Cartography as Communication
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**What is Cartography?**
- Discipline of Map making
- "Maps as tools in human interaction with the spatial environment"
- Importance lies in
  - How they are used
  - Contribution to society
  - Reflection of culture and times

**History of Cartography**
- Prehistoric
  - Star Maps, Cave Paintings, Landmarks
- Ancient
  - Land Survey and organization of settlements
- Middle Ages and Renaissance
  - Influenced by Catholic Church, Navigation
  - Maps flourished due to printing and engraving

**Shift to Modern Cartography**
- National Topographic Mapping
  - Administration and Taxation, Extract Resources
- Thematic Cartography
  - Climatic, iotic and sociocultural environments
- 19th and 20th Centuries
  - Innovation of Tech and rise of Academia
- Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
  - Use of software to collect, visualize and analyze spatial data

**Critical Cartography**
- What is it?
  - A two-part argument
    - New mapping practices and theoretical critique
- Challenges Cartography as a academic, elitist discipline
  - Critique of political power
  - Seeks to democratize map making
- Critique as examination of assumptions
  - Understand and suggest alternatives

**Theoretical Critiques**
- Maps make reality, as much as they represent it
  - Space, geography, place, identities of people
  - Actively construct knowledge
- Maps as social documents
  - Historical contexts
  - Ethical responsibility
- How maps consolidate power
  - Dominant political structures
  - Hidden interests
- Critiques of GIS
  - Technocratic positivism
  - Militarism
  - Geographical culture wars

**Conclusions**
- Contemporary academic cartography
  - Moved beyond some academic tenets
- Mapping no longer in hands of experts
- Shift in Emphasis from scientific method to exploration of data (Geovisualization)
- Two areas of critique:
  - Theoretical critique
    - Social relevance
  - Ethics and power relations
  - New mapping practices
    - Open source, Google Maps
  - Data exploration