



Principal themes in the population geography of the U.S. and Canada

- An ancient and ongoing Native American legacy.
- A long and ongoing history of immigration, although sources and numbers have varied over time.
- Significant regional differences in age, ethnicity, culture, and well-being.
- Urbanization
- Significant internal (U.S.) shift, including
 - Rural to urban
 - East to West
 - North to South (“rust belt” to “sun belt”)
 - Emptying of the Great plains



Native American map



“BERINGIA”

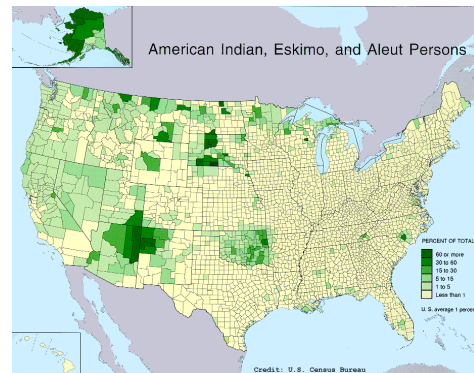
- THE NAME REFERS TO THE CONTINENTAL SHELF AT THE BOTTOM OF THE BERING SEA, WHICH TODAY SEPARATES ALASKA FROM SIBERIA.
- DURING THE ICE AGE(S) SEA LEVELS WERE AS MUCH AS 450 FEET LOWER THAN THEY ARE TODAY.
- WHEN THAT OCCURRED, THE BOTTOM OF TODAY’S BERING SEA WAS DRY LAND THAT “CONNECTED” NORTH AMERICA AND ASIA.
- THIS ALLOWED THE ANCESTORS OF NATIVE AMERICANS TO MIGRATE ON FOOT TO NORTH AMERICA FROM ASIA.

The Native American Legacy

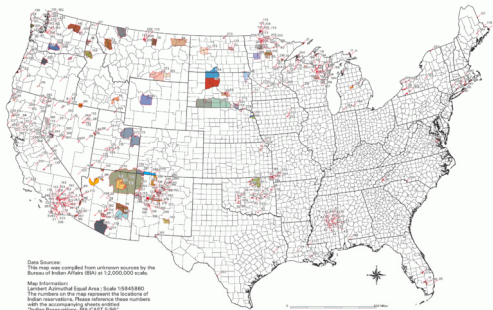
- A diverse contemporary population numbering about 4.1 million
- Numerous semi-autonomous reservations that vary greatly in size
- A major impact on the nature and extent of “natural vegetation”
- Crop domestication
- Trails to roads
- Toponyms (place names).

Top Five Native American Groups (2000 U.S. Census)

Cherokee	729,533
Navajo	298,197
Choctaw	158,774
Sioux	153,360
Chippewa	149,669



Indian Reservations in the Continental United States



There are 310 Indian reservations in the United States and about 550 tribes that are officially recognized by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs. Thus, not all tribes have a reservation.

The reservations account for about 2.3% of the United States and vary greatly in size. Twelve are larger than the State of Rhode Island. The Navajo Nation is the largest, and is roughly the size of West Virginia.

“Tribal sovereignty” applies to reservations. As a result, laws on tribal lands may differ from surrounding areas. Thus, casinos sometimes are found on reservations, but not elsewhere in the states that contain them.

“Indian Summer”

- A period of relatively warm summer-like weather that occurs in the U.S and Canada during autumn.
- The term was coined by European pioneers who mistakenly believed the warm air was caused by the Indians' custom of setting fires to forests and fields in the fall.
- The Native Americans did this to encourage the growth of new grasses in the spring that would attract wildlife/game that provided meat, skin, and bones (for tools).
- In the process, they changed the nature of local plants that Europeans came to regard as “natural vegetation.”

Domestication is the successful transformation of plant or animal species from a wild state to a state of dependency on human management, usually with distinctive physical changes from wild ancestors.

