

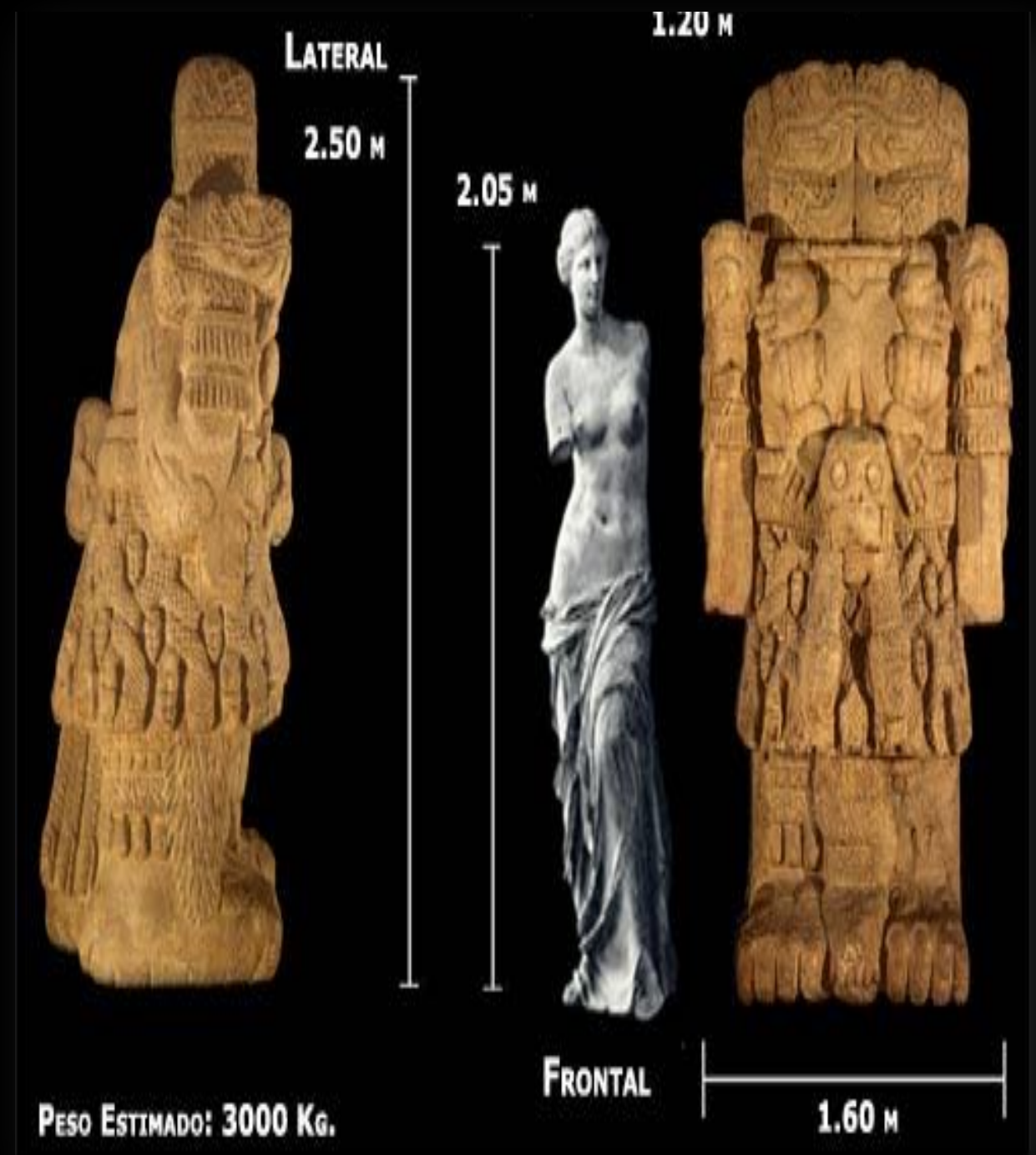
THE POWER OF IMAGES. VISUAL SOURCES IN HUMANITIES

II. VISUAL RESOURCES AND ART

Art

- **Definition of art:**

- „...úmyslné tvoření nebo konání, jehož výsledek nad jiné výtvary a výkony vyniká jistou hodnotou již při pouhém nazírání a vnímání, tj. hodnotou estetickou...“, *Ottův slovník naučný*, heslo Umění. Sv. 26, str. 170
- „The expression or application of human creative skill and imagination, typically in a visual form such as painting or sculpture, producing works to be appreciated primarily for their beauty or emotional power.“
The American Heritage College Dictionary, p. 76.

