

## A CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title 2017

For most of the twentieth century, maps were indispensable. They were how governments understood, managed, and defended their territory, and during the two world wars they were produced by the hundreds of millions. Cartographers and journalists predicted the dawning of a “map-minded age,” where increasingly state-of-the-art maps would become everyday tools. By the century’s end, however, there had been a decisive shift in mapping practices, as the dominant methods of land surveying and print publication were increasingly displaced by electronic navigation systems.

In *After the Map*, William Rankin argues that although this shift did not render traditional maps obsolete, it did radically change our experience of geographic knowledge, from the God’s-eye view of the map to the embedded subjectivity of GPS. Likewise, older concerns with geographic truth and objectivity have been upstaged by a new emphasis on simplicity, reliability, and convenience. *After the Map* shows how this change in geographic perspective is ultimately a transformation of the nature of territory, both social and political.

“Traversing varied material, institutional, and conceptual terrains, plotting shifts in how space has been represented and enacted throughout the 20th century, and rendering connections between spatial technologies and politics, *After the Map* ventures far beyond conventional boundaries of the history of cartography.”

### **Reviews in History**

“*After the Map* uniquely addresses important questions about the changing nature of territoriality in the twentieth century. The book is thus highly recommended to historians of science—and historians more generally—who have an interest in politics, space, and territoriality, as well as to those inquisitive minds who want to cast a spatial glance into the twenty-first century.”

### **Isis**

“*After the Map* should sit on the shelf alongside such books as Neil Smith’s *American Empire* and Susan Schulten’s *The Geographical Imagination in America*, as part of the pantheon of ground-breaking scholarship that captures that inescapably spatial twentieth century.”

### **Imago Mundi**

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High-resolution images, raw data, and a full bibliography are available at [www.afterthemap.info](http://www.afterthemap.info).

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