UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI BERGAMO | Dipartimento di Scienze Umane e Sociali

# The Geography of Uncertainty

## Global-local Dynamics in a Changing World Scenario

University of Zadar, 16 July 2026

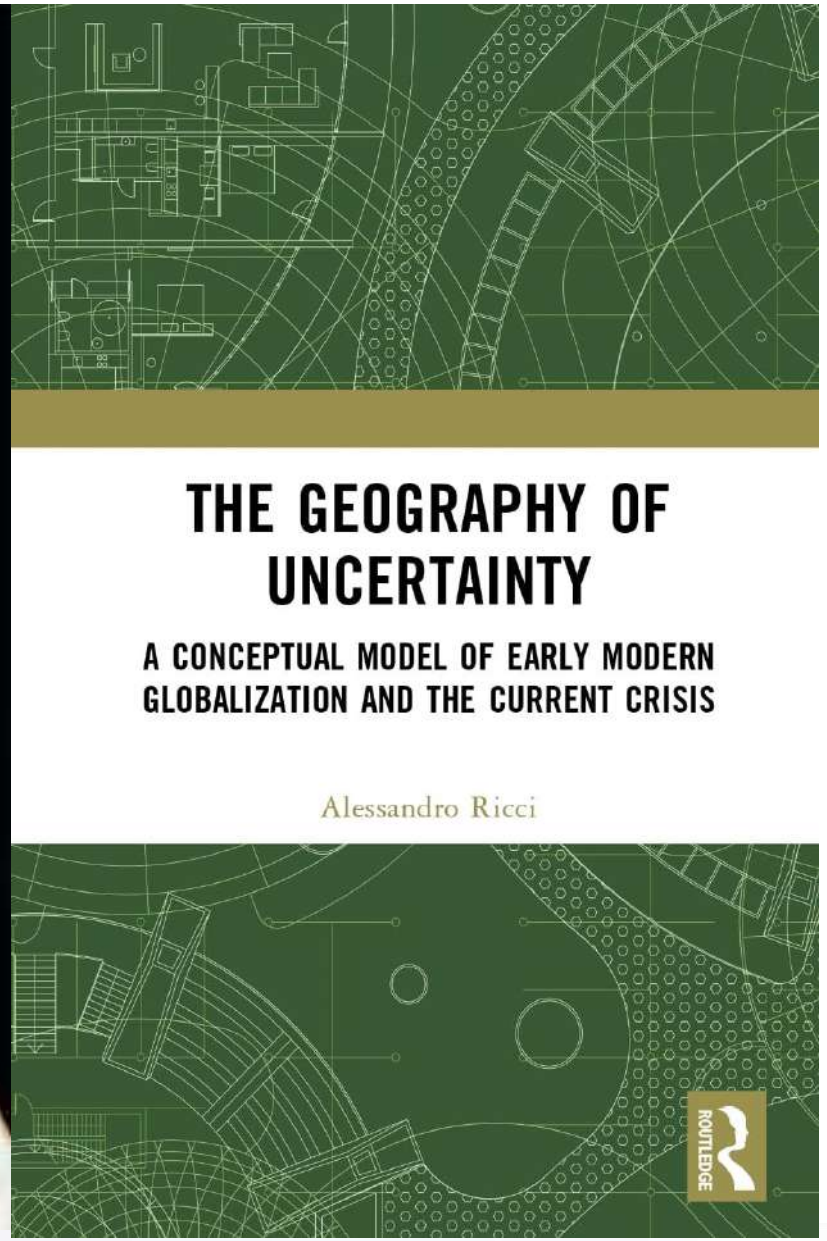
Alessandro Ricci
Università di Bergamo

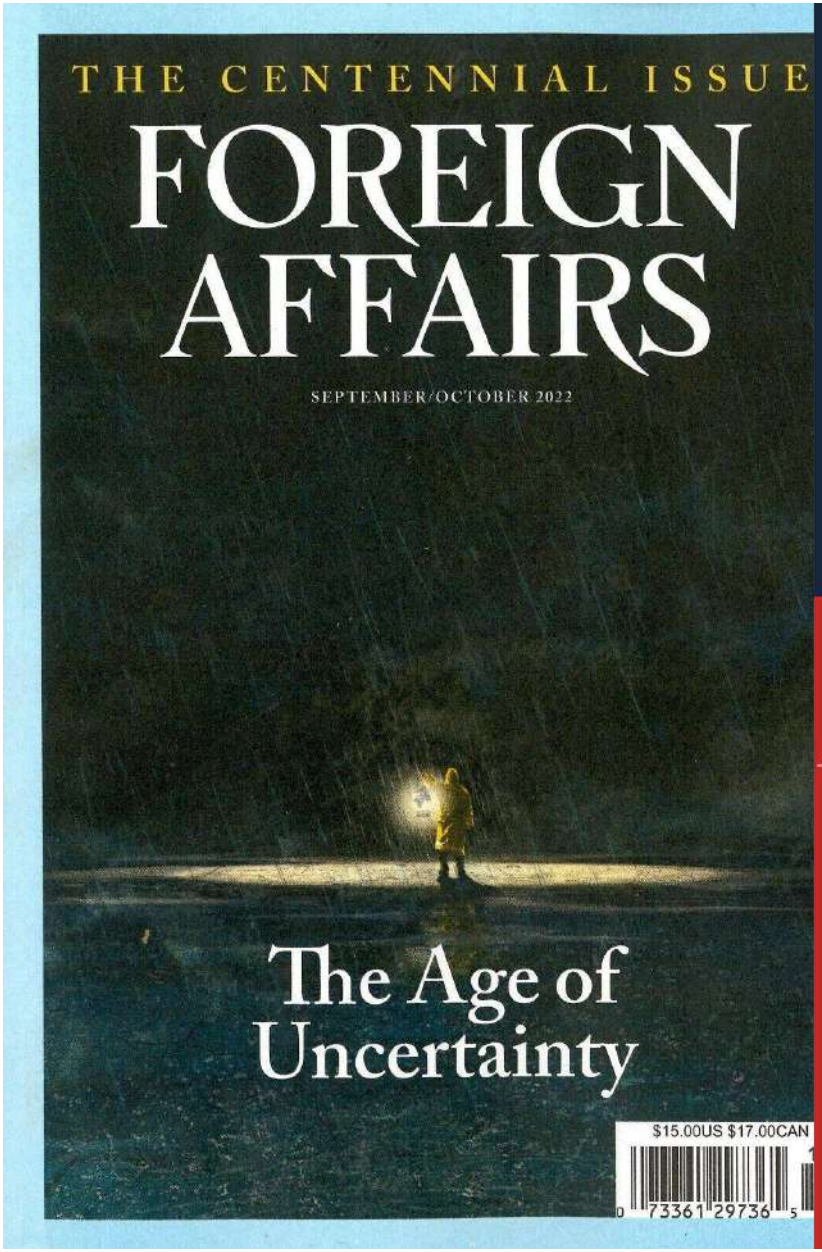
# According to Italian Pop culture, Molise region doesn't exist (Molisn't). Here an accurate map.

