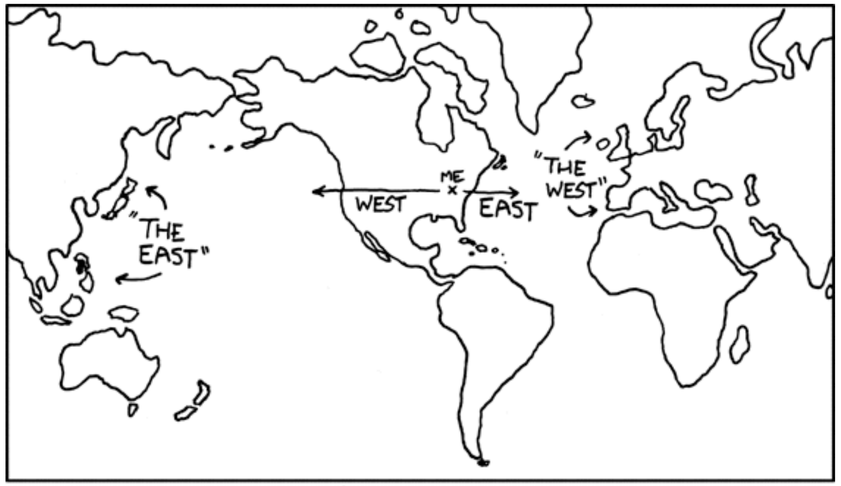
CS171 Visualization

Alexander Lex
alex@seas.harvard.edu

Maps



THIS ALWAYS BUGGED ME.

[xkcd]

HARVARD
School of Engineering
and Applied Sciences

Homework 2 Review

Grade Distribution

Average Grade: 7.74

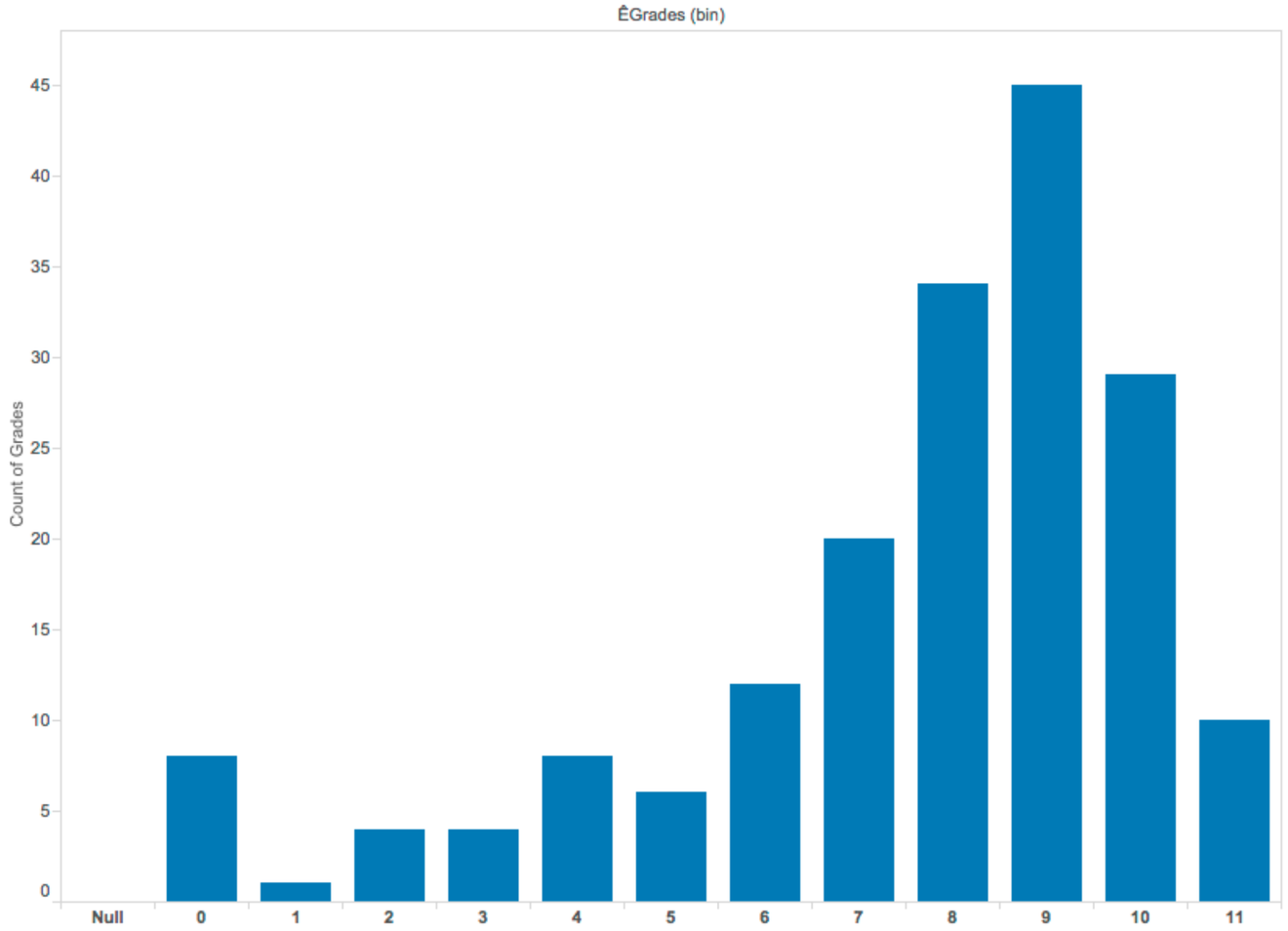
P1: 9.06

P2: 8.30

P3: 8.18

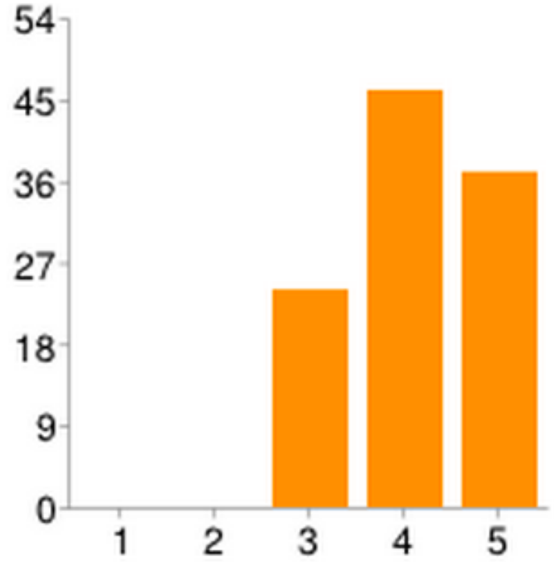
P4: 6.81

Average Time Spent: 35h



Difficulty

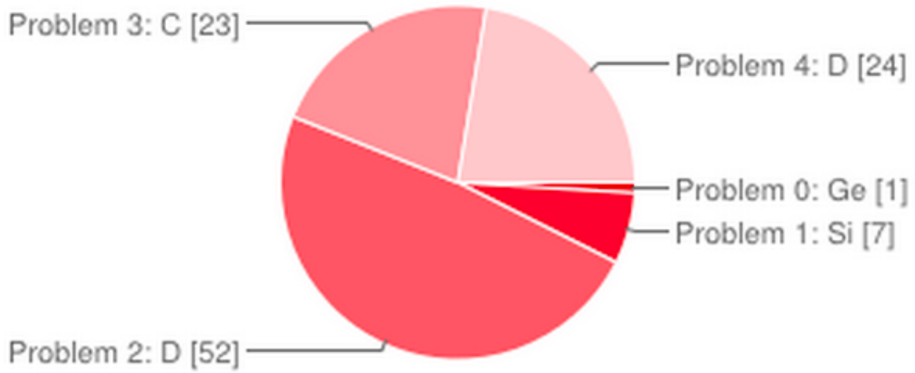
How difficult did you find the homework overall?



1	**0**	0%
2	**0**	0%
3	**24**	22.4%
4	**46**	43%
5	**37**	34.6%

Time

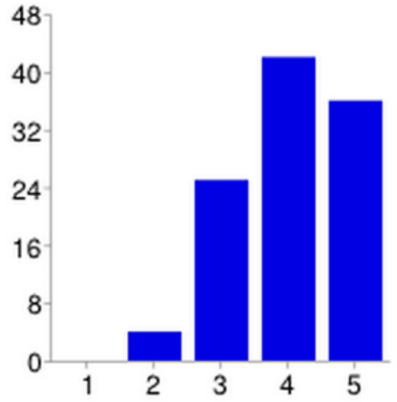
What part of HW2 did you spend the most time on?



Problem 0: Getting Started (Questions)	**1**	0.9%
Problem 1: Simple Layouts	**7**	6.5%
Problem 2: Diving into D3 Layouts	**52**	48.6%
Problem 3: Connecting Countries	**23**	21.5%
Problem 4: Design Studio & Implementation	**24**	22.4%

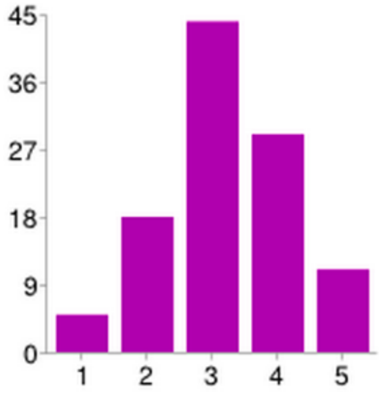
Difficulty

In general, how difficult are you finding the course?



1	**0**	0%
2	**4**	3.7%
3	**25**	23.4%
4	**42**	39.3%
5	**36**	33.6%

How helpful do you find the sections for the homework?



1	**5**	4.7%
2	**18**	16.8%
3	**44**	41.1%
4	**29**	27.1%
5	**11**	10.3%

Maps

Principles

Special type of Spatial Data

Use maps when spatial relationships are paramount

Map Tasks:

- Find Location / Feature (county, country, city, street)
- Find Route
- Identify attribute associated with location (elevation, land/water, GDP)
- Compare attributes between Locations/Features

Map Projections

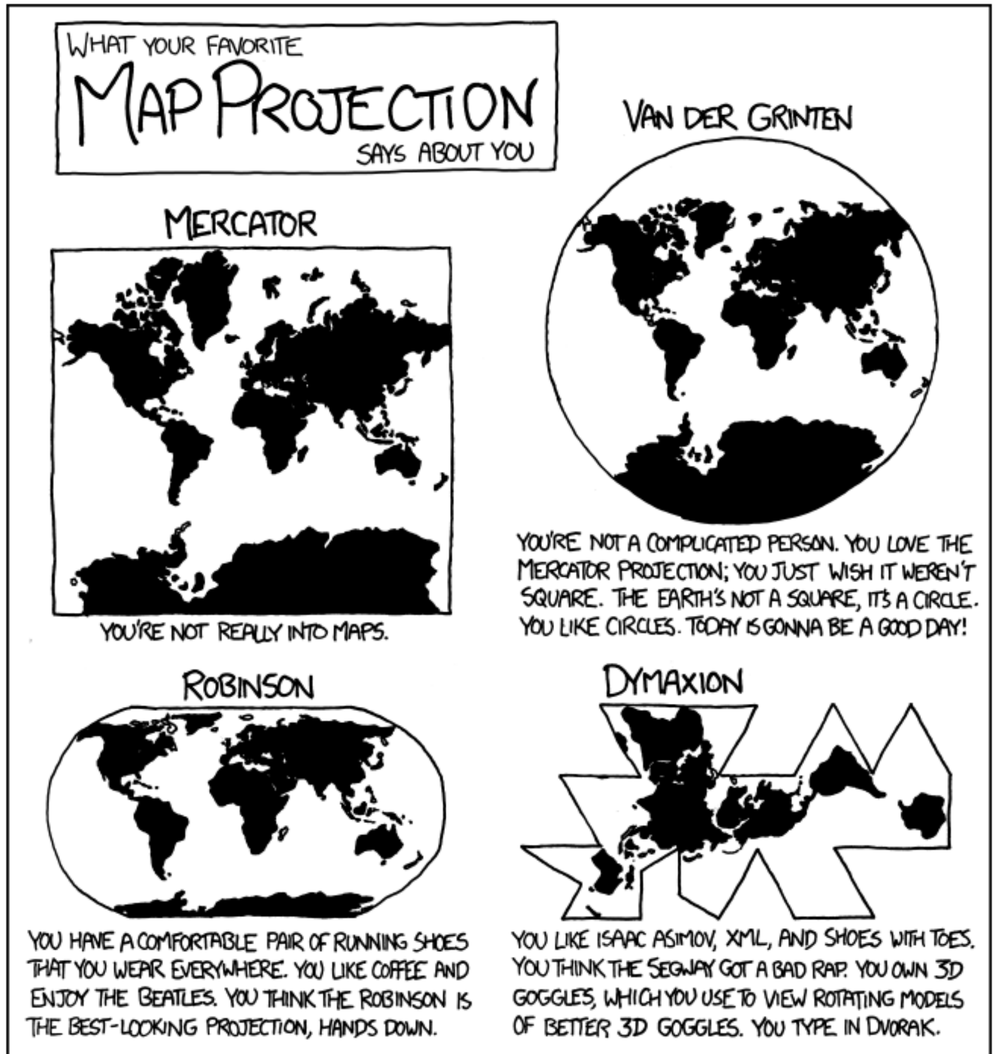
Why projections?

Earth is a (flattened) Sphere

Need to project or “unfold” the hull of the sphere to fit onto paper/ screens

Relevant attributes:

Area, Shape, Direction, Bearing, Distance, Scale



Mercartor Projection

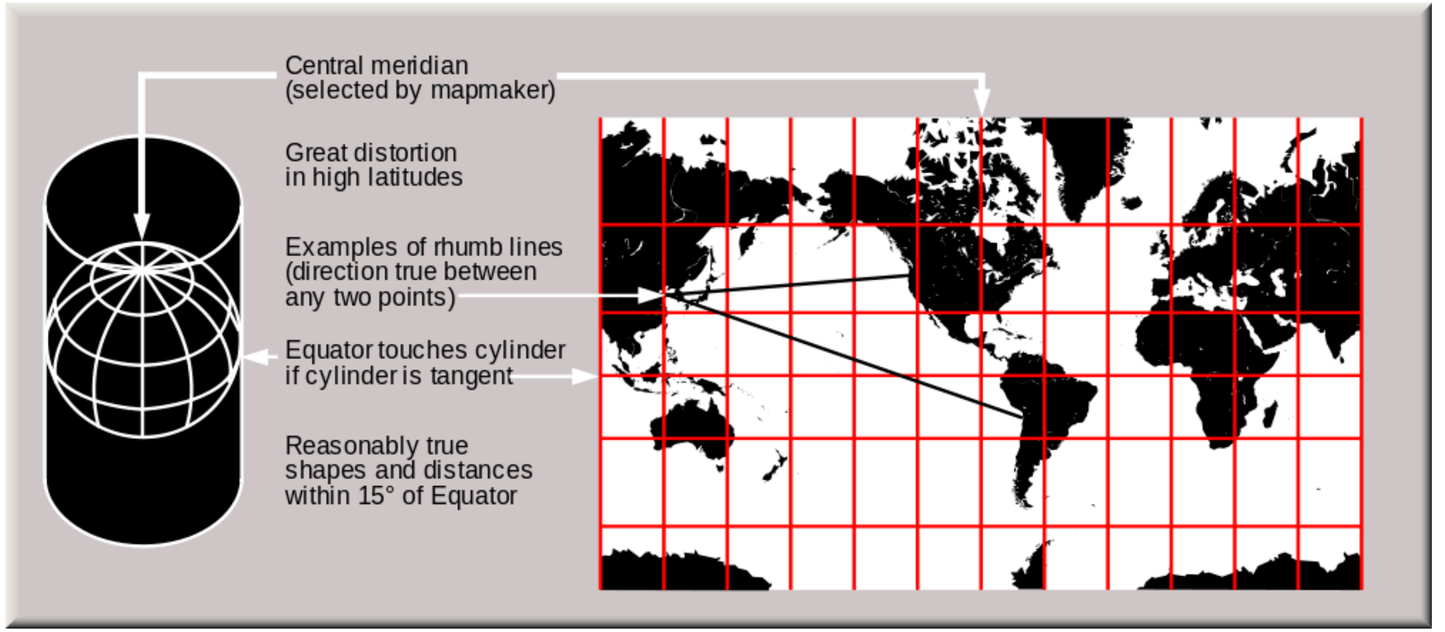
Gerardus Mercator, 1569

Projection onto a cylinder wrapped around the globe

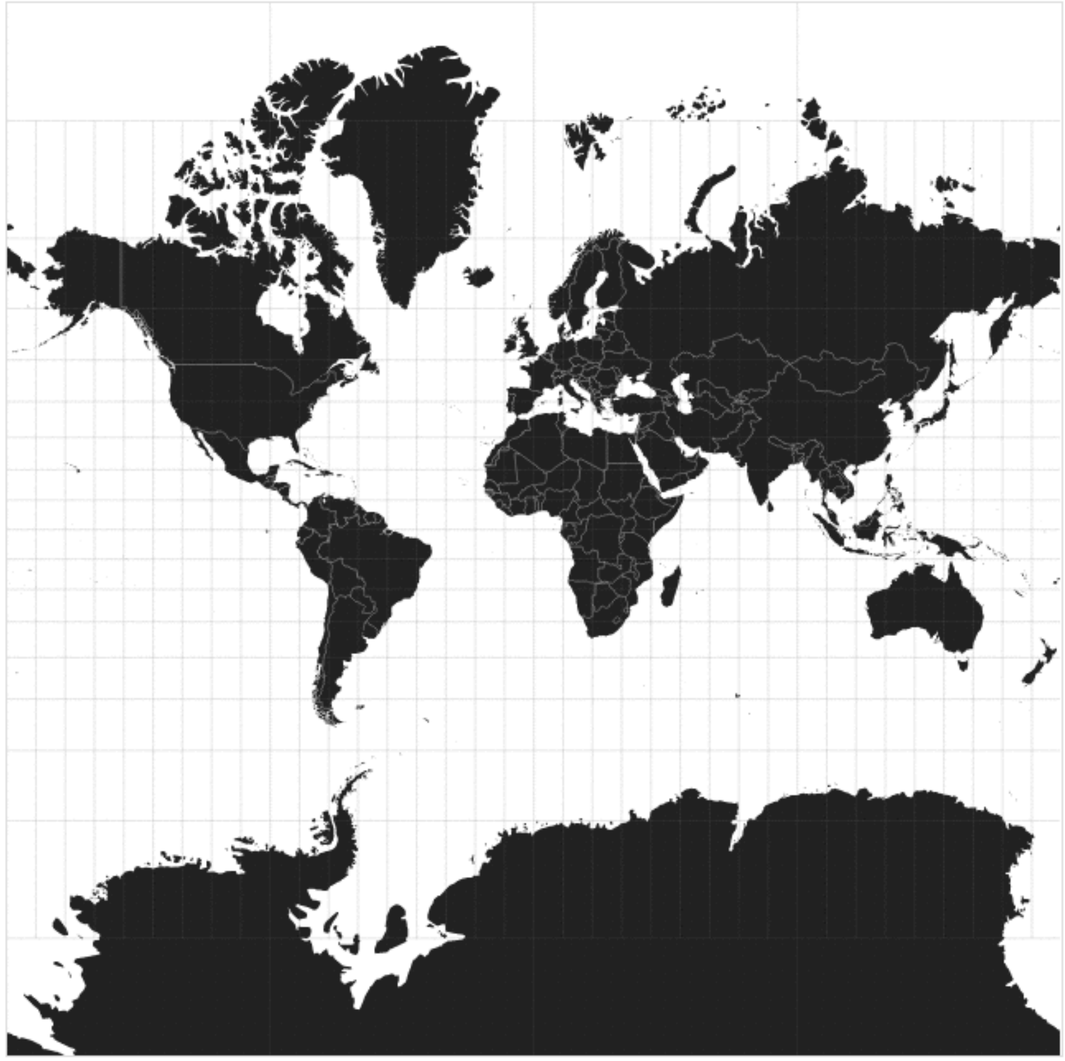
conformal map projection; that is, angles are preserved.

All lines of constant bearing are straight lines.

Constant bearing means constant compass heading - developed for sailors

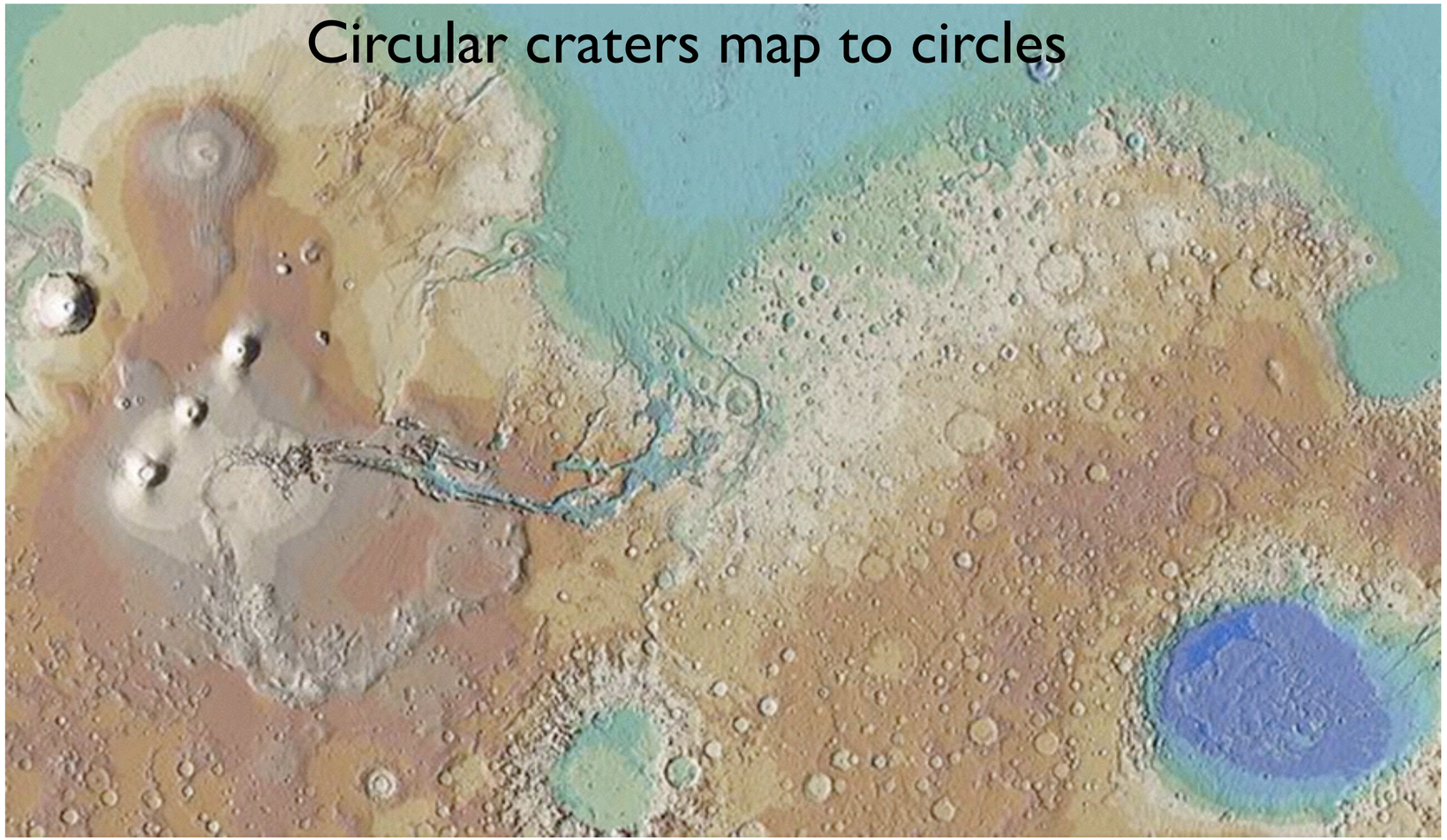


Mercator Projection



D3 / M. Bostock

Mercator Projection of Mars



Based on slide from Hanrahan

Why Mercator is Problematic

Traditional map, used to teach geography

Massive distortion of area distant from equator

“unfair to the Global South, making places that are mostly trees, snow, and better-off white people look huge, and the places where most of the world’s population lives look puny"

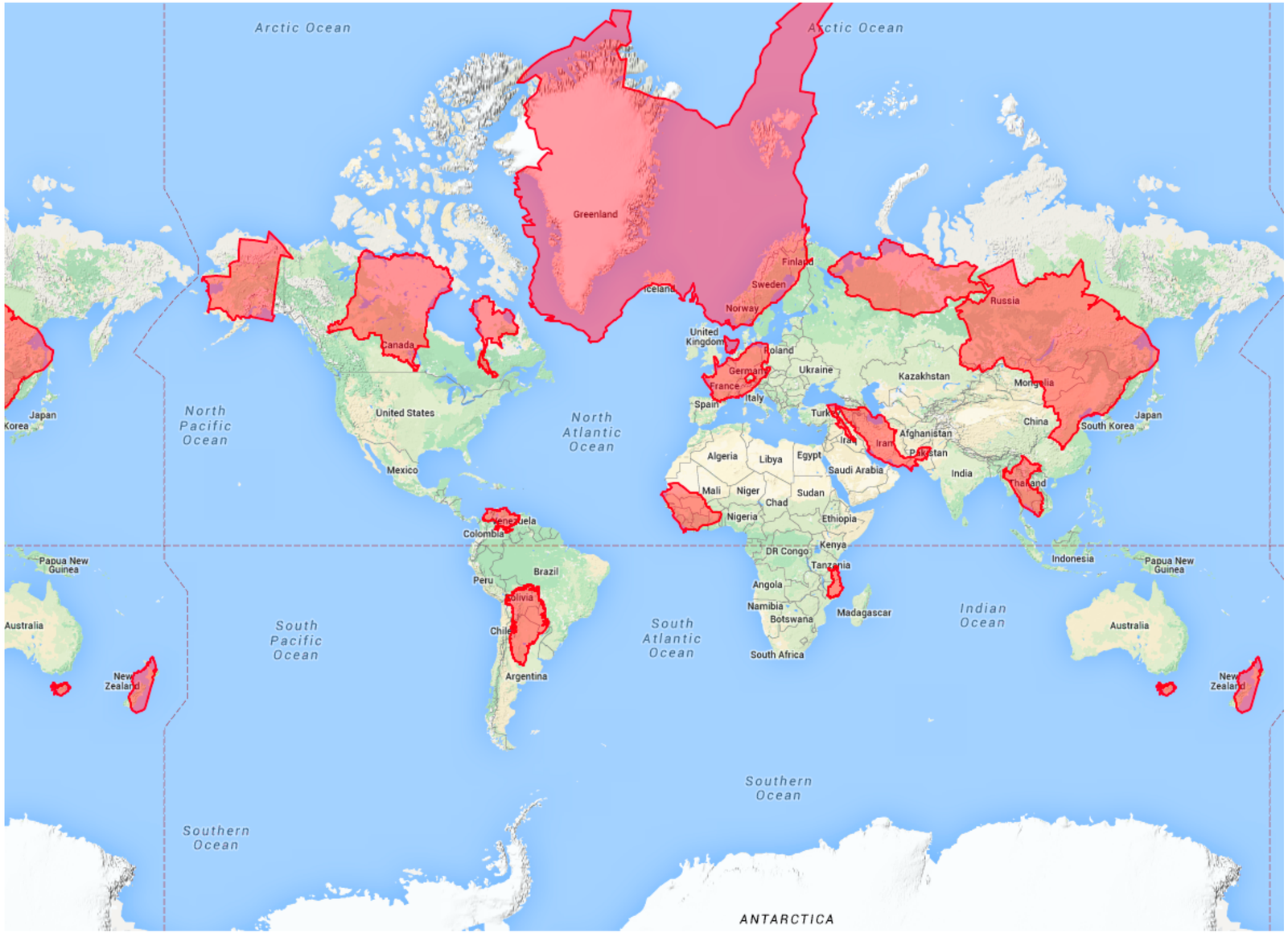
http://giscollective.org/slippy-map-projections-explained/

Mercartor Projection

Mercator works really great if you're, say, Ferdinand Magellan looking for a compass bearing that will take you around Cape Horn, because all of the latitude and longitude lines and angles in between lay out nice and straight on the map like we experience them in real life. It also works well if you're Google and you want a map image that you can neatly slice up into little squares that your server sends to a customer's browser. North is always up, your hometown doesn't look squished or slanted when you zoom in to it, and everybody's happy.

http://giscollective.org/slippy-map-projections-explained/

Mercartor Puzzle

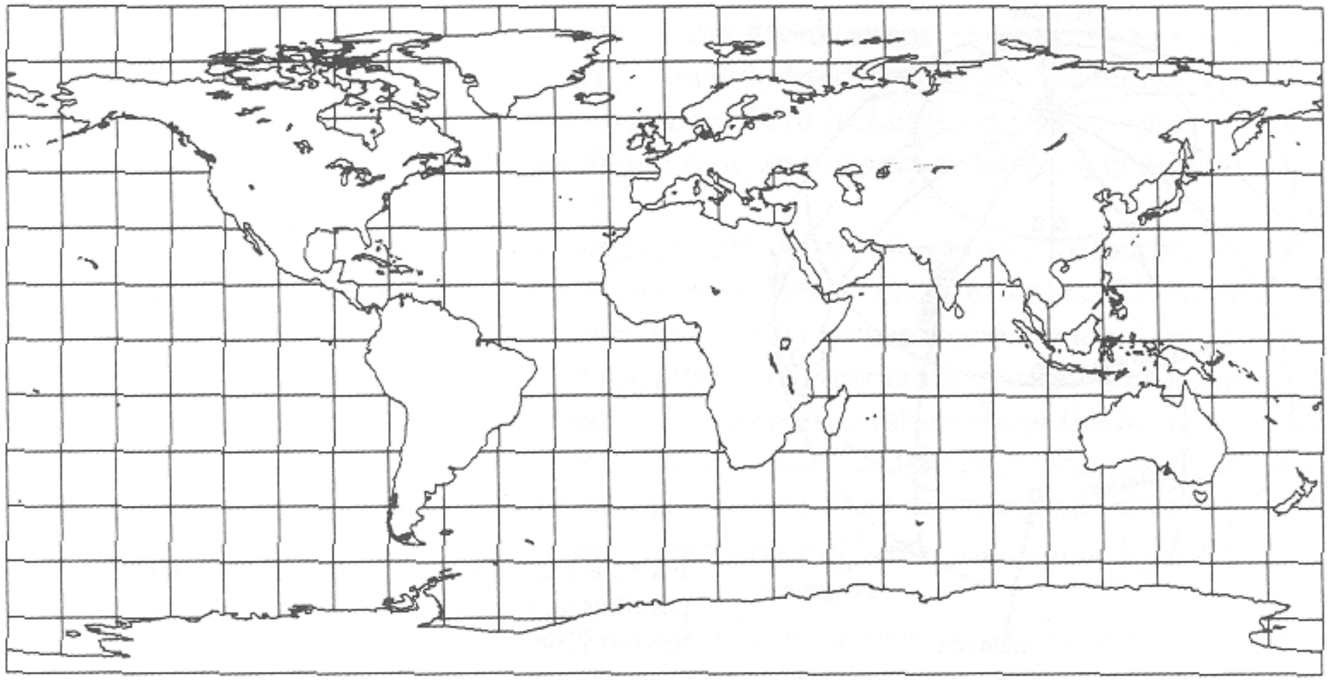


Latitude-Longitude

Does not preserve angles

Does not preserve areas

Things are squashed
at the top and bottom



Snyder, "Flattening the Earth"
Based on slide from Hanrahan

Azimuthal Projections

Radical Cartography

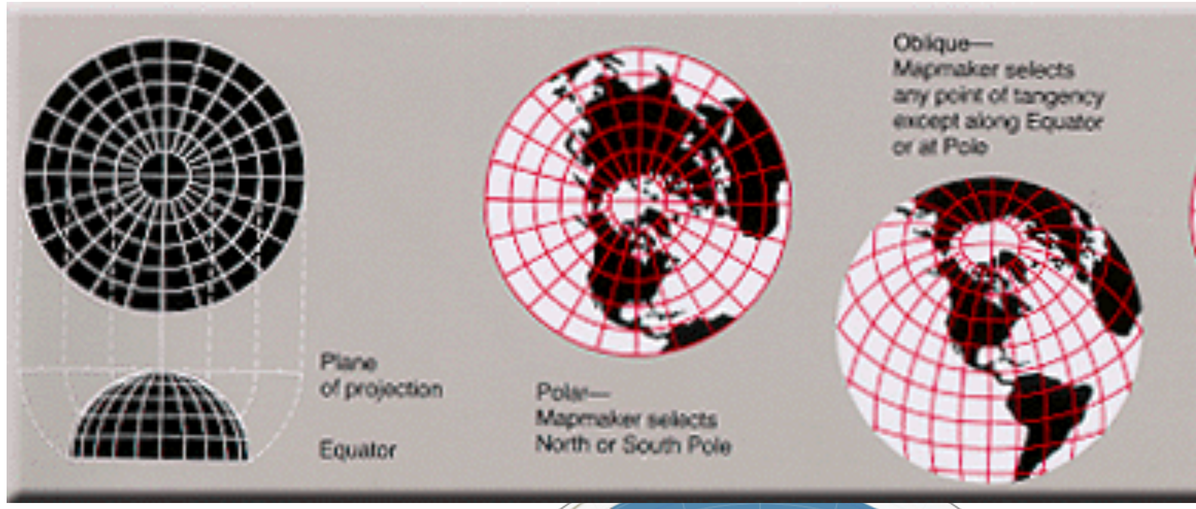
Projection onto a plane tangent to the Earth

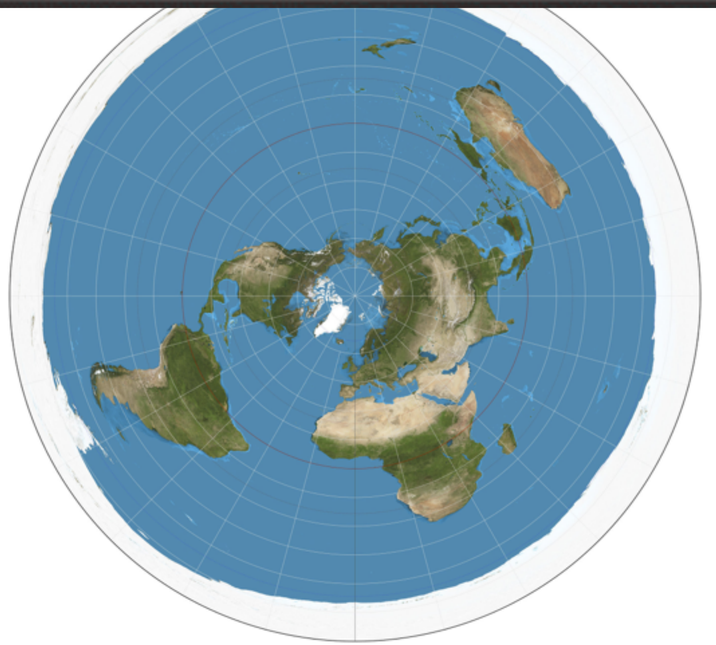
angles are correct around the center point