- **Domesticated plant:**
 - Deliberately planted and tended by humans
 - Selective breeding
 - Becomes genetically and physically distinct from wild ancestor
- **Domesticated animal:**
 - Kept by humans for some utilitarian purpose
 - Breeding is controlled by humans
 - Survival is dependent on humans
 - Differs genetically and behaviorally from wild ancestor due to selective inter-breeding

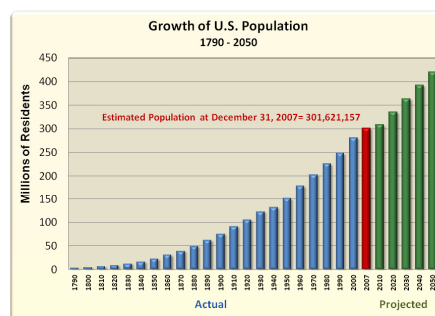
The Columbian Exchange refers to the extensive (and historically unprecedented) intercontinental diffusion of culture traits – particularly cultigens (food crops) – in the years following the European discovery of the America's.

Native American toponyms: A Sampler

- Manhattan
- Canarsie
- Massapequa
- Adirondack
- Connecticut
- Massachusetts
- Delaware
- Appalachians
- Lake Huron
- Nantucket
- Mississippi
- Michigan
- Illinois
- Chicago
- Kansas
- Iowa
- Ohio
- Missouri
- Dakota
- Etc., etc., etc. . . .

NATIVE AMERICAN POPULATION DATA: YEAR 2000 U.S. CENSUS

	GENERAL POPULATION	NATIVE AMERICANS
TOTAL	277,300,000	4,100,000
PERCENT	98.5	1.5
H.S. GRADS	80.4%	74.7%
P.C. INCOME	\$21,587	\$14,267
POVERTY RATE	12.4%	22.0%
UNEMPLOYMENT	3.7%	6.6%





Beacon Hill, Boston



Farm land in Canyon County, Idaho



Estimated Population of New York City (as of July 1, 1909)

Brooklyn	2,567,096
Queens	2,306,712
Manhattan	1,629,054
Bronx	1,397,287
Staten Island	<u>491,730</u>
Total	8,391,879

(Source: U.S. Census)

More people Live in Brooklyn Than Live in:

- Alaska
- North Dakota
- South Dakota
- Montana
- Wyoming
- Nebraska
- Maine
- Vermont
- New Hampshire
- Rhode Island
- Delaware
- West Virginia

Ellis Island Immigrants

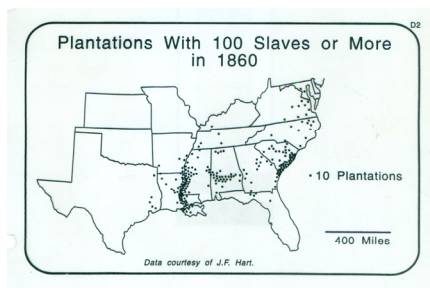
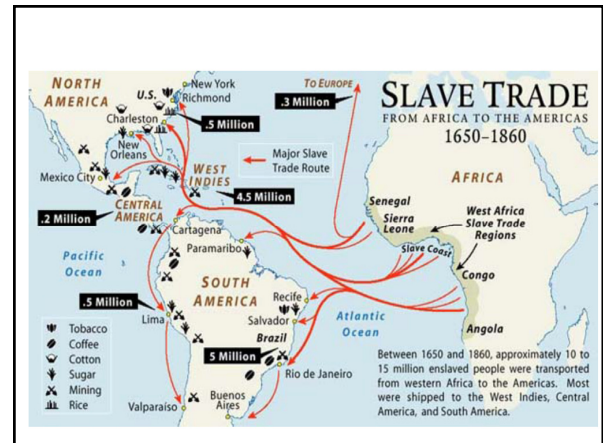
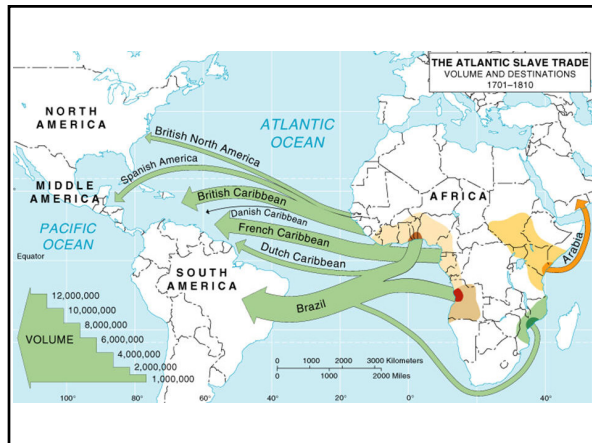
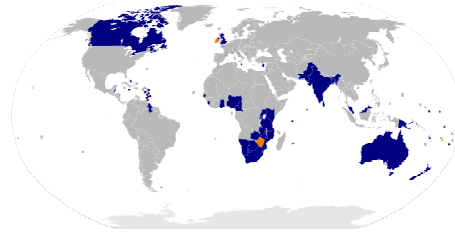


