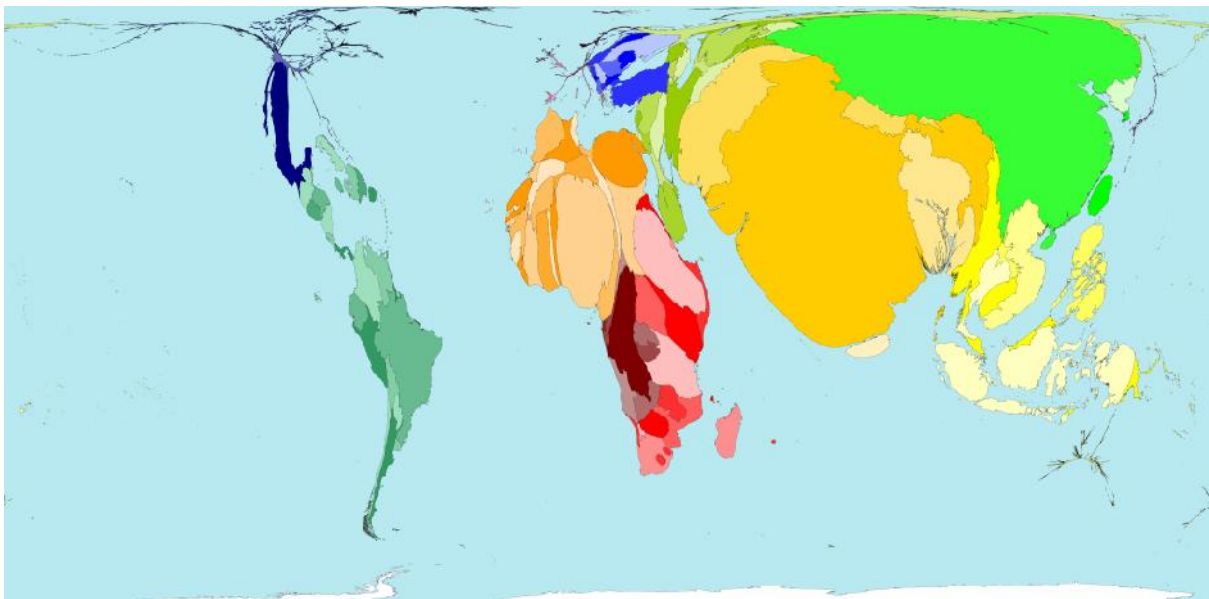


Reading Equal Area Cartograms

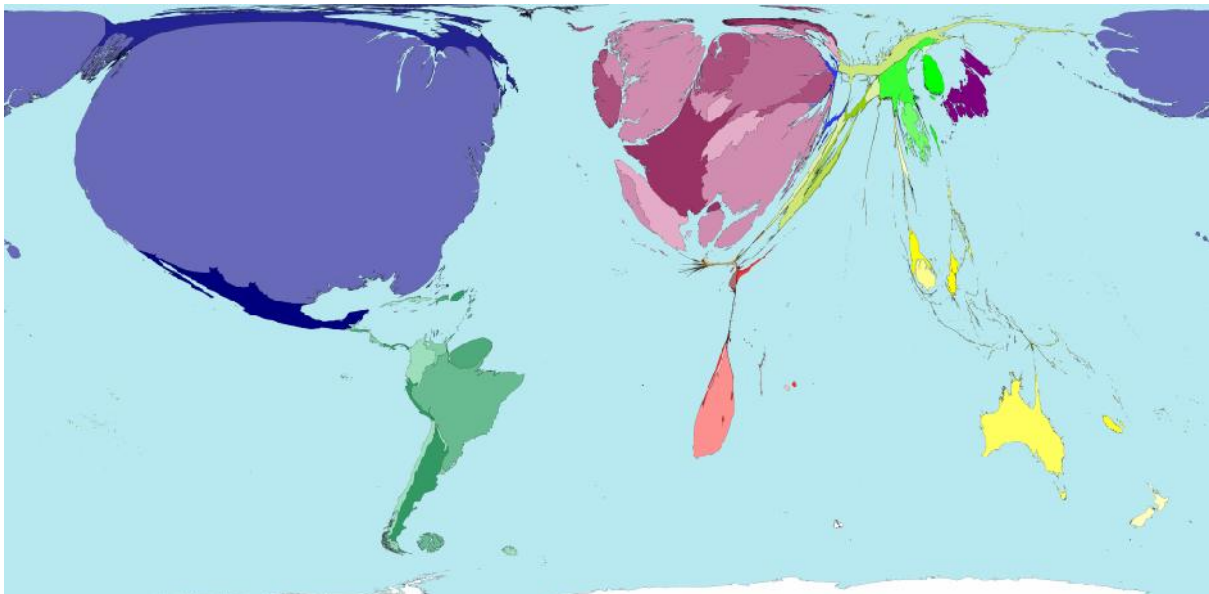
Introduction

Equal Area Cartograms are maps that have been produced to re-size each territory according to the variable being mapped. They are used by the Worldmapper project to produce 696 maps of key global variables. For example:

People living on up to \$10 a day (<http://www.worldmapper.org/display.php?selected=153>)



People living on over \$200 a day (<http://www.worldmapper.org/display.php?selected=158>)



These maps show how cartograms are really useful at quickly seeing the differences between regions when comparing variables.

