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Visual/Data Literacy related to maps

1. Cartography is visual
2. Maps are not neutral
3. More maps \neq better maps
4. Solutions (finding our way)



Section 1

Cartography is visual

or,

An extremely brief history

6th Century BCE Babylonian Map of the World



Image courtesy of the British Museum



12th Century CE

Cartographer: Al-Sharif al-Idrisi

Oriented with South up



Modern T-O map

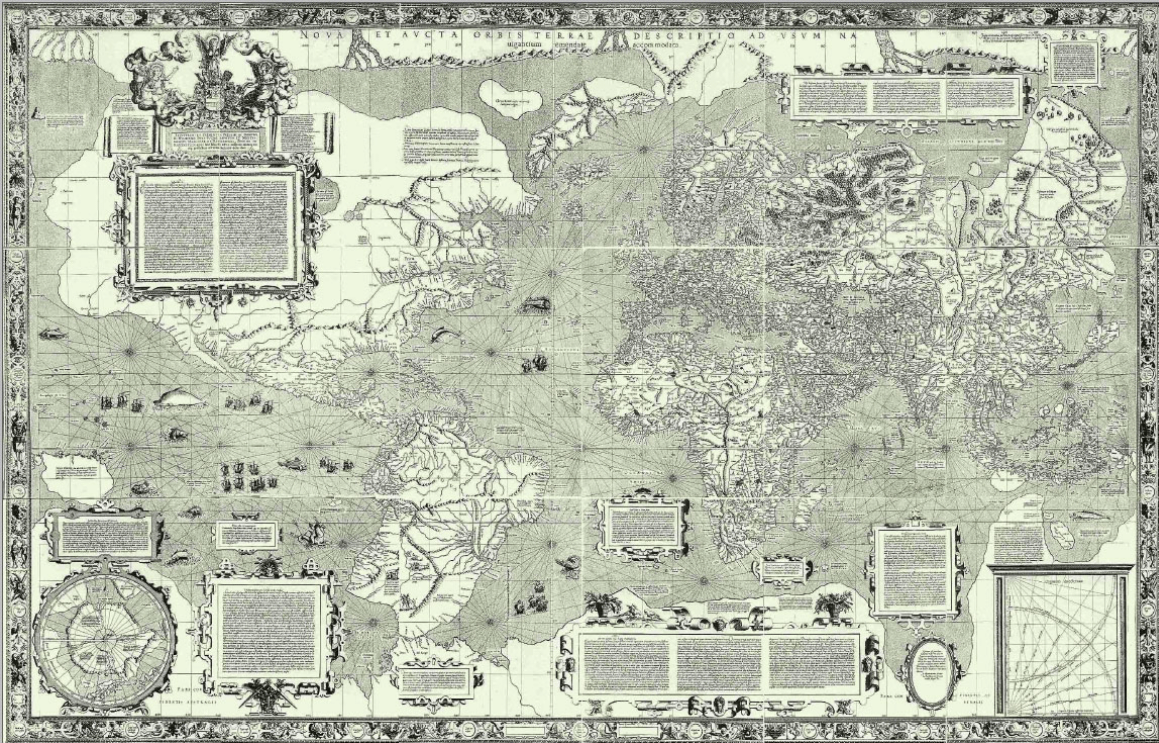


Ebstorf Mappa Mundi
13th Century



Wikimedia





16th Century

Mercator Map of the World

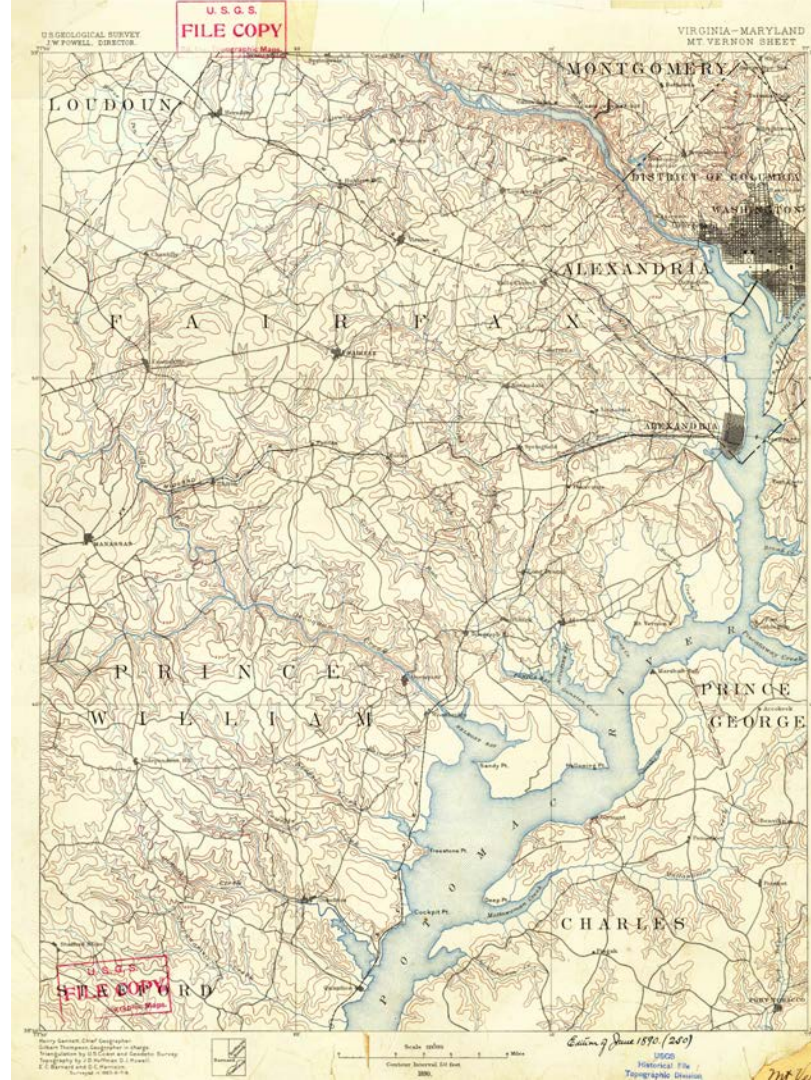
Age of Exploration maps become more scientific