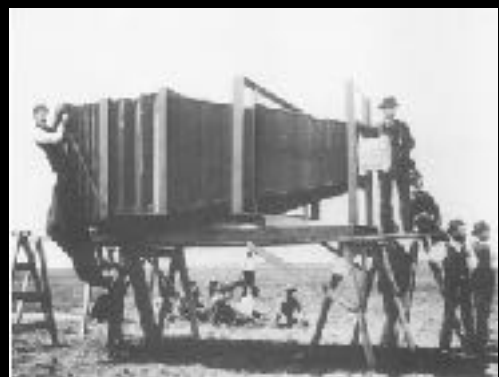


In history every can be used as historical evidence and can be served as such.

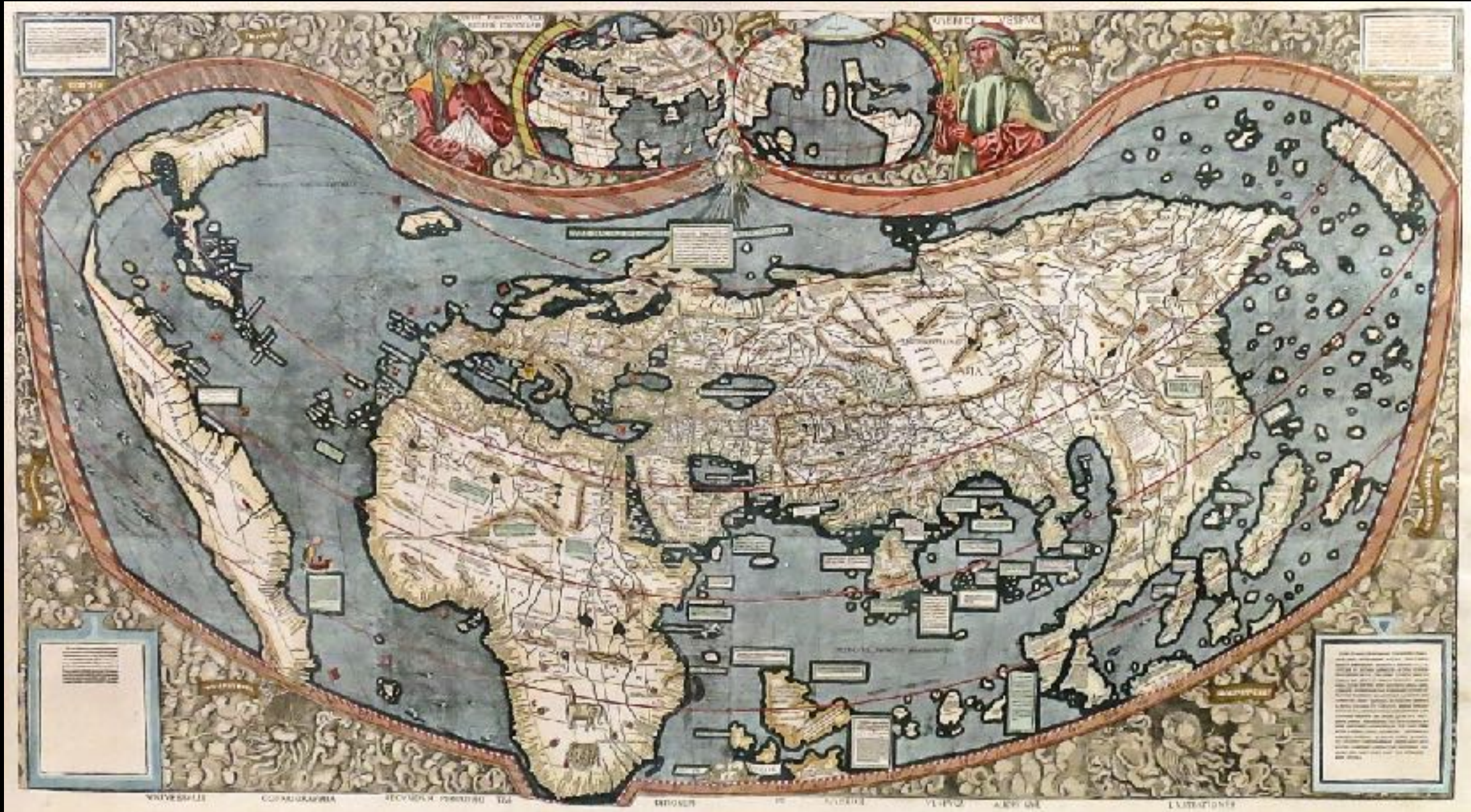


Visual Sources and Art

- 2 revolutions in image production in WW:
 1. 15th and 16th century - printed images
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ojyCDRc8uc>
 2. 19th and 20th century - photographs (including TV and film)
- Consequences of these revolutions:
 - black and white images replaced the coloured ones → detachment of the viewer, objectivization of the W
 - printed images and photographs are portable → actual and contemporary, globalization of the W
 - a huge quantum leap in the number of images → available to the ordinary people, easy or not to manipulate?
 - standardization and fixing of image forms



Example - Standardization of Maps



Conrad Waldsmüller, World Map, Universalis
Cosmographia, 1507



Pierre Desceliers, *World Map*, 1550



Sebastian Munster, *Map of the American continent*, coloured woodcut, Basle, Heinrich Petri, 1574.



