

The text selected for this prompt is from Benedict Anderson's *Imagined Communities*, specifically *Census, Map and Museum* (Chapter 10). The response applies the format of an inventory to further analyze the value and meaning of the chosen text.

In *The Medium is the Massage*, Marshall McLuhan argues that social and cultural change can only be understood with knowledge of the workings of media. Similarly, Benedict Anderson details how the colonial imagination - underpinned through the *Census, Map and Museum* - structured the way nations and identities were developed in Southeast Asia. Both suggest (albeit in different ways) that the form (medium, institution etc.) through which knowledge is organized fundamentally shapes social reality.

Through the *Museum*, Anderson specifically highlights how print capitalism - evidenced through archaeological reports, illustrated books, postage stamps etc. - is inherently political, solidifying the power of the colonial state.

Anderson invites us to "see" nations being formed through the deployment of colonial ideologies and grammar; the printed book acts as a medium - the text is a lens through which we perform an imaginative task similar to the one described by the author. The chapter features hierarchies that are clear, rigid, and segmented; in some ways these almost mirror the order of colonial institutions themselves. However, Anderson often breaks from this rigidity to highlight the intersections within the institutions. For example, between the map which limited racial identities created by the census and conversely, the census which provided demographic data to "fill" these physical spaces. Thus, in Anderson's work, both the message and medium are closely intertwined.

By developing an alphabetical index (dictionary) of this chapter, I aim to isolate and define key terms, themes and concepts throughout the text. I believe this adds value by simplifying and aiding in a reconstructive understanding of the material.

**A****archaeology**

(of monuments) - allowed the state to appear as a guardian of a general, yet local Tradition.

**B****Borobudur**

A large Buddhist temple in Central Java, Indonesia; paintings of this monument commissioned by the Ministry of Education (1960s) is evidence of an colonial archaeology - i.e. the temple as state regalia or as a “logo”.

**C****capitalism**

a social, economic and political system that came to form the foundation for the imagination of the national community, or the basis of nationalism.

**census**

a institutional tool through which individuals were categorized and identities were imagined by the colonial classifications; the construction and systematic quantification of ethnic-racial classifications

**chronometer**

A invention by John Harrison in 1761, which followed for the precise calculation of longitude and consequentially the conversion of the planet into a geometrical grid.



The H1 Marine chronometer, as developed by John Harrison

**classificatory**

Bounded, dertermined and countable “census boxes”

**class structure**

as a reflection of the imaginings of the colonial state; for example, *hidalgos* as seen in pre-Hispanic Philippines

**colonial**

relating to a colony or colonialism

**construction**

the creation of ethnic and racial classifications/ identities resulting from the census or census-takers of 1870s

**cosmograph**

A formal, symbolic representation of the Three Worlds of traditional Buddhist cosmology , organized along a single vertical axis, instead of horizontally

**H****Historical maps**

A design tool through which the antiquity of specific, bounded territorial units could be demonstrated

**I****inheritance**

a quasi legal method used to legitimize the spread of European power as informed by the (legal) transferability of geographic space in Europe

**ideology**

a form of social or political philosophy

**L****logo-map**

a reproducible series; a detachable piece of a jigsaw puzzle; an instantly recognizable, visible and powerful emblem for anti-colonialism

**logoization**

a pictorial representation of territory, or the map-as-the-logo; a general process resulting from print capitalism

**N****nationalism**

an ideology based on the individual's loyalty and devotion to the nation-state, surpassing other individuals or group(s); the development of which was fuelled by capitalism, print media and colonial institutional powers

**nation-building**

policies of new states that can stem from both genuine, popular nationalist enthusiasm as well as a systematic instilling of nationalist ideology

**M****Machiavellian**

immoral behaviour serving one person or group's self interest; in politics, deceitful actions and violence as a permissible means of acquiring and maintaining power



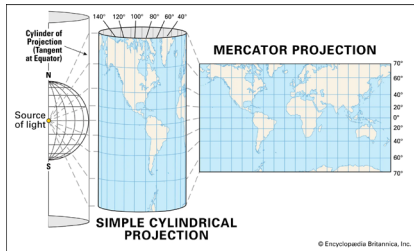
Niccolò Machiavelli

**mechanical reproduction**

The mass production of identical copies of a text using technological means (i.e. printing).

**Mercatorian map**

A type of map introduced by Gerardus Mercator in 1569; a cylindrical projection, widely used for navigation

**musuem**

a key institution, used to legitimize and strengthen colonial rule, while also fostering the creation of a distinct “national” identity

**messy accommodations**

realities that made classifications difficult; most importantly through, or resulting from religious affiliation

**O****Orientalist**

Relating to orientalism; evidenced through the emphasis on restoration and plotting of monuments, for public distribution and edification.

**R****reproducibility**

A characteristic feature of the state that made possible by print and photography; archaeological reports, illustrated books and logoization - revealed the inherently political nature of the act and the power of the state.

**S****Serialization**

The assumption that the world was made up of replicable plurals, with everyone and everything had a “serial number”

**U****unambiguity**

having a fixed interpretation; identities as listed in the census were fixed and clear

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