

# Mapping Possible Worlds

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Good morning,

First I'd like to thank professor Pavie for inviting me. I'd like to thank you too to be here, but I'm really impressed because it's the very first time I will speak in English so long and in front of so many students. My level of English is not really high. You will surely remark my spelling and grammatical mistakes, I would have been more at ease in Spanish but it seems that English is now the international language.

I'm a little impressed too by your age and your level of studies (I used to teach history and geography to teenagers, in a secondary school, in the suburbs of Lyon. It's quite two different publics... My job is to teach World War Two, Egyptian times or Productive spaces to teenagers who live in a city where there's a lot of social problems. This city is known as the third poorest commune of France. There is a lot of unemployment, violence problems and it's quite difficult for young people to succeed, at least to be interested by middle age questions or to learn where is exactly the Pacific Ocean.

## 1- The world according to teenagers

But in the same time this area is full of different cultures, and this is a wealth. Each year at the start of the year, I ask them two questions in order to build a basic, simple map.

What are the languages you can speak (except French ?) ? Often, the mother tongue.

What is your dream destination in the world ?

I have about one hundred fifty students each year and I have counted 29 different languages spoken. Mainly, they dream about Dubai, the United States or Japan. More and more each year are choosing Korea, "because of K Pop and because it's safe"... Data from Teenagers can inspire maps.

In deed, we can map a lot of different things and I will try to explain what I do, how, maybe why. A map tells a story and there's many different ways to draw it. I don't pretend learning to you something about scientific or geopolitical questions, you're studying that, I'm sure you know better than me a lot of subjects; I just try to use maps in different ways,

questionning various things : spaces, memories, novels, the future..

First I will try to explain you how I began to make maps.

Second, how we can imagine mapping very different things, geographical objects, but feelings or memories too, using a map as a medium in the aim to express points of views, meanings about concrete and abstract world.

Next, I will show you some maps which try to explore differents areas, faraway countries, but also the street in where we walk every day;

Next I will talk about the link between maps and fictions, can we map a novel, how to represent this imaginary world ?

Next, Il will show you maps of the Lockdown : some experimental maps trying to talk about different aspects of this motionless time.

Finally, I will present you maps of my book – Imaginer demain - which has been published this year. It's about mapping possible, credible or incredible futures.

## **1 - Mapping for Nothing ?**

### **2, 2b , 2c - Imaginary roadmaps**

#### **Haute Mana / Road from Marrakech to Saint Raphaël / Alpin Kurdistan**

Ever since I was a child, I was facinated by maps and geographical iniformations. I began very early to read atlasis, exploring places I would like to visit later. I learned the names of capitales by heart and I was doing lists of countries, comparing sizes, populations, health level. I get into the habbit to go to travel agencies and collect brochures in the aim to cut up and paste them in a note book : maps, photos were mixed whith other informations. The aim was to collect more and more datas and maps to understand the world, building my own neverending encyclopedia. In the same time I had began a map's collection : touristic maps, road maps... Later when I was a student I had the idea to ask the IGN in Lyon, if they could give me out of date maps.

Maybe at this time it was in the aim to increase my map's collection but it appeared that I can use those maps in a different way : I started to cut up them, pasting pieces of maps together. IGN gave me about sixty maps : from Morocco tuo east of Turkia, aeronautic or road maps, and even very local maps of French Guyana rain forest. These latters were established by reconnaissance aircraft and the very wet climate did not allow to reveal the ground around the confluent spaces, where it was just mentionned "clouds".

This one is the first I made, the network of equatorial rivers made me think to handlines. I spent a lot of time assembling pieces of different maps and after a while, a large imaginary map covered the walls of my apartment. With this maps, following the roads or coastlines, I could easily travel from Marrakech to Saint Raphaël, or reach Kurdistan from the Alpes, without moving from my home. I started making impossible maps, I was mapping for nothing, just playing with the outlines. In the same way, maybe, some people like doodling when they are on the phone.

### **3 , 3b– Mixed continents**

#### **(Afrasia / Roc)**

But this maps took a large place and I began to do collages with extracts of atlas to merge together various spaces. The aim was once more to play with the forms of continents. Just to imagine new worlds. A vain hobby which I kept for me or my close relations. I didn't know what to do with it but I began to understand that these imaginary maps might express some messages, at least make people believe there is a hidden meaning. I realized that some people could imagine my maps had a specific point of view.

