

39888



Institute of Geodesy and Cartography
National Advisory Committee for ICA
Warsaw, Poland

FORM AND CONTENT OF THE ATLAS OF THE MOTHER COUNTRY
DESIGNED FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS
/ ON THE EXAMPLE OF PPWK ATLASES /

Henryk Górski

State Cartographical Publishing House / PPWK /
Warsaw

Paper presented
to the 8th International Cartographic Conference
MOSCOW, USSR
August 1976

8778

Výčinný ústav geodetický, topografický
a kartografický v Praze
Knihovna I

39888

1283/76

Henryk Górski

/ Warsaw, Poland /

FORM AND CONTENT OF THE ATLAS OF THE MOTHER COUNTRY
DESIGNED FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS
/ ON THE EXAMPLE OF PPWK ATLASES /

Possessing an independent atlas of the mother country for the highest level of secondary school is already a tradition in Poland. Polish schools had such atlases in the inter-war period and it is continued into the present. The grounds for this tradition can be traced in the need to demonstrate and teach the independent existence of the Polish nation after the years of partitions and occupation. The fact that almost in all the school programs of the inter- and post-war period the subject "Poland" closed the secondary school course in geography, was also of vital importance. Thus the separate atlas of the mother country was and is intended for the pupils who have already been acquainted with geographic problems.

Four school atlases of Poland were worked out and published after the war. The first was published in 1948 /1/ and it could, besides its educational appropriation, inform any member of the society about the geographic facts within the new borders of the country. Having the latter possibility in mind, the authors supplied the atlas with almost exhaustive review of fundamental data concerning the country, presented on 51 maps at the scales of 1:2, 1:5, 1:10 and 1:20 mln; the little format and capacity of the atlas imposed very little limitation on the scope of content.

The second successive atlas /2/ was published in 1952. It was best suited to the requirements of the then school program, which emphasized physical geography. This tendency was expressed not only in the number of physical maps, but also in drafting them at large scales.

This methodically composed atlas offered 40 maps at the scales of 1:3, 1:3,5, 1:4, 1:4,5 and 1:8 mln. It also contained a folded hypsometric map which allowed possibilities for comparing the orographic image of the country with other thematic maps.

The third atlas of Poland was worked out in the State Cartographical Publishing House / PPWK / and published in 1966 /3/. The general outline of the atlas included such a set of topics which would illustrate the basic aspects of physical environment and economy fairly exhaustively. Its 38 pages contained 115 maps of Poland at the scales of 1:1, 1:2,5, 1:4, 1:5 and 1:8 mln. Due to the triple increase of the number of topics not only did the atlas fully satisfy the needs of the school program, but it exceeded these needs by 30 %. Surpassing the school requirements can be justified as follows:

- the authors wanted to give the teachers some freedom in the choice of material, depending on the level of the class and pupils interests,
- to make the pupils acquainted with the cartographic image of the country by presenting a great variety of themes,
- multi-informational character of the atlas, accepted with regard to its extra-educational function as well, was to develop the atlas into a miniature of national atlas.

The themes of the atlas are arranged from more general to particular ones. We can divide them into three main sections:

- Poland in the world and in Europe / some chosen issues /,
- geographic characterization of the whole territory of Poland / it is the main section /,
- characterization of the chosen regions of the country.

The idea of the folded map from the previous atlas was here developed, namely, the preliminary lay-out was constructed in such a way, that besides the hypsometric map also such basic topics as soils

or occurrence of raw materials were also designed as folded maps.

While elaborating the preliminary lay-out of the atlas the authors subordinated its general outline to its fundamental appropriation - besides providing information the atlas was supposed to inspire and prompt the user to look for links and interrelations.

However, the atlas had its weak point; it was a general economic map of Poland at the scale of 1:1 mln which was given in the atlas in five two-page sections. Unfortunately, difficult presentation of agriculture, overloading with content, too delicate drawings and weak gradation of colours caused its critical evaluation. The authors assumed that the map will be useful in discussing the economic relations in the pupils' region, but the schools did not accept this suggestion.

Analyses of the critical opinions of teachers, our own considerations of the outline of the atlas and its particular maps, and, first of all, intensive changes in the socio-economic life of the country led to the publication of the fourth atlas /4/ in 1974.

By this publication of the new atlas of Poland the State Cartographical Publishing House has started the new set of school atlases.

In the new publication the solutions which proved correct in the school practice, such as general arrangement and folded maps, were preserved. More than 60 % of the newly worked out maps were drafted with still greater regard to the pupil's perception abilities and enriched by diagrams and graphs. While preserving the same size of the atlas / 38 pages / the number of maps was increased to 124. We also abandoned the idea of the limited number of applied scales to be repeated in favour of maximum exploitation of the area of pages. The scales presently used in the atlas of Poland are as follows:

1:1,650, 1:2,250, 1:3,5, 1:4, 1:5, 1:6 and 1:8 mln.

The controversial general economic map has undergone the most radical changes. The former map, at the scale of 1:1 mln, which covered 10 pages, was substituted by the 4-page one at the scale of

1:1 650 000. The new map is a generalized image of the school economic wall map at the scale of 1:500 000. The obtained free pages were utilized mainly for increasing the scale of a number of analytic maps. As a result we obtained better readability of these maps.