Great circles through the center are straight lines

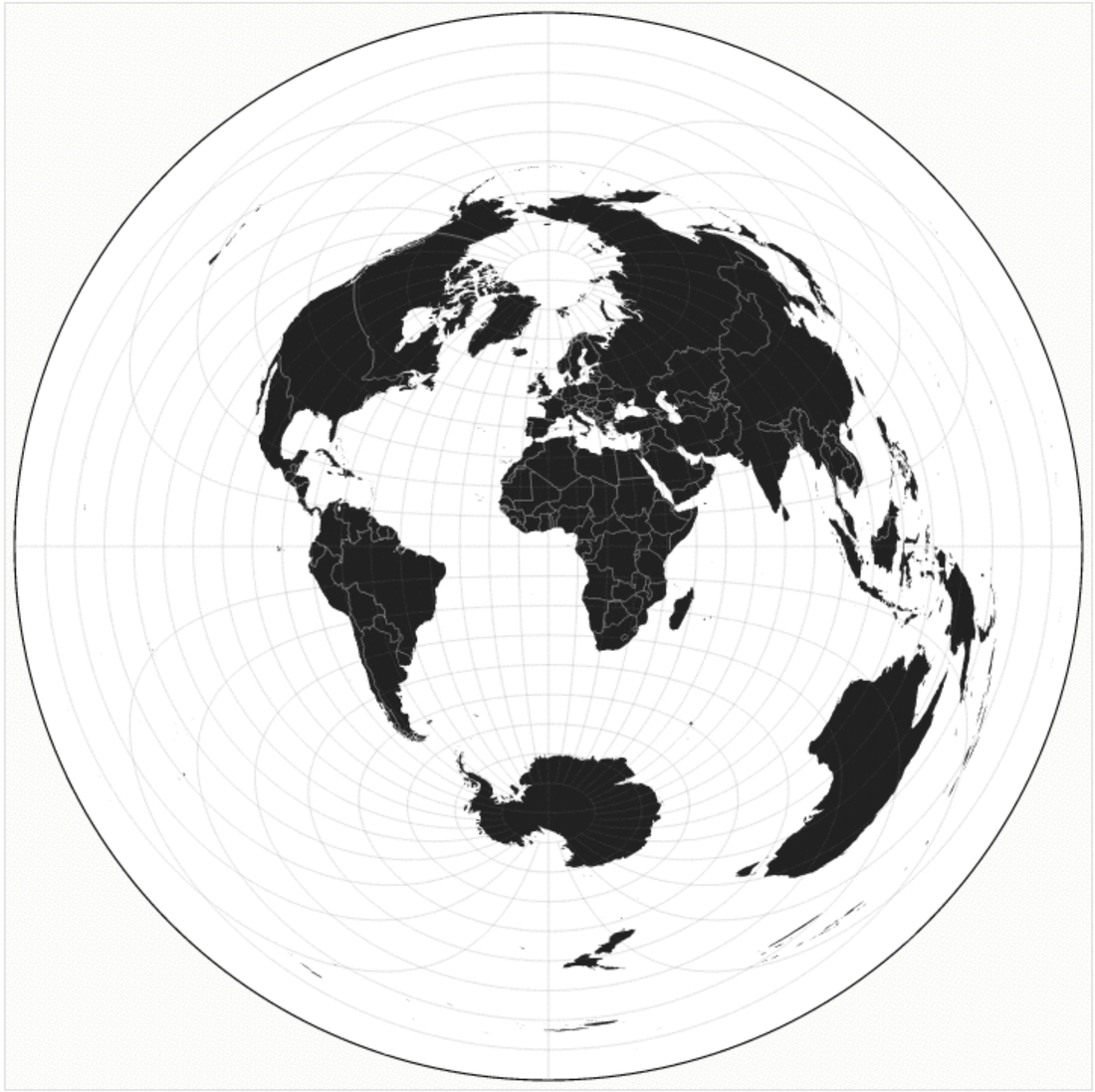
Radii correspond to true distances

Sometimes see this in airline magazine centered around the hub

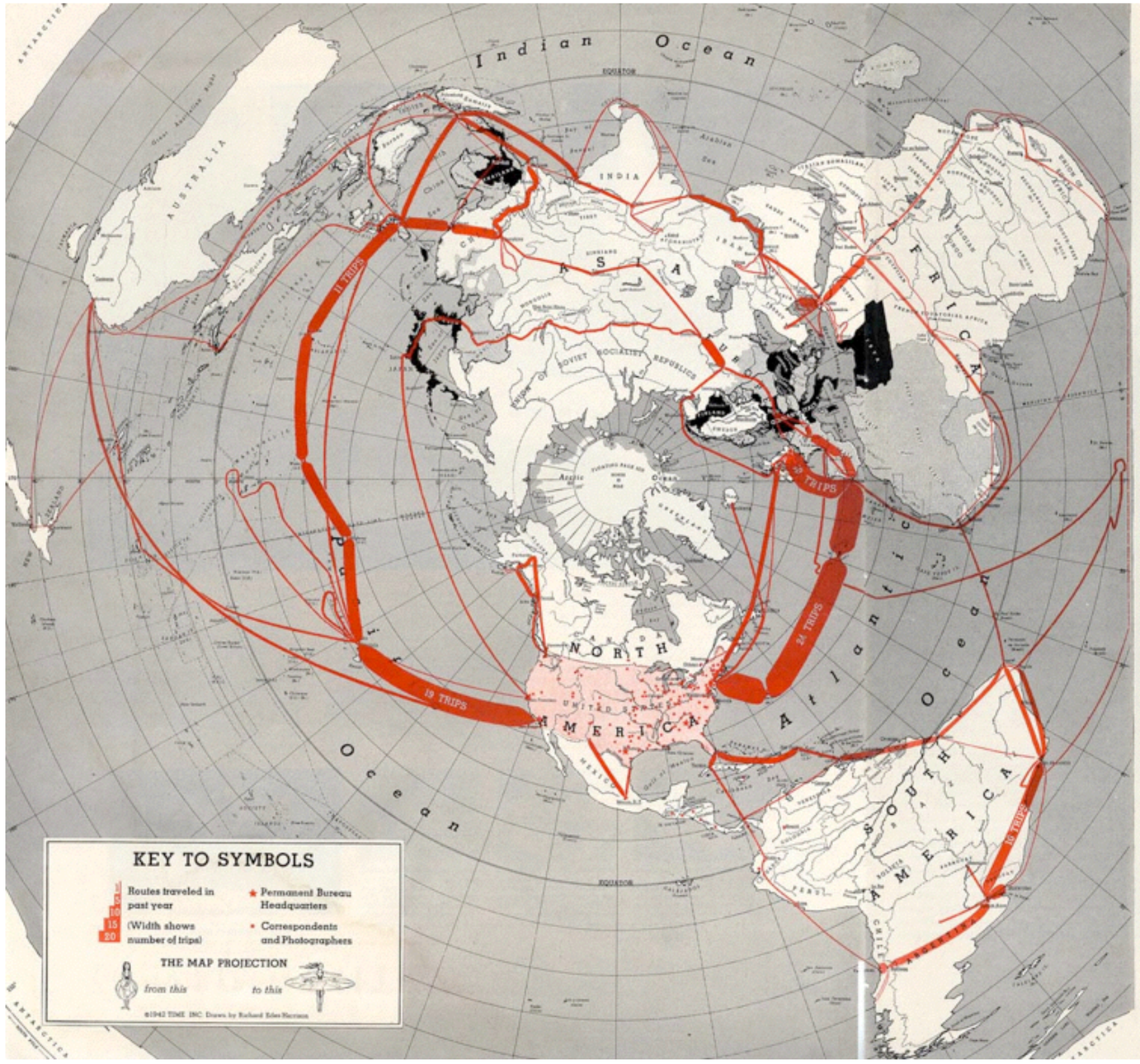




Azimuthal Equidistant



D3 / M. Bostock



ON ASSIGNMENT

In Reykjavik and Rio, New Delhi and Khartoum, Calcutta, Capetown, Sydney and Suva, as you read this—in every troubled news-corner of the globe—are one or more of the 300 special correspondents who work for TIME, LIFE and FORTUNE. In the past twelve months alone, their assignments carried them the 1,505,000 miles you see plotted on this map.

Some of these people are reporters, some photographers, some researchers. Two were on an American cruiser off Hawaii when the Japs blasted Pearl Harbor. Two more were in Manila on December 7, now are interned by the Japanese in ancient Santo Tomas University. Still another managed to make Corregidor from the mainland, filed almost daily dispatches all through January and February, last reported that he had finally reached Australia in safety, joined three other TIME – LIFE – FORTUNE correspondents there. Two of these men had made the trip to Australia in a troop ship with an AEF convoy; the third had arrived on a grimy freighter, he its only passenger, high explosives its only cargo.

But this is not a map of adventure. Rather it is an attempt to visualize a hard-working, world-wide research organization—the News and Picture Bureaus of TIME, LIFE and FORTUNE.

The real significance of the map grows out of the hundreds of fact-finding assignments it represents—the millions of words filed—the stories documented with photos, the weeks and months of observation and analysis it plots.

Eighty thousand of the 1,505,000 miles of travel plotted on the map, for example, were covered by Correspondent Allan Michie. The dispatches he filed from Cairo, Tehran, Simla, Singapore, Batavia and Manila were the basis of news stories in the columns of TIME. Documented with pictures taken by a Picture Bureau photographer in the Middle East, several of his pieces ran in LIFE. Back in New York, he assembled the threads of his experiences and first-hand knowledge on the broad pattern of world strategy into the story of *The Coming Battle for Asia* that appeared in FORTUNE for March.

This same mechanism functions similarly as Walter Graebner, head of the London office, returns to New York to report on the European situation for TIME and LIFE and write the story of *British Politics and the War* for the April FORTUNE—as Sherry Mangan heads back from Buenos Aires via Santiago, Lima and Panama — as correspondents file their dispatches from Ireland, Alaska, India and Bataan . . .

These and three hundred other men like them are a part of the world-wide news and picture organization which is constantly serving your editors, with spot news, with background information, with well-documented research.

TIME—LIFE—FORTUNE

Winkel Tripel Projection

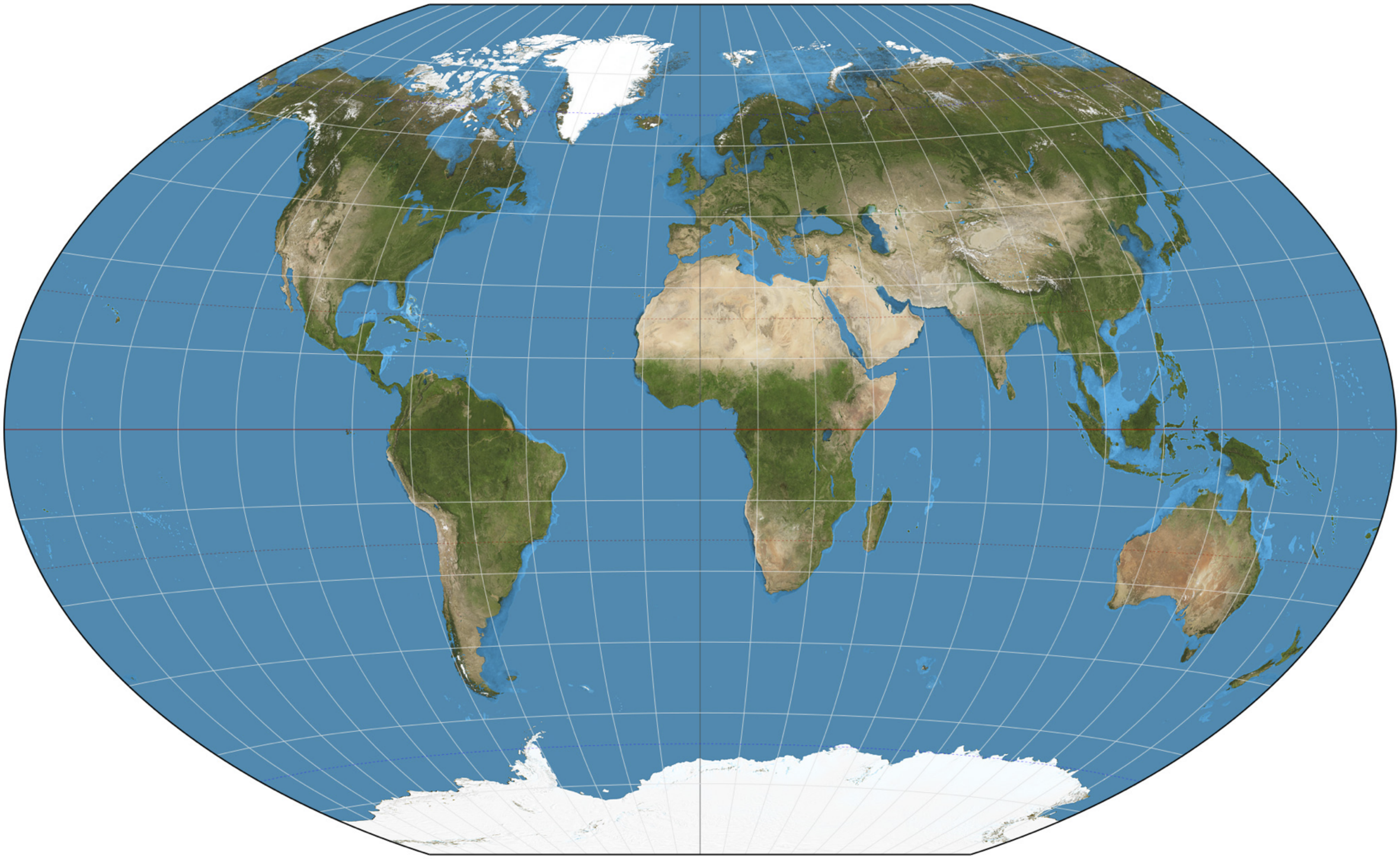
Modified azimuthal map projection

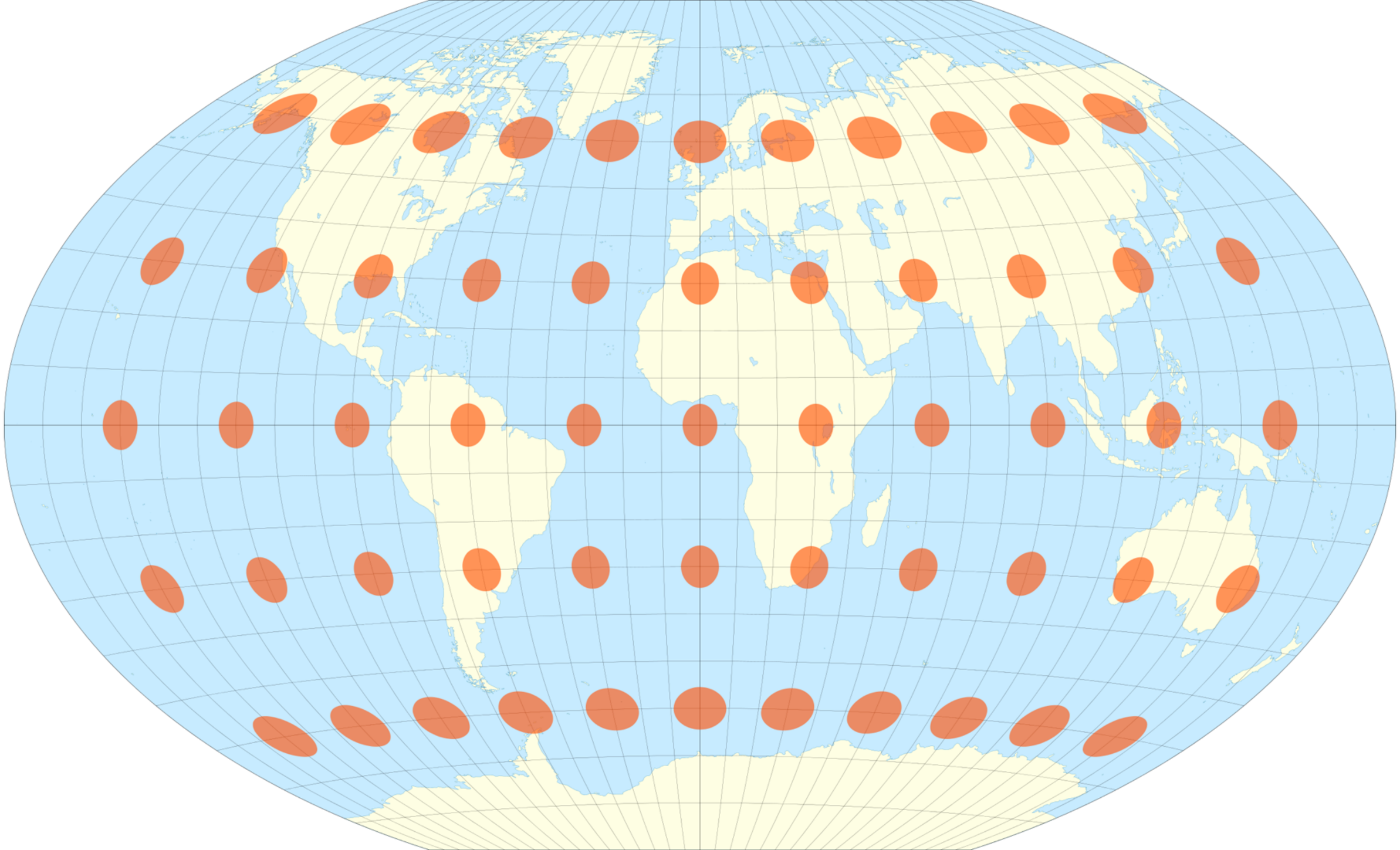
averaged to cylindrical projection

Minimizing three kinds of distortion:

- area
- direction
- distance

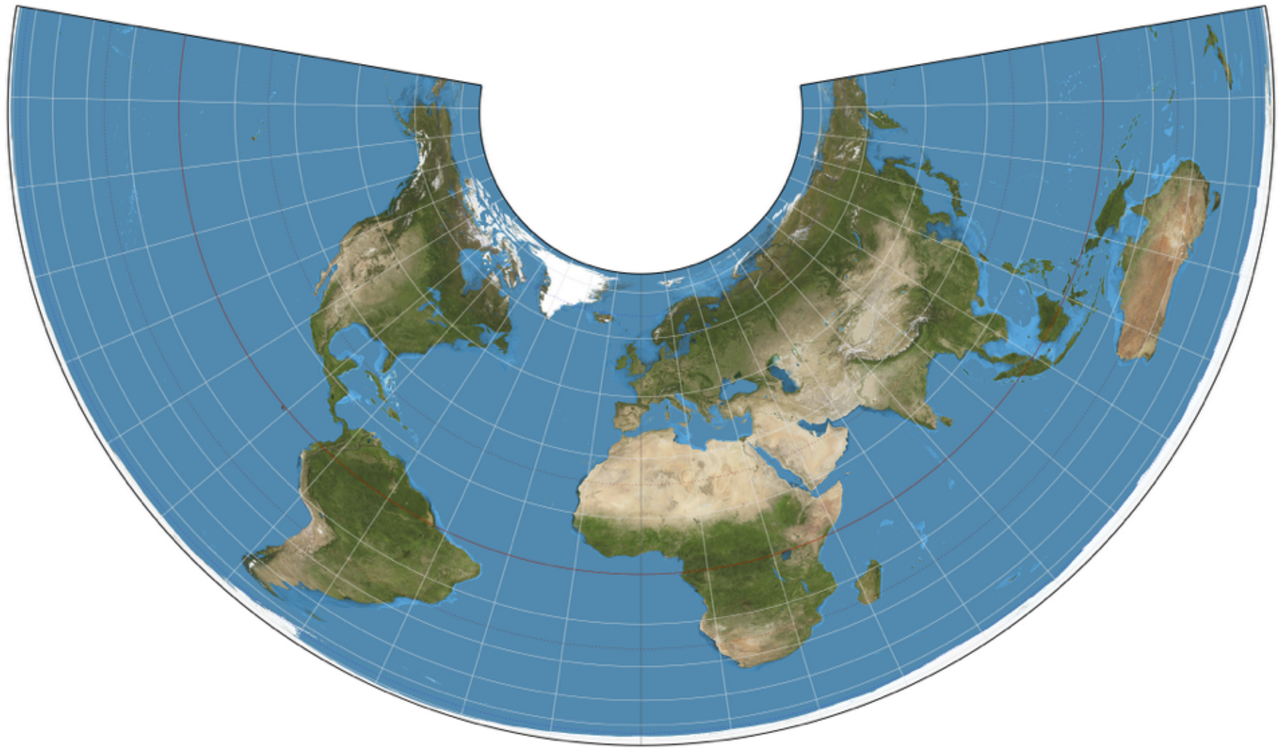
Considered good projection for world maps, endorsed by National Geographic Society, used in Textbooks

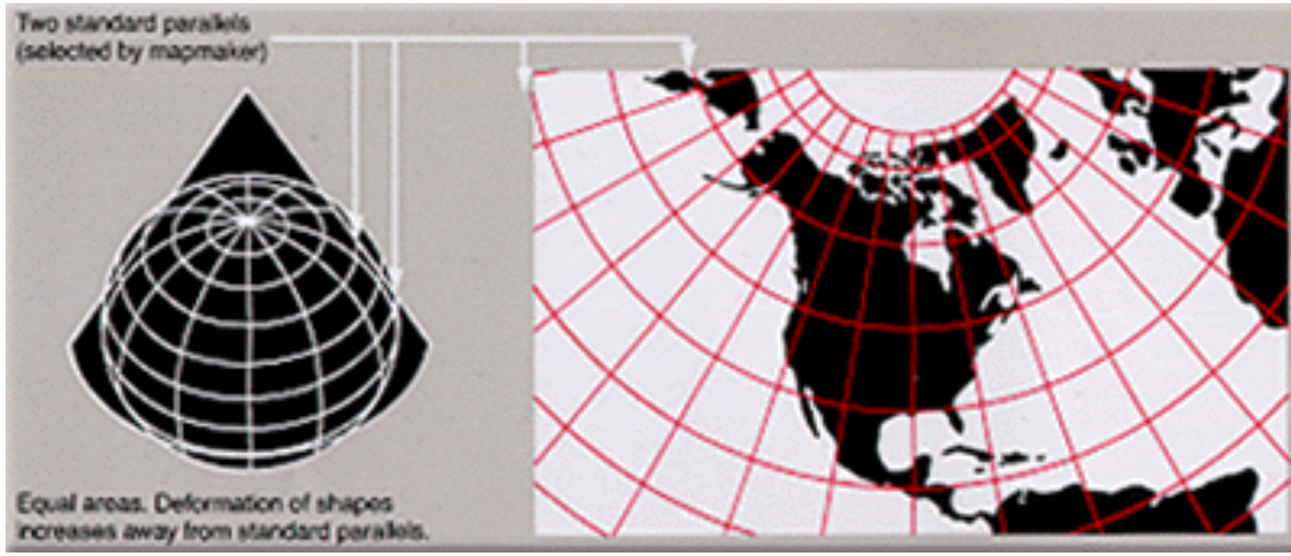




Conic Projections

Projection onto a cone that slices through the globe, intersecting the Earth twice



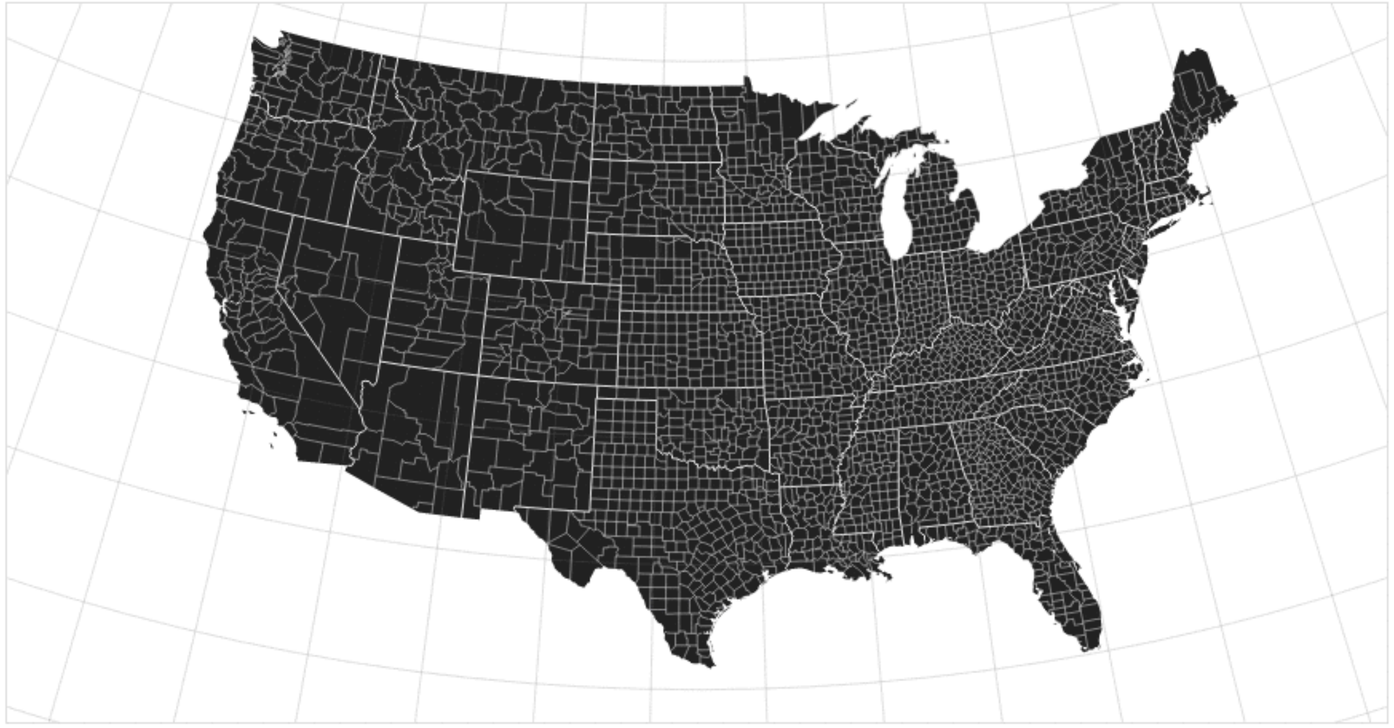


Wikipedia

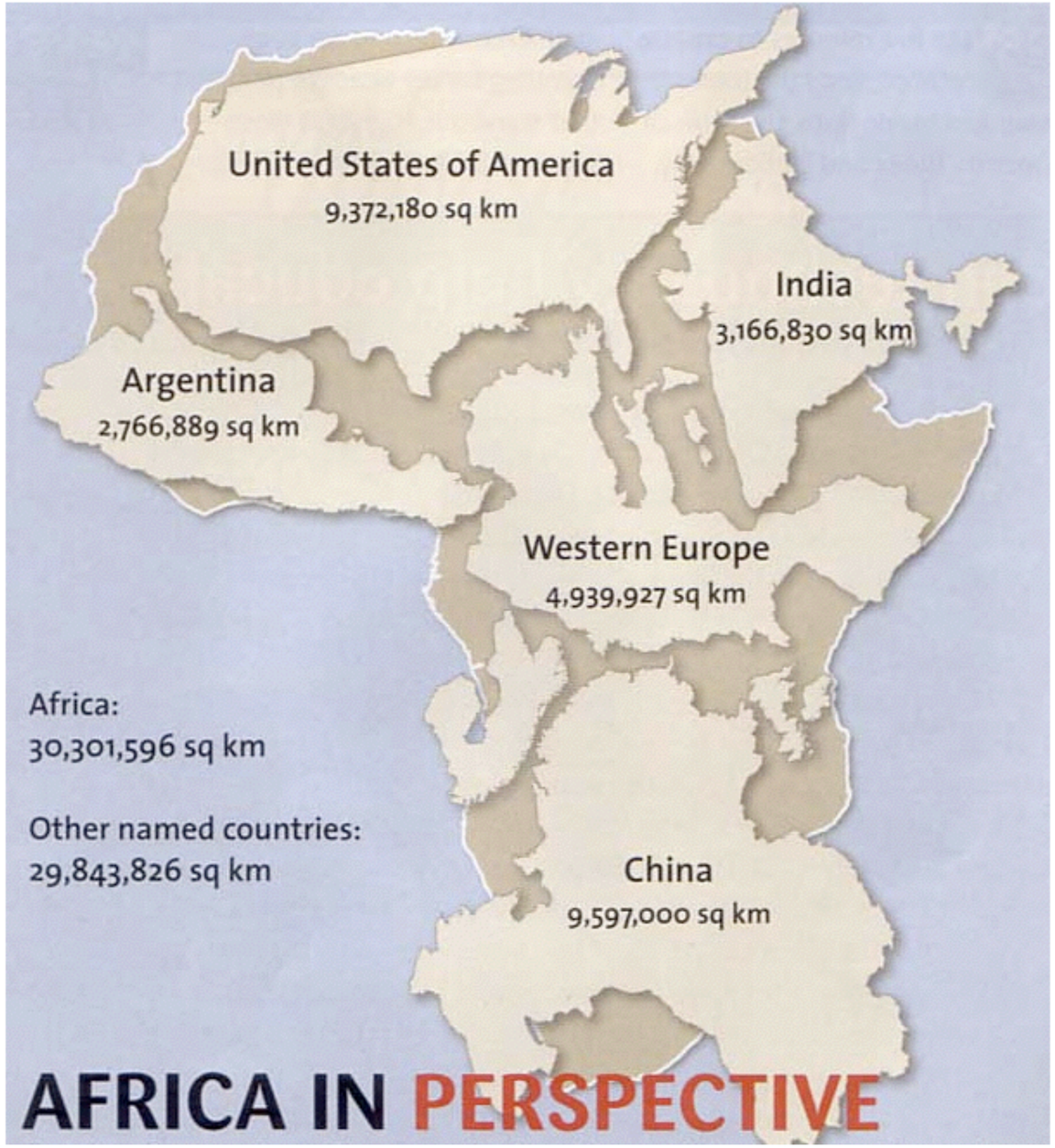
Albers Equal-Area

Shows areas correctly

Distorts distances and shapes

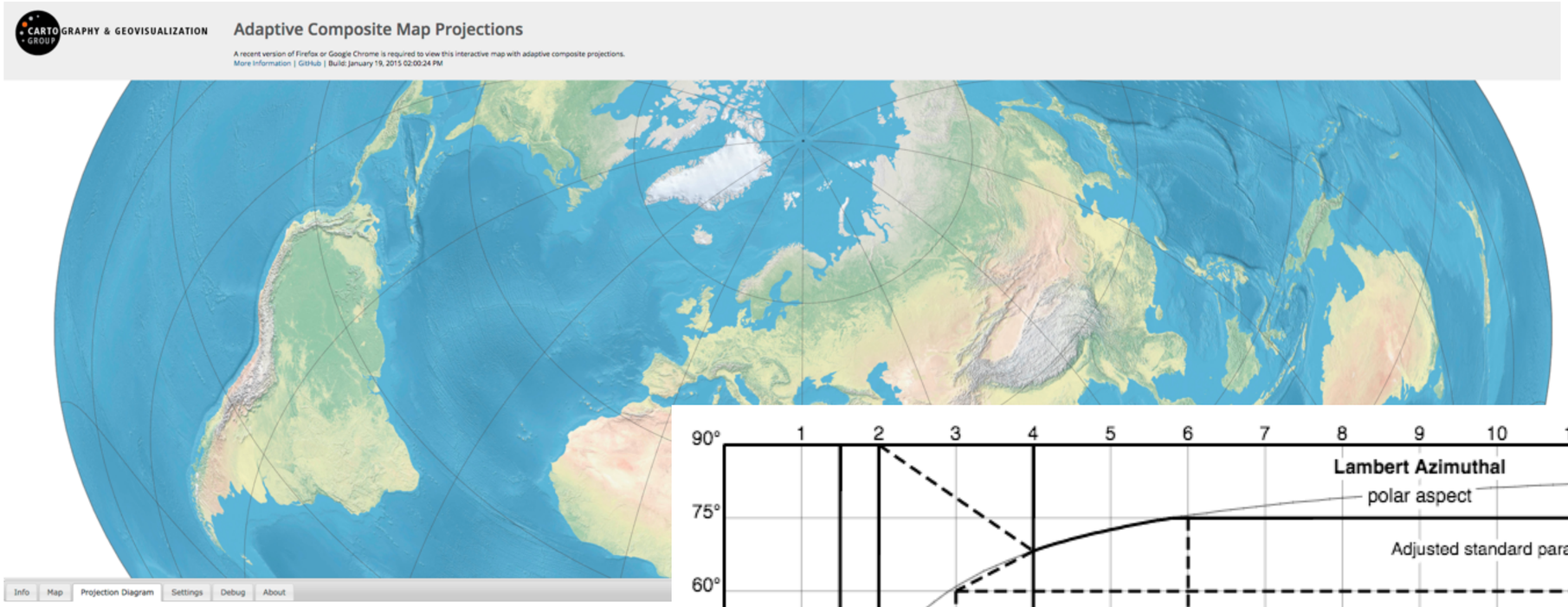


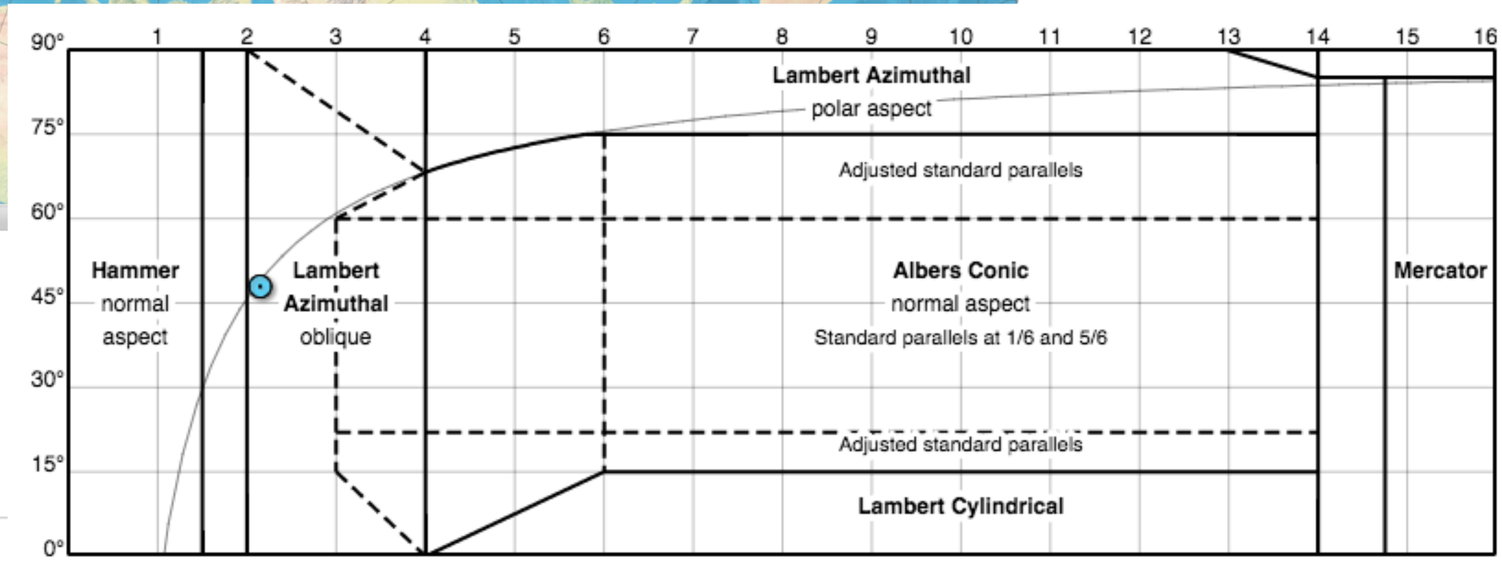
D3 / M. Bostock



http://strangemaps.wordpress.com/2006/11/20/35-the-size-of-africa/

Composite Projections





Bernhard Jenny

Projections in D3

Many projections included:

