critical lens, space emerges as a living, breathing concept—one that holds the key to understanding social justice, political authority, and human experience. Whether you're a student, scholar, or simply curious about the world, engaging with Pickles' ideas will enrich your perspective on geography and the powerful stories embedded in every map and place.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is 'A History of Spaces' by John Pickles about?**

'A History of Spaces' by John Pickles explores the conceptual and historical development of spatial theories and how space has been understood and represented in various disciplines over time.

### **Who is John Pickles, the author of 'A History of Spaces'?**

John Pickles is a prominent geographer and scholar known for his work in spatial theory, critical geography, and the history of geographical thought.

### **When was 'A History of Spaces' by John Pickles published?**

'A History of Spaces' was published in 2020, providing a contemporary overview of spatial concepts and their evolution.

### **What are the main themes covered in 'A History of Spaces'?**

The book covers themes such as the philosophical foundations of space, the role of maps and representation, spatial politics, and the impact of technology on spatial understanding.

## **How does John Pickles approach the study of space in his book?**

Pickles adopts an interdisciplinary approach, combining insights from geography, philosophy, history, and cultural studies to trace the changing meanings and uses of space.

## **Is 'A History of Spaces' suitable for beginners in geography?**

While the book is accessible, it is best suited for readers with some background in geography or related social sciences, as it engages with complex theories and historical contexts.

## **What is the significance of 'A History of Spaces' in contemporary spatial studies?**

'A History of Spaces' offers a critical reflection on how spatial concepts shape social and political realities, making it a valuable resource for understanding current debates in spatial theory.

## **Are there any notable case studies or examples in 'A History of Spaces'?**

Yes, the book includes various case studies that illustrate how spatial ideas have influenced urban planning, mapping practices, and geopolitical strategies.

## **Where can I find 'A History of Spaces' by John Pickles?**

'A History of Spaces' is available through major academic publishers, online bookstores, and university libraries.

## **Additional Resources**

A History of Spaces John Pickles: Exploring Geographical Thought and Spatial Theory

**a history of spaces john pickles** offers a profound insight into the evolution of geographical and spatial analysis through the work of one of the field's most influential scholars. John Pickles, a distinguished geographer and theorist, has critically shaped the discourse surrounding space, place, and the social dimensions of geography. His contributions span decades of academic inquiry, weaving together complex theories of spatiality and the socio-political implications embedded within spaces. This article delves into

the trajectory of Pickles' intellectual journey, examining how his work has redefined contemporary understandings of spaces within geography and beyond.

## **Tracing the Intellectual Path of John Pickles**

John Pickles is widely recognized for his innovative approach to geography, combining critical theory, cultural studies, and post-structuralist perspectives to interrogate the nature of space and place. His scholarship challenges traditional, often deterministic views of geography by emphasizing the constructed and contested character of spaces. A history of spaces John Pickles presents is essentially a history of how geographical knowledge itself has evolved under his influence.

Pickles' early academic work focused on cartography and geographic information systems (GIS), areas that were rapidly transforming the landscape of spatial analysis in the late 20th century. However, rather than merely contributing to technical advances, Pickles infused these tools with a critical lens, questioning the power dynamics and ideological underpinnings of mapping practices. His seminal book, *\*Ground Truth: The Social Implications of Geographical Information Systems\**, published in 1995, remains a foundational text illustrating his critical stance on how spatial data operates within social and political contexts.

## **The Critical Geography of Space and Place**

Central to a history of spaces John Pickles unfolds is his interrogation of the social construction of space. Pickles rejects the notion of space as a neutral backdrop for human activity. Instead, he presents space as an active participant in social processes, shaped by and shaping political, economic, and cultural forces. This perspective aligns with the broader 'spatial turn' in the humanities and social sciences, a movement that Pickles helped to pioneer.

In his later works, Pickles expanded upon the idea that spaces are sites of power struggles, contestations, and negotiations. His analyses often focus on how marginalized communities experience and resist spatial practices imposed by dominant groups. This approach reveals that spaces are not merely physical or geographical but are imbued with meaning and agency.

## **Key Themes in John Pickles' Spatial Theory**

Understanding a history of spaces John Pickles articulates involves unpacking several key themes that pervade his scholarship:

# **1. The Politics of Mapping and GIS**

Pickles' critical approach to GIS highlights not only its technical capabilities but also its political implications. He argues that maps and GIS are not objective representations but are embedded with power relations that can reinforce inequalities or serve as tools for resistance. This dual nature of spatial technologies is a recurrent theme in his writings.

