

Reviews

Arno Peters: Radical Map, Remarkable Man

Directed by Ruth Abrams; produced by Ruth Abrams and Bob Abrams; edited by Jamie Traynor.
Amherst, MA: ODTmaps, 2008.
DVD, \$39.95 Individuals, \$89.00 Institutions.

Reviewed by Scott R. McEathron

Thomas R. Smith Map Collection--University of Kansas Libraries

This DVD is a collection of short video clips, audio clips, PowerPoint slides, and documents (primarily in PDF format), a few of which are related to the title *Arno Peters: Radical Map, Remarkable Man*. The general layout and organization of the DVD is adequate, and it is relatively easy to use. The sound and video quality of the work seem amateurish--yet are adequate. However, the content of the work is neither scholarly nor of much use in providing an unbiased view of the Peters map controversy.

The DVD is organized into sections by format (Video, Print, PowerPoints, MP3 Audio, and Web Links). The sections are then organized by broad themes. For example, the Video Resources section is organized into the following six themes: 1) Arno Peters Outtakes & Bonus Clips (three clips), 2) Faith-based Origins of the Peters Map (five clips), 3) Denis Wood Interview (one clip), 4) Maps Bonus Clips (five clips--primarily related to the business of ODTmaps), 5) Movie Trailers (eight clips: six by Media Education Foundation, plus one titled *Israeli Attack on USS Liberty* and another called *The Man We Call Juan Carlos*), and 6) Human Rights Public Service Announcements (PSAs) (13 clips). Other sections are similarly arranged.. As the reader can see from just that section, it contains a eclectic assortment of subjects: Peters, the Peters map as an evangelistic tool, the business of ODTmaps, human rights, political propaganda in the media, and conspiracy theories.

A review of the elements related to subject of Arno Peters, the implicit thesis of this work, reveals that these elements are neither numerous nor substantial. The three short video clips of Peters do not provide a great deal of insight into his background or motives for adopting or creating the projection. The five video clips within the section called "Faith-based Origins of the Peters Map" preach that this projection provides a fair or Christian World View--but do little to enlighten the viewer on the subject of the work--Arno Peters. The print elements also add little. Relevant material consists of a "Peters Map Explanation," two articles

from the *New Internationalist* on the Peters, an obituary, two letters from Lucy Peters to William Pickens, a small collection of one-line quotes from critics and enthusiasts, and the first chapters from the books *Seeing Through Maps* and *A New View of the World*. Finally, the PowerPoints section contains a presentation called "Arno Peters Photo Biography Images" that contains about twenty photographs of Peters and his family.

In summary, I do not recommend this work.

The Cancer Atlas

Judith Mackay, Ahmedin Jemal, Nancy C. Lee, D. Maxwell Parkin.
Atlanta: American Cancer Society, 2006.
128 pp, maps, tables, data graphics, photographs, \$29.95. Softcover. ISBN: 0-944235-62-X.

The Tobacco Atlas

Second Edition.
Judith Mackay, Michael Eriksen, Omar Shafey.
Atlanta: American Cancer Society, 2006. 128 pp, maps, tables, data graphics, photographs, \$29.95. Softcover. ISBN: 0-944235-58-1.

Reviewed by Russell S. Kirby

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The American Cancer Society (ACS) has published two complementary atlases focusing on cancer and on tobacco. While a number of atlases on various aspects of cancer incidence and mortality can be found in our libraries and in cyberspace, these books differ from traditional atlases of health and disease in that they are intended for a broad, international audience of consumers rather than cancer researchers or public health practitioners. Map plates are both colorful and informative and include additional data in graphical or tabular form, utilizing approaches common to other mass media atlases as popularized by *The State of the World Atlas* (first edition by Michael Kidron and Ronald Segal, 1981) series. Because the two ACS publications share a common organization and structure, as well as some subject matter overlap, this review covers the pair together.