Jodocus Hondius, *Map of the Americas*, c. 1640



Nicolas Saison, *Map of Northern America*, 1650



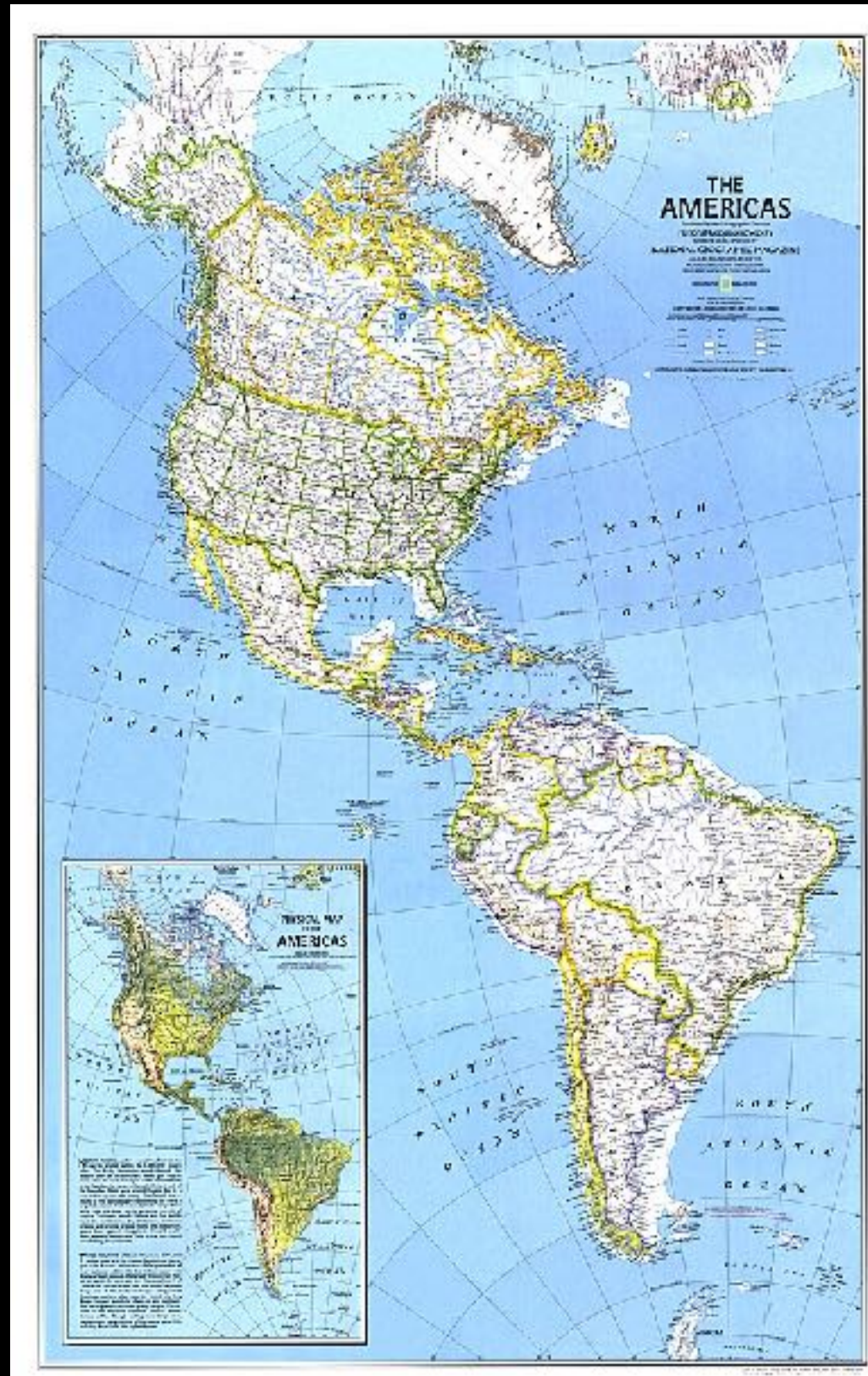
Dutch Map of Americas, 1700



Map of North America, 1811



Map of Central America, early 1900



Americas Map, National Geographic, 20th century

