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# ETHNIC GEOGRAPHY

Chapter Outline  
California State University,  
Northridge

**Geography**



# Introduction

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- How do you define “ethnic”?
- How does one become “ethnic”? (birth-migration)
- The census is partly responsible for creating ethnic identities
- Host Culture
- What does “race” mean then?
- What does “nationality” mean?

# Geography matters



The brain trust that turned the Grays into a championship team were the Elks Grand Regional Directors of Athletics. They are, from left to right, Seward Posey, Rufus Jackson, Cumberland Posey, and Russell J. Bowser. Throughout the team's existence, the business end of the operation was handled by Cumberland's younger brother Seward, or "See" as he was known to friends. Seward Posey worked as the Grays' business manager and booking agent.

Geography

# Place Makes Race

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- If there was not the friction of distance, races and ethnicities would not develop.
- Without spatially enforced separation erosion of ethnicity and racial identity occurs.



# Maintaining Ethnicity



**Geography**

# The Good and The Bad

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- Keep alive cultural traditions and maintain group cohesion
- Family, kinship, courtship, friendship
- Recreation, political power, business
- Suspicion, distrust, clannishness and violence

Q: According to lecture, scientific evidence now suggests which of the following is not a valid method of grouping people:

- A. Ethnicity
- B. Race
- C. Nationality
- D. Religion

# Merge now...

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- Acculturation -adoption of enough host culture ways to blend in economically and socially
- Assimilation - complete blending and loss of distinctive ethnic traits.
  - Marriage the most effective assimilative tool
- Groups may choose not to assimilate
- Groups may not be permitted to assimilate.





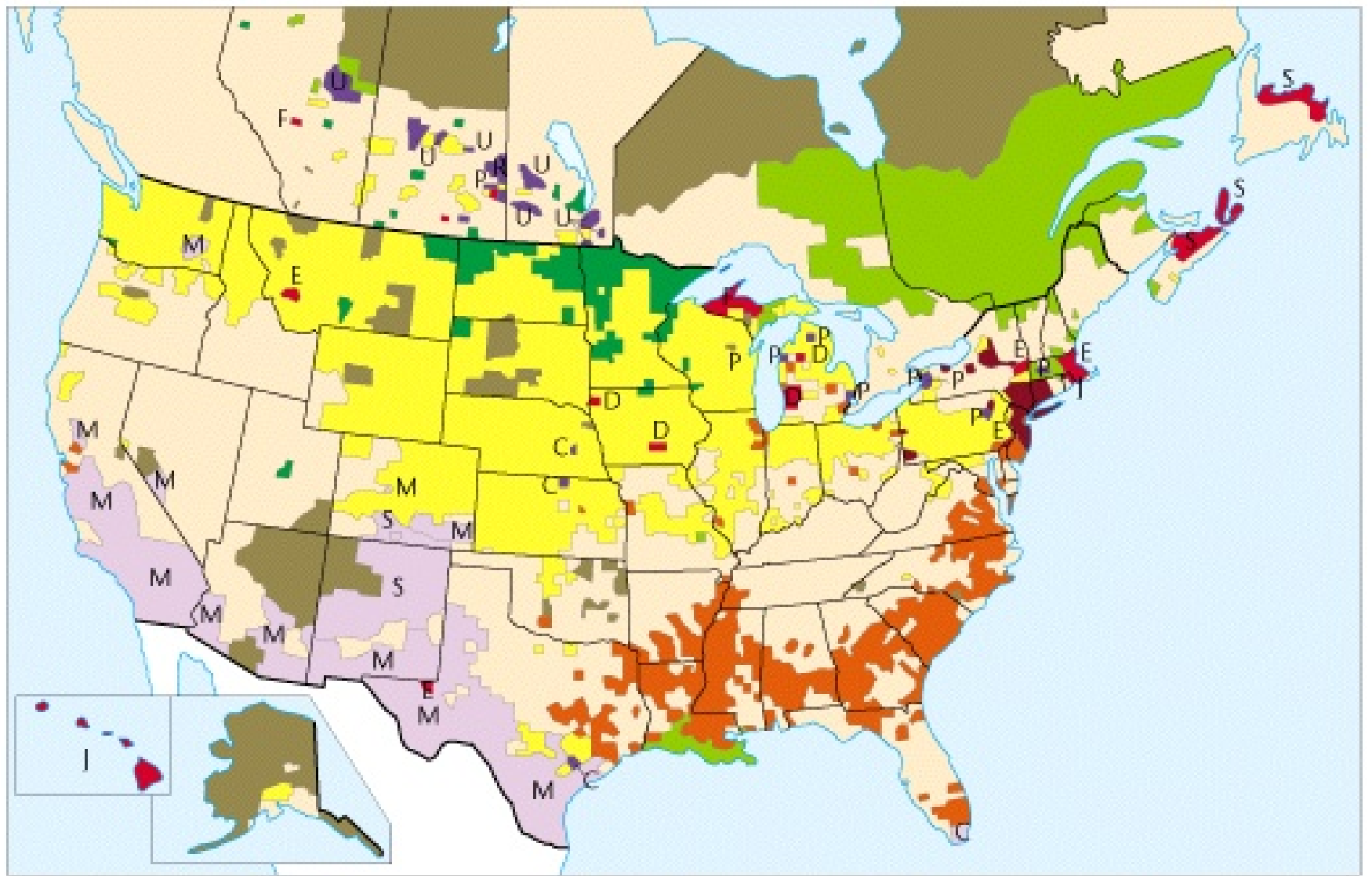
# Chinatown (fig)



# Ethnic Regions

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- Ethnic Groups arrange themselves or are arranged in a variety of patterns on the landscape that can be mapped.
- They may be large, covering many states as “ethnic homelands”
- They may be small, comprising just few blocks as an ethnic neighborhood or ghetto.

