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BOOKS REVIEWS

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CARTOGRAPHY
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The university textbook Cartography by Slobodan Ćurčić, PhD and Branko Ristanović, PhD (third amended edition) is intended for fresh students of undergraduate studies of Department of Geography, Tourism and Hotel Management at the Faculty of Sciences, University of Novi Sad. Based on the scientific verification of covered material, it represents the basic didactic-methodical value which is confirmed by its application in the teaching at other faculties, whereby many decade need has been wiped out, the need of first and foremost geographers for the textbook in the field of cartography.

Cartography is the result of long-lasting and devoted collecting and processing of cartographic literature and university experience of Slobodan Ćurčić, PhD, one of our most respected cartographers, and of Branko Ristanović, PhD. The textbook is tailored to the needs of current curriculum and it has fully met the objective to cover all mathematical and geographical points of map in certain chapters, to make the classification of maps and their possibilities of use, that is, of practical cartometry, and to stress out particularly the application of information technology in cartography and Geographic Information System.

The textbook contains 162 pages accompanied with 25 tables, 111 contributions and 10 pictures. The contents are: Introduction to Cartography (p5), Review of Development of Cartography (p6), Mathematical Elements of Maps (p34), Geographical Elements of Maps (p31), Thematic Maps (p34), Use of Maps (p14), Other Cartographic Indicators (p9), Digital Cartography and GIS (p20). The introduction elaborates the subject, objective, short definition, term and classification of cartography, elements and significance of maps. The second part of the textbook contains a short insight of the development of cartography in the world and in the area of ex-Yugoslavia. The third part deals with mathematical elements of maps: map scale, cartographic projections and geodetic basis.The authors pay a great attention to the construction of Earth coordinates on a map, cartographic projections. They are divided into four groups, representing various projections in use in cartographic practice. With vivid, opulent and modern contributions and tables, students as well as other curious readers can get a clearer picture and broaden their knowledge of geography by these special mathematical methods, which are the basis for further understanding of cartography.

Cartographic signs, contents of general geographic maps and generalization of contents are covered in the fourth chapter of the textbook. Students get familiar with natural occurrences and objects in the nature presented on maps, the way of their drawing, entering and correct reading. In a rather documentary way it explains principles and requirements of entering the contents on general geographic maps. It also elaborates the methods of the presentation of reliefs as a complex geographical element.

There is a detailed presentation of thematic maps, their classification, contents as well as characteristic groups. The fifth section consists of 32 cartographic contributions. The first chapter offers the division of thematic maps according to the contents (analytical, synthetic and complex maps) and thematic content (maps of natural occurrence, social phenomenon and technical maps). The second chapter deals with contents of thematic maps, that is, geographic basis and thematic occurrence. Geographic basis especially occupies with the most common elements of geographic basis and its functional significance as a supplement of the thematic contents. The thematic contents is the fundamental contents with the absolute priority and the biggest part of the chapter deals with geographic and statistical methods stressing out the diverse possibilities and criteria for the choice of a great number of geographic and statistical methods for graphic presentation of thematic occurrence on maps. The chapter of characteristic groups of thematic maps is exceptionally focused on the most frequent ways of presentations of thematic occurrences on relief maps, climate maps, economic maps, population maps, settlement maps and tourist maps.

The use of maps belongs to the sixth section of Cartography and it is the biggest part of the book (pp 117-159). The first chapter refers to cartography and it elaborates different ways of measuring of length, surface, height and angles on maps, slopes, defining of absolute and relative height, map scale, the position of points and reading of maps. The other geographical indicators are in the second part which besides pointing out some flaws in presenting earth surface on geographic and thematic maps, covers the other most often utilized cartographic ways for making map contents more modern such as aerial photo shoots, sketches and croquis, relief maps, anaglyphic maps and the globe.

Digital cartography and GIS in the third chapters occupies with the application of modern information technology in cartography with the chronological description of the development of digital cartography from the very beginning in the mid-20th century till now. The authors indicate numerous benefits of transforming a lot of different information from classical geographic map into digital format by means of dots, lines, polygons and raster and vector models. In the first chapter it is said that the digital map is a set of methods and techniques for making maps by modern information technology, and the use of computers has influenced the change or amendment of functions of analogic maps. The complexity of digital maps, their actualization and advantages over classical ways of presentation of geographical presentation derive from the fact that it represents “every cartographic visualization in digital format which can be presented on the screen of the computer or print.” There is a special classification of digital maps, the

depiction of programs for making digital maps and the significance of digital cartography and advantages and disadvantages of digital maps.

Geographic Information System-GIS is described in the third chapter of Digital Cartography with its numerous benefits of the rationally organized set of computer hardware, software, geographic facts and users. Through the historical development of GIS the authors stress out its strong bond with cartography in all developing stages and then there are chapters of GIS components and the indication on great practical applications of GIS.

The fourth chapter deals with radio navigation and positioning systems and describes global positioning systems, limits of GIS and improvements of its accuracy. Cosmic cartography in the last, fourth chapter briefly introduces students with the need and the ways of transferring some details of one part of Earth surface shot from the space.

The textbook Cartography by Slobodan Ćurčić, PhD and Branko Ristanović, PhD is the compulsory reading for Geography students but it is also recommendable for all those people that want to master geographic maps as the most transparent form of representing various geographic contents in printed forms as well as computer techniques of storing, processing and practical applying of GIS. It is the result of long-lasting collecting, processing and systemizing of cartographic materials and 95 bibliographic titles, their scientific works, statements and long university experience in the field of cartography. Theoretical and practical foundations generally, and separately in chapters can be used as an example to others writers of university Geography books. The concept and contents of the textbook, its modern design of numerous documentaries creates the work which considerably enriches and modernizes our geographic literature.

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