

THE NATIONAL ATLAS OF SPAIN (1955-1965): FACSIMILE DIGITAL VERSION

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BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

At the beginning of 2009, the National Geographic Institute (IGN) published the digital facsimile edition "The National Atlas of Spain 1986-2008" on DVD and web. This publication allows the interactive visualization of the thematic groups of the National Atlas of Spain included in booklets, published as a print or as a CD version (PDF), from 1986 when the project of the National Atlas began up to 2008. This publication was awarded as "cartographic excellence digital product" in the International Cartographic Conference held in Chile (2009) and was selected as "map of the month 03/2010" on the International Cartographic Association website.

About the middle of 2010 and to make available the rich heritage of the National Atlas produced from 1955 to 1985, the IGN decided to produce a digital facsimile edition of this atlas.

This National Atlas was released for the first time in 1965 after several attempts. This work was commissioned by the Geographic and Cadastral Institute (now IGN). To this aim, the Commission of National Atlas, led by Dr Vazquez Maure and involving the most prominent Spanish geographers of the time, was established in 1955.

The initial project included the completion of 100 sheets of maps (28 geographical and other thematic sheets). The main achievement of the project was the production of a map of the country at a scale of 1:500,000.

The Atlas was published in a large box material lined containing the sheets (28 geographic and 24 thematic pages), the books of the geographic review and the toponymical index.

APPROACH AND METHODS

The objective of this project is to provide a full digital version of the National Atlas of Spain of 1965 on DVD and web, which makes easy to consult since there are no copies of this atlas in the market.

To develop this facsimile we have followed a methodology similar as the previous facsimile:

- Materials scanned to 300dpi and saved as TIFFs.
- Flash technology as software used.
- And traditional and crucial phases such as: specification about the content and the functions; design of interface (objective, presentation style, delivery platform- Web/DVD); details such as the design of each screen; the type to navigation to be used; the interactive characteristics of the products; the testing and continuous evaluation as a key factor for ensuring the quality of the product and it proper working in all the operation systems.

RESULTS

It is available on web/DVD a publication that is nearly impossible to get or to be browsed (there are some copies in the IGN and in other scientific libraries).

CONCLUSION AND FUTURE PLANS

This National Atlas of Spain of 1965 is an excellent work from a scientific and educational point of view since this work is synthesis of physical and human geography of the country through the cartographic language.

Our aim is to provide a continuous view at the time about the geographical reality of our country through both National Atlas facsimiles and nowadays with the National Atlas Information System of Spain (SIANE, the Spanish acronym).