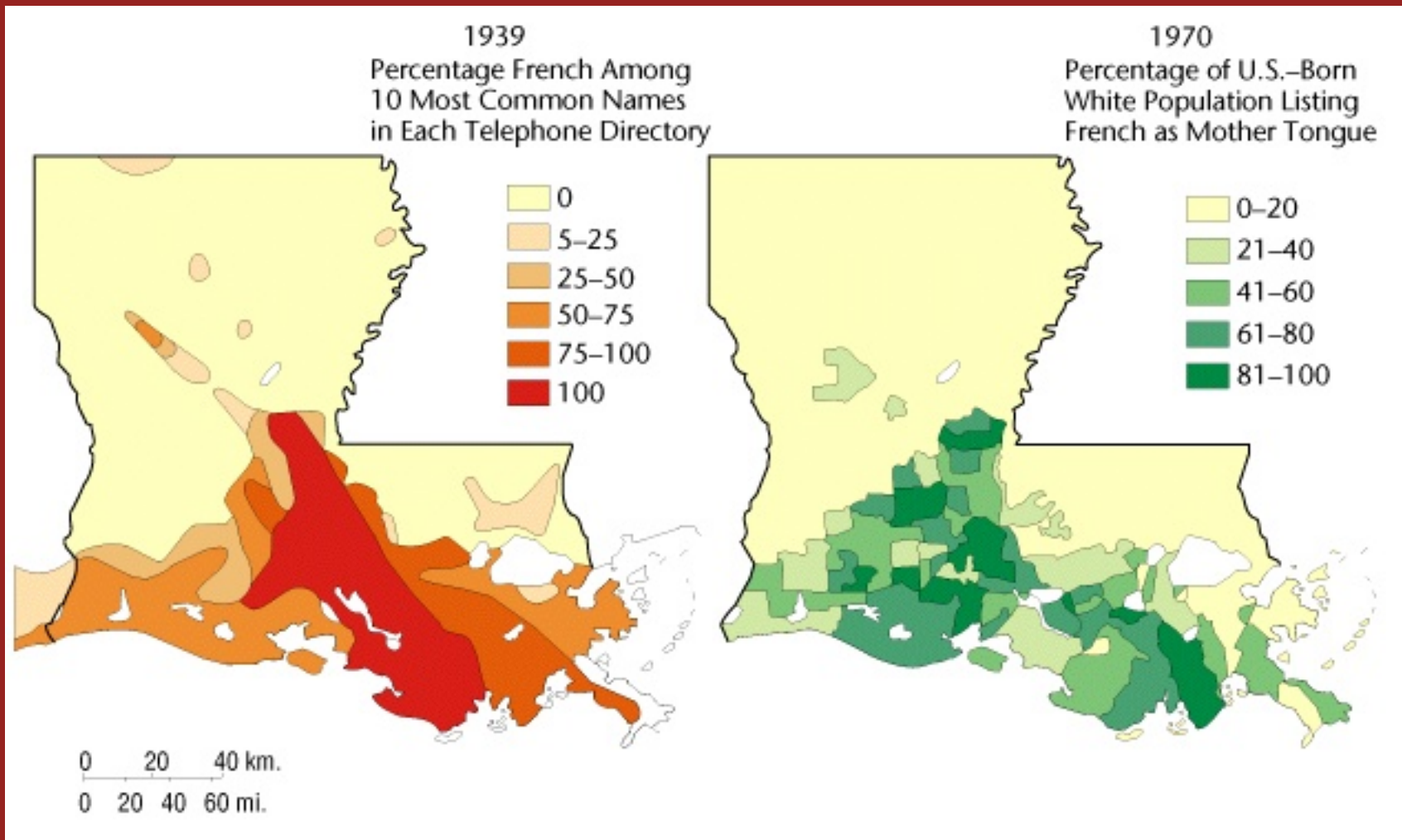




Viable ethnic homeland
  Moribund ethnic homeland
  Viable homeland, no longer ethnic
  Concentrations of ethnic islands



# Francophone Louisiana (fig)



# Ethnic Islands

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- Much smaller than a “homeland”
- May be only a county or town
- Often rural
- All over the upper Midwest

# Stromsburg



Swede Capital



of Nebraska

Geography

# Ethnic Island Landscapes (fig)



SWEDEN



# Ethnic Substrate

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- Is akin to an extinct ethnic homeland or a huge assimilated ethnic island.
- The German feel to the upper Midwest is an example.
- No one really seems too German, but there is a lot of beer and brats.
- Why would such a place die out?



Q: More Americans self-report  
this as their ethnic heritage than  
any other:

- A. English
- B. French
- C. Mexican
- D. German

# Ethnic Neighborhoods and Ghettos

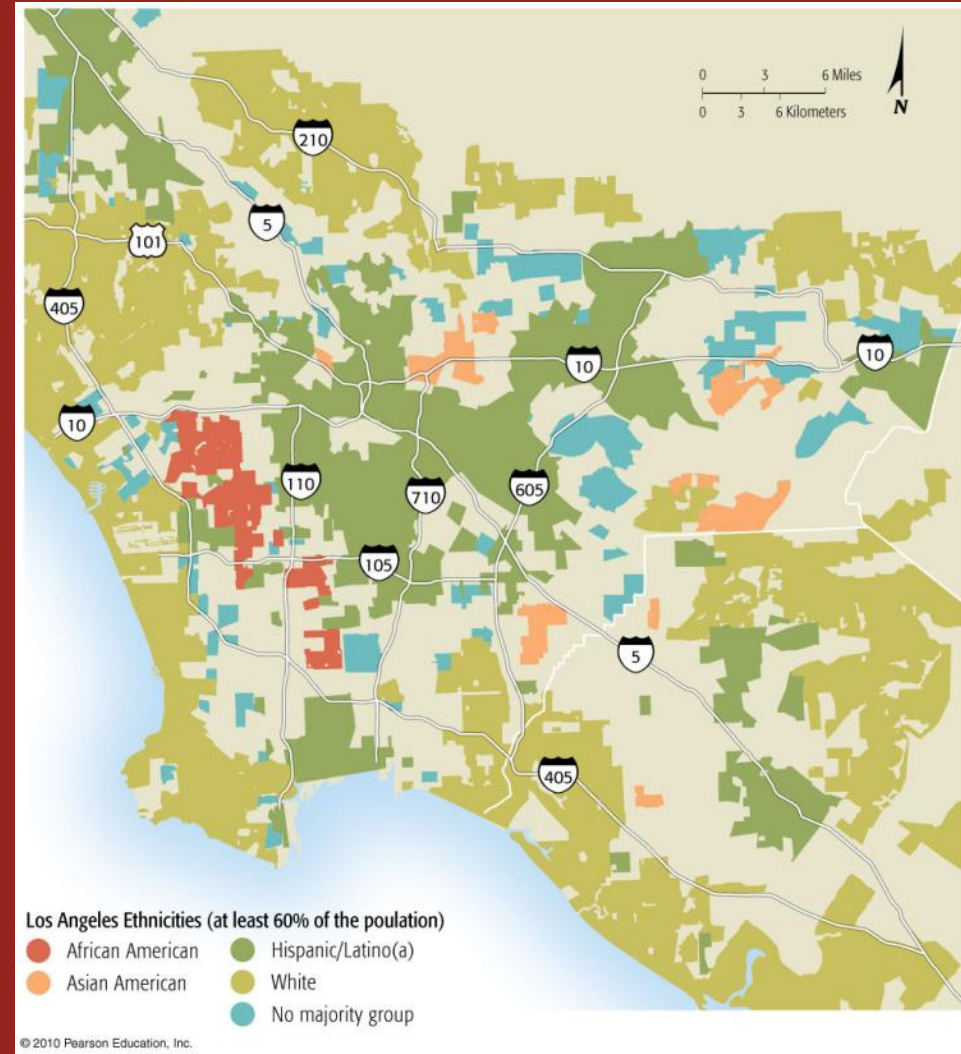
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- Ghetto vs. Ethnic Neighborhood
- Ancient history and globality
- Difficulties with definition
- Slums vs. ghetto
- Discriminatory housing practices include redlining, steering and block busting
- Suburban Ghettos?



# Ethnicities in Los Angeles

- Whites are now a minority-majority in Los Angeles at 40% of the population and inhabit the edges.
- Blacks in South LA
- Latinos in East LA
- Asians are scattered in various locations



# Black Ghettos

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- The most well known of American ghettos are reserved for African Americans
- The oldest are in the Deep South and are characterized by close integration among whites and blacks – “Early Southern”
- After the Civil War, the “Classic Southern” version evolves and is more segregated and features the “across the tracks” ghetto
- Northern ghettos are concentrated near the Central Business District in the “inner city”.
- Western ghettos generally trend along a transportation corridor.

