

The eighth edition of “Map Use: Reading Analysis Interpretation” has already been in circulation for over two years. Readers or users of the prior editions know its usefulness as a teaching text for the map using beginner and the ease at which it can be used by those wishing to broaden their aptitude across a wider swath of map uses without diving head first into a depth of detail and explanation.

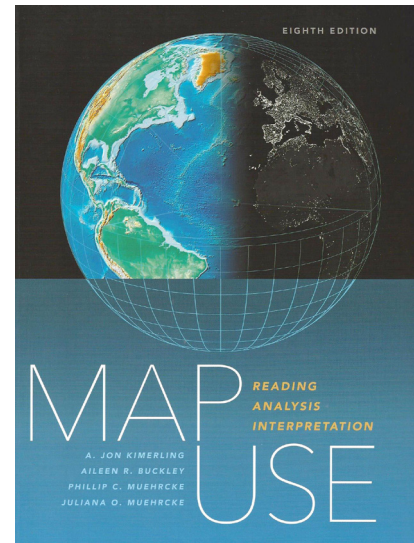
This book is organized to fit within a 15-week teaching semester for high school or undergraduate students. It has three sections specifically organized to focus on map reading, map analysis, and map interpretation in the hope to drive home the differences in these map uses. There is a total of 22 chapters, 11 map reading chapters, seven map analysis chapters, and four chapters on map interpretation. There are no teaching exercises or tutorials associated with the chapters, but nearly 600 full-color maps, photographs, and graphs illustrate the concepts behind communicating with maps. Each chapter lists its own references and has bold words that are collected in a glossary at the books end, which is truly a treasure to the investigative beginner building up their arsenal of Geospatial terminology.

The Introduction, which includes a discussion on mental mapping and lays the foundation in many ways from the authors’ perspective on how map use will be presented to the readers, should by no means be skipped. Its definitions and overview of what is in the book is both accessible and informative to even the passively interested reader.

The map reading section includes chapters on: the Earth and Earth coordinates [1], map scale [2], map projections [3], grid coordinate systems [4], land portioning [5], map design basics [6], qualitative [7] and quantitative [8] thematic maps, relief portrayal [9], image maps [10], and map accuracy [11]. The reviewer has found herself in conversation with a person about maps, often seen by them online or in the news, wishing that her conversation mate had at least the basic cartographic concepts of thematic mapping found in the thematic map chapters of seven and eight. The readership of this journal would probably find chapter 10 on image maps sorely lacking but as an overview and a beginning text it opens doors to ideas often very foreign to beginners.

The map analysis section includes chapters on: distance finding [12], direction finding and compasses [13], position finding and navigation [14], spatial feature analysis [15], surface analysis [16], spatial pattern analysis [17], spatial association analysis [18]. The distinction between map reading and map analysis is often confused or indistinct, which the book brings to awareness, when we go looking to find distances (chapter 12) before we even know what a grid coordinate system is, let alone which one we are using (chapter 3). Particularly, in this section the reviewer often points the academically trained map user to the chapters 13 and 14, both relating to way finding, because reading a map is useless --- if once read --- there is not the understanding what to do with that information on the 3-dimensional Earth, in which we walk and live.

The final section map interpretation includes chapters on: in-



Map Use: Reading, Analysis, Interpretation, 8th Edition

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Reviewed by Melissa J. Porterfield, Ph.D.

terpreting the lithosphere [19], the atmosphere / biosphere [20], human landscape [21], and on maps and reality [22]. This is often where people would like to start but interpretation when done well is, of course, the most difficult map use task presented here. Particularly, chapter 22 asks the reader to do a little soul searching about what they are reading/doing with their map use and why. Urging us all to question what we see on maps and be critical of the maps we make and use, seeking not to mislead or misunderstand, reminding us of Mark Twain’s story and words of Huck Finn in the balloon ride. “Illinois is green, Indiana is pink. You show me any pink down there, if you can. No sir, it’s green.”

The figures and graphics of the book are all color and well done, it makes them easy and interesting to read, something many have come to expect from ESRI Press. There are several appendices including digital cartographic databases [A], mathematical tables [B], glossary, and index. Making this hefty 650-page book easier

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to navigate for the “pick and choose” reader. The ESRI website also provides color slides for lecturing from the book. The binding is paperback and with so many pages it is unlikely that with any amount of use the book will remain bound very long at all, defiantly a draw back to a student who moves around. Although the reviewer did not have access to the eBook version, it is likely longer lasting than the paperback after any significant use.

As a full course or a series of mini lessons this book is surely one and the reviewer likes having on her shelf and has recom-

mended and will continue to recommend to others. For the expert who is not teaching classes there are jewels in the book that can simply convey important mapping concepts to build common ground with inquisitive friends, family, or that cross disciplinary colleague who never really thought much more of maps than they are pretty pictures. For instance, hand chapters 13 or 14 to a teenager interested in geocaching and watch a young life change. This is a book for the masses easily enjoyed and consumed.

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