https://github.com/mbostock/d3/wiki/Geo-Projections

https://github.com/d3/d3-geo-projection/

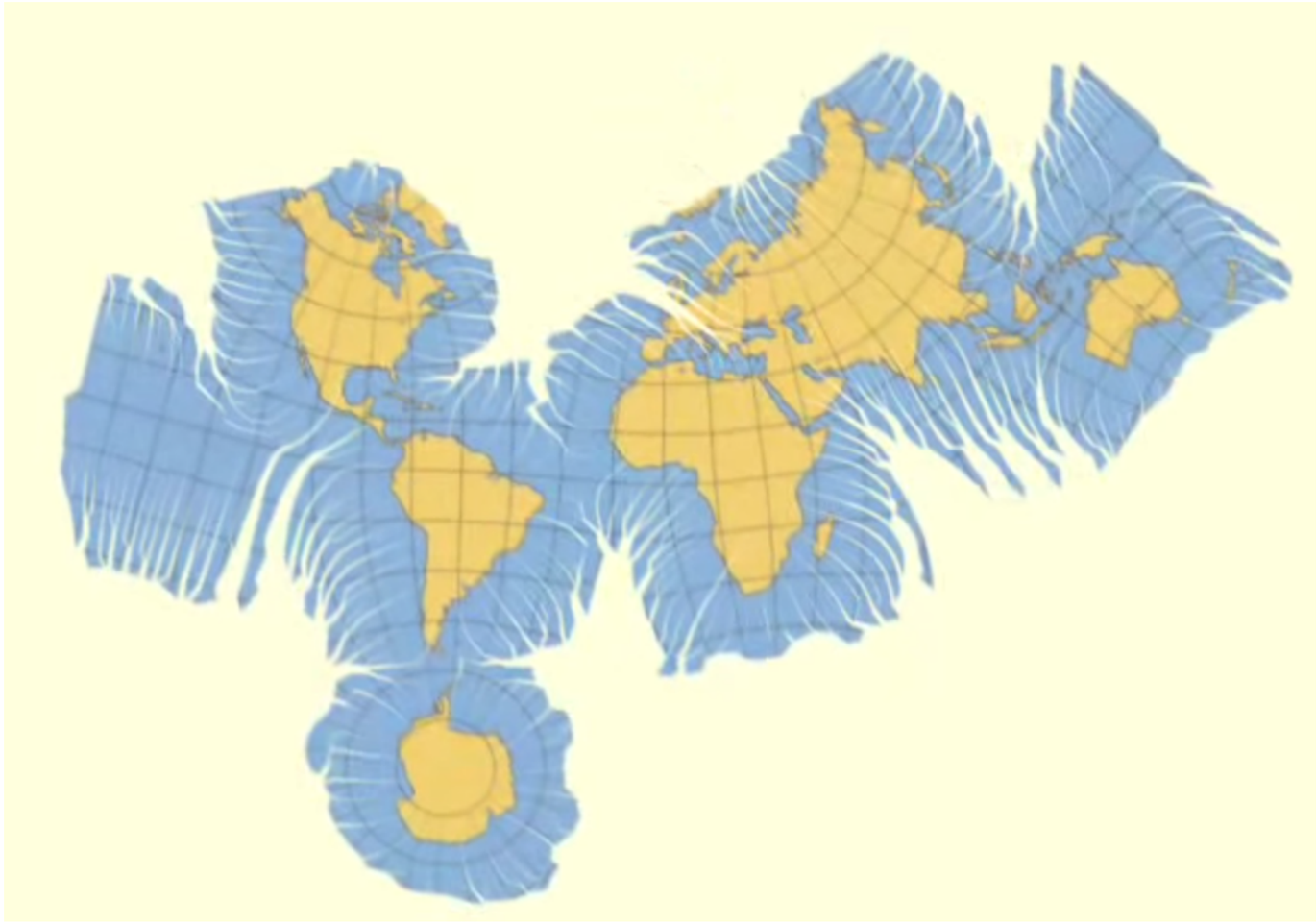
Unfolding The Earth

Idea: use small patches

flatten them out

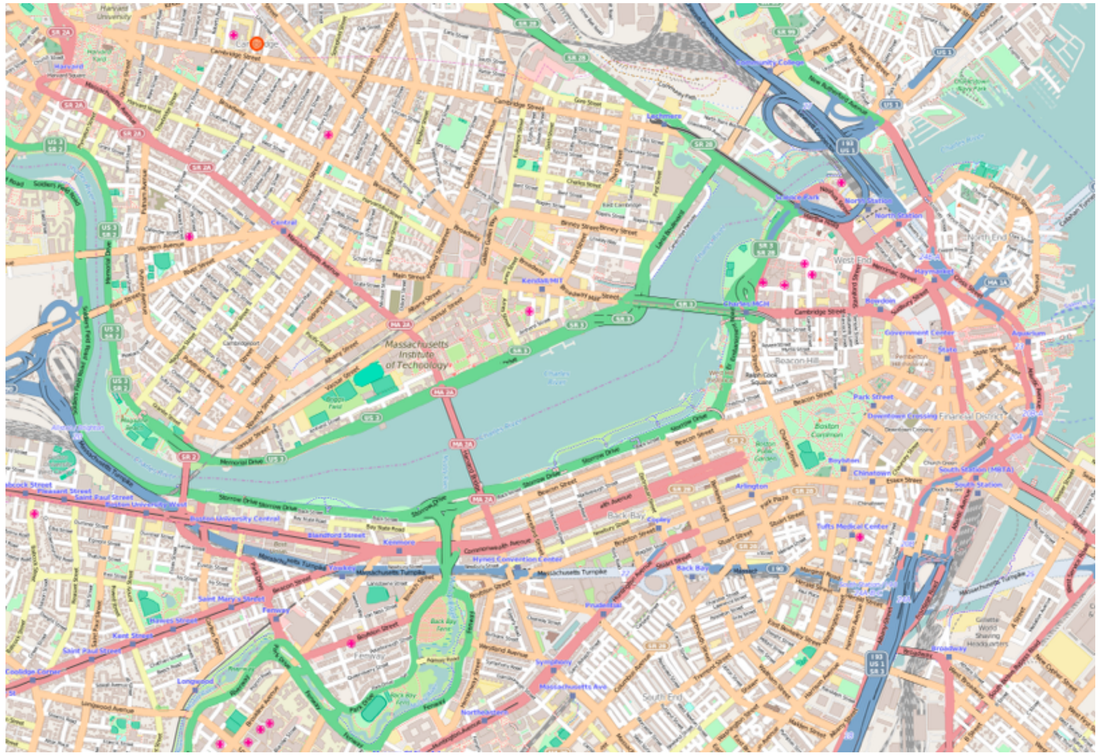
Jarke van Wijk

http://www.win.tue.nl/~vanwijk/myriahedral/

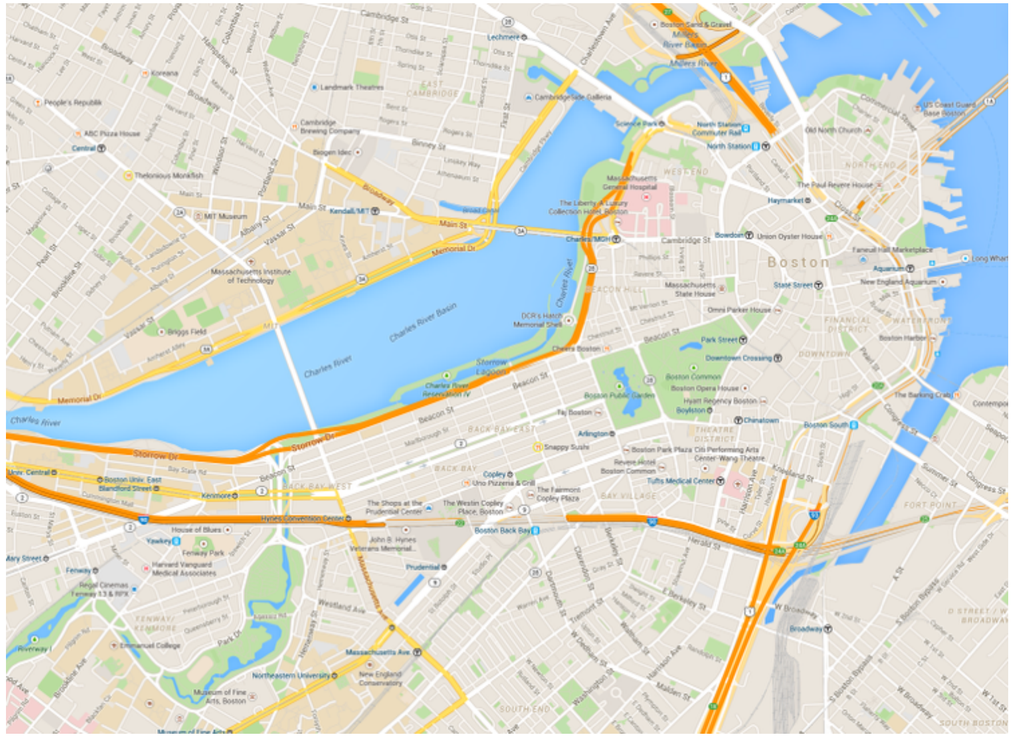


Map Software / Navigation

Mapping Software

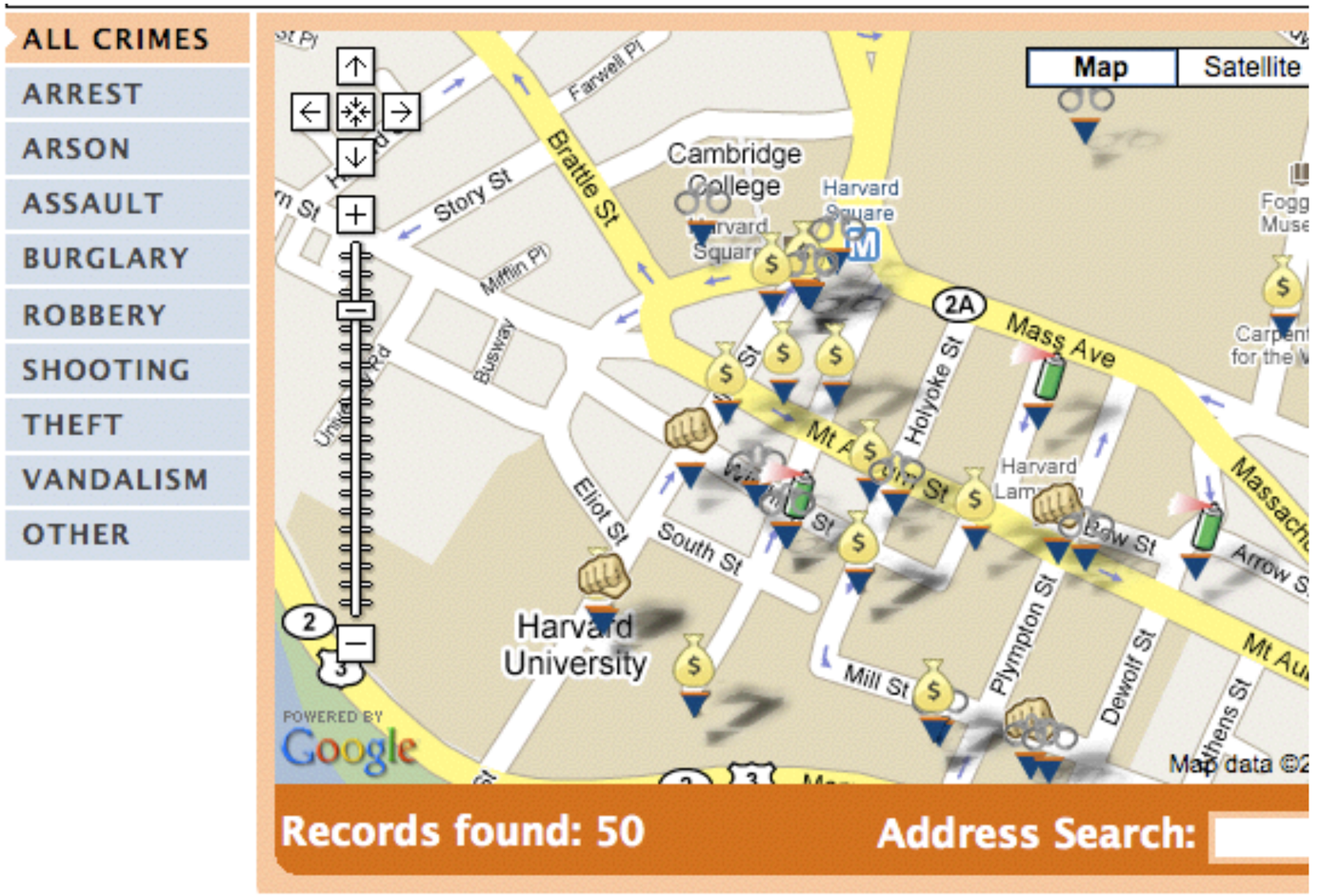


Open StreetMap



Google Maps

Mashups



http://ucrime.com/ma/harvard+university

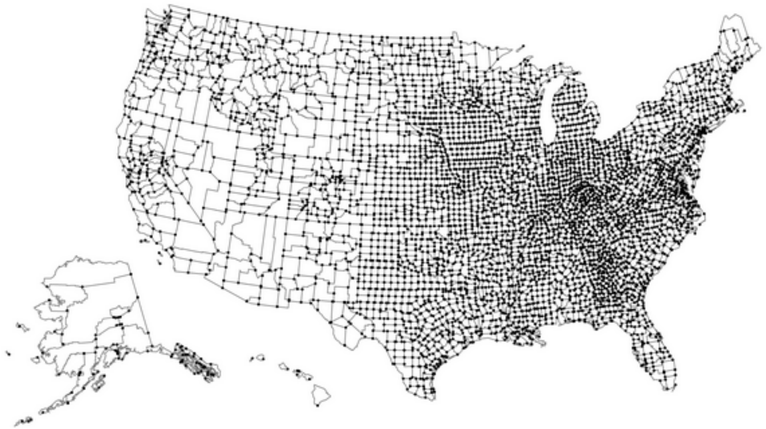
D3 Maps

1) get TopoJSON / GeoJSON file

https://github.com/mbostock/topojson/wiki

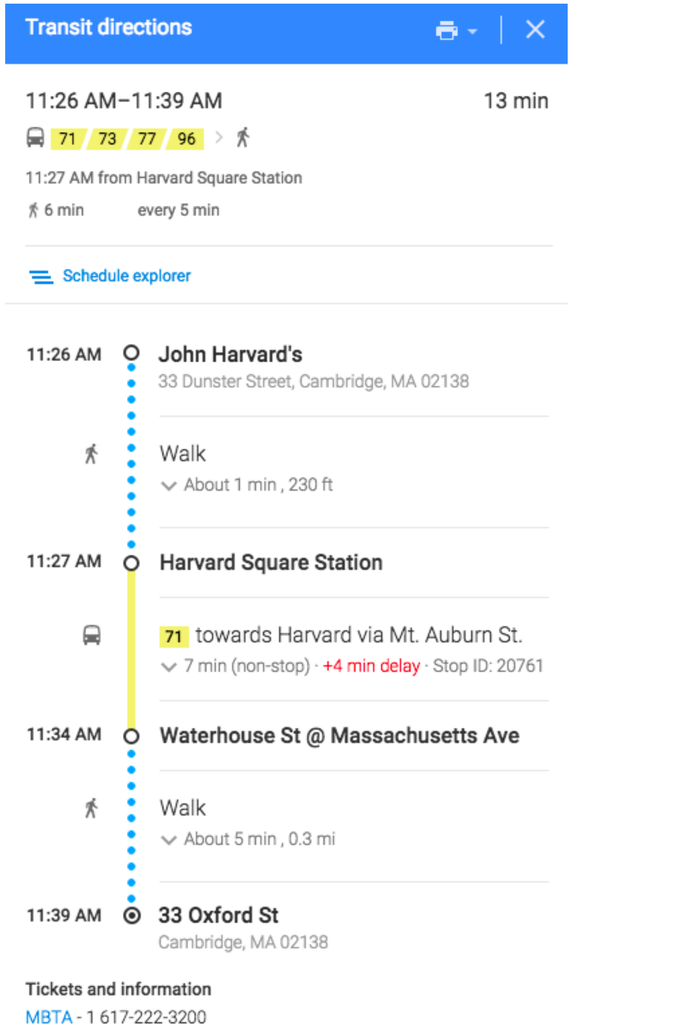
2) Map Values to Geolocations contained in JSON file

3) Map Values to Channel



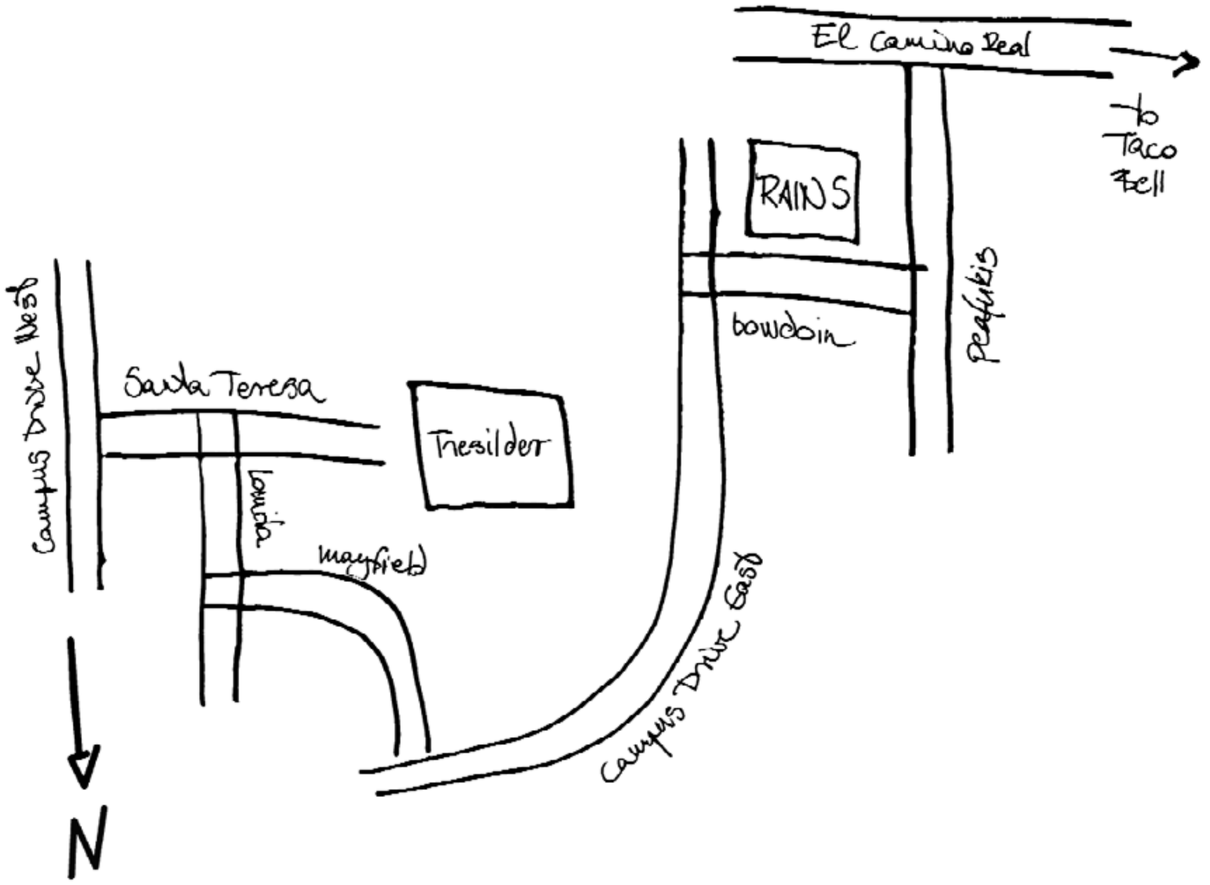
Navigation

Specific



Abstract

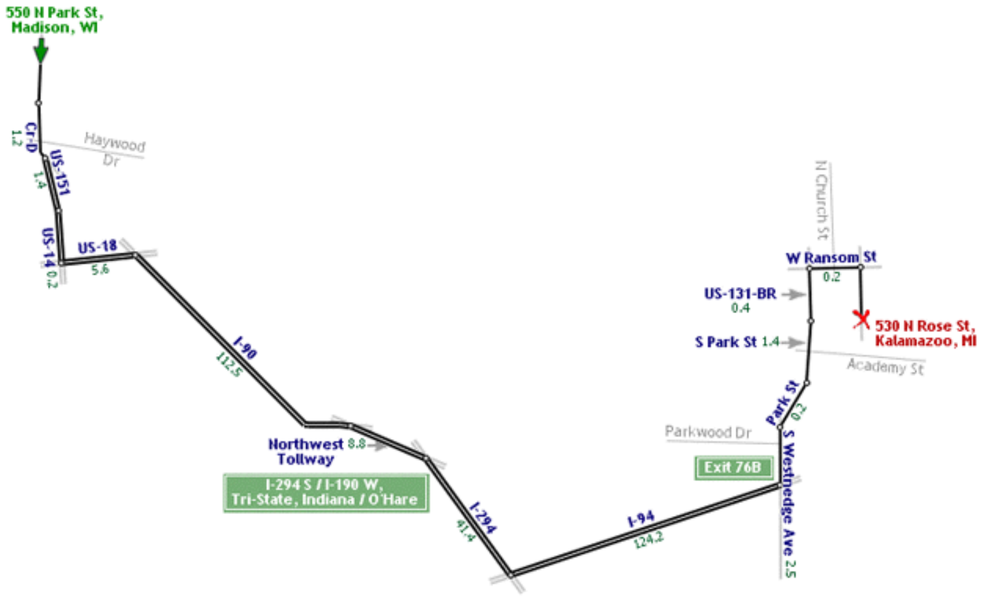
Landmarks & Paths

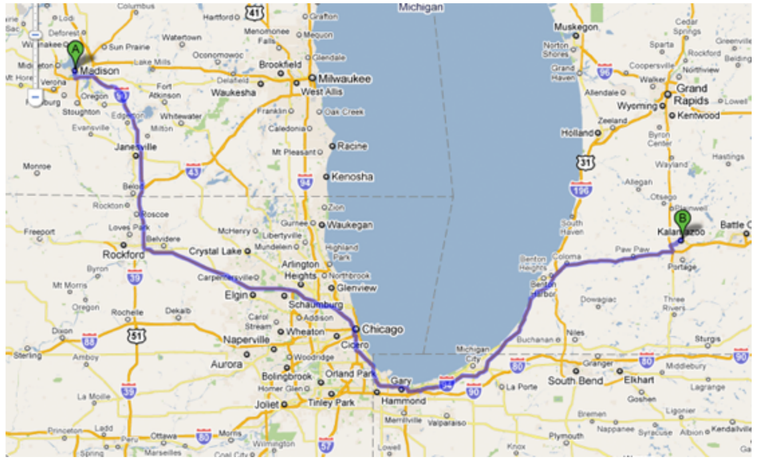


Based on slide from B.Tversky

LineDrive, 2001

Straighten wiggly lines
Turn directions to right angles
Expand regions with turns
Contract long straight roads
Label carefully to avoid clutter
Maintain overall orientation





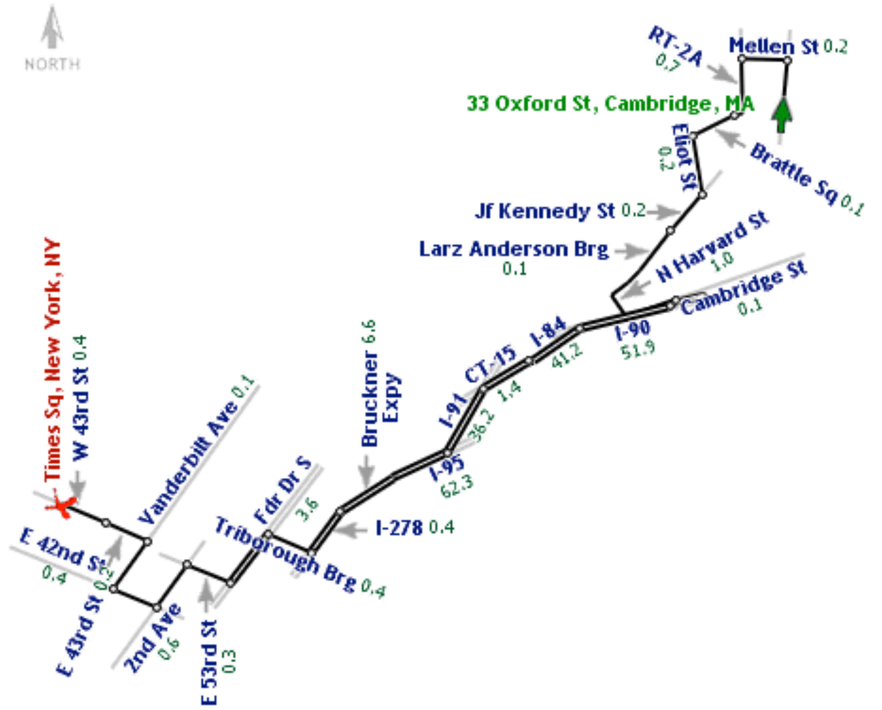
[Agrawala & Stolte, 2001]
Based on slide from Hanrahan

Microsoft

msn Maps & Directions

Home | Maps | Directions | Help

Map Size | Print | E-mail



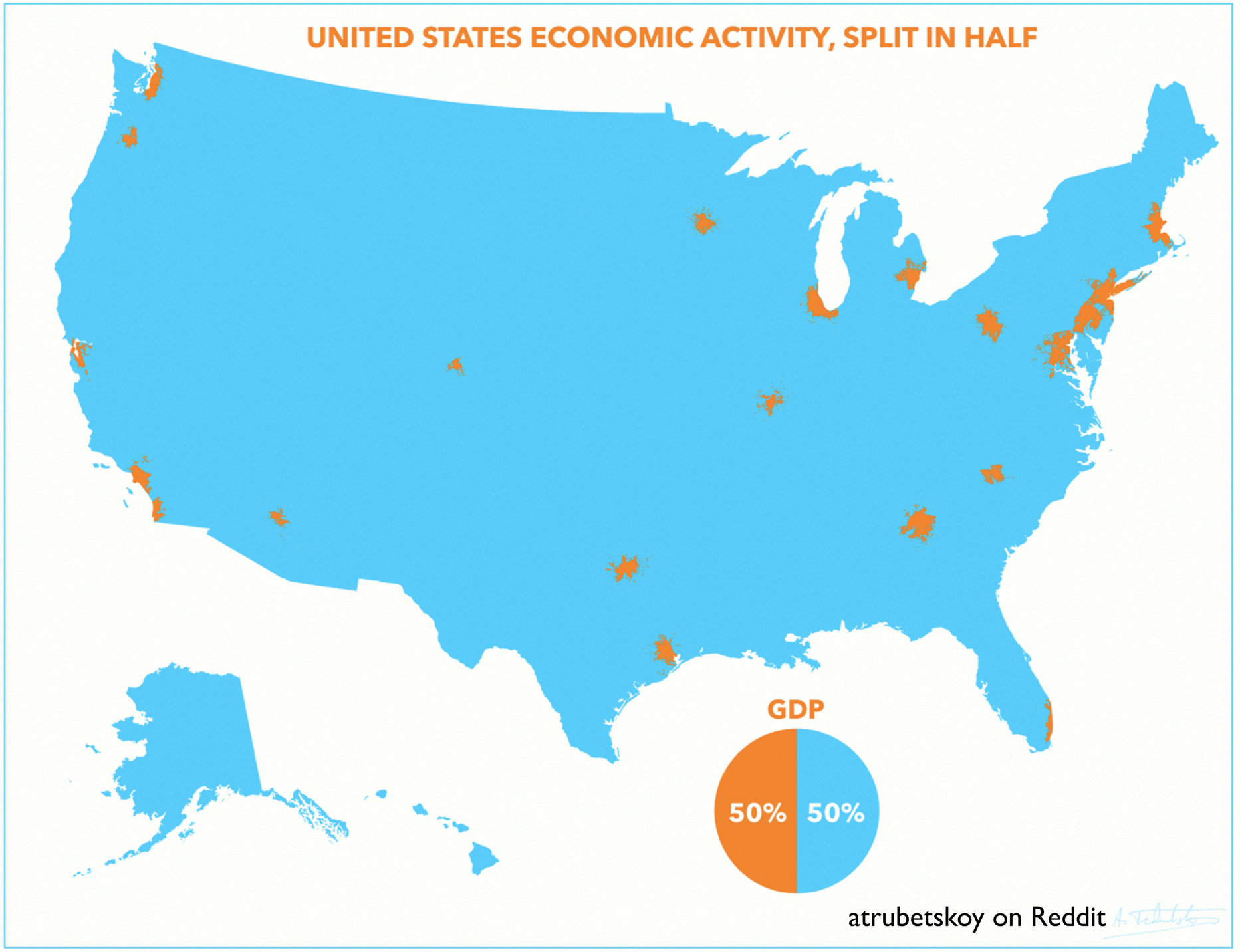
Start: 33 Oxford St, Cambridge, MA 02138
End: Times Sq, New York, NY 10036
Total Distance: 211.2 Miles
Estimated Total Time: 3 hours, 29 minutes

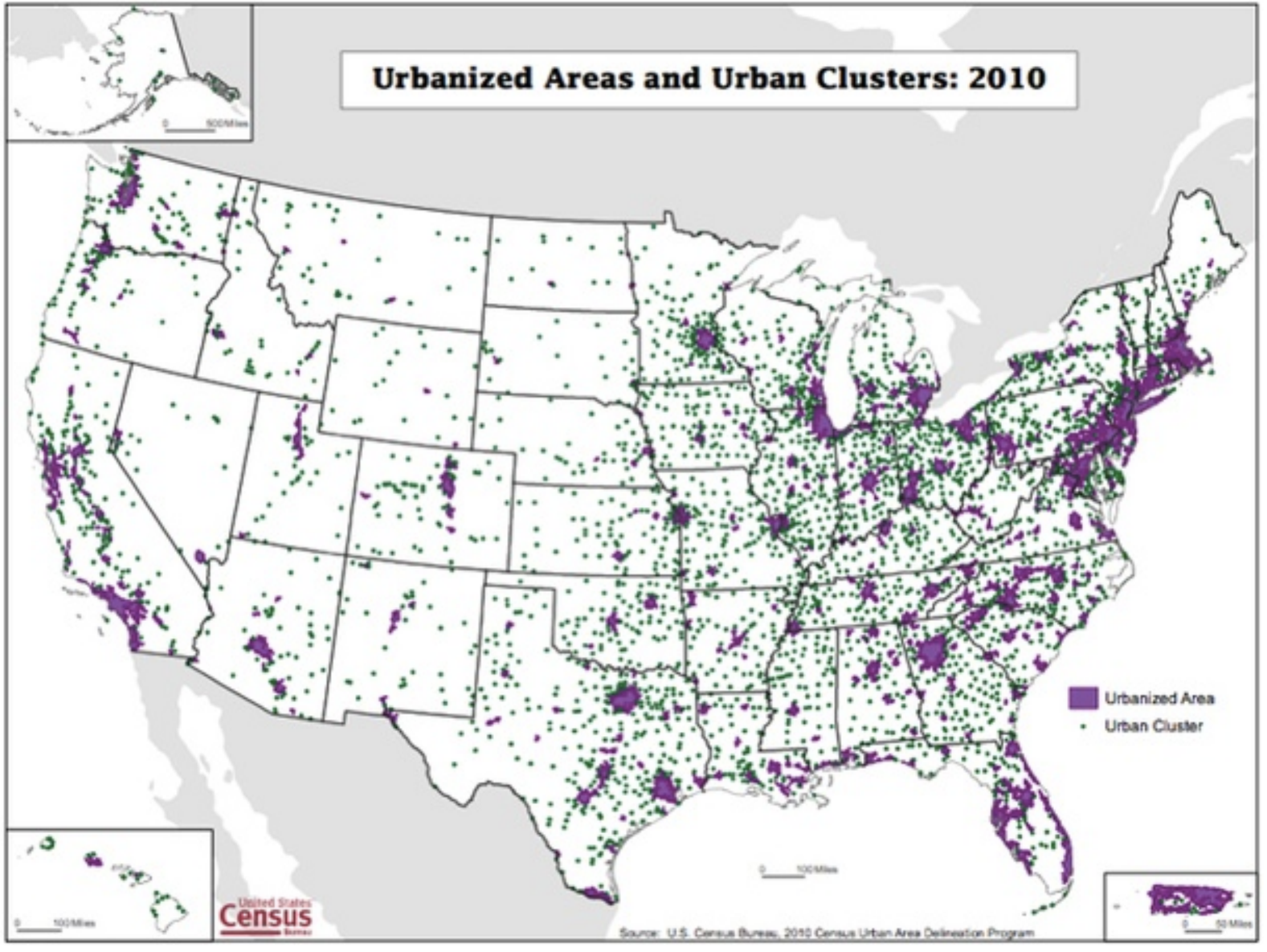
Directions	Miles

Route
- Turn-by-Turn Directions
- Reverse Directions
- Change Start
- Change End
- Get New Directions

Local Resources
- Traffic Maps
- City Guide
- Yellow Pages
- Weather

Design Critique


UNITED STATES ECONOMIC ACTIVITY, SPLIT IN HALF
GDP
50%
50%
atrubetskoy on Reddit

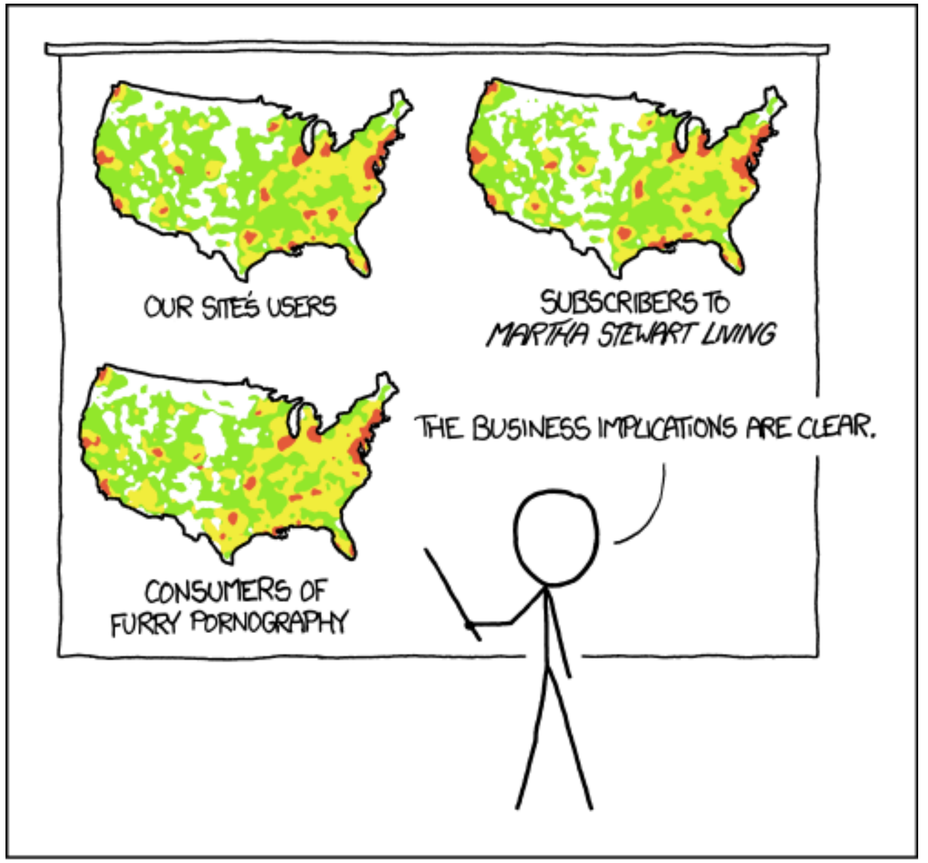

Urbanized Areas and Urban Clusters: 2010
Urbanized Area
Urban Cluster
United States Census Bureau
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Urban Area Delineation Program

John Burn-Murdoch ✓
@jburnmurdoch

Follow

@visualisingdata Dude, it's a really bad map. a) it's a classic example of this xkcd.com/1138/, b) see this: twitter.com/YAN0/status/43…

Reply Retweet Favorite ••• More

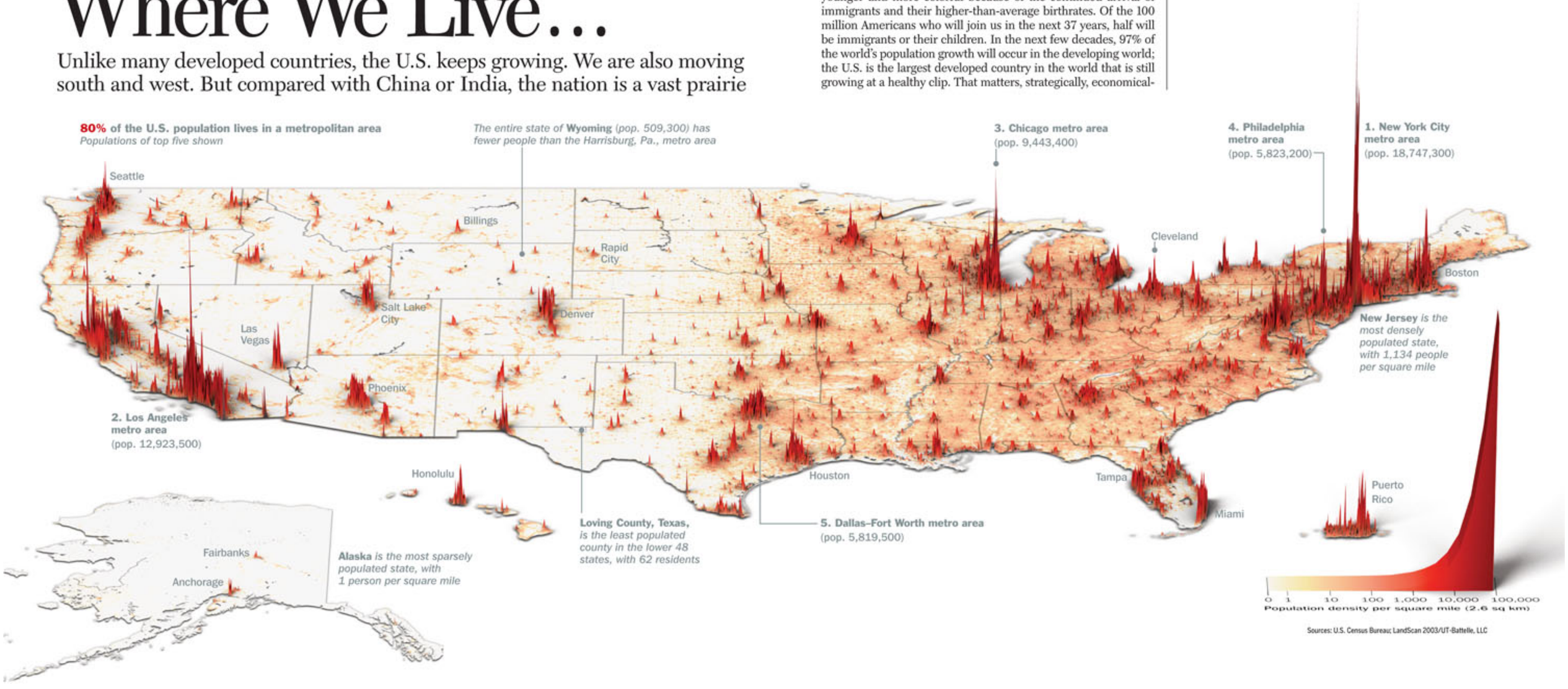


PET PEEVE #208:
GEOGRAPHIC PROFILE MAPS WHICH ARE BASICALLY JUST POPULATION MAPS

Where We Live…

Unlike many developed countries, the U.S. keeps growing. We are also moving south and west. But compared with China or India, the nation is a vast prairie

Our families are getting smaller—with one vital exception. Compared with those of Europe and Japan, the U.S. population is younger and more colorful because of the continued arrival of immigrants and their higher-than-average birthrates. Of the 100 million Americans who will join us in the next 37 years, half will be immigrants or their children. In the next few decades, 97% of the world's population growth will occur in the developing world; the U.S. is the largest developed country in the world that is still growing at a healthy clip. That matters, strategically, economically. Ala.; Possum Trot, Ky.; or Lonelyville, N.Y. But they are all probably close to someone's idea of paradise. *—By Nancy Gibbs*



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau; LandScan 2003/UT-Battelle, LLC

http://www.visualisingdata.com/index.php/2014/02/defending-the-incredible-gdp-map/

Robert Kosara February 22nd, 2014 at 4:13 am

The problem here is not that it could be interesting to see population density, but that the claim is that something other than population density is revealed, which is simply not true. Why not make a chart of population density instead? This incredible map shows you where 50% of the people in the U.S. live!