# Black Migration

- Though the South still has many blacks, millions left.
- Why?
- Clarksdale, Miss.
- Route 61
- Chicago



# Black Ghetto Typology (fig)

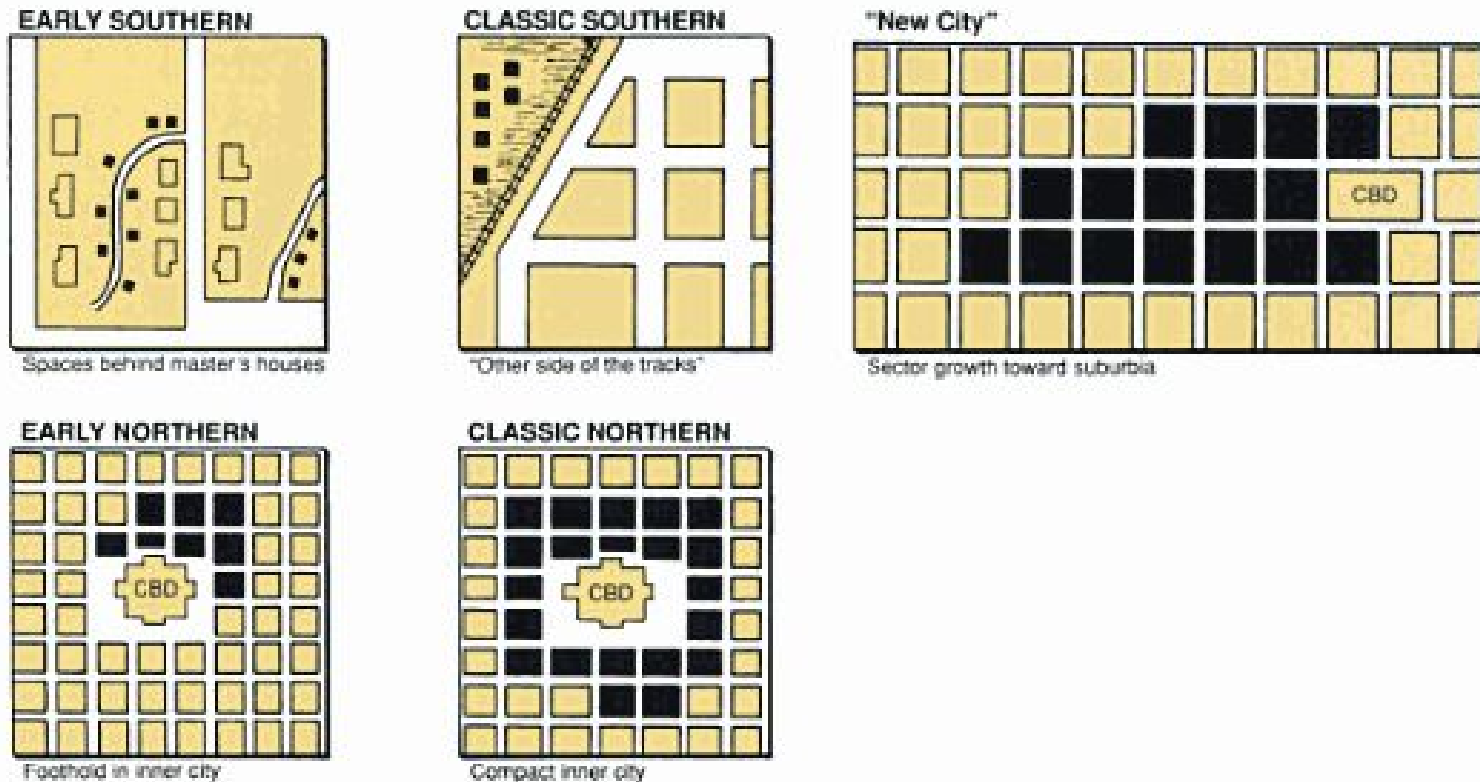
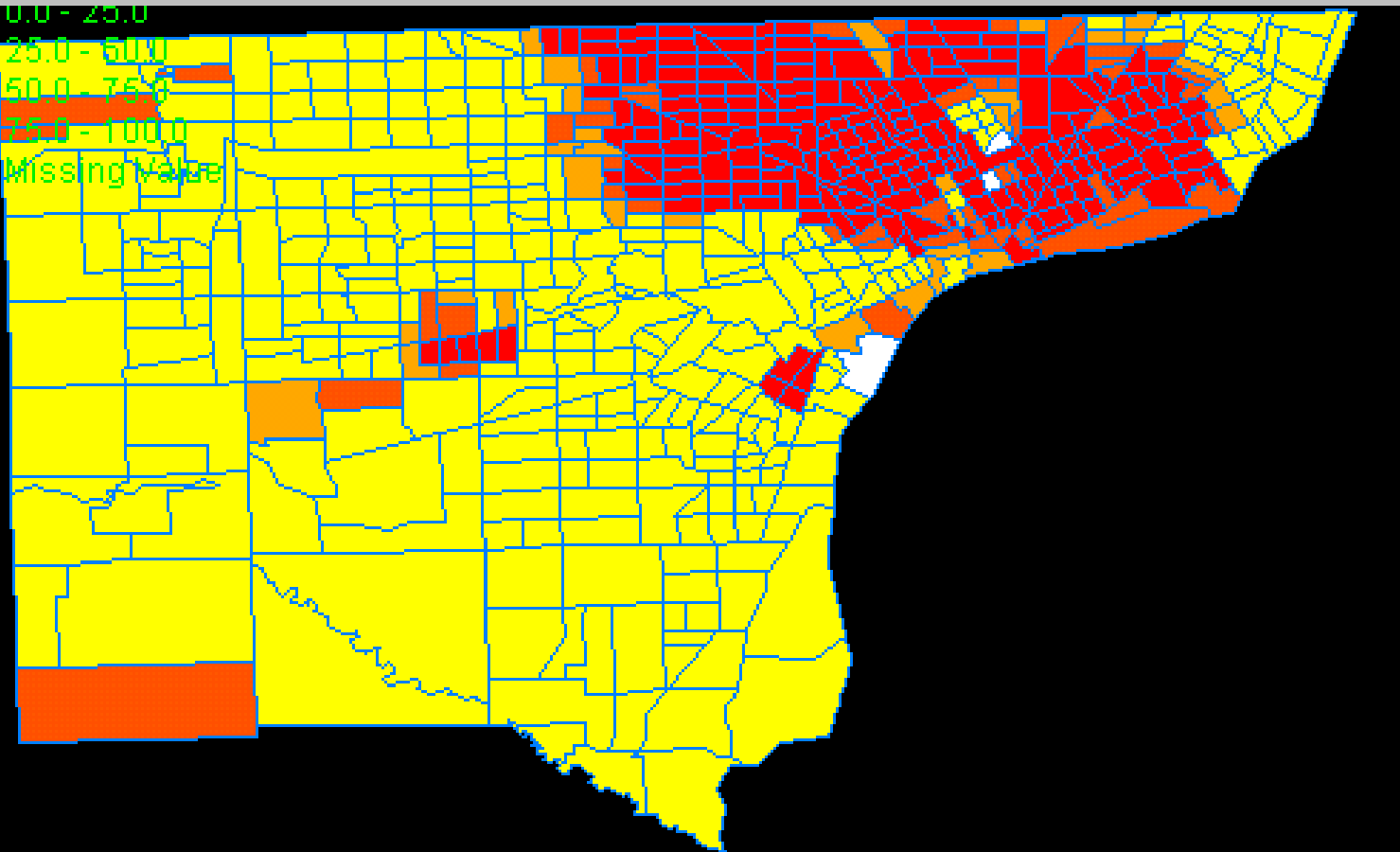


FIGURE 6.21 A typology of black ghettos in the United States.

