

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-