Landscapes of Power
Landscapes of Power

• Reading the connection of Power and Landscape
  – Power shapes landscape?
  – Landscape shapes power?
Power of Landscape

• In a military sense, some landscape confers power
  – High ground from which territory can be surveilled, controlled
  – Vital ports, air bases

• But this kind of power depends on military technology
What do we mean by power?

• Various kinds of Power:
  – Economic, political, social, gender, intellectual, cultural, military …

• Power is the ability
  – to assign meaning?
  – to include/exclude?
Michel Foucault

• French thinker who wondered about the nature of power
• Begins his exploration by asking about how power shapes a key place
  – The prison cell
  – A place defined by coercive power
Power and the prison cell

• Power enacts laws, defines offences
• Justice system defines the offenders
• Justice system designs the prison
• Meaning for wider culture?
  – Hermannstrasse 34b
Jeremy Bentham

• English enlightenment philosopher
  – Utilitarian
  – “the greatest good for the greatest number”

• Interested in solving social problems rationally
Bentham’s Panopticon

- A rational prison
- Prisoners are supervised, surveilled from a central point
  - don’t know when Big Brother is watching
Bentham

• Applied reason to social problems
• Makes rationality a form of power.
Michel Foucault

• Interested in the panopticon
• Power and space intertwine
• Implications for other places, activities:
Panoptica

- C19th Colonialism generated various ways of surveilling and gaining intellectual control over the world
  - The census
  - The museum
  - Botanical and zoological gardens
  - Surveying, map making and academic geography
The Gaze

• A culturally-learned way of looking
  – Assigns meaning to the viewer [the Self] and to what is looked at [the Other]
• For Foucault, the gaze is about power and dominance
The Hysteria Hysteria

- C19th doctors diagnosed women with “hysteria”
- performed hysterectomies
The Gaze

• Male medical Gaze
  – Perplexed by the female Other
  – saw female insanity as a gynecological disorder
The Gaze

Culturally-shaped and socially-defined

- ways of looking, of representing, of thinking
- can be applied to place and landscape
The Tourist Gaze
Tourist Gaze

• The [Western?] self gazes at the exotic Other
  – Visits ‘exotic’ places
  – Takes photographs
  – Buys souvenirs
  – Seeks ‘authenticity’ in the exotic
The Gaze

• may shape experience of the Other
• may shape the way the Other is packaged
• Concerned with how place is represented and read
Said’s Orientalism

• Edward Said, literature prof
• Western literature and attitudes toward Middle East:
• Western Self gazes at an Oriental [middle-eastern] Other
The Oriental Gaze

The Gaze allows the Self to project negative aspects of the self onto the Other.

West sees itself as:
- modern, progressive, rational, scientific, organized.

West sees Orient as:
- traditional, regressive, irrational, superstitious, disorderly.
The Orient: What the West sees

- a place of harems, hashish, strong coffee
Ingres, 1862
• Renoir 1872
Orientalism in the movies

- The Mummy
- Cecil B DeMille
- Charlton Heston
Said and Geopolitics

- Western Orientalism is a dominant Gaze
- Constructs the Middle-Eastern Other as
  - Exotic
  - Dangerous, backward, fanatic
America’s New War

- Bin Laden’s perception of America
- America’s Gaze toward the Muslim world
Bin Laden: The Movie

- As a classic Hollywood Science fiction “B” Movie
  - Sinister oriental genius threatens the world?
  - Starring?
THE MOST EVIL MAN ON EARTH!

CHRISTOPHER LEE
DOUGLAS WILMER
TSAI CHIN
MARIA ROHM

THE VENGEANCE OF FU MANCHU

NOEL TREVARTHEN AND HOWARD MARION CRAWFORD
America’s New War

• “Evil oriental genius” trope*:
  – Bin Laden/Saddam Hussein/Fu Manchu/
America’s New War

- **Imperial Gaze:**
  - West gives moral leadership to the world
  - Rebellious provinces to be disciplined by the Legions
  - Modern USA like Imperial Rome?

- **Orientalism as Dominance**
Movie of the Week?

Schaefer

THE EMPIRE

STRIKES BACK

Dick Cheney, George Bush, Chris Wallace, Colin Powell, Don Rumsfeld, Bin Laden

Getting Even With the Taliban By Beating Them Back to the Stone Age

Coming This Fall!!

2001 - John Schaefer
Red Heat
Eraser

iRaq

Modern religious entertainment.
Kindergarten Cop
Jingle All The Way
True Lies
The original crusades lasted from 1095 - 1291. Here's an eyewitness account of the pillage of Jerusalem by knight Raymond d'Aguilers: 'Piles of heads, hands, and feet were to be seen in the streets of the city. It was necessary to pick one's way over the bodies of men and horses. In the Temple and Porch of Solomon, men rode in blood up to their knees and bridle reins.'

But we don't need to worry. If this is really a new crusade, scenes like this won't happen until 2197.
Total Recall

“War is God’s way of teaching Americans geography.”
Conan the Barbarian

World Geopolitics
For Absolute Total Dummies
Quick Reference

written by Condoleezza Rice
A Quick Reference for George W Bush!