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- 25.0 - 50.0
- 50.0 - 75.0
- 75.0 - 100.0
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Label

Map `pctblack % black pop`

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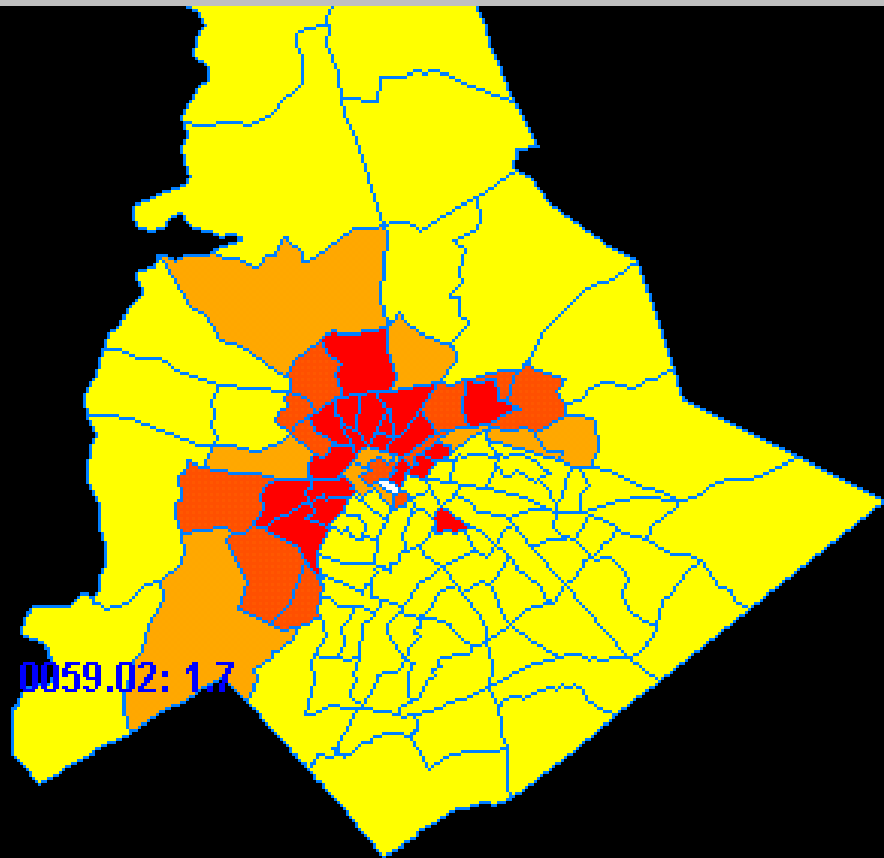


# Demographic Data Viewer 3.0



File Select Options About

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Pan Zoom in Unzoom

Label Help

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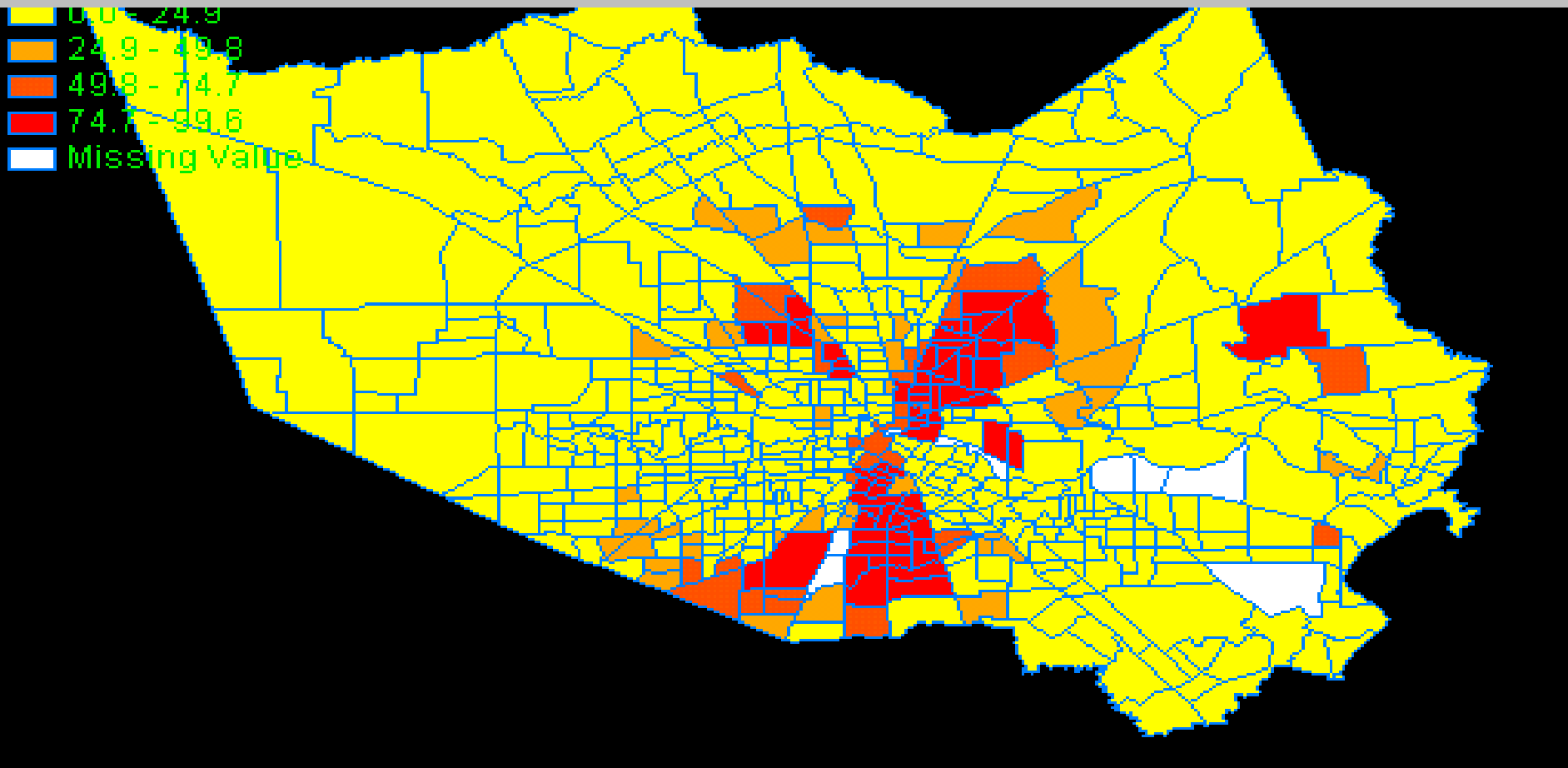
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Click an item on the list on "Output Options" window for different group map.

# Why live in a ghetto?

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- Support
- Defense and Safety
- Preservation
- Attack

# Who are our “Ethnics”?

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- In 1840s- Germans, Chinese and Irish came in large numbers
- Italians, Poles, and Eastern European Jews came in the latter half of the 19thc
- Intra-American migration brought Blacks and hillbillies into the city
- Later still: Puerto Ricans and other Latin Americans, Koreans, Chinese, Vietnamese, etc.

# Cities have Ethnic “specialties”

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New York and \_\_\_\_\_

Miami and \_\_\_\_\_

DC and \_\_\_\_\_

Providence and \_\_\_\_\_

Boston and \_\_\_\_\_





Little  
Havana  
(fig)

Geography

# There goes the neighborhood...

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Most ethnic neighborhoods grow and change. Eventually they lose their character and acquire a new one.