Wikimedia



19th Century

Government-funded mapping agencies
and projects



Tokaido narabini Saigoku dochu ezu. 1.1687



David Rumsey Map Collection



Inuit Cartography (Greenland)



Decolonial Atlas



SECTION 2

Maps are not neutral

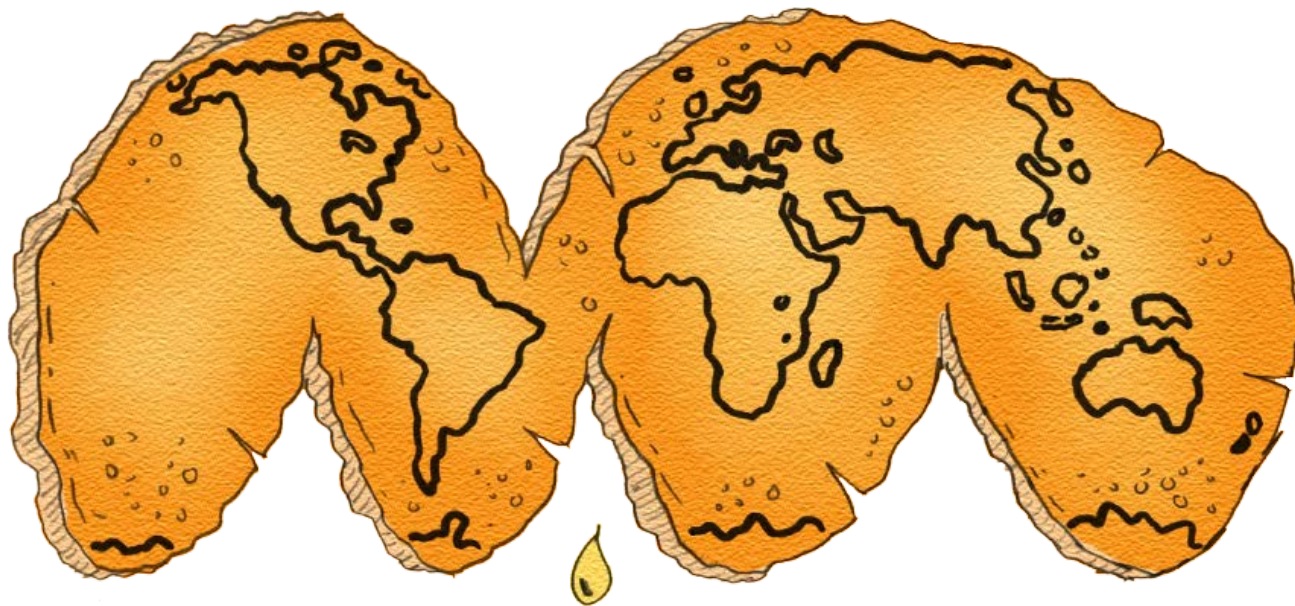


Image from dogfoose.com



The True Size of...





**HAVE YOU EVER WANTED TO BE THE
CENTER OF ATTENTION SO BAD**

YOU CUT ASIA IN HALF?

Wikimedia





Look forward, women, always; steadily cast away
The memory of hate and struggle and bitterness;
Bonds may endure for a night, but freedom comes with the day,
And the free must remember nothing less.

