



How to Lie with Maps

By Mark Monmonier

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Originally published to wide acclaim, this lively, cleverly illustrated essay on the use and abuse of maps teaches us how to evaluate maps critically and promotes a healthy skepticism about these easy-to-manipulate models of reality. Monmonier shows that, despite their immense value, maps lie. In fact, they must.

The second edition is updated with the addition of two new chapters, 10 color plates, and a new foreword by renowned geographer H. J. de Blij. One new chapter examines the role of national interest and cultural values in national mapping organizations, including the United States Geological Survey, while the other explores the new breed of multimedia, computer-based maps.

To show how maps distort, Monmonier introduces basic principles of mapmaking, gives entertaining examples of the misuse of maps in situations from zoning disputes to census reports, and covers all the typical kinds of distortions from deliberate oversimplifications to the misleading use of color.

"Professor Monmonier himself knows how to gain our attention; it is not in fact the lies in maps but their truth, if always approximate and incomplete, that he wants us to admire and use, even to draw for ourselves on the facile screen. His is an artful and funny book, which like any good map, packs plenty in little space."—*Scientific American*

"A useful guide to a subject most people probably take too much for granted. It shows how map makers translate abstract data into eye-catching cartograms, as they are called. It combats cartographic illiteracy. It fights cartophobia. It may even teach you to find your way. For that alone, it seems worthwhile."—Christopher Lehmann-Haupt, *The New York Times*

". . . witty examination of how and why maps lie. [The book] conveys an important message about how statistics of any kind can be manipulated. But it also communicates much of the challenge, aesthetic appeal, and sheer fun of maps. Even those who hated geography in grammar school might well find a new enthusiasm for the subject after reading Monmonier's lively and surprising book."—*Wilson Library Bulletin*

"A reading of this book will leave you much better defended against cheap atlases, shoddy journalism, unscrupulous advertisers, predatory special-interest groups, and others who may use or abuse maps at your expense."—John Van Pelt, *Christian Science Monitor*

"Monmonier meets his goal admirably. . . . [His] book should be put on every map user's 'must read' list. It is informative and readable . . . a big step forward in helping us to understand how maps can mislead their readers."—Jeffrey S. Murray, *Canadian Geographic*

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Monmonier (geography, Syracuse Univ.) reveals how and why maps "lie." He explains the methods cartographers must use to distort reality in representing a complex, three-dimensional world on a flat sheet or screen, and how they exclude information and geographic features in order to create a readable and understandable map. In addition to explaining the "white lies" told by every competent mapmaker and the errors caused by "cartographic carelessness," Monmonier explores the use of maps for advertising and propaganda, and the deliberate errors employed to confuse potential enemies or to trap copiers. Valuable for both students of cartography or geography and interested laypersons, this is recommended for academic and larger public libraries.

- Peter B. Kutner, *Univ. of Oklahoma, Norman*
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From the Back Cover

Originally published to wide acclaim, this lively, cleverly illustrated essay on the use and abuse of maps teaches us how to evaluate maps critically and promotes a healthy skepticism about these easy-to-manipulate models of reality. As Monmonier show, maps not only point the way and provide information, maps lie. In fact, they must.

About the Author

Mark Monmonier is distinguished professor of geography at Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. He has been editor of *The American Cartographer* and president of the American Cartographic Association, and has served on advisory panels for the National Research Council and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Carl White:

What do you ponder on book? It is just for students since they're still students or this for all people in the world, what the best subject for that? Just simply you can be answered for that problem above. Every person has different personality and hobby per other. Don't to be forced someone or something that they don't desire do that. You must know how great as well as important the book *How to Lie with Maps*. All type of book is it possible to see on many solutions. You can look for the internet resources or other social media.

Jennifer Wetzel:

How to Lie with Maps can be one of your beginning books that are good idea. We all recommend that straight away because this reserve has good vocabulary that can increase your knowledge in language, easy to understand, bit entertaining but delivering the information. The author giving his/her effort to put every

word into satisfaction arrangement in writing How to Lie with Maps but doesn't forget the main place, giving the reader the hottest and based confirm resource facts that maybe you can be one of it. This great information can draw you into brand-new stage of crucial contemplating.

Donald Foster:

Do you one of the book lovers? If yes, do you ever feeling doubt while you are in the book store? Try to pick one book that you find out the inside because don't judge book by its handle may doesn't work the following is difficult job because you are frightened that the inside maybe not since fantastic as in the outside appear likes. Maybe you answer may be How to Lie with Maps why because the wonderful cover that make you consider with regards to the content will not disappoint a person. The inside or content will be fantastic as the outside or cover. Your reading sixth sense will directly show you to pick up this book.

John Ray:

That reserve can make you to feel relax. This specific book How to Lie with Maps was colorful and of course has pictures around. As we know that book How to Lie with Maps has many kinds or genre. Start from kids until adolescents. For example Naruto or Detective Conan you can read and think you are the character on there. Therefore not at all of book tend to be make you bored, any it offers up you feel happy, fun and relax. Try to choose the best book for you and try to like reading which.

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