Creating an Atlas of the Anthropocene

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(...but still only) Choropleth Maps
Cartograms

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Cartograms, also referred to as diagrammatic maps, value-by-area maps, or area-morphed maps, are cartographic depictions with a variable scale that is determined through a quantitative variable of interest. While all map projections contain distortion, cartograms deliberately displace physical space in order to give other data its respective prominence in the map image. In a cartogram, the area of interest is proportional according to the quantitative data that describe its main theme. It can therefore also be understood as a cartographic version of a pie chart, with comparable rules for its construction, meaning that only absolute data or total numbers must be used when creating a cartogram. Using relative values for a cartogram results in misleading and erroneous representations of the underlying data. Data should also be as complete as possible because missing values would result in those areas disappearing from the cartogram, giving the impression of a very low data value of the topic of interest.

A population cartogram of the world shows the countries of the world sized according to their total populations, so that a contemporary population cartogram gives China and India the most prominence, while countries that are larger in physical size but smaller in their populations, such as Russia and Canada, appear proportionally smaller (Figure 1).

History

Originally, the term cartogram was broadly used for maps showing statistical symbols or statistical

Worldmapper

Worldmapper is a collection of world maps called cartograms, where territories are re-sized on each map according to the subject of interest. Following our relaunch in 2018 we have started to create a new series of maps which will be continuously extended and updated in the forthcoming months. All our old maps are still available in the Worldmapper archive.
A new map projection
A Human Planet
Earth at night
People at night
Earthquake risk
Seismic spaces
Changing spaces of the Anthropocene

[Maps showing changes across the globe]
Thanks for listening!