Forget the strife; remember those who strove—
The first defeated women, gallant and few,
Who gave us hope, as a mother gives us love,
Forget them not, and this remember, too:

How at the later call to come forth and abide,
Women untaught, unconsented, alone and apart,
Rang upon rang came forth in unguessed night,
Each one answering the call of her own wise heart

They came from toil and want, from leisure and ease,
Those who knew only life, and learned women of fame,
Girls and the mothers of girls, and the mothers of those,
No one knew whence or how, but they came, they came.

The faces of some were stern, and some were gay,
And some wore pale with the terror of survival dangers;
But their hearts knew this: that hereafter come what may,
Woman to women would never again be strangers.

Alice Duer Miller,

Cornell University – PJ Mode Collection of Persuasive Cartography.



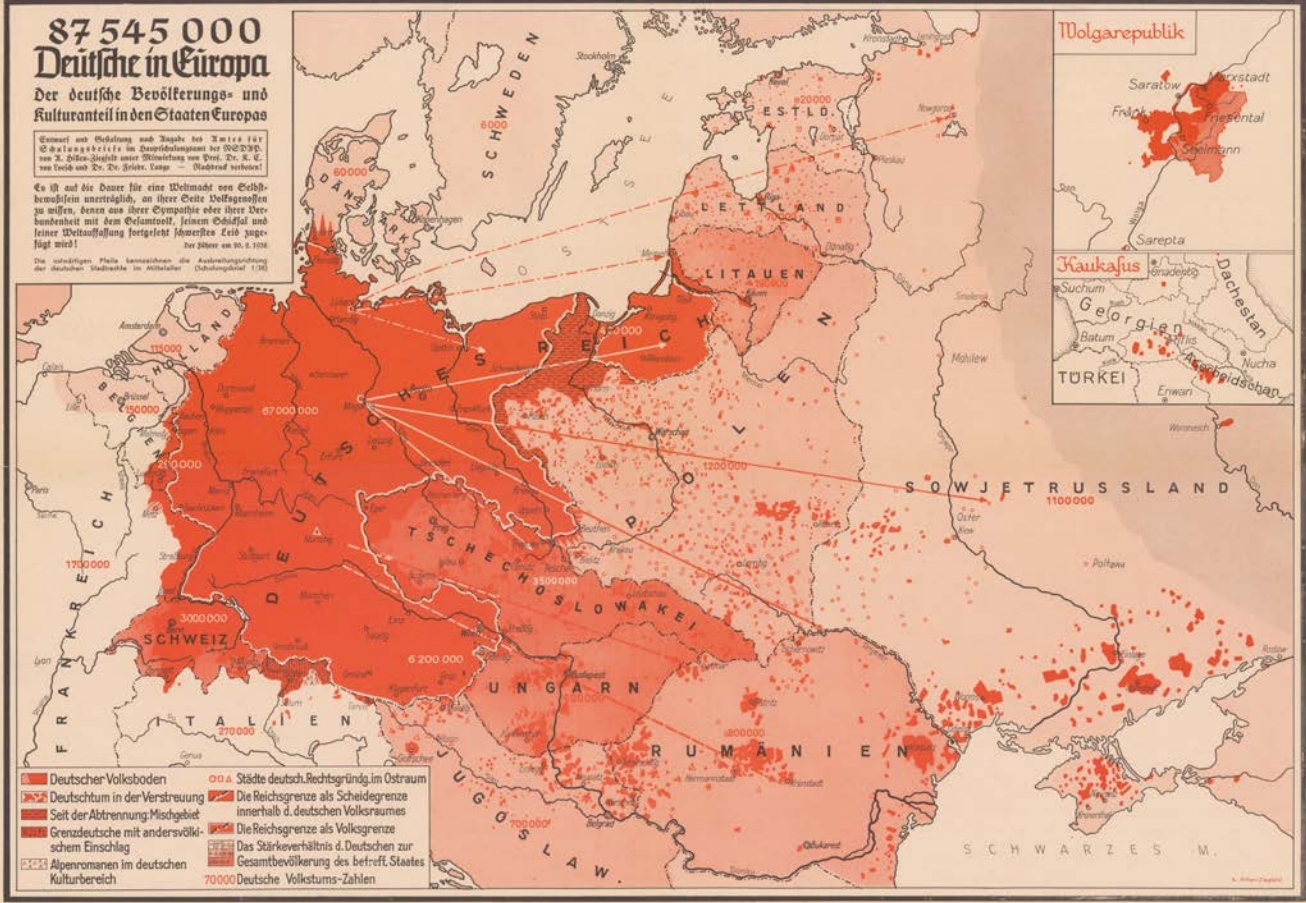
87 545 000 Deutsche in Europa

Der deutsche Bevölkerungs- und Kulturanteil in den Staaten Europas

Erkenntnis von Bedeutung nach Angabe des Reichs für
 die Bevölkerungszahl in Deutschland im Jahre 1939
 von Dr. phil. habil. und Ministerialrat Dr. phil. h. c. h.
 von Seck und Dr. phil. h. c. h. — Wiederaufnahme