Example - medieval illuminated manuscripts

- **Mediavel Age**
 - individuals
 - ordinary people - art:
 - mural painting in churches
 - altarpieces
- **Nowadays**
 - reproductions and expositions

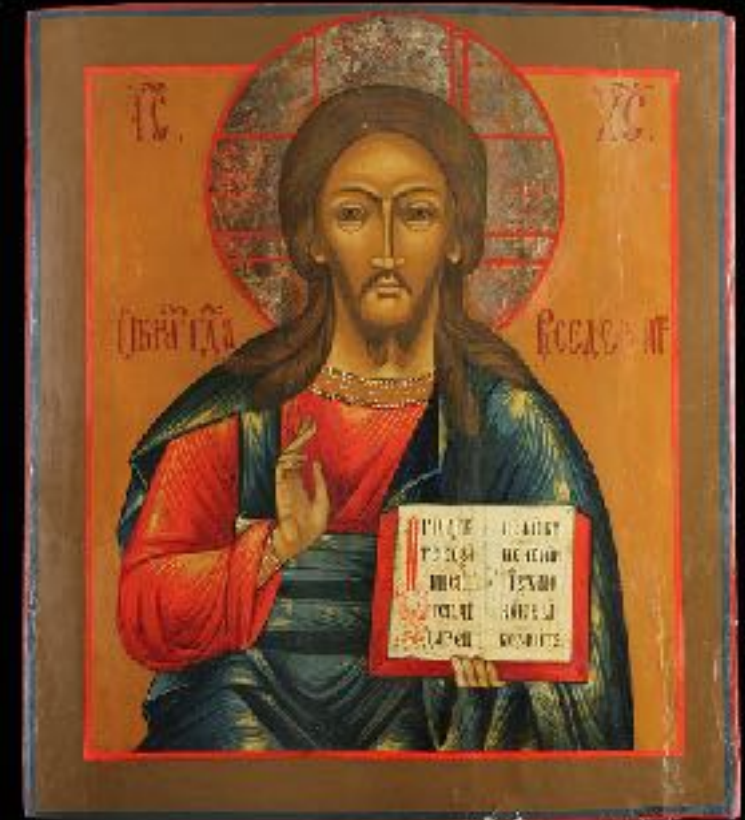
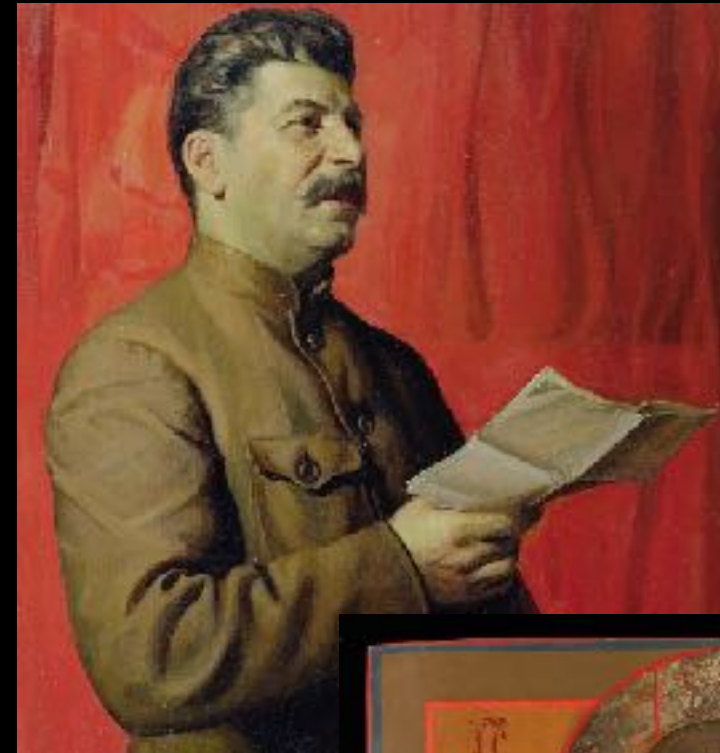


