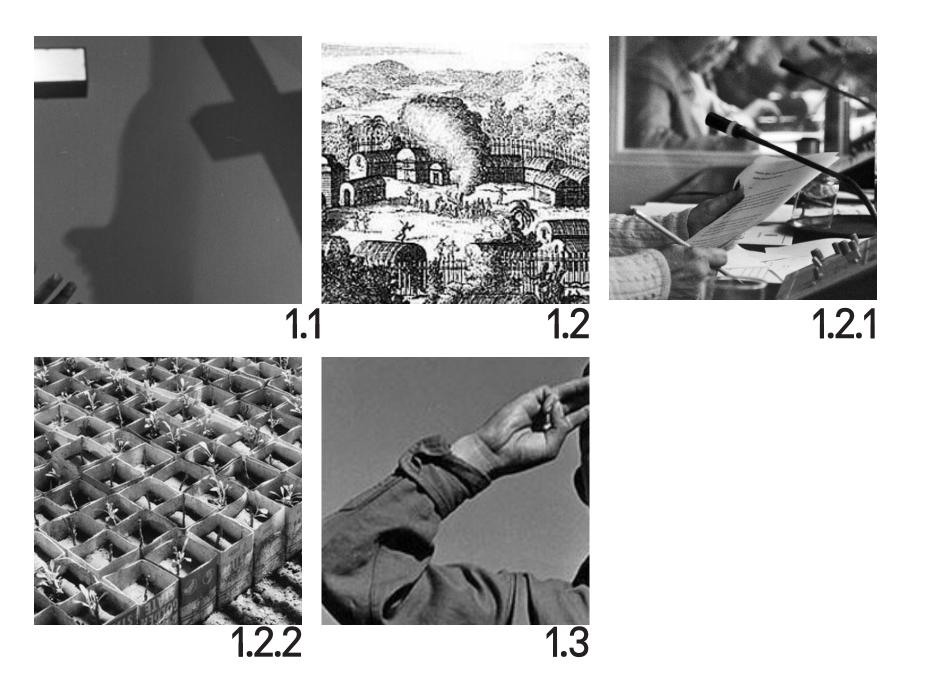
census, maps & museums

Originally by Benedict Anderson, reinterpreted by Jules

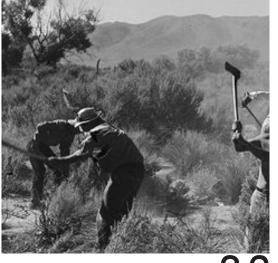
A 2022 monologue on

"nationalism' colonialism



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act. 01:

Nation building policies tend to involve a lot of nationalist enthusiasm. Explaining why a lot of countries like to -or rather think they can- impose these with "fellow -third world- countries".

-Unnoticed and underestimated by the majority- Census, maps and museums are still key institutions and tools of power. These shape, categorise and arrange how people and countries identified themselves, while others in positions of power manipulate those tools.

act. 02: CENSUS

1st Scene

Identity categories have historically been the most politically powerful way of censing. And in 2022's social climate, categories have never been stronger.

Ways that people have been categorised by other people since colonial times:

- 1.1 Religious categories -slowly disappearing but still somehow present?-.
- 1.2 Racial categories, sometimes re-designed as nationalities. (That's why nowadays we find a combination of both within the same context, example: Black British, Black African, Black Caribbean, any other black…?)
 - **1.2.1** Ethnolinguistic categories.
 - 1.2.2 Categories that refer to even more specific places within a country.
- 1.3 Rank & status categories.

I can continue listing categories but won't. Because the real essential matter for government, public and private institutions is that we IDENTIFY WITH in-order for them to IDENTIFY US.

2nd Scene

Do you see the difference between identify with and identify us?

The first - identifying with- tries to give people a sense of belonging, a community by choosing a category etc etc. But many times, this is just a facade.

Categories in their essence feed a census system of quantification that identify us in order to determine:

- 2.1 If, when and how much taxes we pay -or any exceptions-.
- 2.2 What areas we can occupy.
- 2.3 What public resources or even "opportunities" we have the right too.
- 2.4 ... and so many more
 -take it as a first-hand experience from an "immigrate"-

act. 03: MAPS

1st Scene

The Mercator Map, for years made believed to be the truthful representation of the world. The problem is not the map itself, but rather labelling it as THE MAP. By doing this other ways of understanding and perceptions are invalidated or rather undermine. Such as:

- 1.1 Cosmography representations, that explored vertical and multi perspective representations.
- 1.2 Traditional costal shipping maps.
- 1.3 Military campaigns -among so many other we don't even have knowledge of anymore-.

2nd Scene

International boundaries. Introduced by Eurocentric maps and a foreign concept for many native communities, but that has evolved enough to allow me to list just some of them.

- 2.1 Natural barriers: mountains, rivers, oceans
- 2.2 Boundary stones.
- 2.3 Continued map lines -it's graphic presence-
- 2.4 Barbwires.
- 2.5 USA-Mexico style Trump walls.

3rd scene

Map-as-logo?

- 3.1 Summarised the identity of a country.
- 3.2 Detached it from its geographical context.
- 3.4 Assign a "colonial power's" colour.

All of this in order to reproduce a symbol… interesting and questionable.

act. 04: MUSEUM

1st Scene

Museums don't escape political interests ...

act. 05: FORCED CLOSURE

At the end you can read me rushing and now abruptly stopping. Because even word restrictions are a way of forcing organisation and filtering. Paradoxically, this text full of divisions becomes a list that divides the message, and I -in position of power in relation with the reader-, also filtered, broke down and manipulate the shape of the original text.

Anderson, Benedict. (2006) "Census, maps & museums" in Imagined Communities : Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism. Verso: ProQuest Ebook Central. Available at: http://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/ual/detail.action?docID=5176951.

