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# Political Geography

California State University  
Northridge

Geography



# Political Culture Regions

- What is territoriality?
- Are we humans territorial by nature?
- How much like animals are we?



# What evidence speaks of our territoriality?

- Gang Graffiti



**MCHUMOR.com** by T. McCracken



Tiger marks territory the new and improved way.

©T. McCracken mchumor.com

**Geography**

- Upper Middle Class and Working Class neighborhoods



graphy



# US – Mexico Border



- Countries fence others out as well...or try.



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Or to keep people in...





**Geography**



# Othering

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- Politics is an expression of how people's territoriality plays out spatially. Our territory gives us a sense of who we are....and who "others" are.
- Othering



# Jigsaw Globe

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- There are approximately 190 countries in the world.
- Africa has about 50 of them.
- Europe has about 50.
- Many hundreds more possible as nations demand self-determination.



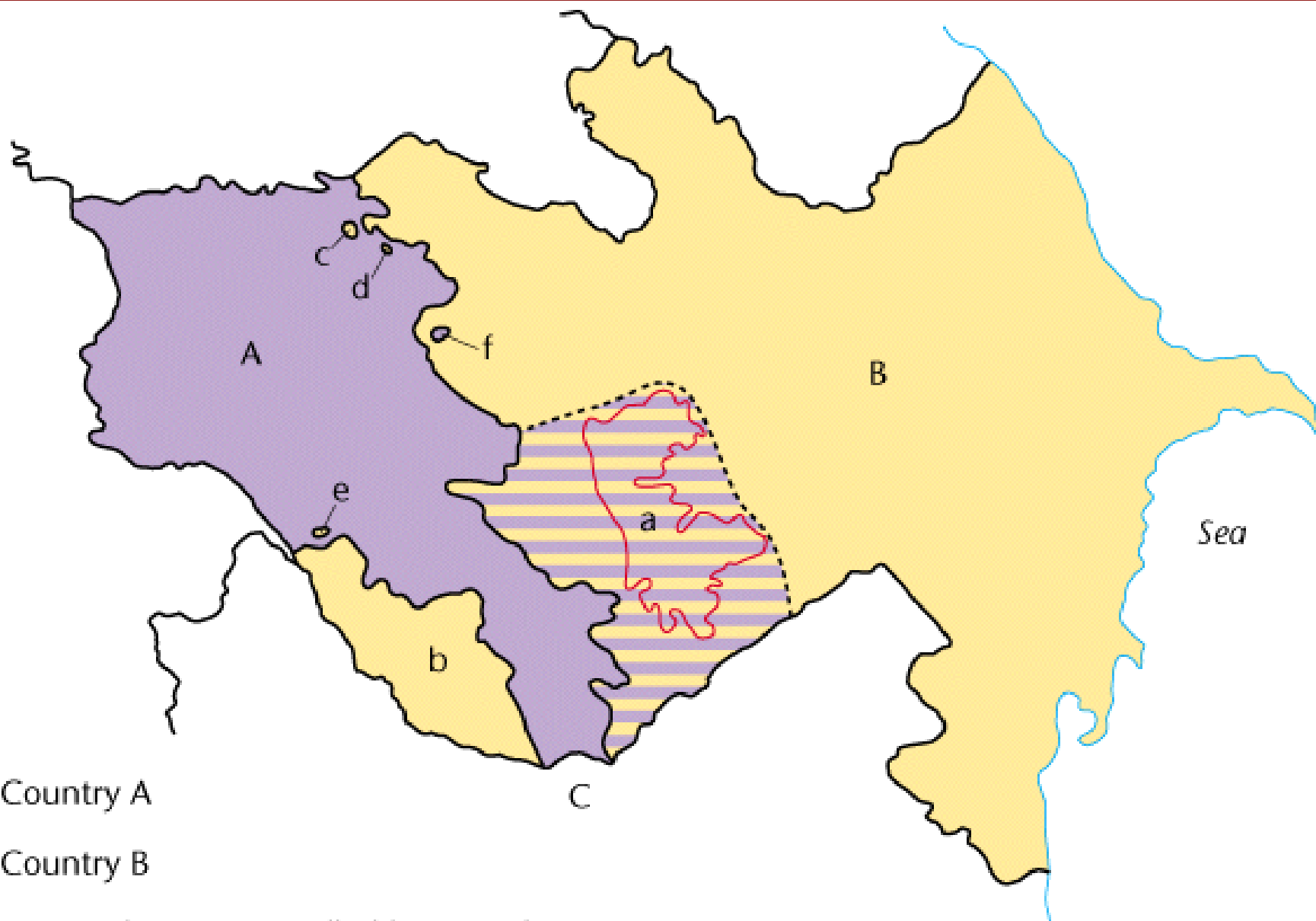
# Boundaries – Old School Geopolitics



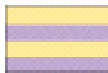
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- Compact and round countries have less trouble with unity than oddly shaped countries.
- Enclaves, Peneclaves, Exclaves.
- Prorupt countries
- Archipelagos
- Marchlands (define “march”)
- Buffer States and Satellites
- Natural, Ethnographic, Geometric and Relic



- Capital city (in South Africa, function divided between several cities)



-  Country A
-  Country B
-  Area no longer controlled by B, in the hands of A ethnic rebels since 1994



# Strategies for Dividing Power

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- Unitary governments
  - France
- Federal governments
  - Switzerland, Canada
- Semiautonomous regions
  - Hong Kong
- Which system does the United States employ?



# One World Government?

- Supranational organizations, such as the United Nations, NATO; and treaties, such as NAFTA, challenge territoriality.
- Some fear them...
- Other countries complain that the US manipulates such organizations to their own benefit.



# Electoral Geography

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- Voting patterns can be mapped and they show very interesting patterns, some of which hold up for many decades.



# Red vs. Blue

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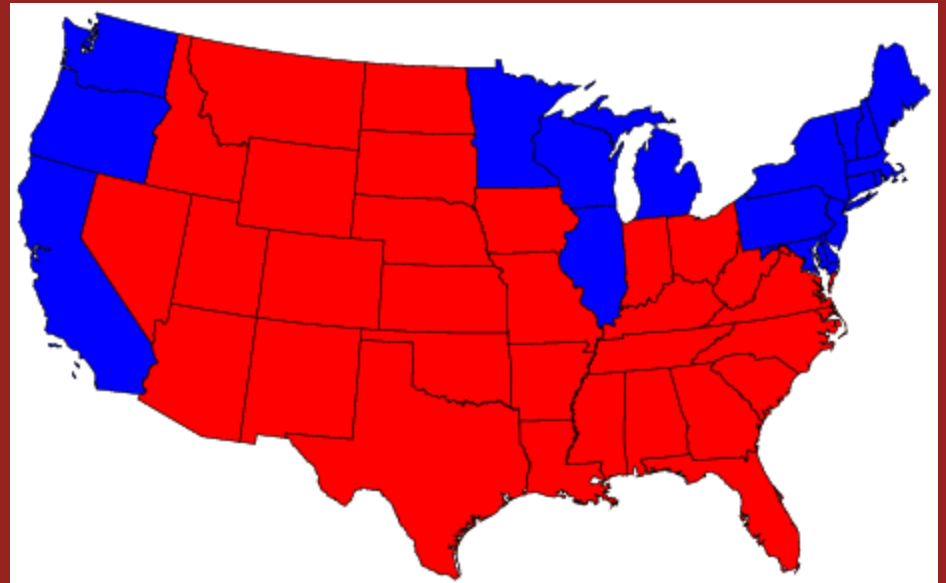
- The characterization of presidential elections with maps has misled many into thinking the country was divided in a way that it may not be.