Why use them?

Cartograms are excellent at showing variables across the world. For example, a traditional map of wealth would show all states at their real sizes, and might fail to highlight the importance of small states in global wealth. Equal Area Cartograms allow this to be much more explicit.

More information at: <http://www.worldmapper.org/about.html>

How to use them?

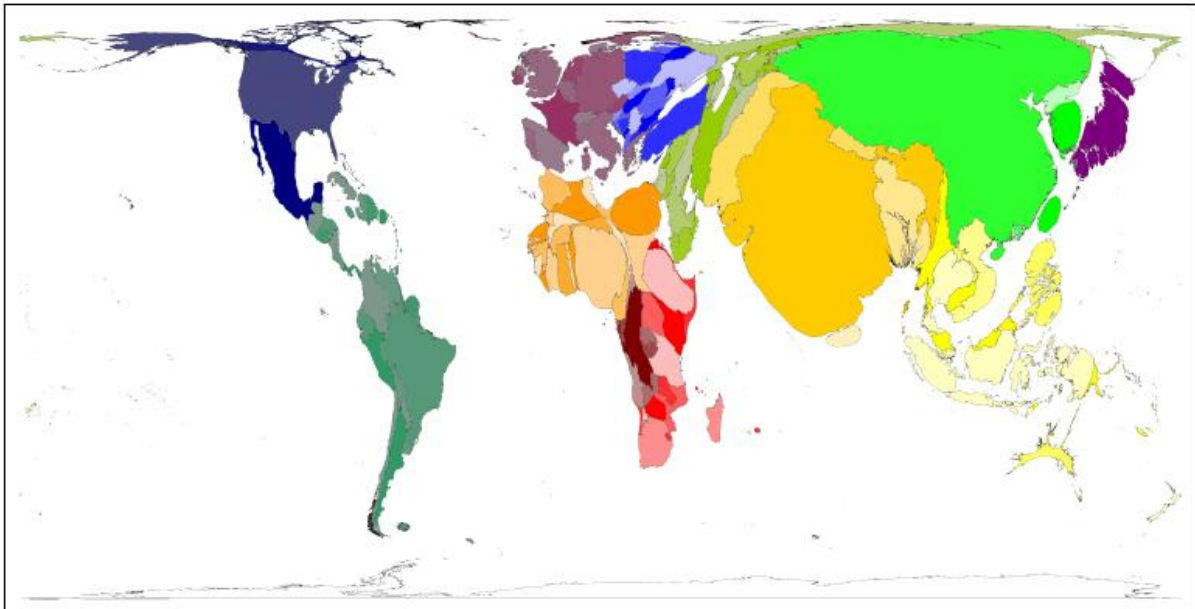
Cartograms are placed next to a reference map which shows a more traditional map projection, this allows you to observe the change that the new projection has caused. Similarly, the cartograms also are colour coded by 12 geographic regions. They are coloured by the colours of the rainbow, and ordered backwards from richer to poorer regions. For example, Europe is coloured purple, whilst sub-Saharan Africa is coloured red.

More information on the Worldmapper Rainbow: <http://www.viewsoftheworld.net/?p=2707>

