Escaping the Cartographic Gaze

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Gazing serves as a battlefield...

for the definition of the Self / Other
Nothing but an ideology of lies, a perfect justification for pillage; its honeyed words, its affectation of sensibility [are] only alibis for aggression.

When individuals make their own maps, they offer an expression of what they consider important, what they consider to be of interest, and for what they are willing to fight.

ParticipatoryGIS
- Interactive Mapping + Citizen Participation

Artwork: ParticipatoryGIS.com
Platforms have politics
No visualisation is neutral
All perspectives are partial
Knowledge must not be provincialised, nor passed off as universal.

A deep examination of the gaze must be undertaken to avoid the transference of unresolved conflicts onto any new contestatory mapping projects.
Avoid illusions of completeness that come with using multiple data sets
Maps and visualisations are more destructive than guns and warships in their power to oppress the Other and to crush insurrection against anything but the map’s representation of power.

Did you find the world?

Or did you make it up?