# **2. Space as Socially Constructed and Contested**

Contrary to views that treat space as passive or given, Pickles emphasizes that space is actively produced through social relations. His work explores how spatial arrangements reflect and reproduce societal hierarchies, while also offering possibilities for contestation and change.

# **3. The Interrelation of Place, Identity, and Power**

Pickles has extensively examined how places are linked to identity formation and political agency. Places are not isolated; they are nodes within networks of power and meaning. By focusing on place, Pickles reveals how identities are spatially grounded and how spatial practices influence social relations.

## **Comparative Perspectives: Pickles and Contemporary Geographers**

John Pickles' contributions can be contrasted with other prominent geographical theorists to appreciate the uniqueness of his approach. For instance, while David Harvey's Marxist geography underscores economic structures as primary drivers of spatial organization, Pickles incorporates a broader cultural and technological perspective, particularly emphasizing the role of GIS and mapping.

Similarly, Doreen Massey's conceptualization of space as multiple and relational aligns with Pickles' rejection of fixed spatial categories. However, Pickles distinctively foregrounds the political implications of spatial knowledge production, especially through technological means. This comparative lens situates Pickles as a pivotal figure bridging critical theory and technological innovation in geography.

## **Pros and Cons of Pickles' Approach**



- **Pros:** Offers a nuanced understanding of space as socially and politically charged; integrates technology with critical theory; highlights the role of power in spatial knowledge.
- **Cons:** Theoretical complexity can be challenging for non-specialists; heavy focus on critical theory may obscure practical applications for some users.

## Impact and Legacy of John Pickles on Spatial Studies

The legacy of John Pickles is evident in the interdisciplinary reach of his ideas. His work has influenced not only geography but also urban studies, anthropology, environmental studies, and information science. The critical interrogation of spatial technologies pioneered by Pickles has sparked ongoing debates about the ethical use of GIS and the politics of digital mapping.

Moreover, Pickles' insistence on viewing space as a dynamic and contested arena has encouraged scholars to adopt more reflexive and socially aware approaches to spatial analysis. His scholarship continues to inspire research that addresses issues of inequality, representation, and resistance within spatial contexts.

## Emerging Directions Influenced by Pickles

In recent years, the intersection of spatial theory and digital technologies has expanded with the rise of big data, smart cities, and geospatial intelligence. Pickles' foundational critiques provide a necessary framework for examining the implications of these developments. His work informs current discussions on surveillance, privacy, and the democratization of spatial information.

Additionally, the integration of critical geography with participatory mapping and community-based spatial practices demonstrates the practical relevance of Pickles' ideas. These approaches seek to empower marginalized groups by enabling alternative spatial narratives and fostering spatial justice.

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A history of spaces John Pickles narrates is not merely an academic biography but a lens through which to understand the evolving nature of spatial knowledge itself. His critical engagement with the technologies and theories of space challenges conventional wisdom and opens new avenues for inquiry

into how spaces are produced, experienced, and contested. As geography continues to evolve in the digital age, Pickles' work remains a vital reference point for scholars and practitioners committed to understanding the complex interplay between space, power, and society.

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**a history of spaces john pickles:** *A History of Spaces* John Pickles, 2004 It also considers the use of maps for military purposes, maps that have coded modern conceptions of health, disease and social character, and maps of the transparent human body and the transparent earth. The final chapters of the book turn to the rapid pace of change in mapping technologies, the forms of visualization and representation that are now possible, and what the author refers to as 'the possibilities for post-representational cartographies'.--Jacket.

**a history of spaces john pickles:** *The Birth of Territory* Stuart Elden, 2022-12-22 Political theory professor Stuart Elden explores the history of land ownership and control from the ancient to the modern world in *The Birth of Territory*. Territory is one of the central political concepts of the modern world and, indeed, functions as the primary way the world is divided and controlled politically. Yet territory has not received the critical attention afforded to other crucial concepts such as sovereignty, rights, and justice. While territory continues to matter politically, and territorial disputes and arrangements are studied in detail, the concept of territory itself is often neglected today. Where did the idea of exclusive ownership of a portion of the earth's surface come from, and what kinds of complexities are hidden behind that seemingly straightforward definition? *The Birth of Territory* provides a detailed account of the emergence of territory within Western political thought. Looking at ancient, medieval, Renaissance, and early modern thought, Stuart Elden examines the evolution of the concept of territory from ancient Greece to the seventeenth century to determine how we arrived at our contemporary understanding. Elden addresses a range of historical, political, and literary texts and practices, as well as a number of key players—historians, poets, philosophers, theologians, and secular political theorists—and in doing so sheds new light on the way the world came to be ordered and how the earth's surface is divided, controlled, and administered. *The Birth of Territory* is an outstanding scholarly achievement . . . a book that already promises to become a 'classic' in geography, together with very few others published in the past decades. — Political Geography An impressive feat of erudition. — American Historical Review

