MAPS, ARCHIVES, AND TIMELINES: REVISITING THE 'GEOMAT' PROJECT

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Over a number of years, our team has employed a web architecture designed to unify historical events in both time and space. We developed a tool, called a GEOMAT: Geographic Events Ordering Maps Archives and Timelines. A number of examples appear on the website, www.geomats.org. Indeed, the GEOMAT itself is a web architecture assembling maps, archives, and timelines in a systematic fashion that is designed not only to compress a large number of items into a compact space but is also important for delineating gaps in the historical succession of events that might otherwise go unnoticed. For greater detail, the reader is referred to the GEOMAT Guide; its opening paragraph appears below:

"This guide introduces GEOMAT (Geographic Events Ordering: Maps, Archives, Timelines) an original innovative web architecture template with great internal flexibility so that it can frame the analysis and Internet presentation of many different kinds of human events and processes. It is not a software program and can use whatever commercial website programs the researcher likes. Using the unique properties of the Internet, the GEOMAT web architecture can make vast amounts of archival documents and images articulated to time and space accessible easily and quickly. Individual web architectures form case studies of particular events, including the dynamic streams of events leading up to the central event and the aftermath, the streams of consequences flowing from the event. A GEOMAT can be used for many kinds of investigations whether for political, detective, intelligence, and other investigative work or for academic research questions. A GEOMAT integrates analysis and synthesis. We can then use the Internet not just for information/data, that is facts, but for creating knowledge and understanding. A GEOMAT can aid conflict resolution by creating web architectures for all sides of a conflict, articulating large amounts of documents and other data in a single website. It is especially useful for historical geographical research."

Often, when we read about the history of a person or an event, we are given a list of military battles or related, discrete events. However, we know from day to day living that a great deal must have happened in advance of that battle: events in political history are circumscribed by events, indeed often created and defined by events, in the cultural and intellectual historical environment of the time.   The linked GEOMAT to the life of Suleyman has multiple layers of links as a nested hierarchy of web pages. http://www-personal.umich.edu/~sarhaus/larimore02/indexSuleyman.html They include animation, music, and whatever the internet supported at the time they were used as teaching tools.

As the world becomes more mobile, however, there will be different formats needed to interface with information. And, there will be a need to be able to bring conventional print media into the contemporary scene, at least in a transitional stage between 'print' and 'no print.' In this note, we suggest one way to convert at least part of a web-based GEOMAT into a format that can be used with a book and a QR code reader (perhaps on a smart phone).

To illustrate the idea, the GEOMAT below shows a typical set of landmark events in the political history of the time of Suleyman and the expansion of the Ottoman Empire. The QR codes link to web pages

with more information about the single, discrete events. Each of those pages also has links, and a hierarchy is created across the Internet. Subordinate GEOMATs, year by year (or finer scale) create a nested hierarchy for this context.

We begin with the GEOMAT timeline of events at the broadest scale of consideration: annually. Notice that the timeline is calendrical: no year is left out even though there may be no landmark political battle or event to associate with a given year. While the QR codes, themselves, are important because they are windows into a set of critical landmark events, of equal importance are the gaps between landmark events. What happened in those gaps? What sorts of events were taking place, perhaps at a finer scale of resolution, in those times? Here there is an opportunity for refining the resolution of the historical environmental lens leading to more precise understanding. Even more important, it is in these gaps where there is opportunity for discovery.

MILITARY CAMPAIGNS OF SULEYMAN, 1520-1566
QR codes represent landmark events.
Gray spaces represent temporal gaps
Black spaces represent years associated with the QR code directly above.

1521   Conquest of Belgrade
        http://www-personal.umich.edu/~sarhaus/larimore02/belgrade.html

1522   Fall of Rhodes
        http://www-personal.umich.edu/~sarhaus/larimore02/rhodes.html

1523
1524
1525
1526   Battle of Mohacs
        http://www-personal.umich.edu/~sarhaus/larimore02/mohacs.html

1527
1528

1529	Siege of Vienna	http://www-personal.umich.edu/~sarhaus/larimore02/vienna.html
1530		
1531		
1532	Siege of Guns	http://www-personal.umich.edu/~sarhaus/larimore02/guns.html
1533	Two Iraqs Campaign (Conquest of Baghdad)	http://www-personal.umich.edu/~sarhaus/larimore02/baghdad.html
1534	Conquest of Baghdad; Battles of Tunis	
1535	Battles of Tunis	http://www-personal.umich.edu/~sarhaus/larimore02/tunis.html
1536		
1537	War with Venice, Siege of Corfu	http://www-personal.umich.edu/~sarhaus/larimore02/corfu.html
1538	Naval Battle of Preveza	http://www-personal.umich.edu/~sarhaus/larimore02/preveza.html
1539		
1540	Peace with Venice	http://www-personal.umich.edu/~sarhaus/larimore02/venice.html
1541		
1542		