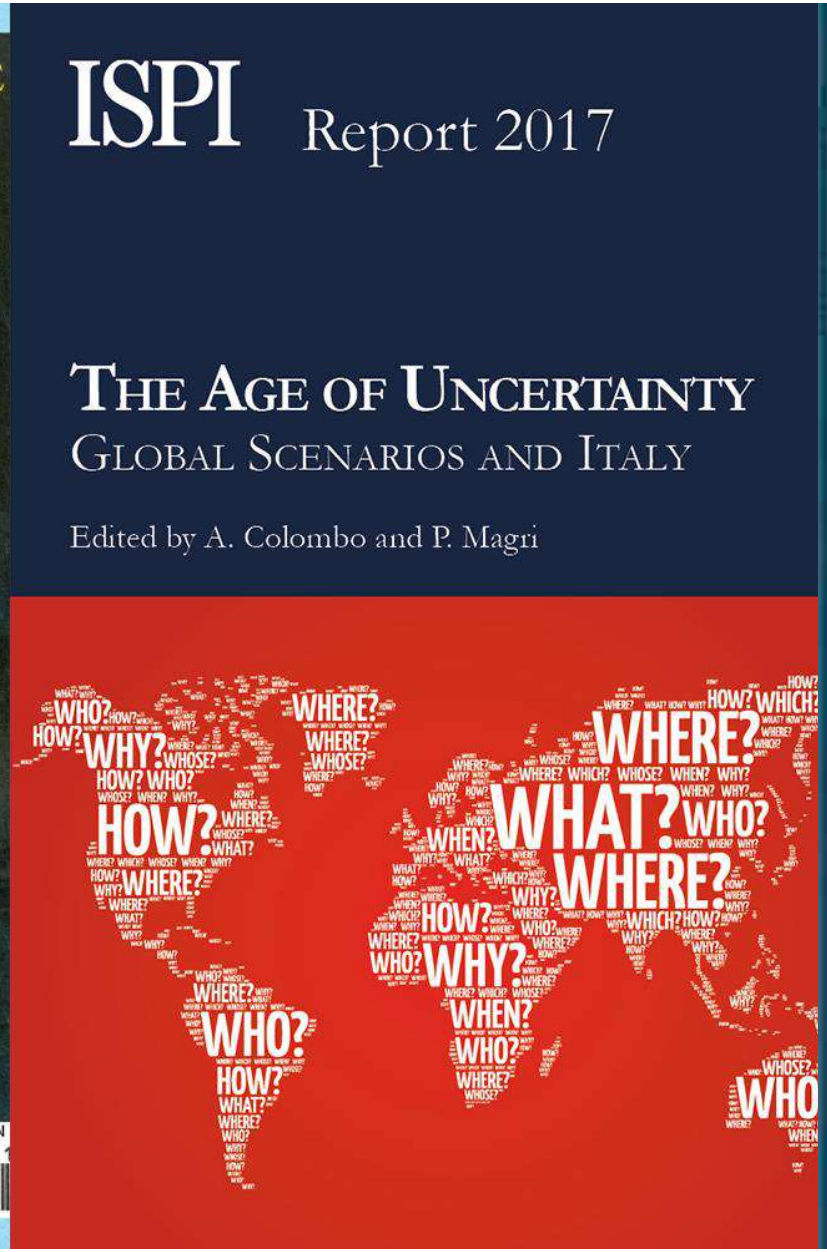


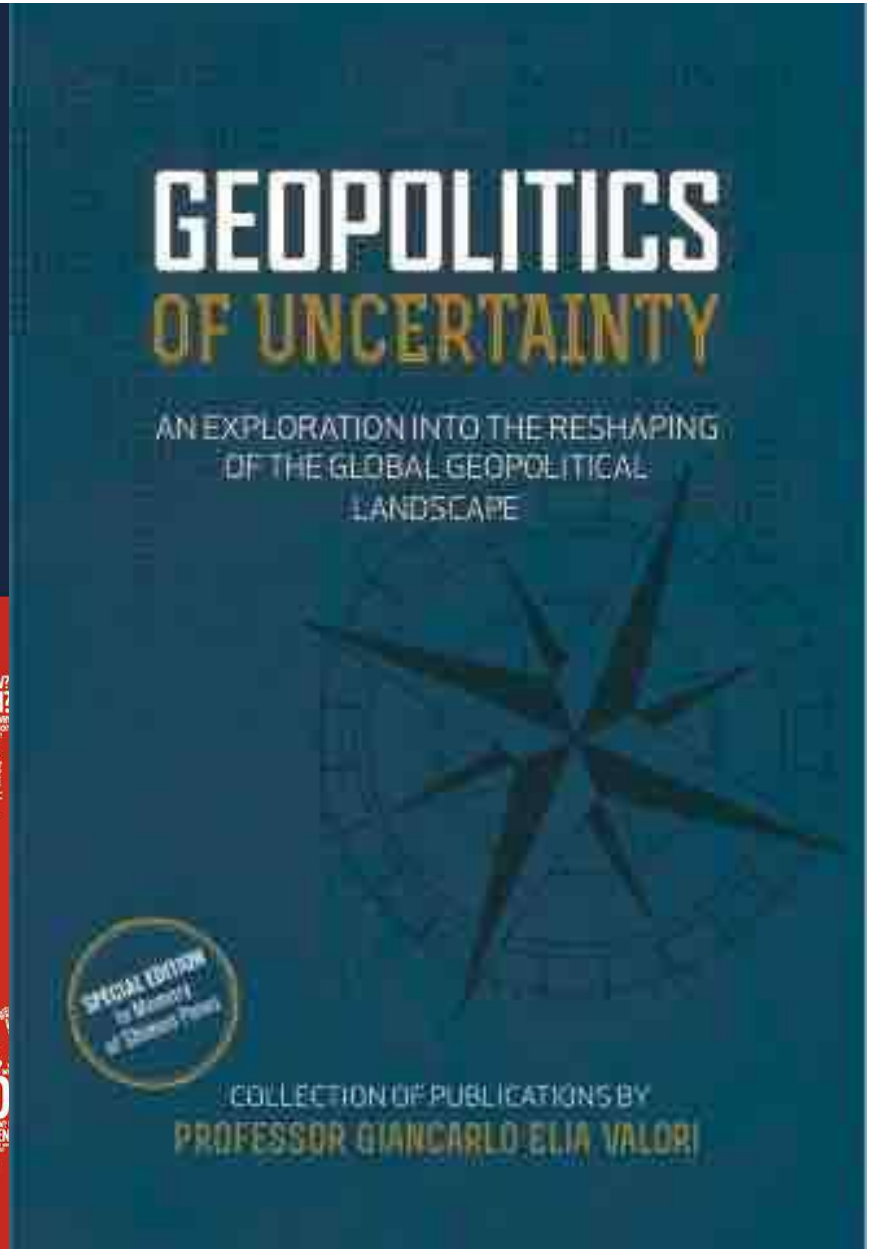


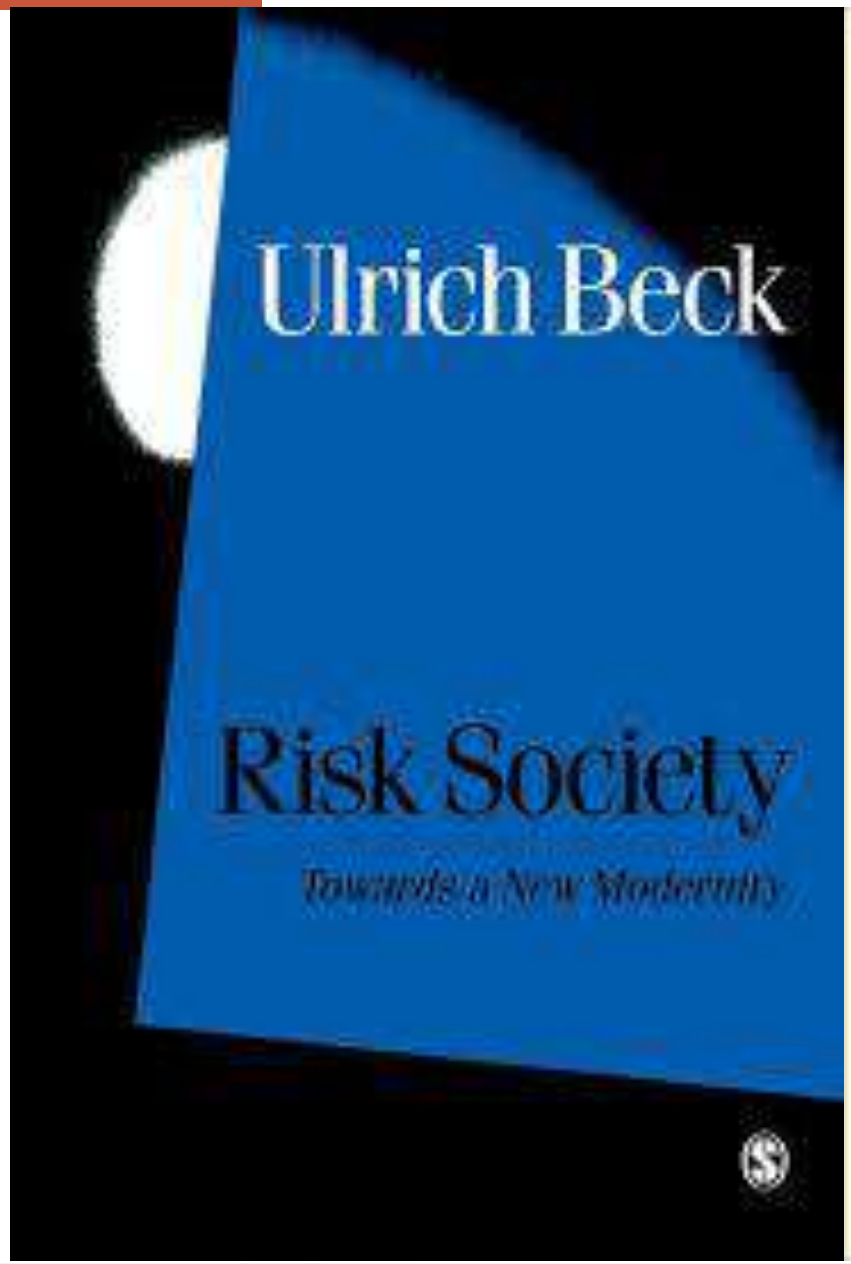

Alessandro Ricci
La geografia dell'incertezza
CRISI DI UN MODELLO
E DELLA SUA RAPPRESENTAZIONE
IN ETÀ MODERNA
prefazione di Franco Farinelli
ÉXORMA

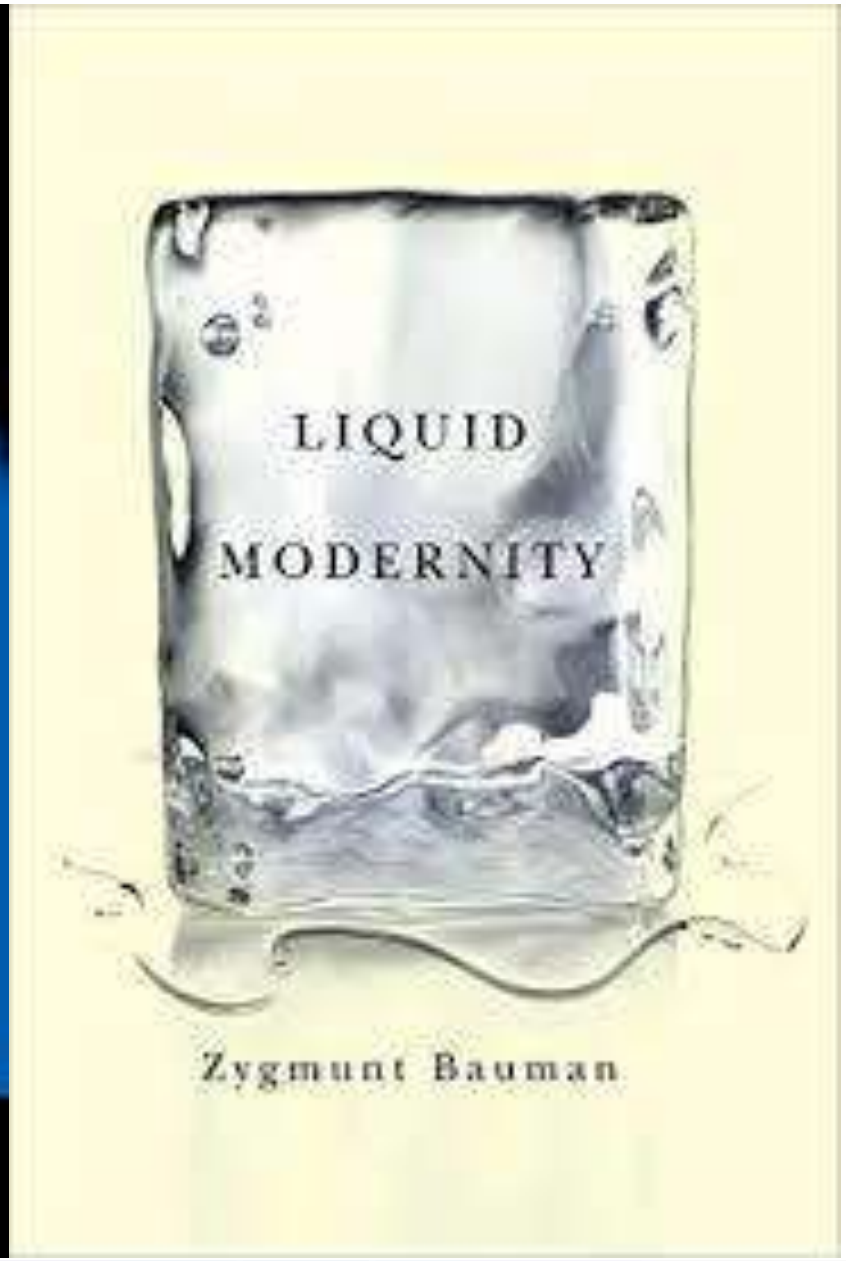

THE GEOGRAPHY OF UNCERTAINTY
A CONCEPTUAL MODEL OF EARLY MODERN GLOBALIZATION AND THE CURRENT CRISIS
Alessandro Ricci
ROUTLEDGE


THE CENTENNIAL ISSUE
FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2022
The Age of Uncertainty
$15.00US $17.00CAN


ISPI Report 2017
THE AGE OF UNCERTAINTY
GLOBAL SCENARIOS AND ITALY
Edited by A. Colombo and P. Magri


GEOPOLITICS
OF UNCERTAINTY
AN EXPLORATION INTO THE RESHAPING OF THE GLOBAL GEOPOLITICAL LANDSCAPE
COLLECTION OF PUBLICATIONS BY
PROFESSOR GIANCARLO ELIA VALORI

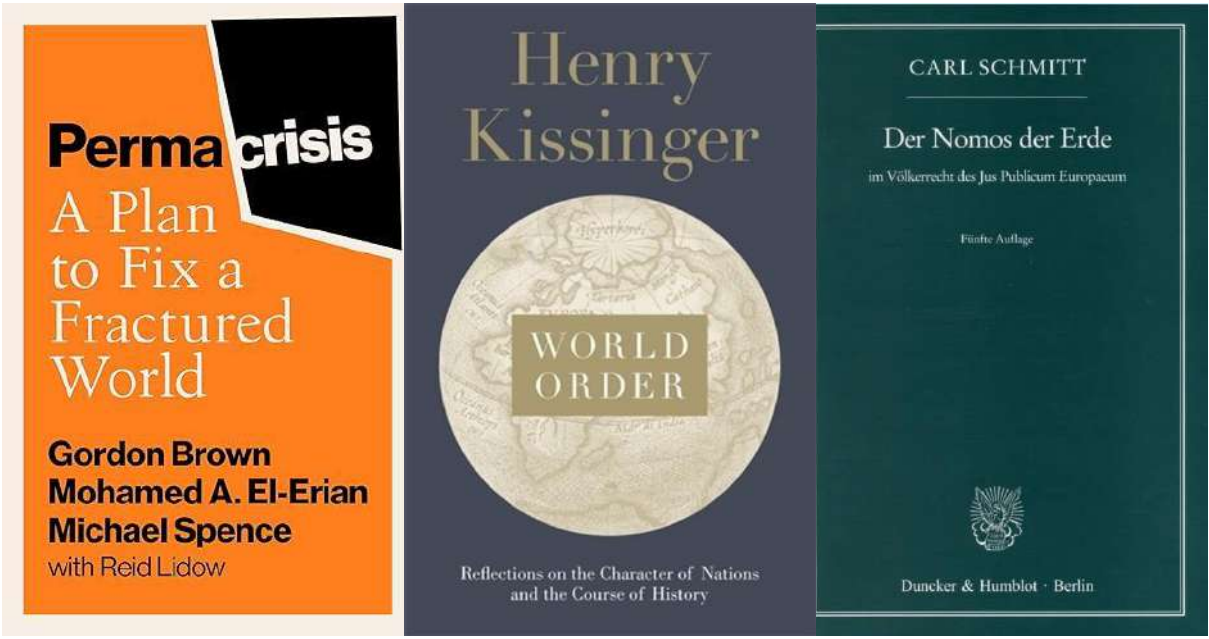

Ulrich Beck
Risk Society
Towards a New Modernity


LIQUID
MODERNITY
Zygmunt Bauman

# Present Uncertainty

**Three terms to define the present geographical uncertainty:**

- **Crisis** → "Permacrisis"
  - Financial (2007/8)
  - Geopolitical (recent wars)
  - Migration
  - Of the International system
- **Chaos** → World disorder (Kissinger, 2014)
  - Loss of geopolitical centers
  - Regional theaters of crisis
- **Revolution** → Spatial Revolution (Carl Schmitt)
  - After the Cold War
  - Redefinition of International Scenario



