

Cold War Digital Mapping Assignment



[1948 advertising map produced by Kressich Co. <http://calgeography.sdsu.edu/>]

Description: This assignment requires that you create a digital annotated map as well as write a two- to three-page paper reflecting on the significance of the map with respect to what Timothy Barney refers to as a map's "rhetorical lives." As Timothy Barney notes, during the Cold War "maps were constantly appropriated, debated, revised, and reappropriated. Cold War maps lived; they were active and malleable documents, not merely displays or reflectors" (Barney, *Mapping the Cold War*, 14). Reflecting on this idea, your paper and map annotations should respond to the following questions: When was the map created and how does it reflect the specific Cold War developments of the time? What has the cartographer chosen to include and what have they chosen to omit? Does the map represent specific technological or military innovations of the time? How does the map bring together artistic and scientific "ways of knowing"? What ideological perspective does the map represent? In what ways does the map reflect deeper imperial practices that helped shape Cold War divisions of the world? And, finally, how might the map have helped to shape our understanding of the Cold War?

Guidelines: This assignment has two parts. First, you are required to develop a two- to three-page paper reflecting on the map's significance with respect to Barney's "The Rhetorical Lives of Cold War Maps." Second, you are required to develop a digital annotated map using Thinglink (www.thinglink.com). Below are specific guidelines for each part:

The paper component:

- In total, the written portion of the project should be between 500 and 700 words, written in Times New Roman, 12-point font, with one-inch margins.
- The paper should have an introduction with a thesis statement that considers both the map's historical significance and the way it might be interpreted along the lines of the ideas introduced in the Barney piece. You do not need a conclusion, but the paper should have well-developed body paragraphs in which you organize your ideas.
- If you reference the Barney piece, include an in-text citation with his name, the source, and the page number in parentheses (Barney, *Mapping the Cold War*, pp.). You are not required to use outside sources, but if you do, you should cite them along the same lines.

The annotated map component:

- You will need to create a Thinglink account (www.thinglink.com). After going to the webpage, click on "start for free" and then create an account with your GWU-Gmail account.
- Once signed in, go to the upper toolbar and choose "create" a map. You should then upload a map from Blackboard or the Internet.
- Once you have uploaded a map, you will be able to add tags (or annotations) to the image. The map should contain a minimum of five annotated descriptions. The annotation descriptions should be between 75 and 100 words each.
- All of the map descriptions should be written in your own words (no quotations) with in-text citations to materials that you use (author, work, date). Be careful to avoid spelling and grammar errors in your descriptions.
- Once you have completed adding annotations you should save the map image to your google drive, and then go to the "share" icon in the toolbar at the top of the Thinglink page. Choose the "link" option.
- You should send the link to a friend or classmate in order to ensure that it works. Once you have confirmed that it works, you should include the link at the top of the written paper assignment that you submit on Blackboard.

Assessment: The annotated map and short paper assignment are worth 15% of your overall grade. You will be assessed based on the following criteria:

1. The basic functioning of the Thinglink map: Does it work?
2. The relevance of the topics chosen for each annotation: Are they well-chosen and historically accurate? Do they reflect the ideas introduced in the Barney piece?
3. Does the paper component have a thesis statement and well-developed paragraphs? Is it well organized? Is it well-written?

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4. Do you incorporate ideas from the Barney piece into your interpretation of the map's significance in the paper? In other words, do you reflect on some of the questions outlined in the assignment description above?
5. Finally, does your discussion of the map reflect knowledge of the historical developments represented on the map? Is your paper historically accurate?

Due Date: The two- to three-page paper with the link to the annotated map should be uploaded as a single document to Blackboard by **11:59pm on February 8**. Late papers will be marked down 1/3 letter grade per day.