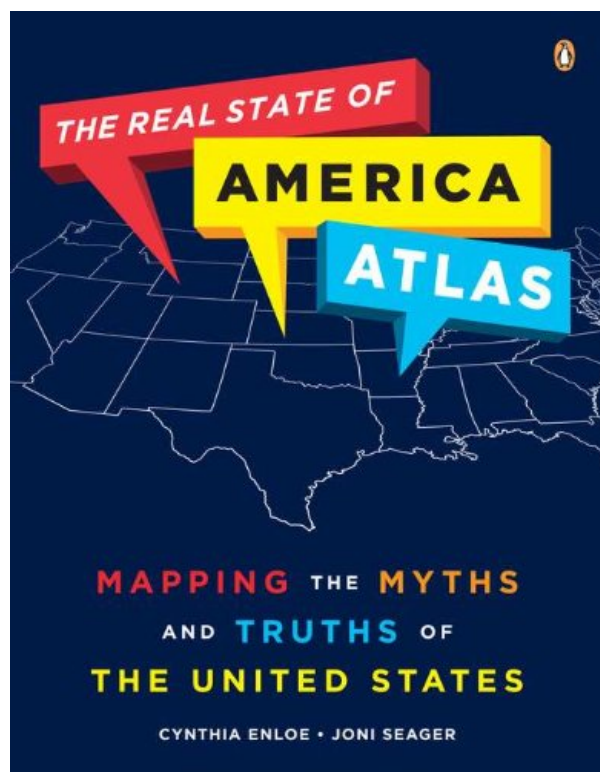
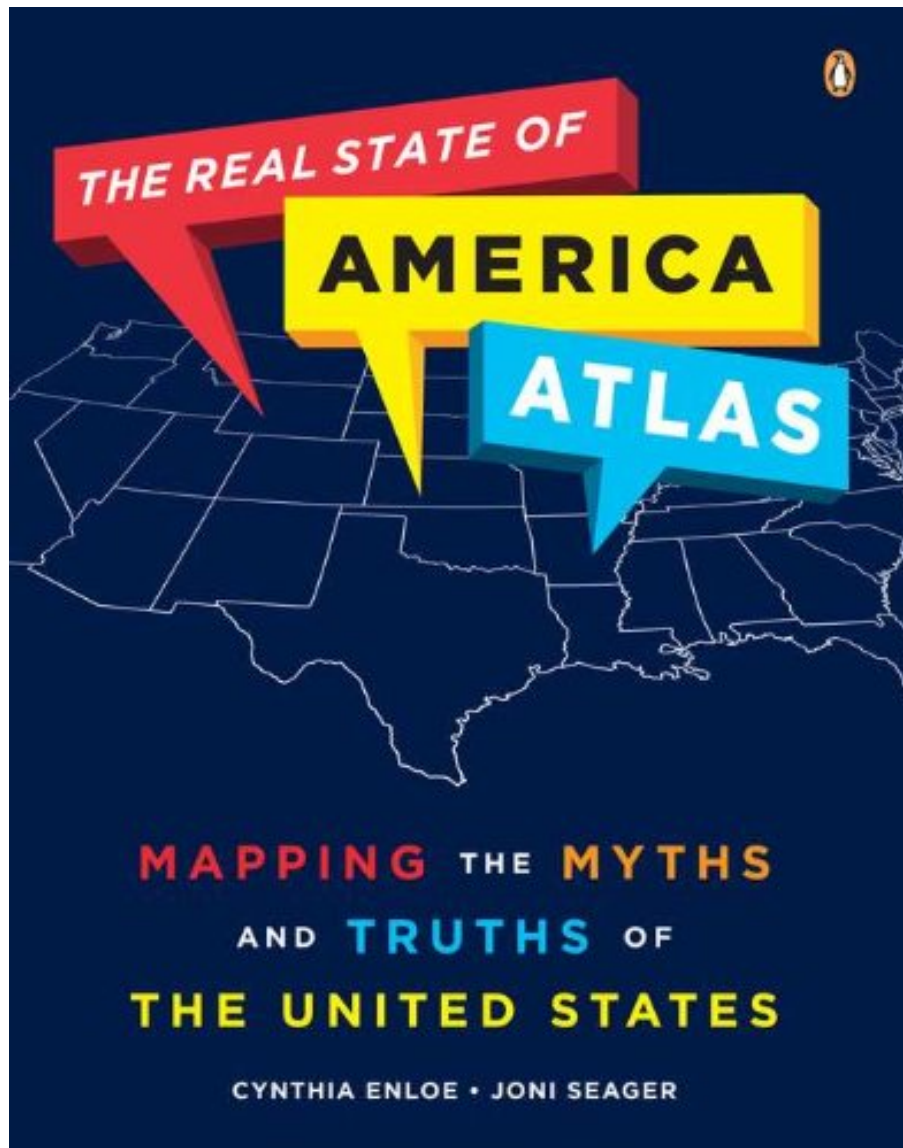


**THE REAL STATE OF AMERICA ATLAS:
MAPPING THE MYTHS AND TRUTHS OF
THE UNITED STATES BY CYNTHIA ENLOE,
JONI SEAGER**



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Review

“a visually stunning collection of 40 chapters that lays bare the condition of the modern US.” (Tim Hall Times Higher Education 2011-07-28)

About the Author

Cynthia Enloe is Research Professor at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts. Joni Seager is Professor and Chair of Global Studies at Bentley University in Boston, Massachusetts.