This one for instance. At first sight we can recognize France, but it's a trompe l'oeil, an illusion. it's a mix of France, Algeria, Morocco and Spain. When I posted it on social medias, I received a lot of racist comments, as if I made it to warn about Grand Remplacement : Maghreb is invading Europe. I received also enthusiastic comments from people who have origins in Morocco or Algeria, something like "Hey, I,m from Normand Rif !".

Maps (even imaginary maps) are ideological objects, they can't be neutral.

## **2 – Mapping Everything**

### **4 – An archipelago of candidates (2017)**

In 2017, I began drawing my own maps. First I used coloured pencils but now I mostly use water colours. The first I made was about the presidential election. This pencil sketch, in which I play with forms, outlines and names of the candidates (Melenchero, Frontos or Machronie Island) has attracted attention from a magazine dedicated to sailing activities (Voile Magazine). It was completely unexpected, I did it just for fun, playing with words and names in order to create an archipelago in which each island represents a candidate.

Cities names, mountains and other geographical elements are inspired by the context : Project City, Costo Rico, Mistral Gagnant...referring to language elements used at this time in the medias. The fact that a magazine decided to publish this map for edito made me think that a map can express a specific point of view about current events. In the same way as a cartoon (in french un dessin de presse, I mean here a sort of carte de presse).

## **5 – A distopic Europe (Risk)**

Since then I started tu use maps to express some ideas .by using gegraphical shapes as well as locations names, to invent new places.

In fact, the names of places, cities, countries of today are often the result of accidents or mistakes. So I thought : why not inventing new ones ? Can we imagine new toponims relating other points of view, other stories ?

In this map I have imagined a distopic Europe, geting free from Azthèque, african or Chinese colonizations. The names of the countries and the borders are the legacy of history, as it is the case for Africa. So I have imagined new names, as Centreurope, Danubie or New Carthage.

Indeed, the places names ar changing through the ages. The mountains at the horizon exist in reality but their names are by nature artificial. The spelling of these names ar changing also. Tarik, the muslim fighter who made the conquest of Spain in the 8<sup>th</sup> century have named this big rock on the straight Djabal al Tarik, and now it's known as Gibraltar. Most of places names or countries we can pass through today were named in an instant by some random explorer, the name of their sister for this river, the name of their king for the country, or in reference of their born village.

In other cases, a lot of places have been named in the aim to attract people : Costa Rica, Rio de la Plata or Greenland were clearly named like that to attract settlers. Other ones are coming from a vague ressemblance, as Venezuela. The channels of Maracaibo lake made think to Venice. It could be a mistake, as Rio de Janeiro. The first explorer saw the mouth of a river but it's a bay...

## **6 – Eighties Islands (from Challenger Space Shuttle to Boys Boys Boys)**

So they did a long time ago but now we can use the codes toponimia to express ideas and feelings. I began to draw new maps (geographical or imaginary patterns) in which places names and outlines are describing various facts, questions, phenomens. In fact we cn map evreything : a memory, a felling , an area, a season...map act as a mediun to express and

documente various subjects.

Here I tried to map the middle of the eighties : songs I was listening when I was ten (Madonna, U2, Indochine..) and events, mostly impressive facts occurring in the same time (Intifada, Action Directe, Tchernobyl). For instance, I remember some songs that I can't help associate to an event : Boy George and the eruption of a colombian volcano and the death of Omayra Sanchez, a little girl we saw dying in a live transmission in 1985. The explosion of the space shuttle Challenger make me think of la Isla Bonita ect...We can see this map as a childhood soundtrack map.

### **7 – Ojologito (Eye Island)**

This one is a lexical map : how to say "eye" in various languages ? I have choosed to draw an imaginary island in which every cities are named eye, oeil, mata , ojo...Its just a pretext to explore languages.

### **8 – Remember travels**

A map can also help us to remember. This one is about the travels I made. It's an imaginary pattern in which lattitudes mean time : south the 90ties, north is the present. On the left side : the rise of techonlogies (digital objects, phones, mails...) which has changed our way of travelling. The aim of this map was to fix memories.

## **3 - Maps to Explore Far and Near**

### **9 – Terra Nostra ( A Terrimeranée)**

Maps may be pretexts to explore distant countries, wellknown or un known places. Acting as a medium, a means to explore lands ad questions. It may be used as a graphic start point to documente something.

You have to make choices graphically to express, to represent a problem, to ask a question. Mapping is cheating, it's a representation of reality, and not reality. Each mapmaker express something about himself, about his personnality, his beliefs. But most of us, when we see a map ( and we see more and more maps today in the medias) will considerer it as true. It's a force of persuasion, from scholarly maps to those describin dayly events.