# Invasion Succession (fig)





# We're not the only ones...

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- Each country has a different ethnic mix. It is what makes for the national character of a country.
- One of the main reasons that the United States, Canada and Mexico are different is our different ethnic mixes.
- There are also different emphases on acculturation.
- Melting Pot vs. Salad Bowl
- Canadian cooking?



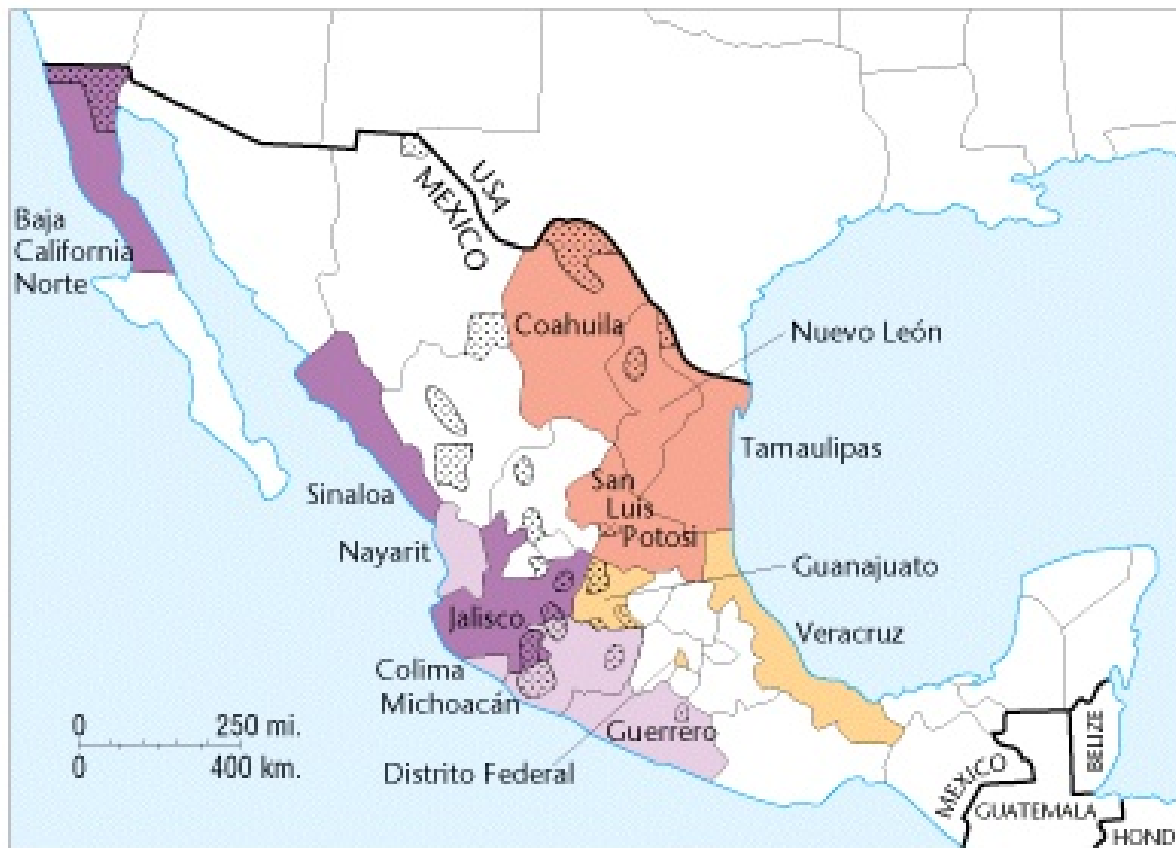
# Cultural Diffusion and Ethnicity

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- Migration is what makes many “ethnic”
  - chain migration
  - channelized migration
  - return migration



# Chain Migration (fig)



## South Texas

Major sources

Secondary sources

## Southern California

Major sources

Secondary sources

Municipalities with unusually high per capita emigration rate

# Ethnic Ecology

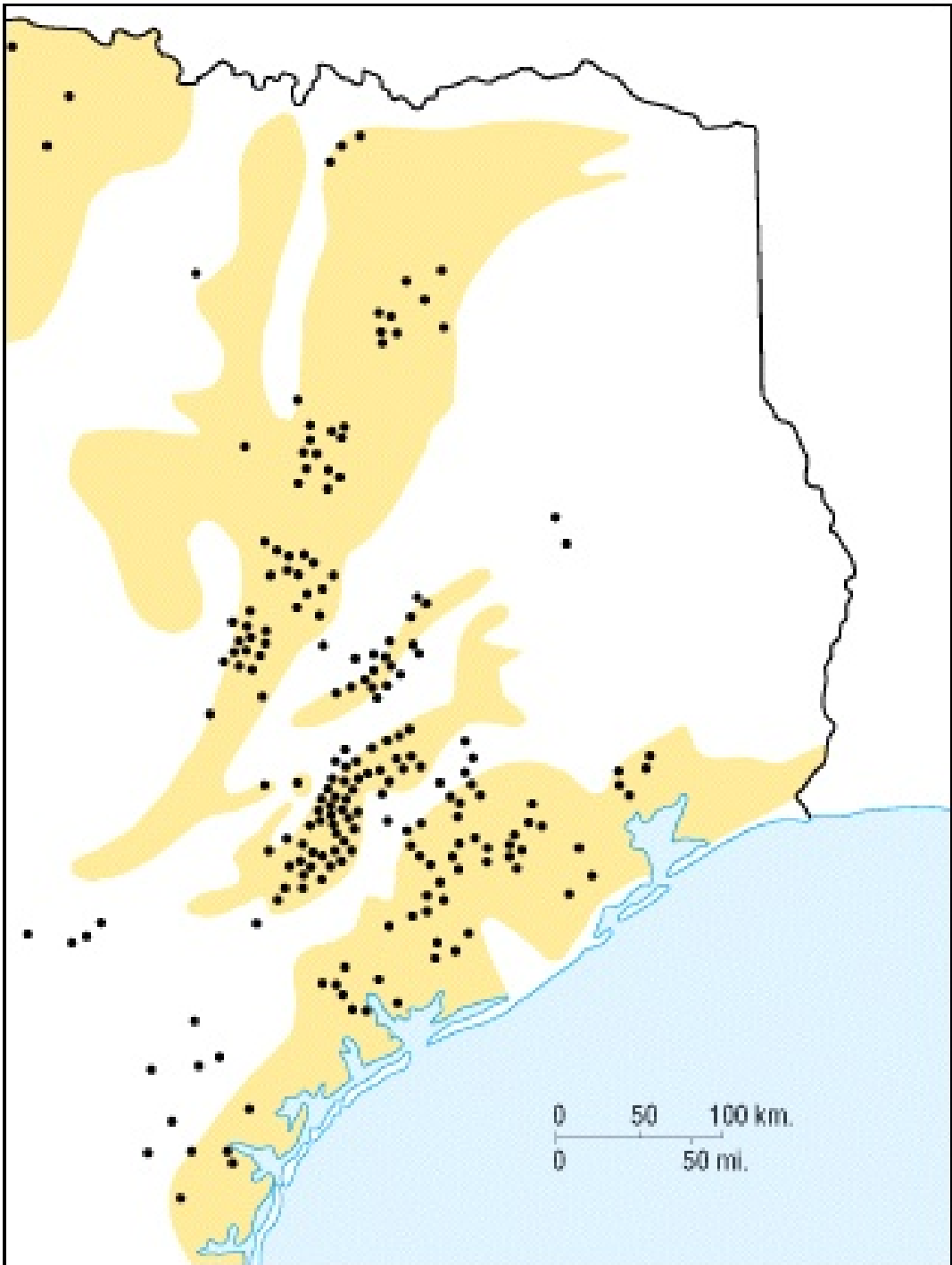
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- Cultural Preadaptation
- Ethnic Environmental Perception
  - maladaptation
- Doctrine of First Effective Settlement

Q: Where is the largest source of migrants to the California today?

