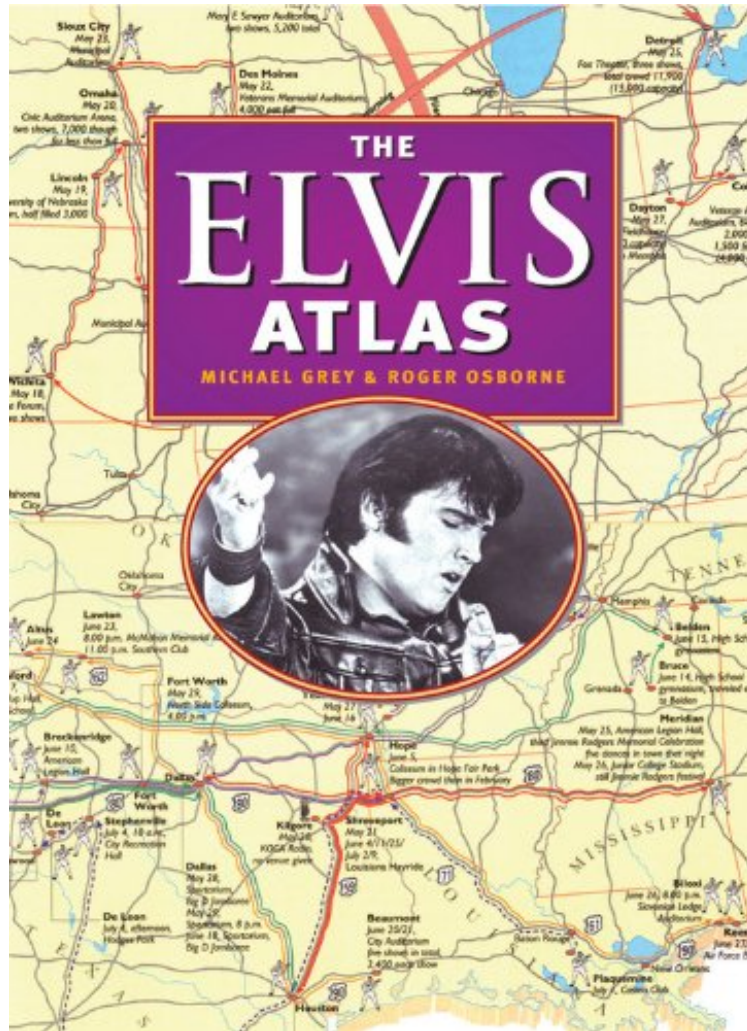


(Library ebook) The Elvis Atlas

The Elvis Atlas

Michael Gray, Roger Osborne
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Michael Gray, Roger Osborne : The Elvis Atlas before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Elvis Atlas:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Interesting and Good Maps but Very BiasedBy Anton KaridianI ordered "The Elvis Atlas" on because I thought from the reviews that it sounded like an unusual and fun kind of book on the King. Well, it is, and it's interesting to look over the maps of various parts of his life. For instance, in the section on Las Vegas I can now see on their map of the city where the places that Elvis did things in Vegas are in relation to each other. Likewise with his time in the Army and the maps that show various places in Germany that Elvis went, and with the maps of Memphis that show places in relation to each other. The book is well laid out and attractive, with maps that are easy to read and with several good photos and graphics added. I think it's also fun to see various phases

