

Comments on Maps in Wendy Doniger's "The Hindus, An Alternative History" (2009)

The book has four maps immediately after the Index. Unfortunately, the maps are full of errors. We point some of these errors below:

1. In the first map ('India's Major Geographical Features'), the Waziristan Hills area is marked erroneously as 'Kirthar Range', which is actually several hundred miles further south.
2. In the second map ('India from 2500 BCE to 600 CE), Kashmir is marked north of the river Indus (it should be south of Indus); Baluchistan is marked at the boundary between Sindh and Punjab whereas it is further west; Magadha is marked in northern Orissa and the bordering areas of Bihar (it should be further north, just south of the Ganga); Mithila is marked a bit north-west of its actual location and so on.
3. In the third map ('India from 600 CE to 1600 CE), at least four historical sites are marked several hundred miles from their correct geographical location – Janakpur, Nagarkot, Mandu and Haldighati.
4. In the fourth map ('India from 1600 CE to the Present'), Kanpur is indicated as the modern name of the ancient city of Kanauj. This is incorrect and the two cities are distinct from each other.