TABLE 3.1

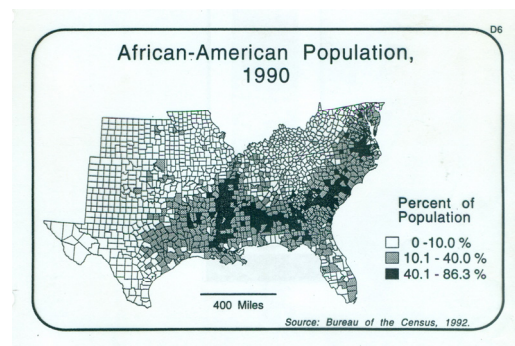
Immigration into the United States and Canada

Decade	United States		Canada	
	Number in Thousands	Principal Sources	Number in Thousands	Principal Sources
1820s	129	Ireland, Britain		
1830s	538	Ireland, Germany		
1840s	1427	Ireland, Germany		
1850s	2815	Ireland, Germany	253	
1860s	2081	Germany, Britain	156	
1870s	2742	Germany, Britain	329	
1880s	5249	Germany, Britain, Scandinavia	850	
1890s	5694	Eastern Europe, Italy, Germany	373	
1900s	8602	Eastern Europe, Italy, Russia	1401	Britain, United States
1910s	6347	Eastern Europe, Italy, Russia	1859	Britain, United States, Russia
1920s	4296	Canada, Latin America, Italy	1273	Britain, United States, Ireland
1930s	699	Canada, Germany, Italy	251	United States, Britain
1940s	857	Latin America, Canada, Britain	429	Britain, Eastern Europe
1950s	2300	Germany, Canada, Latin America	1540	Britain, Italy, United States
1960s	3212	Latin America, Canada, Asia	1375	Britain, Italy, United States
1970s	4491	Latin America, Asia	1589	Britain, United States, Hong Kong
1980s	8555	Latin America, Asia	1092	Asia, Europe
1990s	9095	Latin America, Asia	1830	Asia, Europe

The Commonwealth of Nations (a.k.a., The British Commonwealth)



Cartography by Phil Gersmehl



Cartography by Phil Gersmehl

**Ethnic Change
in the U.S. Population, 1920-2004**

<u>Category</u>	<u>1920</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>2004</u>
White	89.7%	83.5%	67.4%
Black	9.9	11.1	12.2
Asian	0.2	0.8	4.1
Hispanic	---	4.5	14.1
Other	<u>0.2</u>	<u>0.1</u>	<u>2.2</u>
Total	100%	100%	100%

Source: U.S. Census as reported in New York Times,
January 13, 2006, pp. A1 and A8.