# Present Uncertainty

**Cultural/conceptual:**

- Globalization → New World Order (McLuhan, 1964)
- ”The End of History” (Fukuyama, 1992)
- “The End of Nation State. The rise of Regional Economies” (Ohmae, 1995)
- “The World is Flat” (Friedman, 2005)

# Present Uncertainty

**Geopolitical:**

- Anomaly → “Unipolar Order”
- Globalization → US Imperialism
- Dicothomical logical (*good* vs. *bad*) → “Global War on Terror” and the “New Middle East”
- Loss of International Law

# Present Uncertainty

**Economic/Financial:**

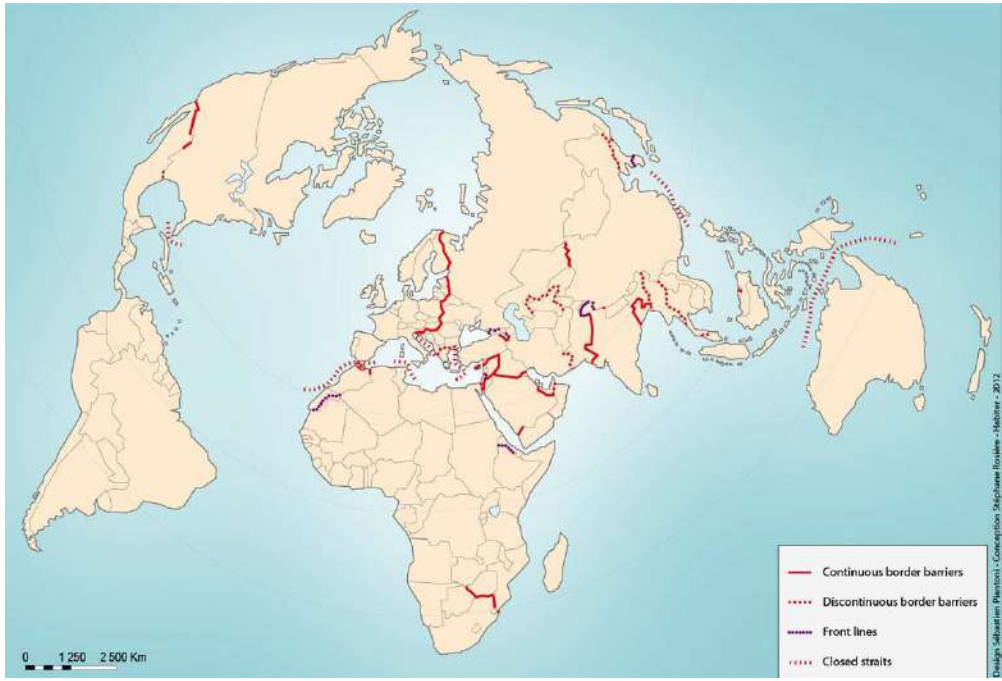
- Primacy of financial principles (fluctuations and risks; Crisis 2007/8)
- Deterritorialization process
- Delocalization
- Loss of local
- Loss of relevance of borders

***Prevalence of <u>global</u> instead of <u>local</u>***

# Present Uncertainty

**This corresponded to:**

- An enormous **“Arc of Crisis”** (Zbigniew Brzezinski)
- Crisis of Westphalian system and
- The loss of relevance of geographical stable points of reference (borders)
- The **absence of stable alliances and crisis of regional orders (UE, NATO, etc.)**
- A **continuous changing scenario**
- The loss of a certain World Map
- Crisis of the “Local ontologies” (Marramao, 2012)