**a history of spaces john pickles: Colonising Te Whanganui ā Tara and Marketing Wellington, 1840-1849** Patricia Thomas, 2019-11-08 This book examines the advertising posters, town plans and geographical views that encouraged middle-class emigration to New Zealand in the 1840s. It explores how the New Zealand Company exploited visual literacy to advertise its settlement in Te Whanganui ā Tara Wellington. A tale of two towns, prospective English settlers looked to Wellington to make their homes, while Te Whanganui ā Tara was already home to numerous Māori sub-tribes. The book explores the worlds of each to ask how the images produced by the New Zealand Company were complicit in transferring Māori land into English ownership. Not seeking blame, it works instead to understand, and investigates processes of redress, offering hope for a post post-colonial future in Aotearoa New Zealand. This book will interest scholars and students of migration, visual culture and print history.

**a history of spaces john pickles: Code and Clay, Data and Dirt** Shannon Mattern, 2017-11-01 For years, pundits have trumpeted the earthshattering changes that big data and smart networks will soon bring to our cities. But what if cities have long been built for intelligence, maybe for millennia? In *Code and Clay, Data and Dirt* Shannon Mattern advances the provocative argument that our urban spaces have been “smart” and mediated for thousands of years. Offering powerful new ways of thinking about our cities, *Code and Clay, Data and Dirt* goes far beyond the standard historical concepts of origins, development, revolutions, and the accomplishments of an elite few. Mattern shows that in their architecture, laws, street layouts, and civic knowledge—and through technologies including the telephone, telegraph, radio, printing, writing, and even the human voice—cities have long negotiated a rich exchange between analog and digital, code and clay, data and dirt, ether and ore. Mattern’s vivid prose takes readers through a historically and geographically broad range of stories, scenes, and locations, synthesizing a new narrative for our urban spaces. Taking media archaeology to the city’s streets, *Code and Clay, Data and Dirt* reveals new ways to write our urban, media, and cultural histories.

**a history of spaces john pickles: Writing Place** Rebecca Hutcheon, 2018-02-12 Exploring a hitherto neglected field, *Writing Place: Mimesis, Subjectivity and Imagination in the Works of George Gissing* is the first monograph to consider the works of George Gissing (1857-1903) in light of the ‘spatial turn’. By exploring how objectivity and subjectivity interact in his work, the book asks: what are the risks of looking for the ‘real’ in Gissing’s places? How does the inherent heterogeneity of Gissing’s observation influence the textual recapitulation of place? In addition to examining canonical texts such as *The Nether World* (1889), *New Grub Street* (1891), and *The Private Papers of Henry Ryecroft* (1901), the book analyses the lesser-known novels, short stories, journalism and personal writings of Gissing, in the context of modern spatial studies. The book challenges previously biographical and London-centric accounts of Gissing’s representation of space and place by re-examining seemingly innate contemporaneous geographical demarcations such as the north and the south, the city, suburb, and country, Europe and the world, and re-reading Gissing’s places in the contexts of industrialism, ruralism, the city in literature, and travel writing. Through sustained attention to the ambiguities and contradictions rooted in the form and content of his writing, the book concludes that, ultimately, Gissing’s novels undermine spatial dichotomies by emphasising and celebrating the incongruity of seeming certainties

**a history of spaces john pickles: The Production Sites of Architecture** Sophia Psarra, 2019-01-14 *The Production Sites of Architecture* examines the intimate link between material sites and meaning. It explores questions such as: how do spatial configurations produce meaning? What are alternative modes of knowledge production? How do these change our understanding of architectural knowledge? Featuring essays from an international range of scholars, the book accepts that everything about the production of architecture has social significance. It focuses on two areas: firstly, relationships of spatial configuration, form, order and classification; secondly, the interaction of architecture and these notions with other areas of knowledge, such as literature, inscriptions, interpretations, and theories of classification, ordering and invention. Moving beyond perspectives which divide architecture into either an aesthetic or practical art, the authors show how buildings are informed by intersections between site and content, space and idea, thought and materiality, architecture and imagination. Presenting illustrated case studies of works by architects and artists including Amale Andraos, Dan Wood, OMA, Koen Deprez and John Soane, *The Production Sites of Architecture* makes a major contribution to our understanding of architectural theory.

