
Welcome to
Geography 107
Introduction to Human Geography

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Geography



Are you here today?

- Get out your “clickers” and we’ll test the system. This is how attendance will be recorded in this course.
- Are you here today:
 - A. Yes
 - B. No
 - C. I’m not sure
 - D. All of the above.



What *is* Geography

- Geography is a subject.
- Geography is a discipline.
 - Geographers use a set of methodologies.
 - Geographers have an *epistemology*.
 - Geographers ask, “Where?” when they want to know “Why?”
- Geography is what geographers do.
- Anything that takes place can be studied from a geographic perspective.

What *is* Geography

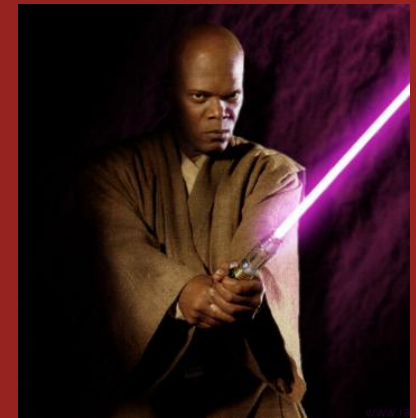
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Where? Where!

- “Where?”, is the most important question geographers ask.
- Where things are give us important clues about why they are as they are.
- Historians tend to ask “When?”...and focus on chronology.
- Geographers focus on chorology...or more commonly “distribution”
- Diffusion!

The Jedi Major

- Padawan Learners must learn to:
- See as a Jedi
 - landscape interpretation
- Think as a Jedi – epistemology
 - Use the force! Ask: “Where?”
- Work as a Jedi
 - (GIS – light sabers)
- Communicate as a Jedi
 - (cartography)



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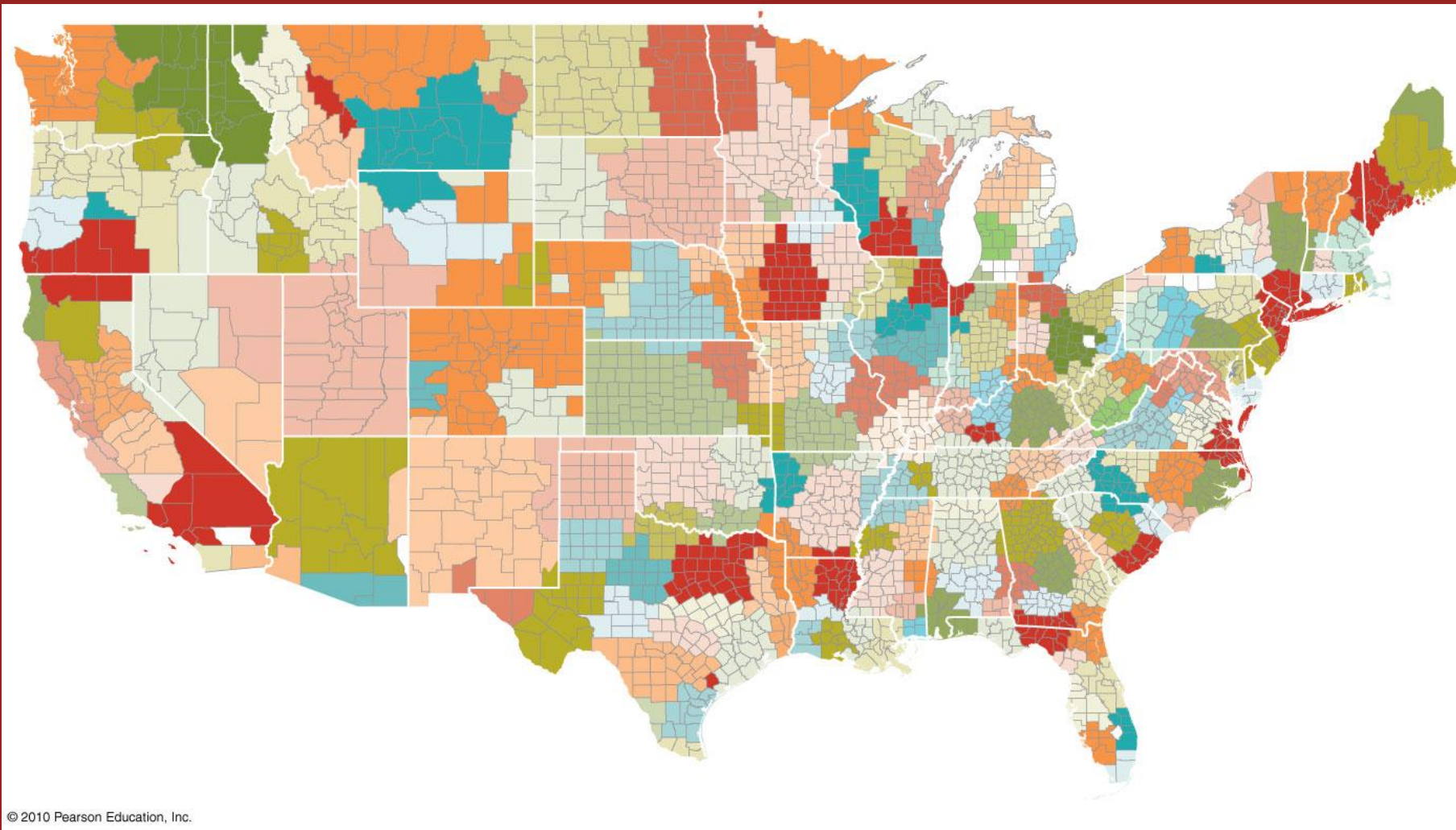
How this course works