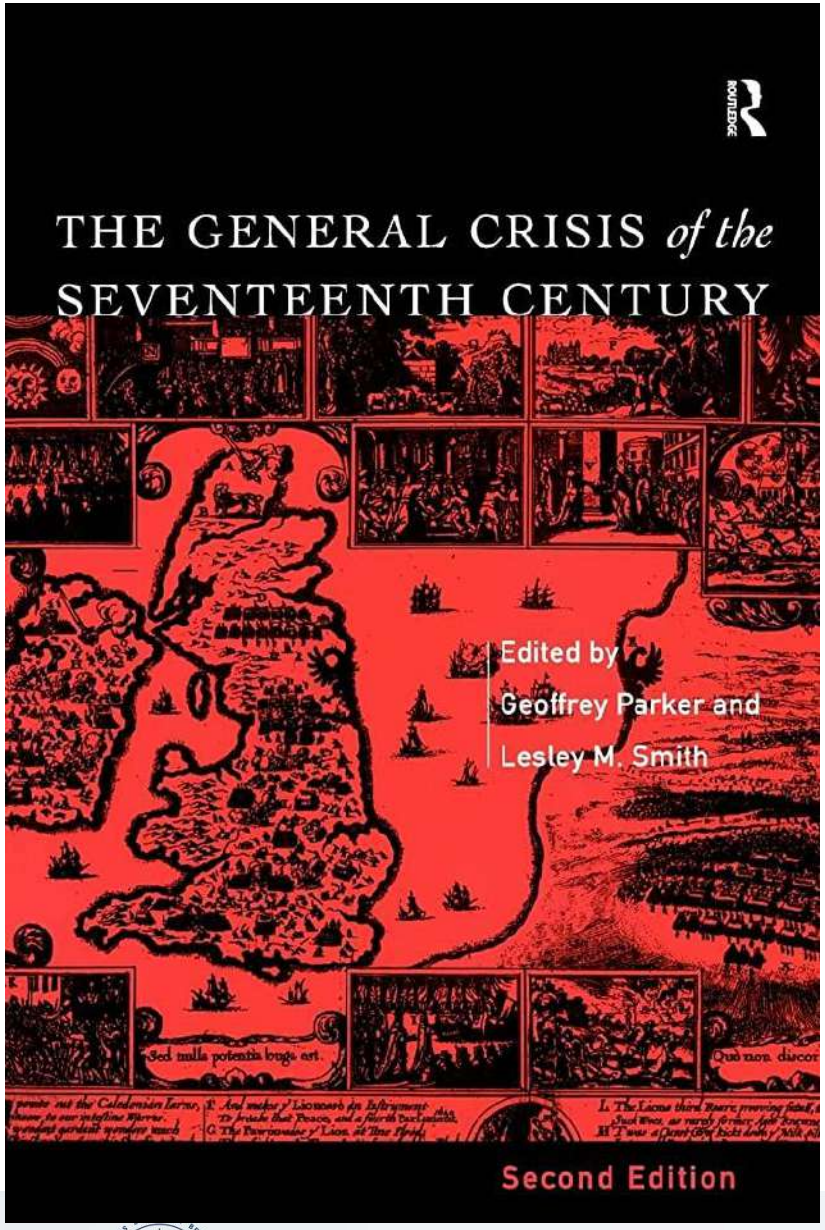


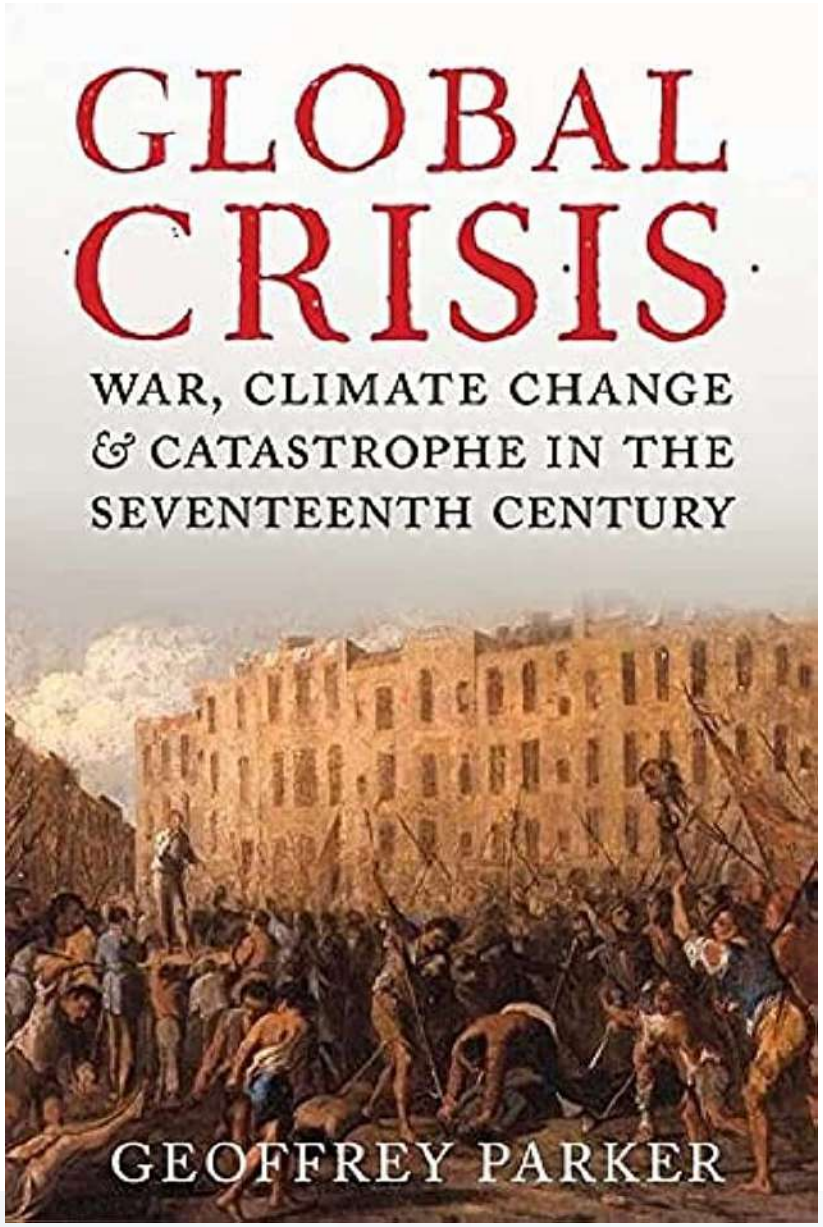
# Cartographic Uncertainty

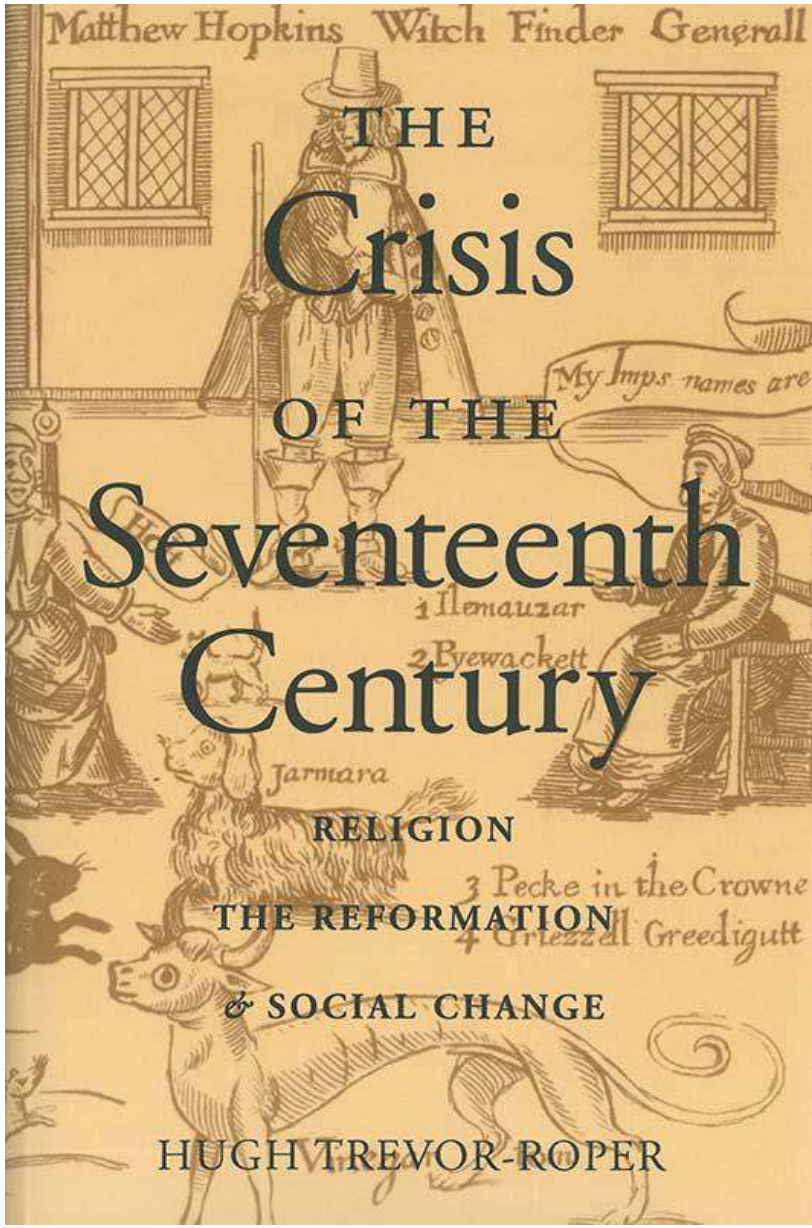





# Geopolitical Uncertainty at the Origins of Globalization


THE GENERAL CRISIS of the SEVENTEENTH CENTURY
Edited by
Geoffrey Parker and
Lesley M. Smith
Second Edition


GLOBAL CRISIS
WAR, CLIMATE CHANGE & CATASTROPHE IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY
GEOFFREY PARKER


Matthew Hopkins Witch Finder Generall
THE Crisis OF THE Seventeenth Century
RELIGION
THE REFORMATION
& SOCIAL CHANGE
HUGH TREVOR-ROPER

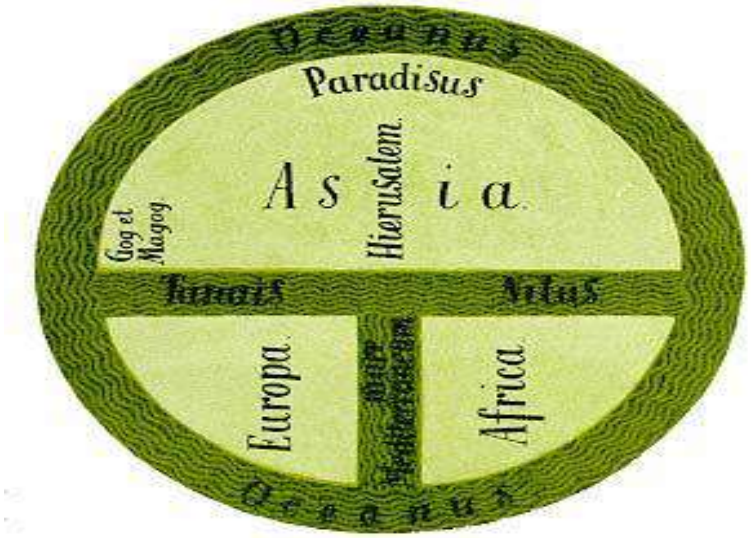


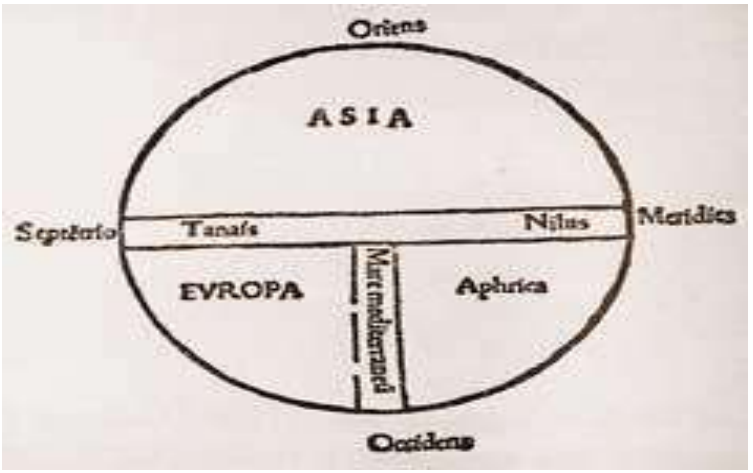

Lorenzo de’ Medici, Il Trionfo di Bacco e Arianna (1490)