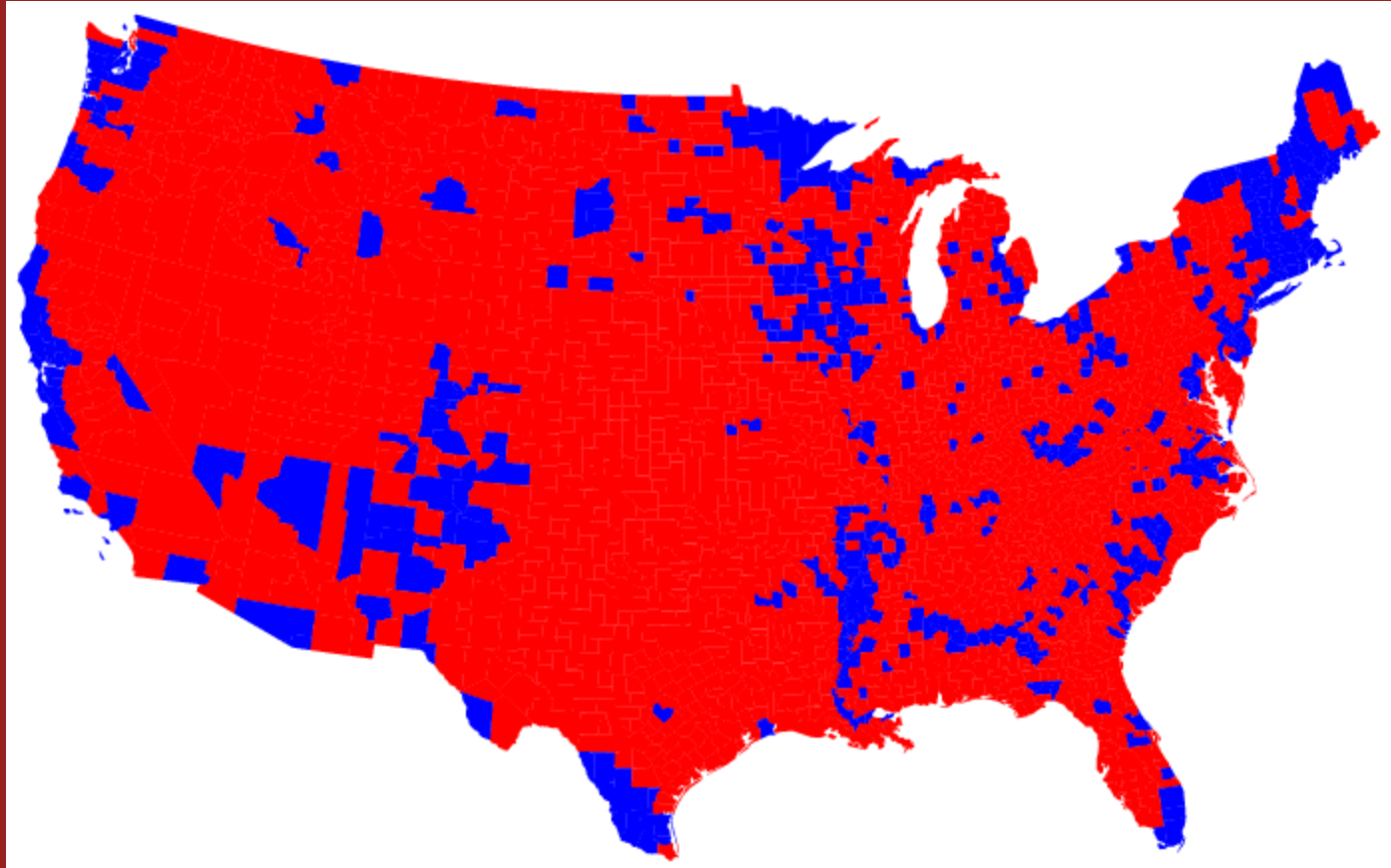
# Red vs. Blue

- Note that these now commonly accepted colors are opposite the traditional scheme where red was associated with the political left.
- Suggests political polarity.



# By County

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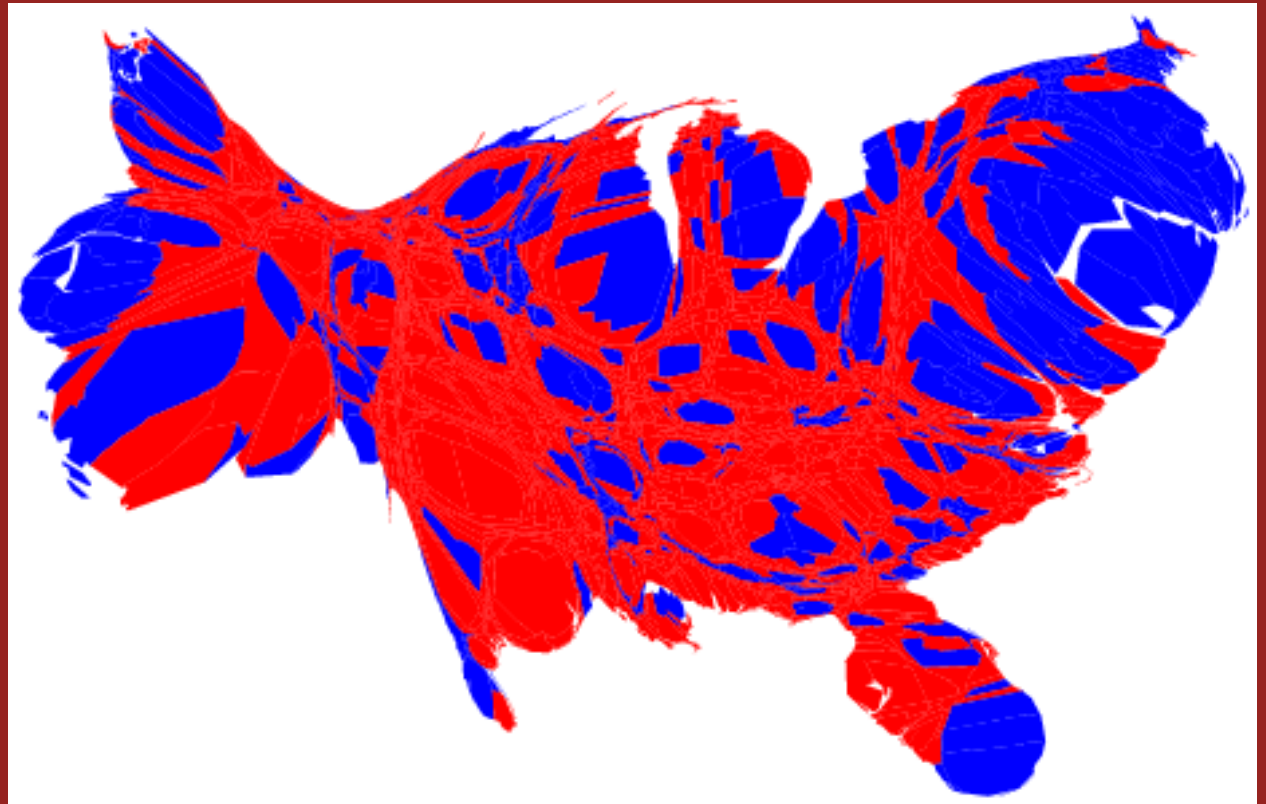