Es ist auf die Dauer für eine Weltmacht von Welt-
 bedeutung unerlässlich, an ihrer Seite Volksgenossen
 zu wissen, denen aus ihrer Sympathie oder ihrer Ver-
 bindenheit mit dem Vaterland, seinem Schicksal und
 seiner Weltstellung fortgesetzt Interesse sein ge-
 hört wird! — Berlin am 10. 6. 1939

Die nachfolgenden Pläne kennzeichnen die Ausbreitung
 der deutschen Volkskräfte im Mittelalter (Schuljahr 1938)



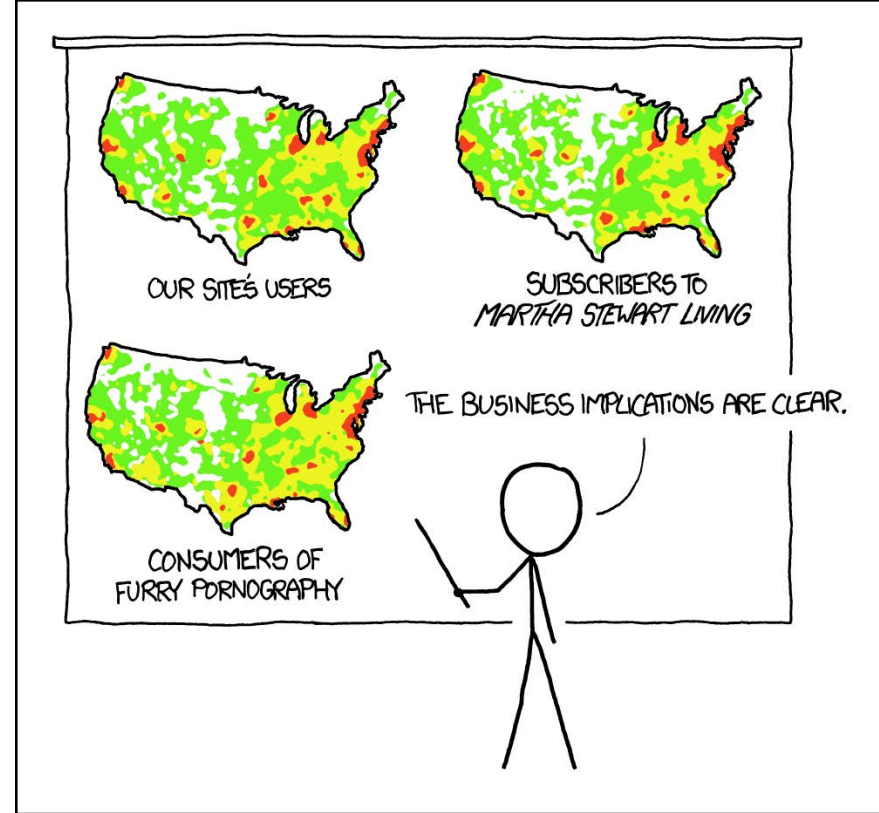
Cornell University – PJ Mode Collection of Persuasive Cartography.



