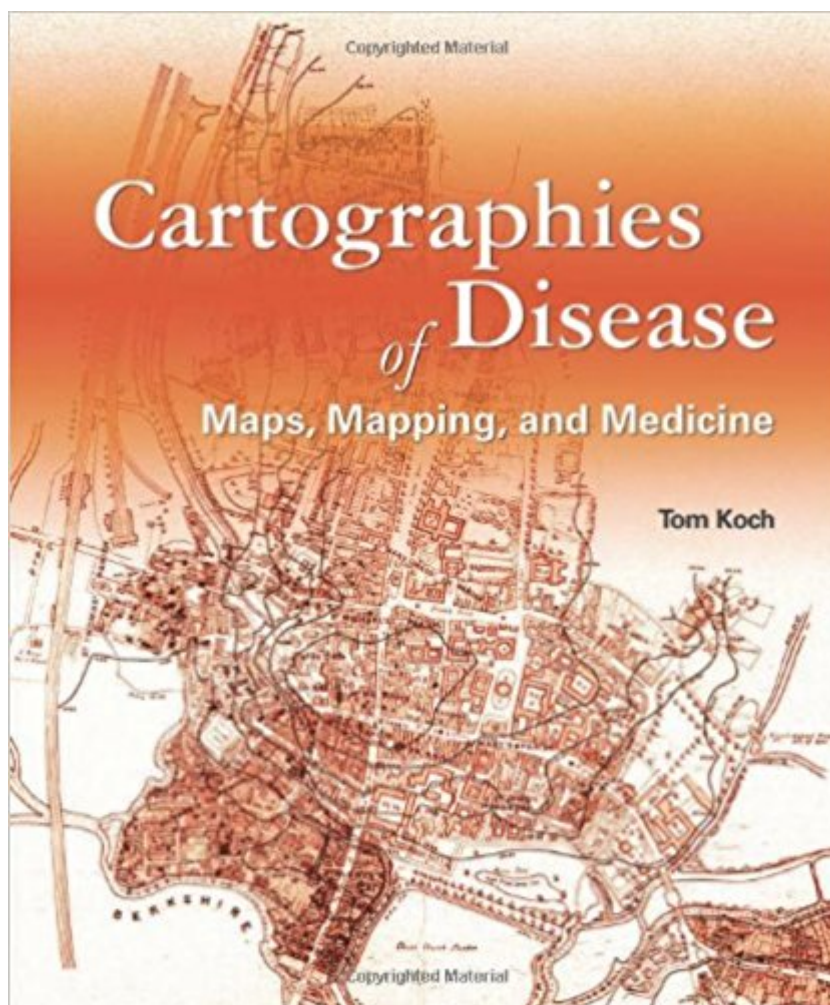


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# Cartographies Of Disease: Maps, Mapping, And Medicine



## Synopsis

A comprehensive survey of the technology of mapping and its relationship to the battle against disease, this look at medical mapping advances a radical argument that maps are not merely representations of spatial realities but a way of thinking about relations between viral and bacterial communities, human hosts, and the environments in which diseases flourish. The history of medical mapping is traced from its growth in the 19th century during an era of trade and immigration to its renaissance in the 1990s during a new era of globalization. Referencing maps older than John Snow's famous cholera maps of London in the mid-19th century, this survey pulls from the plague maps of the 1600s, while addressing current issues concerning the ability of GIS technology to track diseases worldwide.

## Book Information

Paperback: 420 pages

Publisher: ESRI Press; 1st edition (July 1, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1589481208

ISBN-13: 978-1589481206

Product Dimensions: 8 x 1 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #756,661 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #134 in Books > Science & Math > Earth Sciences > Cartography #211 in Books > Computers & Technology > Graphics & Design > Computer Modelling > Remote Sensing & GIS #214 in Books > Science & Math > Earth Sciences > Geography > Information Systems

## Customer Reviews

Tom Koch is an adjunct professor of gerontology at Simon Fraser University, an associate with the David Lam Centre for International Communication, a bioethicist at the Canadian Down's Syndrome Society, and the director of Information Outreach, Ltd. He lives in Vancouver, British Columbia.

This book is so well written! The information on various diseases mapping is easily understandable for anyone with an interest in following the timing & spread of disease. This latest edition includes the Zika Virus, AIDS and new information on the Bird Flu.

The author discusses the history of medical mapping (from the late 1600s to the early 2000s), and explores how it has developed and evolved in the face of advances in the medical sciences and improvements in mapmaking techniques and technology. In the process, the author: (1) discusses some of the controversies that have surrounded medical mapping; (2) challenges some of the conventional wisdom about the significance of early medical mapping; (3) notes the importance of statistical techniques to advances in medical mapping; (4) contends that some proponents of medical mapping have mistakenly stressed the importance of medical maps in isolation instead of focusing on the importance of the medical and scientific thinking that used medical maps as vehicles of scientific communication and persuasion; and (5) contends that modern medical mapping has the potential to be a more valuable tool in future studies of the biomedical, social, economic, and environmental factors of health and disease. The author offers some provocative contentions and arguments that challenge the reader to consider medical mapping, past and present, from a different perspective and in a different way. Although some of the author's contentions and arguments are problematic and not persuasive, his overall discussion and analysis are sober, informative, thought-provoking, and worthy of serious consideration. The book is not suitable for casual reading, and is aimed at an audience with at least some training, knowledge, or experience with the history of medicine and epidemiology, the history of mapmaking, the scientific method, the visual presentation of evidence, and current techniques and practices of medical mapping. The book might be of interest to readers who are: (1) medical and other health care professionals; (2) historians of medicine, public health, epidemiology, or mapmaking; (3) professionals interested in a different, historical perspective on the visual presentation of scientific data and evidence; and (4) public officials involved in making decisions pertaining to medical, public health, and epidemiological matters.

What do early medical maps have to do with modern GIS maps? How can patterns of diseases from the past relate to those in modern times created by GIS? Dr. Koch is a geographer, bioethicist, and here explores relationships between medicine and mapmaking from paper-based to computer-based today. Chapters follow early epidemics, mapmaking processes and myths, public health and medical developments, and more as it examines those who made maps, cartography issues, and medical history. Plenty of charts and detail throughout.

Very good

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