

to give place to other forms of society? Did individualization really marked social practices in this new society which presumably is trying to leave old eschatological concepts? Is 21st century society as “liquid” as Zygmunt Baumann has stipulated? And finally what role does the concept of space play in our endeavors to understand society? Most of these issues are raised in this volume, the essays are scholarly well argued, but still, a closing article focusing only on what does future holds for this scientific branch is to be expected.

The book aims to be accessible to students and specialists alike. Its success lies in emphasizing the crossovers between geography and social studies. The good editorial work is evident and the participating contributors are well-established scholars in their respective fields. One may find special interest in the *avant garde* views more than in the ongoing debate largely raised, but the good bibliography proposed at the end of each chapter will relieve the thirst for additional knowledge.

Miron M. Denan
Tel-Aviv University

MAPPING: A CRITICAL INTRODUCTION TO CARTOGRAPHY AND GIS,
by Jeremy W. Crampton. Chichester, UK: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010.

Mapping: A critical introduction to cartography and GIS, by Jeremy W. Crampton, is above all about questioning. Although mapping, cartography and GIS are indeed the thematic core of this book, if one word is to be chosen to highlight its title it would be *critical*. The book questions the importance of mapping, cartography and GIS in life and science while demonstrating this value through different aspects of human geography and particularly political geography. Why is such a book of necessity nowadays? The author provides two arguments: (i) there is lack of discussion of mapping, cartography and GIS in today's prominent textbooks on cultural, political or social geography; and (ii) apparently cartographers and GIS people do not remain debtor and they do not apply their methodologies often for political, power and social geography. Elsewhere we have published in *Geography Research Forum* a special issue on GIS, remote sensing and human geography and have found a notable lack in such studies (Svoray, 2002). I therefore agree that a book discussing the complex bonds between cartography, GIS and political geography is a welcome addition to the geographical literature and should be of interest to geographers and mainly human geographers.

One of the earliest issues in mapping politics discussed in the book is the way technology i.e., web-based and open source GIS affect the democratization of mapping. Web-based GIS is now common knowledge but despite the increasing use of Google maps, for example, the question of how much hits recorded on the computers actually represent “people's” opinion is not trivial. Perlmutter (2006), for

example, showed that only a small part of the population i.e., male, white, young, well-educated and tech-savvy people have access to databases to produce maps and they are those who represent the population. Thus, one may claim that, in this era, despite the increasing potential of non-experts to create maps, still only a small part of the population actually sets the tone in creating and using maps. This, of course, casts doubt on how much new technology helps increasing the effect of the public on decision makers (such as in the case of public participation in planning). Namely one may suspect that decisions – those in which the public is supposed to be involved – are based on the opinion of small elite groups whose control on socio-economic processes is even increased with the technological revolution in mapping. Furthermore, the book shows how even the rulership itself is using maps specifically to manipulate socio-economic processes and even to govern. This is not new and has its roots in the mid 20th century. In this case technology is also “blamed” for these processes. The author surveys how maps became scientific (more quantitative or more computer-based) through tracing the career of the prominent geographer-cartographer Arthur Robinson. The main claim is that mapping became more scientific and efficient in the service of governments during the energetic years of WWII and its aftermath. This inevitably lead to the notion that maps, oriented by governments, military and other sources of power, could now be used to manipulate people.

The assertion of governing with maps is further discussed and demonstrated in the book and becomes enhanced towards its end where the issue of geosurveillance and spying with maps is described. Such a discussion raises important issues about privacy and technology and is further elaborated through the discussion of mapping in the cyberspace. Although the direction of development of mapping in the cyberspace is unclear yet, it is fascinating as this is defiantly an important milestone in the future of GIS. The main drive for the study of the cyberspace from societal and even national perspectives is related to information economy, as services tend to be located where solid information about environment, infrastructure and people exist. The debates about control and mapping even increase the importance of the cyberspace in the future. Needless to say that such a dilemma increases the tension between map users and producers. This explosive subject of mapping and especially using GIS in societal issues is described in the book as GIS wars. The author draws a flow line where at first GIS was accused as being non-intellectual, then in early mid-nineties both groups of social scientists and GIS specialists understood that it is better to join efforts rather than argue with each other and thus, in the last phase both sides increasingly leave the debate behind and produce more socially responsible GIS. This process reflects the need for an interdisciplinary effort rather than using a strategy of a single expert who knows everything, as already happened in other fields of science.

Overall, the book is interesting and unique in the landscape of GIS literature. It is not written with the common structure of text books, a fact that encourages reading

it even more. The sequence of chapters is coherent and flowing. The book provides stimulating ideas about the use of GIS and mapping in governance and politics as well as references to previous works on the subject. In that sense, it lies well within the context of existing literature. It is especially interesting that the book covers an array of up-to-date technologies such as web-based mapping that affect geographic ideas and knowledge and yet it digs deep into the political and maybe even the psychological and social principles used by governments to govern through maps.

Mapping can be useful for geography students and scholars, as it summarizes today's insights on technologies that have had and will have a strong impact on geographical issues from the end of the Twentieth Century and onward. This book is also a valuable source for professional geographers who are interested in the potential use of technologies in geographical fields. *Mapping* shows the centers of power that use maps and encourages criticism and further questioning in such a world. As the author borrows from the Jewish Passover Seder towards the end of the book: you can ask wise questions or naïve or even disruptive ones, but the worst option of all is that son who does not know how to ask.

References

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Tal Svoray
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

UNLEARNING THE COLONIAL CULTURES OF PLANNING, by Libby Porter. Hampshire, UK: Ashgate, 2010.

In the last few decades, scholars from different disciplines such as political science, sociology, history and geography have produced a vast and rich body of knowledge that examines the production of colonial culture. Beyond the differences and often disagreements among the writers, they have all contributed to an understanding of colonial territories as products of power relations between core and periphery. However, beyond the socio-historical dimension of this discussion, it is also crucial to analyze the processes by which the very tangible space and built environment were physically produced (and re-produced) and socially constructed.

In the face of the above, critical planning literature represent a wide discussion concerning the epistemology and genealogy of this discipline. Libby Porter's fascinating book, "Unlearning the Colonial Cultures of Planning", joins this vein of critical writing by exploring the role of planning in settler states such as New Zealand