



The Glory of the Kingdom

Points, lines and surfaces: these are what make up a road map today. The points serve to circumscribe natural landmarks or towns. The lines provide an indication of distances and the shape of rivers, highways or roads. The surfaces can represent large cities, parks or forests. These maps show scale and sizes through visual variables. The points and the circles expand and shrink based on the elements they represent. It is a rationalized hierarchy, which is similarly demonstrated in a 16th-century painting of the city of Nuremberg. The city was in full economic expansion, and it is shown in the middle of the forest, isolated and proud behind its fortress. The city grew in influence when Emperor Sigismund entrusted it with the protection of the Treasury, the royal insignia, the crown jewels and a collection of relics. A commercial hub, the city was also located at the center of numerous trade routes to the Balkans, Vienna, Antwerp, Venice, Prague and Strasbourg.

*Germany. View of Nuremberg with the
Schald and Lorenz forests. by Erhard
Erlaub. (1613. Germanisches National
Museum, Nuremberg, Germany.)*