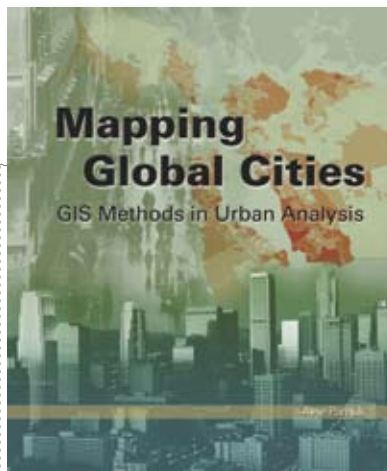


—Book Review



"Mapping Global Cities" by Aysel Pamuk is a book split into three separate parts and a CD of exercises in ArcMap. While the book is written well and is easy to read, I feel the author did not do an adequate job of explaining the role of GIS in urban analysis. She focuses a little too much on the end result of the analysis, all the while voicing her philanthropic views.

The first part of the book zeros in on exploring metropolitan regions with GIS. The author defines the different units of analysis that one can use in GIS projects, then moves to methods used to analyze the data in GIS Software after it is collected. The author then lists the different sources where the data was collected. This part of the book also contains example maps created in ArcMap that follow the companion exercises quite well.

The second part of the book explains how urban planning and policy can be aided by GIS. This section of the book does the best of explaining the ways that GIS can be implemented in society. She gives examples of how different groups in a city can use information gathered to display information best suited to their needs. She follows up with explaining how social services can use GIS in planning on how best to service the community. While the first portion of Part Two is very informative, the second is predominantly devoted to giving facts on the poverty in San Francisco rather than explaining the uses of GIS.

The final part of the book focuses on spatial patterns in cities. The first portion of Part Three explains how to use the collected data (such as census data) to identify different immigrant clusters.

The second portion focuses on comparing the different clusters in a given locale. The author once again does a decent job in the first section, stressing that census data are a great tool in GIS analysis. However in the second section, the author once again focuses mostly on the data itself by comparing the poverty rates of immigrants. While the author does a decent job of getting her point across, you almost feel as if you are getting a lecture on the needs of the world.

The best part of the book is, without a doubt, the exercise CD. The different exercises that are intended to accompany various areas of the book are well planned out and give you an excellent idea of how to use the data within the program.

I was able to finish each exercise without any trouble at all. You get a good feel of ArcMap and its uses in City analysis by using these exercises, and they are easy to follow. They go quite well with the sections of the book as well.

This notwithstanding, I think the book is a waste of time to read. I got a lot more out of the exercises than I ever will out of the book itself. The book is very informative on poverty and immigrant density of the San Francisco Bay area, but, if you were to buy this book primarily to learn GIS methods, then you would not have gotten your money's worth. The exercises give a much better understanding of GIS applications than reading about housing rates ever could.

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