- The most important thing for you to learn is how to think...to develop *epistemology* and *methodology*.
- You will be introduced to a series of subjects (politics, language, ethnicity, industry, etc.)
- You will be shown how geographers “see” and understand these topics and how spatial thinking is applied to solve problems.

How this book is organized

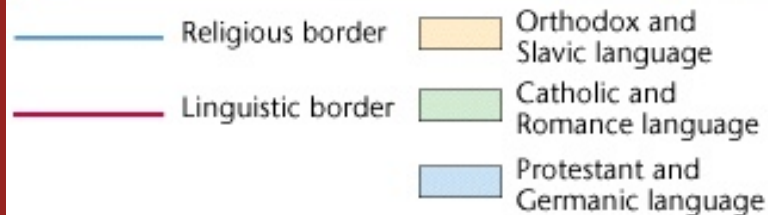
- Each chapter has a topic (politics, religion, ethnicity, etc.)
- Each chapter has the following sections:
 - Region (Where is it?)
 - Migration/Diffusion (How'd it get there?)
 - Cultural Ecology (What's the interaction with nature?)
 - Cultural Integration (How does it affect other things?)
 - Landscape (What does it look like as you drive by?)

Functional Region: TV Markets



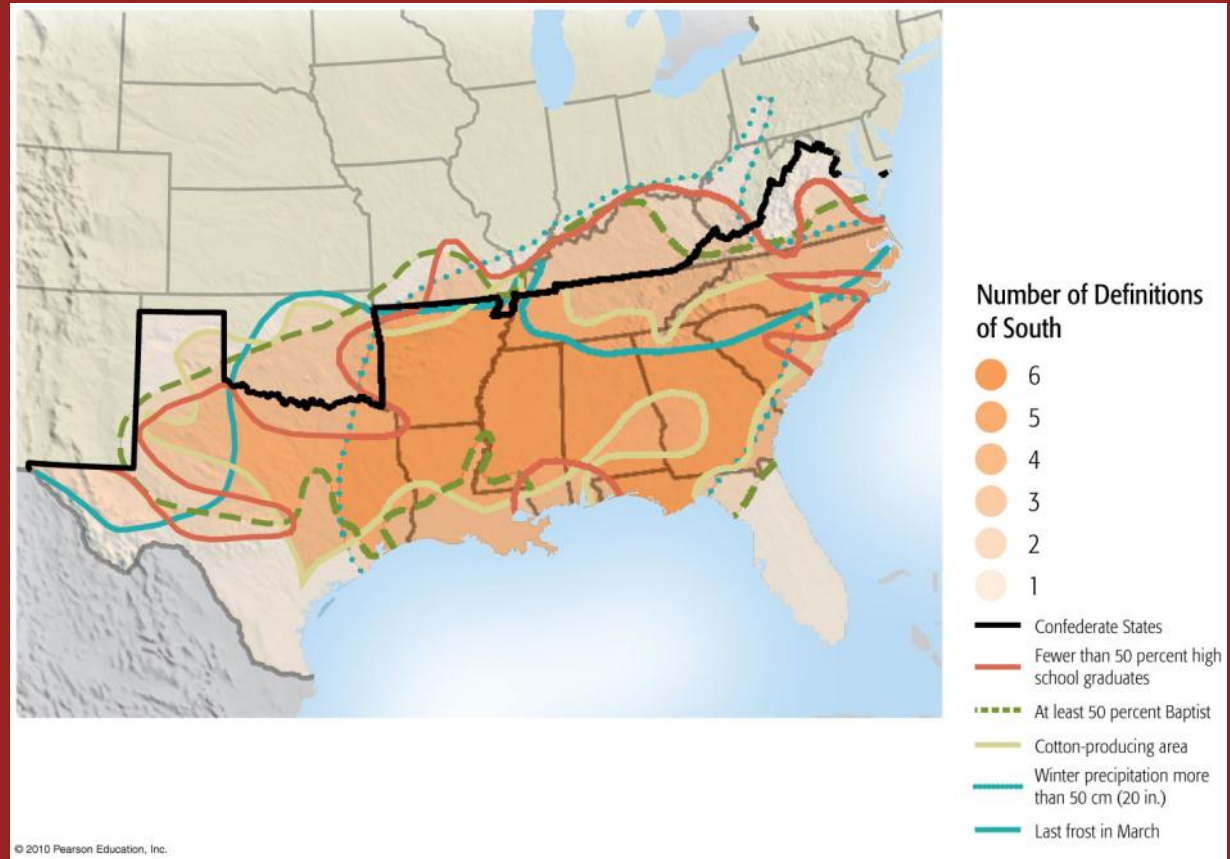
Formal Region: German Speakers

- Note the German heartland is both Protestant and German speaking, but the periphery is Catholic and more likely to include other languages.



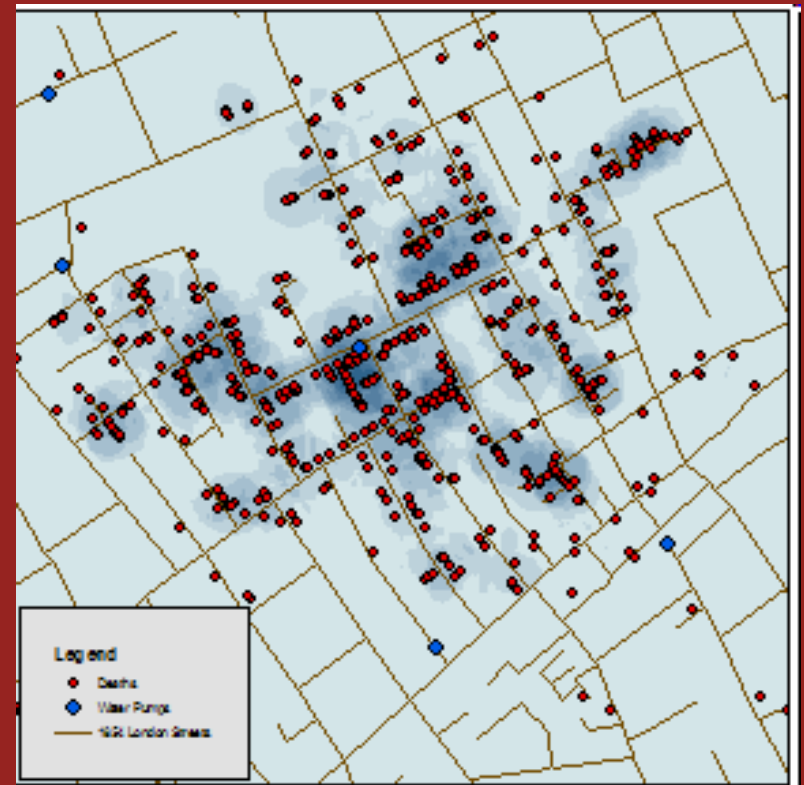
Vernacular Regions

- “Dixie” is another word for the southern US, but exactly where is “The South”?



