social and political contexts of maps and the **map** makers
key scholars
JB **Harley**, ***Deconstructing** the **map*** (1989)
Denis Wood, *The power of maps* (1992)
Jeremy Black, *Maps and politics* (1997)
Jeremy Crampton, *Maps as social constructions: power, communication and visualization* (2001)
Paul Laxton, *New nature of maps* (2001)

Brian **Harley**:

rather than accepting what cartographers tell us maps are supposed to be, the thrust of my deconstruction is to subvert the apparent naturalness and innocence of the world shown in maps both past and present break the assumed link between reality and representation

the power of maps

maps are not simply about communicating geographic information

or representing the landscape

maps express power; maps create power

maps are not neutral or objective

maps are systems of power-knowledge

maps are subjective, selective distortions

maps serve the interests of those that make them

maps can be 'read' as texts, concerned for the 2nd text, the marginal, the unsaid

we should worry less about **map** design, accuracy standards, theories of information transfer, etc, etc (that's a smoke screen)

examine more the social implications

what are the ethics of the maps, the **map**-maker and their mapping practices

subjectivity is not wrong.

passing off the **map** as objective and neutral
denying the subjectivity
naïve belief that the **map** is just a mirror of reality
this is enhanced with the 'scientific' sophistication
and hiding behind layers gee whiz tech
maps are then used and applied on the assumption
that they are objective

Power: What are the economic structures in which the **map** is situated?

Consumption: How is the **map** presented, disseminated, and used? How does the **map** work as part of wider space discourses and how is it received by society?

Interests: What interests are served by making this **map**? Who wins and who looses? Where does power lie in the production of this **map**?

Closure: What maps were not made? How does this **map** foreclose other representations and opportunities? What other mappings have been undertaken or alternative mappings could be imagined?

Authorship: What is the authorship of the **map**? Who is doing the showing and what are their explicit and implicit intentions?
What is the relationship between the **map** and its author?

Objectives: Why was the **map** made? Are the objectives of the **map** stated explicitly? What are some possible secondary, implicit objectives?

Contexts: What are the institutional contexts of the **map**? Who pays for the **map** to be made? What necessary practices and technical infrastructure was required to make the **map**? What are some of the major social and cultural inspirations and influences on the **map**?

Subject: What is the subject of the **map**? What is shown and what is not shown?

Rhetoric: How is power encoded and expressed in both the content and graphical form of the **map**? What conventions underlie the graphical symbols employed on the **map**?

Accuracy: How 'accurate' is the **map**? What are its standards of accuracy? Is it a workable **map**?

Space: What is the scale of the **map**? What conception of space is the **map** based upon? What is the maps worldview?

Ethics: Is it an ethical **map**? What are the wider social, political and economic implications on the space being mapped? How might the **map** change nature and perceptions of the space that it maps?

too polemical
too many generalisation
not all mapping is hegemonic. there is space for alternative mapping
seeking to re-envision cartography fitting their subjective views of the world
end up in a position where 'everything count'
knocking down and not building up