

LATINAM177

Mapping Poverty, Colonialism and
Nation Building in Latin America

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What we need in a map for the class project

POVERTY

- Think about the poverty dimension in your story. Do we know where the poor live today in the area of your map? Have they always been poor? Have they always lived there?
- If data on poverty is not available is there some proxy that would work: lights, rough terrain, population density, small area estimations, geocoded survey data, ethnic markers.
- Are there indigenous cartographic sources that may shed light on the map area before contact with Europeans?

FORM

- Is the emphasis of the project or source map on the image (raster) or objects (vectors)? Are the objects points, lines or polygons?
- Where is the center of the map? Where is the prime meridian? What is the orientation? Is it a mappamundi of sorts?
- What is the best projection to think about the territory? Why did the map maker choose a specific projection? Does the georeferencing provide a better understanding of social processes, or is the original more effective?

AUTHORITY

- Is the map secret or public? Who is it meant to be for as an audience? Military, navigation, prestige, legibility and control of inhabitants, tax rolls, census counts, education, nation building?
- Does the map also include a spiritual or otherworldly dimension?
- Is the map a copy of another map? Is the original available? Does it represent a different point of view?

STATE CLAIMS

- Does the map display who holds authority over the territory? Implicit or explicit. Are there lines marking boundaries and limits of political units?
- Are other competing claims over the territorial space shown in the map (enemies, pirates, threats)?
- What is the reach of the state? Is the hinterland known and is power broadcast to that territory? Are coastlines well known while interior is imagined? Are there rivers, waterways, islands and peninsulas (almost islands).

CONTENT

- How accurate is the location of mountains, city blocks, forests? If it is stylized, did the knowledge of location exist but cartographer chose to ignore it?
- How does the map deal with terra incognita? How do they deal with empty spaces? Do fantastic creatures, monsters or wind roses play a role?
- Do the cartouches provide a narrative that complements the map?
- Is there a network implicit in the map? Do we know the connections of ports (internal and external)? Are railroads, canals or other human features overcoming geography?
- Is there a hierarchy in the places named? Are they civil or religious? Do they represent productive or extractive activities?

DISTRIBUTION AND CONFLICT

- Does the map reveal the distribution of benefits and costs? Who is extracting from whom? Does the map reveal the sources of wealth, income or assets?
- Is there an imagined community created by the map? Are there subdivisions among territories? What is the criteria for adscription?
- Does the state have the capacity to wage war and protect its borders?

VISUALIZATION AND REPRODUCTION

- Are features that the map shows no longer in existence (rivers, lakes, abandoned mines, natural landscapes transformed)? Are there traces that can still be visible today?
- How can the analyzed map best be disseminated? Google Earth (KMZ), open street map, shapefile, XY coordinates.
- What is the best visualization (for example, cartograms) of your processed map and findings?

What is your narrative?

Do we learn something about poverty and development today?

Jacarandas in Mexico City

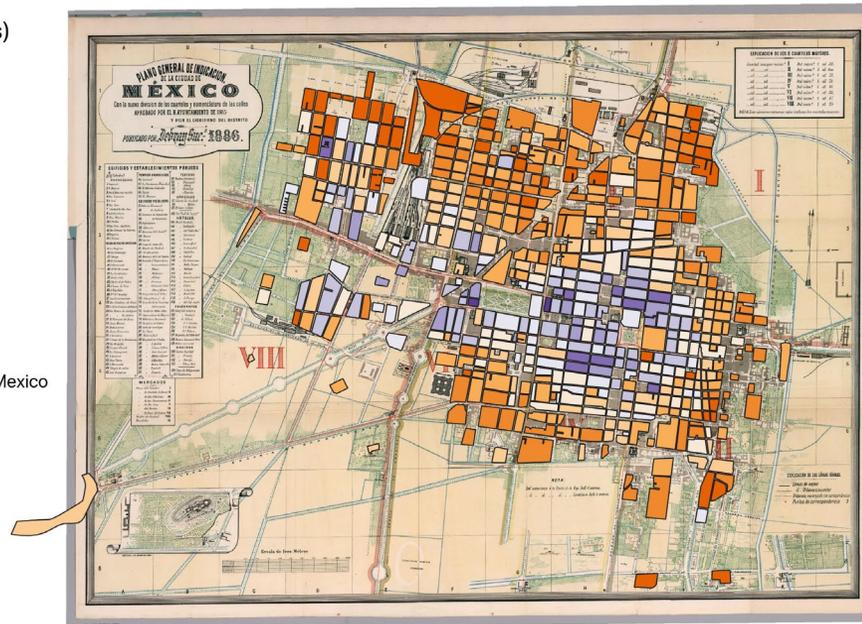
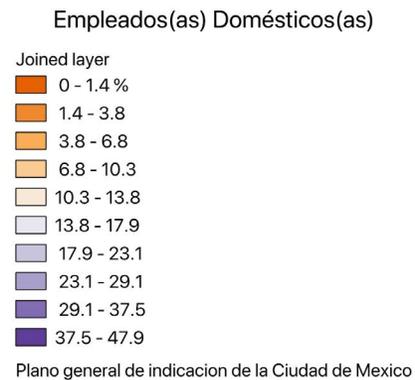
<https://medium.com/@adiazcayeros/jacarandas-in-mexico-city-731f1995984b>



Domestic workers in Mexico City

<https://medium.com/@adiazcayeros/invisible-women-in-mexico-city-d16cbbfcb26f>

Empleados(as) Domésticos(as) en la Municipalidad de la Ciudad de México en 1890



Fuente: Elaboración propia con base en datos del Censo de la CDMX en 1885 a cargo de Peñafiel, Antonio, Dirección General de Estadística (1892), Censo de Habitantes de la Municipalidad de México verificado el 12 de octubre de 1890, México: Oficina Tipográfica de la Secretaría de Fomento, Georeferenciando sobre las manzanas modernas y el mapa de Francisco Díaz de León (1886), Plano general de indicacion de la Ciudad de Mexico : con la nueva división de los cuarteles y nomenclatura de los calles aprobado por el H. Ayuntamiento de 1885 y por el gobierno del distrito. Publicado por Debray Sucs. Rumsey Map Collection No. 11439.007.