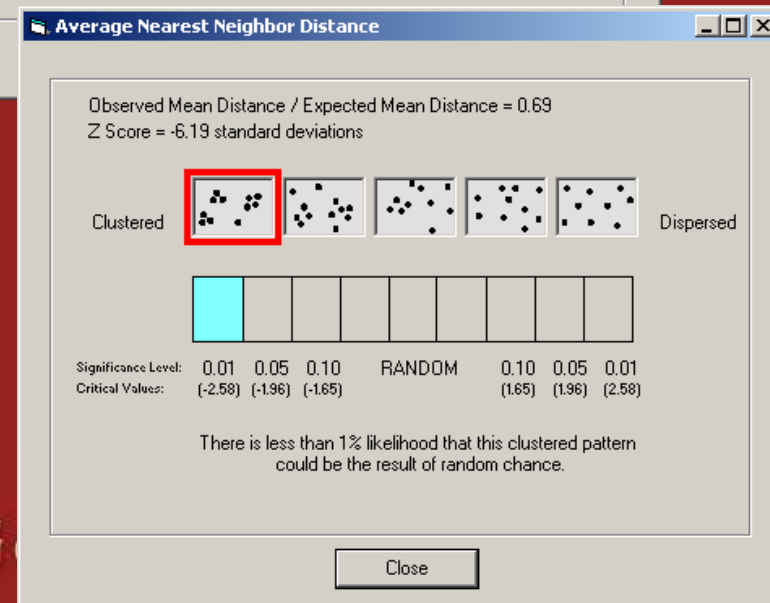
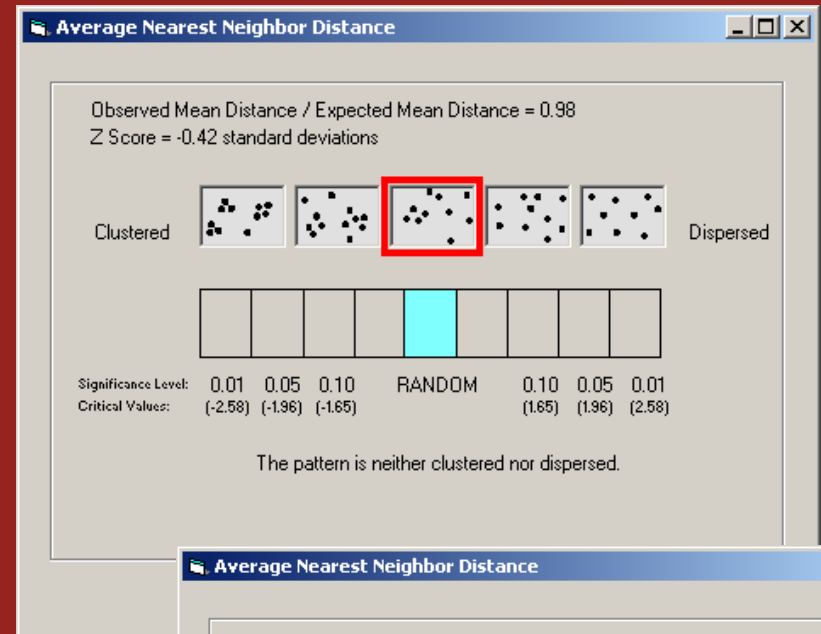
Properties of Distribution

- Density – measurement
 - Number of objects
 - Land area
- Concentration
 - Clustering
 - Dispersal
- Pattern
 - Irregular
 - Linear
 - Rectangular
 - Grid
- Cholera map...



Payday Lenders vs. Doughnut Shops

- Which industry do you think is more concentrated in the San Fernando Valley?
- If one industry is concentrated spatial and the other is not, what inferences can we draw about the competitive nature of each industry?



Diffusion

- Diffusion is how people, ideas, the flu, music styles, etc. move from a *hearth* at the core outward to the periphery.
- Different styles of diffusion:
 - Hierarchical & Reverse-hierarchical
 - Contagious diffusion
 - Relocation diffusion
 - Stimulus (partial diffusion)
- Barriers, including time and space intervene