Just What is Poutine???
What in the hell is going on in India and Pakistan???
Why did Daddy invade Iraq?
What is OPEC?
Last Action Hero
Predator

SEP 11, 2002
WE HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN.
Commando
Hunt for bin Laden

Experts agree: Al Qaeda leader is dead or alive
KILL ISLAM
KILL EVIL
KILL TERROR
KILL FEAR
KILL BILL CLINTON
KILL HILLARY CLINTON
KILL HIJACKER
KILL KID NAPPER
KILL BELT BOMBER
KILL SHOE BOMBER
KILL SUBWAY PLOTTER
KILL BUS PLOTTER
KILL CAR J ACKER
KILL ANTHRAX ........ KILL ARAFAT
KILL GREEN CARD .... KILL IRAQ
KILL DR. GERM .... KILL TERROR

9/11
SPECIAL ISSUE - HOMELAND PATRIOTS
This Certifies That having Paid The License Fee,
is Hereby Licensed To Hunt And Trap Terrorists With Or Without Dogs.

INTERNATIONAL
PERMIT NO. 91101
TERRORIST HUNTING PERMIT

GOOD ANYWHERE ON THE FACE OF THE GLOBE

ONE SHOT ONE KILL

DO NOT QUESTION OR DETAIN THE BEARER OF THIS LICENSE AS HE IS OPERATING UNDER ORDERS FROM ABOVE YOUR JURISDICTION.
FIRST IRAQ, THEN France!
Judgement Day

“As with all nations, we respect Iraq’s independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity.”

-- Donald Rumsfeld 1983
End of Days
Readings

- Lagopoulos on Thessaloniki
- A city whose landscape symbolism was shaped/reshaped to suit national purpose
The Replanning of Thessaloniki

• An example of nationalist landscape symbolism
• Thessaloniki “liberated” from Turks in 1913 by Greeks
  – Then largely a Turkish/Jewish city, with a large Greek minority
• Greek government wants to rebuild city after disastrous fire of 1917
Thessaloniki

• Second-largest city in modern Greece
• Ancient origins
• Hellenistic street plan makes modern city building difficult
Thessaloniki’s Hellenistic Street Plan

Fig. 1. The Hellenistic streets of Thessaloniki on an early-twentieth-century plan of the city. Source: M. Vickers, Hellenistic Thessaloniki, in: Thessalonikin Filippou Vasilissan: Studies on Ancient Thessaloniki, Thessaloniki, 1985, (in Greek), 490. A. Egnatia Street. B. St Demetrius Street.
Fig. 2. Thessaloniki in 1700. Lithograph by Dapper.
Reconstruction

• Post 1917 reconstruction plan devised by French architect Hebrard
  – Track record of imposing western-European modernity on non-western societies
• Hebrard’s World City concept
Hebrard Plan 1918

• Replaces fire ruins with modern urban scheme
• Western modernity in centre
• Working classes, ethnic enclaves banished to the suburbs
  – Modernity symbolising the new political arrangement of Greek ascendancy
Fig. 4. The plan for the intra-muros section of Thessaloniki by Hébrard, 1918. Source: A. Yerolympos, Urban Transformations in the Balkans, Thessaloniki 1996, 96.
Ottoman Turkey

- A complex, multi-layered non-western society
  - Multiple ethnic groups
- Organization was complex, ordered and intellectually untidy
  - Space was found for different identities
- Ottoman Turkey was not a modern society
  - Little was rational
Greek Nationalism

- Drew upon the nationalist revolutions of C18th and C19th Europe
- Identity imagined to be clear and easy to define
The End of the Ottoman Empire

- Nationalist movements
  - Greek, Armenian, Turkish ...
  - Unleashed bloodshed, ethnic cleansing in the old Ottoman empire
Thessaloniki

• Greek Nationalism imposed its order on the landscape and the population
  – Jews, Turks, Macedonians marginalised
• Grandiose schemes of modernity overwhelmed by the traffic congestion of modernity
• What ensues is not entirely what is planned
Caprotti

- On the new towns built by Mussolini’s fascists in Italy’s Pontine marshes
- Fascism has gone, but the towns are still there
- A feat of fascist colonizing
  - Related projects in Libya and Ethiopia
- Fascism keen to triumph over nature, history, decadence
Pontine Marshes

• Early-Mid 1930s aggressive drainage and colonization scheme
  – A fascist priority and showcase
  – 50,000 workers
  – 5 new towns
  – Fascist architecture and social engineering
LITTORIA LITTORIA
UND AGRO PONTINO
UND AGRO PONTINO
Caprotti

• The Pontine colonization allows us to read and decode the strategies of Fascism
  – Pontine new towns helped the Fascists re-plan Addis Ababa

• 1930s filled with grandiose schemes of authoritarian power
  – Hoover Dam
  – Stalin’s 5 year plans
  – Hitler’s Autobahn
Landscapes of Power

• Readings of Landscapes
  – can symbolise power
  – may project power
  – Powerful groups can generate their own landscapes
  – landscape can be shaped to control, exclude or even destroy the powerless