**a history of spaces john pickles: Exploring Site-specific Art** Judith Rugg, 2010-02-28 Over recent years, a greater diversity of spaces has opened up worldwide for the making and display of art beyond the gallery. A new ‘space consciousness’ has developed, with an emphasis on the significance of the spatial. Judith Rugg takes up a range of site-specific artworks internationally located in countries ranging from China to France, Italy and the UK, Argentina and Canada to Australia, Poland and the Netherlands to explore the relationships between site-specific art and space set within its globalising contexts. Through close inspection of works such as artists as Doris

Salcedo, Langlands and Bell, Phyllida Barlow and Vong Phaophanit, Rugg considers how an interdisciplinary spatial theory can inform many elements of contemporary art. In clear, illustrated chapters, she engages with very contemporary spatial issues, including those of the environment, cultural identity and belonging, as well as experiences of displacement, migration and marginalisation and the effects of urbanization and tourism. For students and practitioners of fine arts, art theory and history, as well as those who are fascinated by site-specific art, this is an original and challenging exploration.

**a history of spaces john pickles: Art and Sovereignty in Global Politics** Douglas Howland, Elizabeth Lillehoj, Maximilian Mayer, 2016-12-01 This volume aims to question, challenge, supplement, and revise current understandings of the relationship between aesthetic and political operations. The authors transcend disciplinary boundaries and nurture a wide-ranging sensibility about art and sovereignty, two highly complex and interwoven dimensions of human experience that have rarely been explored by scholars in one conceptual space. Several chapters consider the intertwining of modern philosophical currents and modernist artistic forms, in particular those revealing formal abstraction, stylistic experimentation, self-conscious expression, and resistance to traditional definitions of "Art." Other chapters deal with currents that emerged as facets of art became increasingly commercialized, merging with industrial design and popular entertainment industries. Some contributors address Post-Modernist art and theory, highlighting power relations and providing sceptical, critical commentary on repercussions of colonialism and notions of universal truths rooted in Western ideals. By interfering with established dichotomies and unsettling stable debates related to art and sovereignty, all contributors frame new perspectives on the co-constitution of artworks and practices of sovereignty.

**a history of spaces john pickles: Mapping Medieval Geographies** Keith D. Lilley, 2014-01-09 Mapping Medieval Geographies explores the ways in which geographical knowledge, ideas and traditions were formed in Europe during the Middle Ages. Leading scholars reveal the connections between Islamic, Christian, Biblical and Classical geographical traditions from Antiquity to the later Middle Ages and Renaissance. The book is divided into two parts: Part I focuses on the notion of geographical tradition and charts the evolution of celestial and earthly geography in terms of its intellectual, visual and textual representations; whilst Part II explores geographical imaginations; that is to say, those 'imagined geographies' that came into being as a result of everyday spatial and spiritual experience. Bringing together approaches from art, literary studies, intellectual history and historical geography, this pioneering volume will be essential reading for scholars concerned with visual and textual modes of geographical representation and transmission, as well as the spaces and places of knowledge creation and consumption.

**a history of spaces john pickles: Mapping the Germans** Jason D. Hansen, 2015 Mapping the Germans explores the development of statistical science and cartography in Germany between the beginning of the nineteenth century and the start of World War One, examining their impact on the German national identity. It asks how spatially-specific knowledge about the nation was constructed, showing the contested and difficult nature of objectifying this frustratingly elastic concept. Ideology and politics were not themselves capable of providing satisfactory answers to questions about the geography and membership of the nation; rather, technology also played a key role in this process, helping to produce the scientific authority needed to make the resulting maps and statistics realistic. In this sense, Mapping the Germans is about how the abstract idea of the nation was transformed into a something that seemed objectively measurable and politically manageable. Jason Hansen also examines the birth of radical nationalism in central Europe, advancing the novel argument that it was changes to the vision of nationality rather than economic anxieties or ideological shifts that radicalized nationalist practice at the close of the nineteenth century. Numbers and maps enabled activists to see nationality in local and spatially-specific ways, enabling them to make strategic decisions about where to best direct their resources. In essence, they transformed nationality into something that was actionable, that ordinary people could take real actions to influence.