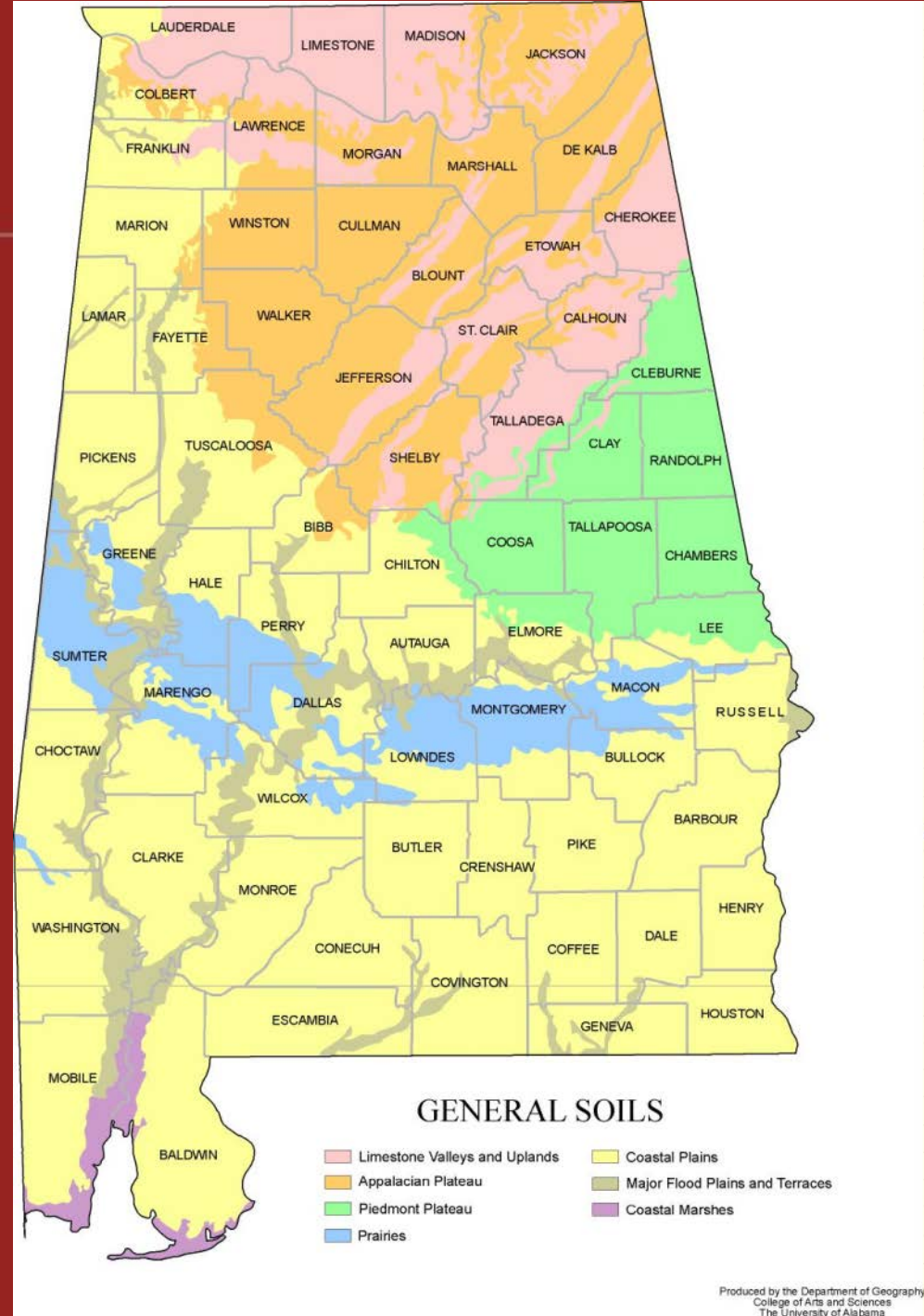


Humans and Environment

- Geographers are also very interested in how the natural environment affects our cultural behaviors (and vice versa)
- In the book, this relationship is called “Cultural Ecology”