# From *mappaemundi* to *Theatrum Mundi*

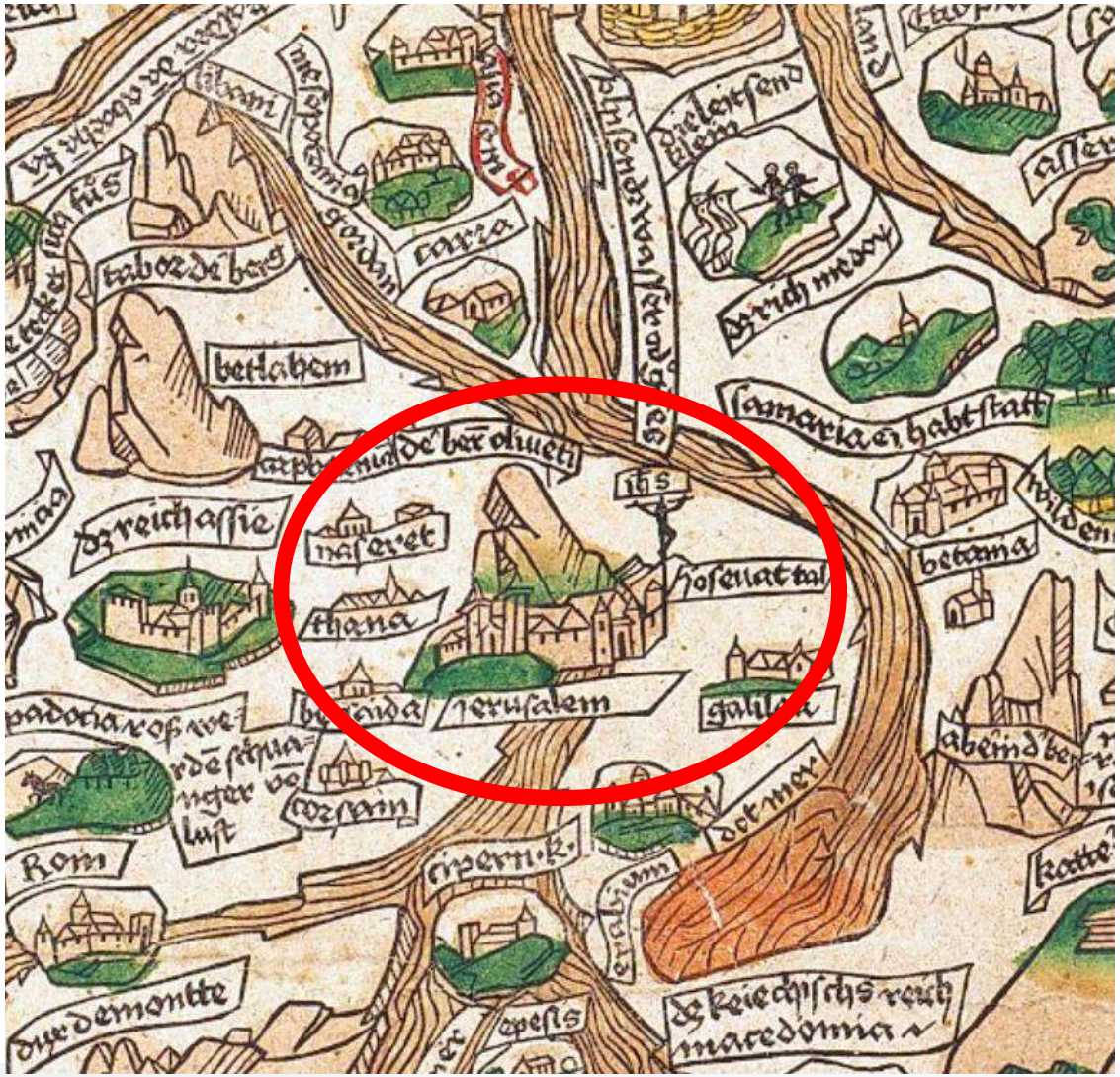
# Mappae mundi

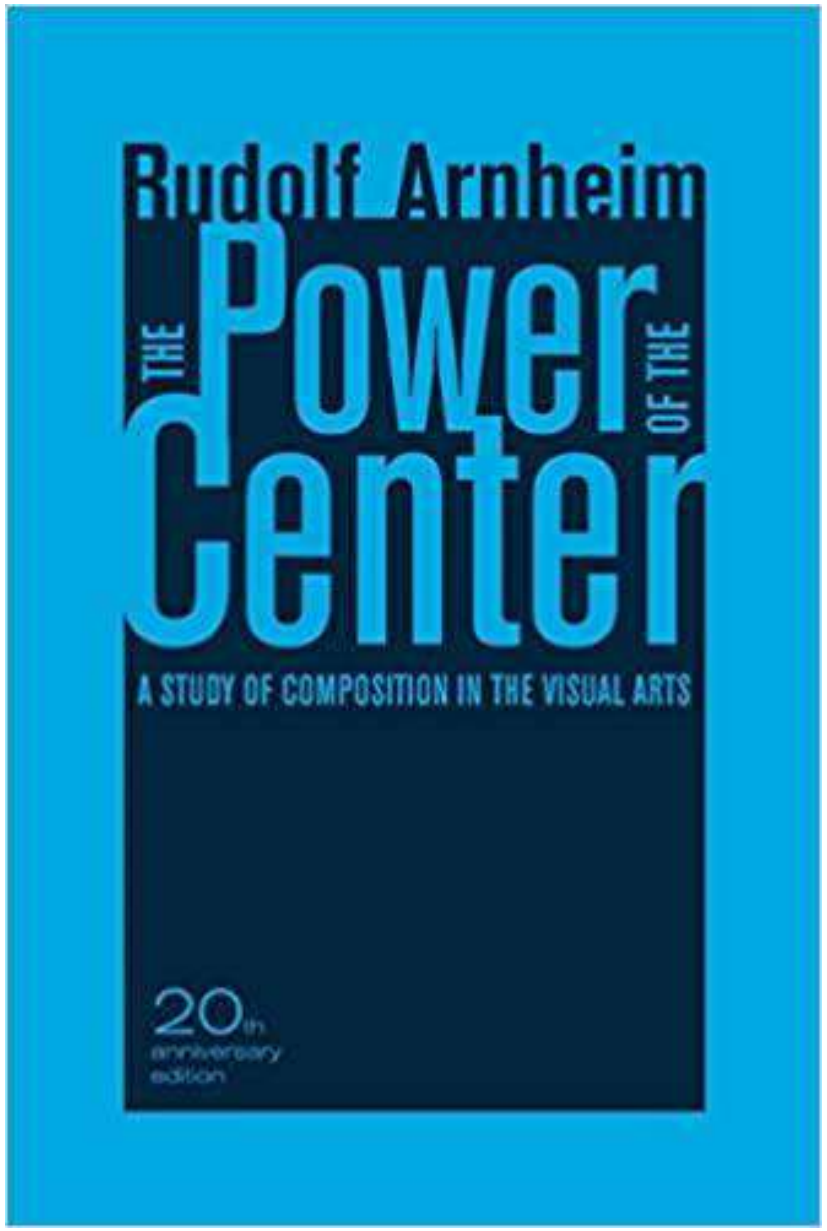


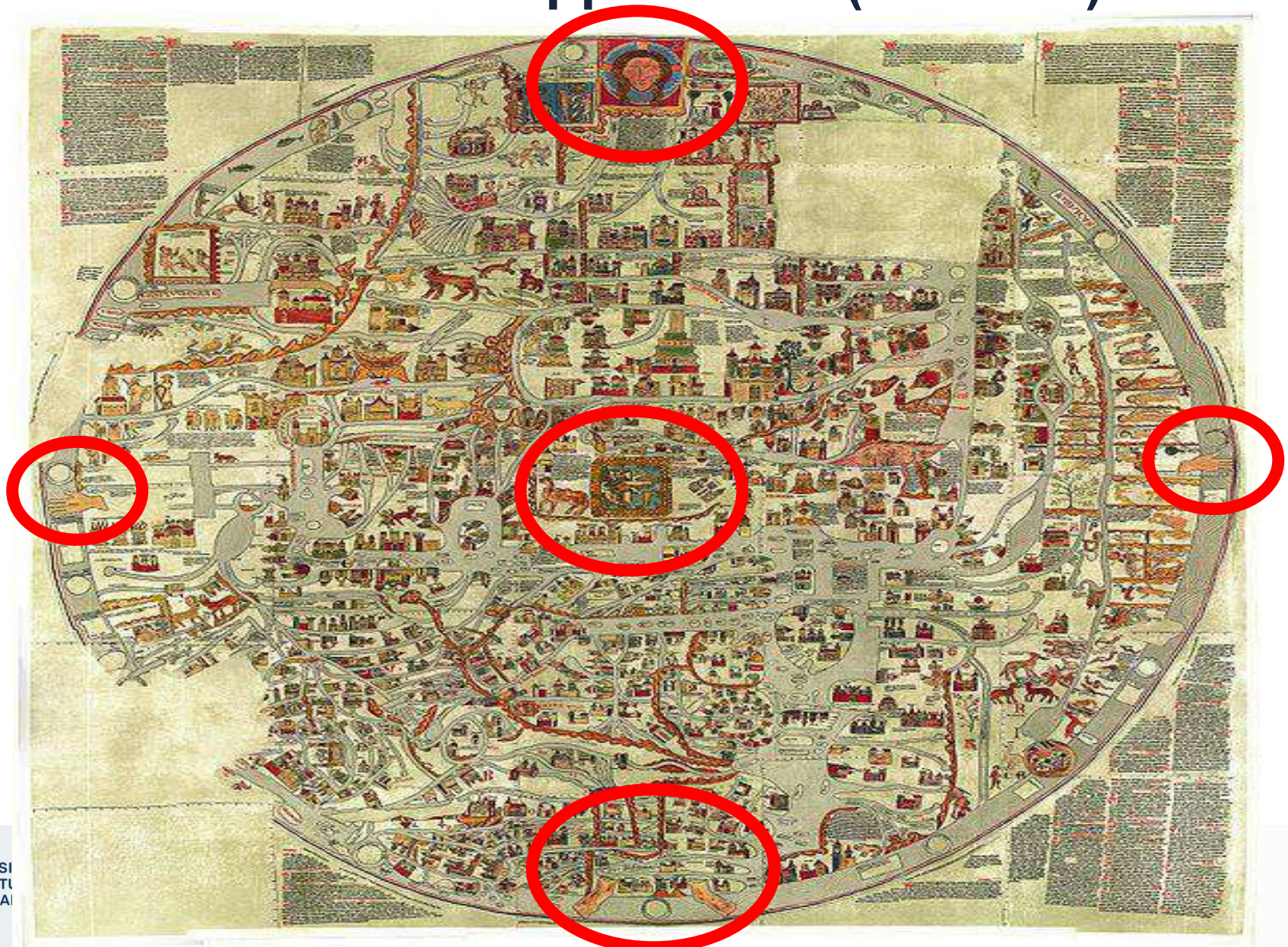



# Mappa Mundi - Hanns Rüst, ca. 1480




Rudolf Arnheim
THE Power OF THE Center
A STUDY OF COMPOSITION IN THE VISUAL ARTS
20th anniversary edition