Section 3

More maps \neq better maps

Unintentionally misleading maps
happen ALL THE TIME

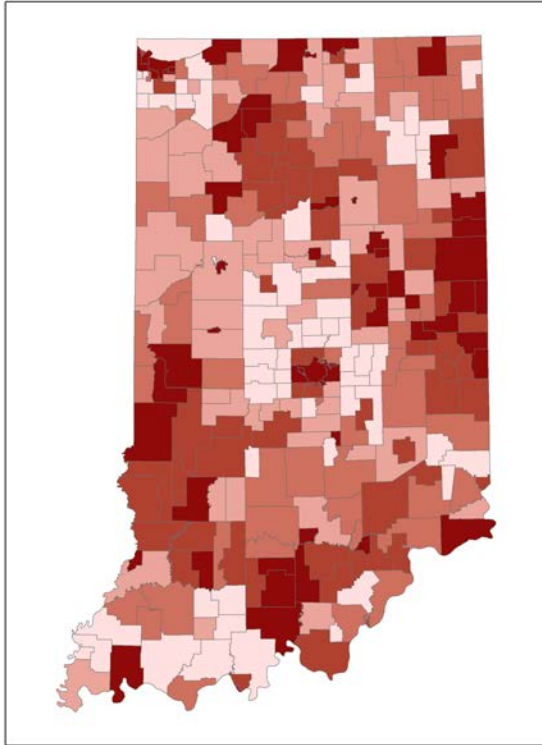


PET PEEVE #208:
GEOGRAPHIC PROFILE MAPS WHICH ARE
BASICALLY JUST POPULATION MAPS

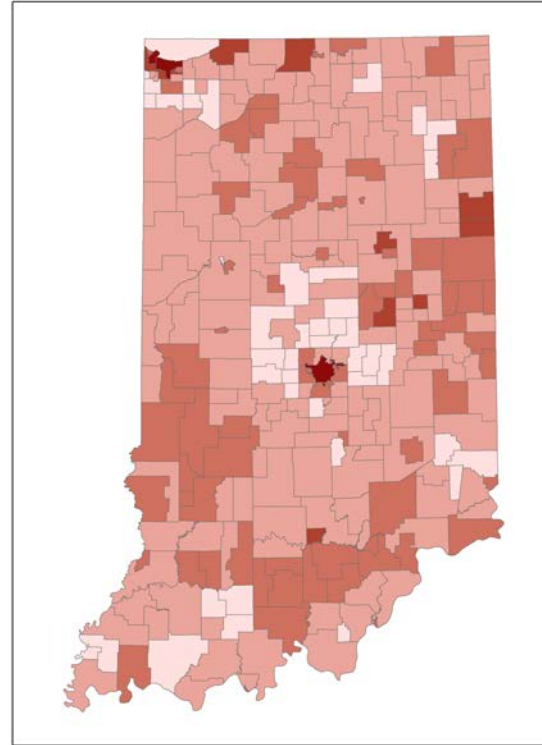
xkcd.com/1138



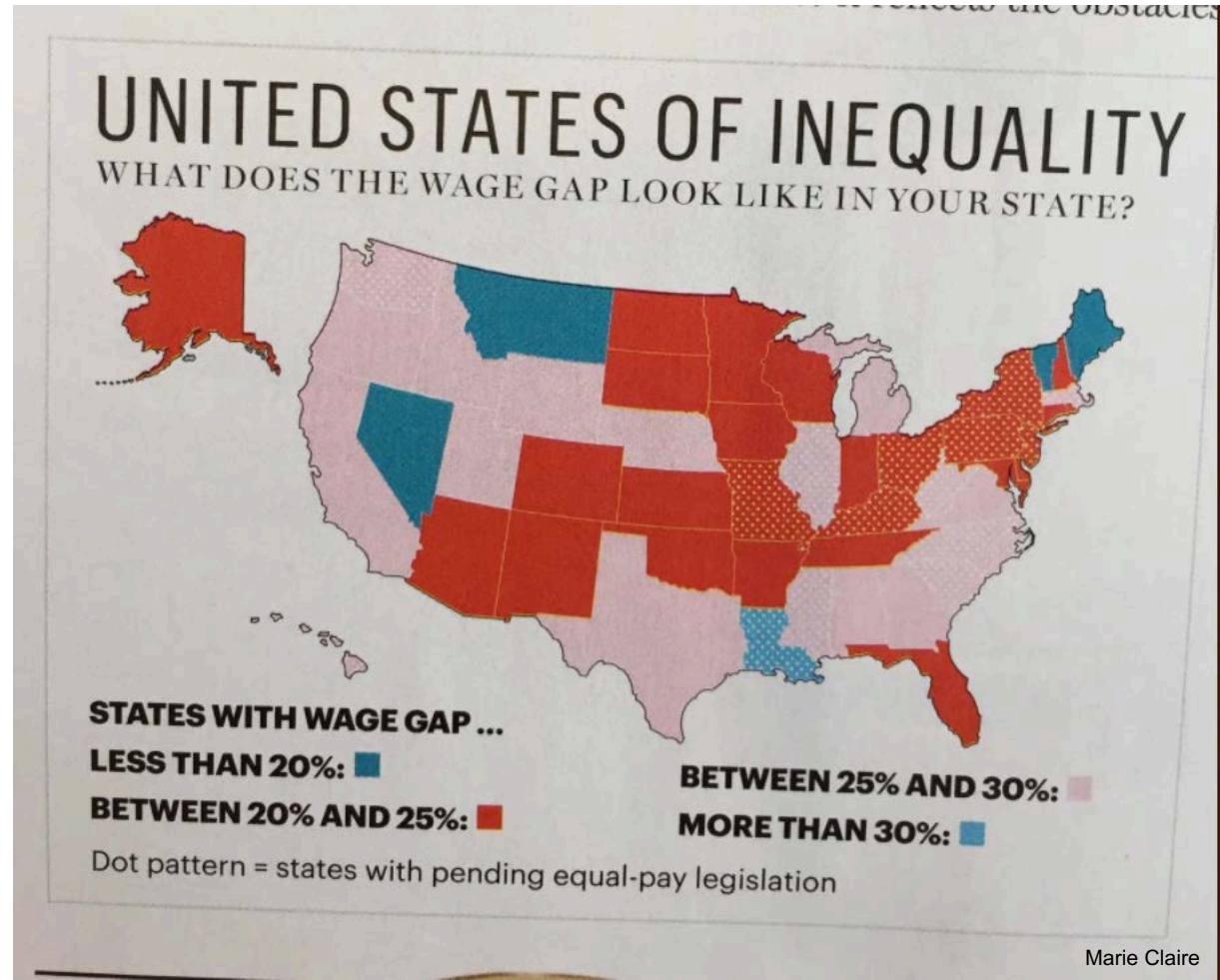
Percent of Children in Poverty, 2013, Quantile