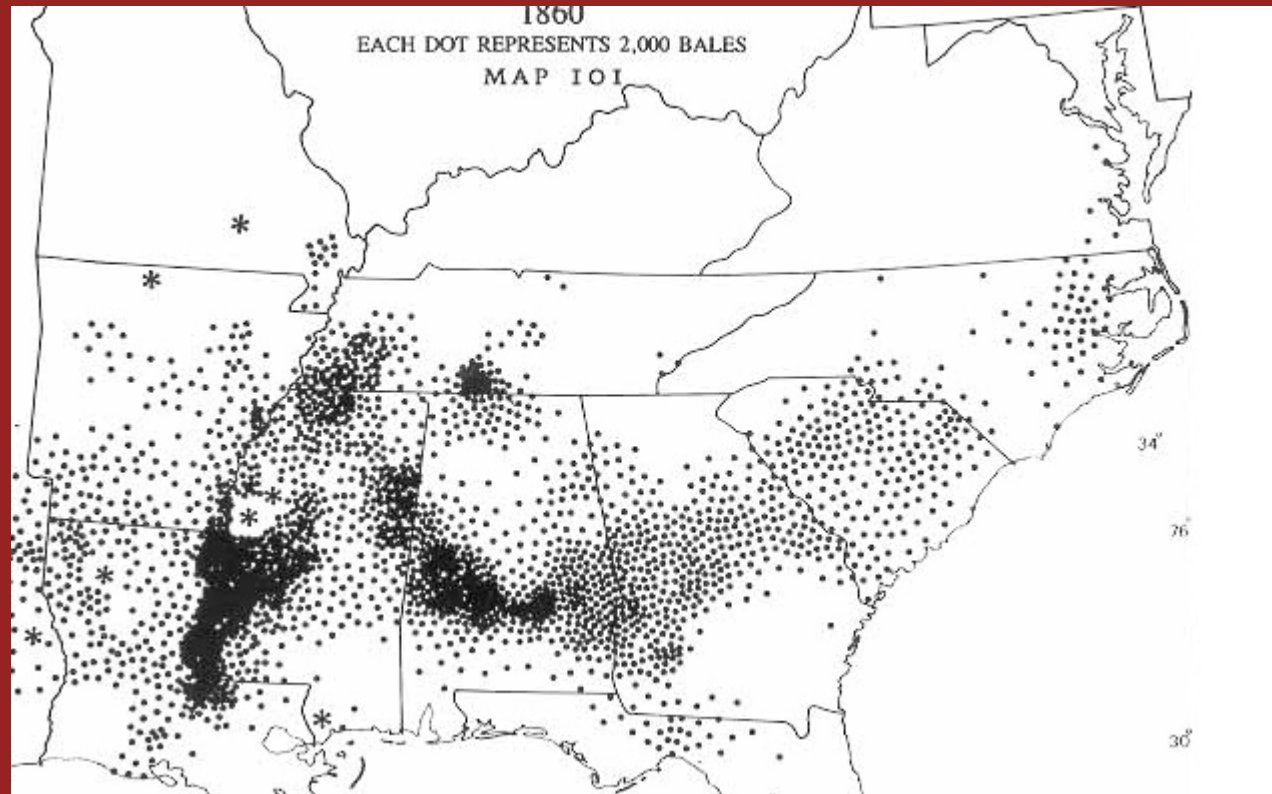
Soils of Alabama

- Soils in the blue color are particularly productive, especially for cotton.