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# Cartogram by County

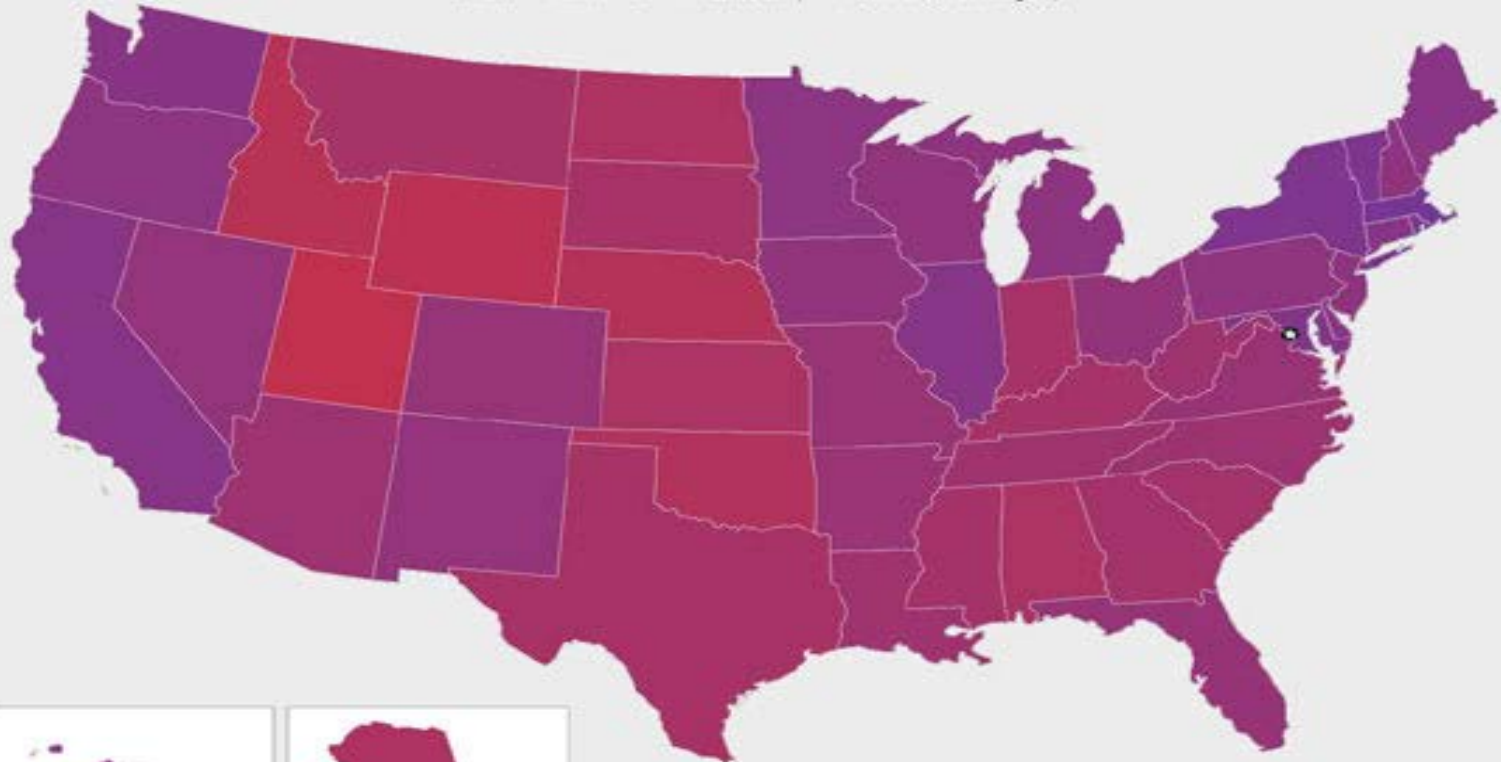
- Does a much better job of showing urban population



# Purple vs. Violet

## 2004 Presidential Votes Cast

Source Data: MSNBC.com (11/03/04, 6:00pm)

