**Self Reflection 1**

The first map I examined is *Where the Drones Strike* from the Bureau of Investigative Journalism (BIJ) designed to analyze drone strikes in Pakistan. The second map is Strava’s global heat map, which illuminates popular routes for recreational activities such as running, cycling, and hiking.

**The Good: Strava’s Global Heat Map**

The experience using Strava’s global heat map has been mostly positive. From the start, the platform is intuitive and clean. Strava’s audience will include fitness enthusiasts and people conducting light research. I do not expect many of the users to want to invest time in familiarizing themselves with complex interactions. To simplify matters, Strava made 90% of the interaction occur inside a clean, well defined box. This menu limits distance between interactions. Further, the menu had only a few pre-defined filters to query and interact with, reducing confusion and click fatigue. Finally. The autocomplete search feature reduced data entry. The design was responsive, which allowed a variety of platforms to take advantage of the map.

**The Bad: Where the Drones Strike**

Unlike the Strava webmap, the BIJ map had a few flaws. The map was designed to give context on drone strikes in Pakistan, and recorded data over 10 years to provide to the user. The user of this map would be a casual researcher. I wouldn’t expect them to need many features with this map, but the features provided are insufficient. The layer toggles were located in the lower right corner of the map, which, while out of the way, were less intuitive than in the upper right corner, since the left edge was riddled with text. The timer slider was hard to grab because there was no tolerance on the event listener, making it difficult to interact with. The slider further did not allow any search feature to look for a month and year. Lastly, the slider did not include any reference indicator, so interacting to find a month and year was a crapshoot. The different markers for drone strikes had great interaction on click; however, the popup had a URL that was not accessible with a click because, again, the tolerance on the link text was too little. While the map was responsive like Strava’s, some of the menu features didn’t work when I set the map to a mobile resolution.

**User Interface Idea**

One of the nicest features on both maps was the interactive menu on the *Where the Drones Strike* Map. Even on a full sized screen, the menu was collapsible. The collapsible menu, and perhaps even text box, affords users a clean workspace on their interactive map. The second feature was the idea to publish composite maps for the most likely-to-be requested data. *Where the Drones Strike* had a preset map for civilian casualties and an aggregate view. Giving the majority of users what they need quickly would reduce conclusion. Finally, if I make any map that examines data over time, a slider that allows more customization and animation of data over time is a must.