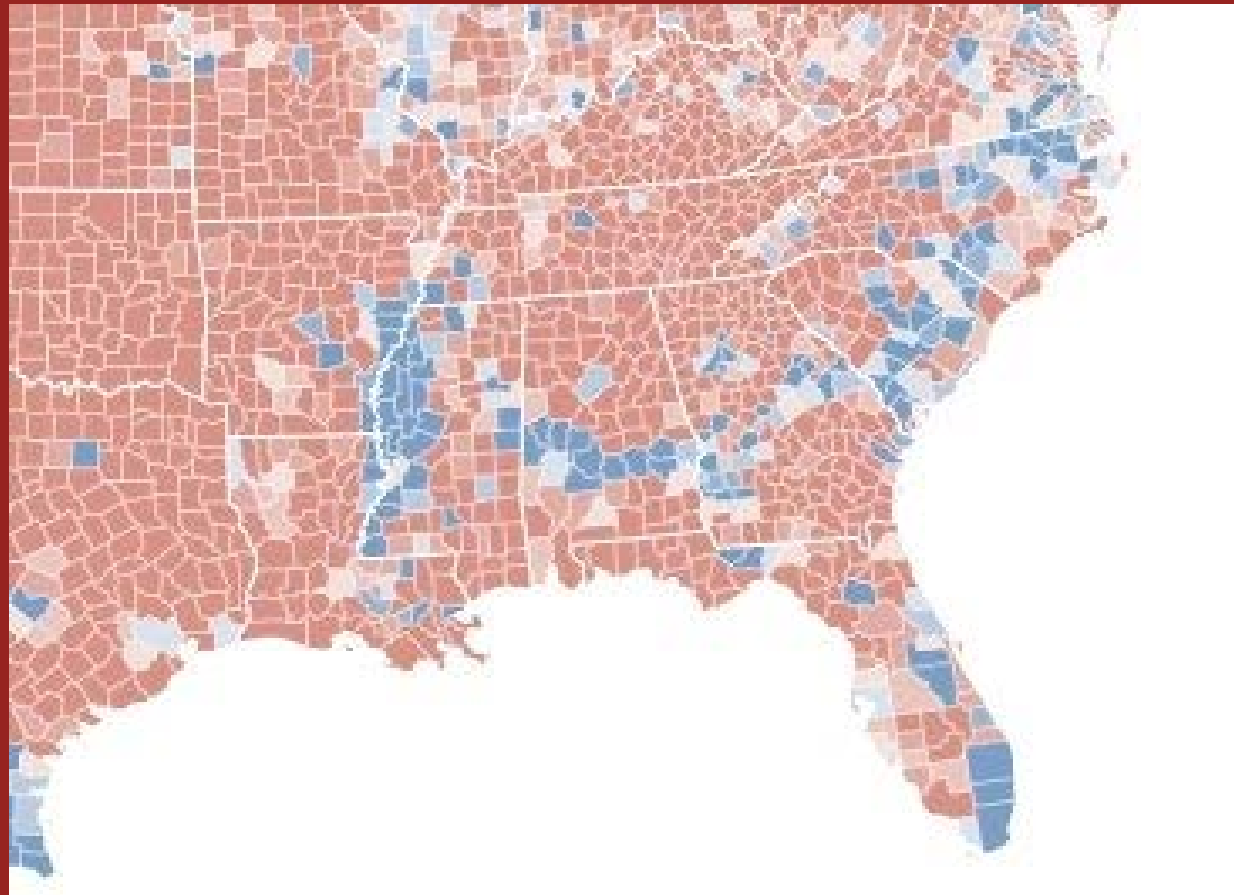


Cotton Production: 1860

- Note the relationship between cotton production and soil type in Alabama