A neighborhood in Toronto, Canada



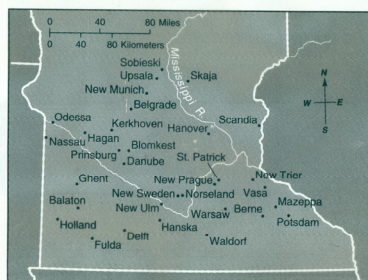
Restaurant in Washington Heights



**Little Odessa
Brighton Beach, Brooklyn**

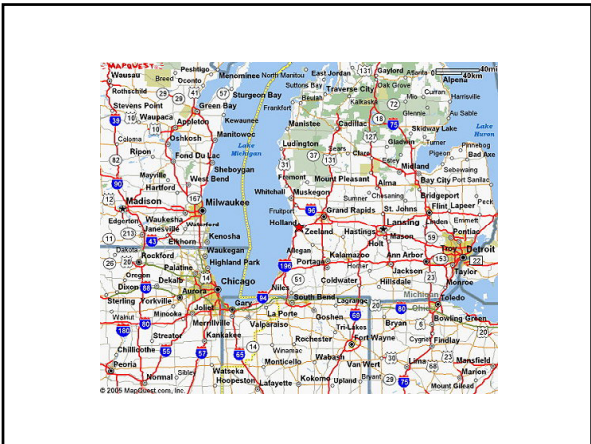


**Selected towns in Southern Minnesota
(cartography by Phil Gersmehl)**



Theme town - a settlement (usually a small- to medium-sized town) that has adopted a certain motif so as to evoke a different time and place for the purpose of attracting tourists.

- Most have a well-established ethnic identity
- Often a response to a downturn in the town's traditional economic base
- Characterized by affected facades and folk architecture, ethnic dress; ethnic food; ethnic music; ethnic signs and language; ethnic festivals; ethnic gift items; ethnic . . .



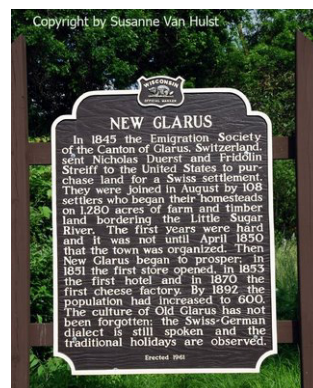
Holland, Michigan



Lindsborg, Kansas The "Little Sweden" of the United States



New Glarus, Wisconsin

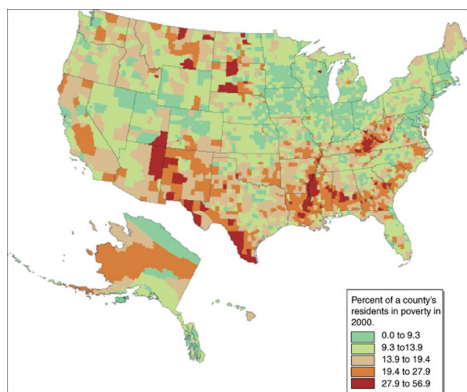
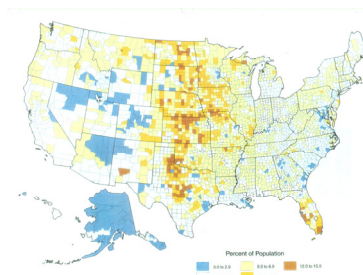


Emigration Society – an organization of potential emigrant families formed to promote their resettlement as a contiguous community in a foreign land. Steps:

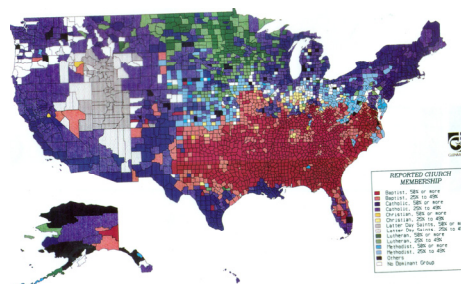
- Formation of the society in the homeland.
- A pooling of monetary resources for purposes of land acquisition.
- Choice of a small group of trusted members to travel abroad to
 - Identify a suitable place to resettle
 - Purchase a suitable amount of land
- Migration of society members to the new lands.
- Allocation of the purchased lands among society members.

Percent of population aged 75 or older, by county (2000)

(Source: U.S. Census)



Dominant Religious Group in the United States, by county (1990)



The center of population

(sometimes “population center” is the theoretical point at which a country’s population is equally balanced in all directions. That is, as many people live to the north as to the south, and as many to the east as to the west.