My maps are talking about a lot of subjects but int the end they are talking about me. It's

why I mix scientific data and personal elements. This map is about the Mediterranean sea but also about my relationship to this space : travel, places I have been, mysterious islands, volcanoes, mythical places, famous wrecks... Though the main objective was to research data about shipwrecks of migrant boats and dangerous ways to gain Europe, nevertheless I'm involved and I can't draw a map if I'm not.

## **10 -Earth and Wealth**

We can also play with traditional keys of geographical maps in order to represent a concrete phenomenon. For instance, development disparities. We use to see planispheres in which some poor areas are coloured in red, wealthy ones in green. But in each of them, you can find very wealthy places or poor areas. Even in the same city and at a very local scale. There are a lot of indexes we can use to describe development disparities ( - Human Development Index, Gini Index...). They could describe these contrasts. But it's really hard to map it using a planisphere's model. I chose to represent the world population as a territory in which contrasts of relief attempt to reveal these disparities at global scale. The green of the plains for the wealthiest populations, towards the inland poverty grows, extreme poverty is here presented by high mountains, taking a large part (rate) of the space.

Maybe this way of visualization could help to understand differently these disparities in the same way that does charts or graphics.

## **11 – France / Ukraine**

I think maps can be a medium able to make people react, as a painting or a song. What is drawn seems real, but it's an illusion, almost an opinion, a point of view.

Since 2022 and the beginning of the war in Ukraine, we have seen a lot of maps of this country. Most of the people do now recognize the form, the outlines of this country. Here a juxtaposition map, a kind of what if map : I tried to compare destructions occurring the first weeks of the war, as if they occurred in the main cities of France.

## **12 – Gaza Band / Pays Basque**

More recently in the same way, I attempted to compare two areas of similar size : Gaza Band and Coastal Basque Country. What if a very little and populated area in France was under bombs everyday since months ?

I'm sure you can imagine that these maps posted on social medias have received a lot of

comments, nasty ones as well as enthusiastic ones. It's quiet usual. I'm aware that it could be perceived as a provocation. Those are totally subjective maps drawn in order to make emerge contradictions about these geopolitical questions, and encourage people to documente, research informations by their own.

### **13 – Close to home maps**

I will talk know about nearer places. It might be easier to map faraway countries than our neighbourhood. We are often more curious, more interested to take photos, to write or to draw when travelling through different cultures, than crossing the street to go buying bread at the bakery we use to go. Every day life is difficult to explain and to map, maybe precisely, because it's so close to us.

For instance, I drawned here my itinerary to work by bike adding on he map what I could notice on the way, buildings in construction, strange white birds on the trees of the park at 7 AM, shantytowns appearing and disaperring.

This map is a detail of the previous map, around Croix Luizet round about in Villeurbanne. I tried to note changes in informel housing. Shanties has been settling between the highway and the canal, inthe interstices of our cities, occupying dirty, noisy or abandonned spaces, where it's not legaly possible to build anything. In order to push away this people often migrant persons, the authorties have dumped tons of rocks which make the ground inapropriate for a future settlement.

Mapping specific and close areas may be a way to observe changes in our daily life and its exoticless spaces. They tell stories which can be expressed by maps.

## **4 – Maps and Fictions**

### **14 - Trying to update Al Idrisi's planisphere**

We must admit that maps tell stories since the ancient times. The first men who tried to map the world used to draw and name montains, locations according to their own imagination, espececially for the unknown places. Al Idrisi, in the12th century, choosed to surround the known world with an ocean. I tried to update his planisphere, as if this ancestor of mapmakers had known the existence of America and Australia.

### **15 – Earthsea (Ursula K. Le Guin)**

Some writers or novellists have a strong link with cartography : one of these writers is Jose

Luis Borges. He wrote a very short story (Del Rigor en la Ciencia) in which he evoked an empire in where cartography is an art so developed that the map of the country ended to cover the country himself. What could mean a one to one scale map ? The most precise map which represent the exact territory, is replacing it. The country himself is hidden by the map. Many geographers have written about this story. In the story, The art of cartography grows to such a degree that in the end, mapmaking became useless and disused.

Other writers or novellists have used map as a base to the text. Tolkien has drawned the world of Lord of the Rings before writting the main story. So did Ursula K Le Guin for "Earthsee". In her preface for the whole edition of this fantasy cycle, she explains that she drawned first this map – and this is my version of it, in which I tried to localize the travels in each books of the cycle. In the same way, the map illustrating opening titles of Game of thrones help us to localize places, kingdoms and continents.

