

BOOK REVIEWS

Anderson, Charles S., *Augsburg Historical Atlas of Christianity in the Middle Ages and Reformation*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1967. 68 pp. \$ 7.50.

This publication was prepared as an attempt to fill the very real need of an atlas covering medieval and Reformation church history. The author presents first a map showing the topography of Europe, followed by 31 further maps from "Europe in the Time of Gregory the Great (590-604)" to "The Thirty Years' War and the Peace of Westphalia (1648)." Major developments of the Middle Ages are given fair treatment—there being, for example, maps depicting missions advance, Moslem expansion, the Crusades, political and commercial aspects of the Middle Ages, the decline of the Byzantine Empire, Italy at the time of Gregory I and at the time of Innocent III (as well as Renaissance Italy and Rome in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance), and even maps for "The Rise of the Schoolmen" and for "Viking Raids and Expansion." The dozen or more Reformation maps clearly depict various Reformation lands and developments. The use of several colors, shadings, and other distinguishing marks or symbols are most helpful in keeping clear the variety of items that usually appear on any given map. Occasionally (but not usually) a map may seem to be somewhat cluttered or unclear because of too much detail, as, for example, "Europe and the Crusades" (p. 29), "Medieval Commerce and Industry" (p. 32), and "The Age of Renaissance and Discovery" (p. 41). In these cases, might not two maps in each instance have served better?

Usually, however, excessive detail has been avoided on any given map. In the words of the author, this work "aims simply to provide the student with relatively inexpensive working maps for use in conjunction with standard history texts. . . geographic details are not repeated on each succeeding plate; it is assumed that one can always refer back to the first one in the series." The author goes on to say that "only those elements which are thought essential are on each plate, *i.e.*, not every town or even every major city may appear. This practice has the additional advantage of focusing the attention of the reader on essentials" (p. 5). The reviewer would concur with the author's judgment in this, although he would point out that if the page size of the atlas had been somewhat larger (it is 11" × 8½"), perhaps a small amount of further useful detail could have been incorporated on some of the maps (and in any case the appearance of a number of maps which seem somewhat crowded would have been helped). For the sake of maintaining the reasonable price of \$ 7.50, however, such a desideratum can easily be foregone.

Brief discussions accompany the various maps. These are helpful for a very *general* orientation (and that is, of course, all for which they are intended). A few typographical errors occur, as for example the date "1520" given on p. 42 for Luther's venturing west to Worms (but the correct date of 1521 is supplied on the accompanying map on p. 43), and the mention on p. 58 of Plate 28 as referring to Britain when it is actually Plate 27 that shows Britain. On Plate 25 (p. 49) the boundary between Schwyz and Uri has been omitted, and on Plate 19 (p. 39) it might have been well to indicate the city of Güns inasmuch as it is mentioned in the accompanying text on p. 38.

The author recognizes the lack of attention to Christianity outside western Europe: "When speaking of possible omissions one must certainly acknowledge that this volume is at least as myopic as its predecessors in its almost exclusive concentration on the western church. The story of certain eastern groups has been ignored as if the only movements of significance occurred between the Mediterranean and the Arctic Circle. Hopefully another edition may one day correct this and picture for example the Monophysites of Egypt, Nubia, Ethiopia, and Syria who were contemporaries of both Gregory I and Charles the Great. Perhaps we might then also look at the vast expanse of land covered by Nestorian missionaries, extending from the Caspian Sea to India, Ceylon, and even China by the seventh century. The great story of the Russian Church is certainly not adequately portrayed by simply noting the lines of mission expansion to the area, as we have done. Here also a selection has been made, hopefully to be amended and supplemented later." This reviewer would hope, too, that another, enlarged edition of this atlas may appear. In the meantime, the present contribution is a significant one and provides a most useful tool indeed for the student of medieval and Reformation church history.

Good indexes to the maps and to the text have been included. And there is an interesting bonus: On the various pages of text there appear some 30 small photographic reproductions of significant woodcuts, drawings, portraits, etc., from the periods covered.

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Avi-Yonah, Michael, *The Holy Land From the Persian to the Arab Conquests (536 B.C. to A.D. 640): A Historical Geography*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Book House, 1966. 231 pp., 24 maps. \$5.95.

This book is written by the foremost expert in the field of the geography of Palestine in Hellenistic and Roman times. The author was first connected for years with the Department of Antiquities of Palestine, and later with the Hebrew University, where he still serves as Professor of Archaeology. Some 30 years ago he published his first major work, a "Map of Roman Palestine" which appeared with an accompanying text in the *QDAP*, V (1935), 139-193. This work, consisting of map and text, was later published in a revised and expanded