

Synapse Technologies, Inc.  
Columbus: Discovery and Beyond  
(VERSION 5)

Article Name: Mapping the World -- Earth's Point of View

Article #:

Chapter Name & #: Changing Views of the World, Chapter 6:

SubChapter Name & #:

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Source: The Penguin Atlas of Medieval History

Time: (period covered by content): 362 A.D. to 1478 A.D

Place: Europe, North Africa, The Middle East

Version: 1

V/T/G/A/An: Video.

About: The Changing Map of Europe as seen from the Earth's point-of-view -i.e., letting the Earth have a voice on the audio track. Nations rise and fall as the boundaries get drawn in different places.

Notes: There are 28 maps of the changing political boundaries to be shown, plus the image of the earth, as seen from space. Narration runs about 2:30, or 150 seconds. Each map will appear for about 4 to 5 seconds, following the initial shot of the earth from space.

Instead of the final image being the Map 1478 A.D., we might consider using a contemporary scene of pollution, to correspond more closely with the Earth's final narration.

Filename = MAPSPOV1.DOC

## Video/Graphics/Anim.

Image of the Earth, as seen from space. Beautiful. Complete. One.

### DISSOLVE TO:

Map (p. 13) showing mountains and terrain of Europe, North Africa, and the Near East.

### MATCHED DISSOLVE TO:

Map at 362 A.D.

CONTINUE SERIES OF MATCHED DISSOLVES OF ALL 28 MAPS OF THE CHANGING POLITICAL BOUNDARIES AT REGULAR, RHYTHMIC INTERVALS. ENDING WITH:

Map at 1478 A.D.

[Note: Trade Route maps (coded with an "E" for economics, and Religious maps (coded with an "R", are not to be included in this video sequence.)

## Audio/Text

In the beginning, (well, nearly the beginning), there was just me --the Earth-- with all my lush greenery, beautiful lakes, elegant mountains, clean air, and fertile soil. Soon, all too soon, people came and they started carving out pieces of me all for themselves.

I didn't change, but the areas they carved out sure did.

The Romans grabbed the biggest chunk and managed to hold on to it for several centuries after Christ died. Poor fellow. Nice guy. I kind of liked him. I wish they'd have listened to him a bit more.

But no, Julius and Augustus and all those other self-proclaimed divinities thought they knew better, so they hung Him up to dry. Agh, if it wasn't for minds like Cicero and Virgil, I'd have gladly wiped them all out, like I had Vesuvius take care of Pompei.

I suppose it's human nature  
--this lust for power.  
Maybe that's the price  
humans have to pay for a  
Socrates or a Plato, a  
Michelangelo or a  
Shakespeare. Who can say  
for sure?

Still, I have to wonder, who  
are these people anyway?  
What makes them think they  
can draw lines on my face  
and claim parts of me as  
their own?

Really! What a concept!  
What arrogance! Can't these  
bozos get it through their  
thick skulls --before it's  
too late-- that nobody can  
own me? That the earth  
belongs to everyone!

Yet, all sorts of people  
think, that by drawing lines  
on some map, all of a sudden  
I belong to them. Like  
magic, I guess. One day the  
Romans draw the boundary  
lines; next day, it's the  
Goths, or the Huns, or the  
Mongols, or the Turks, or  
the Vandals. It's enough to  
make me dizzy, and I'm the  
one who's always spinning  
around.

As far as I'm concerned,  
they're all greedy  
barbarians --those morons  
who plunder and pillage for  
Gold, Glory, and whatever  
they conceive God to be.  
Especially that Genghis Khan  
character. What a nerve --  
calling himself "Lord of the  
Earth." Really! Chill out,  
Genghie.

You know, it'd all be a  
great big bore, if it wasn't  
so dangerous. To me. Not  
to them. Obviously people  
don't care about me. All  
they do is treat me like  
some giant trash container  
for all their garbage.

Here they are, living in  
Paradise, and they treat  
each other --and me-- like  
they're in hell. Oh, what  
fools these mortals are!  
And when I think about how  
much they enjoy killing each  
other, I can't help but  
quake all over.

For consideration as the  
final image:

Contemporary scene of the  
earth as a victim of  
pollution. (Oil spill?  
Animals affected by Exxon  
Valdez's oil spill?)

To tell you the truth, it  
scares me. Because nothing  
lasts forever, my children -  
-maybe not even me, the way  
things are going. After  
all, I have limits, too.  
And, remember, if I go, you  
all go.

Possible topics to be hot-linked:

Roman Empire  
Germans  
Goths  
Huns  
Attila  
Dark Ages  
Turks  
Mongols  
Ottoman Turks  
Constantinople  
environment  
ecology  
Dante's Paradisio  
Dante's Inferno  
Socrates  
Plato  
Michelangelo  
Shakespeare  
Julius Caesar  
Augustus Caesar  
Genghis Khan

This page for notes only:

Maps at 406, 420, 450 A.D.

Maps from 476-1360 A.D.

Maps from 476-1360 A.D.  
(continued)

Maps from 476-1360 A.D.  
(continued)

Maps 1401,1430,1478 A.D.

Map 1478 A.D.(trade routes)

[alternate narration for  
last segment:]

Map 1478 A.D.(trade routes)