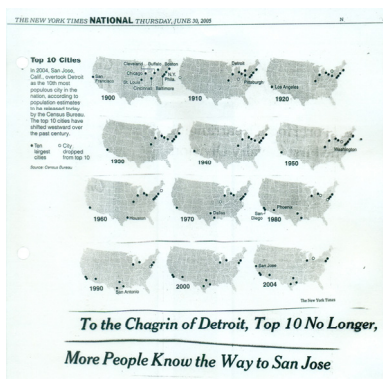
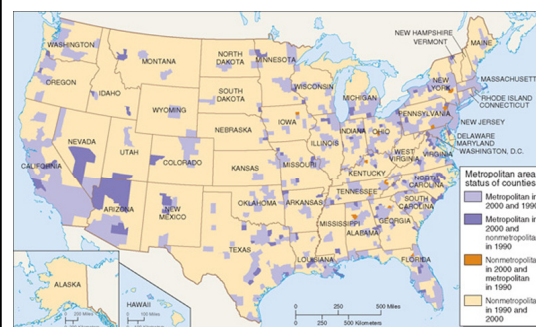
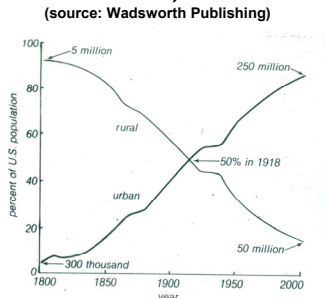
Center of population in the United States, 1790-2010

(source: U.S. Census Bureau)



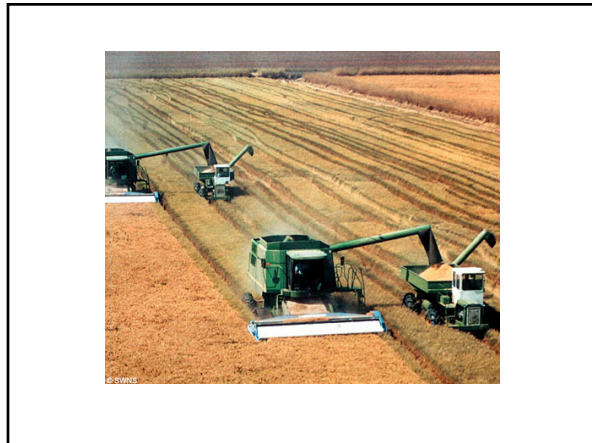
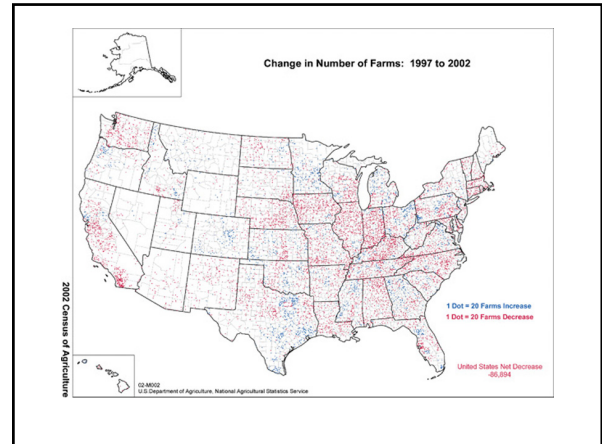
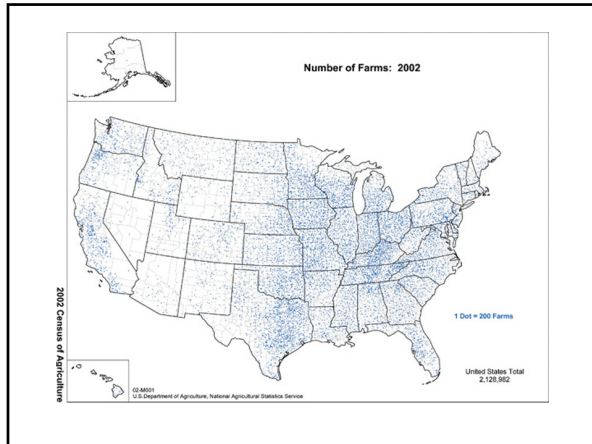
Rural-to-urban population change in the United States, 1800-2000

(source: Wadsworth Publishing)



Why Have Cities Grown?

