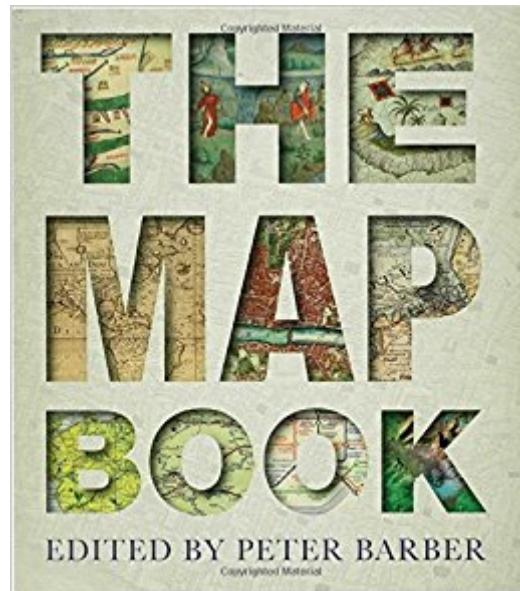




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The Map Book



Synopsis

'Journey over all the universe in a map, without the expense and fatigue of traveling, without suffering the inconveniences of heat, cold, hunger, and thirst.' --Miguel de Cervantes, in *Don Quixote*

From the earliest of times, maps have fired our imaginations and helped us make sense of our world, from the global to the very local. Head of Map Collections at the British Library, Peter Barber has here compiled an historic and lavish atlas, charting the progress of civilization as our knowledge of the world expanded. Simply organized as a progression through time, *The Map Book* collects some 175 maps that span four millennia - from the famed prehistoric Bedolina (Italy) incision in rock from around 1500 B.C. to the most modern, digitally enhanced rendering. Many of the maps are beautiful works of art in their own right. From Europe to the Americas, Africa to Asia, north to south, there are maps of oceans and continents charted by heroic adventurers sailing into the unknown, as accounts spread of new discoveries, shadowy continents begin to appear on the margins of the world, often labeled 'unknown lands.' Other maps had a more practical use: some demarcated national boundaries or individual plots of land; military plans depicted enemy positions; propaganda treatises showed one country or faction at an advantage over others. So much history resides in each map--cultural, mythological, navigational--expressing the unlimited extent of human imagination. This is captured in the accompanying texts--mini essays by leading map historians--that are as vivid and insightful as the maps themselves. They make *The Map Book* as much a volume to be read as to be visually admired.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

'offers a cultural insight that cannot be recommended too highly.' -- Andro Linklater The Spectator 'a fascinating collection' WANDERLUST 'this splendid book' -- Michael Kerrigan THE SCOTSMAN 'this fascinating, beautiful, lovingly-produced coffee-table book' -- Beatrice Sant HERITAGE 'a superbly illustrated and fascinating celebration of the map in its myriad forms over time.' TRAVELLER 'this book is immensely enriched by the accompanying explanatory text' -- Rosita Boland THE IRISH TIMES --This text refers to an alternate Hardcover edition.

'Journey over all the universe in a map, without the expense and fatigue of traveling, without suffering the inconveniences of heat, cold, hunger, and thirst.' --Miguel de Cervantes, in Don Quixote From the earliest of times, maps have fired our imaginations and helped us make sense of our world, from the global to the very local. Head of Map Collections at the British Library, Peter Barber has here compiled an historic and lavish atlas, charting the progress of civilization as our knowledge of the world expanded. Simply organized as a progression through time, The Map Book collects some 175 maps that span four millennia - from the famed prehistoric Bedolina (Italy) incision in rock from around 1500 B.C. to the most modern, digitally enhanced rendering. Many of the maps are beautiful works of art in their own right. From Europe to the Americas, Africa to Asia, north to south, there are maps of oceans and continents charted by heroic adventurers sailing into the unknown, as accounts spread of new discoveries, shadowy continents begin to appear on the margins of the world, often labeled 'unknown lands.' Other maps had a more practical use: some demarcated national boundaries or individual plots of land; military plans depicted enemy positions; propaganda treatises showed one country or faction at an advantage over others. So much history resides in each map--cultural, mythological, navigational--expressing the unlimited extent of human imagination. This is captured in the accompanying texts--mini essays by leading map historians--that are as vivid and insightful as the maps themselves. They make The Map Book as much a volume to be read as to be visually admired.

Great variety of maps..different time periods..lots of color plates (a must for me). Nice size. Hours of enjoyment. Beats so many others I have purchased in the past

This book contains primarily historical maps with descriptions. The descriptions associated with each map added interesting information. Its contents are ordered chronologically, and one can trace the growing sophistication of geographical knowledge as one pages through the book

Excellent compilation. Unfortunately, the scale of the format does require using a magnifying glass when looking at the maps. The comments are cogent and at times, entertaining.

This is a fascinating book! I gave it to my son as a gift and he was enthralled!

This was a gift and he just loves it! He keeps pulling it out and it is a great coffee table book. Many good conversations have resulted from adding this to the library!

Got this as a gift for my boyfriend, and he loves it! It has lots of information and high quality pictures.

Beautiful book with great information.

If you love historical maps, this is a good starting point. A couple of hundred maps are presented; one page for the map and one for the text. Other reviewers have described the content further so I will just focus on what I perceived as weaknesses:- Better resolution should have been used for printing. At least the hard cover edition should have been printed so well that one could use a magnifying glass to get more information. Still the resolution is better than similar books printed in the 90s.- A bit too many maps prior to 1700, around half the book.- A very UK-centric approach for the last 3-400 years. The French were producing maps very early (not covered), the Germans had great maps with interesting typography 100 years ago (not covered), the Russians have produced very odd maps, like the one's given to soldiers (not covered), and the Japanese also have interesting maps (not covered).- The text is short and descriptive but not insightful. The book - *The Image of the World: 20 Centuries of World Maps* - has a much more insightful text. So that is the book you should read to better understand world maps. If you want a coffee table book for the thinking person, this is a great choice. Four stars.

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