

**Book:** *Cartographies of Disease: Maps, Mapping and Medicine*

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Recent news headlines have been alarming with statements like: "Prepare for a possible Bird Flu pandemic!" Thousands of people and millions of dollars in resources are currently staged to prepare for such eventuality. But have you ever wondered how similar events were handled throughout history? If you have, then *Cartographies of Disease: Maps, Mapping and Medicine*, by Tom Koch, will prove not only entertaining but enlightening as well.

A well-referenced, thoroughly footnoted, and beautifully illustrated book takes us through the origins of mapping as a public health tool. Koch details how mapping has been used to determine the sources and the spread of disease in recent history. It highlights the early development of modern maps and the use of maps in medicine. The book compellingly illustrates how Dr. John Snow, the British physician who was a pioneer in epidemiology and public health, developed new ways of using mapping to study the London 19th century cholera epidemics (the Snow's Broad Street study). Koch has created a must-have manual to understand how public health officials have learned to use mapping to handle the fast-spreading diseases of recent history. This book is not light reading but Koch manages to make this highly technical material a page-turner, holding your interest like a mystery novel. I recommend *Cartographies of Disease* to anyone in health care who may help control the spread of disease someday.

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