Maps

The concept of nation-state is to rule over space instead of ruling over people. (Not so much of who they were, but not where they were).

Before modernity, hearing was a more privileged sense than seeing. There was a shift in science becoming more of what we see than what we hear. Knowledge on a map is different from the insider’s knowledge.

Nationalism was created as an allegiance to the country for people to sacrifice themselves (because other than this would be mercenaries or believe in god). Visualisation of the territorial map creates a sense of unity.

Pre-modern maps:

Pre-modern maps – The map was just a graphic expression of the world told by Aristotle. (eg. Eratosthene’s map). Pliny the Ancient gave the mythological fantasy descriptions of what was not Europe.

Itinerary maps (before pre-modern) – meant as a utilitarian object to show u where to go instead of the entire space/distance/position. Wayfaring maps. It is the places that matter (The Aristotelian view that space is a collection of places).

Omphalos syndrome (Navel syndrome) – every place thinks of itself as the centre of the Earth.

Modern maps:

Disappearance of god’s ideology and man takes the place.

Ptolemy – first human to invent grids, latitude and longitude.

It reflects a reality, but it also shapes the reality (because conquest comes after ideas of maps)

15th century and 16th century globes became fashionable and we can overlook the sphere. Priority given to visibility.

Space is a blank empty expanse that accepts only length, width and movements.

The map is a descriptive and prescriptive (guide the way you see) object.

Imperialism – a by-product of scientific cartography. The invention of America.

Treaty of Tordesillas, 1494 (Tordesillas Cantino 1502):

Spaniards and Portuguese made an agreement known as the Treaty of Tordesillas in 1494 (they felt entitled to appropriating the lands they had discovered). Pope was there as he is the voice of god, where god is the owner of his creation, which is the world (he has the right to do whatever he wants to it). High sense of hubris. This was only possible because of the existence of map. The line could not exist physically, and longitudes have not been figured out yet.

Parents cannot treat children like the way God treats Earth as children have free will (a subject), whereas the Earth is an object. The only real resistance to a free will is another free will (JP Sartre).

“At first glance, one will think the mountain is an obstacle to my free will is an object. An object is never an obstacle, never true resistance to a free will. The only obstacle is your own free will. Even if I cannot change the object, I can change what it means for that object.” – Jean Paul Sartre.

Desire of free will is because of the opposition of free will (which is the other free will), which is why murder happens.

Hubris – arrogance of the humans playing god. (from Romans)

Carl Schmitt – Nomos of the Earth. Nomos is a Greek term usually understood as the law. His point is that every era/ civilisation proceeds to a certain division of space and this is what is characteristic of the civilisation. Modernity is characterised by lines, which is epitomised by the Treaty of Tordesilla, because of the blank slate of space dictated by modernity.

Similar events to Treaty of Tordesillas include: Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, Radcliffe Line Sykes Picot Secret Map, Yalta Conference hand drawn map etc.

The line is now a prohibition instead of an invitation, an abolition of relationship.

Portolan charts – maritime navigation maps.

Rhumb lines are essential for navigators (sea and air). Lines that cross the lines of latitude at constant angles. Also known as loxodrome lines. Portolan charts were drawn with loxodrome lines. The meaning of the line on the sea is the line of destination (not prohibition). The map becomes a guide and becomes a reservoir of knowledge.

“Nature hates the void”, which is why cartographers filled the void with ships and all.

Cadastral mapping – is a map that defines land ownership.

Quid Juris/ Quid Facti = Value/ Fact = What should be/ what it is.

The mere existence does not make something legitimate. The map acts as legitimisation.

Uti possidetis Juris – a principle in international law. Once drawn on the map, the lines become eternal. It was used mainly the era of decolonisation (esp South America, Africa). The line is the ground for creating the political reality of the country.

City maps adopt the concept of a bird’s eye view.

View from nowhere – this is typical of modernity (because there is no way for u to see the world in the way displayed on maps.