

(SUMMER) READING WITH FRIENDS

Seeing Like a State (AND A LOT ABOUT TREES (NOT BINARY TREES; LIKE BARK TREES))

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September 23, 2019

Reading With Friends

META STUFF

WHAT TO EXPECT

Reading **with friends**

SEEING LIKE A STATE

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Governments make sense of the world by **operationalizing** the world in ways that allow them to make comparisons and decisions.

- family names
- standardized measures
- surveys and censuses
- organization of transportation

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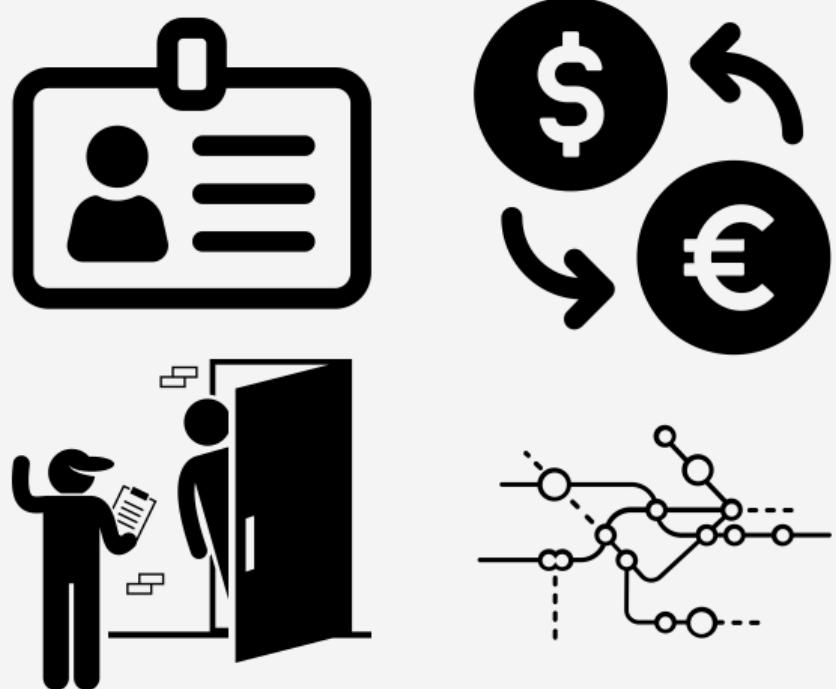
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1. administrative ordering of nature and society

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When four things line up, you get a disaster:

1. administrative ordering of nature and society
2. high-modernist ideology
3. authoritarian state
4. a weakened civil society

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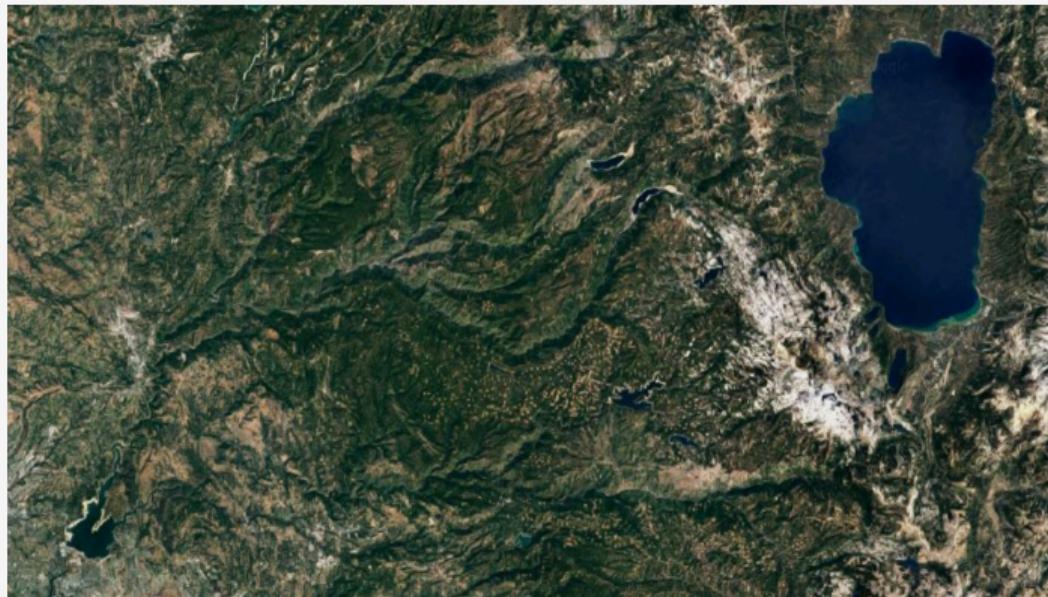