The new atlas was enriched not only thematically, but the variety of cartographic methods was also increased, so that the pupils are better prepared to use thematic maps.

Almost each of the thematic groups received new, more adequate solutions. For instance, by introducing a uniform cartographic method for the problem of transport, we obtained greater possibilities of analysing and comparing the phenomena, the mutual relations between individual means of transport and the values of conveyance.

The atlas, published in 1974 was based on the statistical data from 1970-1972.

As a result of introducing the new administrative division of Poland in June 1975 the atlas published in 1974 became a historical publication. The new version of the atlas which is being prepared to be published in 1978 will be practically a new publication, since the present administrative structure introduces 49 first rank administrative units instead of the hitherto 17 voivodeships and 5 provincial capitals. Instead of the hitherto 392 districts, which were the fundamental statistical unit in the atlas, it introduces 2345 communes and 814 cities as the second rank units. It requires not only the new work out the same themes, but also enforces the change of scales and cartographic methods accepted in their presentation.

The general arrangement of the atlas will remain basically unchanged; the main sections and thematic groups of maps will be preserved.

Joining the title page with the one containing editorial data will give us one more page to be covered with maps / 38/39 /. The scales and the number of maps within thematic groups will also undergo some changes allowing further innovations increasing functionality of the atlas in the educational process.

The Introductory section "Poland in the world and in Europe" will be supplemented by a page "Poland between the pole and the equator" which will present first of all pressure systems.

In the section of maps of the whole Polish territory a number of physical thematic maps will be re-drafted at the scale of 1:5 mln, which is accepted as a fundamental scale in this group. Among others, the scales of maps of pollution and protection of natural environment will be increased. Among the climatic maps, for instance, the basic subject "Annual precipitation and changes of temperature" will also be increased. The map of climatic regions was already done at the scale of 1:5 mln. The authors assume, that by presenting the basic themes in the group at the same scale the pupil's work with the atlas will be facilitated.

Introduction of plans of industrial plants into the regional section can serve as the example of further changes. In this way the cycle from the general economic map of Poland to the basic production unit will be closed. The atlas will also be supplied with the map of the 8 newly established economic macroregions.

Supplementing the atlas with the A4 format foil will also be a novelty in Polish school cartography. The foil will contain two big maps at the scales of 1:5 and 1:6 mln with borders of voivodeships and macroregions printed on the back of the foil, so that the front can serve for drawing. Such a working foil will fulfill 4 basic tasks:

1 - all the themes in physical geography did not and will not have the administrative borders; the foil is to allow possibilities for discussing and determining the pupil's region on these maps;

2 - in the former division into 17 voivodeships almost all the socio-economic maps contained the borders, while now, with 49 voivodeships, it is impossible with regard to the readability of a map; the addition of the foil will solve this problem,

3 - some chosen facts from one map can be marked on the foil and laid on other maps at that scale;

4 - the content marked on the foil can be shown on the screen by means of a overhead-projector.

The authors of the atlas hope that application of folded maps and working foils, variety of themes and methods, as well as the further introduction of diagrams and graphs will turn the atlas into the fully effective aid suited to teaching young people.

Polish educational system is on the eve of reform. The hitherto, two-level system of education will be substituted by a universal secondary school. Graduates of such schools will face higher requirements. Geography, as a synthesizing science, is supposed to provide the pupils with fundamental skills in the management of their region. The graduate of the future school must understand the need for using thematic maps in the management of a region or the country. He should know how to use basic maps and how to work out simple thematic maps. An atlas or a set of reference maps of a given voivodeship would provide the best solution. Unfortunately, it is unfeasible in view of the present division of Poland into 49 voivodeships. However, we can base such an aid on the units of economic planning - on 8 macroregions, and work out 8 supplements to the atlas of Poland. Individual supplements would be added to the atlas and sold only on the territories of adequate macroregions. They would be made in the form of 4-page insets: the inside would be covered by a chorographic map, worked out according to uniform criteria for all the 8 macroregions. 2 pages on the outside would be devoted to physical and socio-economic features specific for a given macroregion.

The presented suggestion will certainly arouse objections both from editorial and commercial point of view. However, if we want our pupils to familiarize themselves with the patterns of map interpretation, we should teach them on the examples that are most appealing to them, i. e. their region.

School atlases of Poland

author	title	year of publication	pages with maps	number of maps	scales for Poland in mln
1. E. Romer, J. Wąsowicz	Atlas of Contemporary Poland	1948	16	51	1:2, 1:5, 1:10, 1:20
2. M. Janiszewski	Geographical Atlas of Poland	1952	16	40	1:3, 1:3, 5, 1:4, 1:4, 5, 1:8
3. PPWK - H. Górski, P. Melnicka et al.	Poland - Geographical Atlas	1966	38	115	1:1, 1:2, 5, 1:4, 1:5, 1:6
4. PPWK - H. Górski, P. Melnicka et al.	Geographical Atlas of Poland	1974	38	124	1:1, 650, 1:2, 250, 1:3, 5, 1:4, 1:5, 1:6, 1:8