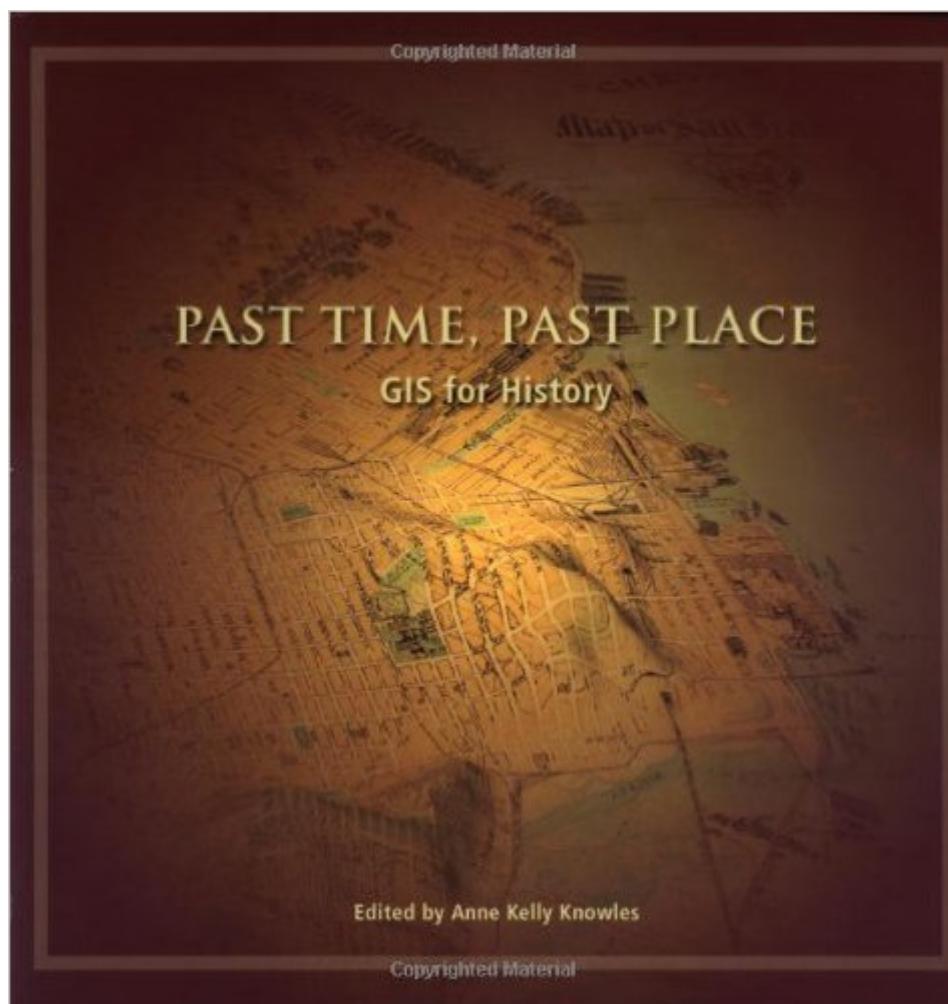


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Past Time, Past Place: GIS For History



Synopsis

Encompassing a broad range of history -- from the Greek and Roman eras to the Salem witch trials and the Dust Bowl of the early 20th century, leading scholars from the United States, Canada, and Great Britain analyze history with the tools of GIS. Through the use of modern GIS technology the past is revealed in new ways, in re-creating Civil War battlefields, by bringing ancient landscapes back to life, and in re-examining long-held assumptions about historical events. Combining a deep appreciation of the strengths of traditional history with the technology of GIS, this book provides a new perspective for historical researchers and GIS experts.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (3 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

In contrast with some other books on GIS applications (e.g., 'Transportation GIS: Includes 12 Case Studies' also available at), this one illustrates how GIS combined with other fields of knowledge can really be powerful. It does this by applying GIS techniques to real data, and by providing the kind of output that only GIS can give. It doesn't waste space telling you where to click, it doesn't have any screenshots. It does tell you the hardware and software used, but only in a paragraph at the end of each chapter. The main focus is on the information being studied, and the knowledge and understanding that came from analysing in a location-aware manner. There's a case study of immigration patterns in Manhattan in the twentieth century, showing how they varied not only through space, but also through time. You can literally see (in the maps developed by the authors) how immigrants self-segregated into different ethnic neighbourhoods, and how the nature of those

neighbourhoods evolved over time. You can also see how the construction of the rail/subway system acted as a pressure-release valve on the population of Manhattan, allowing people to move out to the other boroughs, with corresponding drop in the population density on the island. There's an analysis of the Salem witch trials, in which not only are the locations of the accusers and accused shown in geographic relation to each other, but by overlaying other kinds of information, a strong case is made that the trials were possibly more the by-product of inter-family feuds in an era of social turmoil, than of mere hysteria among young girls. There are several other studies, each one rich in data overlays, and interesting in its own way. I'm no historian, and quite new to GIS, but to my mind, this is exciting stuff! It's given me lots of ideas.

This is an interesting look in to the historical application of GIS, and gives some very excellent examples; specifically, the witch trials of New England.

Thank you, it is very good book. It likes new.

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