If this were really about GDP, it would be per capita. That would be interesting. Income per capita is certainly higher in New York City than in Dallas, for example. But how do NYC and L.A. compare? What about other areas? And how does income compare to cost of living? Etc.

The reason this is getting any attention at all is because it's a map. If it were a bar chart or similar, people would just ignore it. But no matter how simple or obvious your data, once it's shown on a map, people find it interesting.

http://www.thefunctionalart.com/2014/02/the-incredible-gdp-map-that-shows-that.html

Alberto Cairo February 22, 2014 at 7:43 AM

Another analogy: Simplistic graphics like this (only one or two data points; no nuances, exceptions, details) are the equivalent of writing just a headline when you should be writing that headline PLUS a complete news story to provide background information.

Reply

Stephen Few February 22, 2014 at 9:44 AM

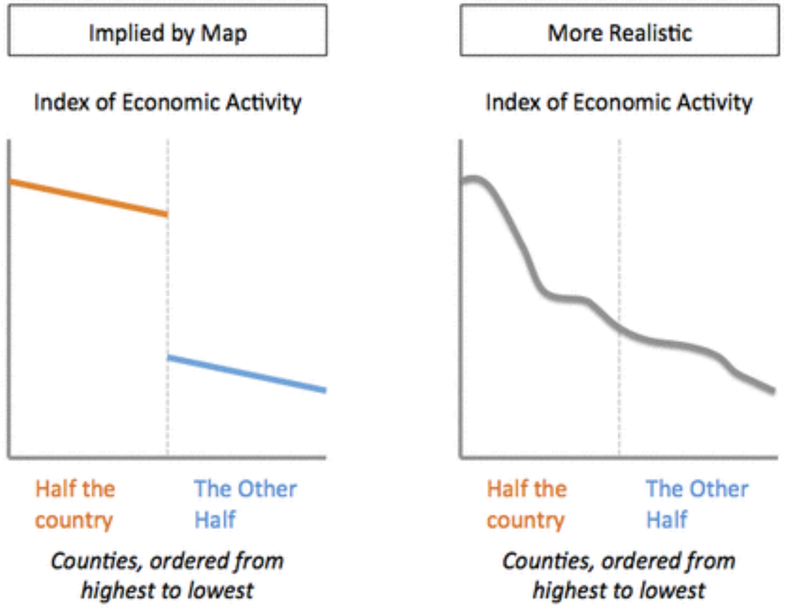
In our modern world of news aggregators, few people read beyond the headlines. Knowing a few sound bytes and bullet points is what passes for being informed. Few take time to think beyond a superficial level. Most producers of infographics encourage this through their designs, in part because they embody this in their own thinking.

Reply

http://junkcharts.typepad.com/numbersruleyourworld/2014/02/numbersense-and-true-lies.html

The map does not make false claims but it leads readers to the conclusion that the orange areas are much more important than the blue region (equal economic activity but much smaller area). The first problem is that the types of economic activities are vastly different between those regions, and this significant factor is ignored.

The second problem is that the designer over-aggregated the data. All counties (or zip codes) are classified into two groups ("split in half") when in fact, the level of economic activity at the level of counties (or zip codes) is a gradient. Imagine plotting the economic activity index by county, ordered from the highest to the lowest. Do we see a dramatic drop-off after counting out half the counties (i.e., the pattern shown on the left chart below)? Or are we more likely to see the pattern shown on the right? If you see a distribution like the one shown on the right, would you summarize that with just two segments?



Choropleth Maps

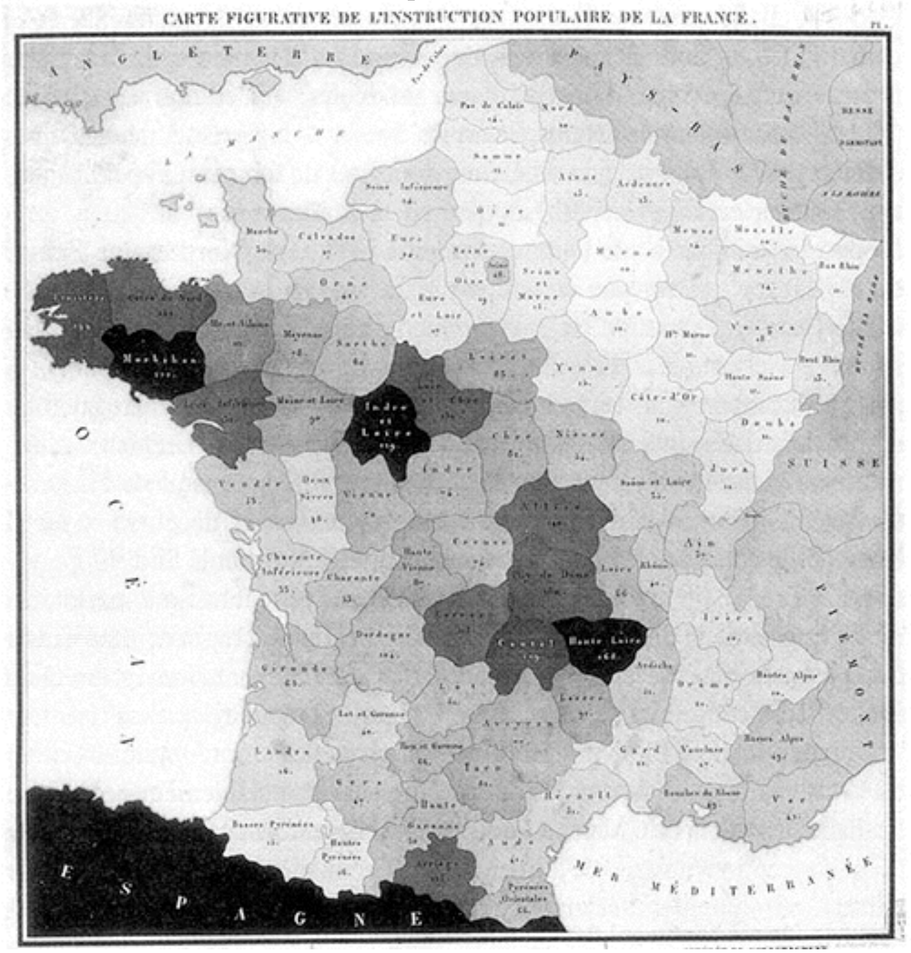
Principle

Area are shaded or patterned in proportion to measurement

Each spatial unit is filled with a uniform color or pattern

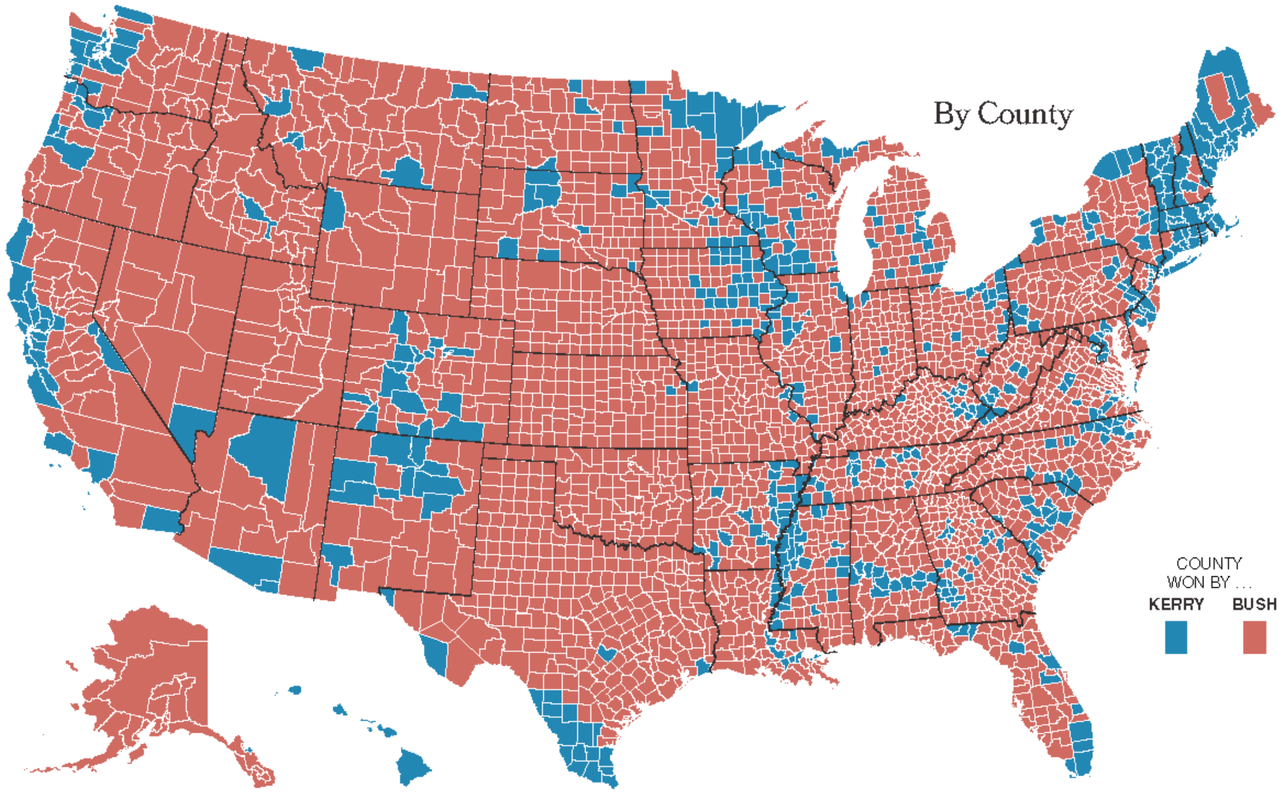
Early Choropleth Map

Illiteracy in France

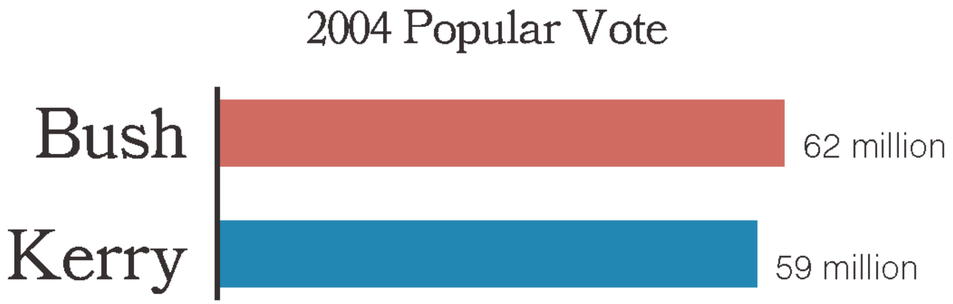


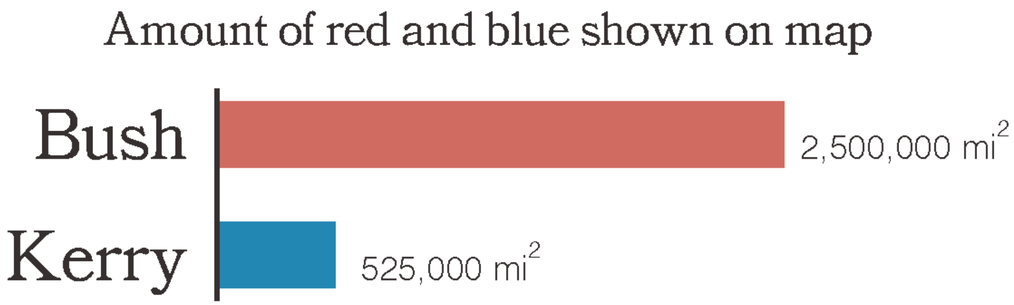
Charles Dupin, 1826

Kerry vs. Bush, 2004

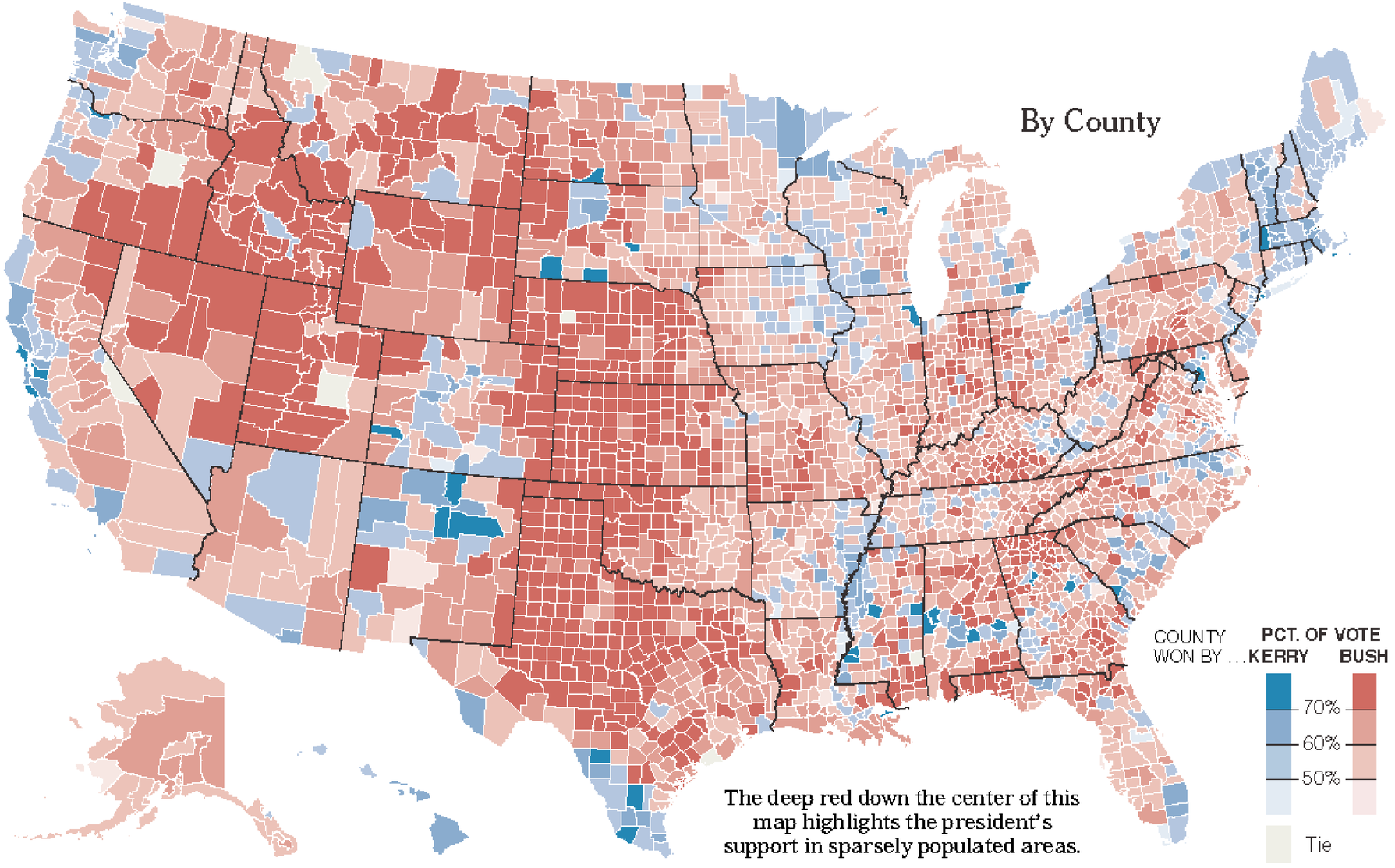


Matthew Ericson, NY Times

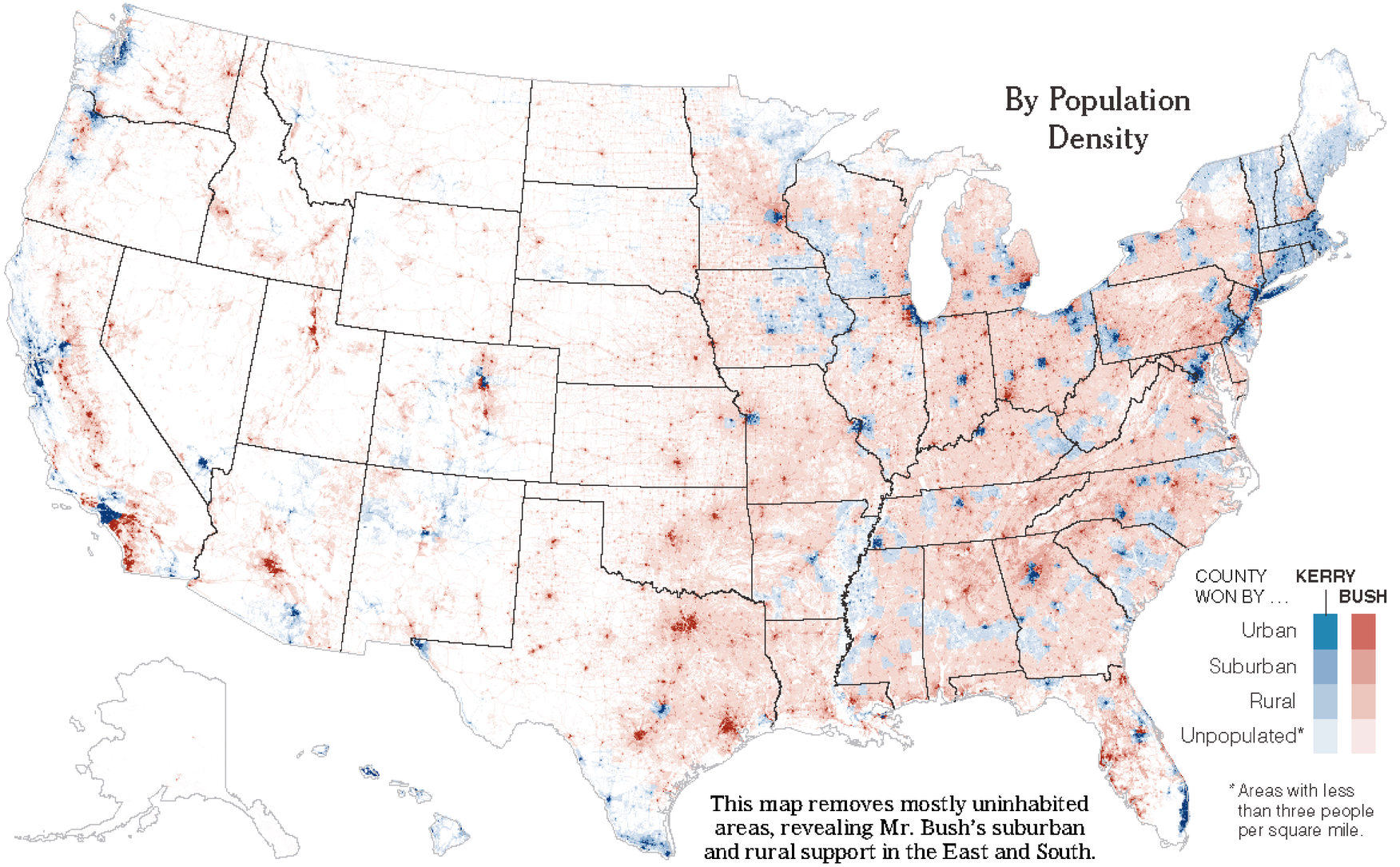




Matthew Ericson, NY Times

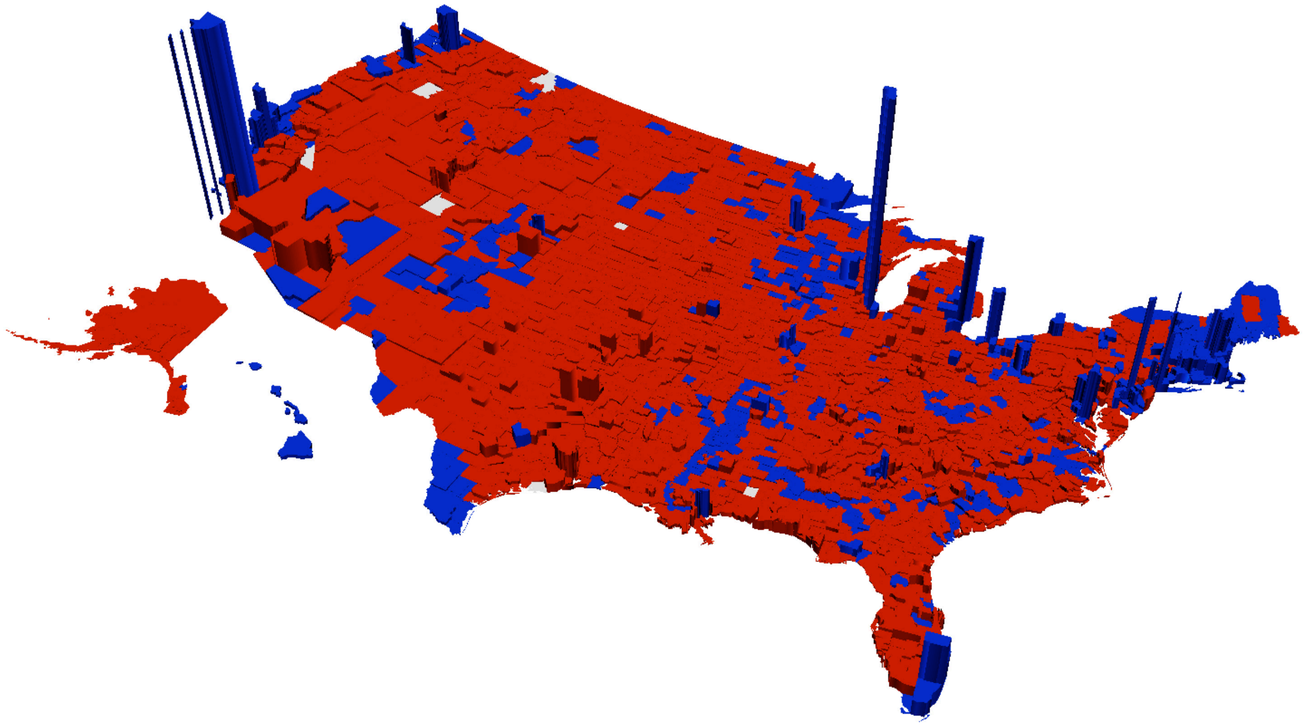


Matthew Ericson, NY Times



Matthew Ericson, NY Times

In 3D!



Matthew Ericson, NY Times

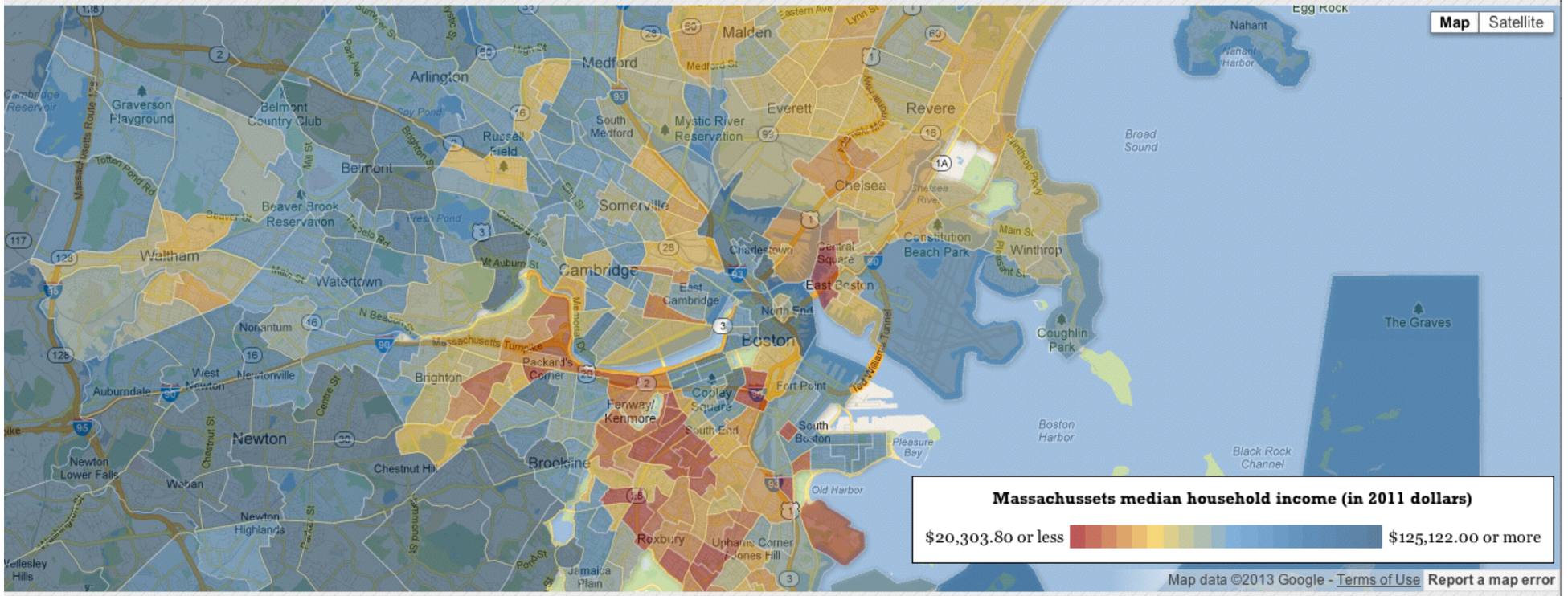
Rich Blocks, Poor Blocks

A map of income and rent in every neighborhood in every city in America

Enter a city name or address and pick a state -- or just a pick a state from the dropdown.(☐ I'm colorblind)

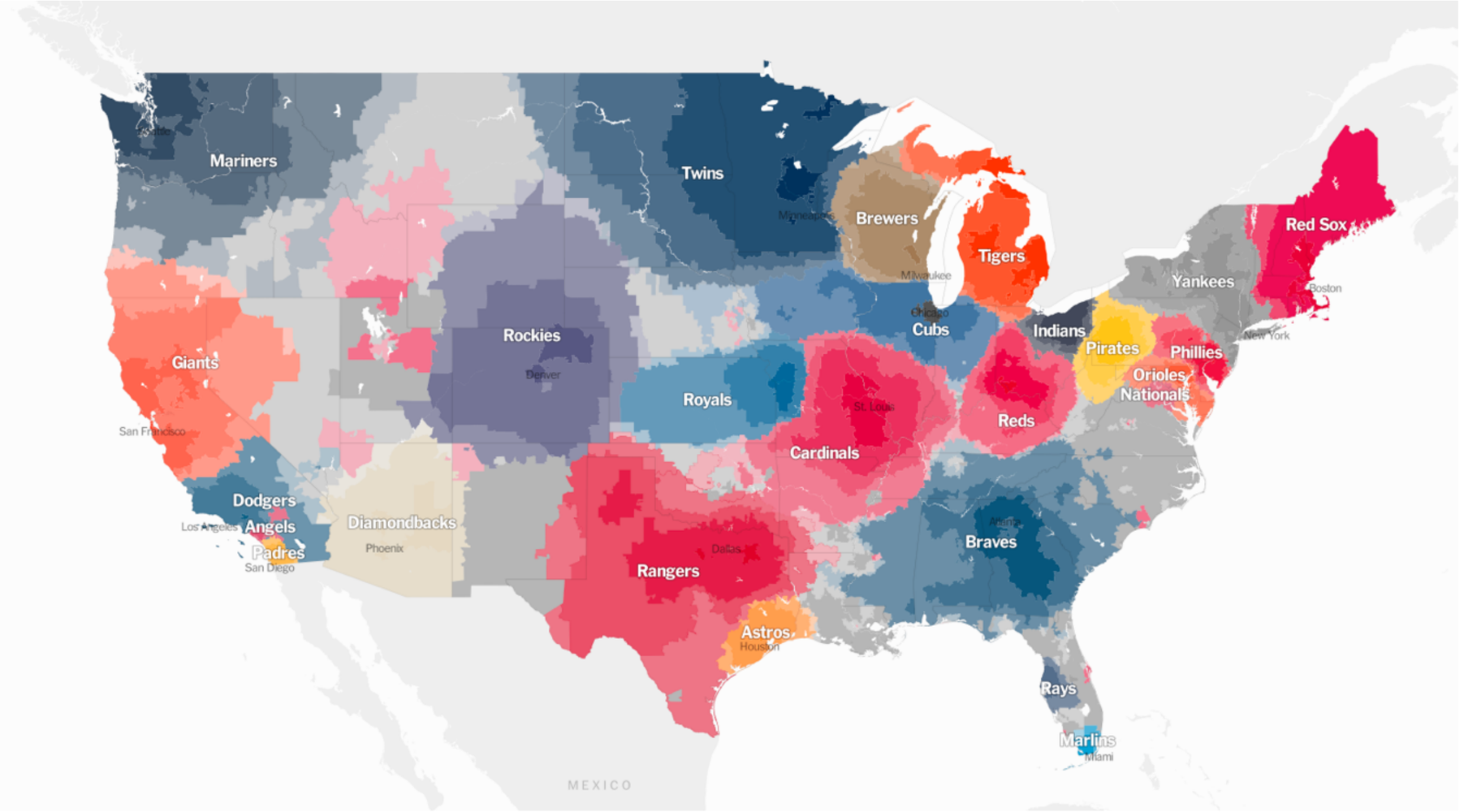
boston , Massachussets , Income Search Change Map Size

(NOTE: Loading taking long? Zoom in or out. No map? Reload, or choose another browser. **And if you want more economic details, click any part of the map after you click "Search."**)

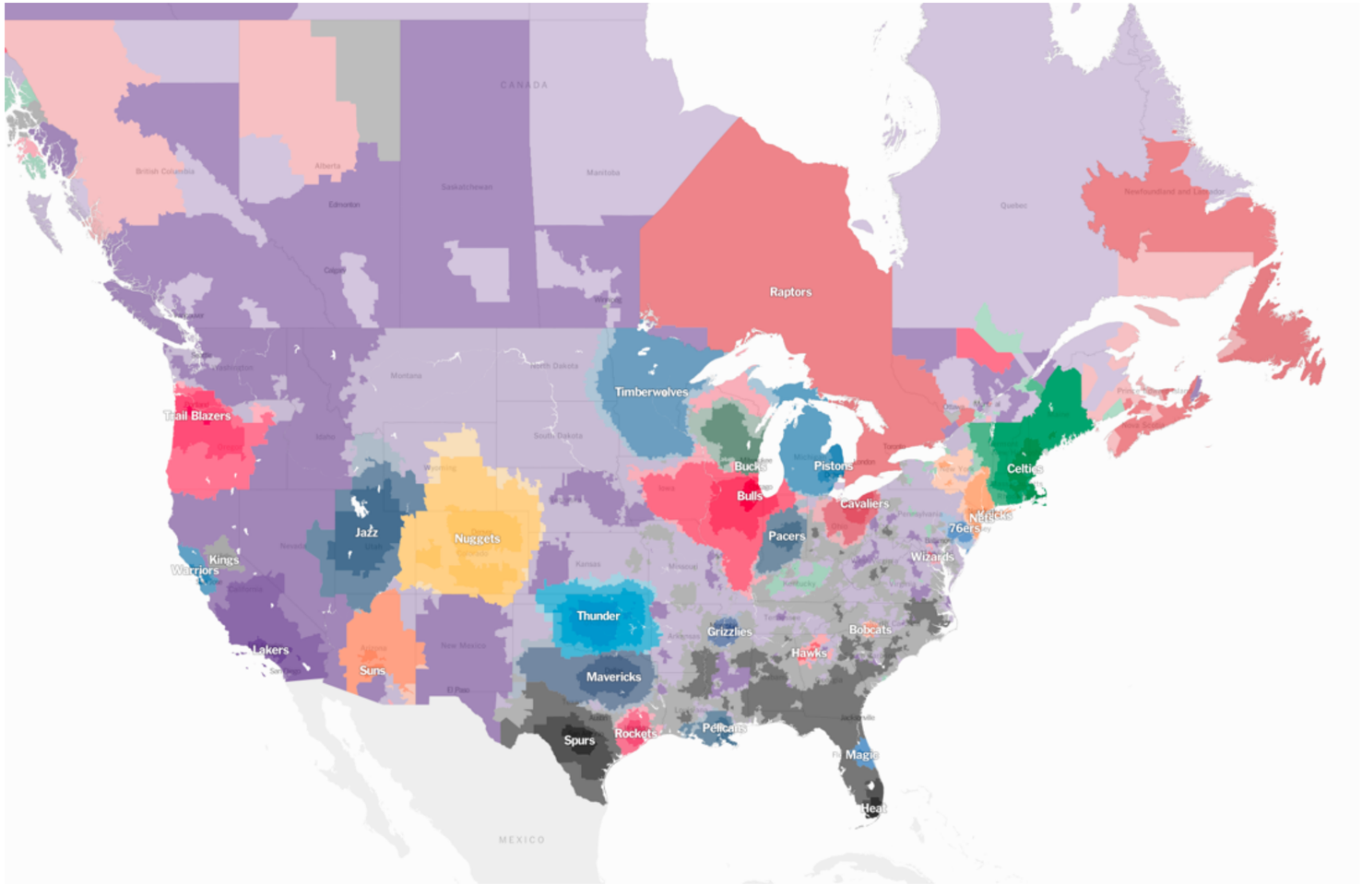


***Source on all data**: 2007-2011 American Community Survey. For more info, see the ACS' definitions for income and rent. All map boundaries are Census Tracts.*

Baseball Territories



Lakers Dominate Baskeball



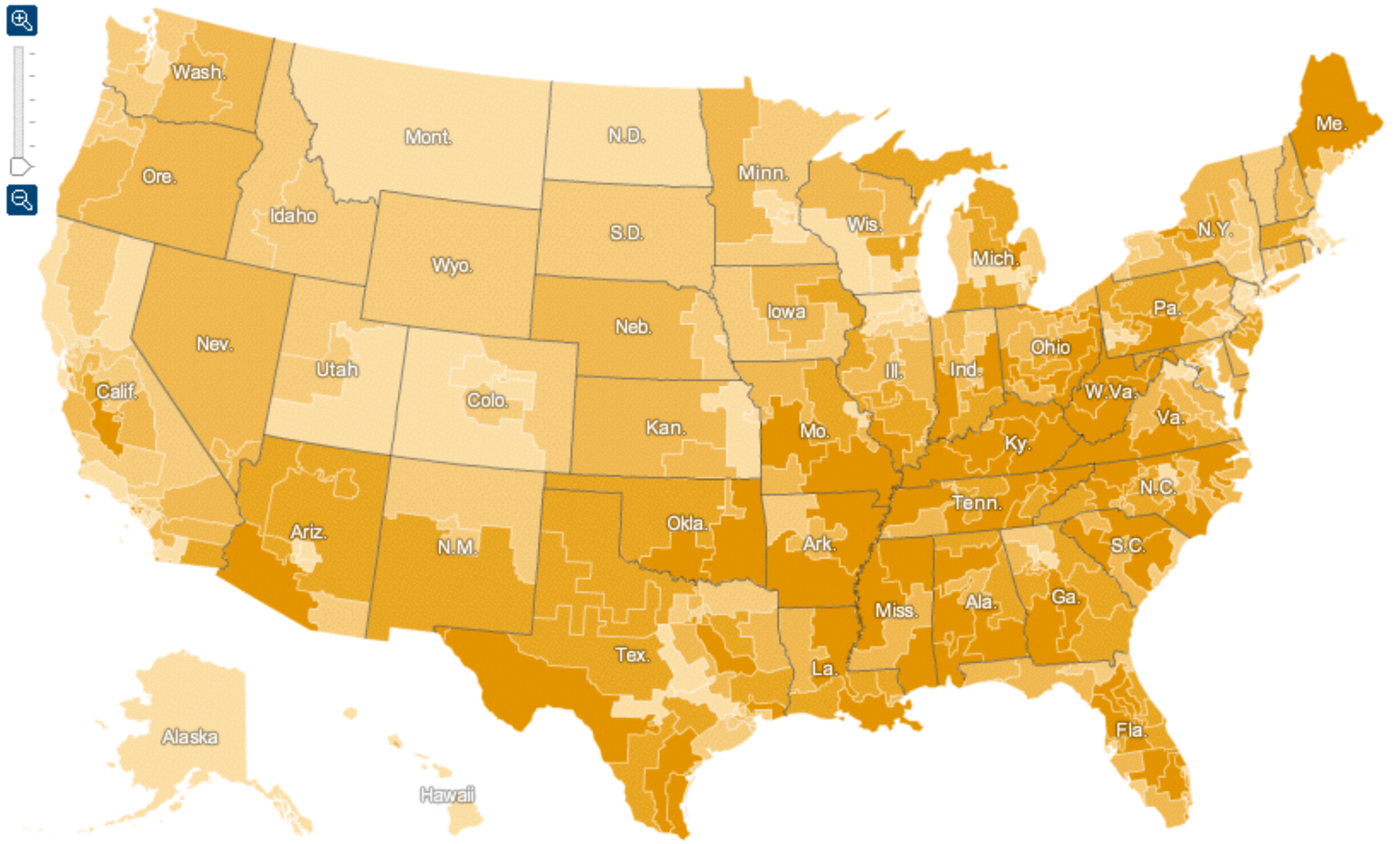
Published: March 5, 2011

Mapping the Nation's Well-Being

For the last three years, Gallup has called 1,000 randomly selected American adults each day and asked them about indicators of their quality of life. Responses are converted to the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index. Here are the 2010 results, sorted by Congressional districts. Related Article »

- Composite Index
- Learning
- Stress
- Happiness
- Depression
- Health Problems
- High Cholesterol
- **Diabetes**
- Obesity
- Job Satisfaction
- Work Environment
- Smoking
- Exercise
- Fruits/Vegetables
- Community Satisfaction
- Community Improving
- Nighttime Safety
- Inadequate Food
- Inadequate Shelter
- Dentist Visits
- Health Insurance

Have you ever been told by a physician or nurse that you have diabetes?



