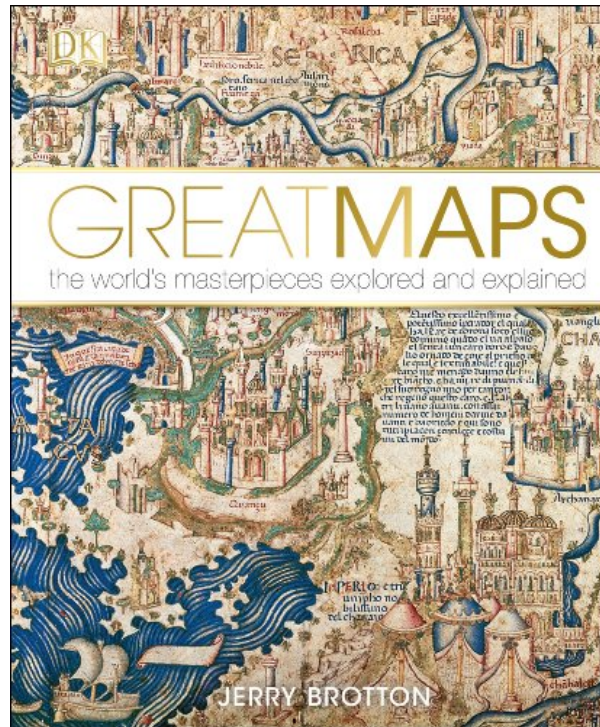
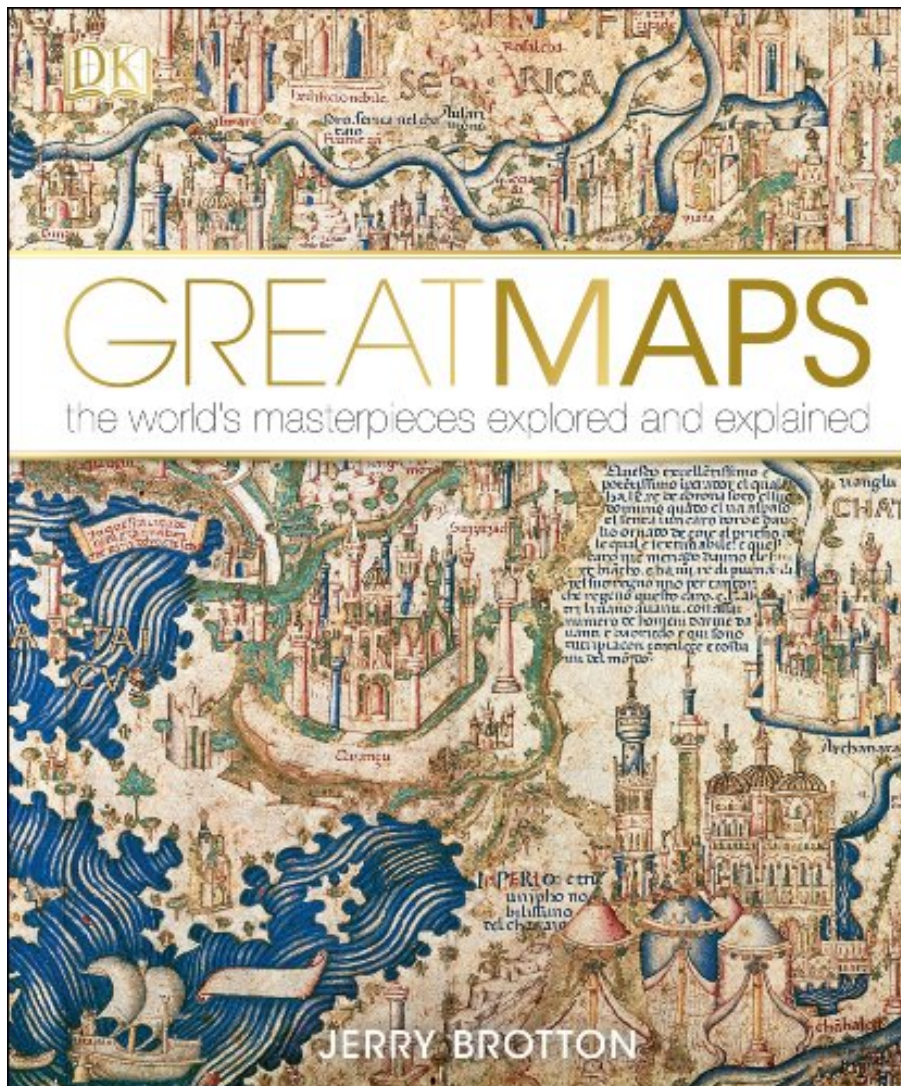


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About the Author

Jerry Brotton is Professor of Renaissance Studies at Queen Mary College, University of London. He is the author of *Trading Territories: Mapping the Early Modern World* and *A History of the World in Twelve Maps*.

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By Mary L.

Just to clarify, while this book is full of colored pictures, the maps are not in great detail. You see segments of maps from afar, so that you may have an overview and a list of maps to research further, but not maps to study. I don't see a review mentioning that.

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AN EXTREMELY BEAUTIFUL AND INFORMATIVE BOOK OF MAPS

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This is a beautiful 10 X 12 coffee table book. It is a DK book which are noted for their stunning photographs. Although the book has a dust jacket, the cover of the book is identical to the jacket and not a plain color as is the case with many other books in this class.

The maps themselves are both informative and beautiful. Many of them were created for nobility, the clergy and the wealthy upper class rather than for seamen or merchant travelers who would put them to good and practical use. Thus, many of them are more art than science.

The maps begin with classical period maps from the forth century to the seventh century BCE. They saw the world, or parts of it, quite differently than we see it today. The Ptolemy world map is one such. Some, like the Babylonian World map are made of clay and are difficult to decipher.

Maps from many countries of origin in both the Western and Eastern worlds have been included. I especially liked the Mercator world map of 1569. I would like to have a full size copy of it for my wall. The original is four feet by almost seven feet in length. In America, nothing west of the Great Lakes is noted.

In addition to maps of the land masses there are maps of the sea floor and even a map of the lunar surface.

This is a marvelous book that one can spend hours looking over. There is some explanatory text but mostly the maps speak for themselves. Since man first learned how to make graphic marks on rock 40,000 years ago, humans have created maps as a way of conceptualizing themselves in relation to their enviornment. So maps are as much about our existence as they are about the orientation of lands.

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