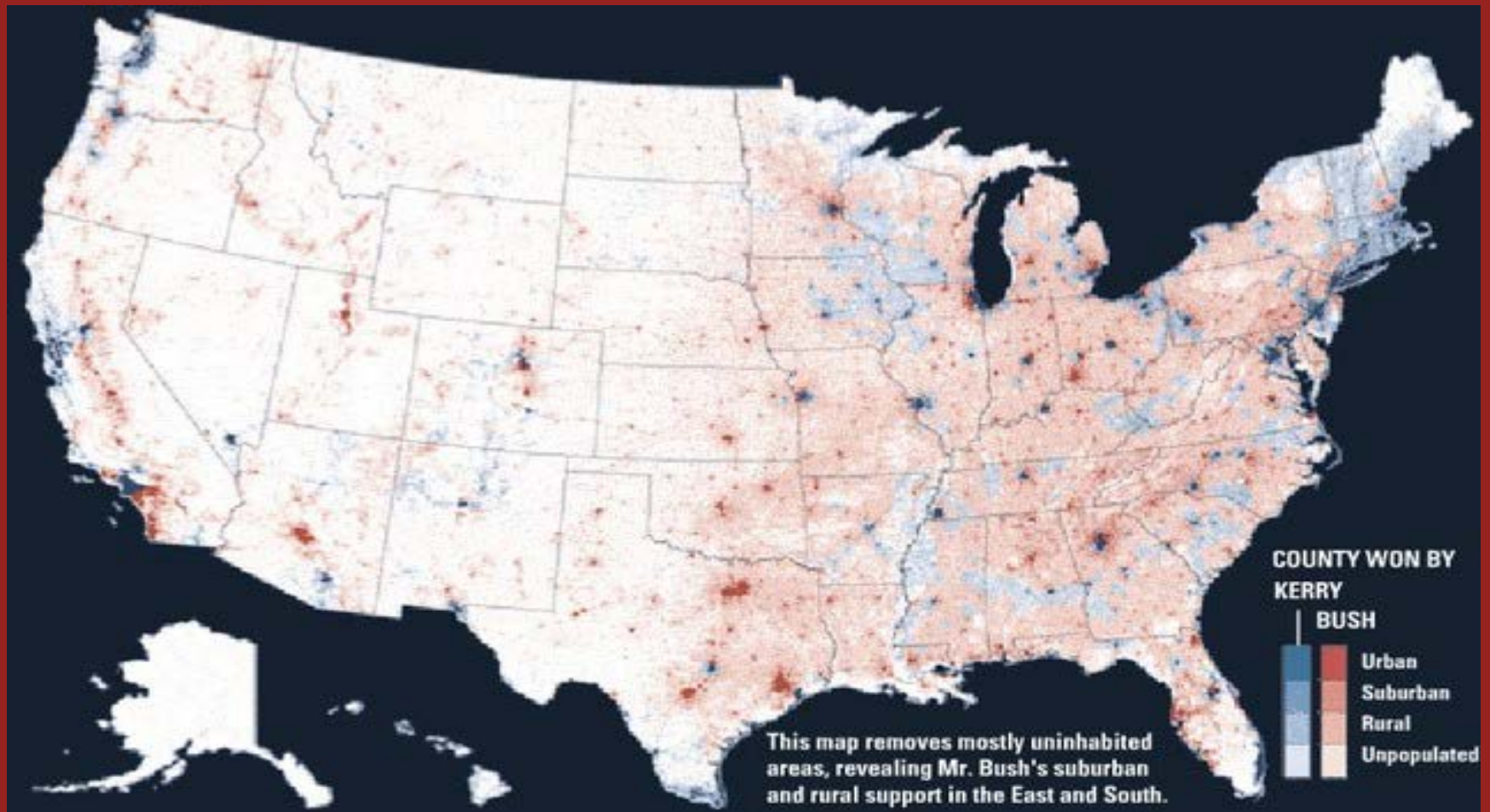


100%  
Democrat

50/50

100%  
Republican

# White?

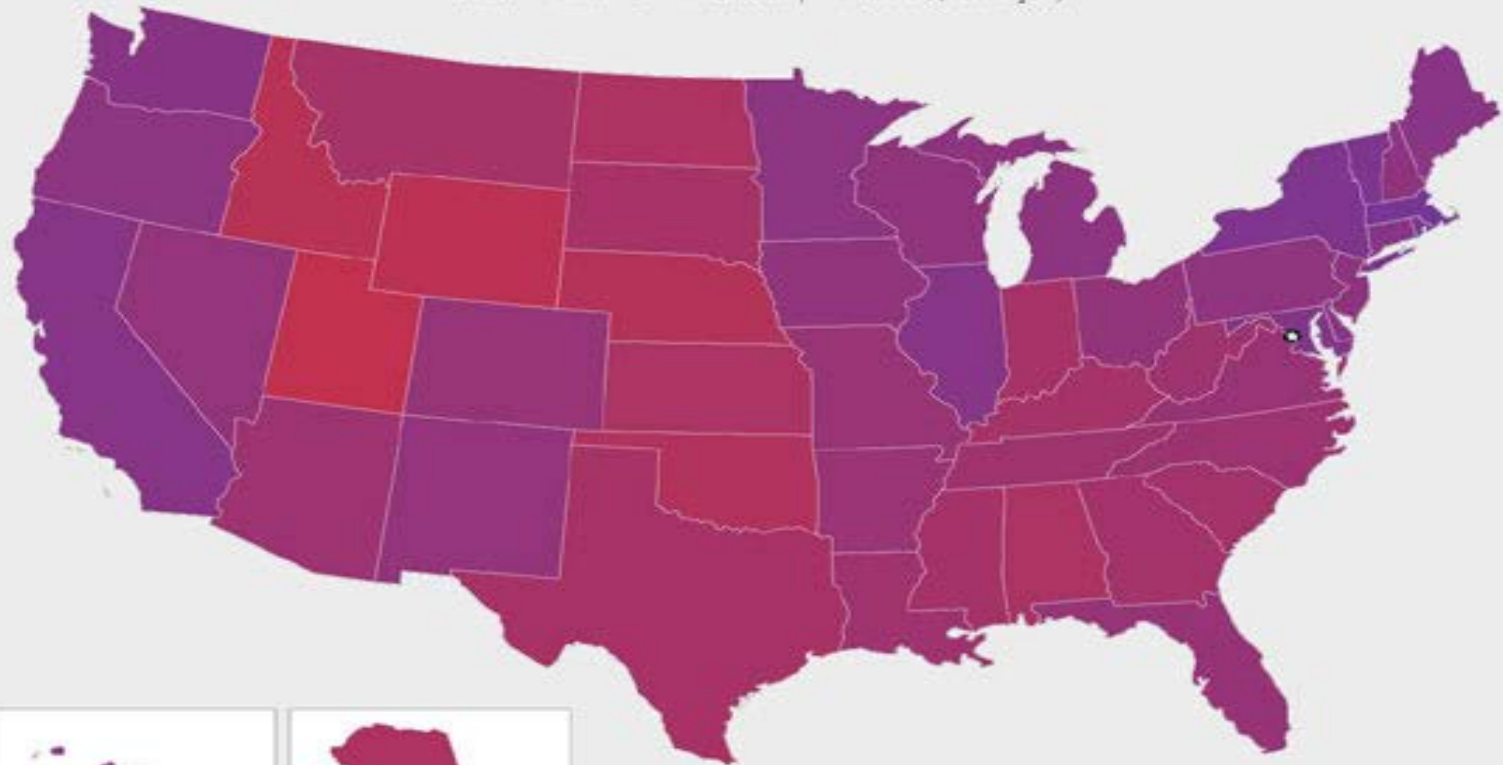


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# Purple vs. Violet

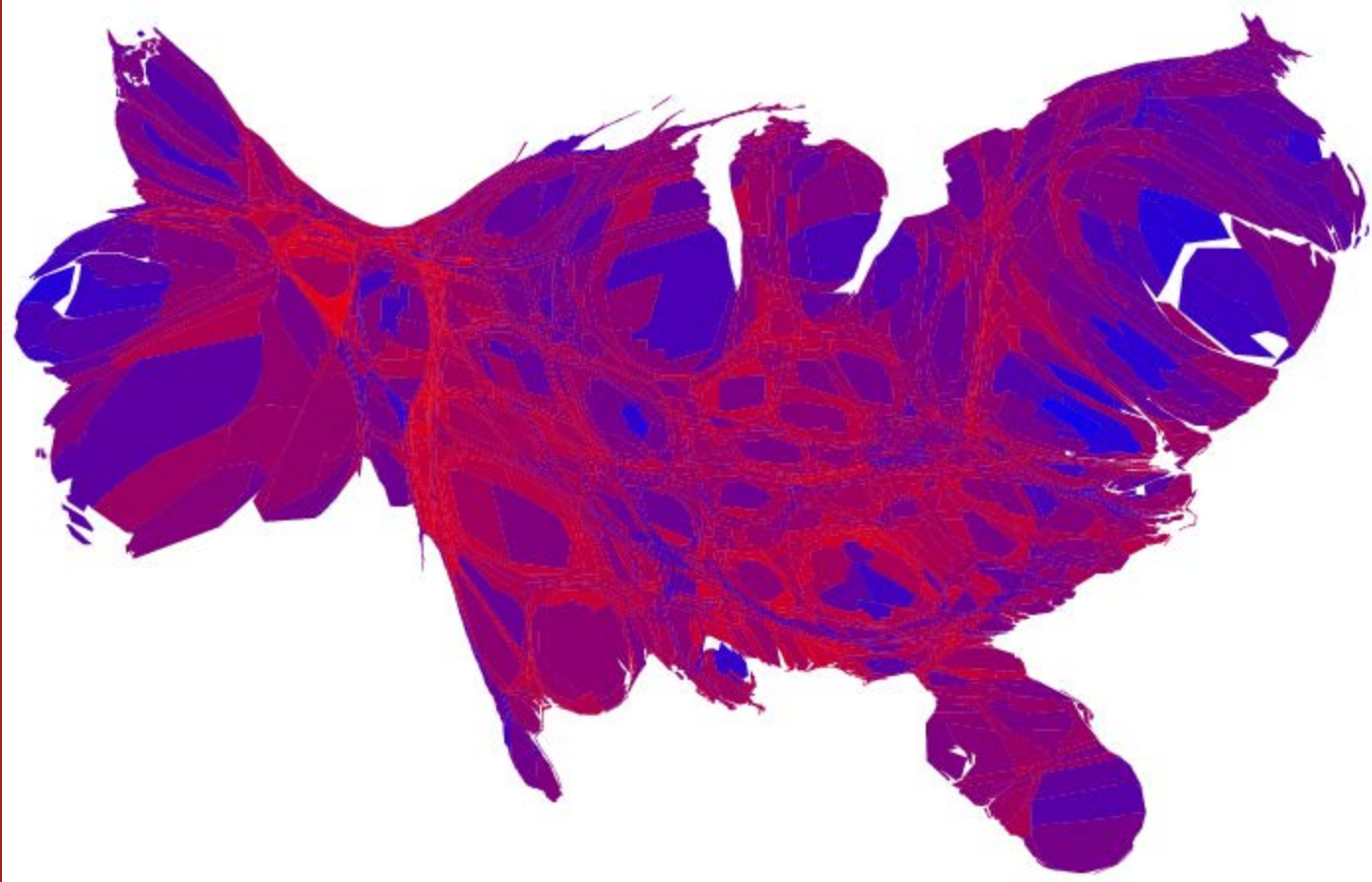
## 2004 Presidential Votes Cast

Source Data: MSNBC.com (11/03/04, 6:00pm)



# Purple vs. Violet in a Cartogram by County

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**Geography**



# NPR Animation of Electoral Politics

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- <http://www.npr.org/blogs/itsallpolitics/2012/11/01/163632378/a-campaign-map-morphed-by-money?ft=3&f=111787346&sc=nl&cc=es-20121104>





# What does the Red vs. Blue electoral map incorrectly suggest?

- A. That we are really a multi-polar society
- B. That we have no political centrists
- C. That the conservatives are largely in the South
- D. That the liberals are largely on the coasts.



