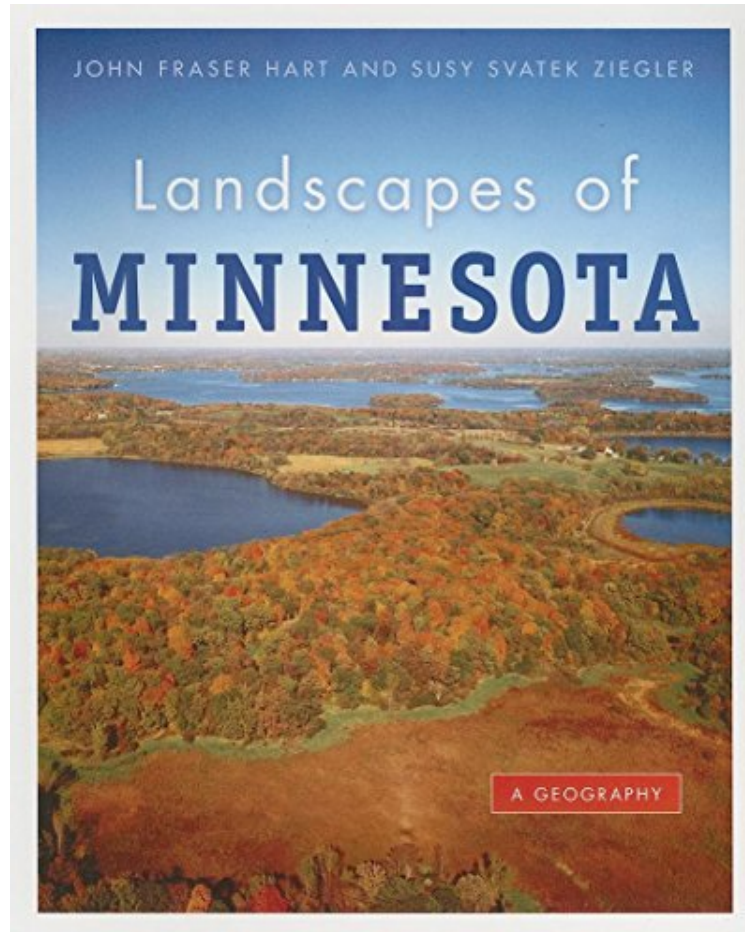


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## Landscapes of Minnesota: A Geography

*John Fraser Hart, Susy Svatek Ziegler*  
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**John Fraser Hart, Susy Svatek Ziegler : Landscapes of Minnesota: A Geography** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Landscapes of Minnesota: A Geography:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. If you like textbooks, and you don't mind that the data is a few years old, it's quite interesting.By tommyFirst of all, this is very much a text book in nature. I'd say maybe college intro level. If you hate textbooks, encyclopedias, etc., you're not going to like this book. I personally like that type of book, but yet I found this one to be (like most) not as current as I would like. It seems like almost all the data was probably very accurate 15 years ago, but much of it has changed considerable by now. I'm not deducting any stars for that however because, if it was current... 1. It would be so for only a couple of years anyway. and 2. It would probably sell for twice as much as I paid. A lot of the information is stuff that is extremely obvious to anyone that is even somewhat familiar with MN, but some was also new to me, even after living here for many years. I found it interesting that 1860, Stillwater was larger than Minneapolis!2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Landscapes of MinnesotaBy J. LindnerThis book is wonderful. I actually had the opportunity to take a class from Professor Hart back in the early

1980s, and I thought he was a solid professor of geography. This book confirms that. Geographers must be multidisciplinarians and Professor Hart is no exception. History, ecology, agronomy, economics, geology, biology, climatology, meteorology, sociology all make their way into this book and into the realm of geography. The skill of the geographer is to acknowledge all of these other disciplines and deal with them appropriately. Professor Hart does this with a master's touch. I did pick up on three errors, however. On page 66 Hart describes the Treaty of Utrecht of 1815. Utrecht was signed in 1713, the Congress of Vienna was in 1815. On page 268 he writes that the Metrodome opened in 1989, when in fact it opened in 1982. Finally, on page 272 he writes that 3M's corporate headquarters are in Washington County, Minnesota when in fact it is in Maplewood in Ramsey County. But these oversights do not detract from an otherwise spectacular book. I would expect that this book will become the standard college textbook for courses in Minnesota geography for years to come.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. An ideal template and example for similar studies of other states. By Midwest Book Review

The geography of a land is as important as its climate in determining the kind of ecosystems it will support, the growth patterns of the human populace and their activities, the sort of lives and livelihoods that will be fostered. To understand a state's history, it is always useful to understand its geography. The collaborative work of John Fraser Hart (Professor of Geography, University of Minnesota) and Susy Svatek Ziegler (Assistant Professor of Geography, University of Minnesota), "Landscapes Of Minnesota" is a comprehensive survey of this upper Midwest state's geography, including its impact upon the people, the land, and the Minnesota economy. The informed and informative text is enhanced for the reader with the added inclusion of 110 color photographs, 100 maps, 30 graphs, 10 line drawings, tables, extensive notes, a glossary, and an index. Also available in a hardcover edition (9780873516112, \$34.95), "Landscapes Of Minnesota" is a work of impressive scholarship and ideal as a textbook. While highly recommended for personal, academic and community library reference collections, "Landscapes of Minnesota" would also serve as an ideal template and example for similar studies of other states.

Have you ever wondered why Minnesota's forests grow in the north and not in the west? Why gaming casinos are prospering? Why producers raise chickens instead of cows? Why some towns grow while others fail? Minnesota's natural wonders have had an effect on and been changed by the people who call this complex mosaic of lakes and forests, rivers and fields home. Through engaging, in-depth text and copious illustrations, John Fraser Hart and Susy Svatek Ziegler explore the human and environmental characteristics that define the state in *Landscapes of Minnesota*. Illustrated with hundreds of maps and color photographs that reveal the changing character of Minnesota, this stunning geography traces the development of the state's natural environment, how the land formations, plants, and animals became a part of its fabric, and how they have changed over time. Focusing on small towns, the authors document patterns of growth and decline, offering striking commentary on these once-key bastions of Minnesota-ness. Turning to the Twin Cities, they analyze the expanding urban arc and the surprising growth of a baby boomer retirement belt. *Landscapes of Minnesota* explores how the lives and livelihoods of Minnesotans have affected what the state has become and what it one day will be.

About the Author Susy Szatek Ziegler is an assistant professor of geography at the University of Minnesota and a Fulbright Scholar. She is co-author of *Alternative Biographies of the Global Garden*.