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A vivid and frequently surprising picture of America in the twenty- first century.

Packed with fascinating facts and illustrated throughout with clear, easy-to-read, four-color graphics, The Real State of America Atlas draws back the curtain on our complex nation to reveal the myriad realities of the American experience—from our changing demographics to patterns of home ownership to the kinds of food we eat. Cowritten by two esteemed scholars, this comprehensive and enlightening work upends many long-held myths and shows us who we are today. It is the perfect read for anyone who wants to better understand our ever- changing nation.

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Most helpful customer reviews

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful.

Thought provoking but lacking something in depth!

By Jennifer Chatham

The Real State of America: Mapping the Myths and Truths of The United States is an atlas of statistical data pertaining to the USA and how they rate with the rest against the world.

This 128-page book is packed solid with references, maps, graphics, illustrations, essays and statistics. It explores the myths and the realities of Americans living in the 21st century.

Topics include the wage gap, the economy, export/imports, marriage/divorce, foreclosures/homelessness, the environment, nuclear arms, climate change and so much more. Each shows the reader, in detail, the

percentage of Americans who are affected and how they rate globally.

The Real State of America breaks this information down into rates for men, woman, by nationality, age et cetera and shows how each group combines to make up the statistics. Most of the facts and figures are up-to-date, with many of the reports from 2008-2010.

Cynthia Enloe is a Research Professor from Clark University and in 2010 she was awarded the Howard Zinn Lifetime Achievement Award in Peace studies. Joni Seager is a Professor and Chair of Global Studies at Bentley University, has several books accredited to her as well as, working with the UN and UNESCO in further world benefiting projects.

These two women have collected all the data that you will find within these pages and have presented it by an easy-to-follow method. Their aim is to bring further awareness to the decline of the "American Dream" and discredit the myth involving the "Land of Opportunity".

What does it really mean to live in the United States of America? This book will explain the transaction between cultural, material and ideological relationships in such things as religion; military; healthcare and its politics; big business and the economic flows of wealth and debt both globally and locally.

Mapping, it is believed, is a tool that can display and analyze patterns of similarity and difference to enable political debate. With over 40 topics addressing information-rich subjects, The State of America will ensure conversation and discussions.

After reading this book, I found myself sharing the conclusions with others, marking this as a definite conversation-starter. It shares a wealth of data and I found it interesting how it was cross-referenced with the globe. I was surprised to see how Canada stacked against the USA and found it highly informative.

The information shared is some of the most up-to-date that I have found and it is because of this that I would highly recommend it. The comparisons dispensed throughout the pages give the reader a new view of the world and how the United States interacts with it.

12 of 15 people found the following review helpful.

A Must Read

By Lois E. Brynes

Mapping the Myths and Truths of the United States is a must read--or, rather must see. There is so much stunning (yes), thoughtful, information in each two-page spread. The book made me think of the best museum signage in the world. How do you make complex information/analysis accessible in just a few sentences? How do you make what could be considered really specialized 'knowledge' accessible to an audience of diverse backgrounds and interests.

Whether Enloe and Seager's book is left on the cocktail table for sharing or in the bathroom for private pondering, it will leave you thinking and wondering and wanting to talk. The Real State of America Atlas is an important book for all of us who care about community, our country, and U.S. influence and impact on the world.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Great Graphics, Mediocre Narrative

By Kochevnik

First, let me explain why I like this atlas.

The data is great. A lot of very useful and illuminating information is packed into this slim volume. From personal experience I can vouch that the authors are working with top-notch sources for their graphics, although I wish that they would cite them more clearly.

The graphical presentation is also superb: very colorful, very creative and very engaging.

Now, the downsides.

The accompanying text is not top-quality. This is not to quibble with the authors' politics (Enloe in particular has written much on the intersection of international politics, militarism and feminism). Rather, the writing itself leaves much to be desired, especially in its overuse of "scare quotes" around every other "word". In addition, the text often makes sweeping generalizations that would seem to obscure, rather than to illuminate, the real state of America (examples such as "Americans eat big" and "Americans live, breathe and sleep sports"). Often this text is actually fact-devoid: for example, there is an infobox in the Native American section (you can see it in the preview) about the use of Native American Indian terms by school-based and professional sports teams, while not mentioning the numbers, the trend line, or acknowledging that some usages are sanctioned by affected Native Nations.

An additional issue is with the maps: often an abstract map of the United States is used in the graphics (to demonstrate obesity rates by state, say). This style of map shows each state as essentially a block floating in space, not connected to the other states. Given the small size of the volume, this type of abstract map means that while you can easily tell what's going on in California or Texas, it is very difficult to say the same for Connecticut, Rhode Island, or Maryland.

Overall, it's a good reference book, very nice to flip through. It's a nice supplement, but I would hesitate using it as a primary source for learning about the current shape of the United States, especially for understanding the data presented; I would recommend Cheryl Russell's well-written "Bet You Didn't Know: Hundreds of Intriguing Facts About Living in the USA" instead for that (although this work does not cover military and international issues as well).

See all 12 customer reviews...

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