Note: The survey was conducted over the course of a year from Jan. 2 to Dec. 30, 2010. The number of people surveyed in each district varies, and ranges from 300 to 2,000 people. A sample size of 300 corresponds to a margin of sampling error of ±5.7%. A sample size of 2,000 corresponds to a margin of sampling error of ±2.2%.

By MATTHEW BLOCH and BILL MARSH | Send Feedback

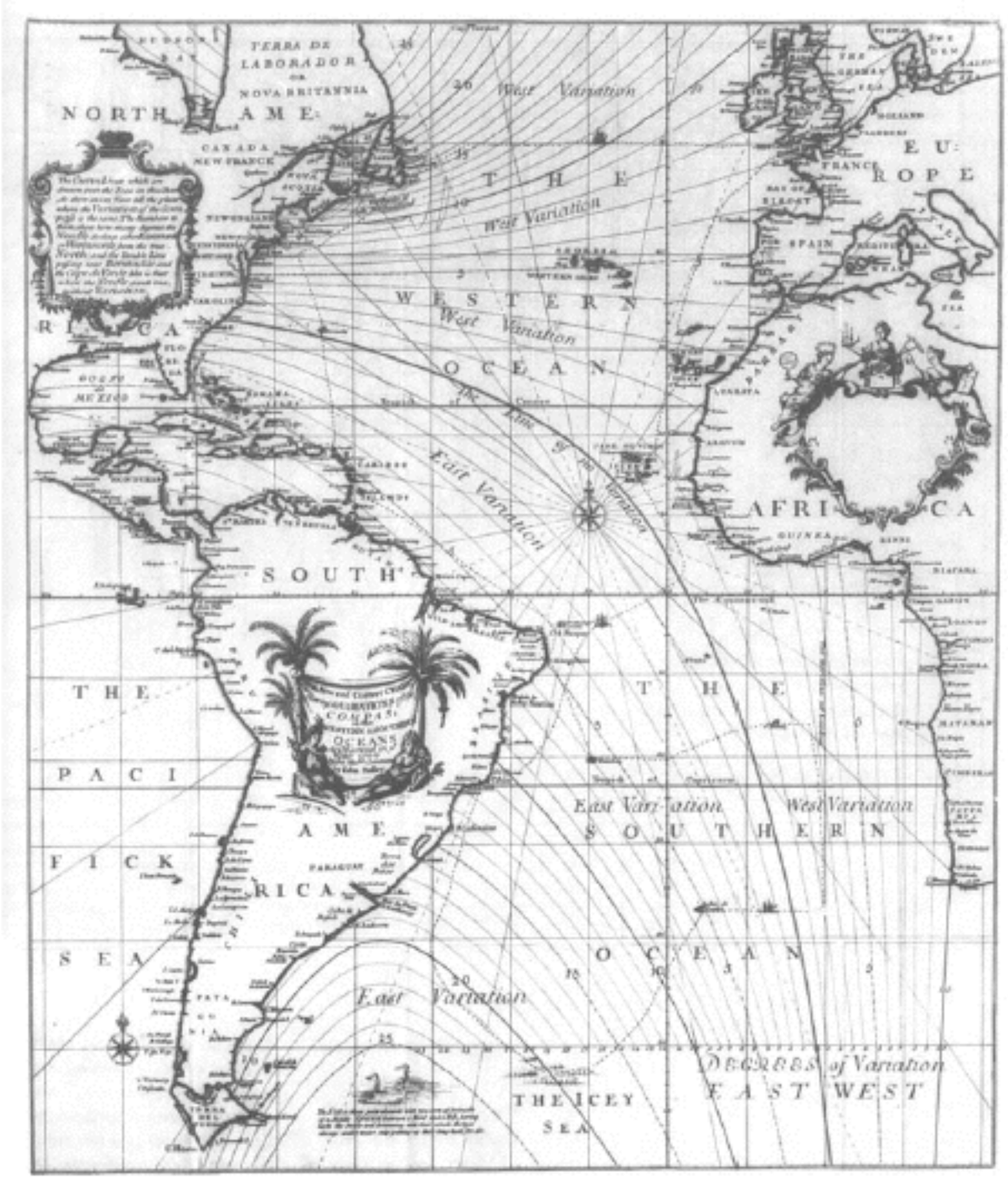
Source: Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index

NYT

Contour (Isopleth) Maps

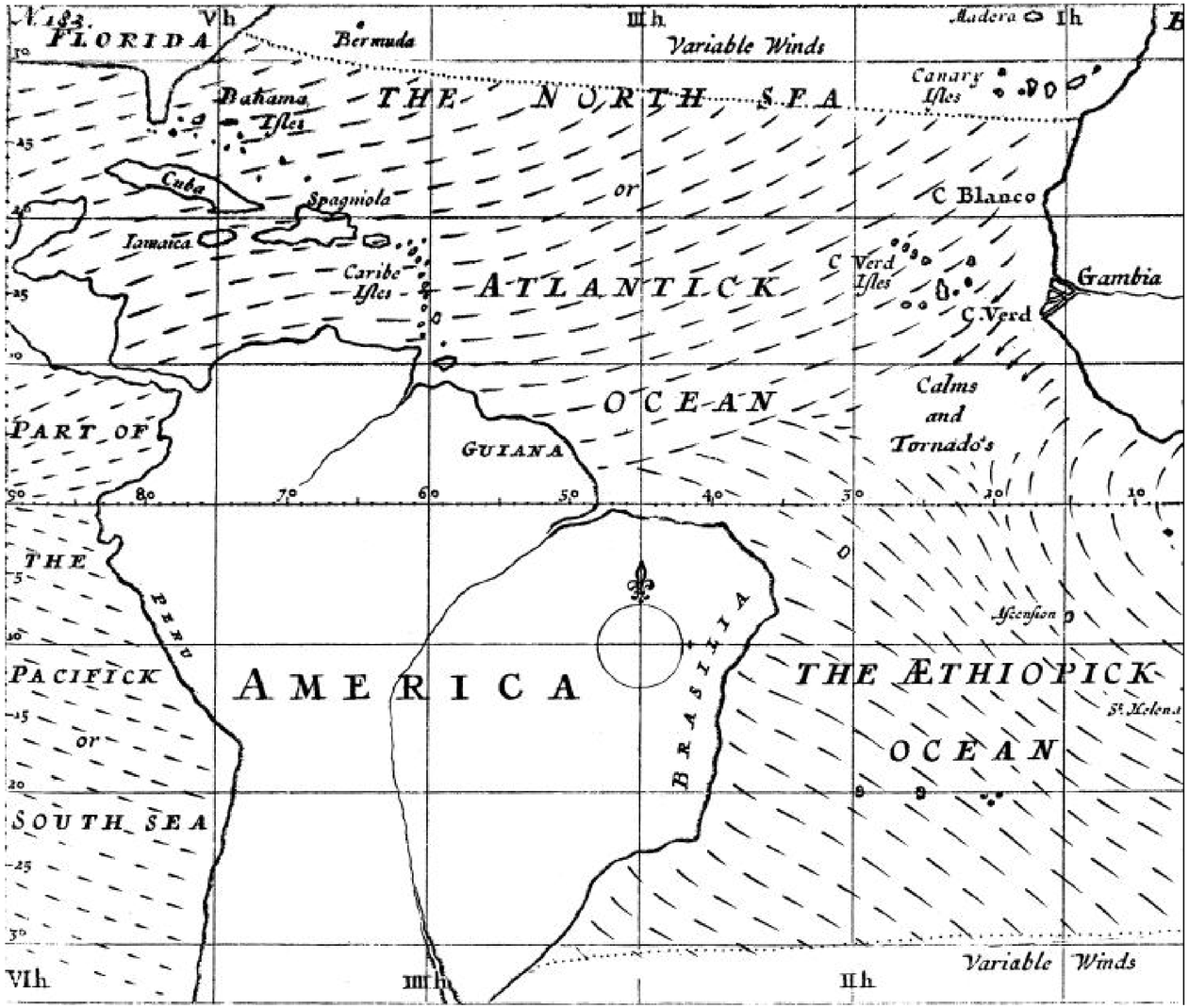
Early Contour Map

Halley’s lines of equal magnetic declination, 1701

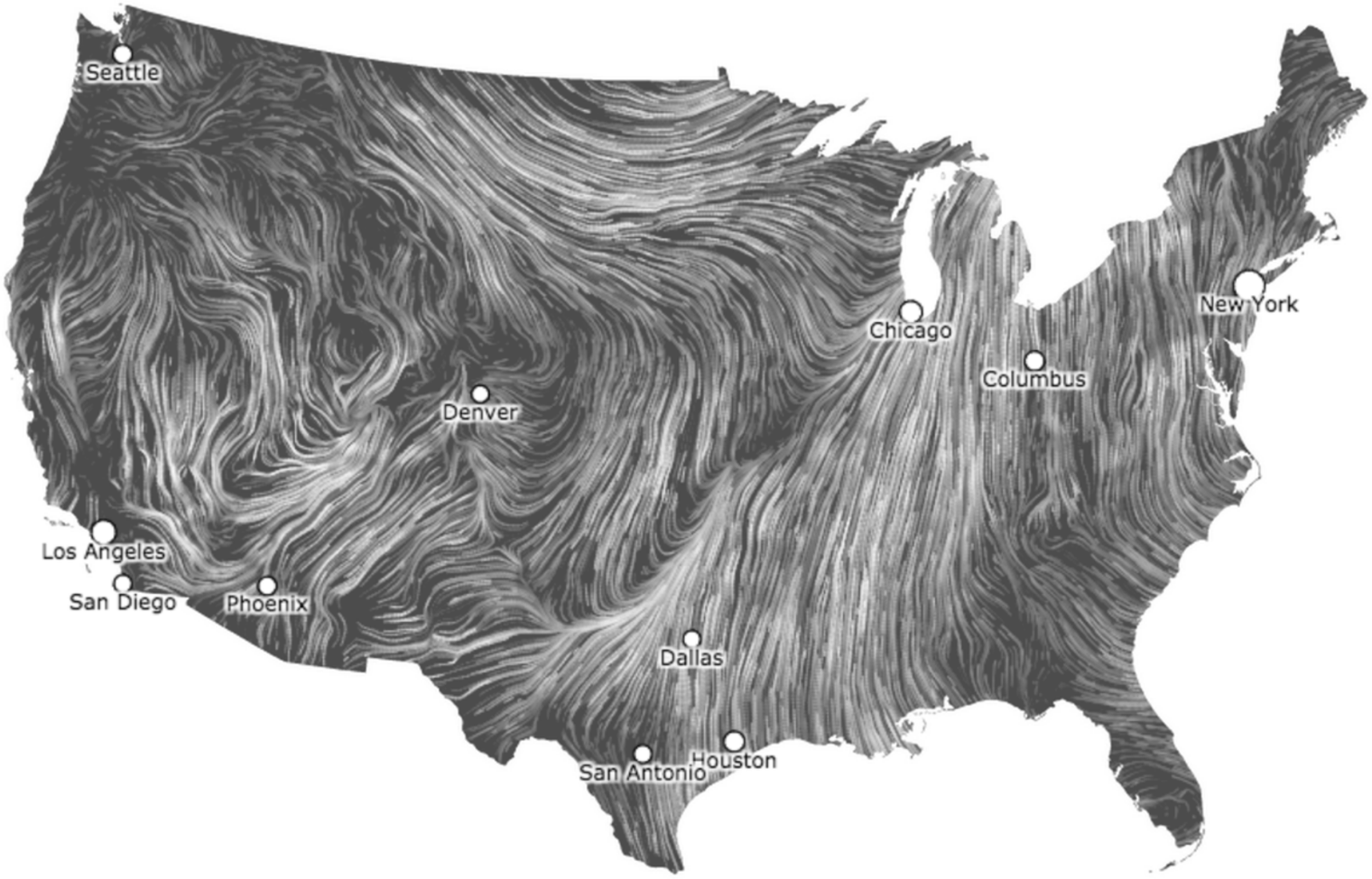


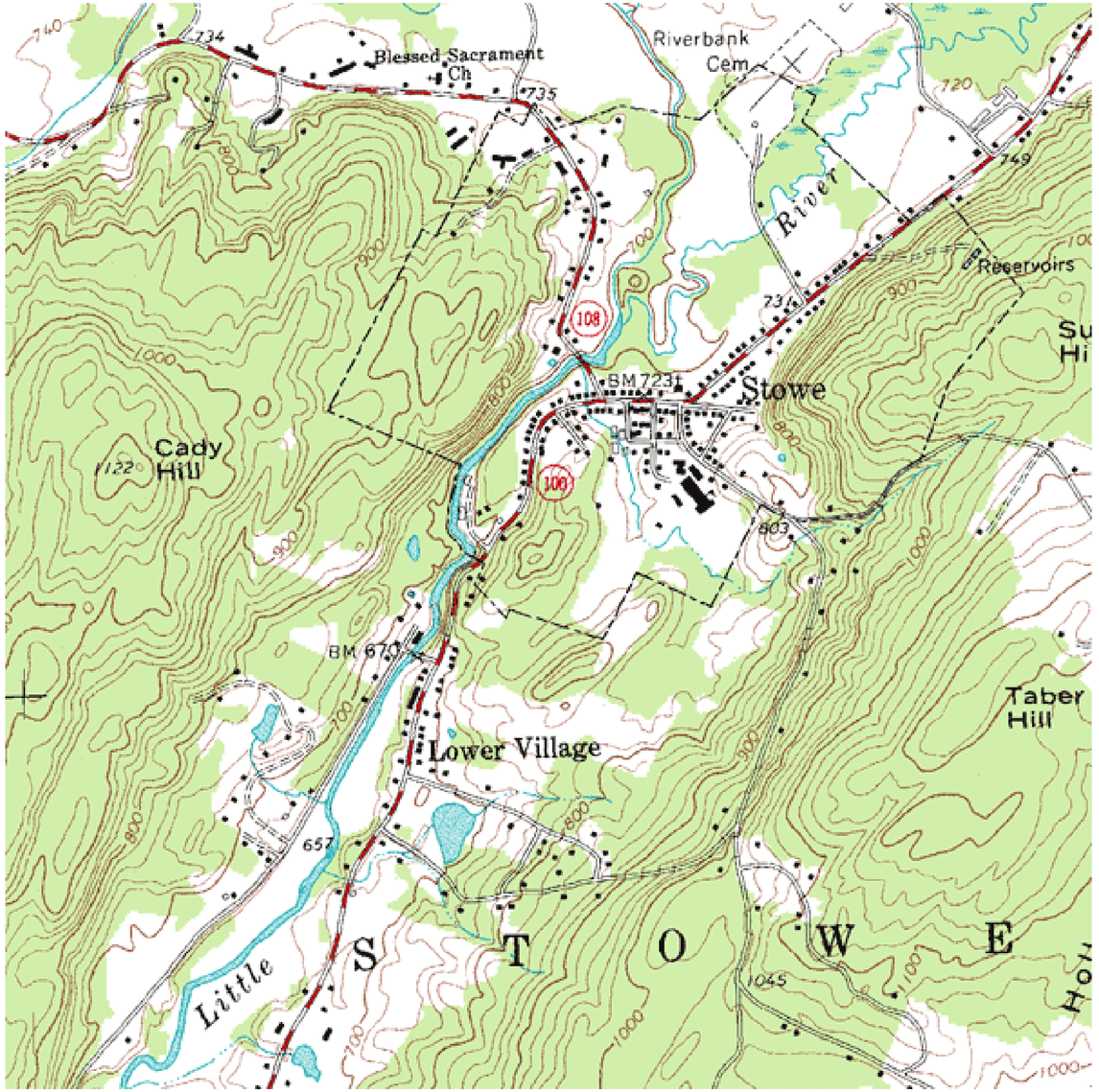
Early Weather Map

Halley's wind map, 1686

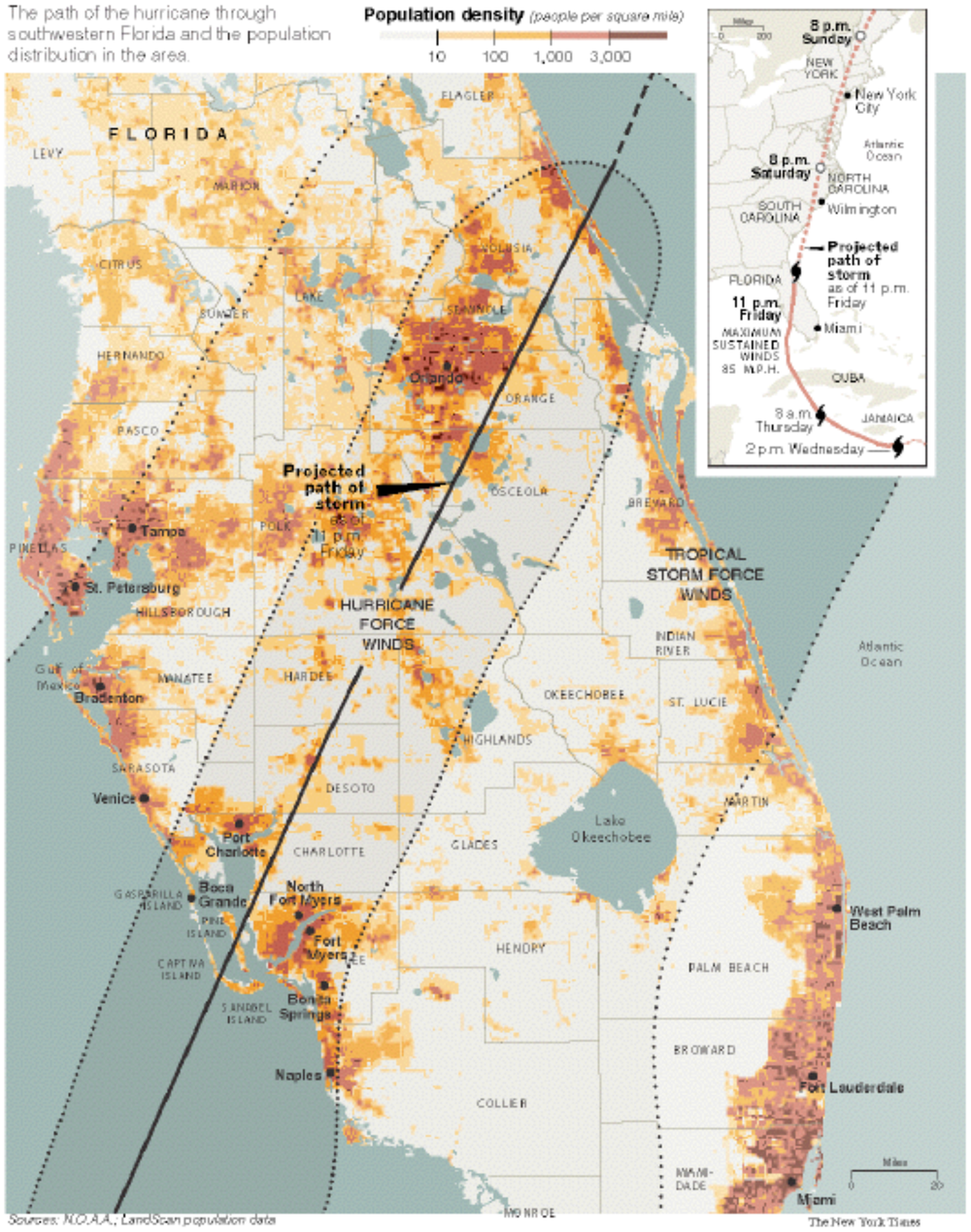


Wind Map


Seattle
Chicago
New York
Columbus
Denver
Los Angeles
San Diego
Phoenix
Dallas
San Antonio
Houston



wikipedia.org



M. Ericson, NY Times

Cartograms

Scale Distance by Data

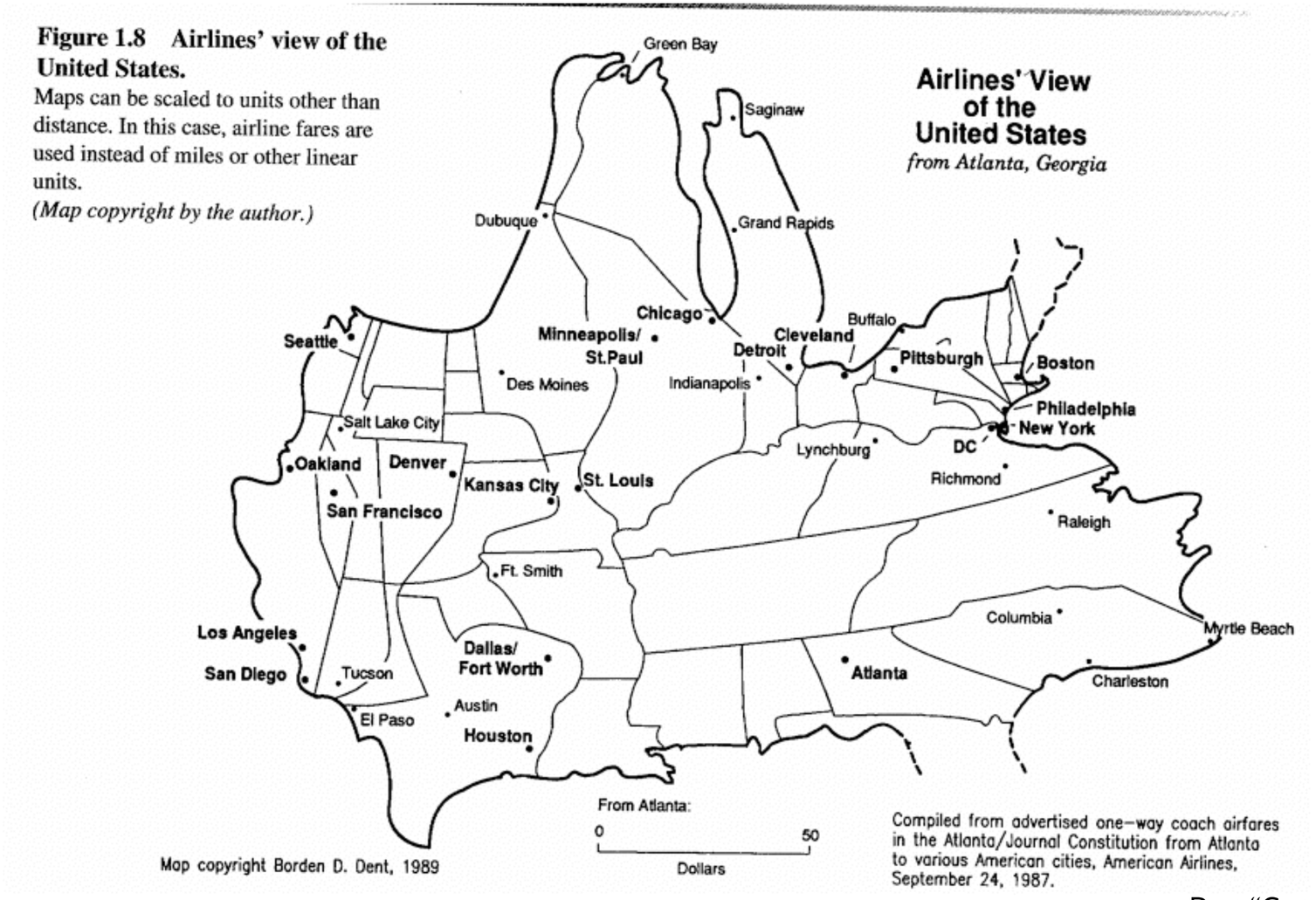
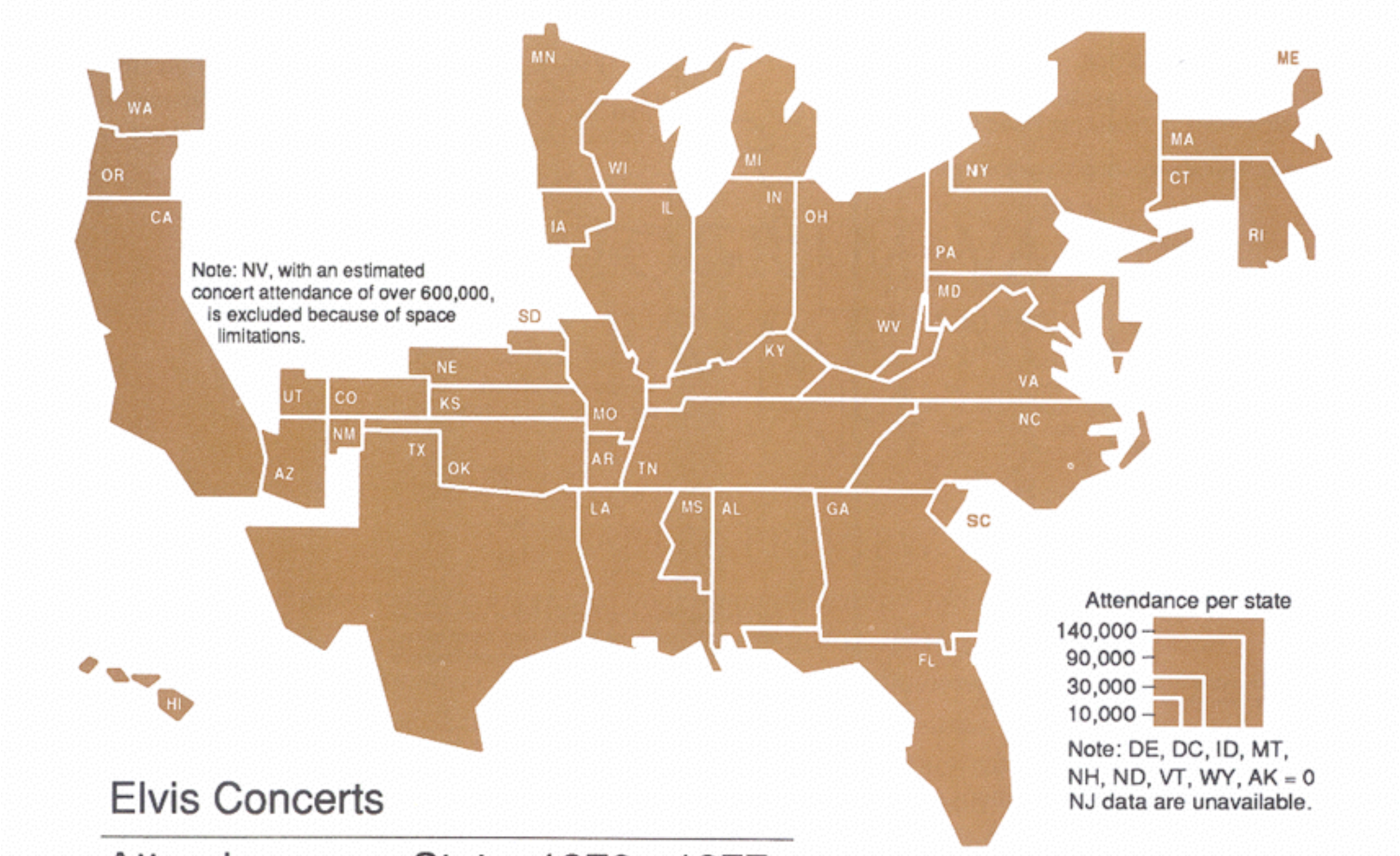


Figure 1.8 Airlines' view of the United States.
Maps can be scaled to units other than distance. In this case, airline fares are used instead of miles or other linear units.
(Map copyright by the author.)

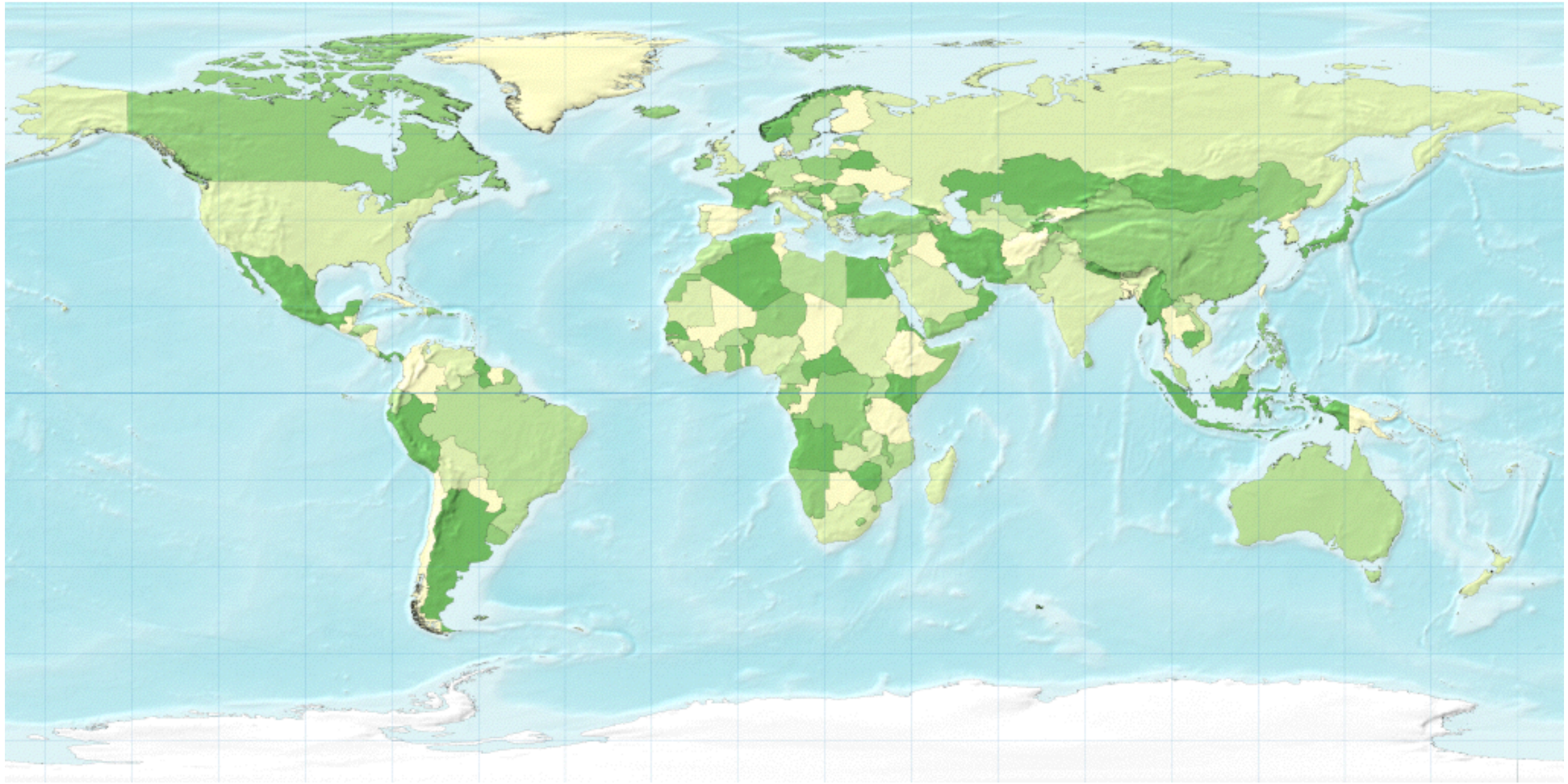
Dent, "Cartography"
Based on slide from Hanrahan