# Ebstorf Mappa Mundi (ca. 1234)

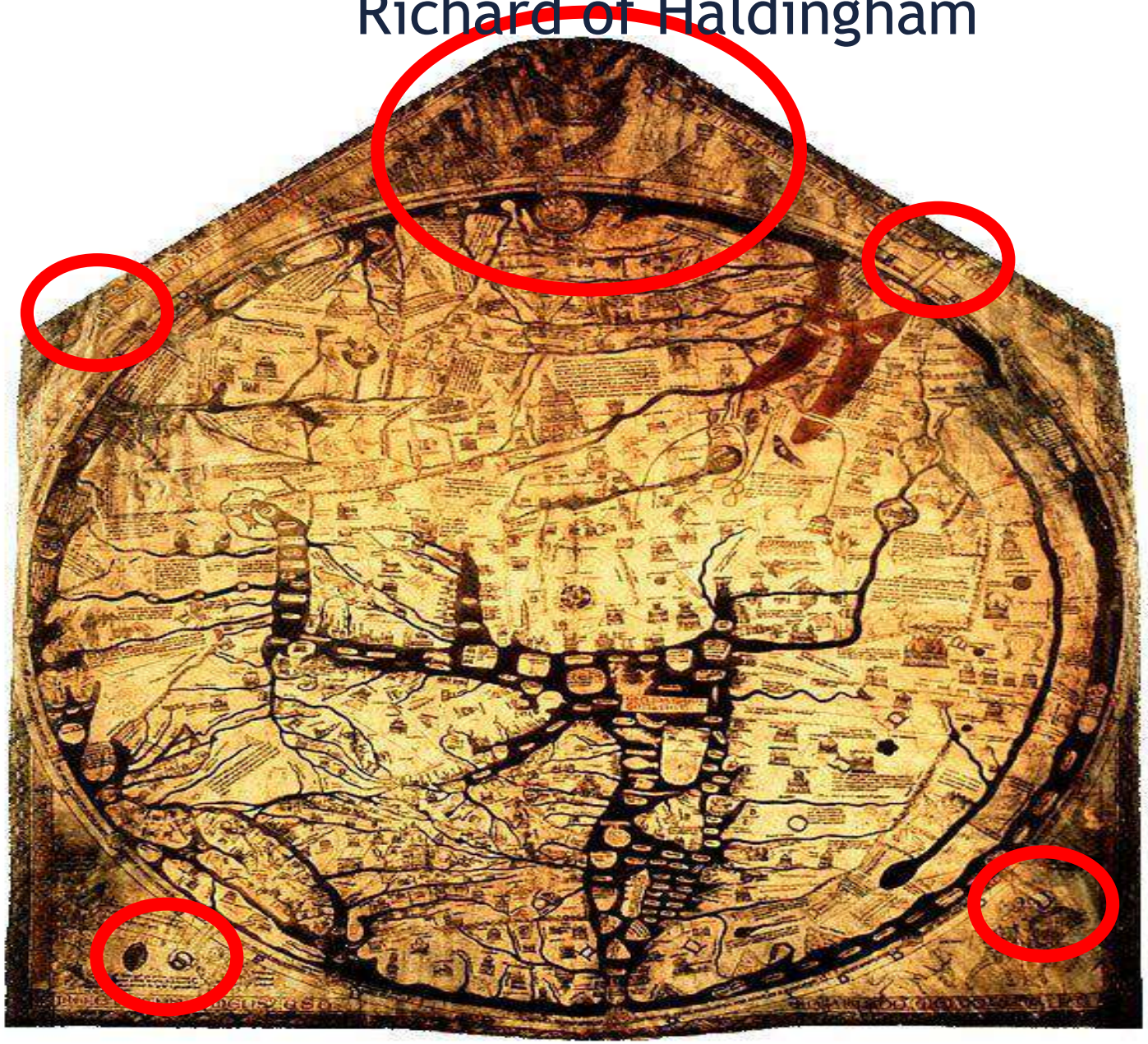


# Hereford Mappamundi (ca. 1276-1283)

## Richard of Haldingham

M

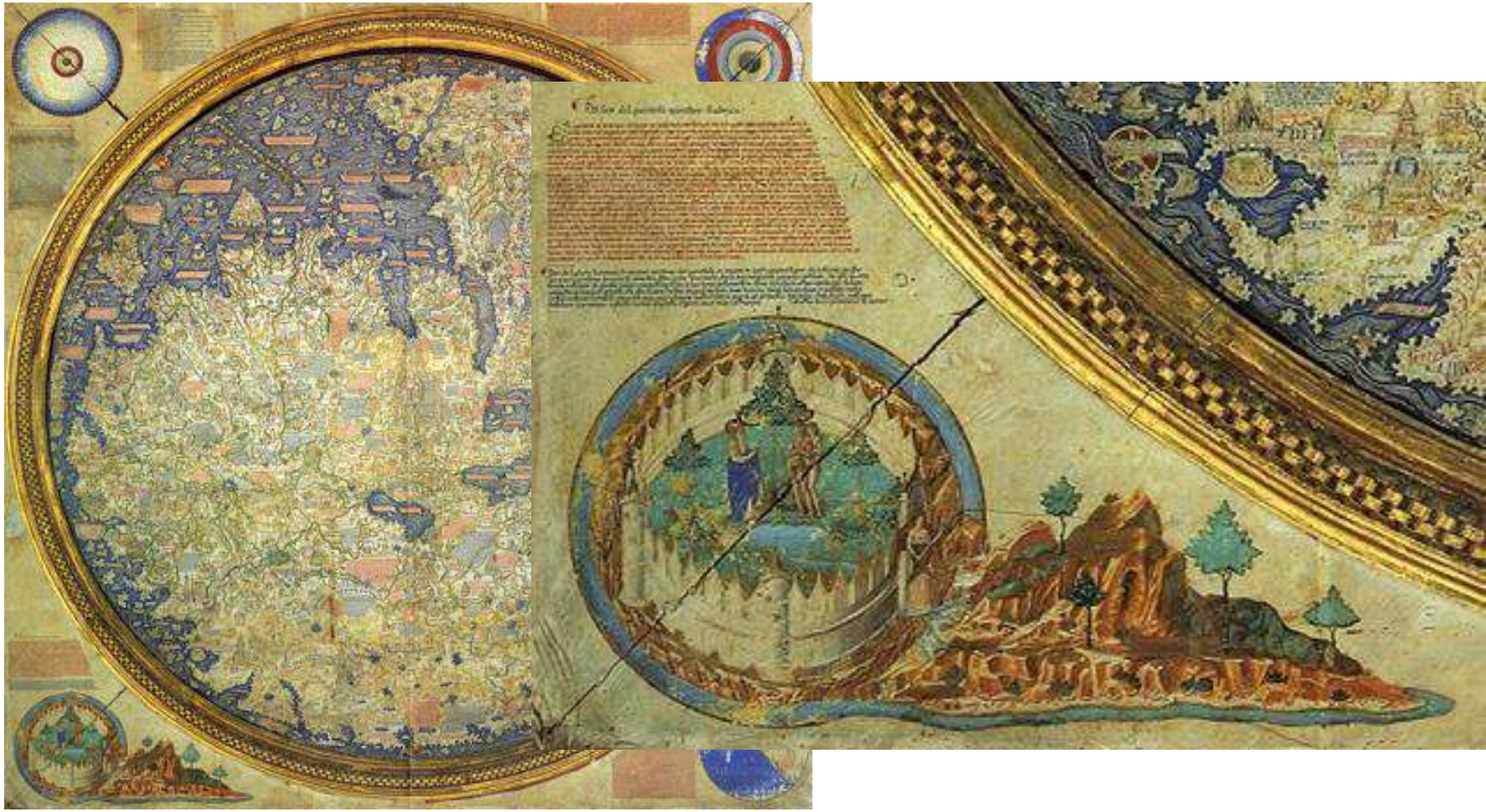
O



M-O-R-S

R

# Mappa Mundi de Fra Mauro (1459)

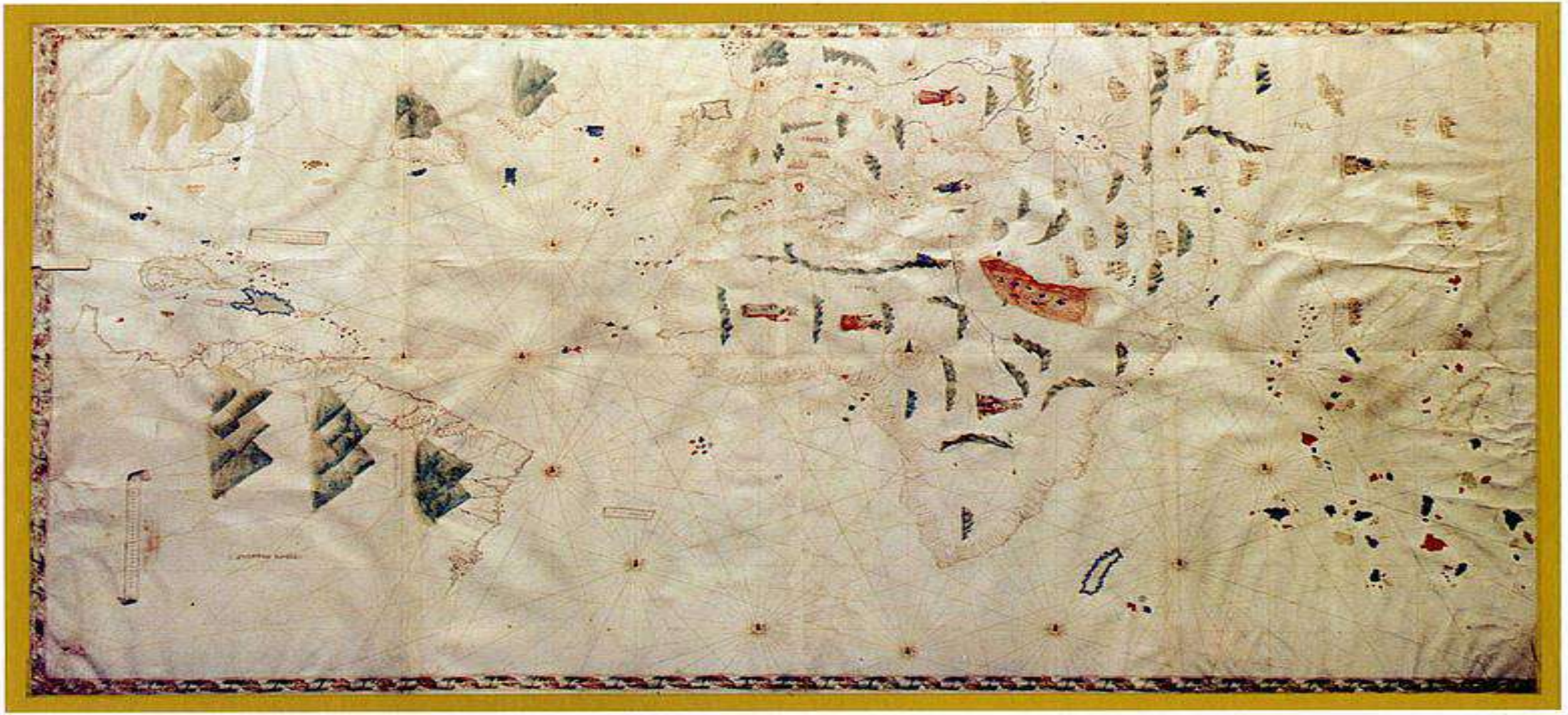


# *Mappaemundi*:
# Cartographic certainty

- ***Center:*** fixed and certain (Jerusalem)
- ***Limits:*** few, but clear and stable
- ***Symbols:*** strong and guarantors of certainties (the T, the presence of Christ, the clearly defined otherworldly destiny)
- ***Horror vacui:*** impossibility of conceiving emptiness, understood as a sign of uncertainty

