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*Singapore's Permanent Territorial Revolution: Fifty Years in
Fifty Maps* by Rodolphe De Koninck (review)

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research on Southeast Asia, especially as it relates to the study of borders. It overcomes the dichotomy between native and European viewpoints as these are embedded in historical sources. *Imperial Bandits* is a book with a special concern with violence and political change. Whereas the core story looks at the relationship between the centre and the periphery, the book leaves open the question of how ethnic minorities in the highlands of Southeast Asia have reacted to changing conditions. In the future, I anticipate more attention to this issue, incorporating the voices of ethnic groups in this region.

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Singapore's Permanent Territorial Revolution: Fifty Years in Fifty Maps. By Rodolphe De Koninck. Cartography by Pham Thanh Hai and Marc Girard. Singapore: NUS Press, 2017. viii+154 pp.

After almost fifty years of observation, a country in a state of permanent territorial revolution is how Rodolphe De Koninck has come to describe Singapore. An updated version of his 1992 and 2008 atlases, this book benefits from the assistance of cartographers Pham Thanh Hải and Marc Girard. Like its predecessors, it opens with the hypothesis that the perpetual territorial transformation on the part of the post-independence Singapore state, whether consciously or not, subjected its population to the need for the constant reinvention of topophilia — the “affective bond between people and place” (Tuan 1974, p. 4). It has thus rendered the nation itself as the only possible unit of territorial allegiance for Singaporeans. De Koninck suggests that the narrative of a land-scarce but ambitious nation fuels this permanent (re)production of space.

Distributed across seven chapters, each of the atlas's fifty plates treats an aspect of Singapore's territorial transformation and reflects the societal impact of this transformation. Collectively, they systematically examine the hypothesis with which the book opens. The coverage of the maps ranges from 1957 to 2030, but the accompanying discussion focuses on the 1965–2030 period. Chapters 1 and 2 serve as the background chapters. The first of these chapters presents various geographical imaginings of Singapore, such as a migrant's haven. Plate 5 shows the regional and planning boundaries on which policymaking in Singapore relies, though it overlooks subzones within those boundaries. The plates in chapter 2 detail the environmental changes that Singapore has undergone as a result of efforts to maximize scarce resources. Plate 6 depicts, for example, the role of reclamation and the use of landfill in extending the island's territory.

Chapters 3 and 4 present the relationship between environmental change and demography. The former chapter traces the ways in which town planning and resettlement have often come to "the rescue of social management" (p. 44). The latter chapter covers production and circulation in non-residential areas of Singapore such as offshore islands and also the country's infrastructural skeleton — power grids and transportation networks.

Chapter 5 investigates the implications of constant change in sites of everyday life on society's sense of place. Although plate 28 emphasizes the proliferation of institutions of higher learning, the reference there to the relative absence of community educational institutions is not sufficiently clear. Readers would benefit from understanding that private schools such as madrasahs, attended mostly by Malay-Muslim students, do still exist. Since 1973, Special Assistance Plan schools, attended mostly by ethnic Chinese students, have also sought to preserve Chinese heritage and to promote the creation of a group of Singaporeans with excellent Chinese language skills and strong familiarity with Chinese culture.

The final chapters of the atlas expand the discussion across space and time. Chapter 6 reveals the extra-territorial influence of

Singapore's national policies and record of urban development. It pays less attention to other effects of the international networks that have resulted, or the relevance of glocalization and the transformation of cyberspace. Chapter 7 concludes that the country's perpetual territorial transformation will stand the test of time, that a process of "redefining territoriality" will continue (p. 127). Nevertheless, the book ends with the question, "Isn't the relentless overhaul of Singaporean living space — nearly always considered as a *fait accompli*, yet always subject to being revised by the state — leading to territorial alienation among the city-state's citizens and permanent residents?" (p. 133)

In illustrating the use of space as a tool for understanding Singapore's history, this atlas contributes to scholarship on nation-building in Singapore, and by extension the work on Singapore's development as a liveable city. It innovatively uses maps to draw our attention to Singapore residents' negotiation of place and citizenship by politicizing the constant change in landscapes and disentangling the concepts of territory and territoriality. While the atlas does not aim to address its opening hypothesis critically, it makes a persuasive case for that hypothesis and should stimulate further research into its validity and implications. One area of further research could involve supplementing the hypothesis through reference to the concept of *terraphilia*, a "sense of territorial belonging" (Oliveira, Roca, and Leitão 2010, p. 813).

As this book updates earlier atlases, both its discussion of developments between 2008 and 2017 and its methodological innovativeness are limited. The volume presents many original visualizations of Singapore, but it leaves one to wonder whether more experimental ways of mapping and analysing a community's *topophilia* are not possible. Also, perhaps because of limitations in data collection, the atlas's maps draw on a noticeably narrow set of sources; despite the high quality of those sources, this dependence renders some representations incomplete. Plate 29, showing places for recreation, for instance, has limitations in accounting for patterns of inclusion and exclusion. Similarly, the omission of certain areas

and population groups from the maps in the book raises questions about the relevance of the book's central hypothesis for all parts of Singapore and all segments of its society.

Nevertheless, as an up-to-date atlas that explores the impacts of Singapore's territorial revolution on society, while demonstrating the relevance of cartography to political geography, this book is unique. The array of thematic maps employed undergirds its value as a resource for tertiary-level courses in cartography. Enlivened with exhaustive and useful accompanying text, this visually engaging book can prod members of the public to reflect on topophilia. At the same time, it is sophisticated enough to be of use to scholars unfamiliar with Singapore's development and to prod planners to revisit assumptions about its advances as a city-nation-state.

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