of Elvis's life shown in separate sections like this. However, I take exception with much of the text of this book, which is very opinionated. Basically, Gray and Osborne take the position that the only legitimate music that Elvis sang was rock n' roll, while almost everything else he sang was garbage. Therefore, they're very enthusiastic about his 1950s output, so that section of the book is detailed and interesting. (Background info through the 1950s, which encompasses 6 years of Elvis's career, goes to about page 110, while the next 18 years of his career is given just 53 pages.) But after the 1950s the authors are usually sharply critical. For example, about the pretty soundtrack from the movie "Blue Hawaii" they say, "he was beginning to sound....like Bing Crosby. It was the beginning of the end." Likewise with his ballad hits of the early '60s, such as "It's Now or Never" and "Are You Lonesome Tonight?" that they complain were "aiming for the middle of the road." They're even rougher on Elvis's Las Vegas shows from 1969 on, about which the authors state, "Elvis was reduced to copying the vulgar, lowest-common-denominator mediocrity of the Tom Jones floorshow," and later they add, "It was an artistic horror-story." I'm puzzled why they totally condemn these Las Vegas concerts, since there he often sang rock and R B songs like "Proud Mary," "Polk Salad Annie," "See See Rider," and many of his '50s hits (actually, they contradict themselves by later praising his first Vegas album). Also, Gray and Osborne dismiss his gospel recordings other than the album "His Hand in Mine." They lump together all of Elvis's '60s movie music as "throwing away his credibility," even though a considerable number of those songs, such as "Little Egypt," "You're the Boss," "What'd I Say?," and "Clean Up Your Own Backyard," are quite good. I'm happy that they highly praise Elvis's 1969 recording sessions, since I agree with them that those were terrific. Regarding Elvis's last 3 or 4 years, the only songs the authors single out for praise, "Promised Land" and "T-R-O-U-B-L-E," are - surprise, surprise - rock songs. The rest of Elvis's later studio recordings, which actually include much good quality work, they either ignore or characterize as a "disappointment" and "tortured." It also seems odd to me that the text of the book says little about geography even though it's called "The Elvis ATLAS." I have heard Elvis say in several interviews that he liked many different styles of music, and in the 1950s when he went in Sun Records in Memphis and was asked what kind of songs he sang, he answered, "I sing all kinds." In a 1961 press conference he stated, "I do NOT only like rock music." One time he asked one of his backup singers, "Why do people call me a rock singer? I'm just a singer." And he stated in several interviews that his favorite of all the songs he had sung was "It's Now or Never." One of Elvis's main strengths was that he sang many styles of music very well. Thus, I'm disappointed with "The Elvis Atlas" in some ways. I still think it's fun to look over and see maps of various places pertaining to Elvis, and the '50s section is particularly interesting. But I would NOT give this book to someone who knows little about Elvis as a way for them to learn about him, since I view the book as very biased and unfair about Elvis's career.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By A Fab 4 Fan....
If you want to see the ground "The King" covered in his day....
This is the one too own....
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Elvis is Everywhere!
By Shoshaunna
My mother is a big Elvis fan and collector of memorabilia, and this is a unique item for the E fan who has everything! It has a lot of fun facts and info on his journeys from the beginnings (his ancestors) all the way to his death. I was excited to see that it lists all his tour dates, including the time I saw him in June 1974 in Louisville with my mom and dad (I was just 3 years old, but I remember it!) It's packed with photos, tidbits of info, and history! A fun book to check out, even if you're not an Elvis fan - but even better if you are - a great way to plan a "Elvis was here" road trip!! ;o)

Through dazzling illustrations, specially created maps, and compelling photographs, The Elvis Atlas locates our greatest musical icon in his world and his times. It gives us a rare glimpse at the landscape in which Elvis lived, recorded, performed, and made movies, and a unique perspective on the frantic touring schedules of his early years, the hysteria of the fans, the network TV specials, the army, the movies, and the comeback tour of his final years. Detailed maps and reconstructions, organized in lavish double-page spreads, bring to life the extraordinary story of our greatest cultural phenomenon: The King of Rock and Roll. An indispensable guide for every Elvis fan and for everyone interested in American popular culture, The Elvis Atlas is lavishly illustrated in full-color throughout and filled with unique maps. Elvis's early life at the crossroads of Southern musical culture presented him with an extraordinary variety of musical influences. Through his enormous popularity Elvis brought country, blues, gospel, and rhythm and blues to the mainstream of popular music. In doing so he changed music forever and became the touchstone for all later developments in popular music and culture, worldwide. But Elvis was the product of a particular time. The Elvis Atlas shows that time and place in a new and fascinating light.

From Library Journal
Rock journalist Gray joins with Osborne (The Historical Atlas of the Earth, Holt, 1996) literally to map Elvis's life. Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc.
About the Author
Michael Grey is the author of Song and Dance Man: The Art of Bob Dylan and Mother! The Frank Zappa Story.
Roger Osborne is the co-author of The Complete New Musical Express Singles Charts and The Complete New Musical Express Album Charts. His other books include The Historical Atlas Of The Earth.