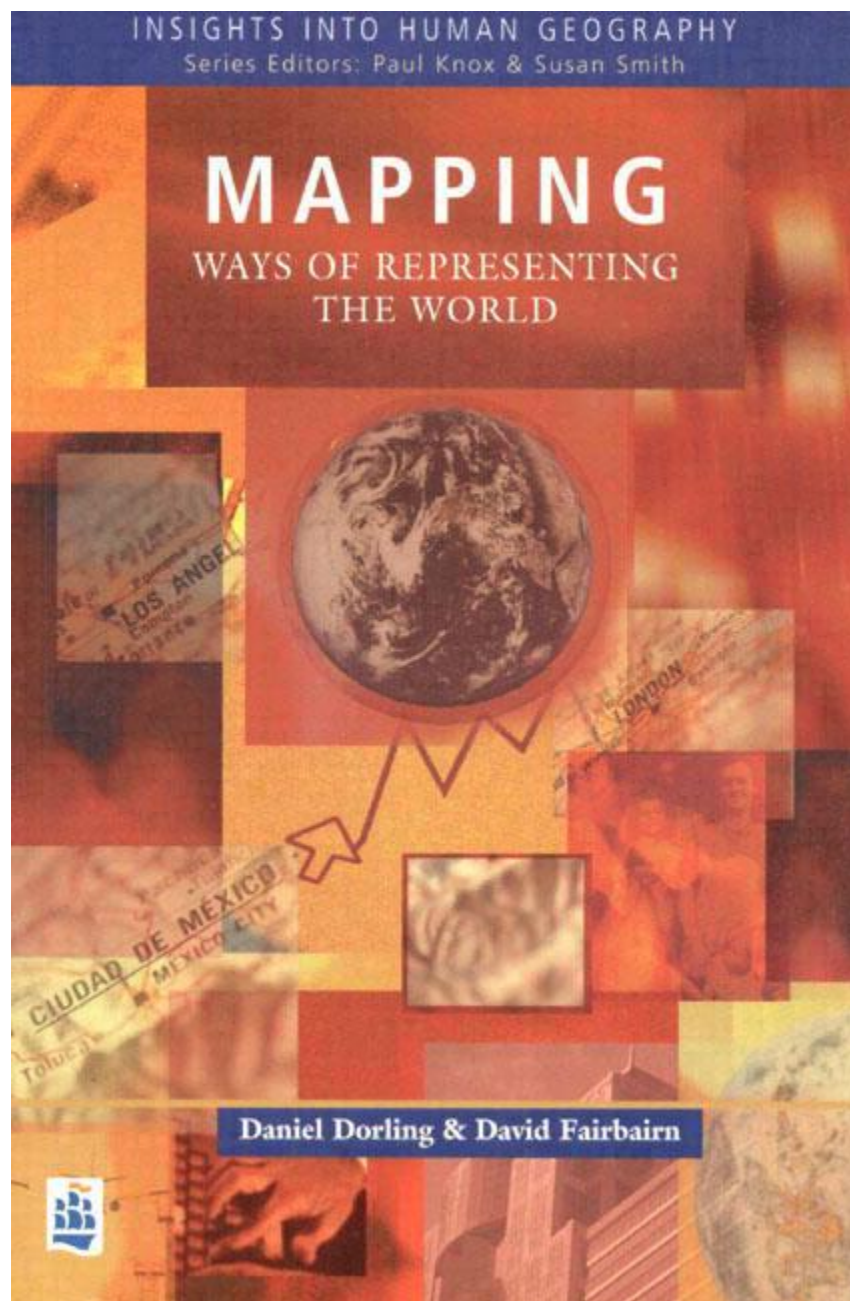


Mapping: Ways of Representing the World

Written by Danny Dorling and David Fairbairn, published by Longman in 1997, this book illustrates how maps tell us as much about the people and the powers which create them, as about the places they show. The book presents historical and contemporary evidence of how the human urge to understand & control the world is presented through the medium of mapping, together with the individual and environmental constraints on the creator of the map.



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Foreword

This volume is part of a series of new human geography teaching texts. The series, *Insights in Human Geography*, is designed as an introduction to key themes in contemporary human geography. Together, the volumes form the basis for a comprehensive approach to studying human geography. Each volume, however, is free-standing and can be studied on its own as an introduction to a specific sub-field within the discipline.

The series is built around an exploration of both the substantive geographies of the real world and the conceptual and theoretical frameworks that are required to contextualize them. Each volume not only provides a thorough grounding in one particular sub-field of human geography but also looks to the broader picture, providing students with a geographical perspective on contemporary issues, and showing how recent changes in the real world have led to changes in the ways that geographers approach and understand the world.

This volume, *Mapping: Ways of Representing the World*, takes as its subject-matter one of the fundamentals of geographic scholarship and research. Map-making and the interpretation of maps, though they have long been acknowledged as basic elements in geographic approaches to understanding the world, have often been approached in rather narrow ways. As a result, many geographers (and most other observers) developed a taken-for-granted attitude towards mapping and map-making, or else saw the field as one of arcane technicalities and refined aesthetics.

This volume shows that there is much more to mapping, map-making, and the interpretation of maps than technical and aesthetic considerations. By bringing together ideas from cultural geography, cartography and geographical information systems, the authors encourage students to think about *how* and *for whom* the world is mapped. In addition to an explanation of the fundamentals of mapping and map-making, the book shows how maps tell as much about the people and powers that create them as about the places they depict.