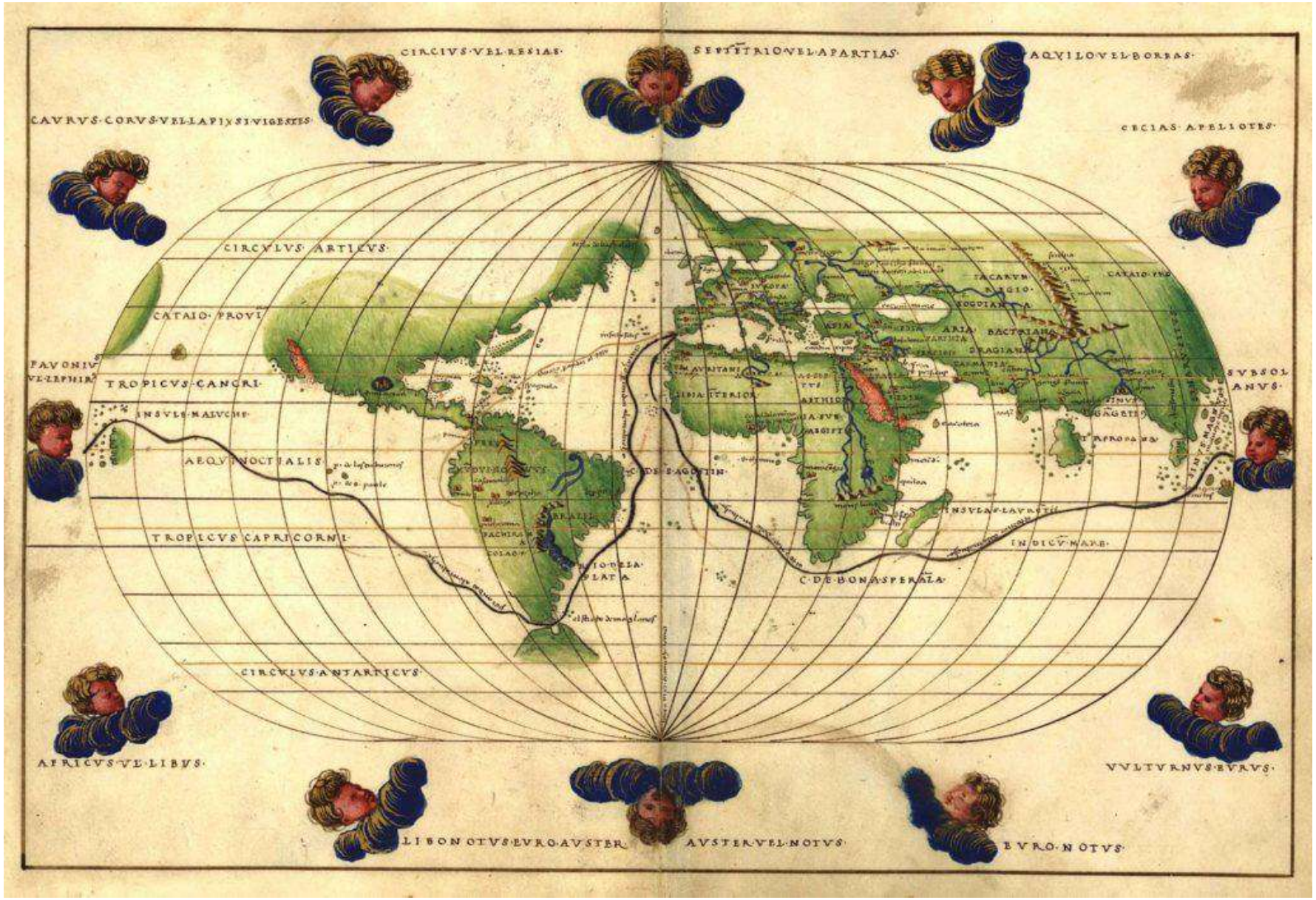
# Modern Cartographic Uncertainty

# Anonìmo, *Pesaro Planisphere, Mappa Oliveriana* (1504-12 ca.)

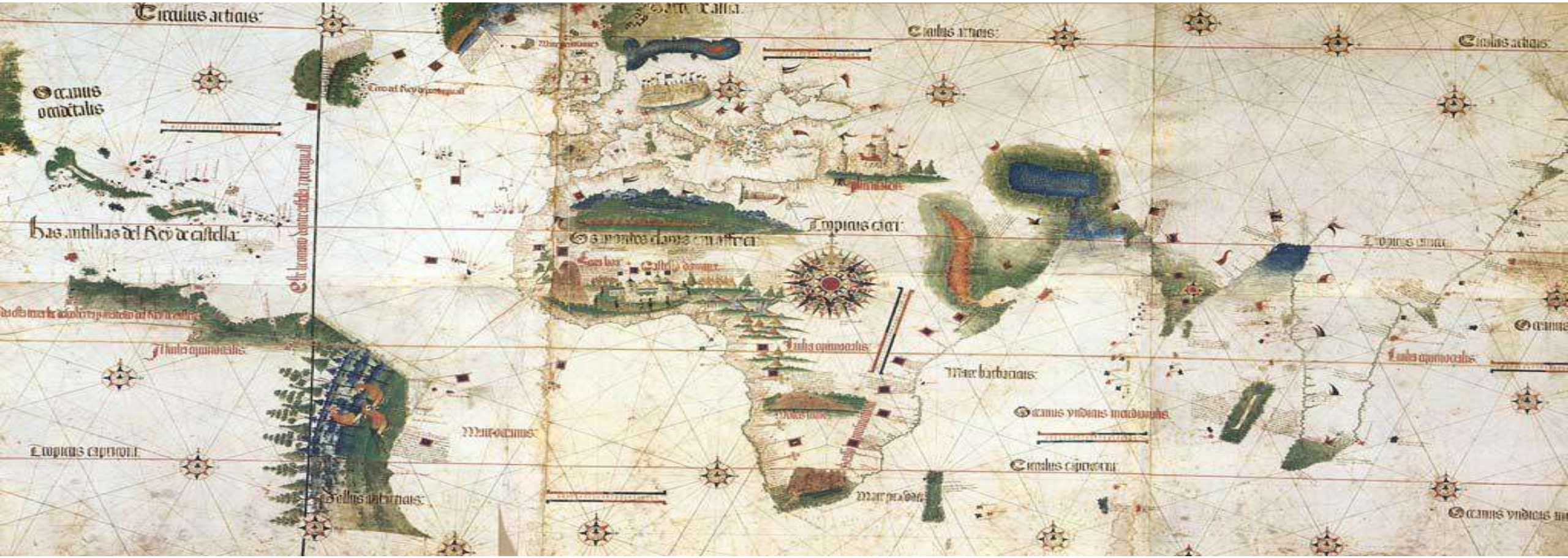


# Planisferio Castiglioni (1525)

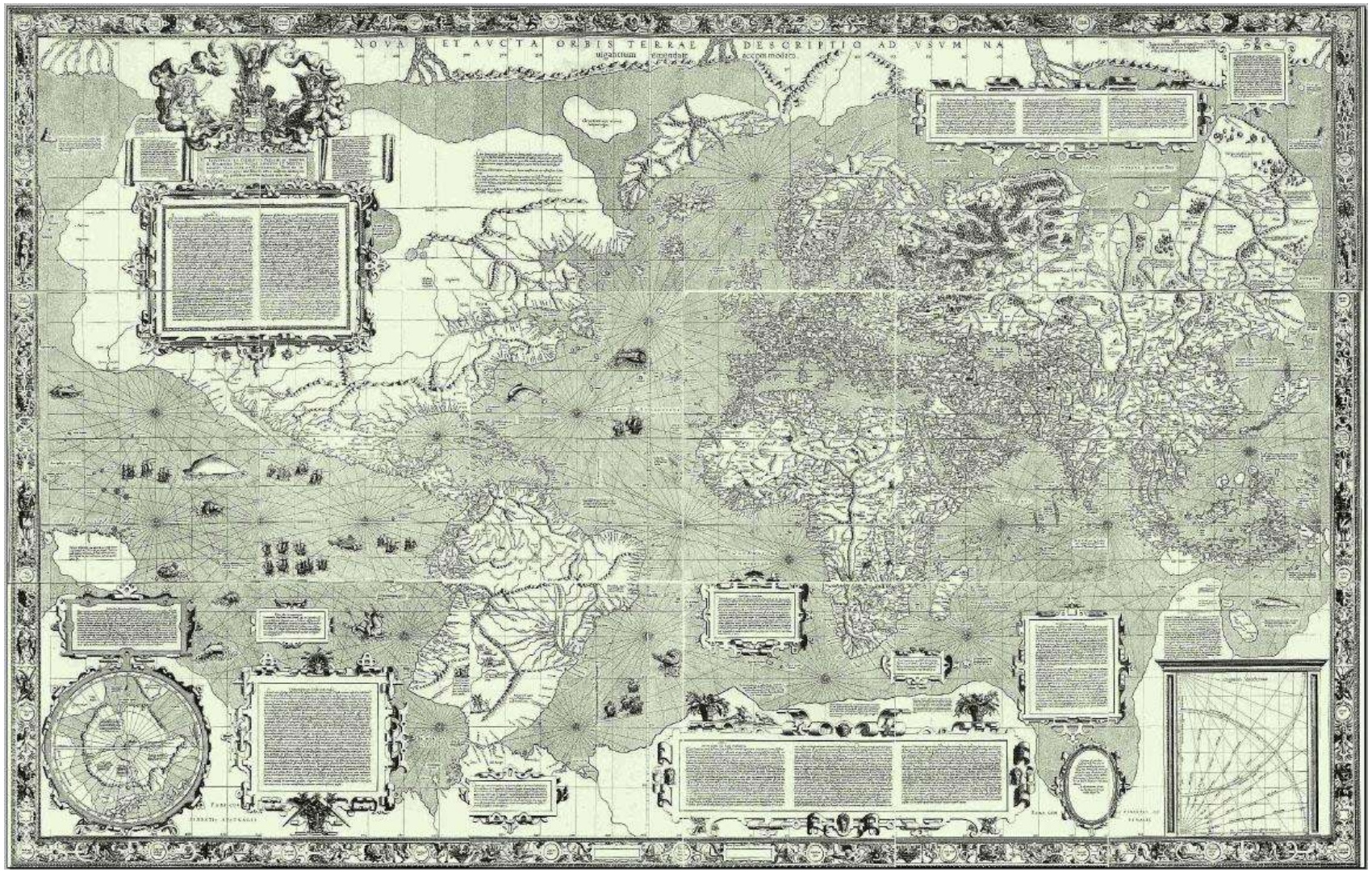


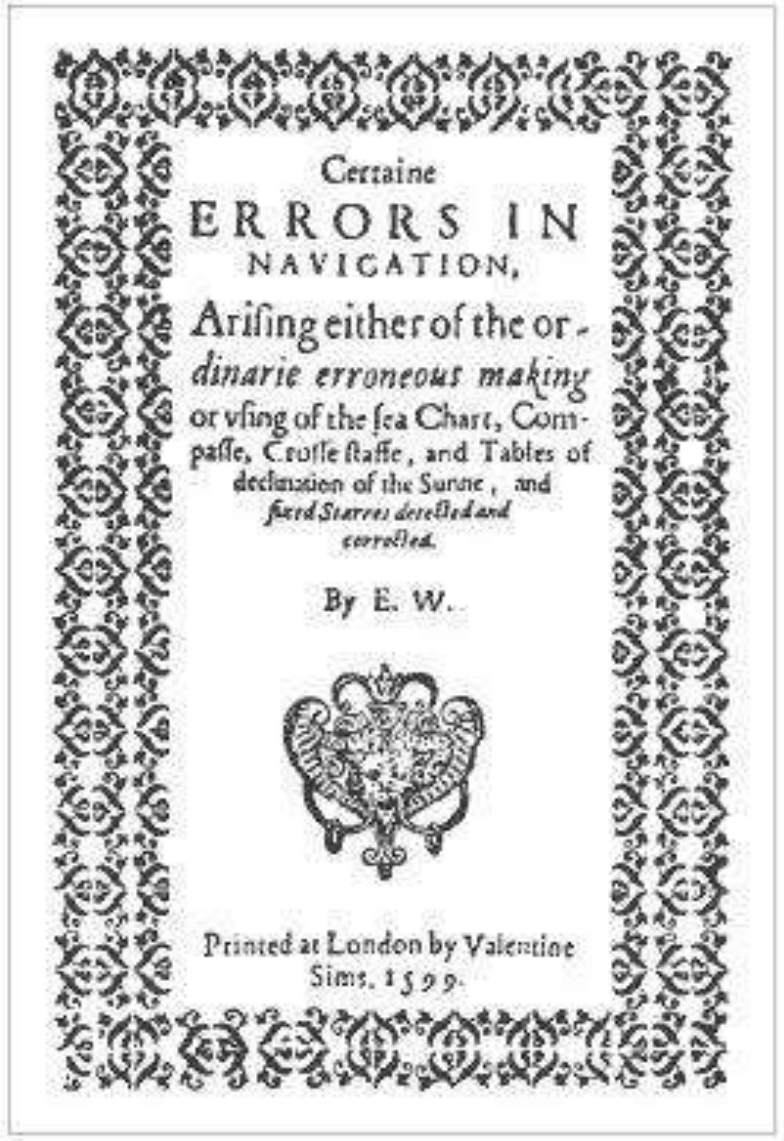

CIRCIVS·VEL·RESIAS·
SEPTENTRIO·VEL·APARTIAS·
AQVILO·VEL·BORREAS·
CAVRVS·CORVS·VEL·LAPIX·SILVESTER·
CECIAS·APELIOTES·
CIRCVLVS·ARTICVS·
CATAIO·PROVI
FAVONIVS·VEL·ZEPHIR
TROPICVS·CANCRI·
SVBSOLANVS·
INSVLE·MALVCHE·
AEQVINOCTIALIS
TROPICVS·CAPRICORNI·
C·DE·BONA·SPERANZA·
INDICVM·MARE·
CIRCVLVS·ANTARTICVS·
AFRICVS·VEL·LIBVS·
VVLTVRNVS·EVRVS·
LIBONOTVS·EVRO·AVSTER·
AVSTER·VEL·NOTVS·
EVRO·NOTVS·

# Anonìmo, *Carta de navigare per le isole Novamente trovate in la parte de l'India (Carta Cantino)*, (1501-2)



# Gerard Mercator, *World Map ad Usum Navigantium* (1569)



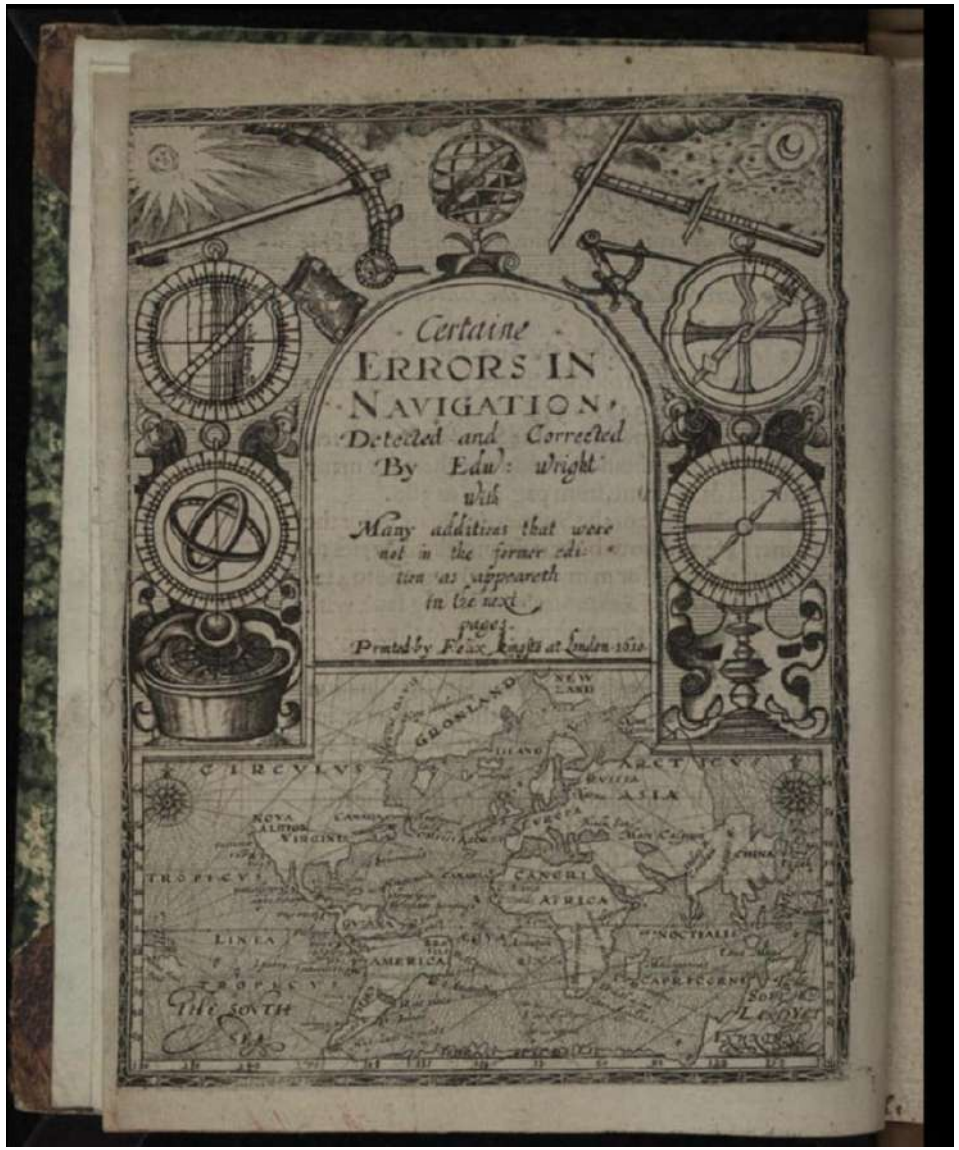


Certaine
ERRORS IN
NAVIGATION,
Arising either of the or-
dinarie erroneous making
or vsing of the sea Chart, Com-
passe, Crosse staffe, and Tables of
declination of the Sunne, and
fixed Starres detected and
corrected.