- A. Latin America
- B. Europe
- C. Asia
- D. Africa





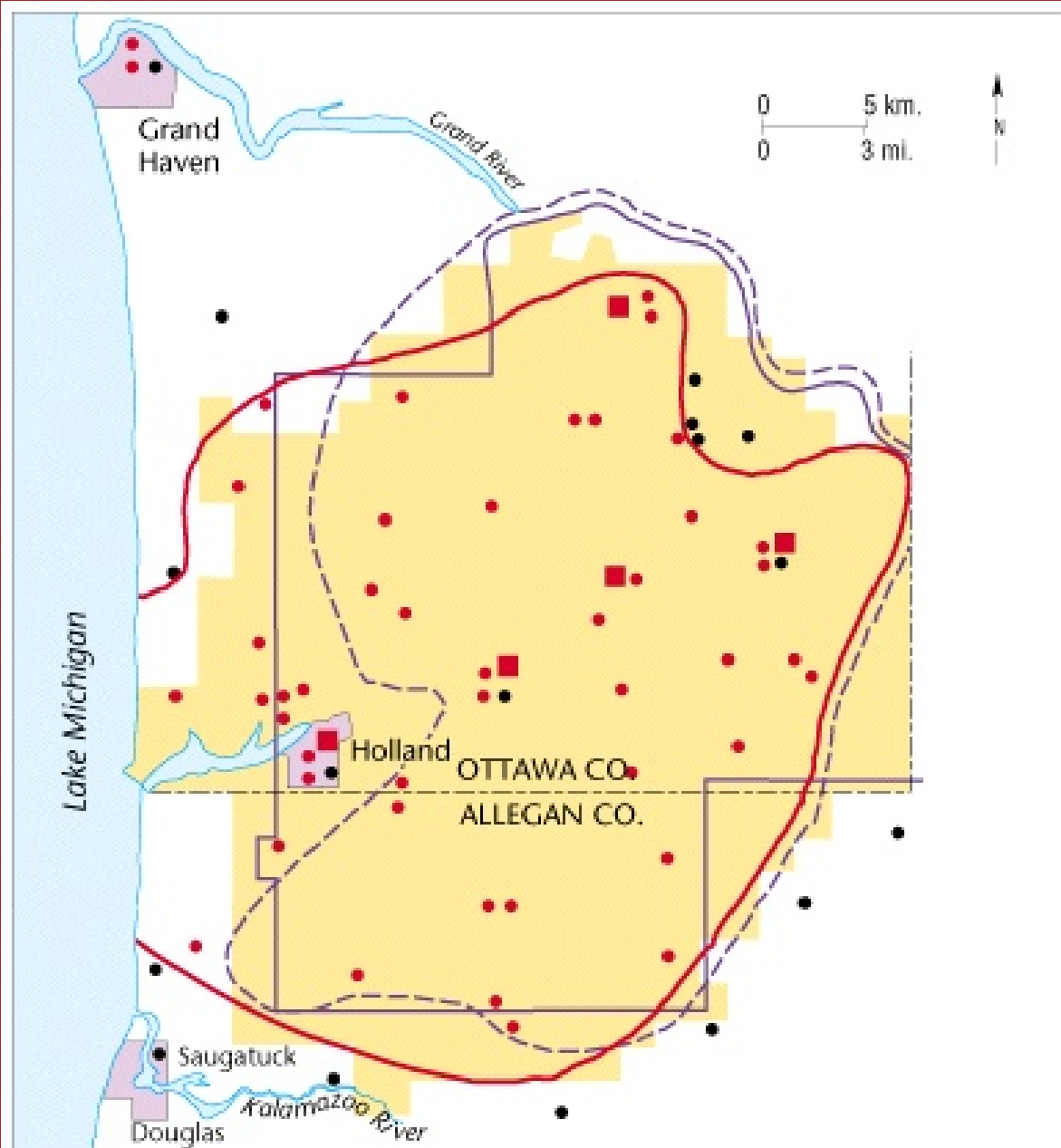
- Tallgrass prairie areas
- Czech farm settlement



# Ethnicity and Business Activity

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- Different groups have different levels of entrepreneurial spirit.
- Some groups who remain poor are not necessarily lazy, but may not prioritize life toward business



- Exclusively Dutch-Reformed churches within this area (rural)
- No Sunday business within this area
- - - No taverns within this area
- Dutch-Reformed church
- Dutch-Reformed school
- Other church
- Incorporated places
- Area in which Dutch-Reformed people own half or more of the land

# Geography





# Ethnicity and Type of Employment

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Ethnicities often specialize in a handful of business practices.

- Irish and \_\_\_\_\_
- Chinese and \_\_\_\_\_
- Koreans and \_\_\_\_\_
- Italians and \_\_\_\_\_
- Jews and \_\_\_\_\_
- others?

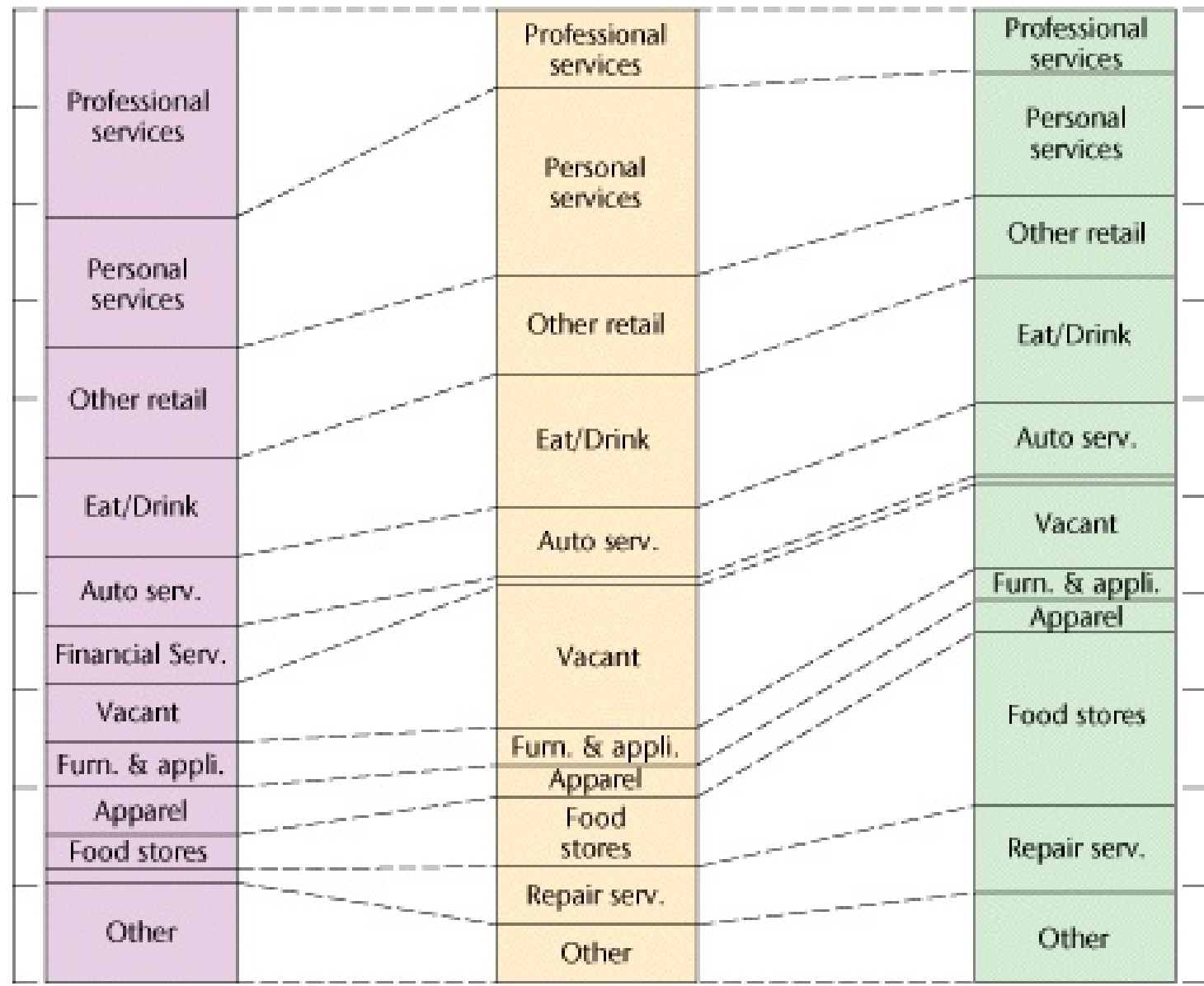
(fig)