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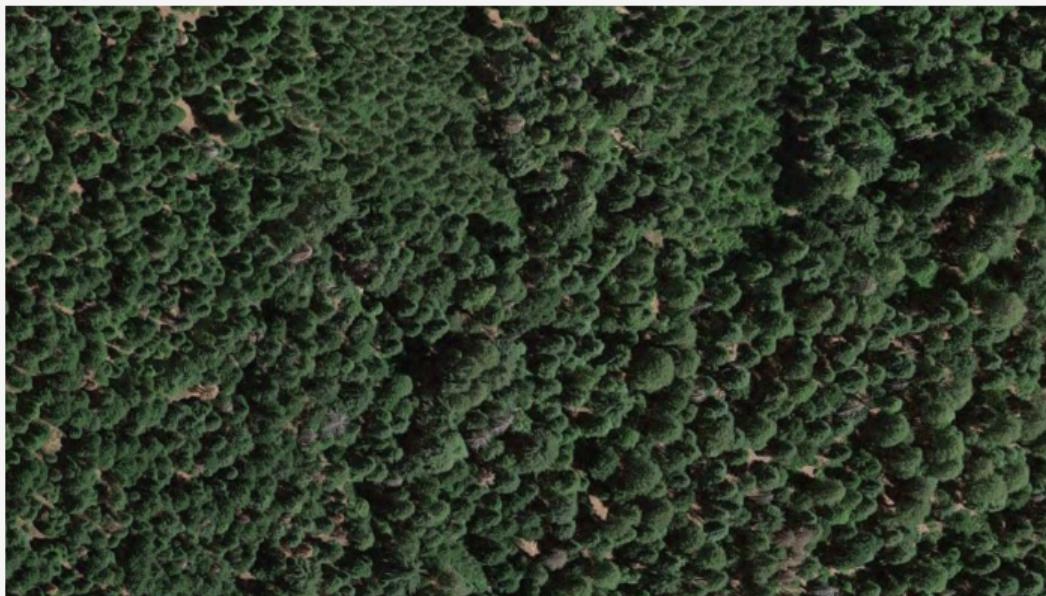
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What about...

- wildlife?
- people?
- other trees and flora?

INTERPRETING THE WORLD IN A REDUCTIVE WAY ISN'T WRONG

**INTERPRETING THE WORLD IN A REDUCTIVE WAY ISN'T WRONG
(IT'S HOW WE COPE WITH TOO MUCH INFORMATION)**

INTERPRETATION TO IMPOSITION

(imagine a picture of a forest here)

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DELAYED DISASTERS

- things were fine for a while
- then they weren't
 - pests
 - storms
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Waldsterben
Forest death

ECOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

turned out we need all the stuff we removed from the forest.

SO WHAT?



we're not clickthrough machines, but we measure things like **engagement** by that



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Did removing all of the other activity from our field of view oversimplify the ecosystem and
result in pests?

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- “identification” by Adrien Coquet from the Noun Project
- “conversion” by Adrien Coquet from the Noun Project
- “census” by Gan Khoon Lay from the Noun Project
- “Subway Map” by Viktor Fedyuk (Tim P) from the Noun Project
- “USA Map” by Alexander Skowalsky from the Noun Project
- “clicking” by Mark Aventura from the Noun Project
- Le Corbusier’s proposal, taken from
<http://www.civicconservation.org/rethinking-preservation>
- photo of poplar forest from *Seeing Like a State* by James S. Scott