**a history of spaces john pickles: Abysmal** Gunnar Olsson, 2010-03-15 People rely on reason to

think about and navigate the abstract world of human relations in much the same way they rely on maps to study and traverse the physical world. Starting from that simple observation, renowned geographer Gunnar Olsson offers in *Abysmal* an astonishingly erudite critique of the way human thought and action have become deeply immersed in the rhetoric of cartography and how this cartographic reasoning allows the powerful to map out other people's lives. A spectacular reading of Western philosophy, religion, and mythology that draws on early maps and atlases, Plato, Kant, and Wittgenstein, Thomas Pynchon, Gilgamesh, and Marcel Duchamp, *Abysmal* is itself a minimalist guide to the terrain of Western culture. Olsson roams widely but always returns to the problems inherent in reason, to question the outdated assumptions and fixed ideas that thinking cartographically entails. A work of ambition, scope, and sharp wit, *Abysmal* will appeal to an eclectic audience—to geographers and cartographers, but also to anyone interested in the history of ideas, culture, and art.

**a history of spaces john pickles:** *The Social Life of Maps in America, 1750-1860* Martin Brückner, 2017-10-26 In the age of MapQuest and GPS, we take cartographic literacy for granted. We should not; the ability to find meaning in maps is the fruit of a long process of exposure and instruction. A "carto-coded" America — a nation in which maps are pervasive and meaningful — had to be created. *The Social Life of Maps* tracks American cartography's spectacular rise to its unprecedented cultural influence. Between 1750 and 1860, maps did more than communicate geographic information and political pretensions. They became affordable and intelligible to ordinary American men and women looking for their place in the world. School maps quickly entered classrooms, where they shaped reading and other cognitive exercises; giant maps drew attention in public spaces; miniature maps helped Americans chart personal experiences. In short, maps were uniquely social objects whose visual and material expressions affected commercial practices and graphic arts, theatrical performances and the communication of emotions. This lavishly illustrated study follows popular maps from their points of creation to shops and galleries, schoolrooms and coat pockets, parlors and bookbindings. Between the decades leading up to the Revolutionary War and the Civil War, early Americans bonded with maps; Martin Brückner's comprehensive history of quotidian cartographic encounters is the first to show us how.

**a history of spaces john pickles:** *Cartographies of Culture* Damian Walford Davies, 2012-06-15 This pioneering study offers dynamic new answers to Christian Jacob's question: 'What are the links that bind the map to writing?'

**a history of spaces john pickles:** *Cartographic Strategies of Postmodernity* Peta Mitchell, 2013-01-11 The last fifty years have witnessed the growing pervasiveness of the figure of the map in critical, theoretical, and fictional discourse. References to mapping and cartography are endemic in poststructuralist theory, and, similarly, geographically and culturally diverse authors of twentieth-century fiction seem fixated upon mapping. While the map metaphor has been employed for centuries to highlight issues of textual representation and epistemology, the map metaphor itself has undergone a transformation in the postmodern era. This metamorphosis draws together poststructuralist conceptualizations of epistemology, textuality, cartography, and metaphor, and signals a shift away from modernist preoccupations with temporality and objectivity to a postmodern pragmatics of spatiality and subjectivity. *Cartographic Strategies of Postmodernity* charts this metamorphosis of cartographic metaphor, and argues that the ongoing reworking of the map metaphor renders it a formative and performative metaphor of postmodernity.

**a history of spaces john pickles:** *Traveling from New Spain to Mexico* Magali M. Carrera, 2011-06-03 How colonial mapping traditions were combined with practices of nineteenth-century visual culture in the first maps of independent Mexico, particularly in those created by the respected cartographer Antonio García Cubas.

**a history of spaces john pickles:** *Cartographies of Exile* Karen Elizabeth Bishop, 2016-04-20 This book proposes a fundamental relationship between exile and mapping. It seeks to understand the cartographic imperative inherent in the exilic condition, the exilic impulses fundamental to mapping, and the varied forms of description proper to both. The vital intimacy of the relationship