Scale Area by Data



Dent, "Cartography"
Based on slide from Hanrahan

The World

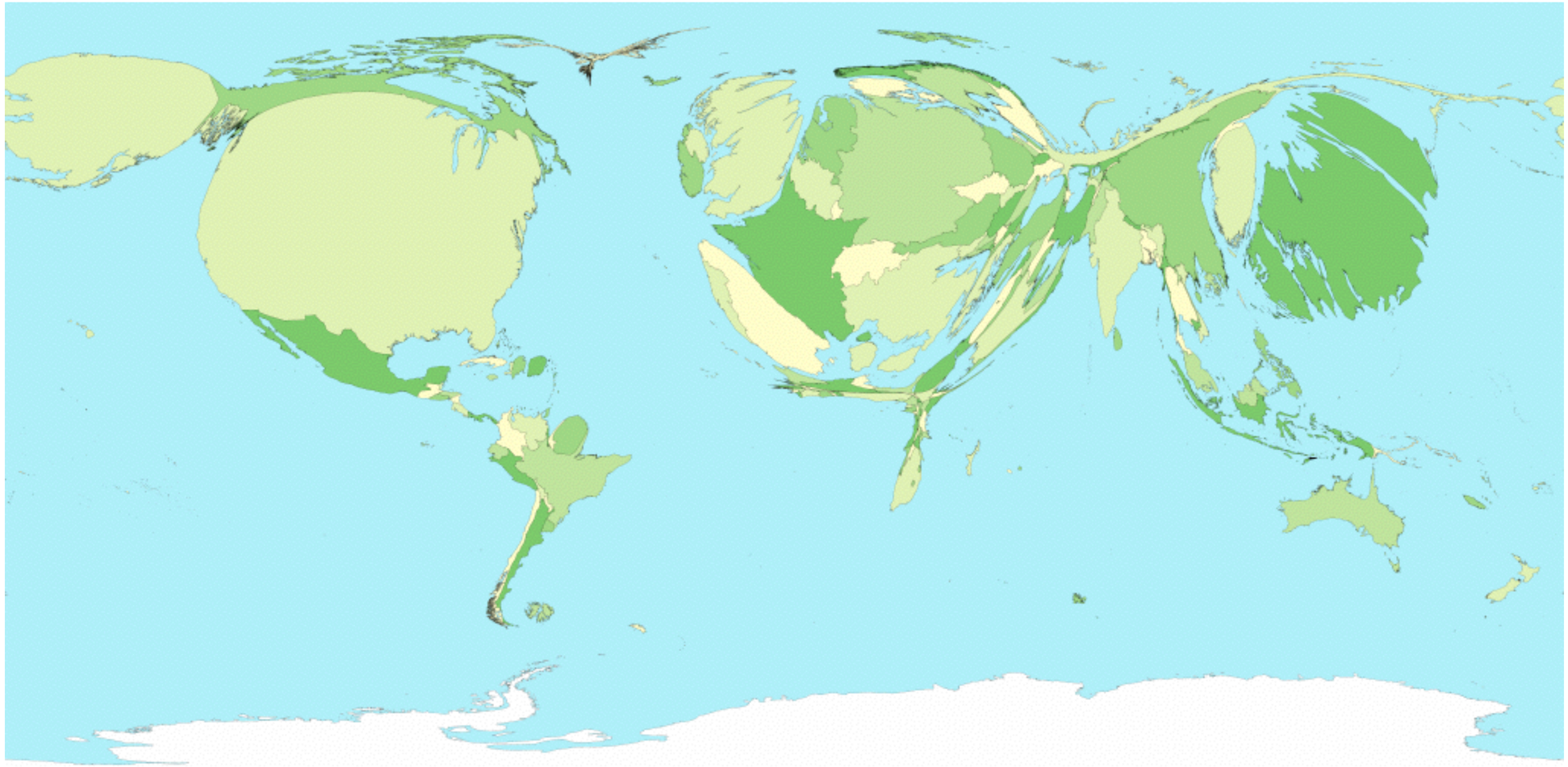


Mark Newman, Univ. Michigan

Population

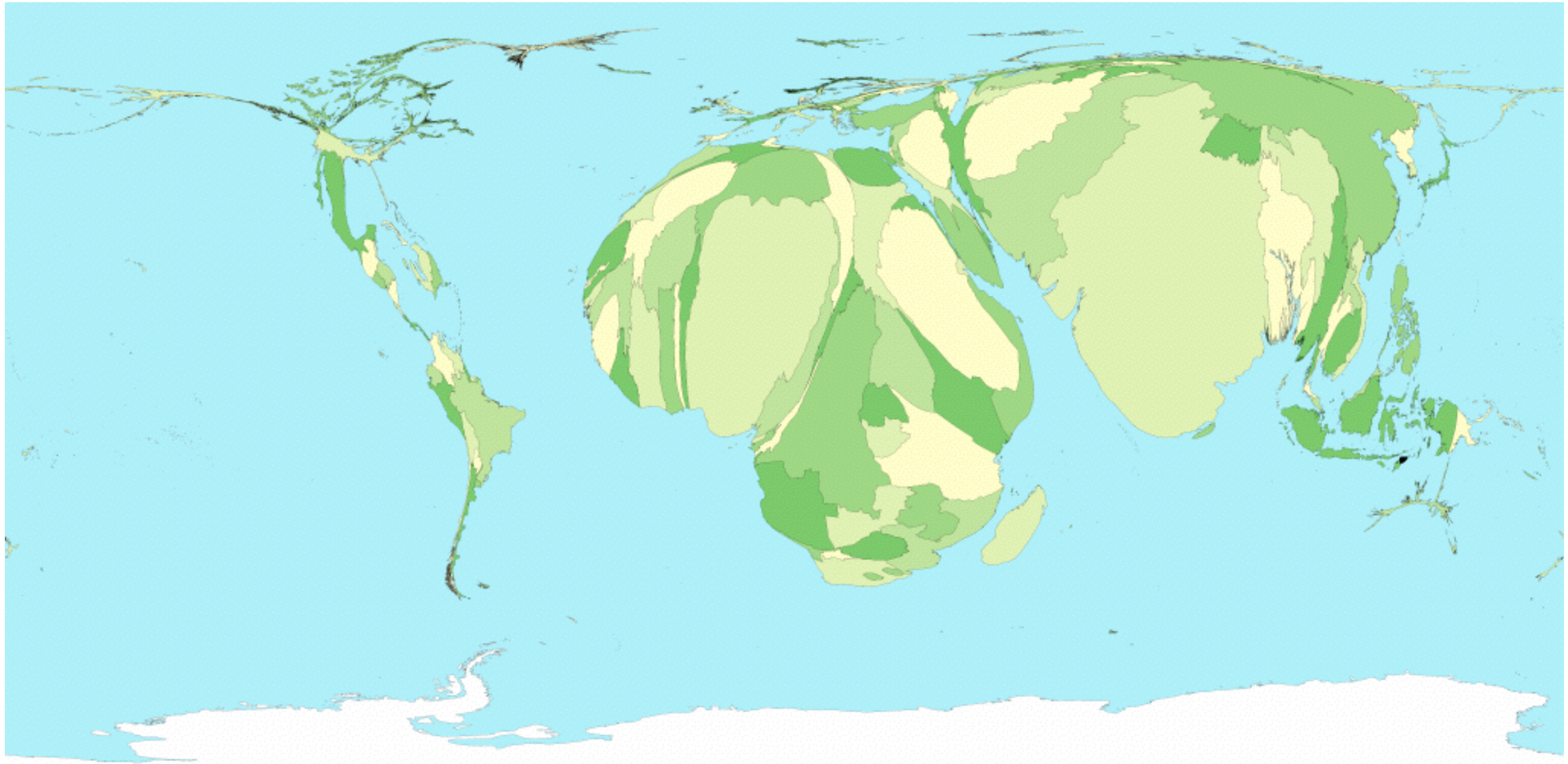
Mark Newman, Univ. Michigan

GDP



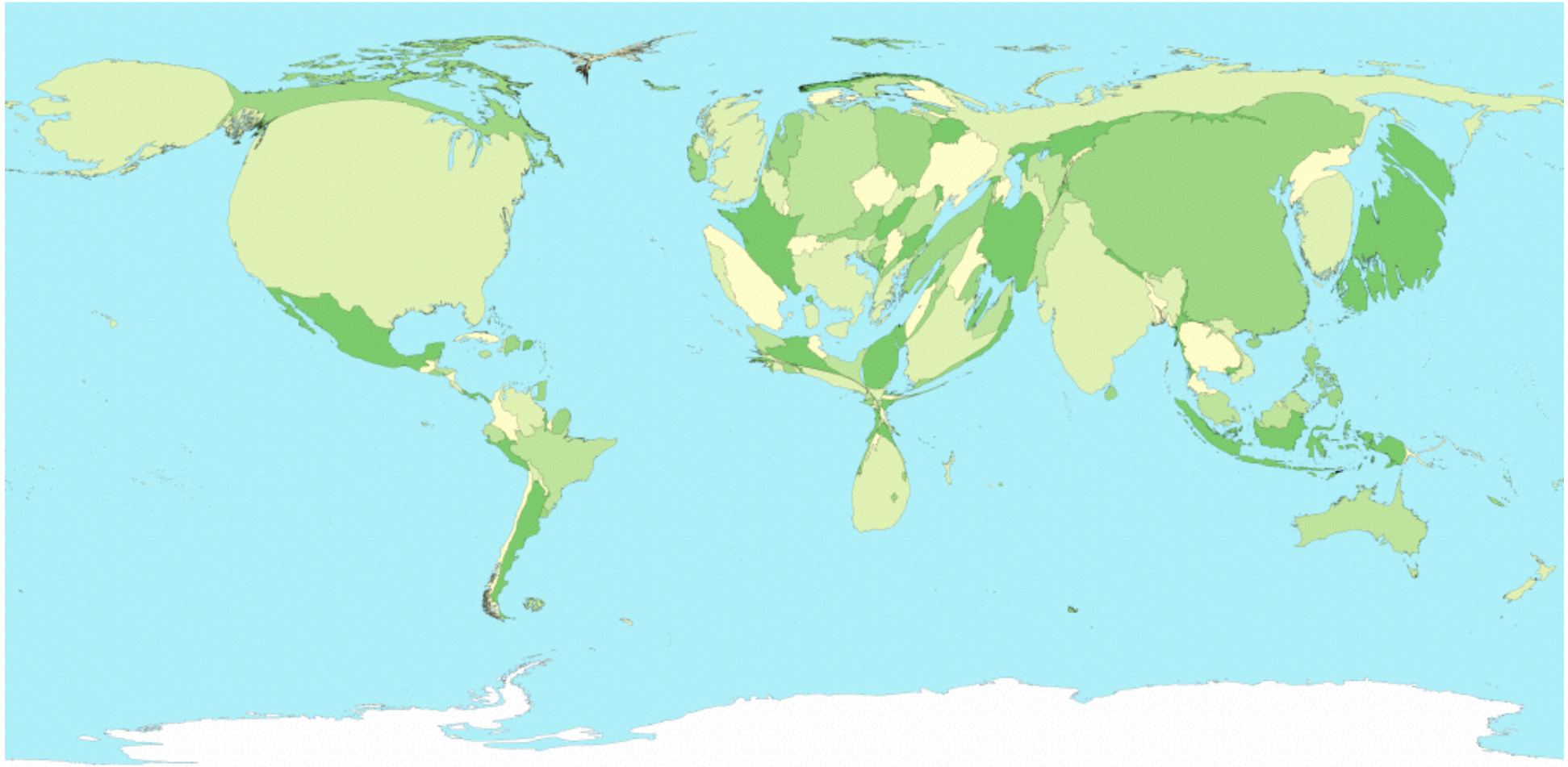
Mark Newman, Univ. Michigan

Child Mortality



Mark Newman, Univ. Michigan

Greenhouse Emissions



Mark Newman, Univ. Michigan

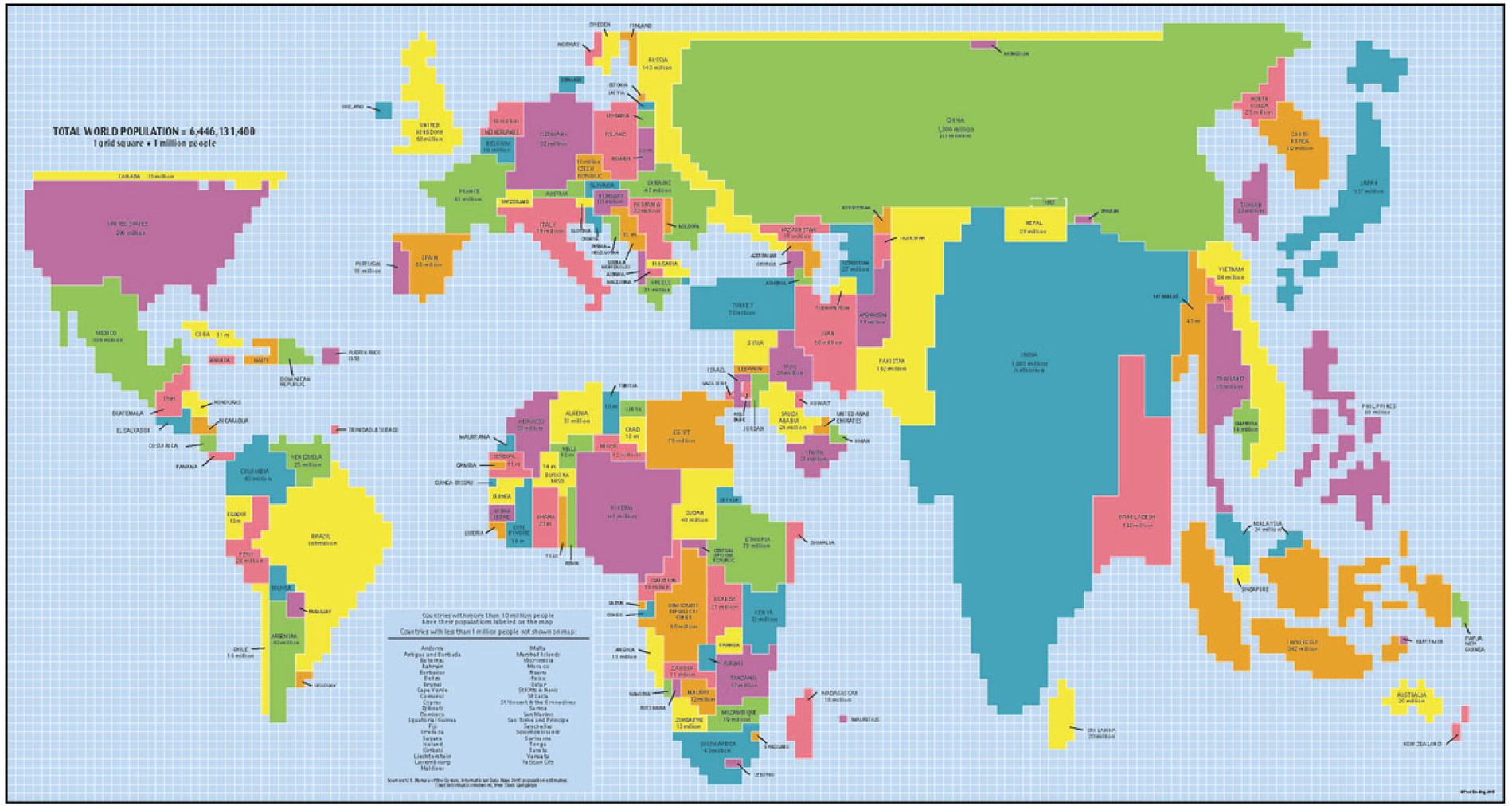
Kerry vs. Bush 2004

Michael Gastner,
Cosma Shalizi, and
Mark Newman

University of Michigan

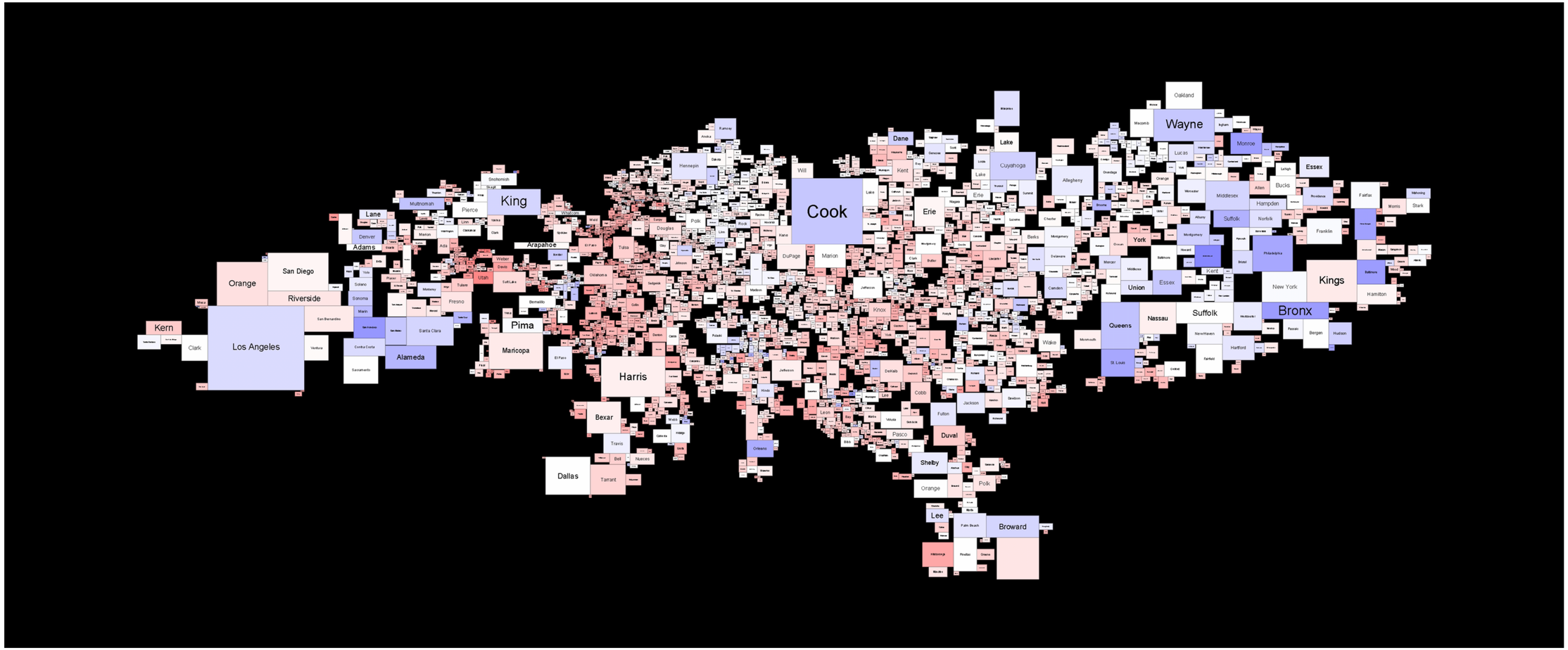
Matthew Ericson, NY Times

Rectangular Cartograms

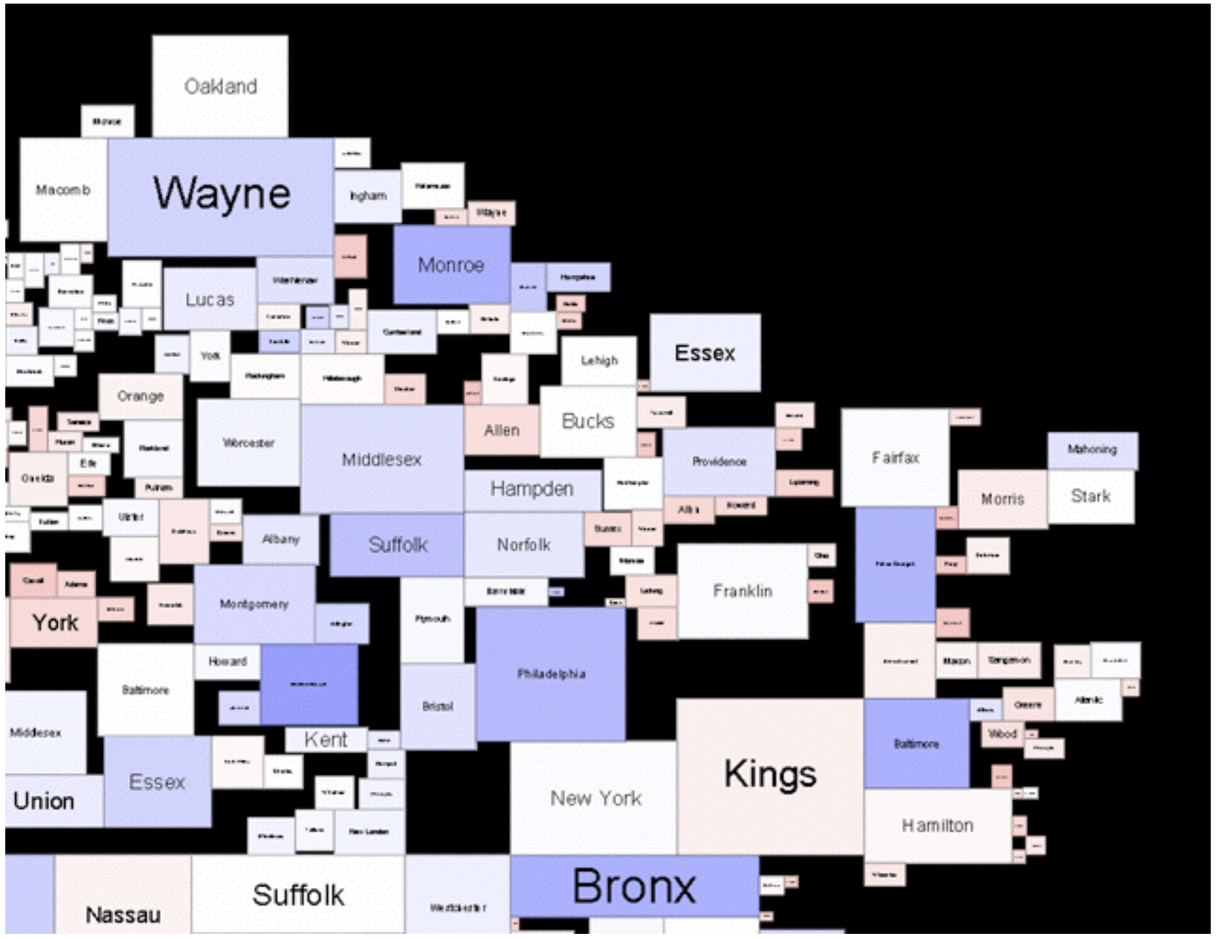


World Population
Cartogram Poster
Drawn by Hand

Bush vs. Kerry, 2004



Heilman, Keim, Panse, Sips,
"RecMap: Rectangular Map Approximations"
Based on image from Keim



Heilman, Keim, Panse, Sips,
"RecMap: Rectangular Map Approximations"
Based on image from Keim

September 4, 2008

E-MAIL | FEEDBACK

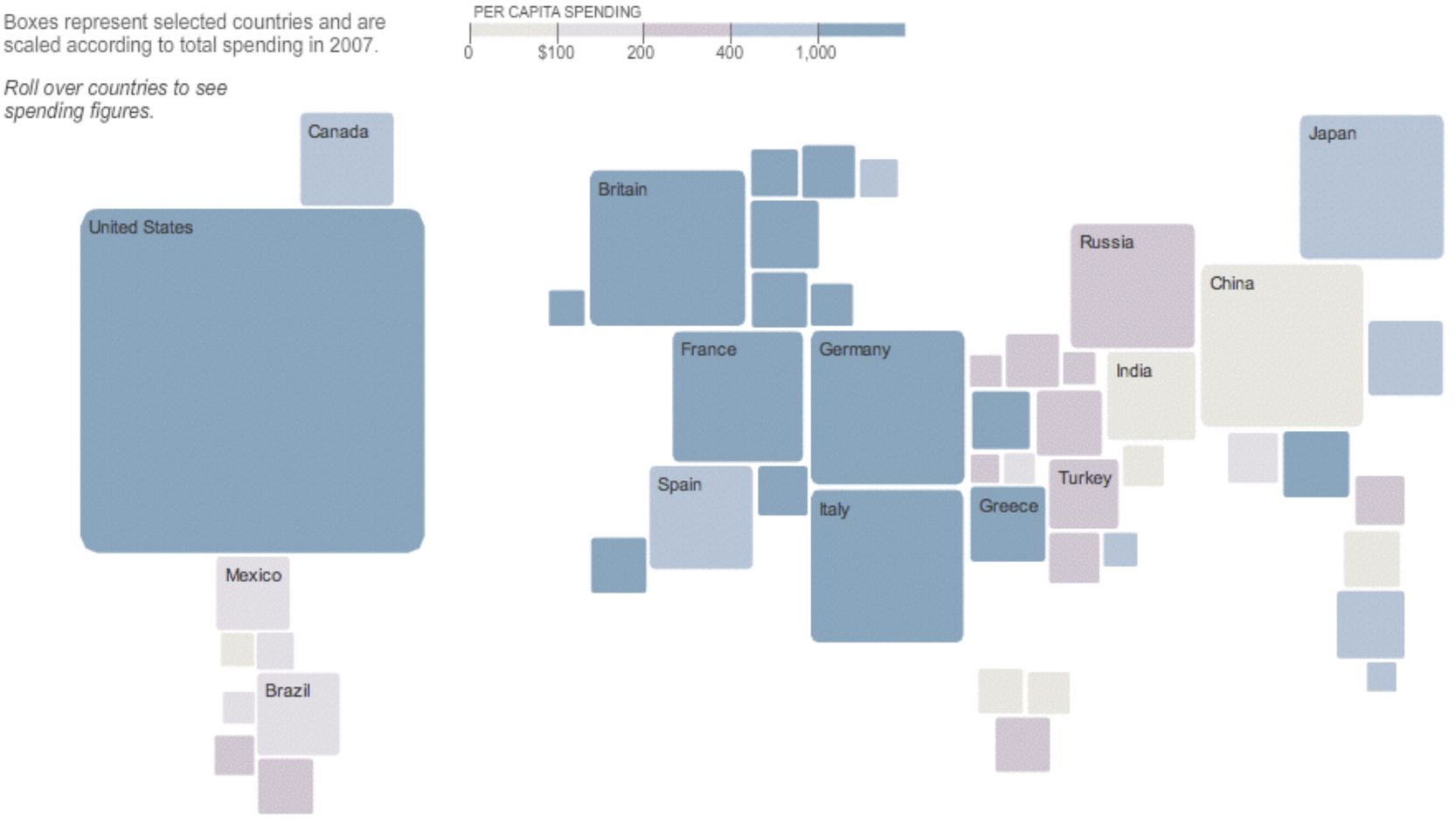
What Your Global Neighbors Are Buying

How people spend their discretionary income – the cash that goes to clothing, electronics, recreation, household goods, alcohol – depends a lot on where they live. People in Greece spend almost 13 times more money on clothing as they do on electronics. People living in Japan spend more on recreation than they do on clothing, electronics and household goods combined. Americans spend a lot of money on everything. Related Article

CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR | ELECTRONICS | ALCOHOL & TOBACCO | HOUSEHOLD GOODS | RECREATION

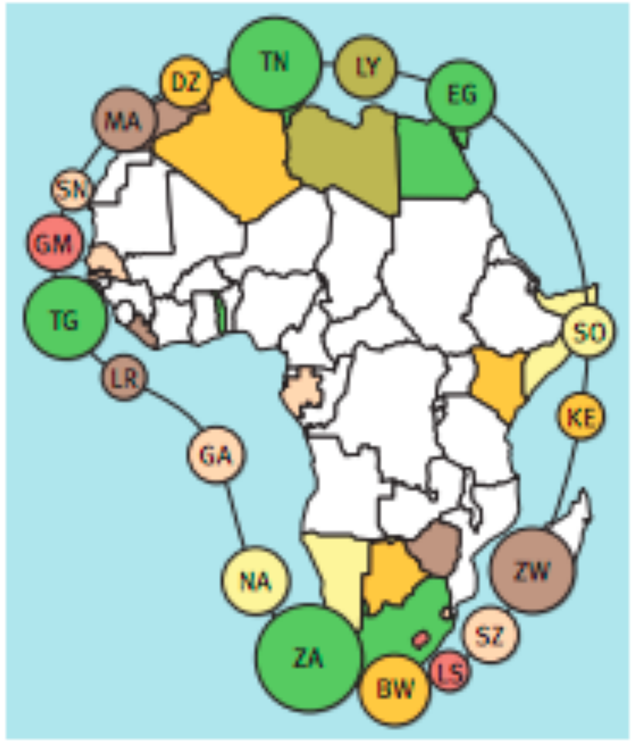
Boxes represent selected countries and are scaled according to total spending in 2007.

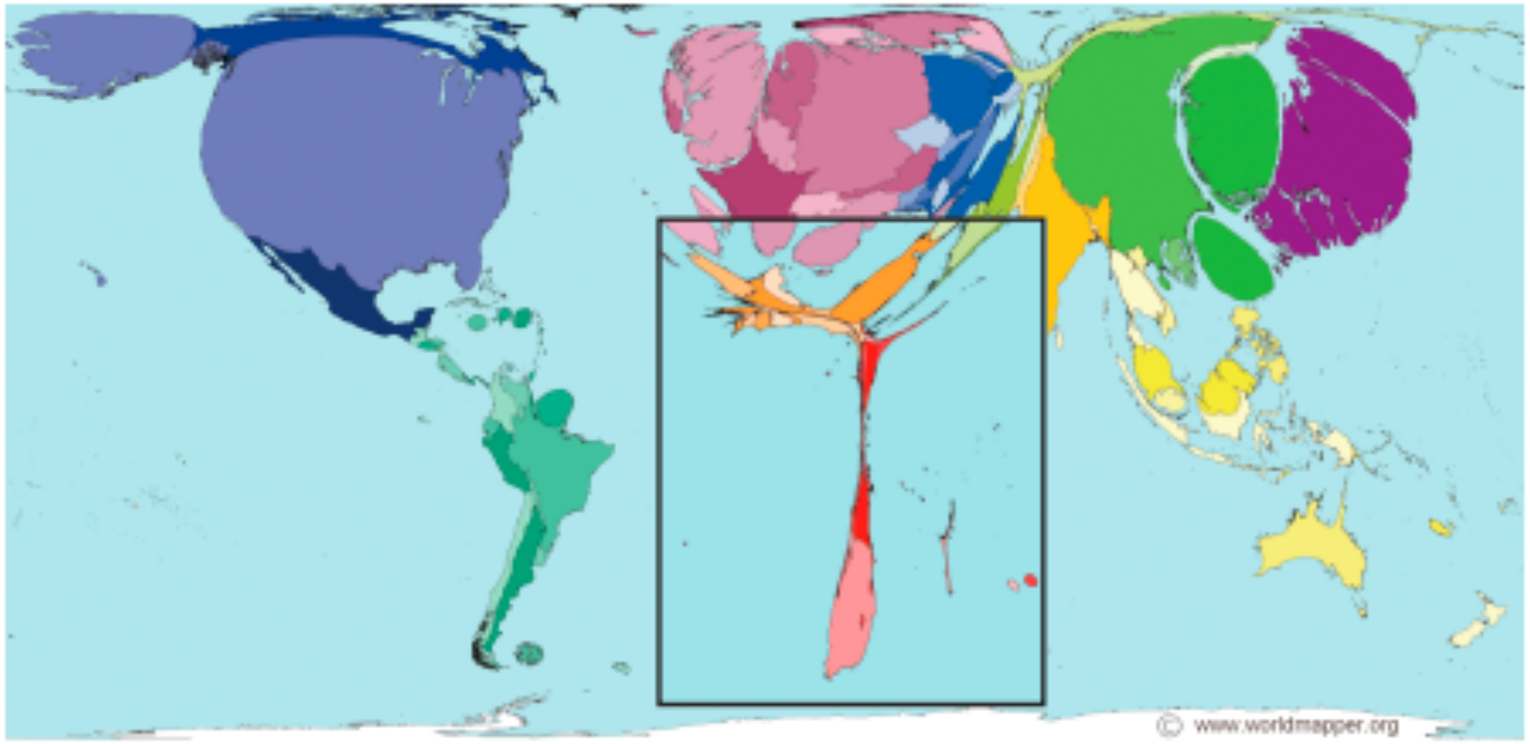
Roll over countries to see spending figures.



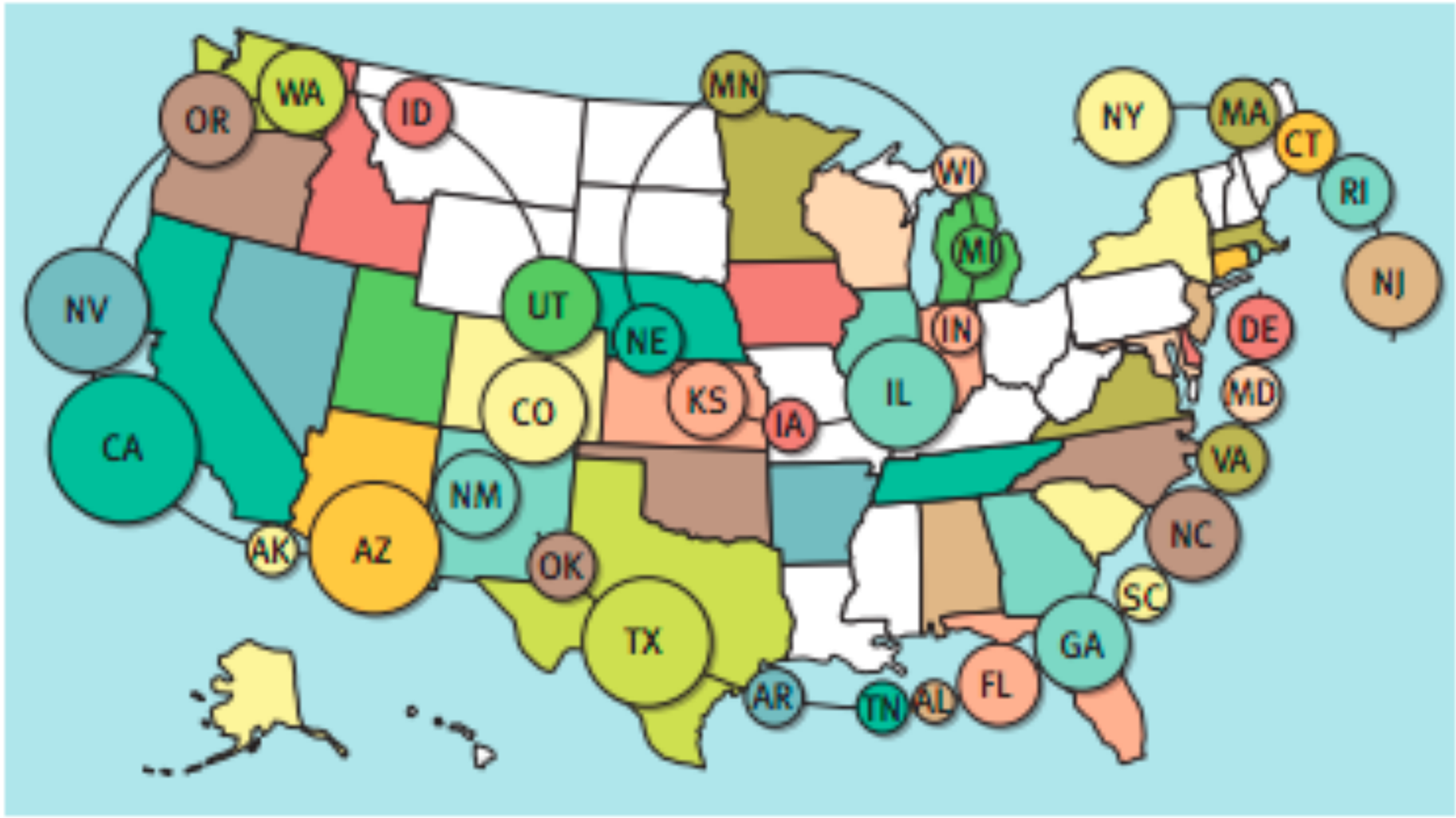
NY Times

Necklace Maps



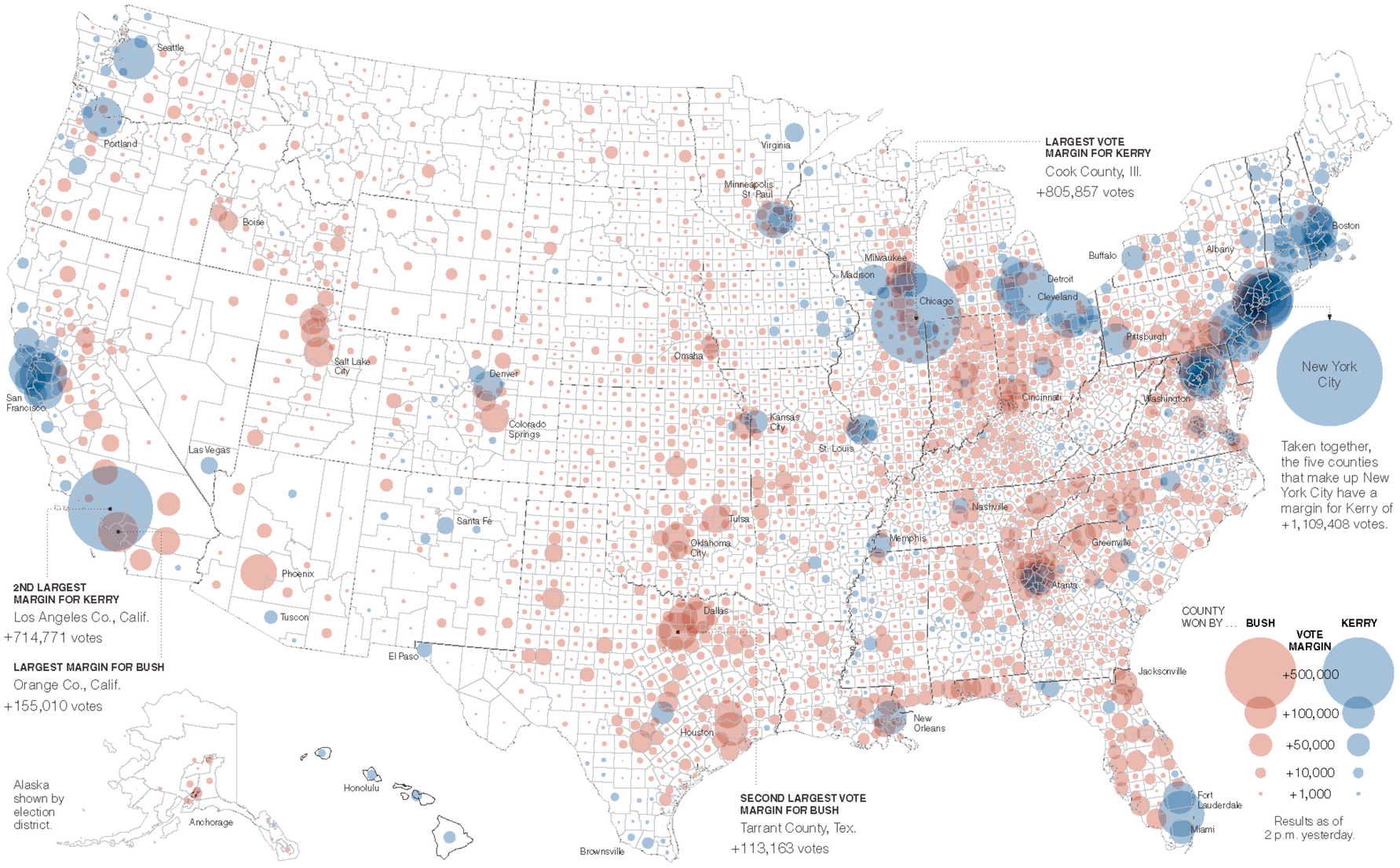


Internet Users in Africa



Illegal Immigrants in the US

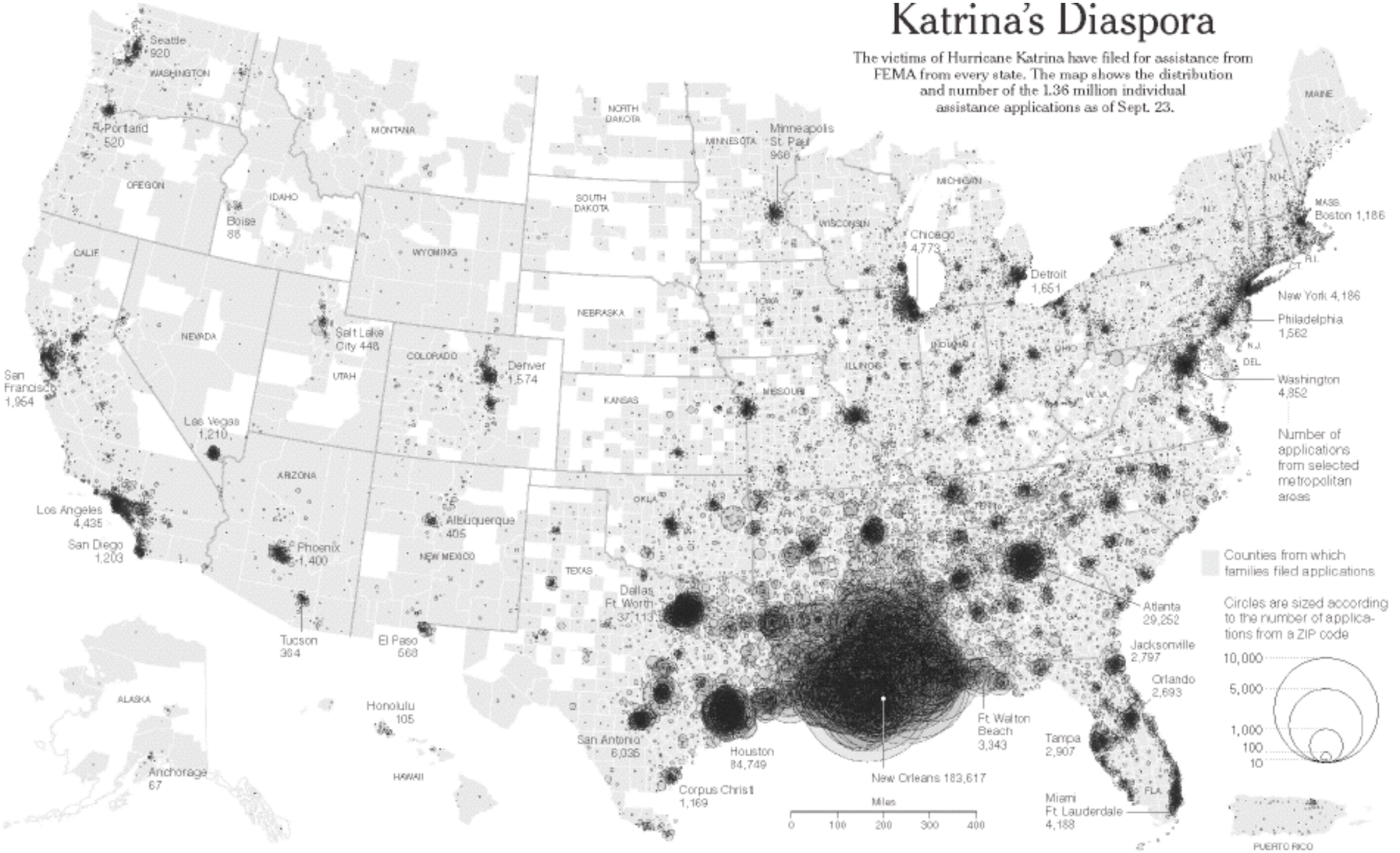
Proportional Symbol Maps



Matthew Ericson, NY Times

Katrina's Diaspora

The victims of Hurricane Katrina have filed for assistance from FEMA from every state. The map shows the distribution and number of the 1.36 million individual assistance applications as of Sept. 23.