# Elazar's American Political Regions

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- Traditionalistic
  - Laws based on tradition
- Moralistic
  - Laws based on moral imperatives
- Individualistic
  - Individual rights over group needs

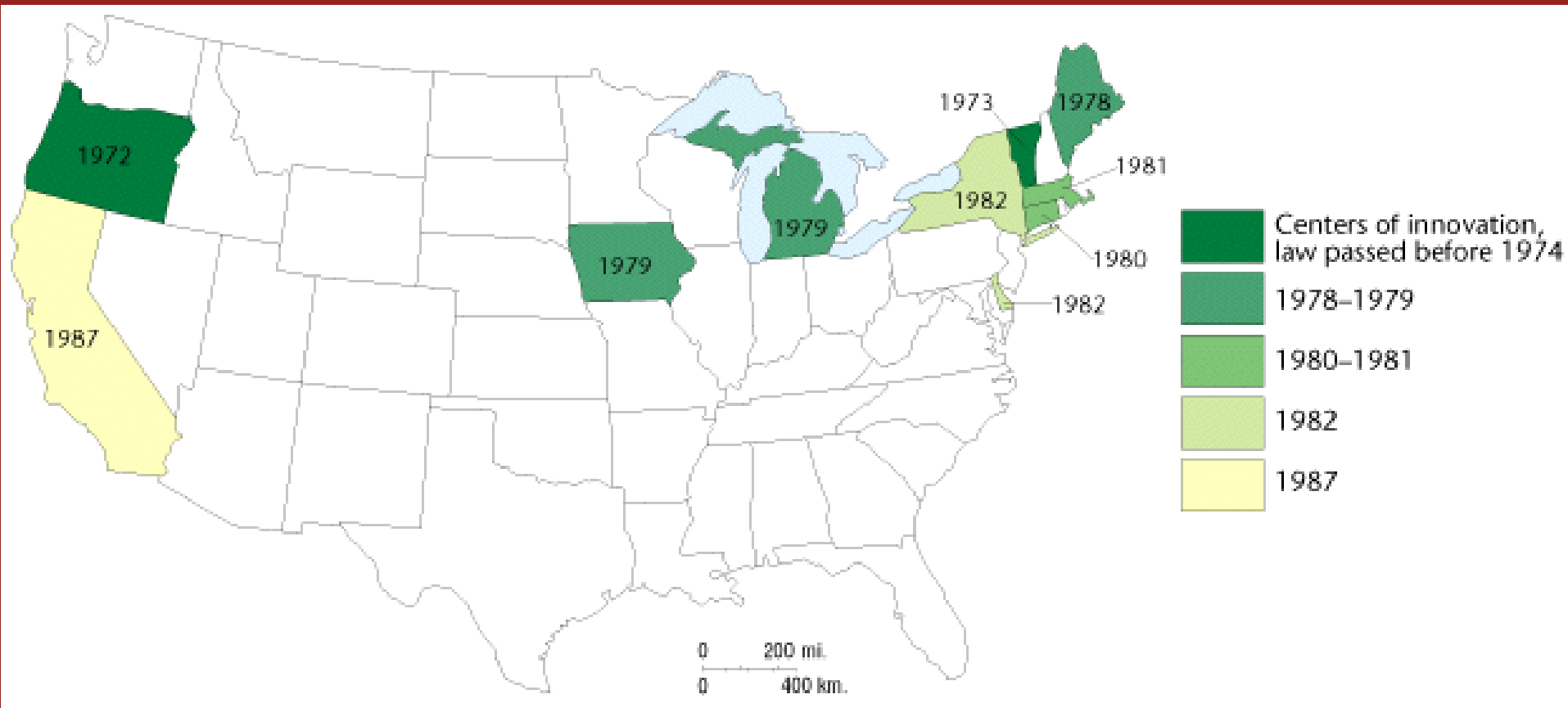


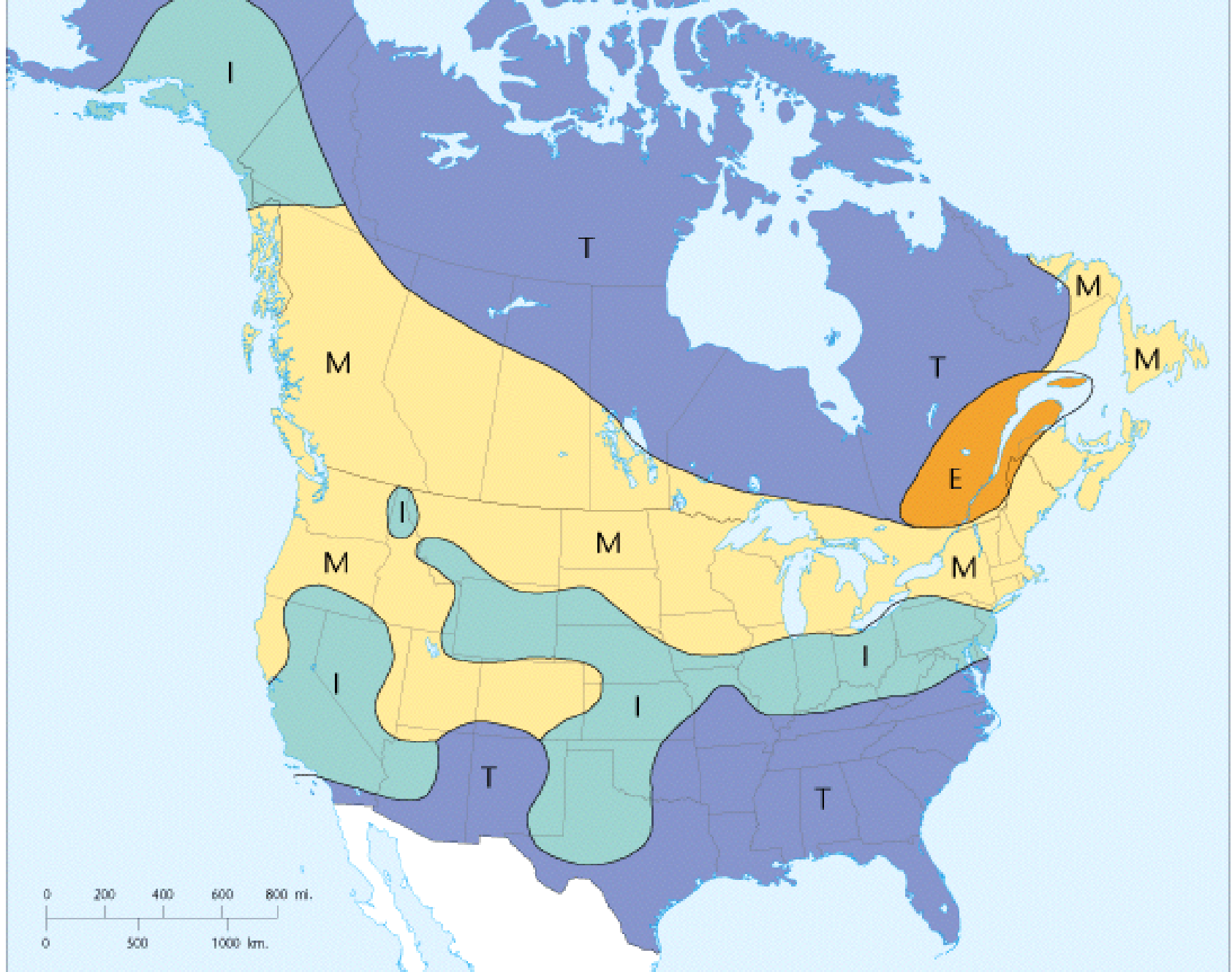
# Which Region?