Examples

Total Population

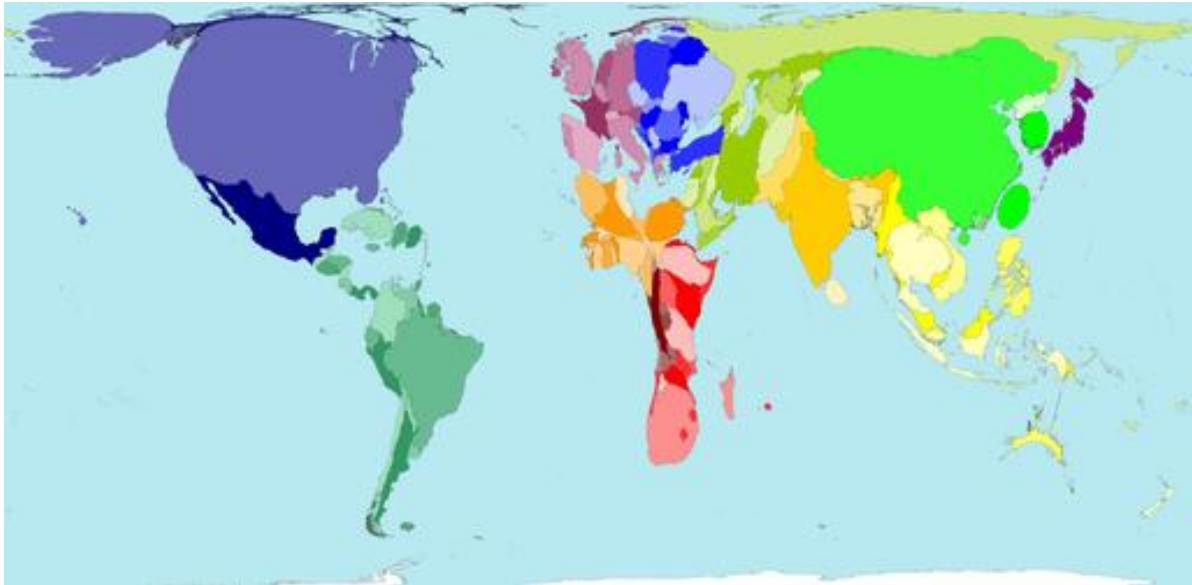
This map shows the world distorted to show population by nation. Note how large China and India have become, and how hard it is to find the Nordic Countries to the north of the map.



<http://www.worldmapper.org/display.php?selected=2>

Prisoners

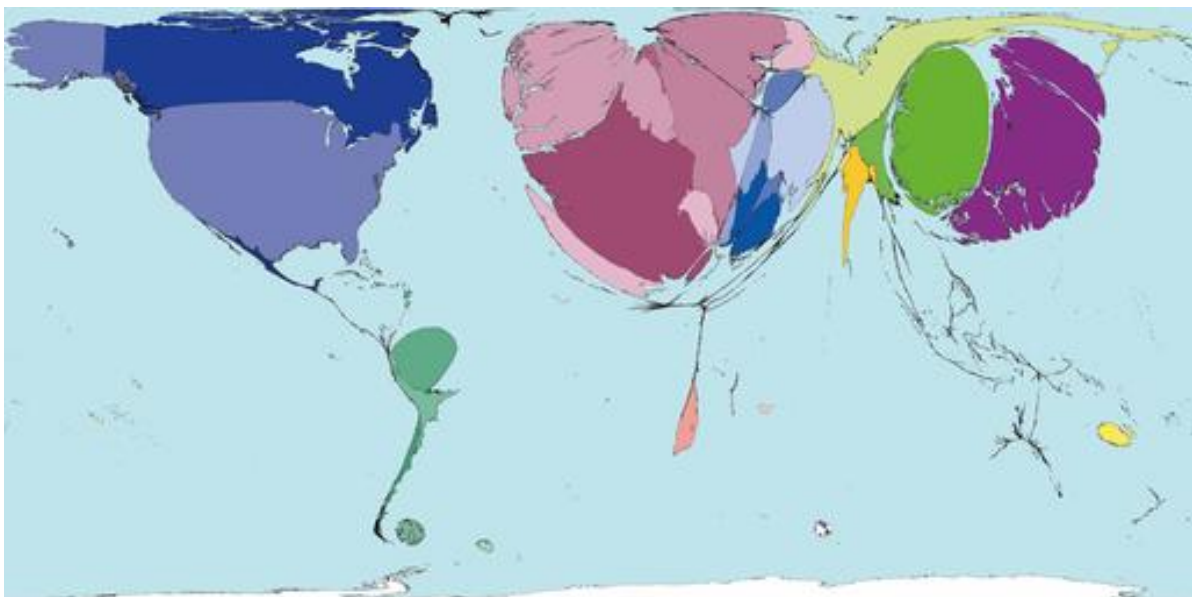
Examination of this map highlights the large prison population of the USA and China, but also shows the UK disproportionately higher than its population.



<http://www.worldmapper.org/display.php?selected=293>

Nuclear Waste

This map demonstrates how limited the number of nations are that have nuclear waste. North America, Western Europe and Japan dominate the map, whilst almost every nation in Africa and South America is not shown.



<http://www.worldmapper.org/display.php?selected=304>

Further Links

The Worldmapper project

<http://www.worldmapper.org/>

The Atlas of the Real World – Daniel Dorling and Mark Newman

http://www.thamesandhudson.com/The_Atlas_of_the_Real_World/9780500288535

Views of the World – Benjamin Hennig

<http://www.viewsoftheworld.net/?p=3328>