In the Medieval period, European maps were mostly based by religious views. Viking explored the North Atlantic while map-making developed more realistic and practical lines in the Mediterranean region. All maps were drawn by hand, which made the circulation of maps limited.

During the 17th to the 19th century, Maps became more and more accurate and factual with the use of scientific techniques. Various countries adopted national mapping programs. Following World War I, the widespread use of aerial photography helped a lot in map-making process. The combination of ground observations and remote sensing is the base of modern cartography.

Cartography has constantly evolved in order to meet the demands of new generations of map makers' users. The oldest identified maps are from around 2300 B.C. which are preserved on Babylonian clay tablets. The first maps were manually made with brushes on parchments and varied in quality and limited in circulation. The invention of the compass, printing press, telescope, etc allowed the formation of more accurate maps and the ability to make accurate reproductions.

Advances in technologies, has made possible the creation of maps with fine details, no distortion in shape and less resistant to wear and tear. This also removed the need for engraving which reduced the time to create and reproduce maps. Advances in electronic technology in the late 20th century, led to a new revolution in cartography. Computer hardware devices such as computer screens, printers and scanners along with image processing, visualization, spatial analysis and database software, have extended the ability to produce maps that show different features.