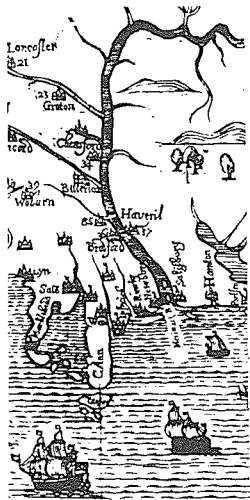


THE MAPPING OF AMERICA

by Seymour I. Schwartz
and Ralph Ehrenberg
Abrams, 1980
363 pp. \$60



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Through maps, and maps alone, the vast geographical expanses of North America have acquired the shapes—sometimes erroneous—by which they have been known. America, once little more than a figment of the European imagination, loomed, at the dawn of the Age of Discovery, as a novel “fourth part” of the Earth—outside the traditional three-part *orbis* (Europe, Africa, Asia). Thus illegitimate, it proved highly malleable. Regarding it as an obstacle to Cathay, European map makers narrowed the New World or spilled bodies of water across it. Others filled its expanse with conjectural El Dorados. This generously illustrated volume presents a comprehensive history of the topographic renderings of America up through the Space Age. Indigenous map making antedated the Revolution but was strongly encouraged by the new American government’s efforts to survey what it had won—efforts spurred on by the desire to find a waterway to the Pacific. By the mid-19th century, improved surveying and new methods for mass-producing maps eliminated the most egregious geographical misconceptions. They also reduced the human, expressive quality of maps. One exception, the panoramic, bird’s-eye-view map, developed after the Civil War, proved to be an evocative document, providing people with a vivid sense of where they lived. Now, however, computer-generated satellite maps threaten to make these documents obsolete.

—Alan K. Henrikson ('79)

DIPLOMACY OF POWER: Soviet Armed Forces as a Political Instrument

by Stephen S. Kaplan
Brookings, 1981, 733 pp.
\$29.95 cloth, \$14.95 paper

Neither Lenin nor his successors appear to have forgotten Carl von Clausewitz’s classic definition of military force and war: the continuation of politics by other means. Given the many applications of this principle in modern times, there has been relatively little serious analysis of U.S. and Soviet uses of force to achieve political ends. Kaplan, who, with Barry Blechman, examined the U.S. record in *Force Without War* (1978), now considers the Soviet example. The resulting work—including eight case studies by contribut-