They are scattered through all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico — 623 in Utah, 1,114 in Kansas, 101 way out in Alaska. They are clustered by the thousands in large Southern cities like Dallas, Atlanta and Memphis, and huddled in handfuls in unlikely hamlets like Shell Knob, Mo. (pop. 1,393) and Fountain Run, Ky. (pop. 236).

Evacuees fled Hurricane Katrina and the floods that followed in caravans of cars and fleets of buses, on helicopters and

emerges of where they landed, based on ZIP codes from which applications for aid were submitted to the Federal Emergency Management Agency as of Sept. 23.

Of 1,356,704 applications, 86 percent came from Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas and Alabama. But 35,539 families were more than 1,000 miles from the Gulf — among the farthest: one in Nome, Alaska, 3,931 miles from the French Quarter and another in Lihue, Hawaii, 4,279 miles away.

Residents of New Orleans, a city that

centers. On average, the applicants came from counties where blacks were 28 percent of the population, more than twice the national average.

Baton Rouge, La., appears to be temporary home to 10 percent of evacuees, Houston 6.25 percent. But after the top 18 hubs, applicants are spread like the wind that whipped through their old neighborhoods: none of the other 900-plus metropolitan areas has even 1 percent of the total.

Some 4,000 ZIP codes — among them

Applications by state

Louisiana	523,149	38.6%
Mississippi	383,840	28.3%
Texas	156,895	11.6%
Alabama	109,469	8.1%
Georgia	35,342	2.6%
Florida	31,005	2.3%
Tennessee	15,529	1.1%
Arkansas	11,027	0.8%
California	10,959	0.8%

Applications by distance from New Orleans

MILES	APPLICANTS	PCT.
0-100	626,232	46.2%
100-200	338,080	24.9%
200-400	184,169	13.6%
400-800	143,497	10.6%
800-1,600	45,371	3.3%
1,600-3,200	13,403	1.0%
3,200+	232	0.0%

Distances could not be calculated for 0.4 percent of applications.

M. Ericson, NY Times

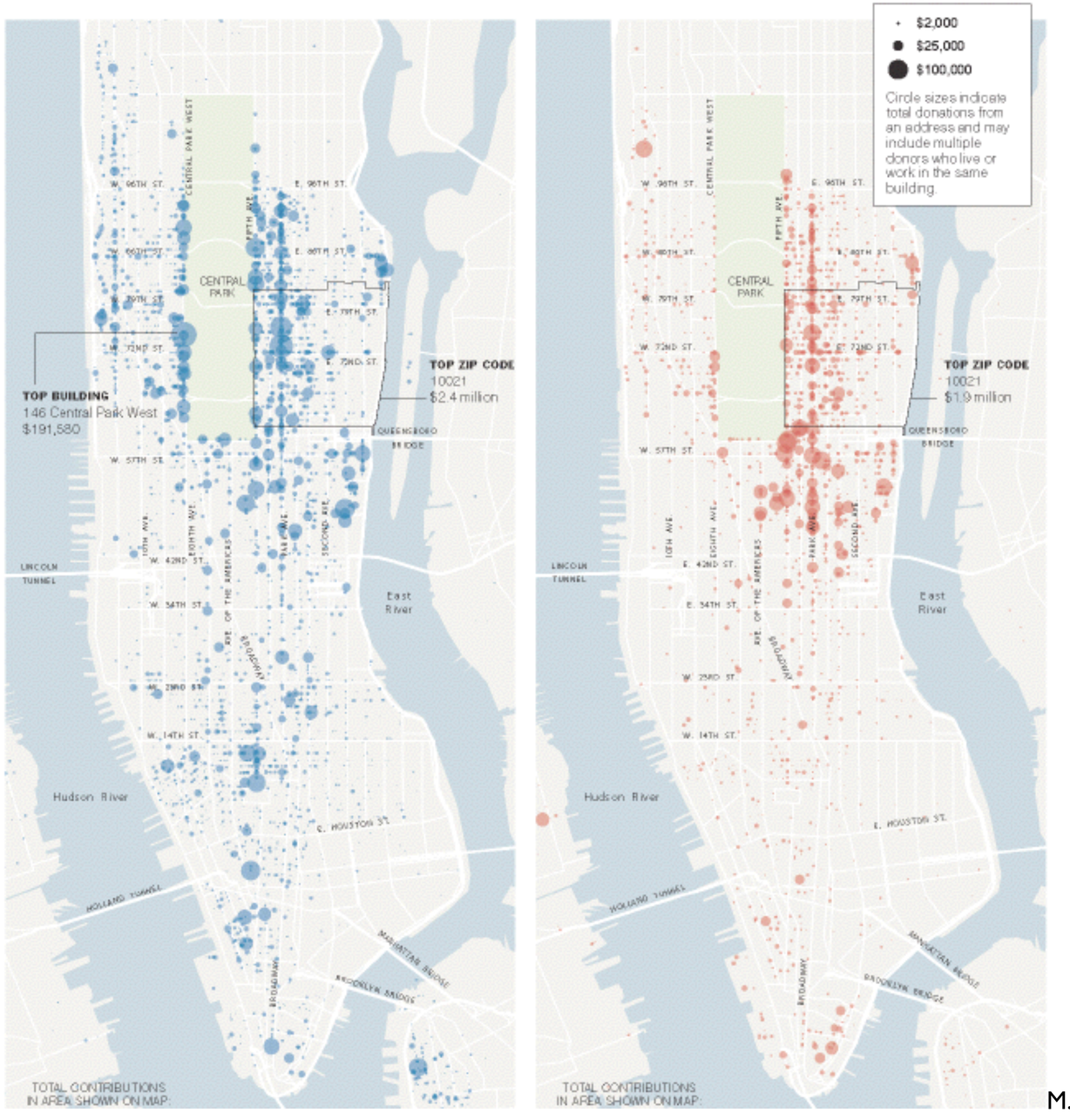
JOHN KERRY ← and the Democratic National Committee

Contributions to each candidate and his party's national committee

→ **GEORGE W. BUSH** and the Republican National Committee

Manhattan

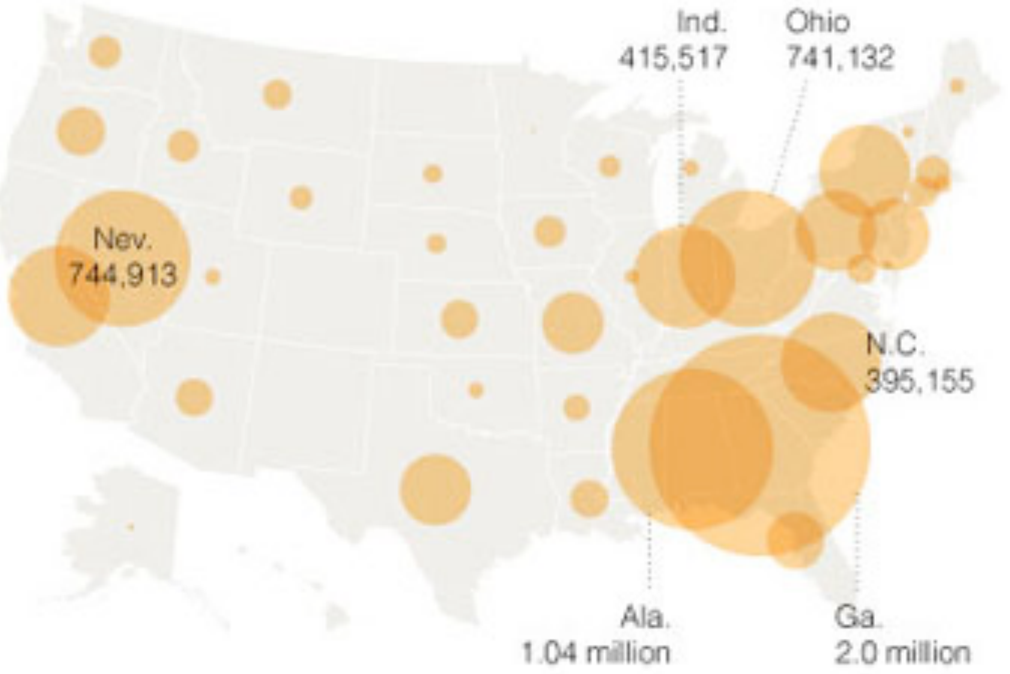
For both sides, the top ZIP code in the nation for contributions was 10021 on the Upper East Side. Mr. Kerry's appeal, however, was greater throughout much of the rest of Manhattan, bringing in more money than Mr. Bush and the R.N.C. in areas like the Upper West Side, Greenwich Village and SoHo.

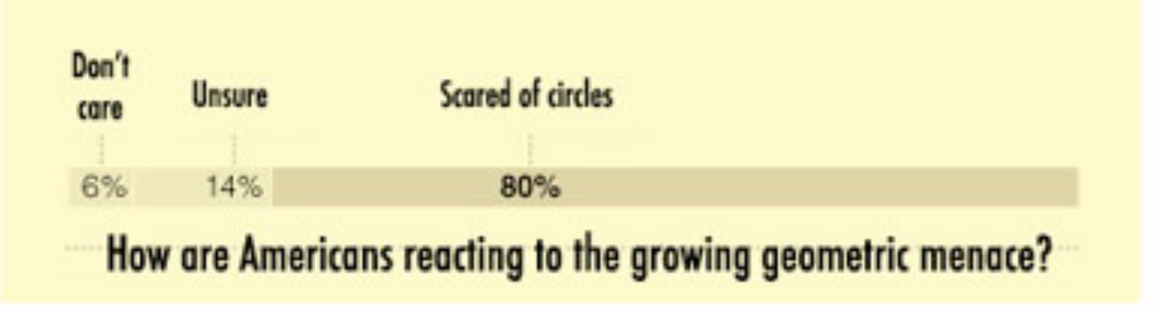


M. Ericson, NY Times

Killer circles threaten America

- No sides
- Area equal to πr^2
- Extremely round
- Often fatal
- North Dakota, New Mexico, Colorado remain circle-free

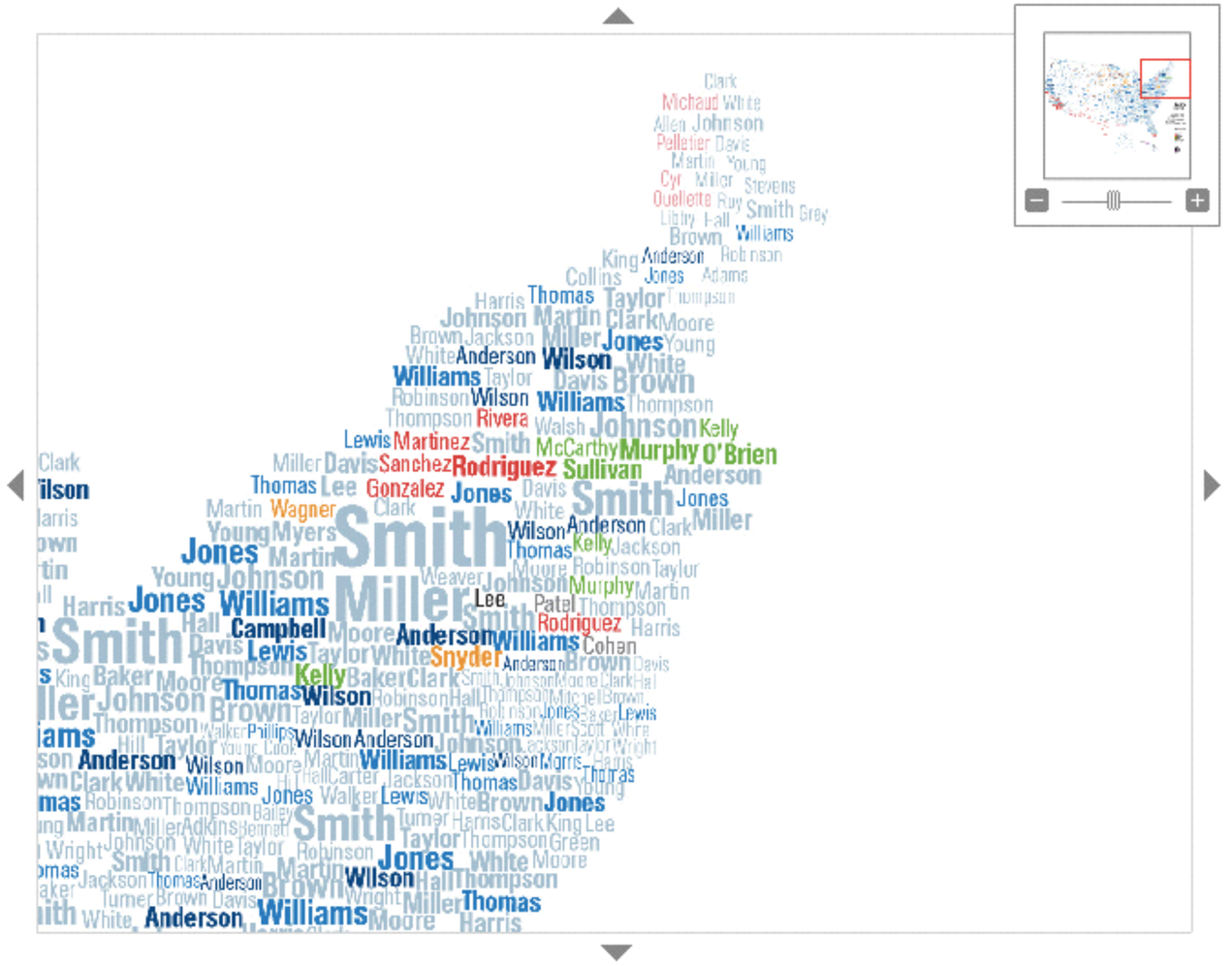




What's in a Surname?

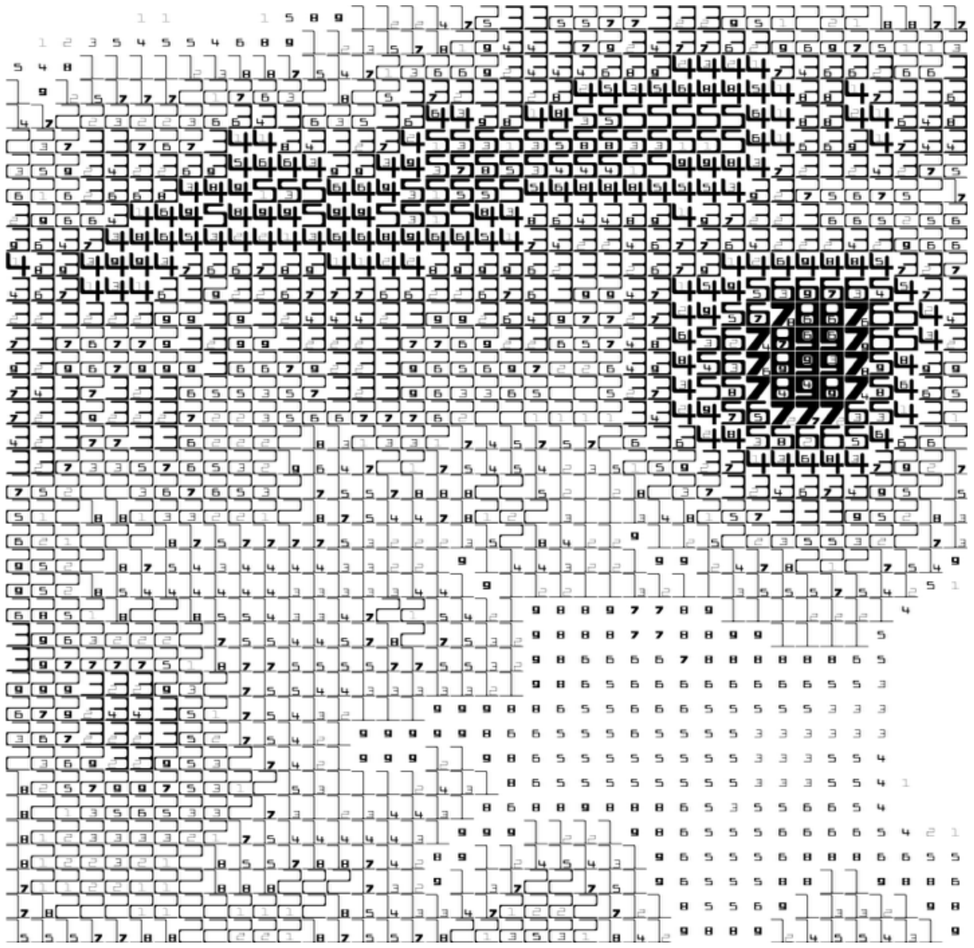
Facebook Twitter More »

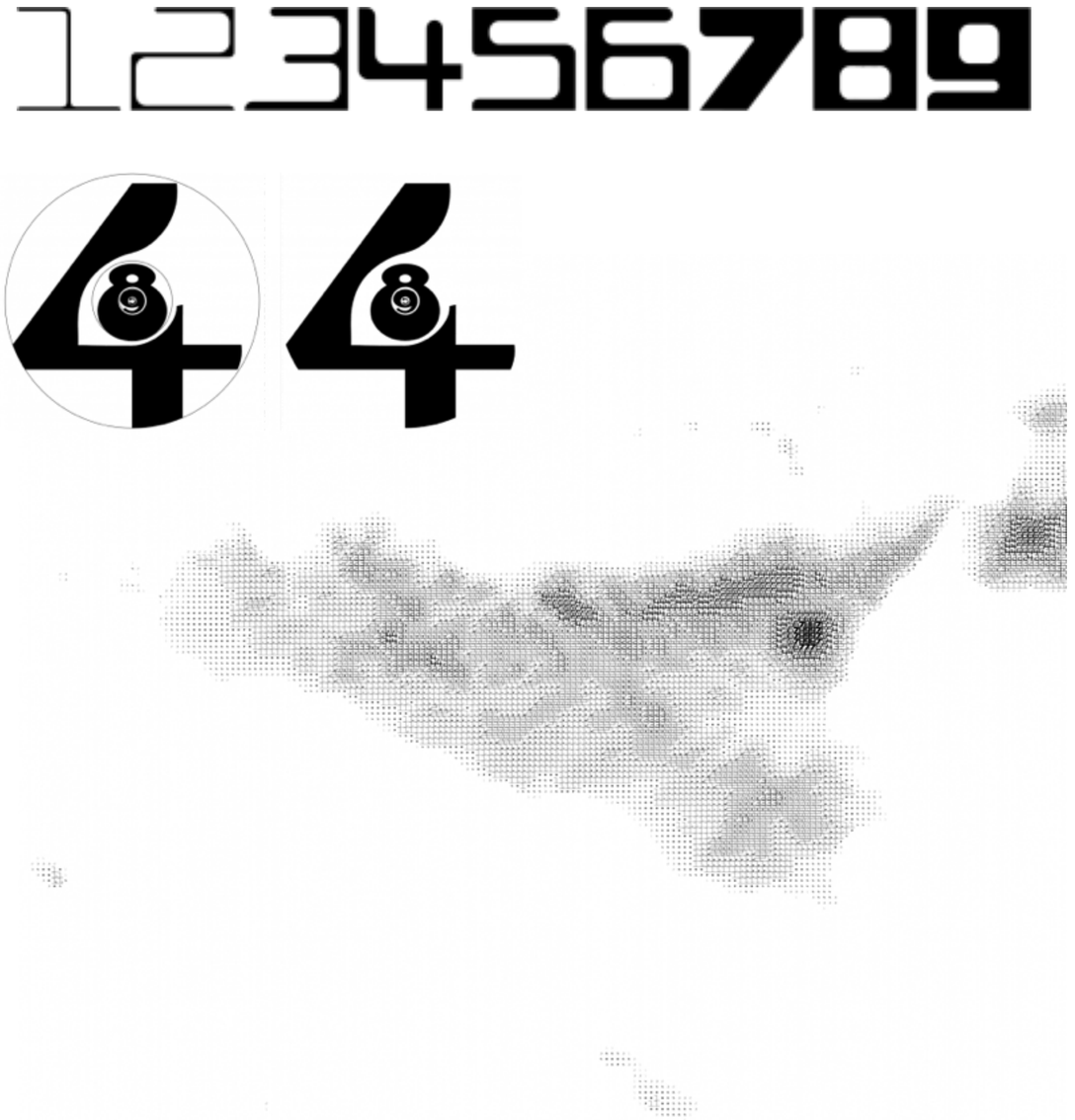
America is a nation of Smiths, Johnsons, and Sullivans—but also of Garcias and Nguyens. Zoom in on the map below to see what surnames proliferate in your part of the country.



National Geographic, Jan 2011

FatFonts





http://fatfonts.org/

The New York Times

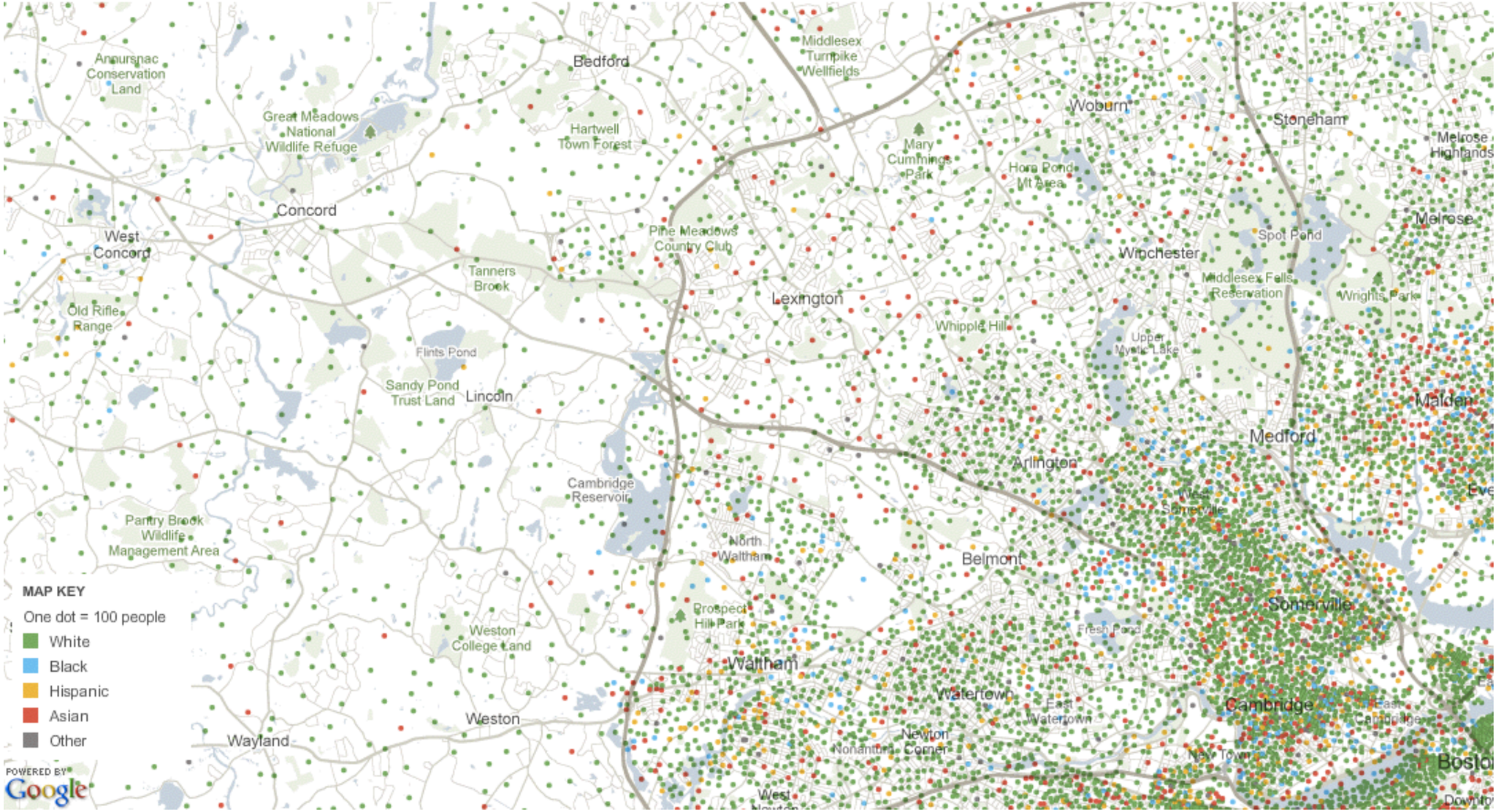
Mapping America: Every City, Every Block

Find s

Browse local data from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey, based on samples from 2005 to 2009. Because these figures are based on samples, they are subject to a margin of error, particularly in places with a low population, and are best regarded as estimates.

Distribution of racial and ethnic groups

View More Maps



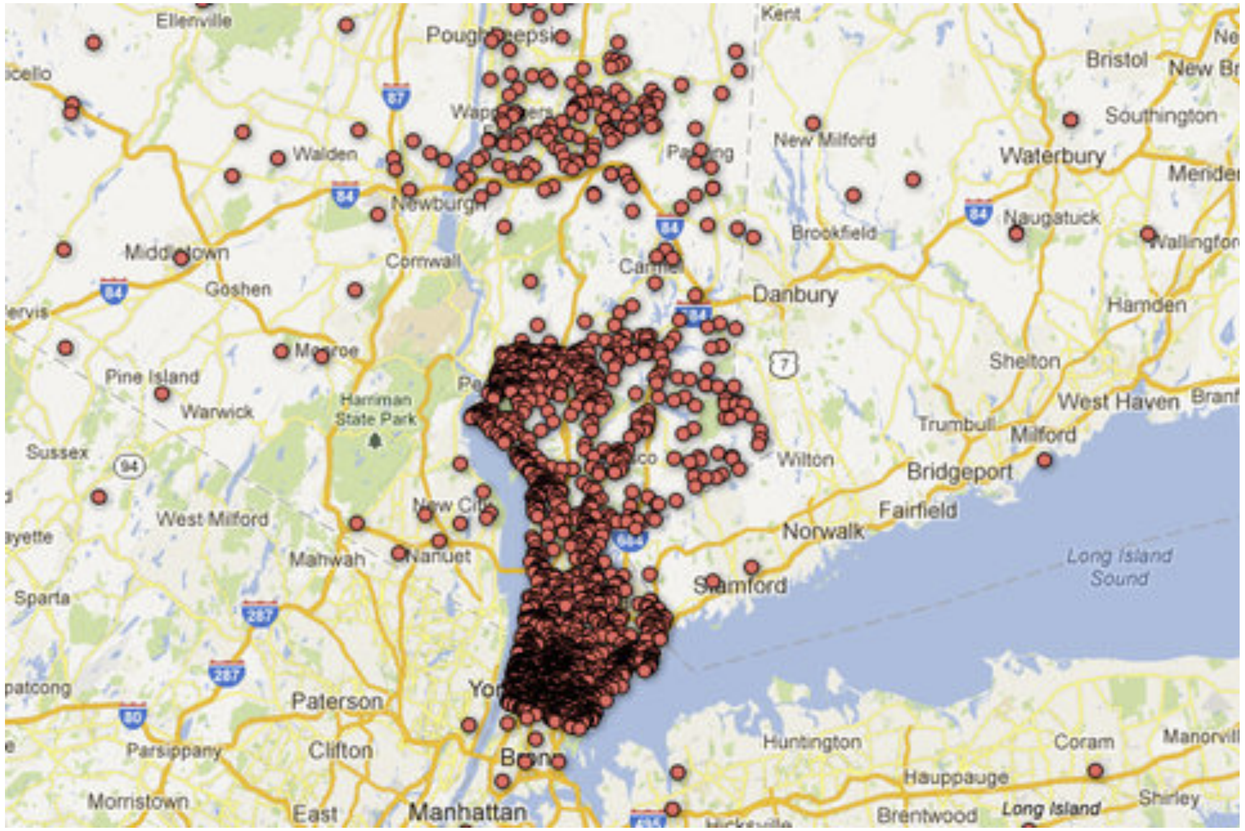
NYT, 2010

Visualizing Addresses of Gun Owners

Published after Connecticut school killings

What are the ethics of visualization?

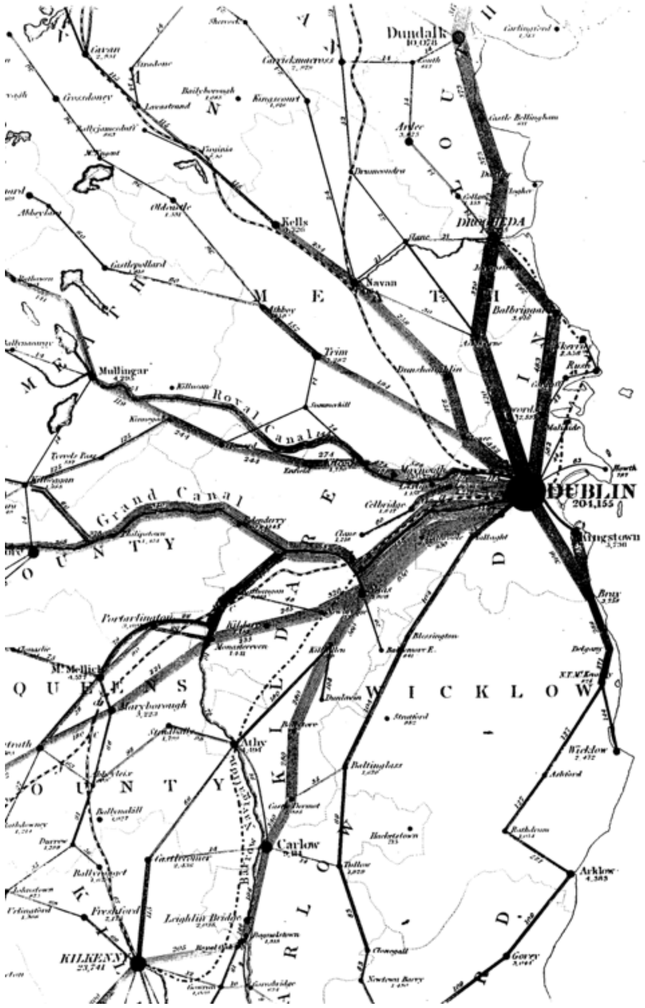
Data is public: is making it accessible problematic?



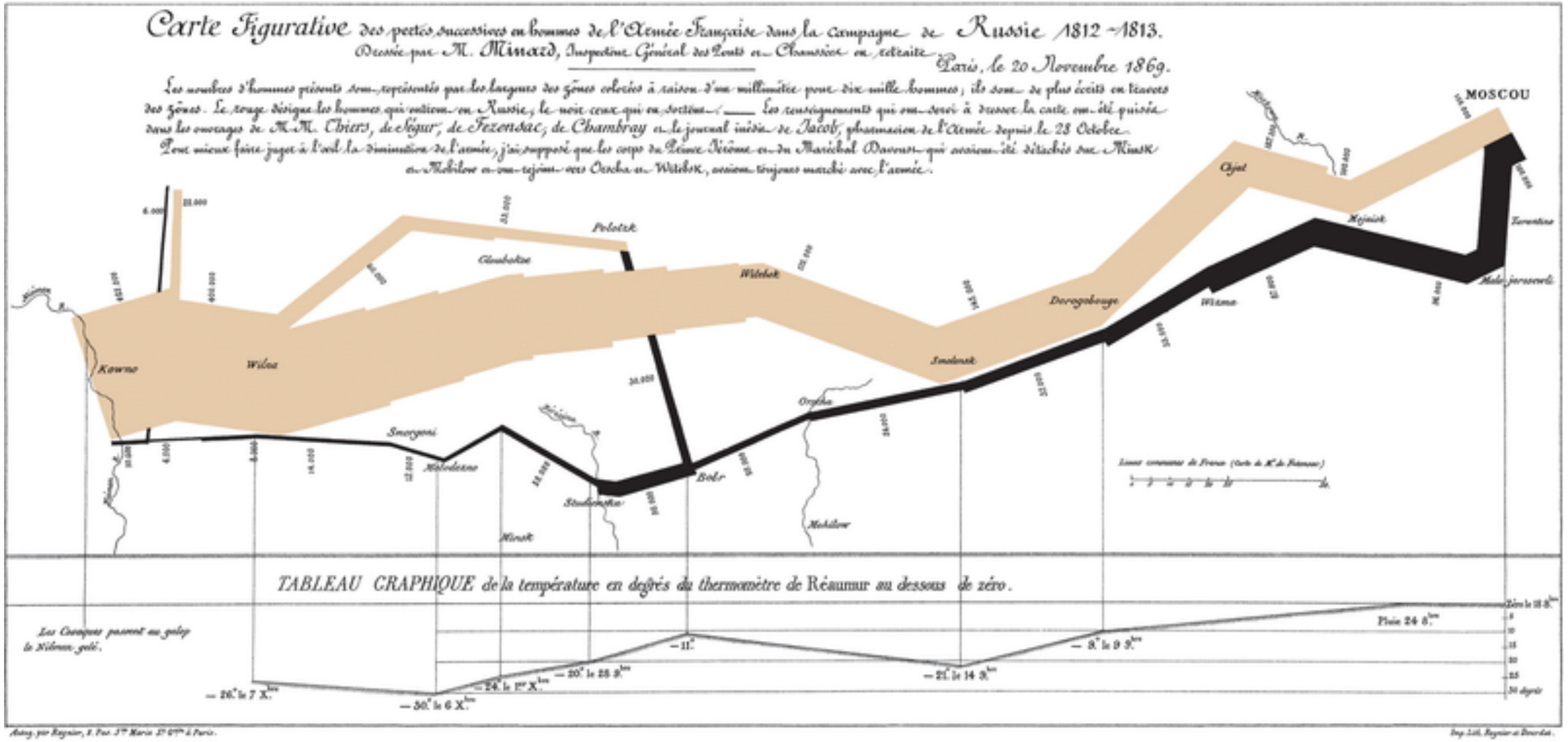
http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/01/08/did-a-newspaper-act-irresponsibly-by-publishing-the-addresses-of-gun-owners/

Flow Maps

Early Flow Map



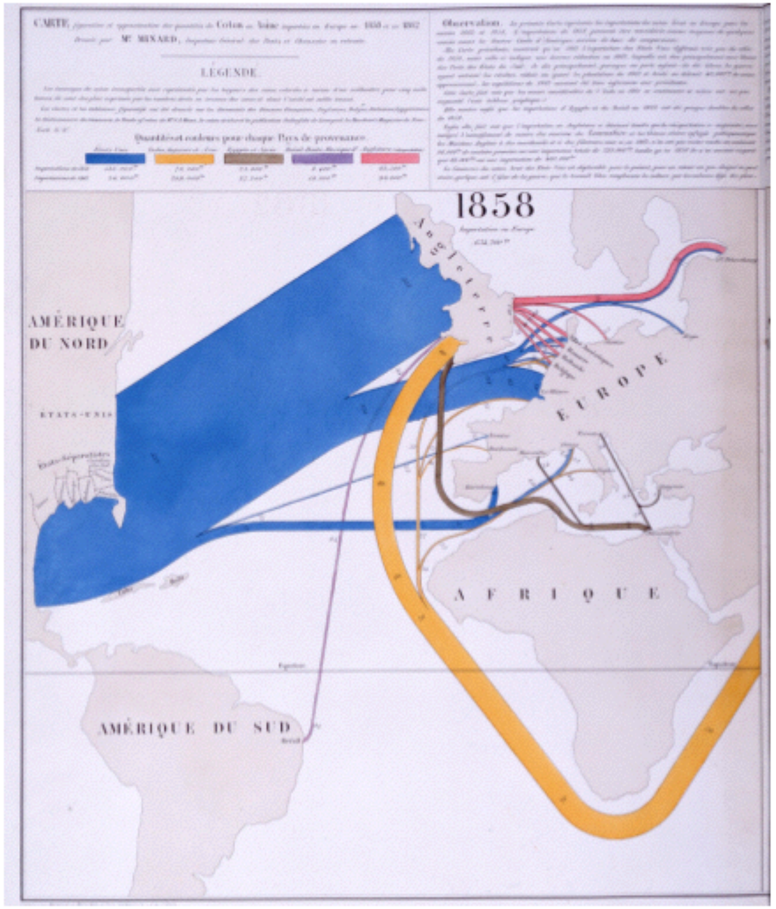
Transportation of Passengers
in Ireland
Henry Drury Harness, 1837



