Mapping Data: Creating and Interpreting Historical Maps

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Your tasks in this assignment are:

3. To report 1950 and 1970 statistics on Boston’s non-white populations in a visual format - by mapping it. The census bureau collected this data by surveying Boston’s 16 Cultural Planning Districts. The Boston Redevelopment Authority created these districts to plan “and develop activities of the city.” Socio-economic data for Boston neighborhoods “are presented based on this geographic frame.”¹ The map below depicts the Cultural Planning Districts.²

In this packet, you will find census data for 1950 and 1970. You will use this data to create two maps, one for 1950 and 1970. You may have to express the statistics as percentages. If you need help calculating percentages, speak with me.

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² Ibid.
Be sure to provide a “key” to what you have mapped. To better understand the function of a key, please see the key to the map below. Depicted are Boston racial/ethnic demographics for 2010.³

2. After you create your two maps, please:

   a. Compare the data on both maps. Notice what remained the same over the 20-year-period and what changed.

   b. Identify one or two important changes in the racial composition of Boston’s Cultural Planning Districts in the period from 1950 to 1970.

   c. Hypothesize about how these changes may have shaped arguments for and against busing as a method of integrating schools.

3. Write a one-page, double-spaced essay that reports out your findings, analysis of the findings and hypothesis.

**Attached please find:**

2. Two blank maps – one for 1950 and another for 1970. You will use these to report the statistical data.

**Statistical Data**

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**The municipality labeled Model City is Roxbury. See definition of Model City below.**

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Boston’s Model City Program (1967-1977) originated in federal legislation enacted in 1966. Congress sought to improve the lives of urban people by “concentrate[ing] public and private resources for a
five-year period on experimental projects attacking . . . problems in poor and neglected neighborhoods of participating cities.”

**Boston Cultural Planning Districts: 1950**

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6 City of Boston Archives. Model Cities Administration records. [https://archives.boston.gov/repositories/2/resources/544](https://archives.boston.gov/repositories/2/resources/544).