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# Diffusion of Recycling Programs (fig)





Traditionalistic

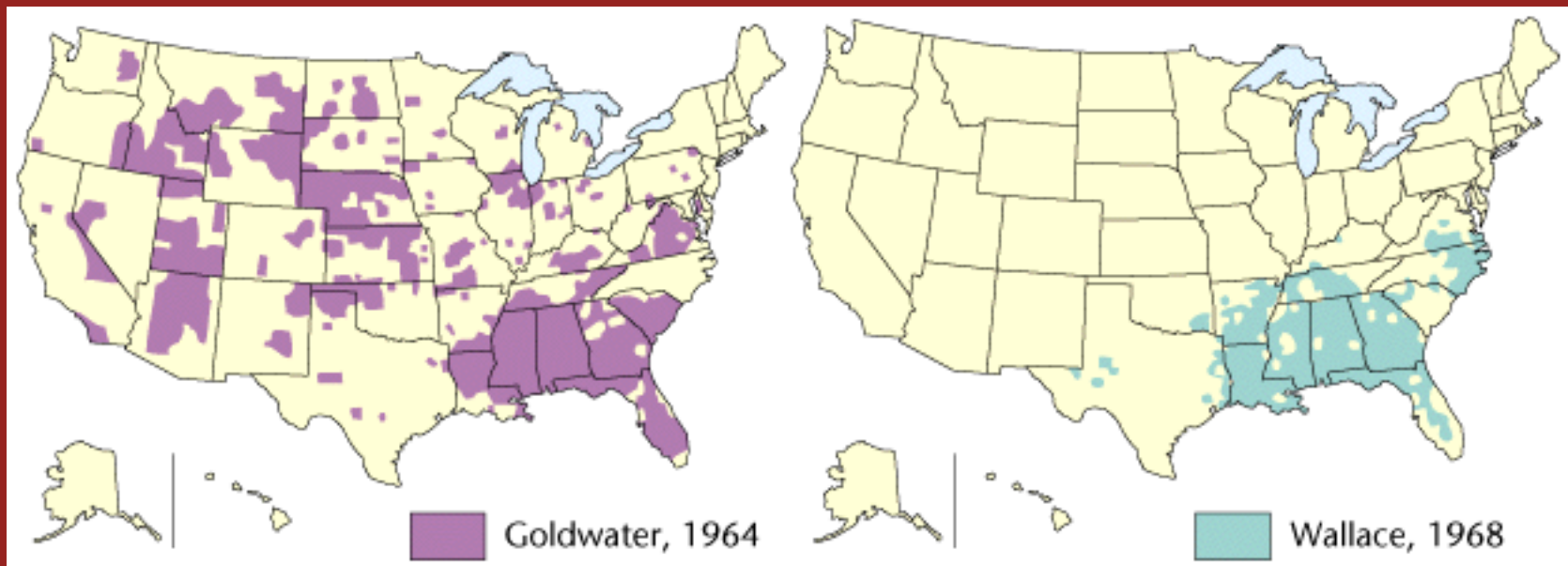
Individualistic

Moralistic

Ethnic

# Social Conservatives and Libertarians

- Note that Social Conservatives are not in the same location as the “less-government” conservatives.

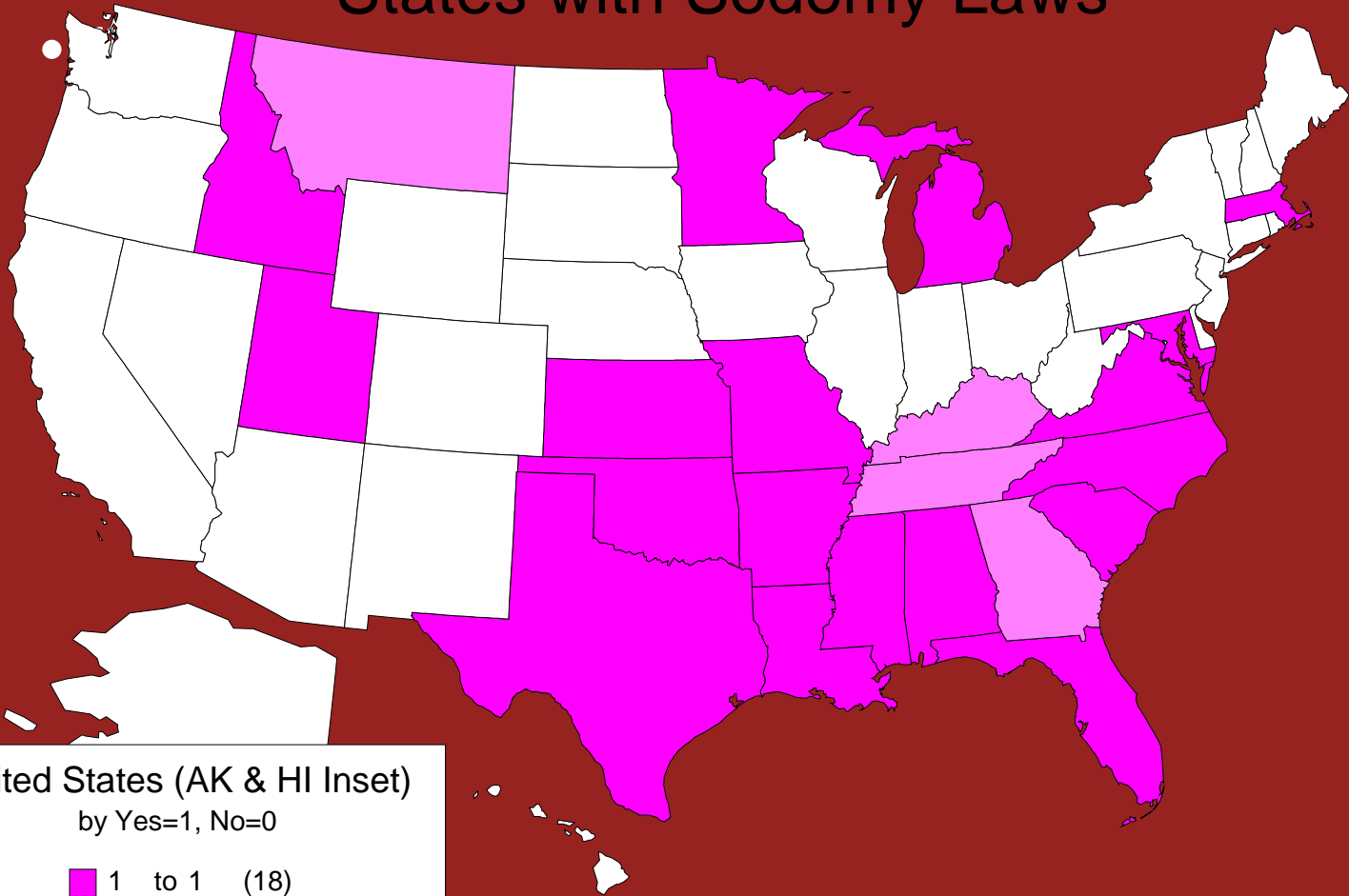


# Cartoon



# Geography of Marital Privacy

## States with Sodomy Laws



United States (AK & HI Inset)