“Anglo” area

“South” area,  
African-American

“East” area  
Mexican-American

Each bracket on the scale = 10% of all businesses



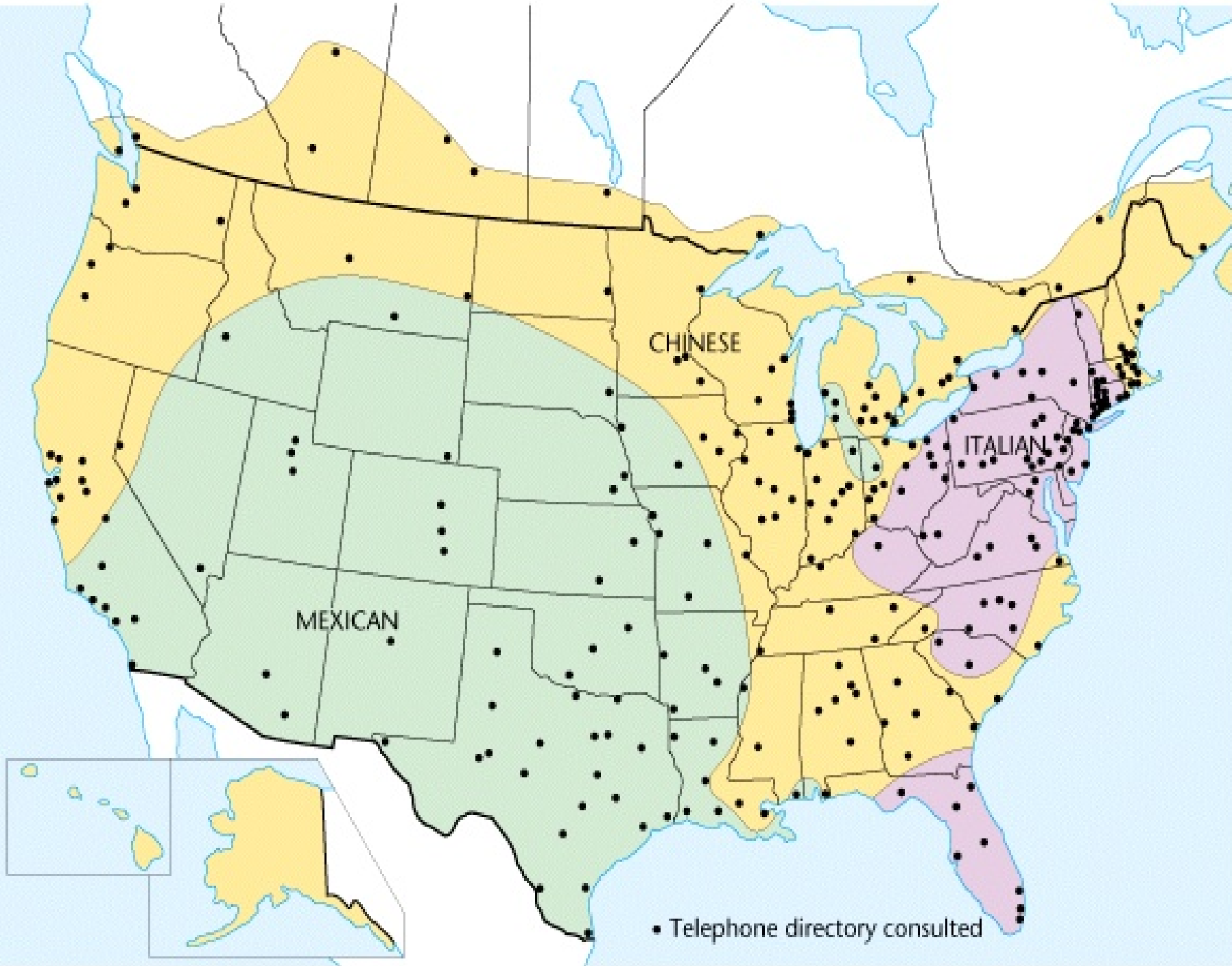
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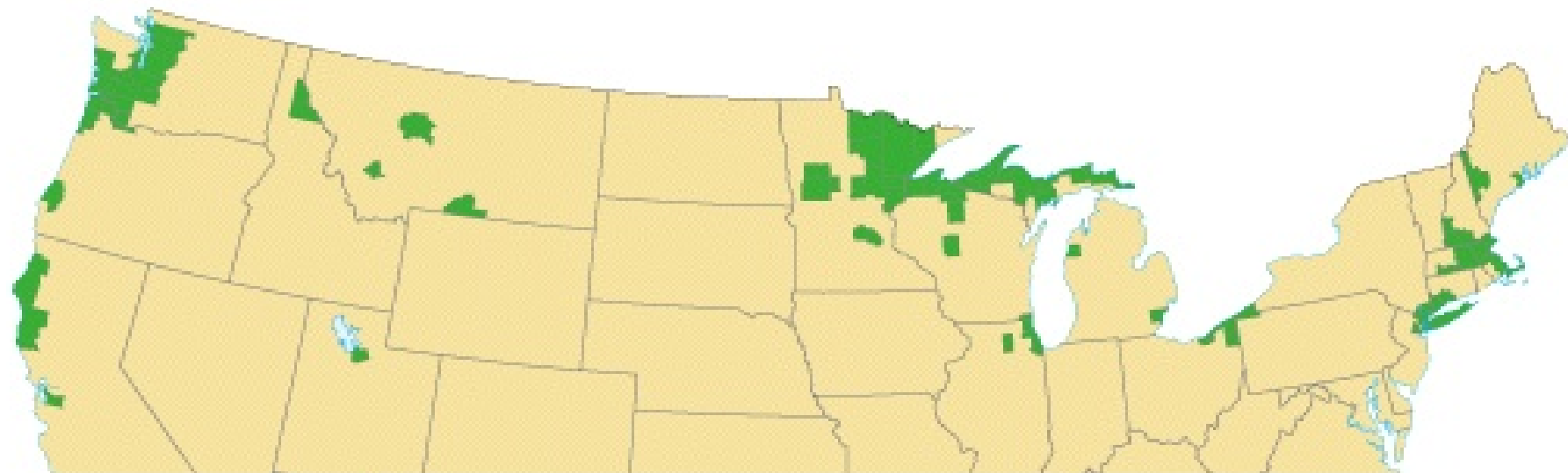
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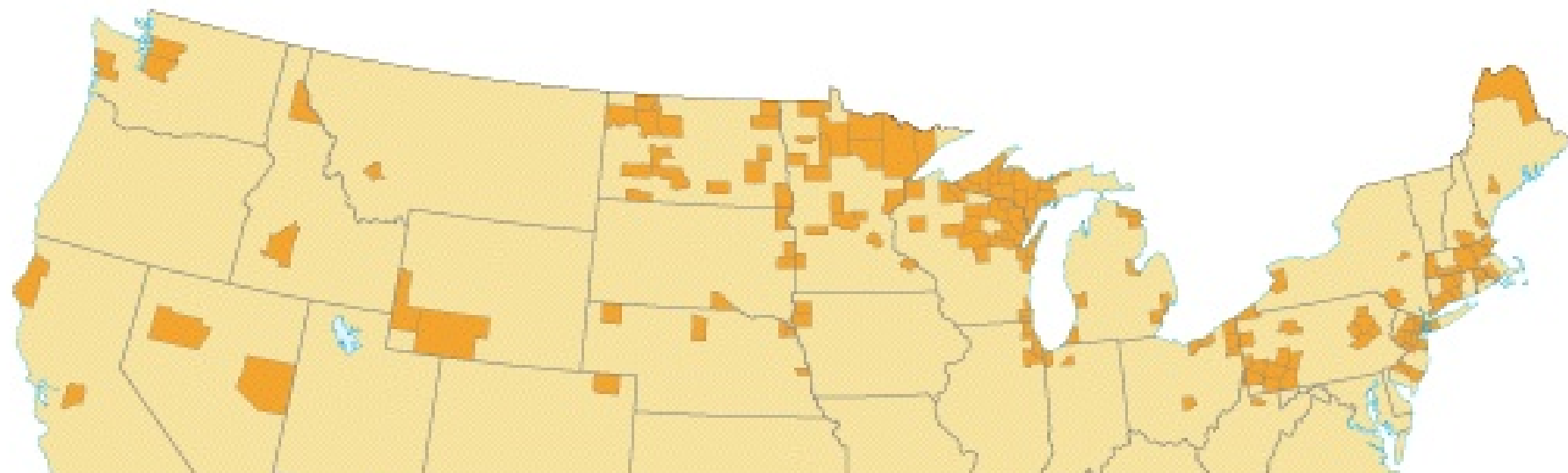
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 Over 250 Finns in county population, 1920