By E. W.

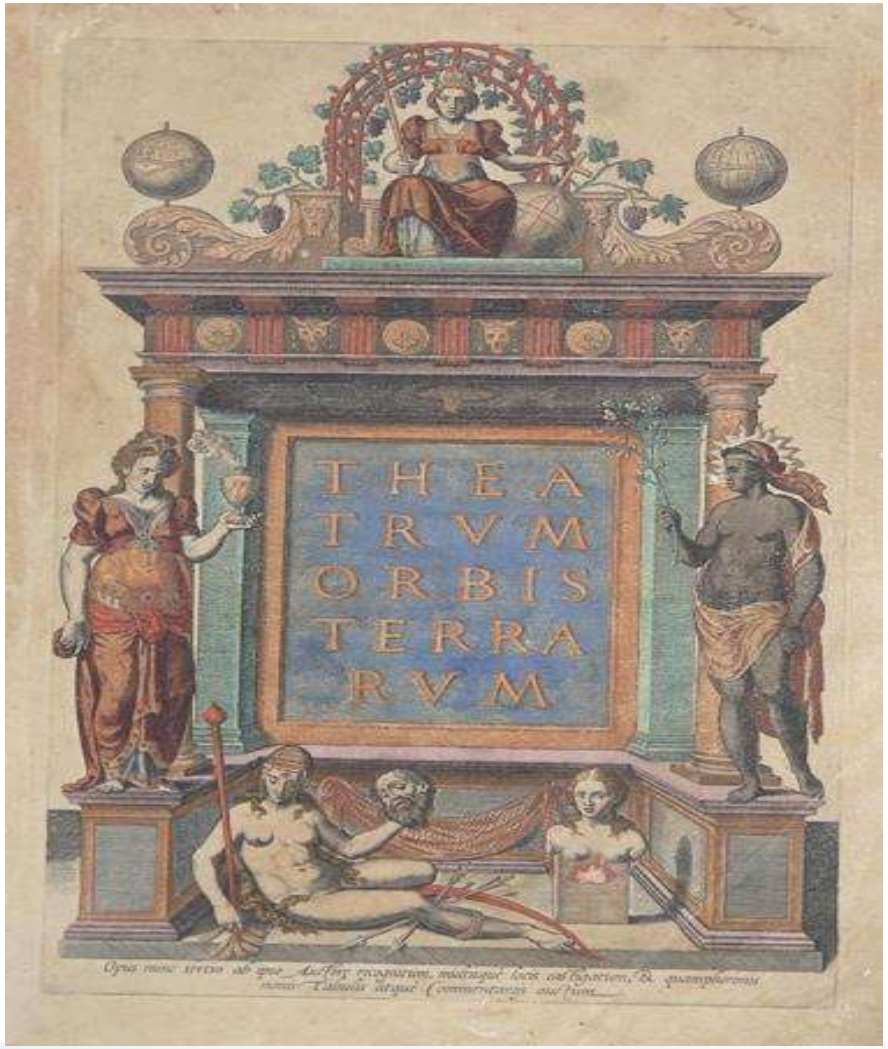
Printed at London by Valentine
Sims. 1599.

(1599)

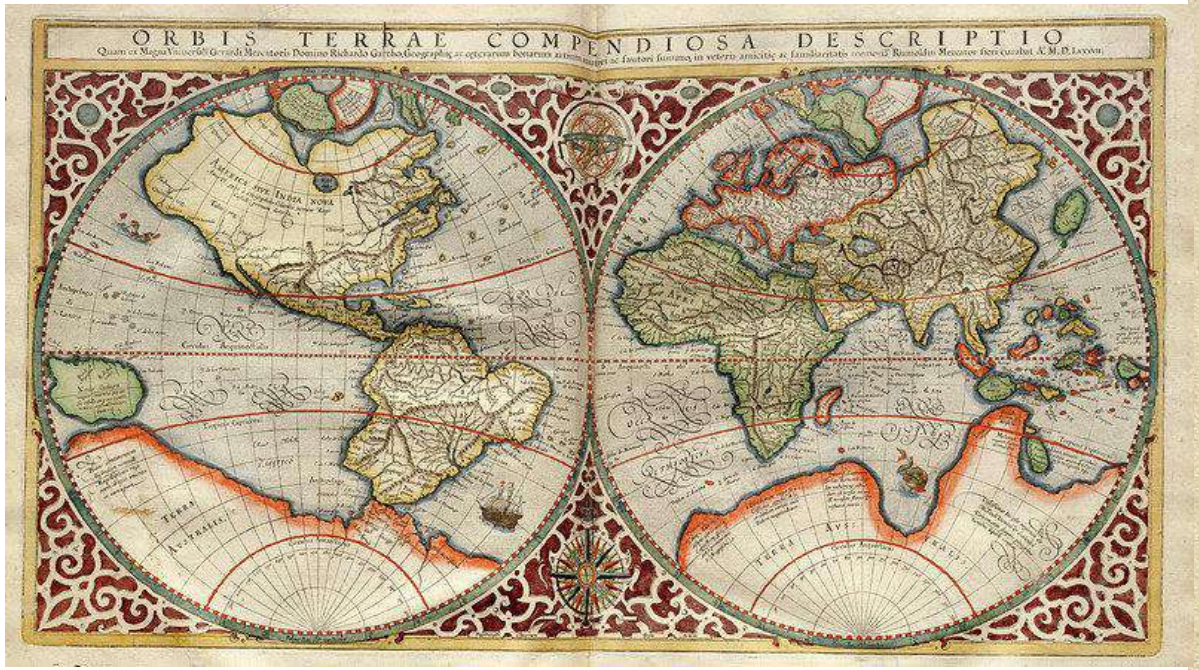



(1608)

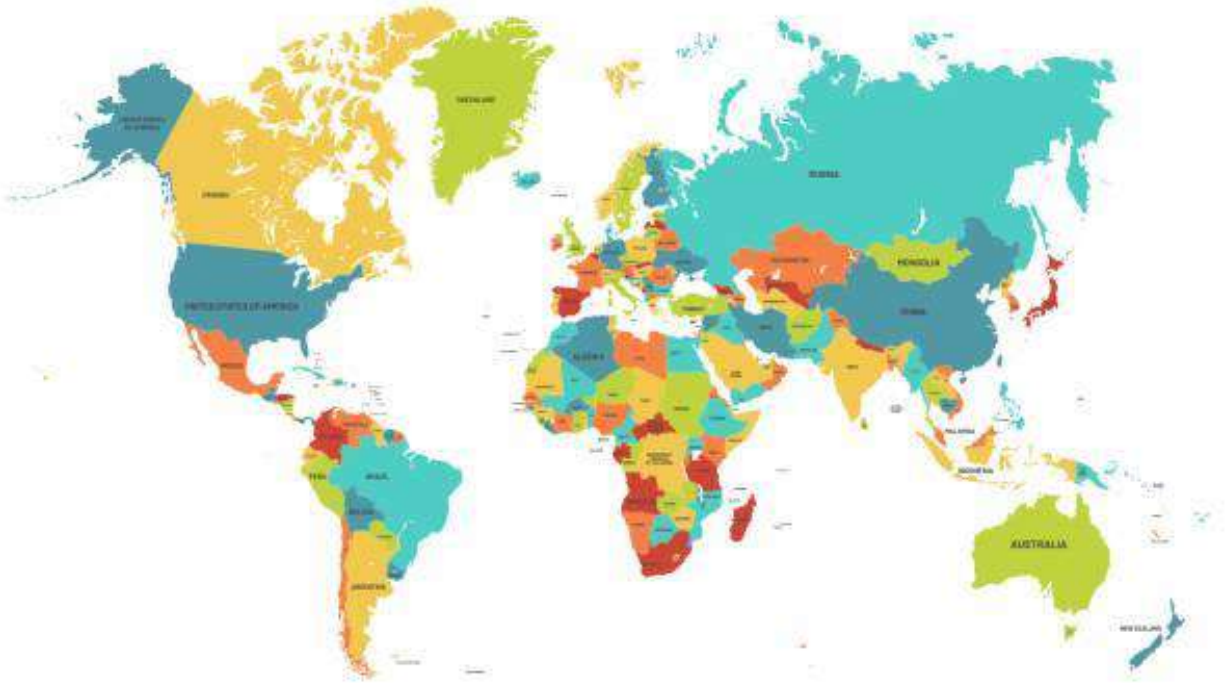
# Theatrum Orbis Terrarum
# Abraham Ortelius, 1570

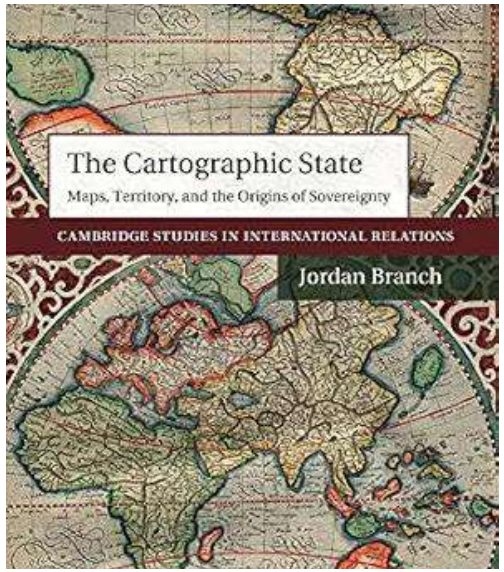


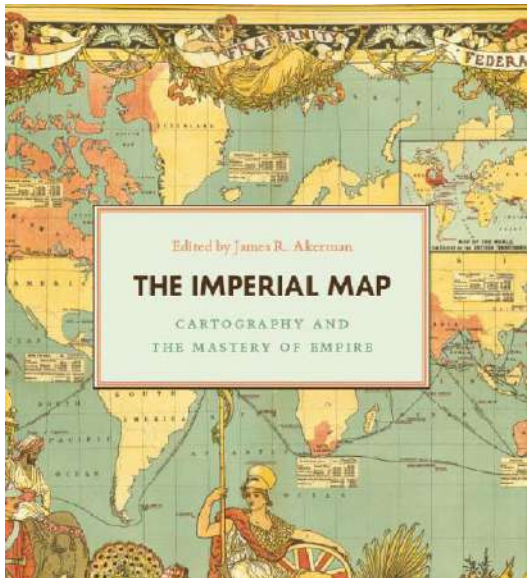
# Mercatore's Atlas (1595)








*Review of International Political Economy 1:1 Spring 1994*

# The territorial trap: the geographical assumptions of international relations theory

*John Agnew*

*Maxwell Graduate School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University*

ALESSANDRO RICCI

# *L'invenzione del confine nella cartografia d'età moderna. Linee globali e questioni geopolitiche tra Cinque e Seicento*

## 1. Introduzione

L'affermazione degli Stati nazionali nella prima età moderna coincise con l'apposizione sulle carte geografiche di confini che, a diversa scala, definiscono un complesso quadro geopolitico di natura interscalare e che vede la cartografia giocare un ruolo di primo piano.

Per un verso, infatti, si affermò una prospettiva globale derivante dai grandi viaggi esplorativi che aprirono l'età moderna, con quello che Carl Schmitt definì l'avvio di un "pensiero per linee globali"[1], frutto delle esperienze di navigazione dei "geografi a vele spiegate"[2] che dischiusero lo sguardo europeo alla realtà oceanica e a mondi prima di allora ad essi

# Many Thanks

alessandro.ricci@unibg.it