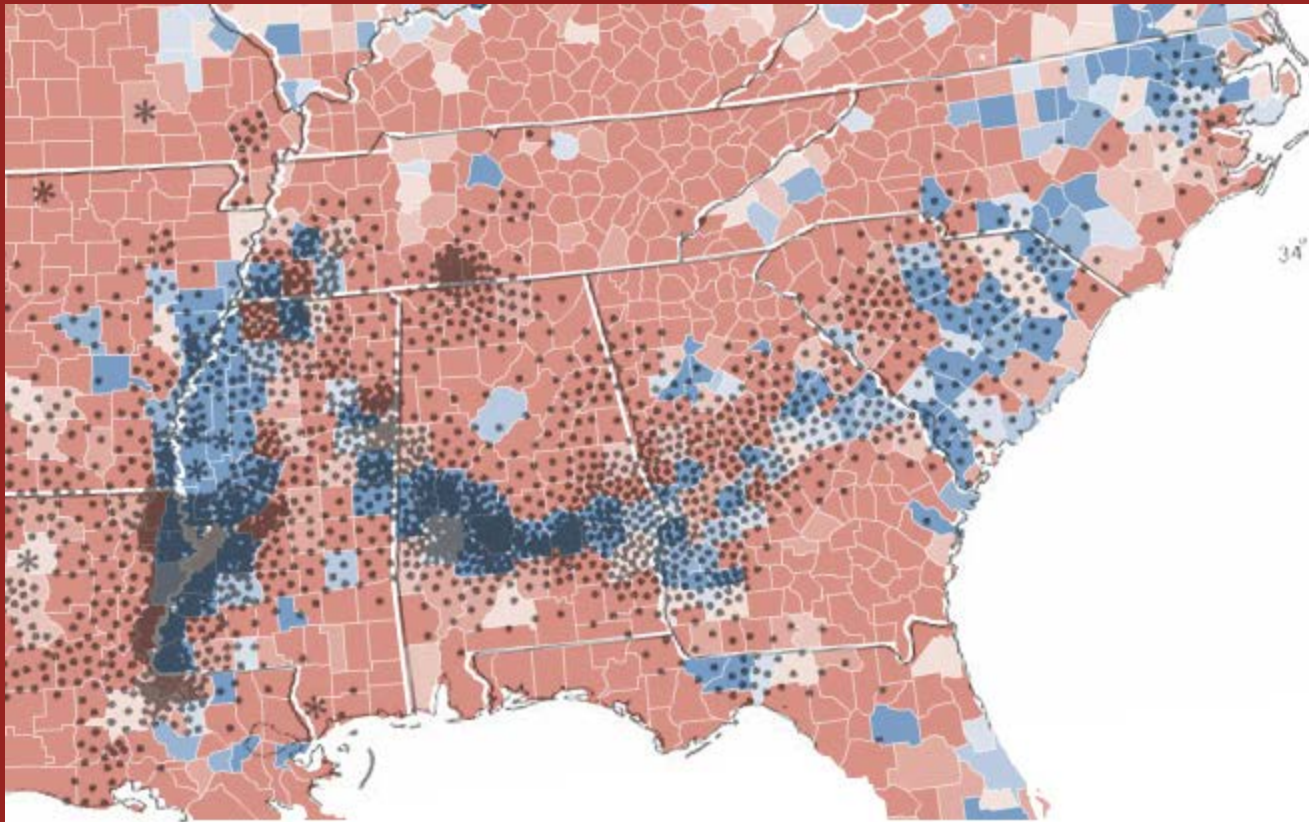
Voting for Obama/McCain 2008



Geography



Do you see the relationship
between soils-agriculture-
politics?



