Putting States into the Cloud: The Territorial Development of Central Europe since 1650
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Content:
In a long-term project generating from the German Historical GIS, the territorial boundaries of all of Central Europe since 1650 are now being put into a GIS environment. The aim is to reconstruct the emergence, duration, and decline of states over an extended period of time (some 350 years), thus offering a new mapping tool, but also a platform for the management and analysis of attribute data. The paper will introduce the project and present some of the GIS work already done. In addition, it will raise the question of whether cloud computing can be a useful tool for the dissemination of structured data to be used in spatially oriented research in the humanities/social sciences as well as to the general public.

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