- Structural changes in the economy. Rise of commercial, manufacturing and tertiary activity (wholesale and retail trade; government; transportation; health, personal and information services) versus farming.
- Decline of agriculture as an employment opportunity due to unavailability of arable land; mechanization of agriculture; and farm consolidation.
- Resulting rural-to-urban migration, and urbanization of immigrants.

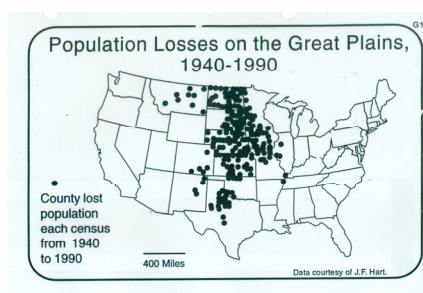
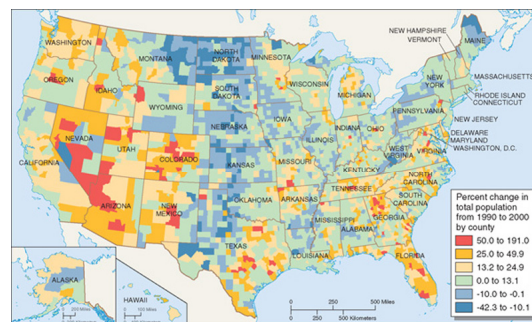


Changes in Farms and Farm Population in the U.S., 1880-2000

<u>Year</u>	<u>#of Farms(M)</u>	<u>Farm Pop. (M)</u>	<u>% of Total U.S. Pop.</u>
1880	4.0	21.9	43.8
1930	6.5	30.5	24.9
1970	2.9	9.7	4.8
2000	2.0	3.0	1.0

Changes in Number and Size of U.S. Farms, 1950 – 2000

Year	# of Farms (M)	Average Size (acres)
1950	5.6	214
1960	4.0	294
1970	2.9	380
1980	2.4	426
1990	2.1	460
2000	2.0	490



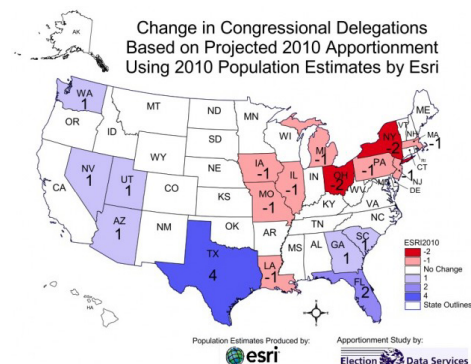
Cartography by Phil Gersmehl

The Great Migration

- The large-scale migration during the 20th century of African Americans from rural areas in the South to urban areas in Northern, Midwestern, and Western States.
- Viewed by historians as either a singular migration between roughly 1916-1930 involving about 1.3 million people, or
- An initial movement between 1910-1940 involving about 1.6 million people destined mainly to the Northeast and Midwest, followed by a secondary migration between 1940-1970 involving perhaps 5 million people, for whom California was the principal destination.
- Result: A people who were once overwhelmingly southern and rural became more national in their distribution, and much more urban (especially outside the South).

Reasons for the Great Migration

- Oppressive conditions in the South (discrimination, segregation, lynchings . . .)
- A much more receptive legal and social environment in the receiving areas (initially, at least).
- A boll weevil infestation in southern cotton fields (circa 1910) that forced Black sharecroppers and farm laborers to seek new employment.
- An expansion of manufacturing jobs in the North and Midwest during and following World War I.
- The Immigration Act of 1924, which cut the supply of potential new factory workers from Europe.
- The Great Mississippi River Flood of 1927, which displaced hundreds of thousands of people.



“Rust Belt” and “Snow Belt” are vernacular regions that respectively refer to old manufacturing areas (with closed, rusting factories) and areas with cold climates in the Northeast and Upper Midwest that have become sources of migrants bound for the “Sun Belt” – the warmer tier of southern states stretching from Florida to California.