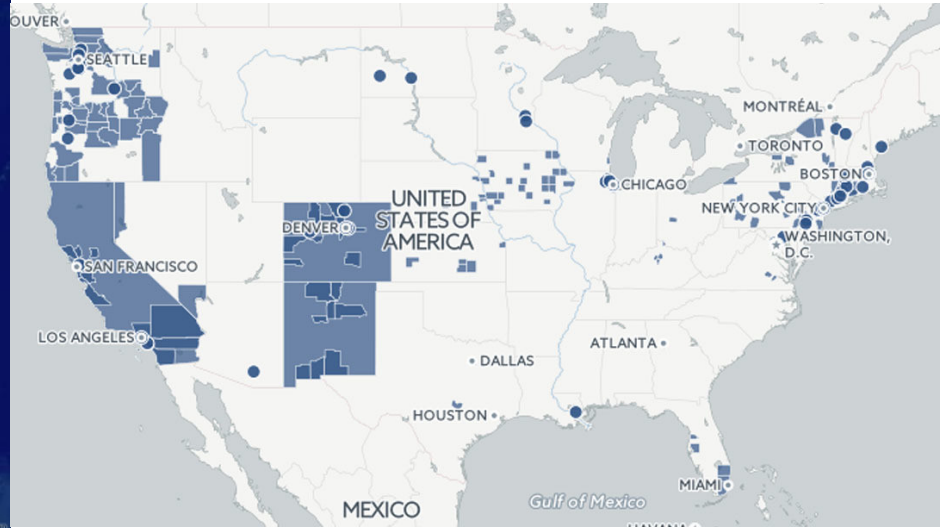
Percent of Children in Poverty, 2013, Equal Interval



Colors matter



SANCTUARY POLICIES ACROSS THE U.S.



Fox News

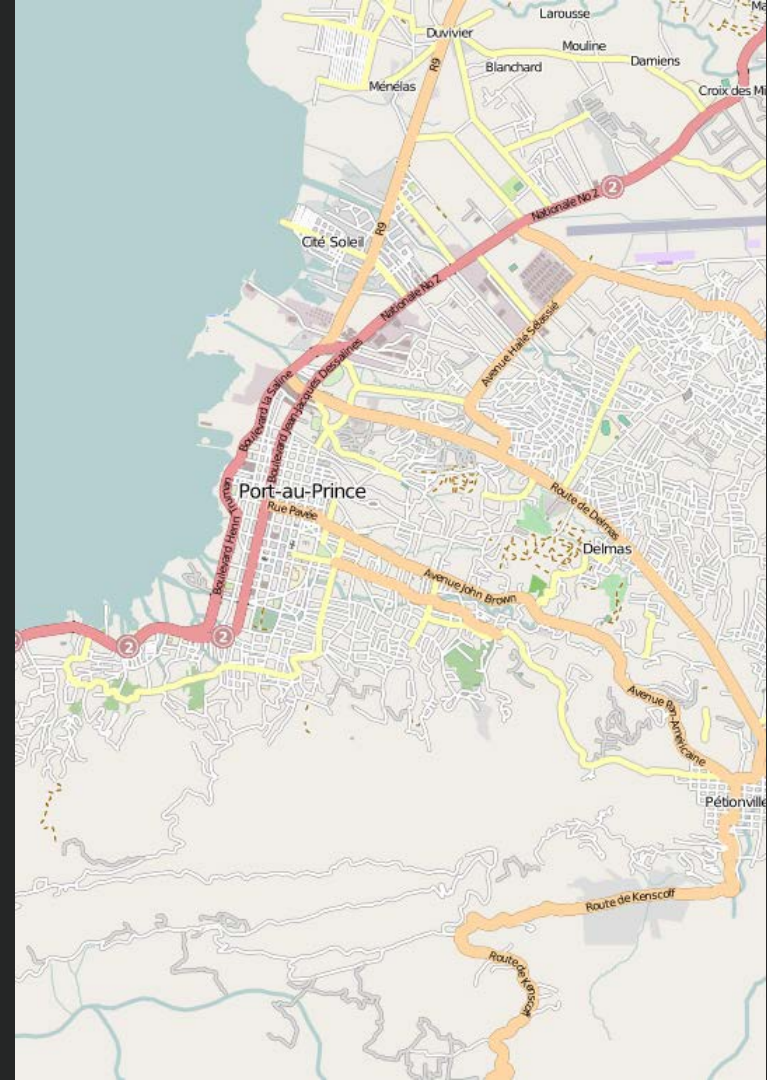
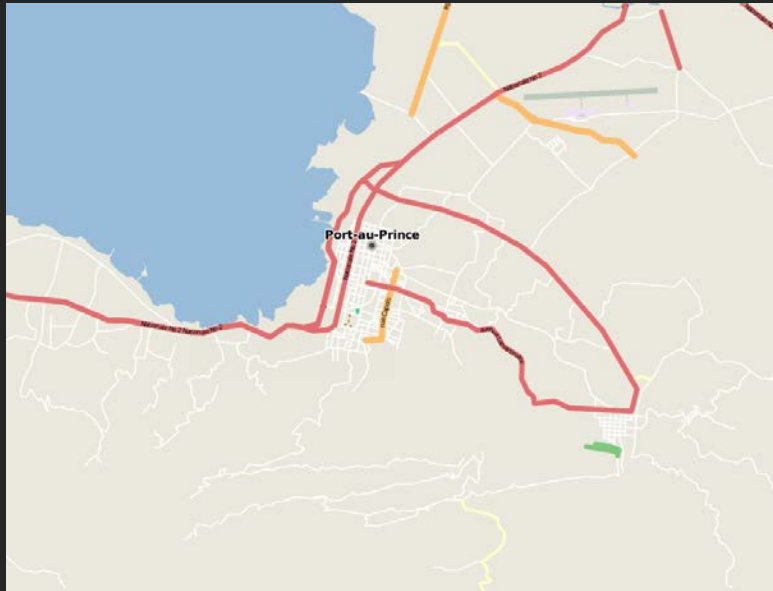
Chicago Tribune. Map created by Jonathon Berlin



