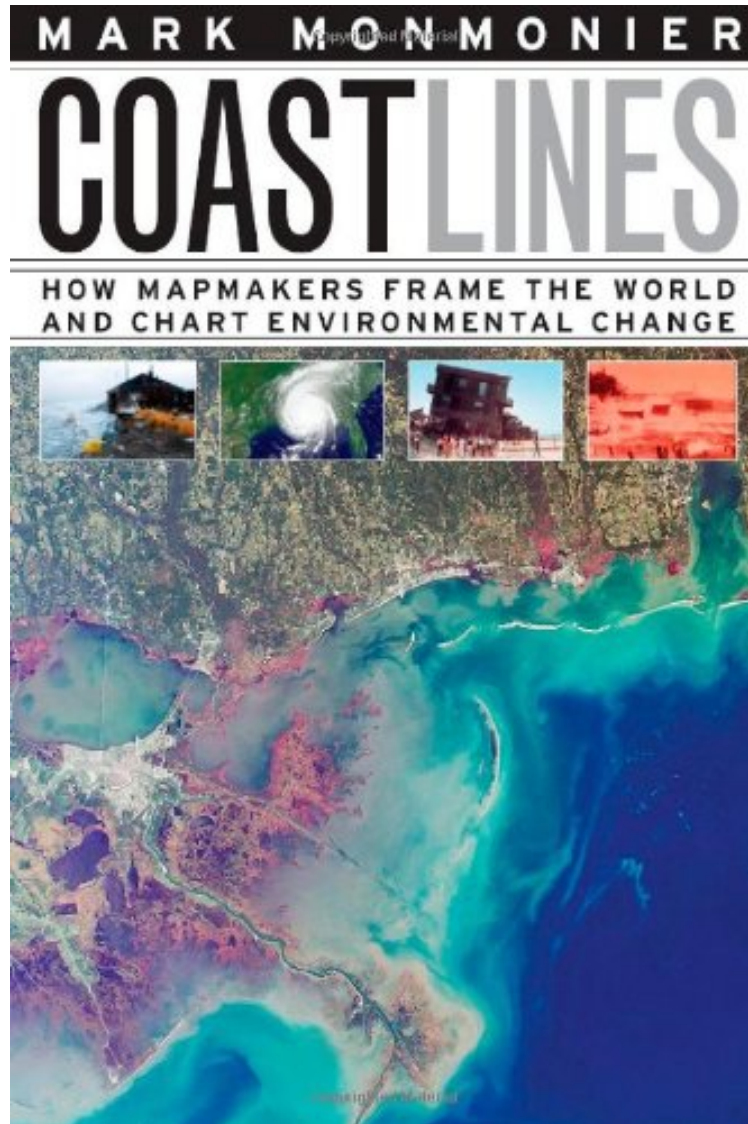


Coast Lines: How Mapmakers Frame the World and Chart Environmental Change

Mark Monmonier

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#1409347 in Books 2008-05-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x .80 x 6.001, 1.02 #File Name: 0226534030224 pages | File size: 69.Mb

Mark Monmonier : Coast Lines: How Mapmakers Frame the World and Chart Environmental Change before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Coast Lines: How Mapmakers Frame the World and Chart Environmental Change:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A good explanation By Dawn Forsythe Coastlines really helped me understand the history of charting, and how it provides the foundation for decisions on climate change issues and

marine spatial planning. The only reason I gave it four stars instead of five was his assumptions about the level of prior knowledge of his readers. I had to go to other sources to understand what the author was talking about in a couple of sections... Maybe if this goes to another printing, the author could add a reference guide at the end to help less knowledgeable readers?

In the next century, sea levels are predicted to rise at unprecedented rates, causing flooding around the world, from the islands of Malaysia and the canals of Venice to the coasts of Florida and California. These rising water levels pose serious challenges to all aspects of coastal existence—chiefly economic, residential, and environmental—as well as to the cartographic definition and mapping of coasts. It is this facet of coastal life that Mark Monmonier tackles in *Coast Lines*. Setting sail on a journey across shifting landscapes, cartographic technology, and climate change, Monmonier reveals that coastlines are as much a set of ideas, assumptions, and societal beliefs as they are solid black lines on maps. Whether for sailing charts or property maps, Monmonier shows, coastlines challenge mapmakers to capture on paper a highly irregular land-water boundary perturbed by tides and storms and complicated by rocks, wrecks, and shoals. *Coast Lines* is peppered with captivating anecdotes about the frustrating effort to expunge fictitious islands from nautical charts, the tricky measurement of a coastline's length, and the contentious notions of beachfront property and public access. Combining maritime history and the history of technology, *Coast Lines* charts the historical progression from offshore sketches to satellite images and explores the societal impact of coastal cartography on everything from global warming to homeland security. Returning to the form of his celebrated *Air Apparent*, Monmonier ably renders the topic of coastal cartography accessible to both general readers and historians of science, technology, and maritime studies. In the post-Katrina era, when the map of entire regions can be redrawn by a single natural event, the issues he raises are more important than ever.

"Coastlines take on a completely different meaning after reading Mark Monmonier's five-century-long odyssey on the challenges and tricks that mapmakers have used to tell us where land and sea meet. That line is far from obvious, it turns out. With the prospect of rising global sea levels, the technique of mapping changing bays, estuaries, and deltas requires imagination as much as mathematics. By using history and humor, Monmonier's fascination with mapping our coastlines is highly infectious."