 Incidence of male stomach cancer significantly higher than national average, by county

# Ethnic Landscapes

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- There are a great variety of clues to the ethnicity (current or vestigial) of any location
- Houses, cemetery markers, recreational amenities

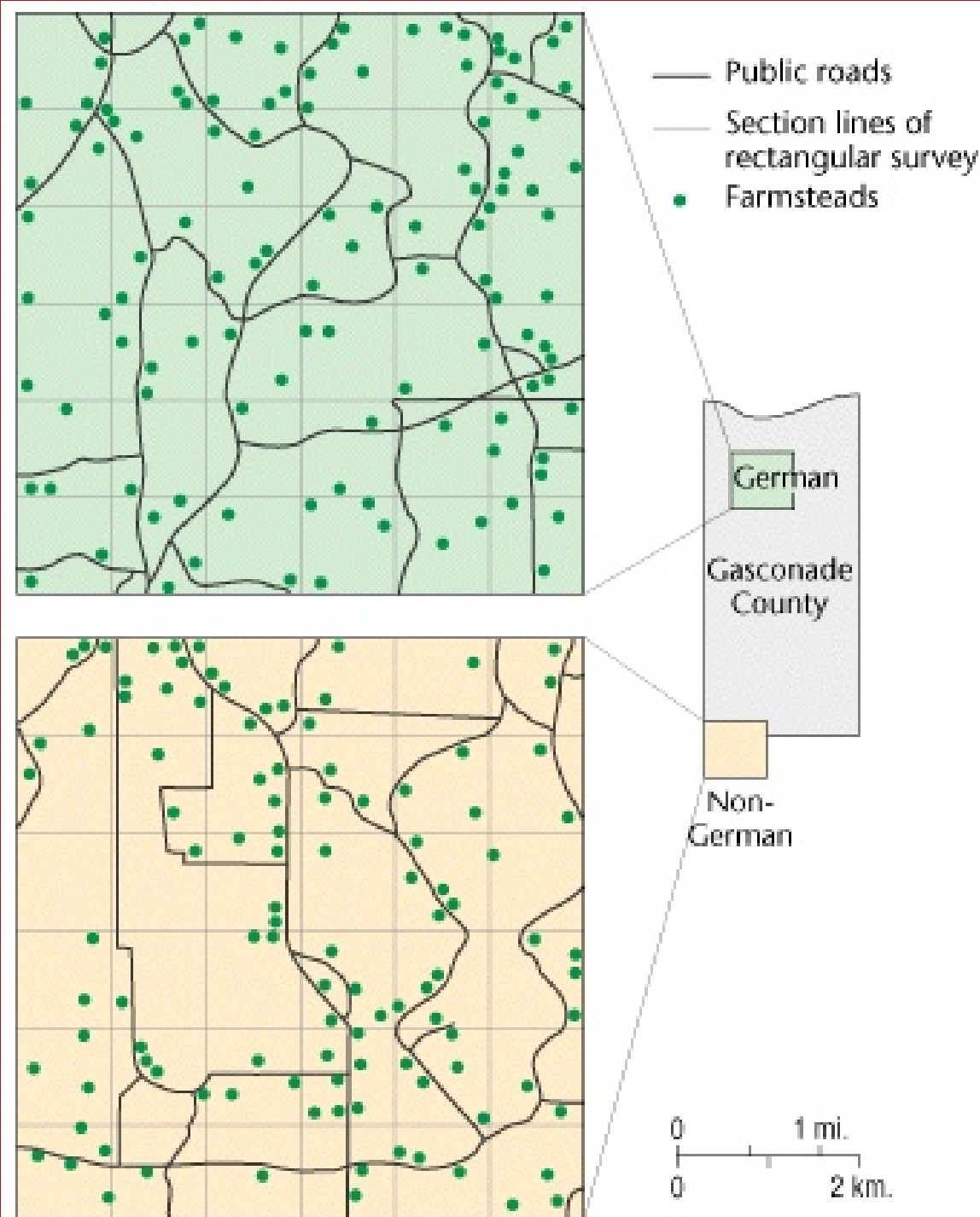
# Ethnic Settlement Patterns

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- The layout of towns and villages often recall an ethnic past or present



# Germanic Landscape Values (fig)



# German or Scots-Irish? (fig)





# Urban Ethnic Landscapes

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- Some of the easiest places to see these items is in the city, but frequently you can be fooled because of the rapid ethnic turnover of cities.
- Sal's Pizzeria
- Water Street
- Color preferences



# Urban Ethnic Landscapes (fig)





# We're Proud of Our Heritage...

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- Please Spend lots of money in our quaint overpriced shoppes.