Maps, Projections & Bias in the Study of World History

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Based on the article “Innovative Ways to Look at New World Historical Geography.” by W. Dirk Raat.
What’s at the center? Does this say anything to us about bias? Who writes the history?

Anybody see where we get the term “the Orient” from?
Who created this map? Hint it was between 1405-1435....
What does the position of the equator say?
Brazil’s perspective

Her influence from…

Africa

Portugal
Gall-Peter’s Projection
Comparing Projections
"Political" Map

The world according to the United States of America

- Bombed here
- More America!
- Hollywood
- America
- Moose
- New York!
- Tequila
- Friends
- New best friend
- New best friends
- Evil communists!
- Evil drugs
- Sand
- Coffee
- Oil
- Unrest
- Curry
- Jungle
- Osama bin Laden
- Kangaroos
- Movie studio
- Xena
- Here there be dragons
- Evil communists!
USA in global perspective
Land Area of South America
6,900,000 sq mi
17,871,000 sq km

Land Area of the 48 Continental States
2,952,030 sq mi
7,671,657 sq km
WOULD YOU BELIEVE?

The following countries could fit within Africa:

- China: 3,705,390 sq.mi.
- U.S.A.: 3,618,770 sq.mi.
- India: 1,266,595 sq.mi.
- Europe: 1,926,000 sq.mi.
- Argentina: 1,065,189 sq.mi.
- New Zealand: 103,716 sq.mi.

The area of Africa is 11,700,000 sq.mi.


* Total land & water, 50 States.

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The Myth of Continents
Which continent is this?
Sorry…

• They broke away from each other and shifted away…
• Then India rammed into southern China and to create _______________________???????
Regional World Map

http://desip.igc.org/worldmap.html
So why do we do this?

• Amero and Eurocentrism
• Cultural identities
• There is no such thing as Asian, African, American super-cultures