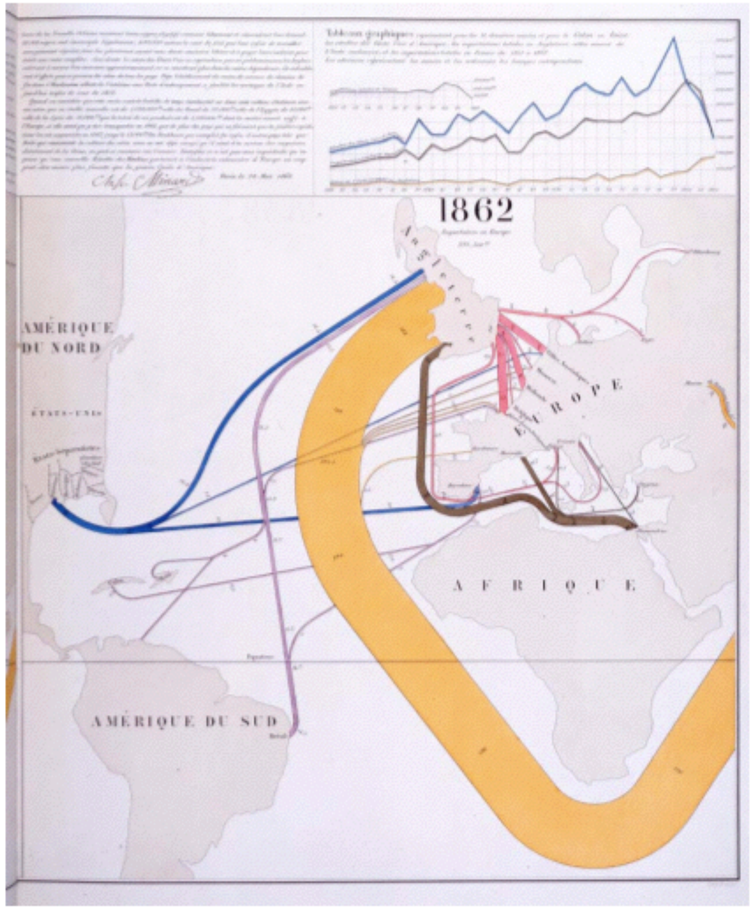
C. Minard, 1869

Effect of US Civil War on Cotton Trade

Before



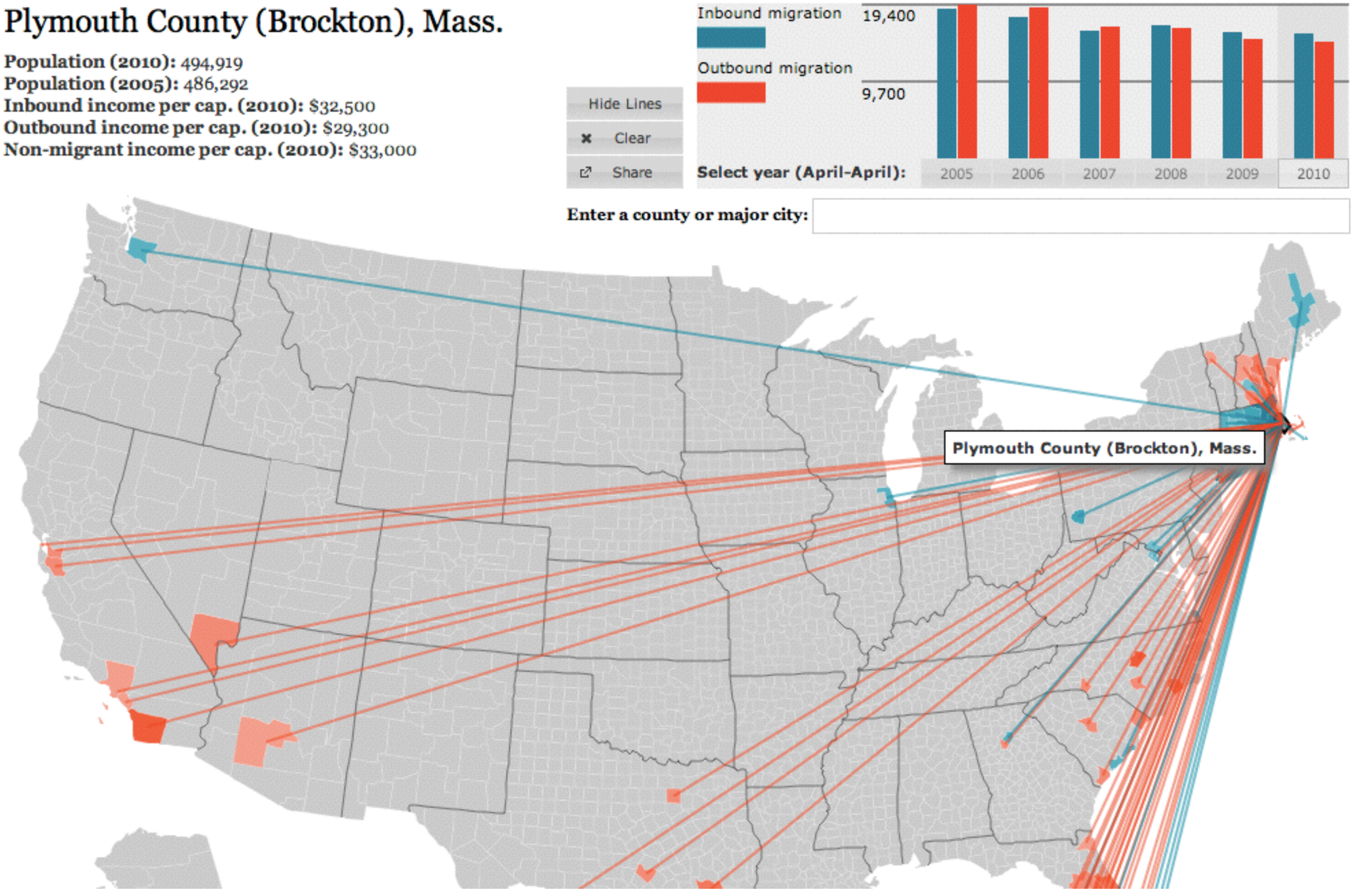
After



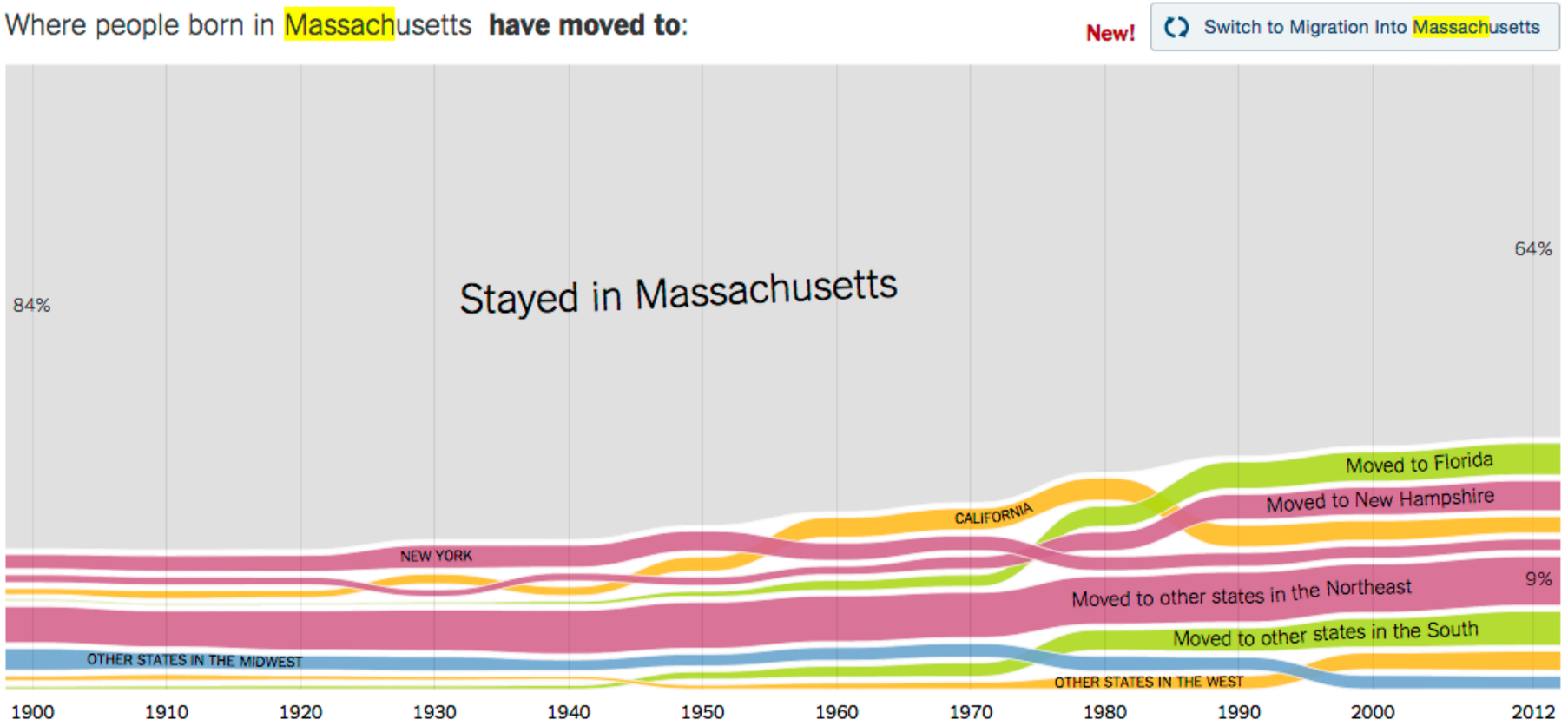
Milestones Project

Plymouth County (Brockton), Mass.

Population (2010): 494,919
Population (2005): 486,292
Inbound income per cap. (2010): $32,500
Outbound income per cap. (2010): $29,300
Non-migrant income per cap. (2010): $33,000



Non-spatial Representation



Latitude
Longitude

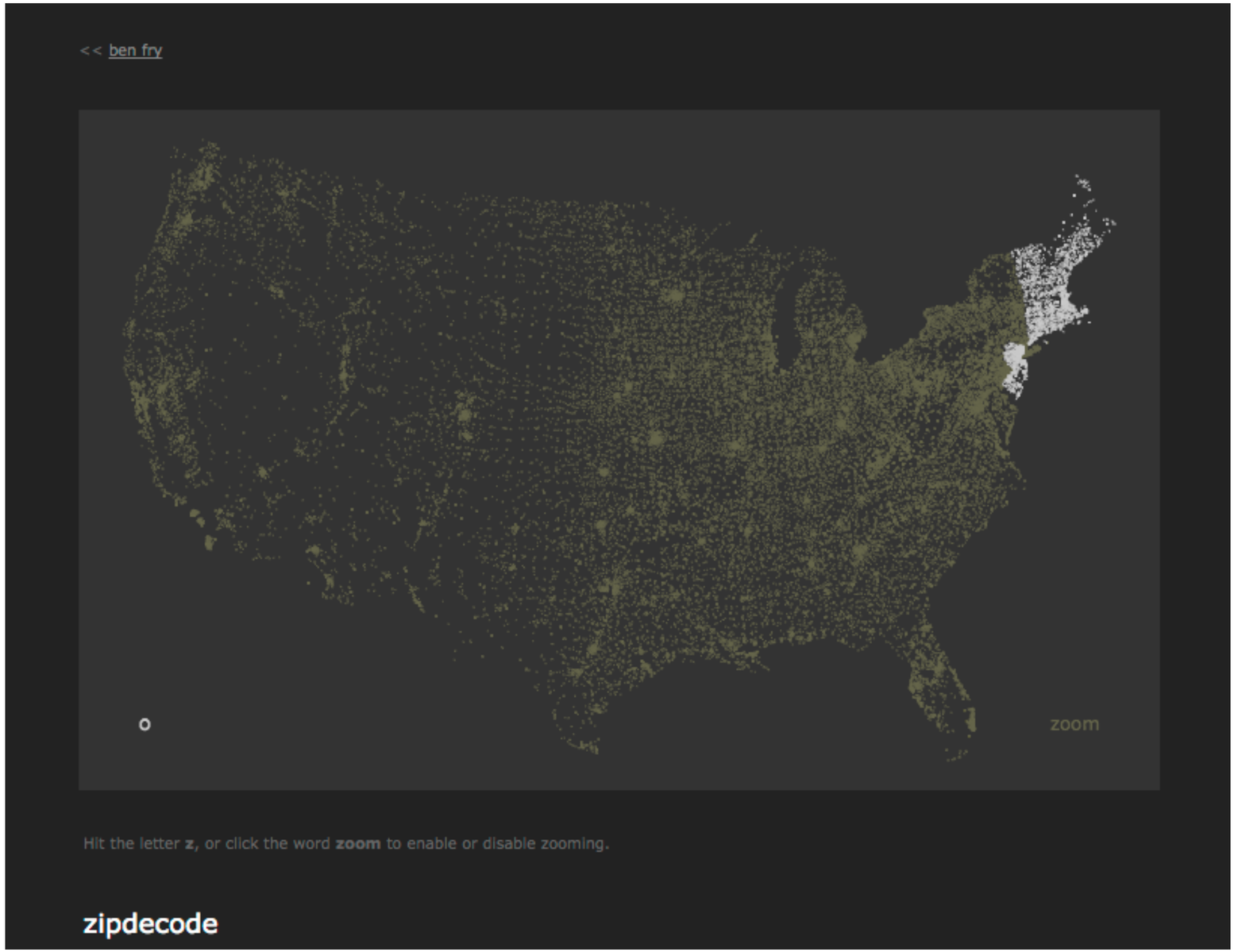
Data Driven Maps

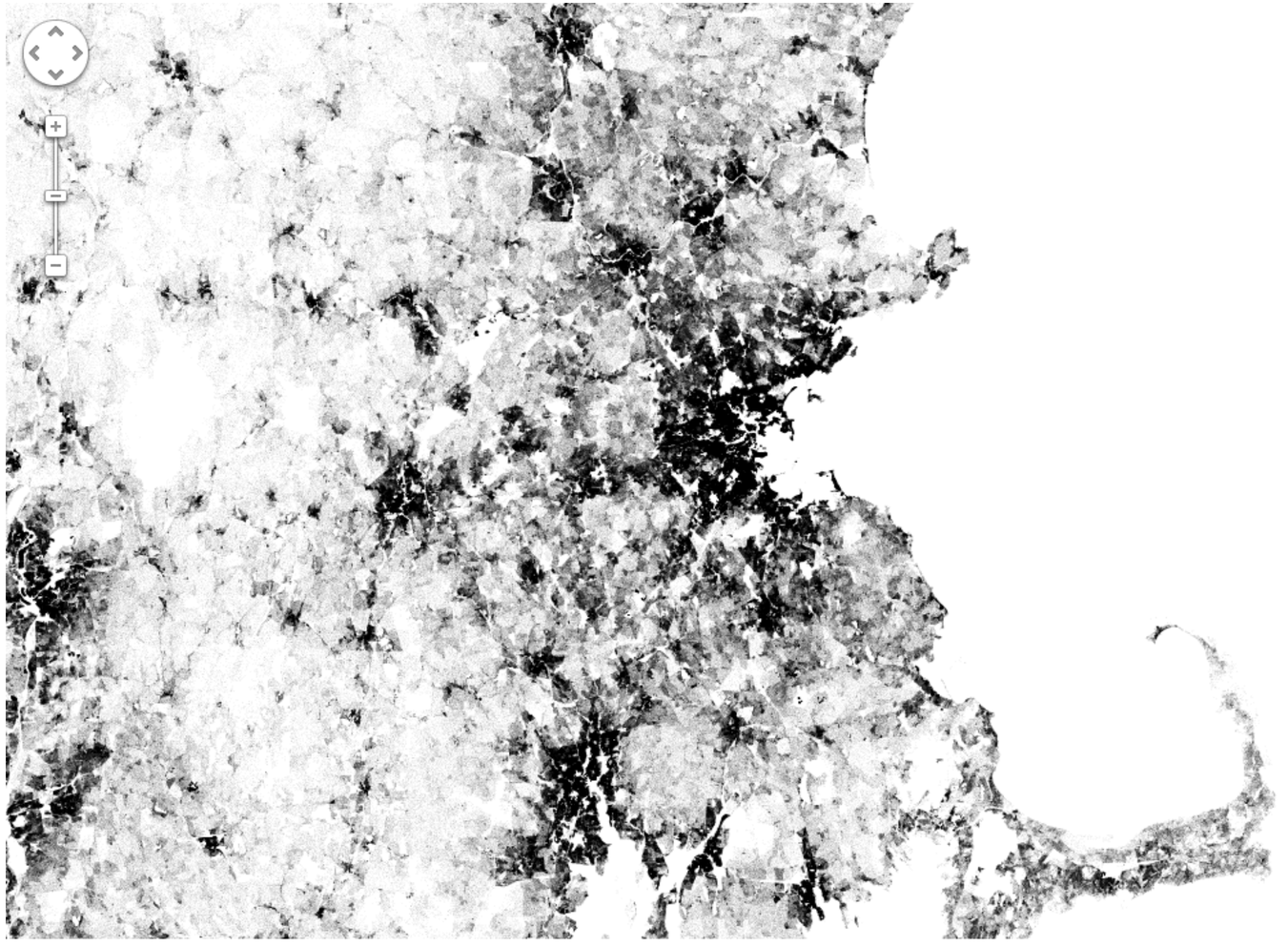
Data Driven Maps

Idea: don’t use a map to render on top

Let the data make up the map

ZipDecode


<< ben fry
zoom
Hit the letter z, or click the word zoom to enable or disable zooming.
zipdecode



show labels | link to this map

Census Dotmap

What's all this?

This is a map of every person counted by the 2010 US and 2011 Canadian censuses. The map has **341,817,095** dots - one for each person.

Why?

I wanted an image of human settlement patterns unmediated by proxies like city boundaries, arterial roads, state lines, &c. Also, it was an interesting challenge.

Who is responsible for this?

The US and Canadian censuses, mostly. I made the map. I'm Brandon Martin-Anderson. Kieran Huggins came to the rescue with spare server capacity and technical advice once this took off.

How?

I wrote a Python script to generate points from US Census block-level counts, and then generated the tiles with Processing. Here's more detail for the interested.

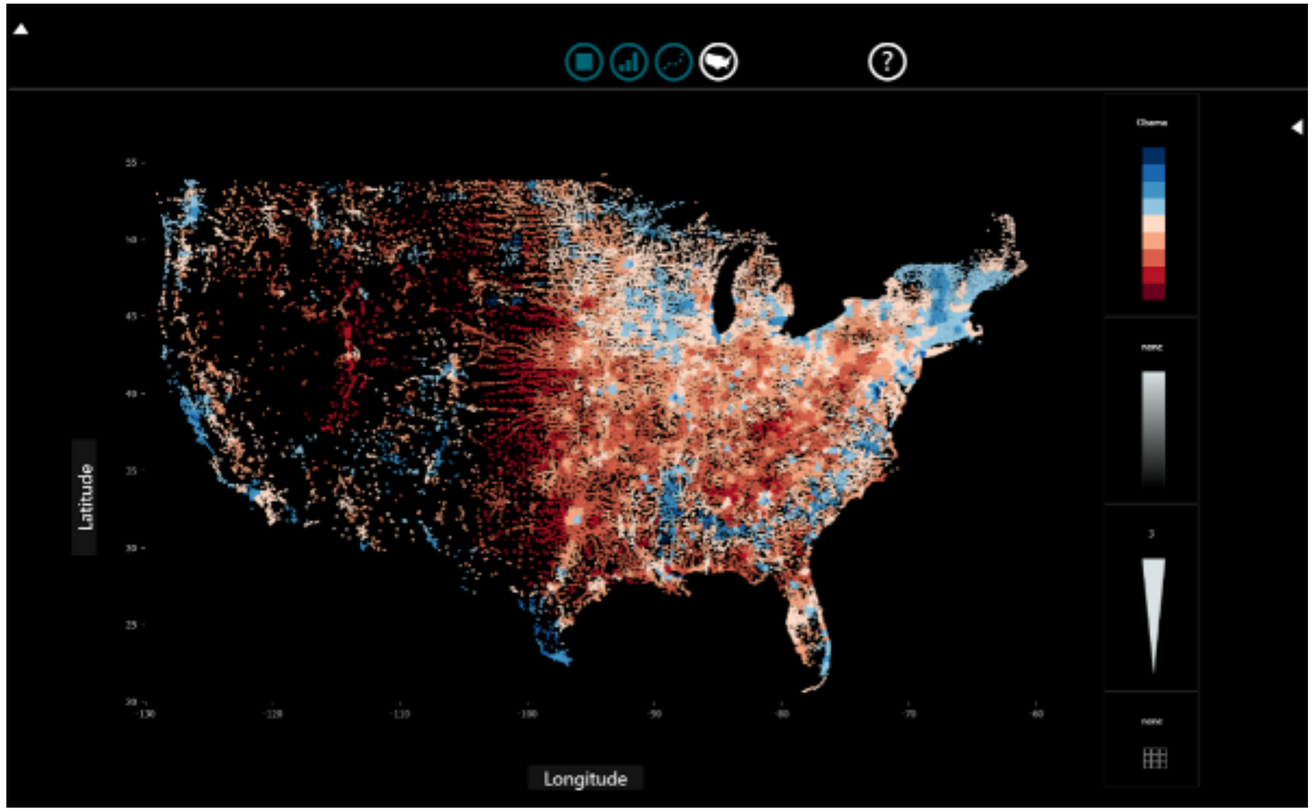
Brandon Martin-Anderson, 2012

ZipScribble

Amsterdam RealTime

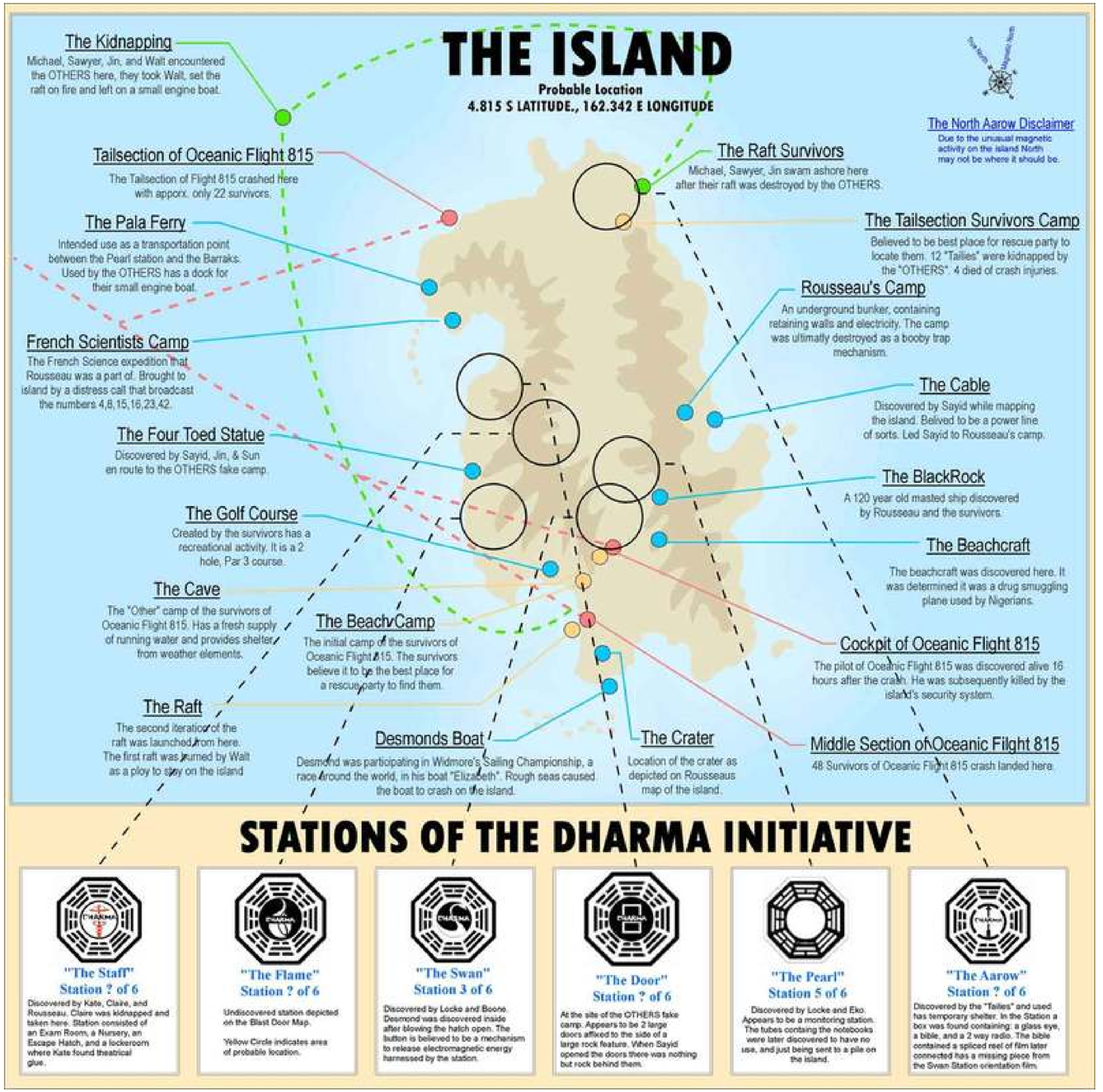
SandDance

Arrange Particles
to create visualizations

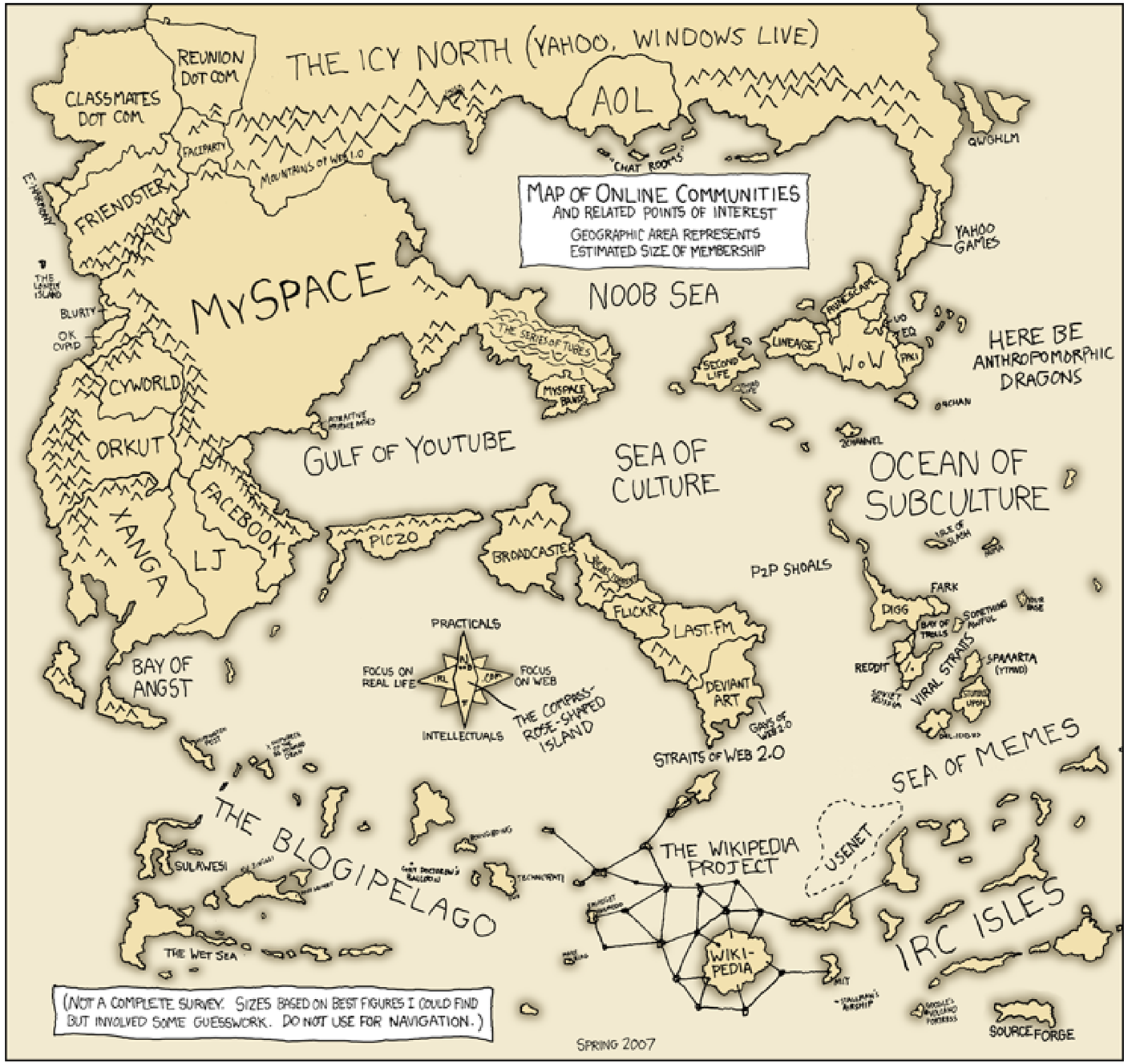


http://research.microsoft.com/en-us/projects/sanddance/

Thematic Maps



Strange Maps
http://strangemaps.wordpress.com/

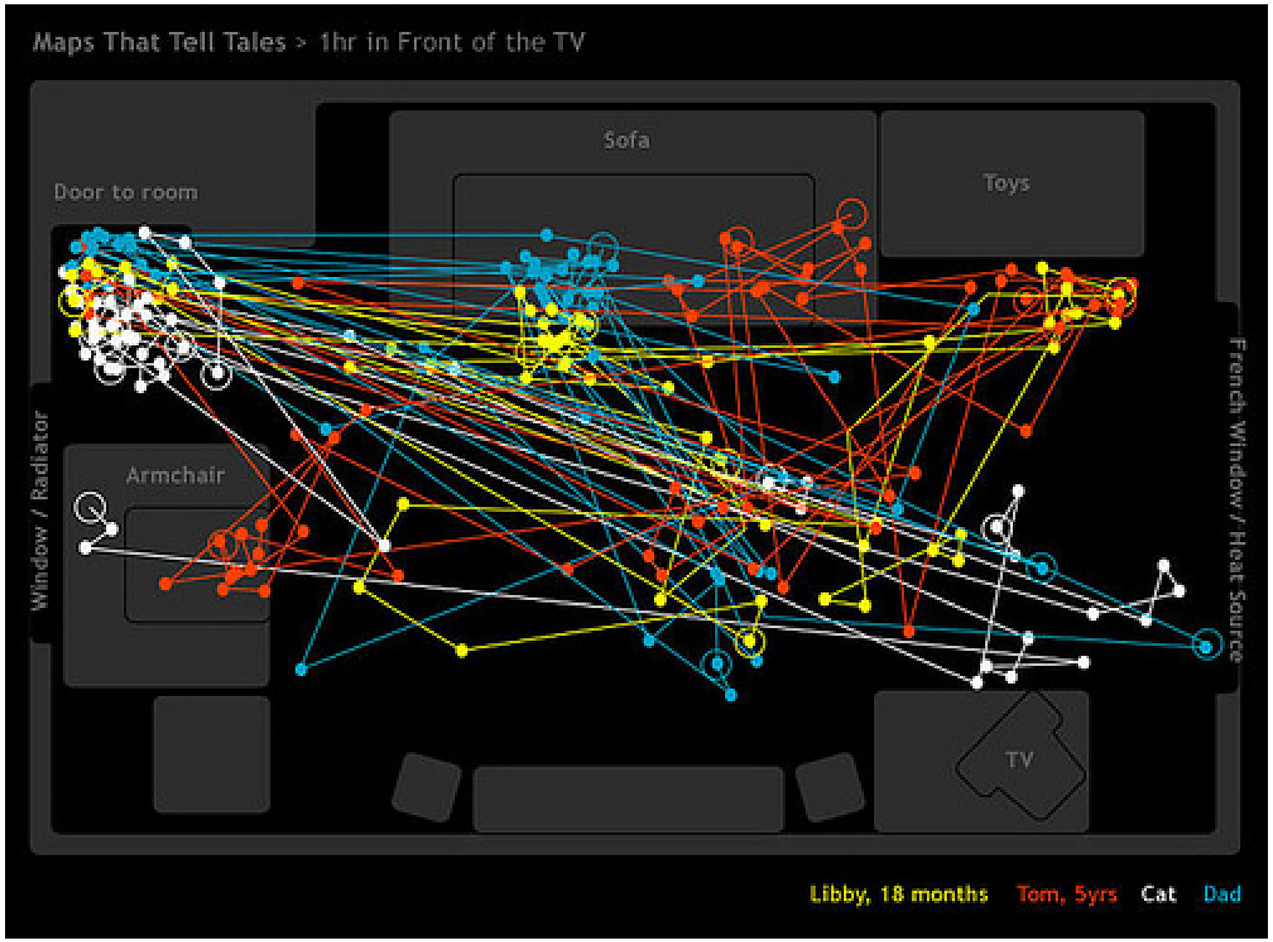


2007

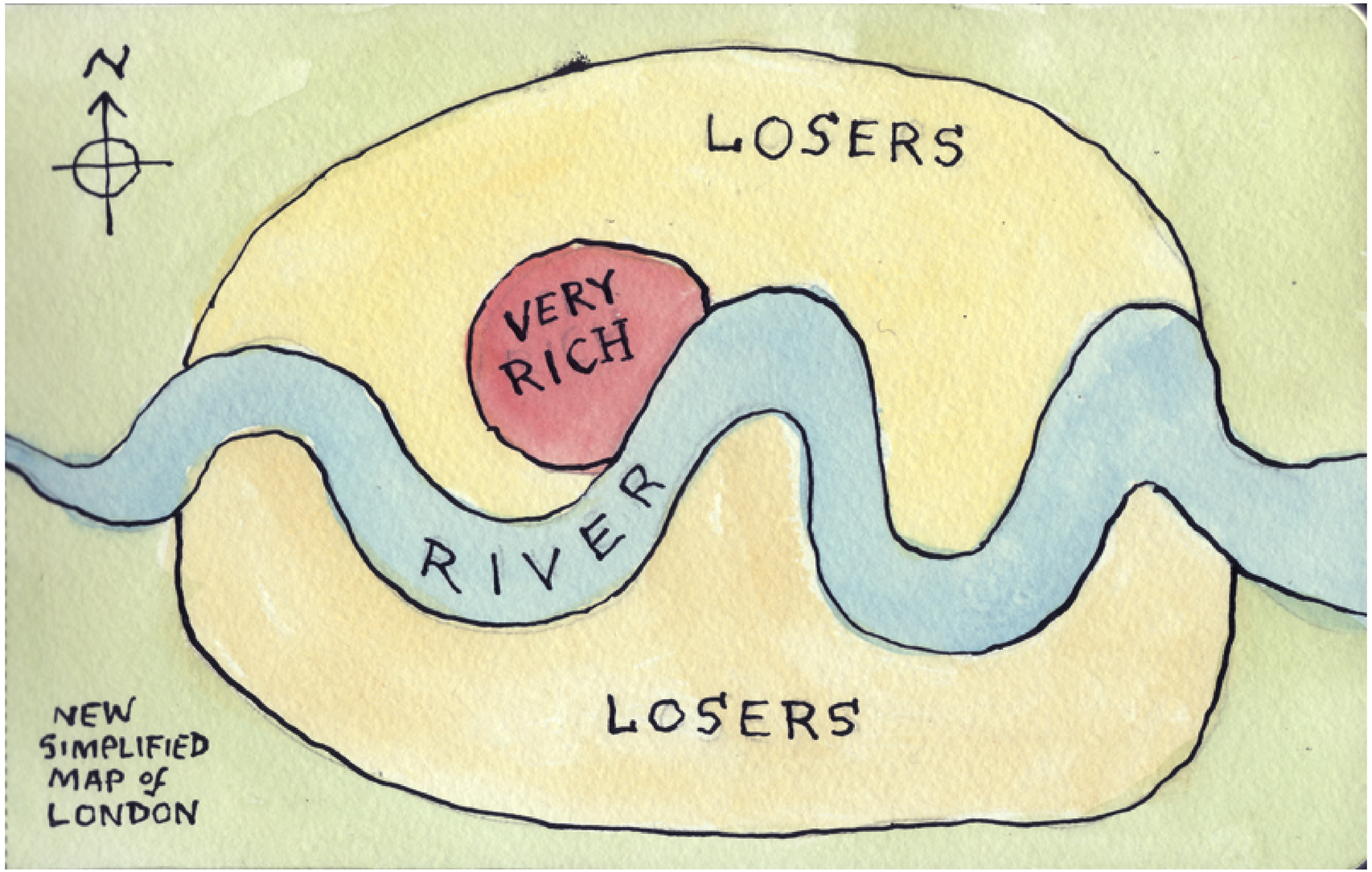
http://xkcd.com/256/

http://xkcd.com/802/

One hour in front of the TV



Map by The Bumblebee
http://www.flickr.com/photos/the_bumblebee/2229041742



From Memory (was: Maps from Memory)
http://www.flickr.com/groups/46079190@N00/