Geography

Landscape

- Consider the parking structure across from Sierra Hall. What does it suggest about the culture that built it?
- What symbolic values does it have?
- What is not said?



Consider these Landscapes



Environmental Determinism?

NO!

- fi



Geography

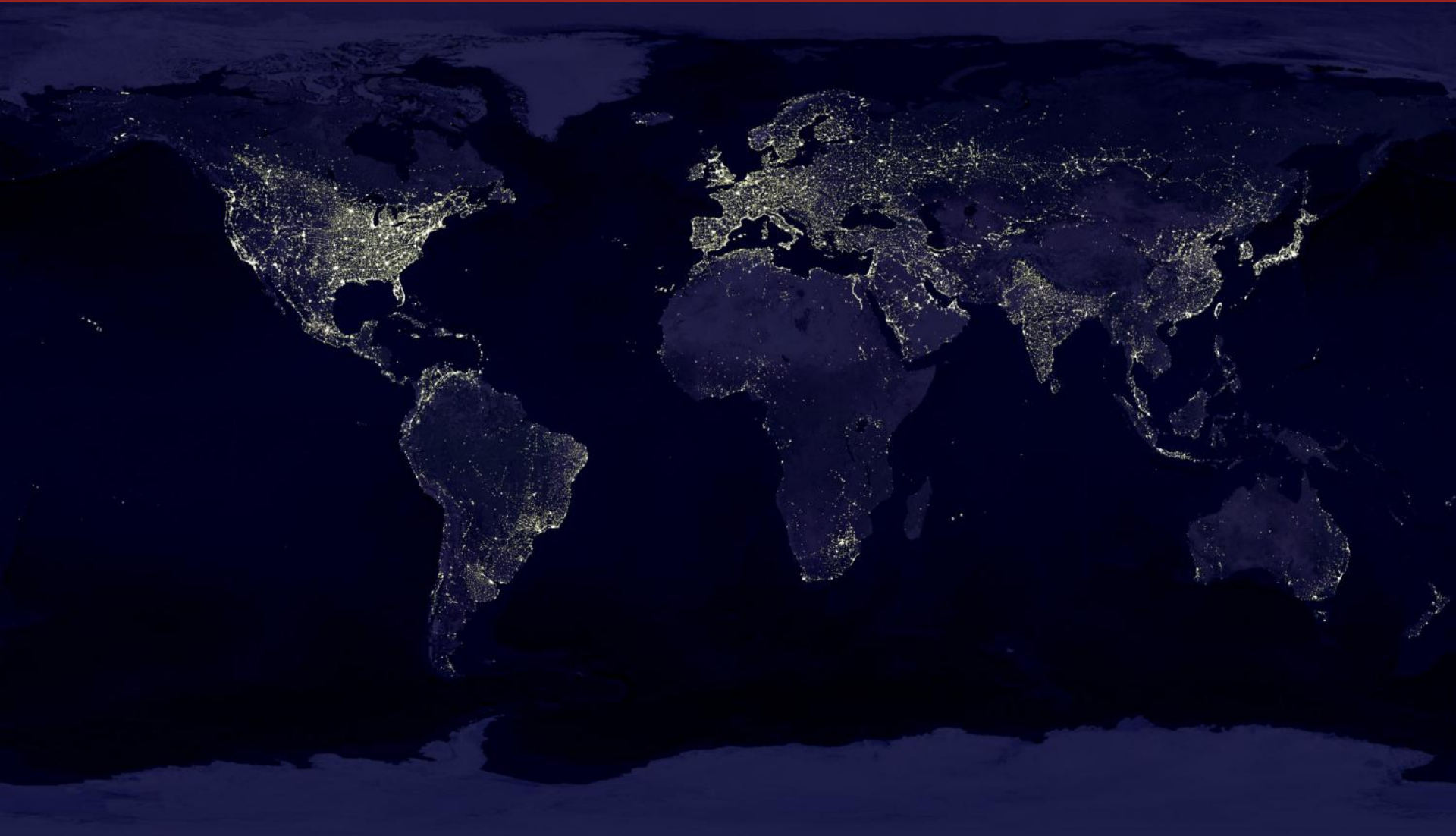


Environmental Possibilism?



Geography

Earth Modification



Geography

GREAT

SWEDEN



Geography

GREAT
FORN
SWEDEN