The Problem of Evaluating VS

- written documents - “sources” (as the source of truth), the true and/or objective histories of the past.
- !!! Every source is contaminated by a chain of intermediaries!!!!
- Some historians / “source” and suggest the use of other terms:
 - “traces”, Gustaaf Renier: any object that can be used as a trace of the past in the present (manuscripts, printed books, paintings or even clothes, buildings or furniture)
- Can we use the images as historical evidence?
- /Images have also influence on how we imagine the past

The “Source Criticisme” of VS

- !!!! Images are mute!!!
- The criticism of visual sources remains undeveloped!
- The testimony of images raises problems:
 - context
 - function
 - rhetoric
 - recollection
 - second-hand witnessing and so on...
- **!!! Some images are more reliable than others !!!**



Isaak Israilevich Brodsky, The Portrait of Stalin and Russian Icon

Example - Problem of Anachronism



Placido Costanzi, *Alexander The Great Founding Alexandria*



Wilem Van Haecht, *Alexander The Great Visiting the Studio of Apelles*



Rembrandt van Rijn, *Alexander the Great*



Charles de la Fosse, *Alexander The Great Hunting Lions*

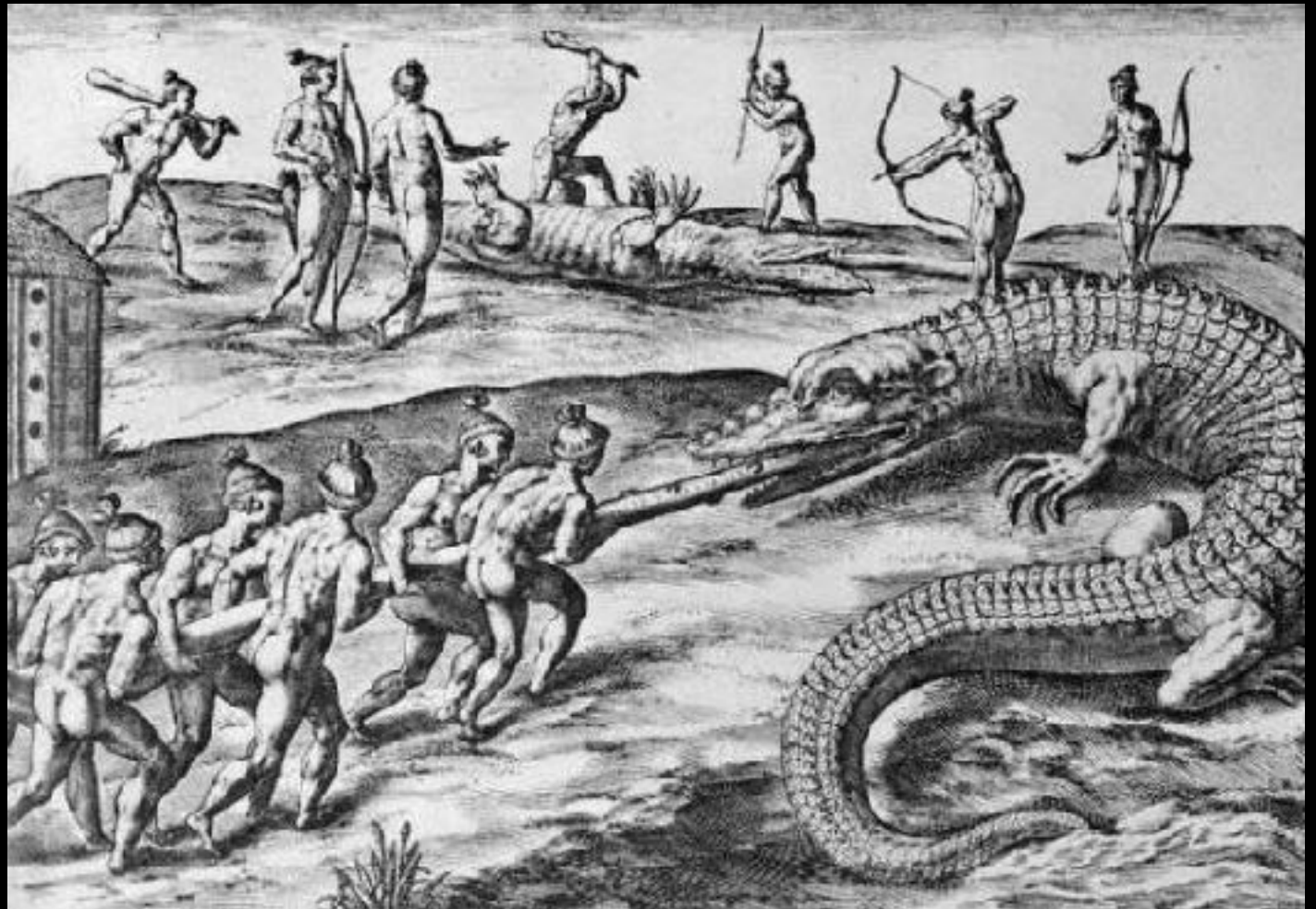


Gioacchino Assereto, *Phocion Refuses The Gifts of Alexander The Great*

Example - Theodor de Bry

- Author of well known paintings illustrating the New World/He has never been there
- Black Legend
- Catholicism/Protestantism
- struggle of European powers to rule the world
- His origin and position





Example - Sketches and Paintings



Eugene Delacroix, *The Women of Algiers*, study, 10x13 cm, Louvre, 1832



Eugene Delacroix, *The Women in Algiers in Their Harem*, oil on canvas, 1843



Eugene Delacroix, *The Women in Algiers in Their Apartment*, oil on canvas, 1843

Example - “Eyewitness Principle”, E. Gombrich



Jan van Eyck, *The Arnolfini Portrait*, oil on oak panel, National Gallery, London, 1434

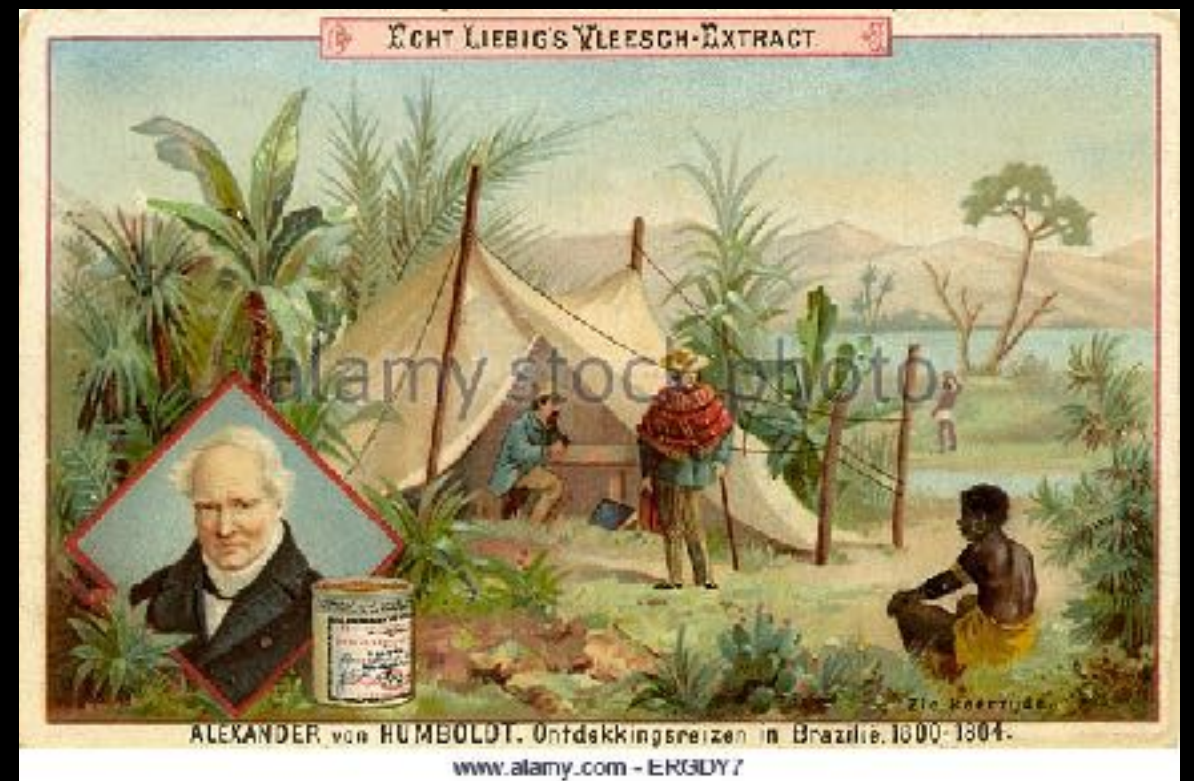




Handwritten text in a Gothic script, likely a Latin inscription:
Johannes de eyck fuit hic
1432