### **16 et 16b – Californian Novels / Prophets of Eternal Fjord (Kim Leine)**

On the other hand, fictions and novels can inspire cartographic works. I have discovered a lot of places into books, even places I will certainly never visit.

For instance, I have never been to California but this is where and with whom I have travelled there, from Rochard Brautigan to James Ellero, Hunter Thompson or Brett Easton Ellis. Cultural productions (also songs, movies) are helping us to visualize places we won't physically know.

We can also try to map a novel. This one about a danish novel, Prophets of Eternity Fjord by Kim Leine. It's talking about the relationships between the settlers and the Inuits in West Greenland in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. I tried to map elements of the action, characters, keywords, I already mapped personnal informations, where I found this book, where I red it, other similar novels : This map express something like my story, my relation ship with this novel.

### **17 – Oulipie (a living room librairy)**

This one is an inventory of my librairy : titles, but also objects forgotten on the shelves. It's quiet a continent. We can use geographical shapes as well as locations names to explore facts but fictions too.

## **5 – Mapping the Lockdown**

### **18 et 18b– Puzzle day / 63 m2**

But what can we map when we're restrained to be motionless? This was happening in 2020 during the months of Lockdown. In the way to pass the time, I began to draw maps trying to describe various aspects of the Lockdown. And each day (during the first 30 days), I made a map about one subject, to approach a specific question. One of the first was about inside/outside world during the Lockdown, as a puzzle.

This one is another experience to represent this shrink world, 63 square meter, the tiny space in where I lived with my wife and my daughter. Daily life was full of games, plamobils, books and tales to read, moodies, and that with no way out.

### **19 et 19b– Conspiracy theories islands / Moncovidéo, a novlang transit map**

Sometimes I choosed to draw some map about a general thematic, helped by the big datas of the internet, a virtual area where we could still travel. I did a list of conspiracy theories about coronavirus, mapping that as an archipelago (Saintes Véroles et Chloroquines) which can make think to cellular reproduction.

Another one which I called Moncovidéo try to represent the languages elements emerging with Covid. Attestations, gestes barrières... New words, new current expressions, mapped as a transit map, using word games to invent the stations names (Trocovido, Assemblée Sanitaire ou Monde d'Après...).

### **20 – Immune Islands**

These maps were as local and daily maps. I get on with another format in order to build a sort of translockdown atlas. The ones you saw about my library and about remembering travels are part of it)

This one is about an imaginary discoverer of the Immunes Islands, with extracts of his log book. New islands are named by this covidians explorers: La Confinerie, Geste Sauveur, La Précaution... Another time, a map for playing with words and tell stories about lockdown, pandemia, etc.

### **21 – An atlas of Lockdownland**

Eventually, I finished this vain personal world of Lockdown times, something about 60 maps. This work caught the attention of the newspaper *Le Monde* and a little bit later I was contacted by a publishing house to make a book with these maps. But in the end, the

commercial committee didn't not agree : it did not believe that anybody would like to buy an atlas about lockdown or pandemic for christmas 2022 (two thousand twenty two). And obviously I understood that most people just wanted to forget this boring and annoying time...

## **6 – Mapping Tomorrow**

### **22 – Literature and Collapse (high latitudes express very bad futures..)**

#### **22b-**

Meanwhile the publishing house was still interested in working with me. We have thought together about another project : an attempt to map the future world. We began to build this project in which I choose to join together maps, chronicles and short fictions illustrating possible futures. But how to draw tomorrow's landscapes ? How to imagine a place which doesn't already exist, facts which have not occurred ? This questions could appear absurd. It is yet so difficult to represent graphically present times and so it is to imagine those of the past, even if archeological traces allow to reconstituate it. Showing the future could be considered as science fiction, but it aims to make interact times, places, scientific datas and the imaginary's world living inside and around us.

The objective was to offer different cartographic versions, often contradictory, imaginary possible, plausible, credible or incredible future worlds. First I was inspired by novels describing Collapse times.

This map is kind of a list of them. Here the latitudes express the level of felt anxiousness during reading. Very very north I have localized for instance The black and grey world of *The Road* by Cormac Mac Carthy. South, you can find less distressing future places imagined by other novelists.

