
Reviews

Rethinking maps: new frontiers in cartographic theory edited by M Dodge, R Kitchin, C Perkins; Routledge, London, 2009, 254 pages, £85.00 cloth (US \$135.00) ISBN 9780415461528

This collection of essays marks a milestone of scholarship in critical cartography, a discourse most notably augured by the seminal work of John B Harley collected in *The New Nature of Maps* (2001). This collection moves forward from Harley and provides a timely summation and spur for future research in maps and mapping. In the final chapter of this edited book, a chapter subtitled “A manifesto for map studies”, Martin Dodge, Chris Perkins, and Rob Kitchin make clear that: “It is, we would argue, a stimulating time for mapping scholarship with many challenges and opportunities opening up: no single epistemological position now dominates interpretation” (page 229).

It is the wealth of new ways of seeing maps, and the approaches to interpreting their interrelations with social, environmental, cultural, political (and so on) dimensions of the world, that have come to characterise mapping as such a dynamic field of enquiry. The editors present, in the opening chapter, an excellent grounding in the development of cartographic theory, or ‘thinking about maps’. The key to this chapter is the presentation not of a history of cartography but of a set of concurrent discourses in cartography that range from scientific perspectives on truth, representation, and communication to postrepresentational cartography dealing with maps as inscriptions or propositions, as well as actor networks and as practices. The broad scope of the book means that the ramifications of all these cartographic theories are explored to a greater or a lesser extent.

It is particularly interesting to note the parallel development of critical cartographies, as explored in *Rethinking Maps*, with critical GIS and the critique of associated geospatial technologies. It is evident in these essays that GIS is fair game for criticism: it does, after all, provide the medium for a great deal of a map production nowadays and, as Jim Craine and Stuart Aitken note in chapter 9, “GIS can be seen as the most current evolution of the cartographic process” (page 163). What is interesting in the critical cartography discussion is the articulation of mapping experiences as everyday and visual, whereas in critical GIS the community and local knowledge are more explicitly highlighted (cf Cope and Elwood, 2009). Already, however, we are seeing work that transcends the critical GIS/critical cartography identities, such as Jeremy Crampton’s remarkable discussion in chapter 2 of “Choropleths, clines, and biopolitics”, or LaDona Knigge and Meghan Cope’s (2009) work on grounded visualisation and scale elsewhere.

The collection of essays that constitute *Rethinking Maps* can be seen as somewhat esoteric or eclectic in their individual natures, but together they fulfil the specific purpose of demonstrating the widening scope of thinking about mapping. Thus, subjects more traditionally considered de rigueur in discussions in critical cartography, such as cartographic representation, are ably used by Amy Proben in chapter 7 to consider the iconic cartographic image of the Earth, ‘the blue marble’ taken by Apollo 17, or by Tom Conley in chapter 8 to examine Alfred Hitchcock’s classic film *The 39 Steps*. Essays by Georg Gartner and Michael Goodchild, chapters 4 and 5 respectively, are slightly divergent from the rest in that they act more as introductions to their subject matter than as critical explorations. Gartner provides an overview of web mapping 2.0, often referred to as the ‘geospatial web’ or ‘neogeography’, although more wide-ranging reviews are available elsewhere (for example, Crampton, 2009; Haklay et al, 2008). Goodchild provides a resource in spatial modelling and representation that ought to be mandatory preliminary reading for courses in geographic information science—whether or not it is quite in the spirit of the book as a whole is another matter as he avoids specifically engaging with criticisms of GIS representations that stem from John Pickles’s arguments in *Ground Truth* (1995) in favour of discussing computational considerations. My preference would have been for Goodchild to follow up his earlier work (cf Goodchild, 2007) in what he called ‘volunteered

geographic information'. Chapter 11 by John Krygier and Denis Wood also deserves special mention for their use of a comic strip approach. The images, part of a series expressing 'Ce n'est pas le monde' (this is not the world) in reference to René Magritte's painting "Ceci n'est pas une pipe" ("The treachery of images"), develop the reading of maps as propositions.

Frankly, the only essay that I found particularly objectionable was chapter 6 by Dominica Williamson and Emmet Connolly entitled "*theirwork*: the development of sustainable mapping". '*theirwork*' is essentially online community mapping; however, at the time of writing (January 2010) an Internet search reveals no such website, whilst references to the project date back to the Royal Geographical Society Annual Conference in 2006. Meanwhile, other community maps such as London21's (<http://www.communitymaps.org.uk>) are already in active use. *theirwork* makes a lot out of the use of open-source software, thus "rejecting a proprietary approach" (page 99): however, this is nothing new, and using open-source solutions tends to require coders, rather than ethnographers.

Dodge, Kitchin, and Perkins have offered a resource of incredibly high value to master's degree students and other postgraduates and have also fuelled further debate amongst academics—not only in the geographic and cartographic traditions but also increasingly further afield in other areas of cultural study. It is imperative that we continue to rethink maps.

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Terrorism, risk, and the global city: toward urban resilience (2nd edition) by J Coaffee; Ashgate, Farnham, Surrey, 2009, 361 pages, £60.00 cloth (US\$114.95 cloth, \$103.46 ebook) ISBN 9780754674283, 9780754690477

This book is the second edition of *Terrorism, Risk, and the Global City*, which was originally published in 2003. In this edition, the second and third sections of the book have been updated, and chapter 10 has been added, although 80% of the original text remains unaltered.

As in the first edition, this book is composed of three parts after a brief introductory chapter. In part I (chapters 2–4) Jon Coaffee sets the conceptual and historical context for the key issues discussed in the book. In chapter 2 he traces the historic nature of defensive cities according to the concept of territoriality. In chapter 3 he describes how the convergence of economic competition and security agendas is transforming institutional networks and partnerships that are in turn increasingly influencing urban governance. In chapter 4 he introduces sociologist Ulrich Beck's risk theory, which argues that Western society has reached a point at which new and destructive forms of risk have become a major concern and are often deemed commercially uninsurable. Here he also considers the rise of resilience policy as a key feature of the post-9/11 managerial landscape of cities.

In part II (chapters 5–7) Coaffee presents the main findings of London's antiterrorism policies in the 1990s. In chapter 5 he explores the role of security agencies (primarily the City