Both atlases take a concerted public health perspective on their subject matters, reflected in the choice and arrangements of topics. While each atlas is designed to provide statistical data in map, graphical, and tabu-

lar forms, the focus is on the causes and primary and secondary prevention of specific types of cancer, their aggregation in particular sites, and how to reduce the local and global health impact of the production, sale, and use of tobacco products worldwide. *The Cancer Atlas* has six sections of unequal length: introduction, risk factors, burden, economics, taking action, the future and the past, followed by two tables of world data. *The Tobacco Atlas* begins with a brief discussion of types of tobacco, followed by five sections: prevalence and health, costs of tobacco, the tobacco trade, promotion, and taking action, and concludes with two tables of world data. Both volumes include time lines of key events and discoveries, glossaries of frequently used terms, sources, useful contact information, indexes, and numerous graphics and illustrations. While the reading level is adequate to convey the complex technical subject matter, the authors have taken care to ensure that the text is accessible to readers with no more than a high school education.

Neither of these publications fit the usual definition for a disease mapping atlas. In the case of cancer, only a few pages provide maps of the distribution of specific types of cancer around the globe. Only four maps focus explicitly on cancer incidence or prevalence. One map shows the leading type of cancer incidence in each country for males and females, respectively, while a second depicts the "geographical diversity" of specific cancers by focusing on the incidence of six types: liver, esophageal, and testis in males and breast, stomach, and cervix cancer in females. The third cancer incidence map shows worldwide patterns of lung cancer incidence for males and for females for the year 2002. The final plate on cancer incidence examines patterns of cancer among children under the age of 15 but displays these data in bar and pie chart form rather than on a map. These maps enable the reader to discern broad patterns in the spatial distribution of cancer incidence, but more detail would be helpful. For example, while breast cancer is the leading type of cancer among females in developed nations and many others in Africa and South America, cervical cancer is the predominant type of cancer among females in southeast Asia, central America, and sub-Saharan Africa. How long have these patterns persisted?

Where one might have expected detailed maps of cancer incidence and prevalence, we find numerous plates focusing on risk factors for various sites and types of cancer, including a plate depicting international patterns of smoking among men and women (repeated in the *Tobacco Atlas*), as well as plates showing patterns of infection, diet and nutrition, levels of ultraviolet radiation exposure, and reproductive and hormonal risk factors. Other plates show which countries have population-based cancer incidence registries, how much is expended on cancer research,

and several patterns of cancer prevention.

The Tobacco Atlas clearly differs from traditional disease atlases in that its focus is on the uses and health risks of tobacco rather than on specific diseases *per se*. Here we find numerous plates focusing on tobacco use among adult males and females and boys and girls, exposure to passive smoking, and types of tobacco products used most commonly around the world, as well as the economic aspects of tobacco production, trade, and taxation. Only a single plate focuses explicitly on tobacco-related mortality. Even casual readers of this atlas will find a wealth of details about all aspects of tobacco placed in international context. As with *The Cancer Atlas*, the plates, diagrams, charts, and tables in *The Tobacco Atlas* will raise as many questions as they answer—and that is clearly a primary intent of the authors and the American Cancer Society which published both volumes.

Readers looking for handy and concise guides providing a public health perspective on the geography of cancer and of tobacco use and its implications will find these atlases extremely useful. Published in paperback editions at a relatively nominal price, medical geographers may wish to add them to their reference shelves. Map librarians may wish that these volumes were available in hardcover form for durability and should anticipate new editions of each atlas every three to five years. [Note from the editor: A second edition of the *Tobacco Atlas* is now available.] If these atlases increase public awareness of the global implications of tobacco use, international aspects of cancer incidence, and relatively inexpensive opportunities for primary prevention, the publications will have served their intended purposes. Let us hope that this will be so!

GIS for Homeland Security

by Mike Kataoka

2007 by ESRI Press, Redlands, California

99 pages, with full-color illustrations throughout

\$24.95 softcover

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www.rve.com

Since the creation of the Department of Homeland Security in 2002, the United States has been looking at ways to connect diverse and fragmented networks of information that can collectively assist in predicting, preventing and/or responding to terrorist attacks and natural disasters. *GIS for Homeland Security* describes the use of GIS technology for specific applications that will enable and further these goals.