### **23 - Extreme Heats and Fires (2023)**

In order to imagine possible futures, I had to study of lot of scientific litterature, reports, especially those of the IPCC (International Pattern on Climate Change). Datas are more and more accessibles each day although the interpretation of them remains complicated and demands reflection, work. Nowadays, anybody could build his opinion about climate change. A lot of people react, reading facts or opinions in social medias. Some will believe at the reality of climate change, but other ones will become climate skeptics. As pandemic

had given birth to autodidact experts, Global Climate Changes are nowadays commented by a lot of persons who just like to conform facts with their initial opinion. The sociologist Edgar Morin, One hundred three years this year, has tweeted recently : " Nous sommes dans une période d'extension des connaissances mais aussi de repli de la connaissance ". We have to read, hear, see the news carefully, taking care to examine various sources to verify the credibility of what is said in the medias.

The IPCC reports are talking about scenarios and this term is not neutral. We use it for movies, series...Fictions, stories, come with humanity since the beginning : mythology, legends, tales...and nowadays more and more each day digital contents. What they are telling us can be useful to imagine the future.

Stories may be used as data among others to describe possible future places where our descendants could live. The aim of my work is to mix this various data, facts and fictions, objective and subjective informations in order to show outlooks of the future times often with exaggeration in the aim to cause reactions, to encourage debate.

I have begun to document myself : housing and living conditions, migrations, fossil and renewable resources.... And this one is about heat's increasing in some areas and giant fires which has devastated large territories since 2020 (two thousand twenty).

## **24 – Energy transition (2023)**

This one is about energy transition and resources distribution, especially those which may allow energy transition, metals or elements like cobalt, lithium or uranium, which are necessary for electric cars. The latter are being used in developed nations. Most of the useful resources are coming from developing or poor countries (Bolivia, Congo...) produced in inhumane conditions (child labor, conflicts). Nowadays, we are not able to know where the elements contained in our smartphone are coming from. Uranium used by nuclear energies which allow to electrify our daily life is for a large part extracted in areas where human rights are not respected. There are many contradictions in this. Can we accept the ecological transition we expect may be possible thanks to the deaths of children in East Congo' mines ? Do we agree to heat our apartments in winter with energy extracted from aggressive countries which we denounce the actions on the other hand ? All these contradictions appear to me as a dramaturgy. It's why, I think, I have decided to organize my book mixing chronicles, maps and fictions, using the vocabulary of a filmmaker or a novelist, in the aim to question climate change.

Who takes the leading role ? What is the setting ? What is the quest the hero will follow ?

Could we expect a happy end, a fairer world with a best repartition of wealth ?

Anyway, you have to see the following maps as experimental visions of the future. None of them has a chance to occur. I just have tried to draw and write variations about some thematics, using scientific basis and adding imagination. The aim is just to make think about these serious subjects, with a little bit of humour when it's possible.

I'll comment you some examples, exposition scenes of this imaginary future times.

#### **24 – Desert of Amazonahara (summer 2224)**

Amazonia 2124. It became a desert. The Amazon river goes on flowing but its affluents are drying up. A few people already live on the river banks, near the abandoned cities. During the evening, old people tell stories about the ancient times, when the forests were covering all the landscape. Young people do not really believe them. They are dreaming to cross the large deserts in the aim to see if the gods who have dried up these areas (Bolsonaro or Monsanto) really exist. Part of true : Amazonia was devastated by fires and drought in 2022 and 2023

#### **25 – Antarctica (2424)**

Antarctica, 2424 (Two thousand four hundred twenty four). All the ice has melt. Other continents are burned by heat and migrations towards the former white continent had began in the early 23<sup>th</sup> (twenty third). The settlers have discovered a lot of resources : metals, fossil resources and mining cities have began to grow. In the 24<sup>th</sup> century, settlers began to open tracks towards the inland. Nowadays, the Madrid Protocole signed by most of the countries keeps the continent under protection against industrial or mining predation. But with the icemelt some countries are beginning to contest this status.

#### **26 – Evaporate Mediterranean (2524)**

Evaporate Mediterranean Sea, 2524. Heats and repeated droughts all along the 21<sup>th</sup>(first) and the 22<sup>th</sup> (second) centuries have dried up the entire european continent. In the same time the warm and salty sea has began to evaporate and the eruption of a supervolcano (phlegrean fieds, near Napoli) in 2374 achieved to transform the ancient sea in an area of dust and sands punctuated by a few salt lakes. People have abandoned unlivable coastline cities and begin to settle in this new area, building new villages and cities. They named them, inspired by their original cultures : Prado Novo, Gaza Jdid, Calypso Point...Drawing this one I was inspired by a play called *Mare Nostrum* by Eduardo Manet,

which plots take place in a future dried up Mediterranean.

