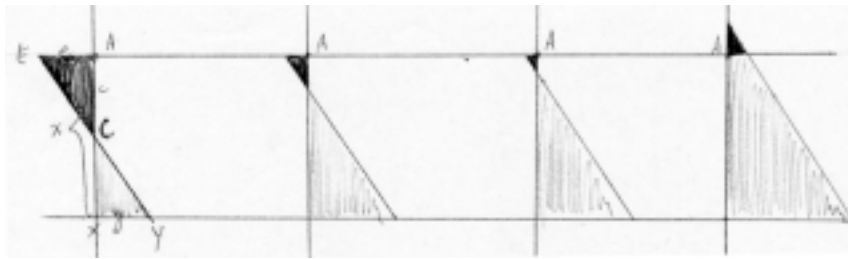


FIGURE 3



What is a point in the real world then?

Let's take a look at the problem of trying to divide the nation-state:

We begin with the nation-state itself, which was born as an expression of scientific breakthroughs in natural law, i.e., a body of people most closely organized according to the same principles as the universe itself, a self-governing, self-bounded entity. Now ask yourself how one could go about dividing the nation-state such that each part maintains the same sovereignty as the whole; or, as Leibniz put it, "because it [matter] is divided without end, every part into other parts, each one of which must have its own proper motion. Otherwise, it would be impossible for each portion of matter to express all the universe" (*Monadology*).

The United States has 50 states, each with its own internal government, transportation system, power systems, agriculture, etc., and yet, each an integral part of the nation-state as a whole. The next such

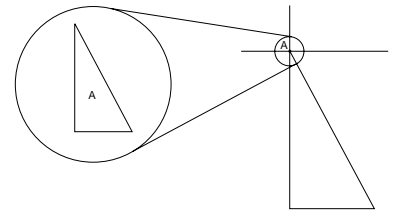
division is the county, and the city, with its own teachers, engineers, merchants, etc. Then we have the household, and finally, the individual citizen. The individual citizen is a sovereign entity, with the mind as its governing apparatus, and all its organs and arteries, which serve their own separate functions, but governed by a single intention, to serve the whole; an entire nation-state within one individual . . . or, is it the other way around? Has the nation-state been organized like the individual?! Such that the more diverse the occupations (organs), the more complex and efficient the operation of the whole; and each citizen, like the cells that make up all the parts of the body, are specialized but express one intention, the betterment of that whole.

To more clearly show the political attack by the mathematically imprisoned Euler, let's put him in power. How would he divide the nation-state?

Here we go:

Divide the country into North and

FIGURE 4



South sections. Then into Northeast, Northwest, Southwest, and Southeast, by drawing a line down the center vertically, then into eighths, sixteenths, and so on to infinity. (Figure 5)

Be careful not to get in the way, this may get bloody.

—Liona Fan-Chiang

Notes

1. Try it! Take a line and divide it into 10 parts:

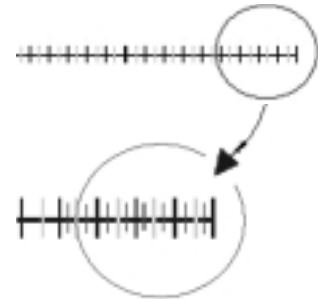


Then, take each part and divide it in half:



Now, these segments in turn can be divided in half again, and again, and again, into infinity, or until you get tired (you may need a laser).

In fact, no matter how small the segment gets, as long as it has any length, you could just get a magnifying glass and keep on dividing. "Hence it is affirmed that all extension is divisible to infinity; and this property is denominated divisibility in infinitum."



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FIGURE 5

