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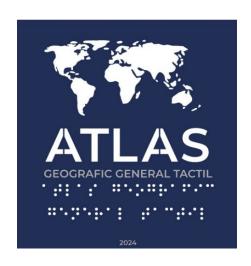
BOOK REVIEW

THE TACTILE GENERAL GEOGRAPHIC ATLAS

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The Tactile General Geographic Atlas, 2024, Alina Satmari (coord.), West University of Timișoara Publishing House, Timișoara, Romania.



This Tactile Geographic Atlas represents a novelty in the field of contemporary visual geographies. It is an interesting and unique initiative which aims to bring geography more closely towards the people in need encountering visual disabilities. It is designed to be used as an independent and individual instrument both dedicated for people with personal purposes as well as for children in schools without being limited to a specific sort of people or audience. All maps have a specific graphical design which can be both visual and tactile read by all the users.

In addition, to the main document three types of auxiliary materials join aiming to ensure the simultaneous and independent usage by any type of readers. Each map has a set of information provided in three ways as a visual support, as a Braille mean and as an audio version. Their content presents an introduction as a guiding mode in the reading process followed by a consistent body of scientific explanations. The atlas structure aims to provide and to show the world from the largest to lower scales, prom general to specific aspects, using open source data and new scientific information. The first group of maps and graphical images unveils the cosmic space and our Solar System, the moon and information regarding the cosmic space explorations. Then a specific section is dedicated



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to the global geographical aspects which presents the continents and the world oceans, their evolution, elements concerning the relief, the world climates, vegetation, population, the world environment and the natural hazards. The final part of the atlas is dedicated beside some natural features, the world countries and the urban areas at a continental scale. Multiple technologies were used in this atlas production process which included a team of specialists and students from a wide scientific backgrounds. All used data in terms of ethical aspects were mentioned in the final list of references in order to maintain although the atlas the scientific and academic accuracy. Each sketch includes introductive key explanations and aspects with the specific role to guide tactile reading and help the reader to understand the graphical content. This supplemental material has the role of supporting the reader in the comprehensive understanding of all provided information. The used technology of the atlas was ZyFuse of course with all its opportunities and limitations. The creation of this atlas presents a challenge and involves a complex process of understanding various perspectives. It focuses on deconstructing and reconstructing the features of the contemporary world to provide meaningful insights. Through a specific set of geographical maps, the atlas aims to reveal their content and stories in a tactile manner. The atlas represents not only an original instrument for the world knowledge but furthermore a symbol of a common effort of an excellent group of specialists to contribute to a more inclusive world where each individual, regardless of its abilities has equal access to personal education and multiple opportunities for his personal development through various learning means. Since this atlas represents a novelty and a unique instrument for present contemporary learning and education we welcome this new editorial work and we surely consider that this instrument is just the beginning of such approaches in the present geographical field of the current applied and practical contemporary geographies.