### **27 – Weather Report (August 28, 2224)**

What about France in the future ? According to many reports the average temperature will rise more than in other areas. It's said maybe 4 degrees more than today. This is a weather report for a warm day of August 2224. Agricultural crops should certainly be affected. Date palms are growing in the former Loire Valley and each year, the Habitable Area moves more and more towards the north.

### **28 – Sète island (2124)**

Many climate changes will transform the landscapes. Rising waters are giving birth to new islands, for instance Sète Island, South of France. In 2124 the offshore bars have been submerged and Sète lives *autarcia*. More and more medicanes (word built with the words Mediterranean and hurricane, and used today to characterize the storm which has devastated Derna in Libya at summer 2023) are hitting the island and I have named them Fernande, Lulu or Félicie in tribute to Georges Brassens, the great singer originating from this city.

### **29 – Paris under water, boatlib' stations (2124)**

Maybe in other areas and other versions of the future, rains won't stop and the rivers will overflow and will cover lands. This is the Seine Sea, former Paris city. In the 22th (second), you can cross by kayak, pirogue or boatlib' services to go from Port Clignancourt to Port Lachaise or Belleville sur Mer.

Obviously we can't be really sure about the consequences of the climate changes. Authors like Vikash Chakrabarty (*Penser l'Histoire après les changements climatiques*) warn us : we can't really predict the consequences because the analysis depends on many different models. Maybe in a future new science mixing physics, biology, history..

### **30 – 3 scénarios for Chamonix**

I have tried to imagine new climates in a specific area, here is the alpine valley of Arve River (Chamonix valley). 3 scenarios for this area in two thousand something twenty four :

- A mild equatorial climate. A rainy, wet and warm climate . Inhabitants are living in stilt houses, cultivating bananas.
- An alpine desertic climate. Dust and sands are covering lowlands but we can find

oasis besides the mountains.

- A post glacial climate, here in summer, after icemelt, in which hunter gatherers are back.

### **31 – A new Ice Age ?**

Indeed, future can be surprising and could experience a turnaround. We are expecting increase in temperature, but this fact, warming the oceans, could produce changes in streams and could produce with time the contrary effect. Maybe a new glaciation like in the blockbuster "The day after" by Rolland Emmerich ? Maybe it's not so credible but we can play with this hypothesis : winters are becoming more and more cold along the 21<sup>th</sup> century; iceshells are increasing; the Thames is freezing in 2060, the weather is becoming colder and colder...

### **32 – Cross the Channel in 2124**

Then, large part of shallow seas will dry up. The Channel for instance, as it was the case in the latter Ice Age. You could pass through the Channel by foot. At the beginning of the 22<sup>th</sup>(second) century, more and more refugees are trying to cross it, towards habitable areas. People of the southern countries shall maybe build walls to protect them against this people from Britain or Norway, as it is the case today, between The United States and Mexico or between Europe and Africa.

### **33 – High speed trains and cycle paths through Africa (2124)**

Finally, the major issue about climate change isn't maybe to imagine how landscapes will change but how our societies will change and adapt, a big deal, considering the scale of inequalities which define our developed countries way of life.

I would like to finish my talk with a map of Africa. In 2124, the continent has succeeded to use its own resources for the well being of its own population. Photovoltaic batteries and wind power are catering to the needs of African peoples. Agricultural areas have extended (and many reports say today that this is the continent which has the most important reserve of non used arable lands). There is many cycle paths and a network of high speed trains crossing over the continent. A high speed sleeper train allows you to reach N'Djamena from Cairo in just one night.

### **34 – Thanks for listening to me !**

Dystopia or utopia, nobody knows what the future times will be. I have tried to invent some hypothesis. Mapping tomorrow, mapping the future is first of all asking the present and questioning the deal of control we still have on events, even if the consequences of climate change should impose on us.

At any rate, similarities to future persons, world, living or dead, or future events described by the past or in our present, is purely coincidental.

I have prepared this talk during the summer and I would like to thank friends who have helped me to realize it, Jean Gabriel Delpuech et Pierre-Henri Cornuault, Geneviève Wallace and Stephen Salter who read along with me, trying to help translating what I wanted to tell you. I hope my maps have spoken better than I... Anyway thanks for listening to me, if you have any questions, maybe you can ask me in the both languages, or even Spanish ? I'll try to answer in my hesitating English...