by Yes=1, No=0

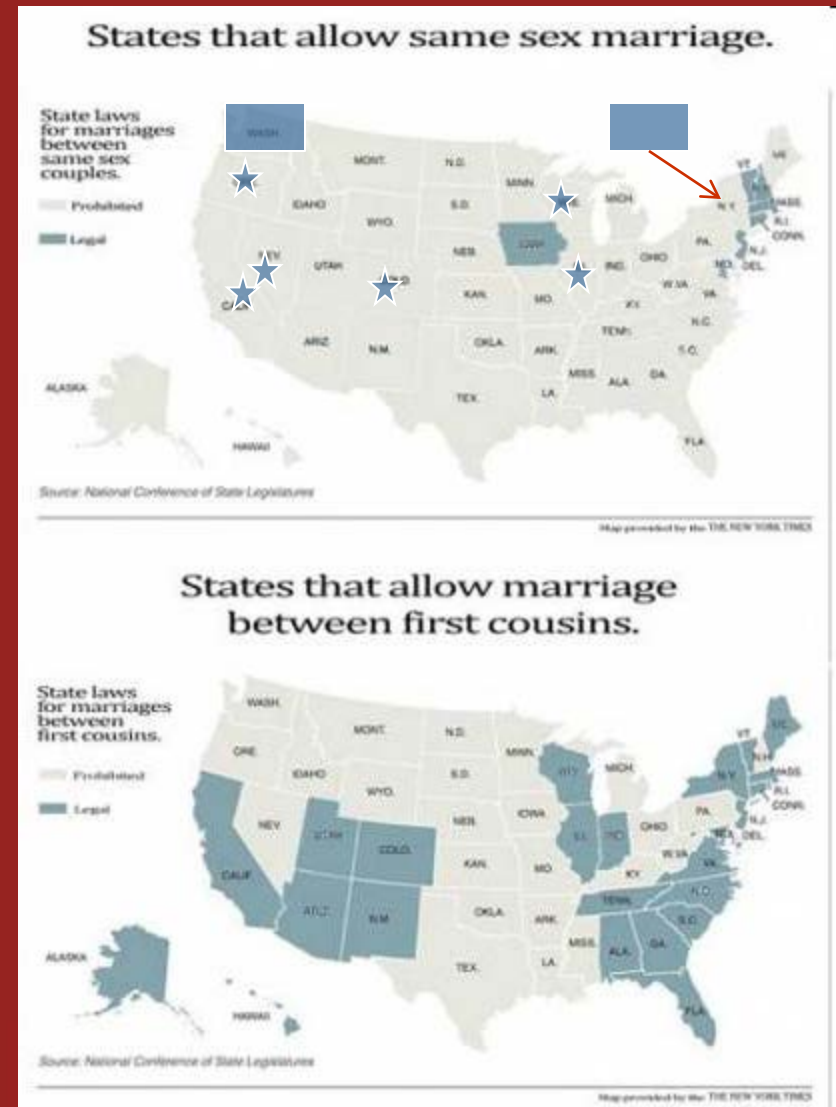
- 1 to 1 (18)
- 0.5 to 1 (4)
- 0 to 0.5 (28)

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# Gay vs. Cousin Marriage Laws

- Partly humorous, but also offers a glimpse into the relationship between politics, religion and tradition.
- Note the patterns in the Southeast and Southwest.
- Which state doesn't fit its own pattern?



In Las Vegas, almost everything is legal. It's following which of these political traditions?

- A. Traditionalistic (Social Conservative)
- B. Moralistic (Good Government)
- C. Hedonistic (Everything goes!)
- D. Individualistic (Libertarian)



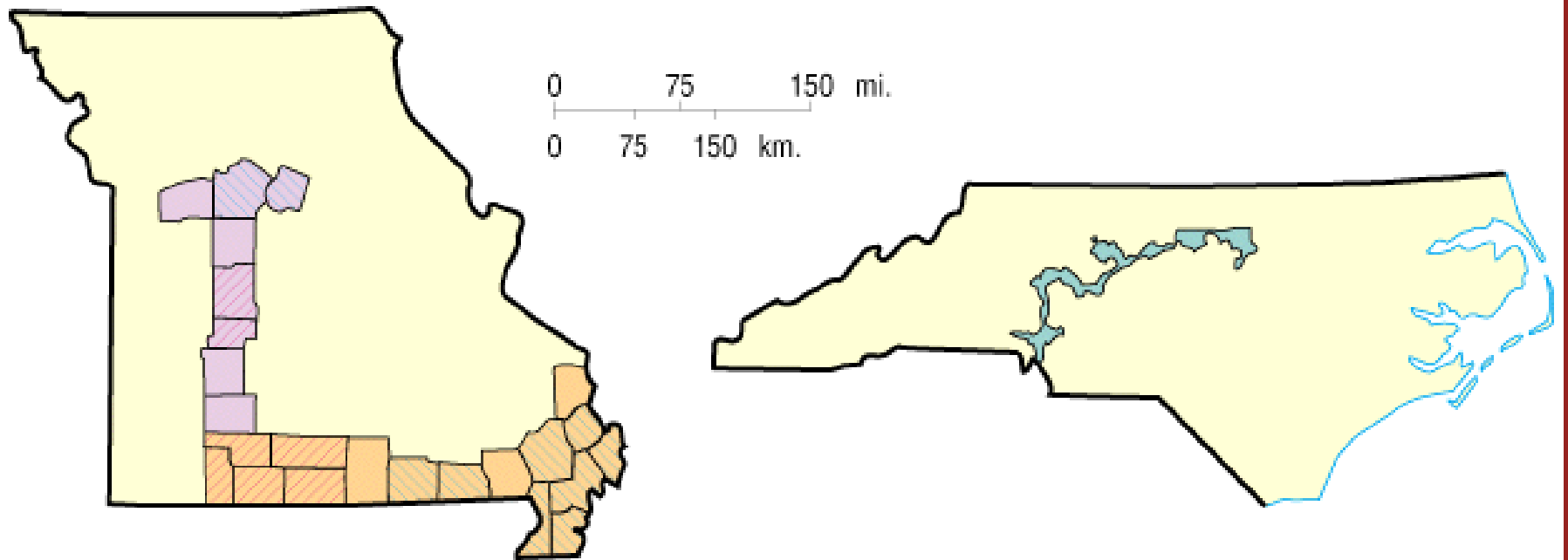
# Functional Electoral Regions





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- Redistricting
  - Every 10 years electoral districts must be redrawn.
- Gerrymandering
  - The practice of constructing electoral districts that favor one party/race/religion/etc. over another



# Gerrymandering (fig)



-  Counties of greatest Republican strength
-  14th congressional district
-  7th congressional district
-  Democratic-majority counties

-  12th congressional district



# Gerrymandering

- Note the two hypothetical maps on the right.
- See how the electoral boundaries of this “town” can be manipulated to change the outcome of an election.

RRR	RDR	RDR	RDR
DRD	DRD	DRD	DRD
DRD	DDD	DDD	RDR
DRD	DDD	DDD	DRD
RDR	DRD	DRD	RDR
RRR	DRD	DRD	RRR
RRR	RDR	RDR	RDR
DRD	DRD	DRD	DRD
DRD	DDD	DDD	RDR
DRD	DDD	DDD	DRD
RDR	DRD	DRD	RDR
RRR	DRD	DRD	RRR