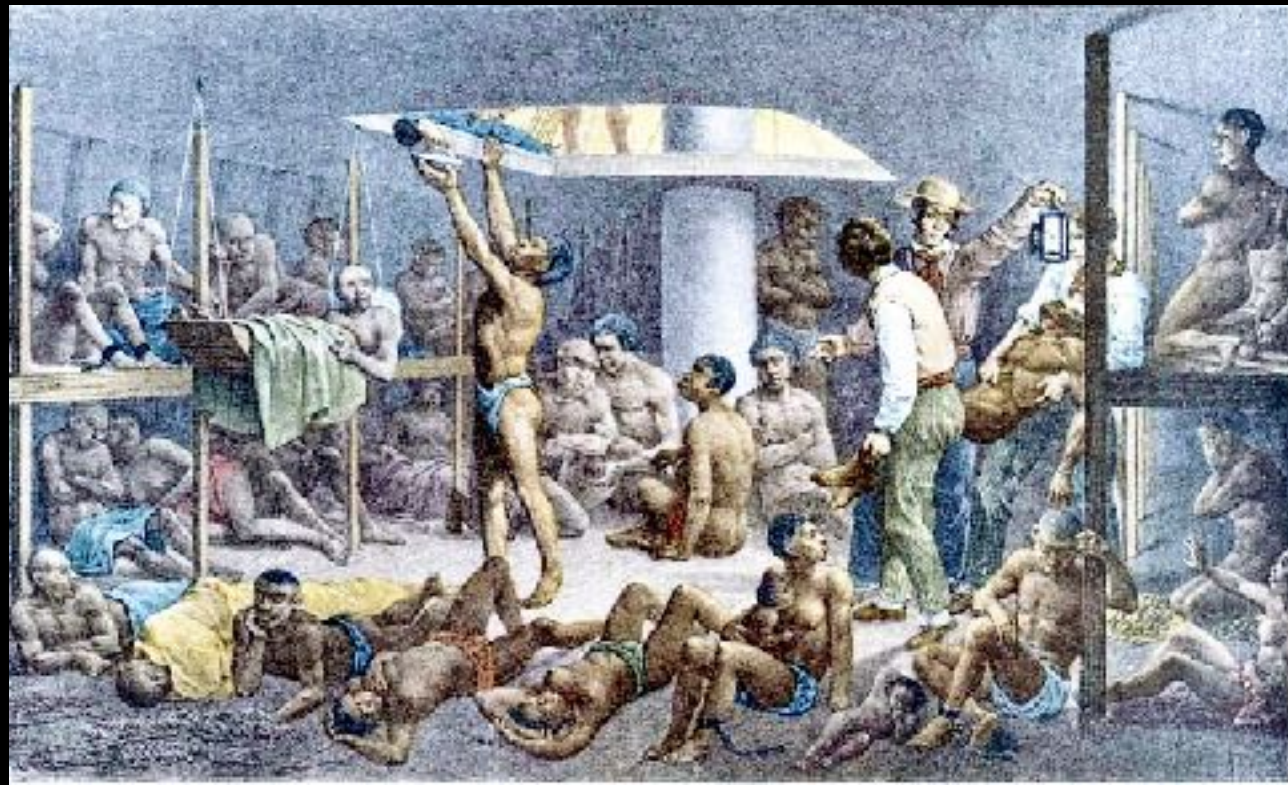
Documentary Art

- 18/19th century: documentary/ ethnographic art
- Expeditions (Humboldt Expedition, Malaspina Expedition...)
- War painters, painters-reporters



Alexander von Humboldt's Discovery Expedition in Brazil, 1800-1804

Example - Johan Moritz Rugendas



- **For the next lecture:** think about the representations of Indians and blacks and make a list of possible reasons and references.