

Visual Assignment 1

Requirements

Write a brief 250-500 word essay in response to the following topic. If necessary, you may slightly exceed the 500-word limit. Your essay should follow the usual rules of English grammar and spelling. For guidance on questions of style, consult the document labeled "Editing Suggestions," or Strunk and White or the [MIT Online Writing Communication Center](#).

Topic

Open the pdf entitled "Visual Assignment 1 Images," and study the three maps it contains. The first two were created in 1581 by Heinrich Bünting, a mapmaker in the Holy Roman Empire (which we today call "Germany"). Bünting also created the clover-leaf world map we looked at in class; all three images were part of an atlas of sorts he published that year entitled *Itinerarium Sacrae Scripturae*. The third map in the PowerPoint file is a Chinese world map that is roughly contemporary to Bünting's maps.

In your essay, explain why Bünting might have represented Europe as the Virgin Mary and Asia as Pegasus, the flying horse from classical Greek mythology. How do these representations compare to the contemporary Chinese world map?

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