SECTION 4

Solutions

OpenStreetMap



Images by Mikel Maron

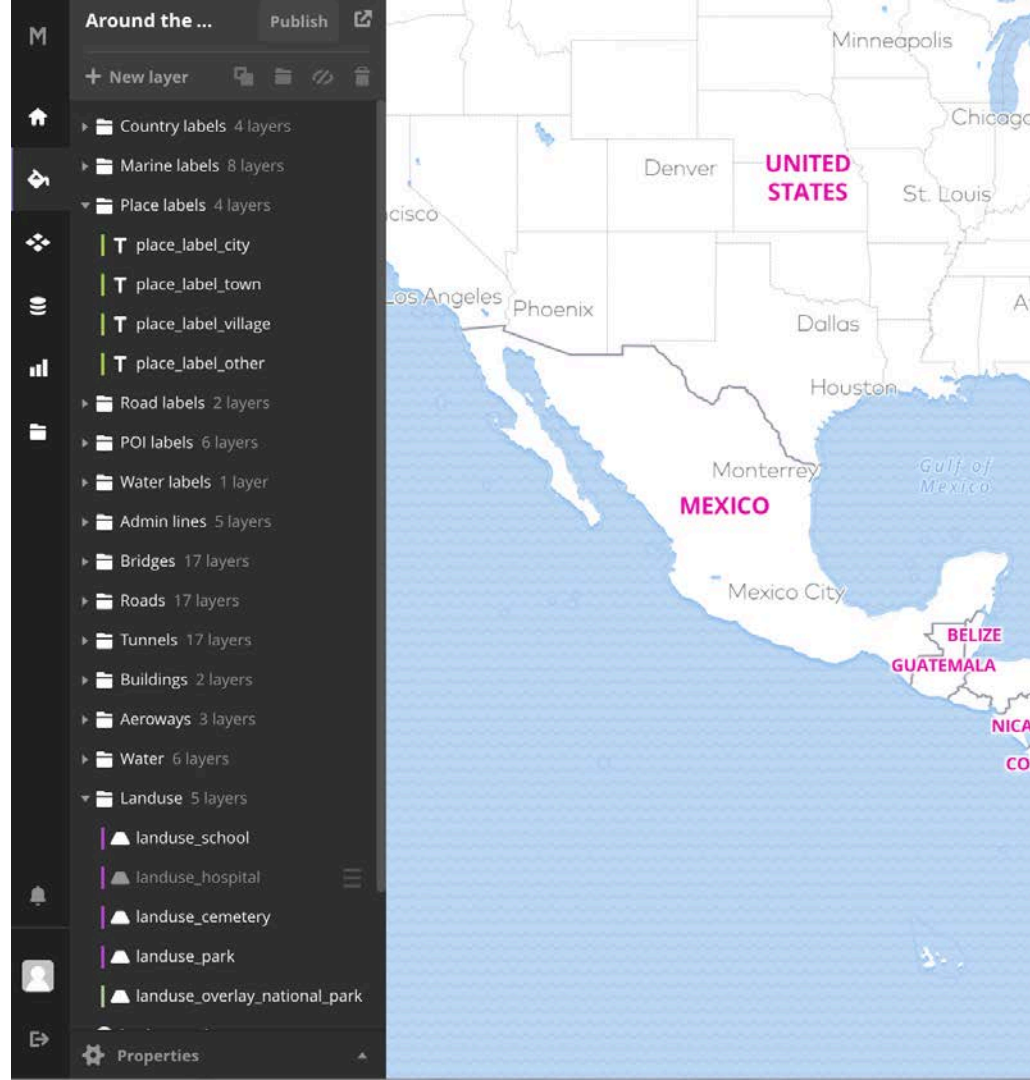
Mapbox Studio

Create custom base maps

Determine data for each zoom level

Experiment with color schemes

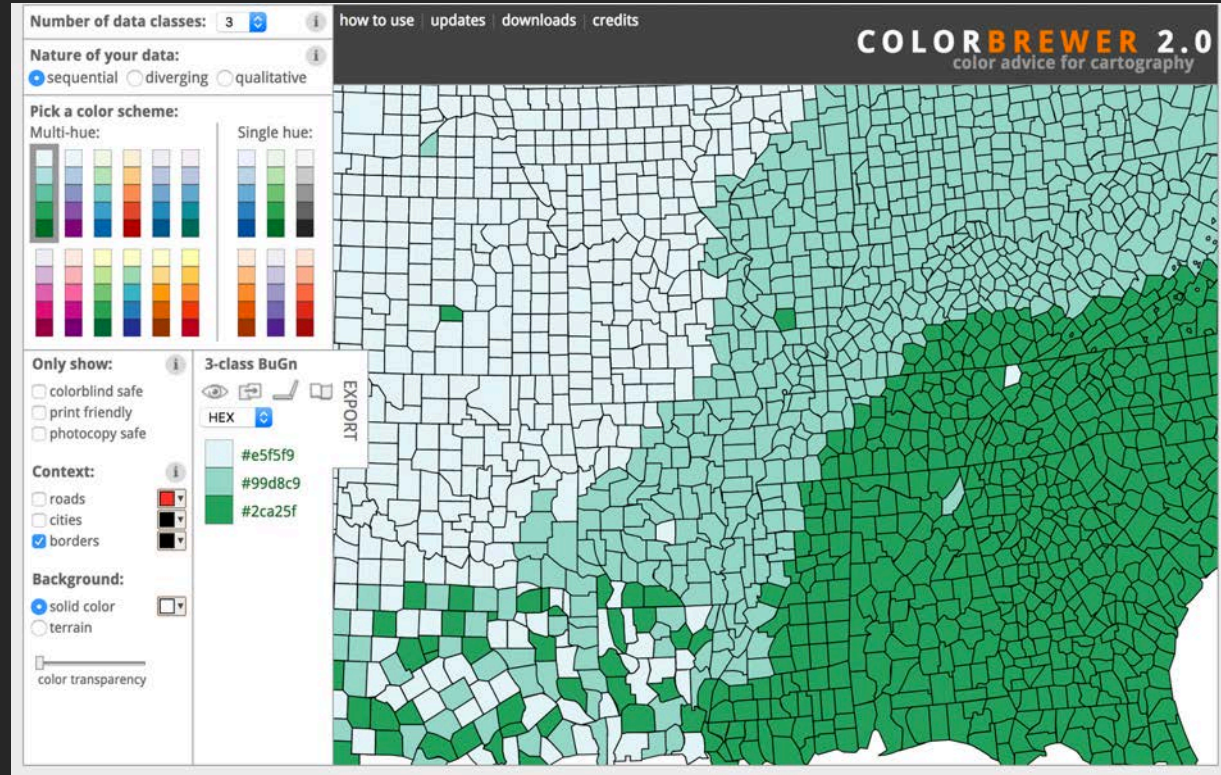
[Gallery](#)



Colorbrewer

Cartographically
sound color schemes

Accessibility
standards



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Further Reading

- [How to Lie With Maps](#), Mark Monmonier
- [Cartographic Fictions](#), Karen Piper
- [Strange Maps](#), a blog by Frank Jacobs
- National Geographic-Roper Public Affairs [2006 Geographic Literacy Survey](#)
- [The Decolonial Atlas](#)
- [The Map Room](#), a blog by Jonathan Crowe
- [Cartonerd](#), a blog by Kenneth Field
- [Cornell University Persuasive Cartography – The PJ Mode Collection](#)



Thank you!

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FULFILLING *the* PROMISE