between exile and mapping compels a new spatial literacy that requires the cultivation of localized, dynamic reading practices attuned to the complexities of understanding space as text and texts as spatial artifacts. The collection asks: what kinds of maps do exiles make? How are they conceived, drawn, read? Are they private maps or can they be shaped collectively? What is their relationship to memory and history? How do maps provide for new ways of imagining the fractured experience of exile and offer up both new strategies for reading displacement and new displaced reading strategies? Where does exilic mapping fit into a history of cartography, particularly within the twentieth-century spatial turn? The original work that makes up this interdisciplinary collection presents a varied look at cartographic strategies employed in writing, art, and film from the pre-Contact Americas to the Renaissance to late postmodernism; the effects of exile, in its many manifestations, on cartographic textual systems, ways of seeing, and forms of reading; the challenges of traversing and mapping unstable landscapes and restrictive social and political networks; and the felicities and difficulties of both giving into the map and attempting to escape the map that provides for exile in the first place. Cartographies of Exile will be of interest to students and scholars working in literary and cultural studies; gender, sexuality, and race studies; anthropology; art history and architecture; film, performance, visual studies; and the fine arts.

**a history of spaces john pickles: Imaging and Mapping Eastern Europe** Katarzyna Murawska-Muthesius, 2021-05-10 Imaging and Mapping Eastern Europe puts images centre stage and argues for the agency of the visual in the construction of Europe's east as a socio-political and cultural entity. This book probes into the discontinuous processes of mapping the eastern European space and imaging the eastern European body. Beginning from the Renaissance maps of Sarmatia Europea, it moves onto the images of women in ethnic dress on the pages of travellers' reports from the Balkans, to cartoons of children bullied by dictators in the satirical press, to Cold War cartography, and it ends with photos of protesting crowds on contemporary dust jackets. Studying the eastern European 'iconosphere' leads to the engagement with issues central for image studies and visual culture: word and image relationship, overlaps between the codes of othering and self-fashioning, as well as interaction between the diverse modes of production specific to cartography, travel illustrations, caricature, and book cover design. This book will be of interest to scholars in art history, visual culture, and central Asian, Russian and Eastern European studies.

**a history of spaces john pickles: A Primer of GIS, Second Edition** Francis Harvey, 2015-10-29 This accessible text prepares students to understand and work with geographic information systems (GIS), offering a detailed introduction to essential theories, concepts, and skills. The book is organized in four modular parts that can be used in any sequence in entry-level and more specialized courses. Basic cartographic principles are integrated with up-to-date discussions of GIS technologies and applications. Coverage includes everything from what geographic information is to its many uses and societal implications. Practical examples and exercises invite readers to explore the choices involved in producing reliable maps and other forms of geographic information. Illustrations include 170 figures (with 15 in color). The companion website provides links to Web resources for each chapter, plus downloadable PowerPoint slides of most of the figures. New to This Edition \*Chapter on online mapping and Big Data. \*New and updated discussions of remote sensing, vector and raster data models, location privacy, uses of geocoding, and other timely topics. \*Chapter on the many uses of GIS, such as in market analyses, emergency responding, and tracking of epidemics. \*Section overviews and an end-of-book glossary. Pedagogical Features \*Modules and individual chapters can be used sequentially or in any order. \*End-of-chapter review questions with answers, exercises, and extended exercises for applying theories and concepts. \*In-Depth sidebars offering a closer look at key concepts and applications. \*End-of-chapter links to relevant Web resources.

**a history of spaces john pickles: Power and Powerlessness in Union Ireland** Ciaran O'Neill, 2024-11-20 The history of Union Ireland is typically told through its best-known historical events and leaders - from the 1798 Rising, the Great Famine, and the Irish Revolution, to Parnell and De Valera -- and as moments of sectarian division and high parliamentary politics. Instead, Ciaran O'Neill here

makes the case for a broader, more inclusive, and decentred approach that emphasizes transnational phenomena, a settler-colonial diaspora, and minority groups on the island. Through the lenses of 'power' and 'powerlessness', he demonstrates that the received historiographical wisdoms suffer from several misconceptions: on the one hand they misconstrue the nature of power and the powerful, perpetuating historical myths about the 'ungovernability' of Ireland. After securing the Union, the British state proceeded to govern Ireland with less and less certainty of ever persuading its citizens of its legitimacy. Despite all reforms and investment, there was a widespread sense that Ireland would never recover and be a willing partner in the Union. And on the other hand they take at face value the nature of the so-called 'powerless', ignoring the myriad ways in which marginalized and diasporic groups negotiated and asserted their agency during the Union period, influencing and transforming the powerful centre in the process. The result is an untraditional and thought-provoking reappraisal of Union Ireland that raises important questions about colonialism and resistance - of what it means to govern and be governed, and the long-lasting legacies of the spaces in between.

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