All Over the Map: Rethinking American Regions

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Description

Even as Americans keep moving "all over the map" in the late twentieth century, they cherish memories of the places they come from. But where do these places—these regions—come from? What makes them so real? In this groundbreaking book a distinguished group of historians explores the concept of region in America, traces changes the idea has undergone in our national experience, and examines its meaning for Americans today.

Far from diminishing in importance, the authors conclude, regional differences continue to play a significant role in Americans' self-image. Regional identity, in fact, has always been fed by the very forces that many people think threaten its existence today: a central government, an aggressive economy, and connections with places beyond regional boundaries. Calling into question widely held notions about how Americans came to differ from one another and explaining why those differences continue to flourish, this iconoclastic study—by scholars with differing regional ties—will refresh and redirect the centuries-old discussion over Americans' conceptions of themselves.

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In this groundbreaking book a distinguished group of historians explores the concept of region in America, traces changes the idea has undergone in our national experience, and examines its meaning for Americans today. Far from diminishing in Read More, All Over the Map begins with the premise that regionalism cannot exist without nationalism. The South, New England, and the West only seem worth thinking about in the "common context" (p. 1) of the whole United States. The authors note that Americans feel their deepest loyalty to regions, in a "cyclical process of forgetfulness and rediscovery," (p. 2) when their sense of nationalism is weakest (in the 1930s and with a resurgence since 1970). Americans tend to carry with them a persistent set of general assumptions about regions. American Passages: A History of the United States, Brief Edition, Volume II: Since 1863 by Edward L. Ayers. Vengeance and Justice: Crime and Punishment in the Nineteenth-Century American South by Edward L. Ayers. American Anthem Modern American History Teacher's Edition by Edward L. Ayers.

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