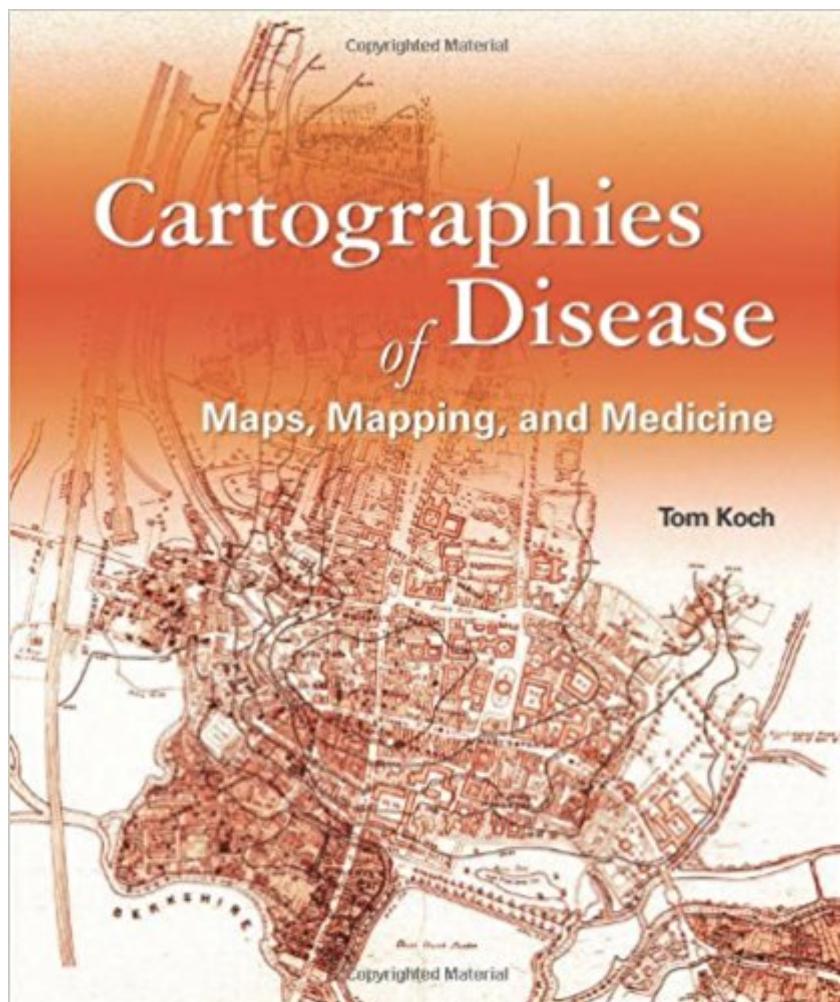


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Cartographies Of Disease: Maps, Mapping, And Medicine



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 tracedâ "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

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Customer Reviews

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.

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