	1543	Siege of Nice http://www-personal.umich.edu/~sarhaus/larimore02/nice.html
	1544	
	1545	
	1546	
	1547	
	1548	Conquest of Van http://www-personal.umich.edu/~sarhaus/larimore02/VANsample2.html
	1549	
	1550	
	1551	
	1552	
	1553	
	1554	Campaign in Iran http://www-personal.umich.edu/~sarhaus/larimore02/iran.html
	1555	
	1556	Hungarian Campaign http://www-personal.umich.edu/~sarhaus/larimore02/hungary.html
	1557	Hungarian Campaign
	1558	Hungarian Campaign
	1559	Hungarian Campaign
	1560	
	1561	
	1562	
	1563	
	1564	
	1565	Siege of Malta http://www-personal.umich.edu/~sarhaus/larimore02/malta.html

1566   Siege of Szeged
          http://www-personal.umich.edu/~sarhaus/larimore02/szeged.html

Expansion of the Ottoman Empire: Classical Period, 1300-1600.

1352
1480
1590
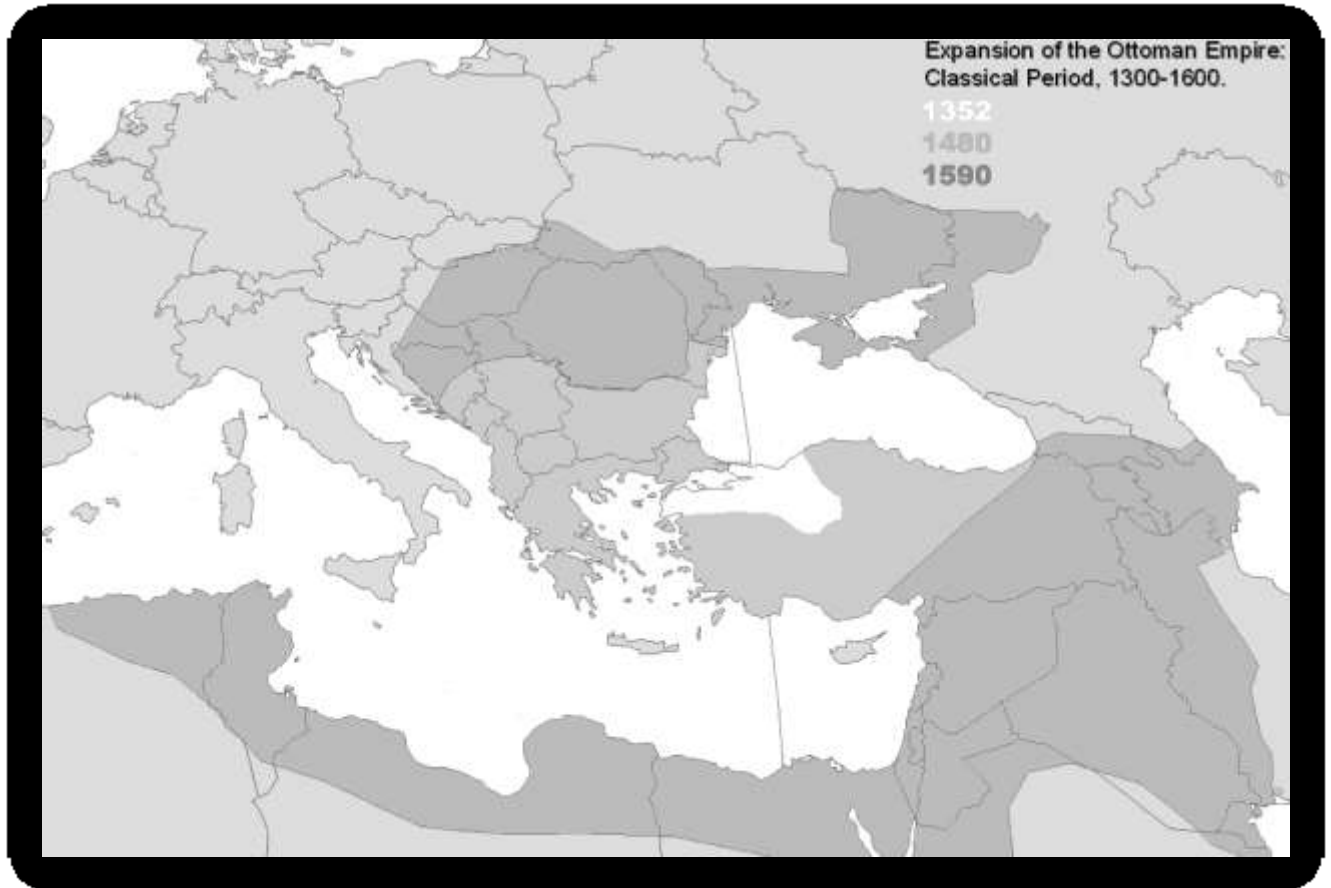
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Haug, R. Mapping the Tulunid Dynasty. http://www-personal.umich.edu/~sarhaus/Larimore/larimore02/haugcover.html

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