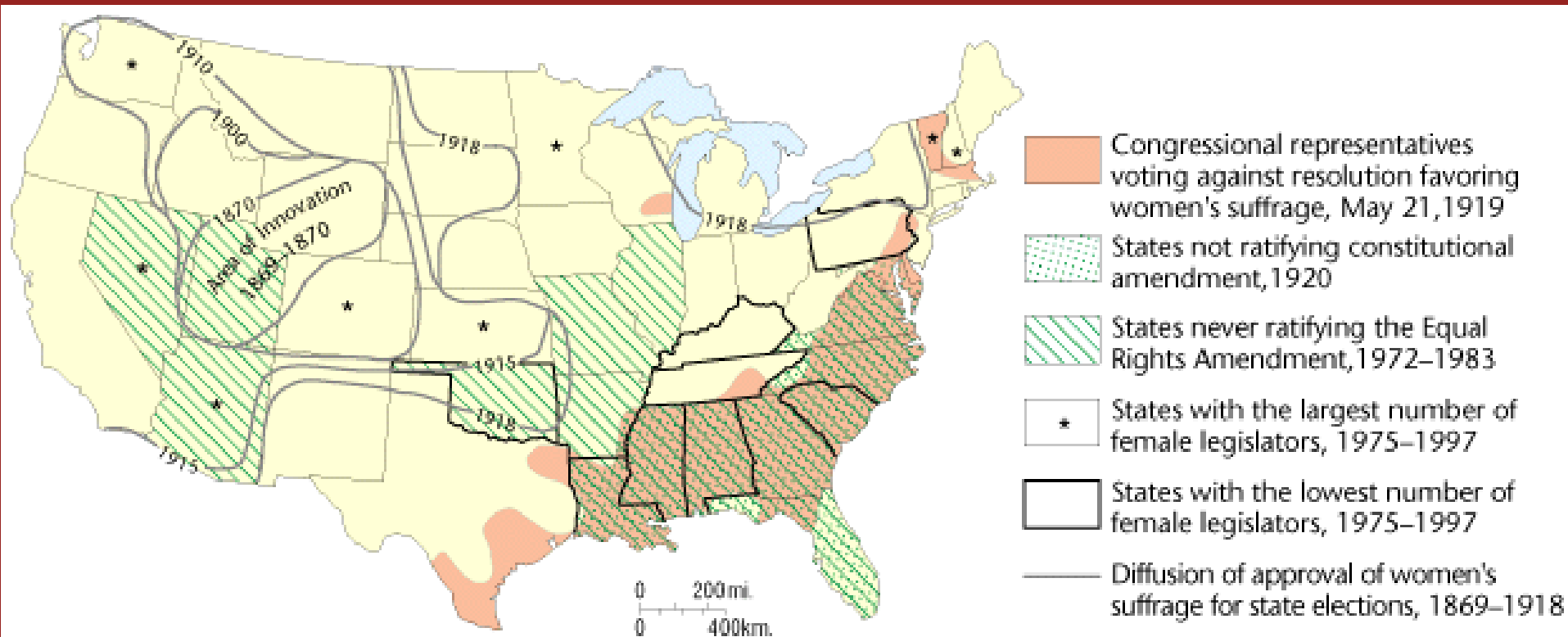
According to lecture, which of the following is the most unfortunate outcome gerrymandering for everyone is:

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- A. It keeps minorities from getting votes in congress
- B. It helps extremists get elected.
- C. It ensure incumbents get re-elected
- D. All of the above.



# Diffusion of Suffrage (fig)





# Religion and Politics

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- In many parts of the world, religion is a good indicator of party affiliation.
- Many countries in Europe have parties with names like “Christian Democrats”
- In the United States, conservative religious groups have entered into a precarious alliance with the Republican party in the last 20 years.
- Abortion is the key issue, but others are hidden

# Balkanization

- What is balkanization?
- What causes it?
- “shatterbelt”
- Other than the Balkans, what other part of the world has Balkan-like potential?



# There will.....

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- Be a test question over the previous slide.
- Were you awake?
- Did you understand any of that?



# Afghanistan

- Pashtun
- Baluch
- Tajik
- Uzbek
- Turkmen
- Brahui
- Hazara
- Pashai
- Nuristani

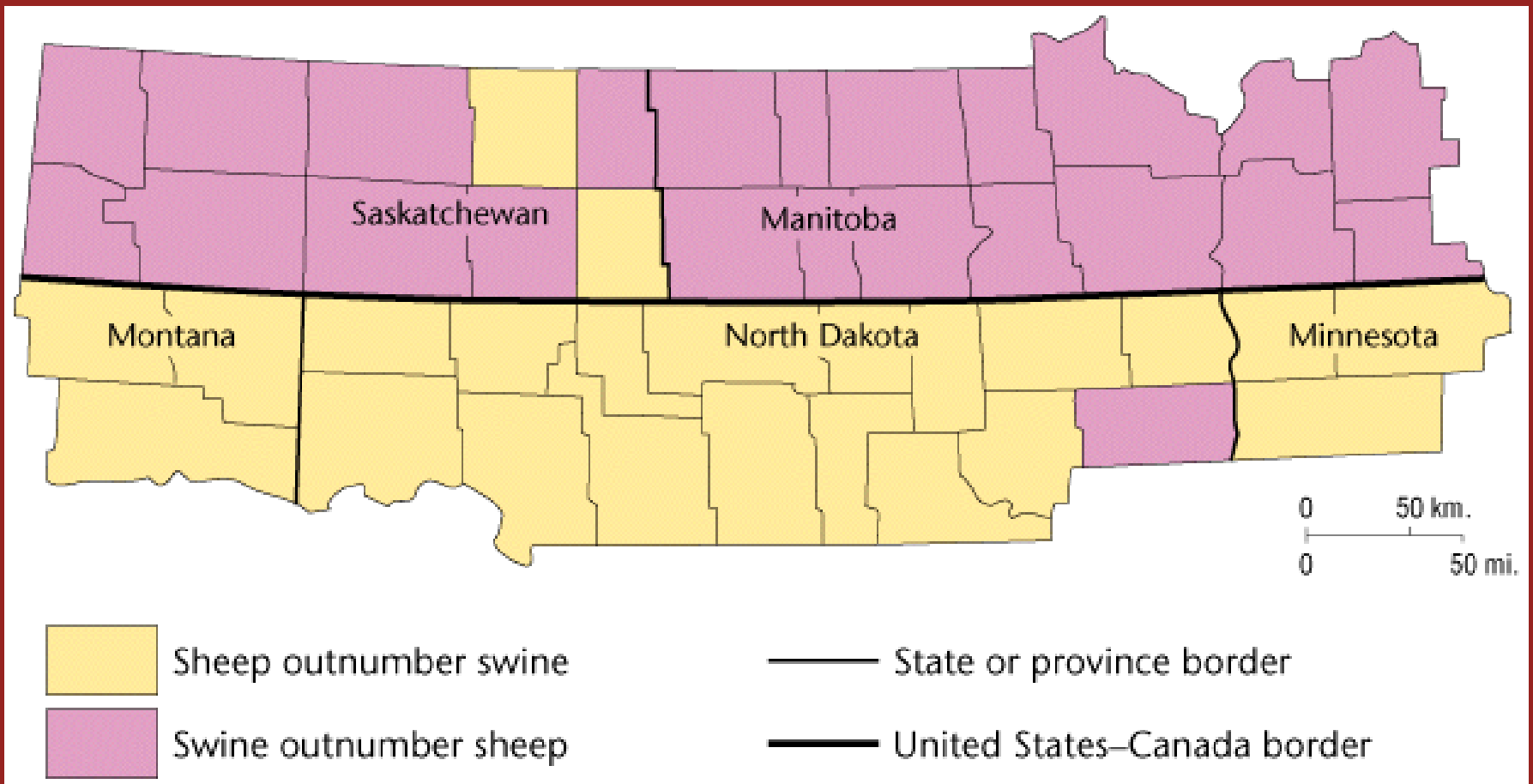


# Political Imprint on Economic Geography

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- Some borders are easier to see because of various governmental policies that encourage differing economic pursuits.
- Borders are economically disruptive-  
NAFTA

# US-Canadian Border (fig)



# US-Mexico Border (fig)

Which side is  
which?

**Geography**



# Political Landscapes

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- Politics are expressed on the landscape in a variety of fashions.
- Some are blatant, some are less obvious.





# Government Building

- How do we know that government buildings ought to look like this?
- What are we referencing with this style?



# Fair Trial Here?



# Here?



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# The Impress of Central Authority

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- The evidence of a strong central government is everywhere!
- Patterns of highways, rail, communication lines
- Suppression of internal borders
- Military bases



# Central Authority



Geography



# National Iconography on the Landscape

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- National symbols are easy to find.
- What sort of national symbolism do we have in the US?
- Statues, flags, eagles, monuments, etc.
- What is their function?
- Do they tell the whole story?



# National Iconography

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- Whose story is being told?
- Whose story is not being told?



# Stone Mountain

- How does this monument to the Confederacy speak to Black people who visit?





# Why do / don't we build these?

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# Vietnam Memorial



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