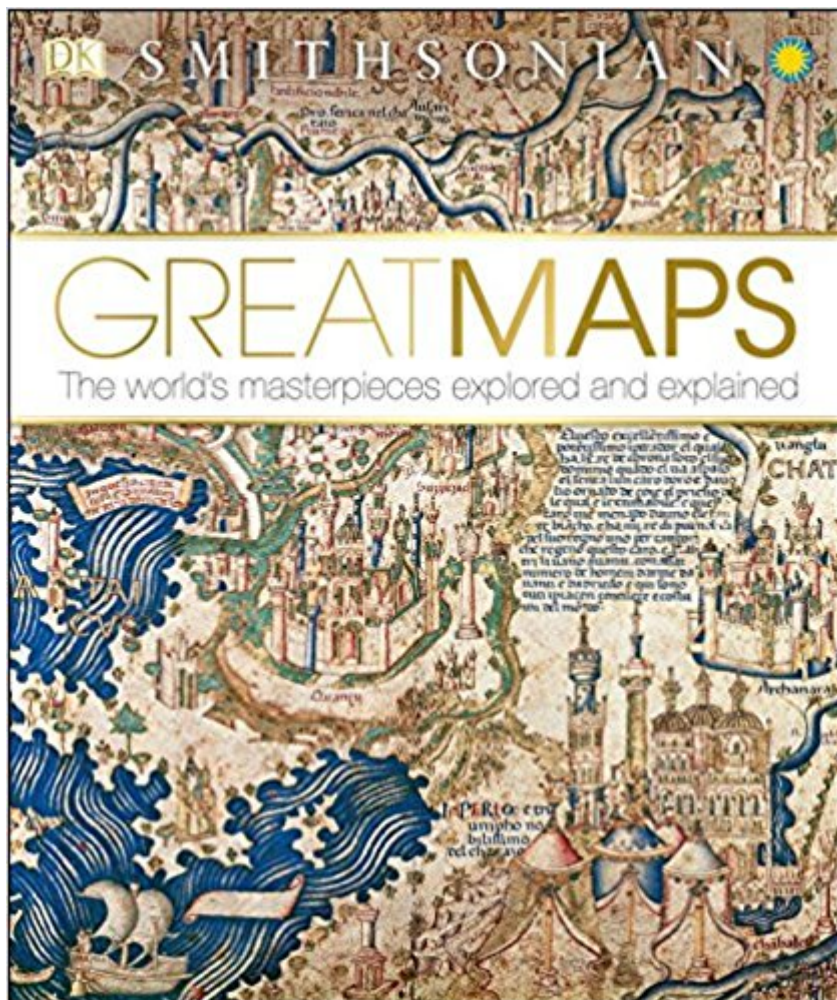


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# Great Maps (Dk Smithsonian)



## Synopsis

The world's finest maps explored and explained. From Ptolemy's world map to the Hereford's Mappa Mundi, through Mercator's map of the world to the latest maps of the Moon and Google Earth, Great Maps provides a fascinating overview of cartography through the ages. Revealing the stories behind 55 historical maps by analyzing graphic close-ups, Great Maps also profiles key cartographers and explorers to look why each map was commissioned, who it was for and how they influenced navigation, propaganda, power, art, and politics.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

[View larger](#) The fascinating stories behind 60 of the world's greatest maps Great Maps superbly illustrates maps from all around the world, analyzing each map visually with the help of pull-outs and graphic close-up details. It traces the history of maps chronologically, featuring key cartographers and telling the story behind each map: why it was created, who it was for, and how it was achieved. This amazing guide draws together navigation, propaganda, power, art, and politics through the world's greatest maps.

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Cosa's World Chart Spain, 1500 Visual Tour of Juan de la Cosa's World Chart Spain, 1500 Jain Cosmological Map Creator unknown, India, 1750

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"The greatest maps in history, collected in one fantastic book." [Wired.com](#) "[A] visually stunning book." [MIC.com](#) "[A] visual treat|as much an art book as it is an archaeological history lesson as it is a collection of the world's most fascinating and significant maps." [BoingBoing](#)

Jerry Brotton is Professor of Renaissance Studies at Queen Mary College, University of London. He is the author of *Trading Territories: Mapping the Early Modern World* and *A History of the World in Twelve Maps*.

Just to clarify, while this book is full of colored pictures, the maps are not in great detail. You see segments of maps from afar, so that you may have an overview and a list of maps to research further, but not maps to study. I don't see a review mentioning that.

This is a beautiful 10 X 12 coffee table book. It is a DK book which are noted for their stunning photographs. Although the book has a dust jacket, the cover of the book is identical to the jacket and not a plain color as is the case with many other books in this class. The maps themselves are both informative and beautiful. Many of them were created for nobility, the clergy and the wealthy upper class rather than for seamen or merchant travelers who would put them to good and practical use. Thus, many of them are more art than science. The maps begin with classical period maps from the fourth century to the seventh century BCE. They saw the world, or parts of it, quite differently than we see it today. The Ptolemy world map is one such. Some, like the Babylonian World map are made of clay and are difficult to decipher. Maps from many countries of origin in both the Western and Eastern worlds have been included. I especially liked the Mercator world map of 1569. I would like to have a full size copy of it for my wall. The original is four feet by almost seven feet in length. In America, nothing west of the Great Lakes is noted. In addition to maps of the land masses there are maps of the sea floor and even a map of the lunar surface. This is a marvelous book that one

can spend hours looking over. There is some explanatory text but mostly the maps speak for themselves. Since man first learned how to make graphic marks on rock 40,000 years ago, humans have created maps as a way of conceptualizing themselves in relation to their environment. So maps are as much about our existence as they are about the orientation of lands. Anyone who loves and enjoys maps would be enthralled with this beautiful volume of 256 pages.

My wife gave this to me as a birthday gift, knowing I like to look at maps. There are some amazing ones here. What I like best about it, though, is that on the page after each map, there's a close up of various points and explanations of what you're looking at. The maps progress historically, and they are from cultures throughout the world.

I got this for a friend's kid who loves maps. He and his father seemed to think it was quite nice! It's a nice historical overview of maps. Would make for an interesting coffee table book, too, I think!

This book is a must have for any map enthusiast! Beautifully illustrated reproductions of major maps through history with insightful commentary on the highlights, origins, and implications of these works of art. If you are a map geek like me, you will love this book

My husband and I fell in love with DK (especially the Smithsonian line) during a trip to the Smithsonian museums. The books are filled with an immense amount of information which is presented in a fascinating, readable way. Of course the author couldn't include absolutely every single detail about the subject at hand, but they still did a wonderful job. The photos are gorgeous and a perfect complement to the information being presented. The books themselves have sturdy binding and stout construction.

Just as described and arrived quickly.

Beautiful and a joy to read. A bit esoteric but it delivers what it promises to provide

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