

THE ACCIDENTAL SUPER POWER

THE NEXT GENERATION OF
AMERICAN PREEMINENCE AND
THE COMING GLOBAL DISORDER

PETER ZEIHAN



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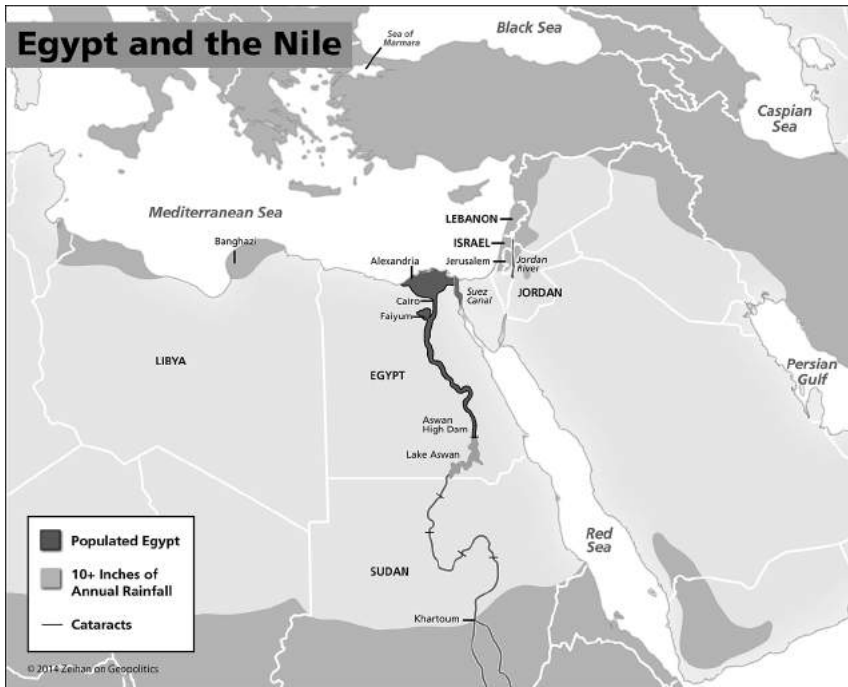
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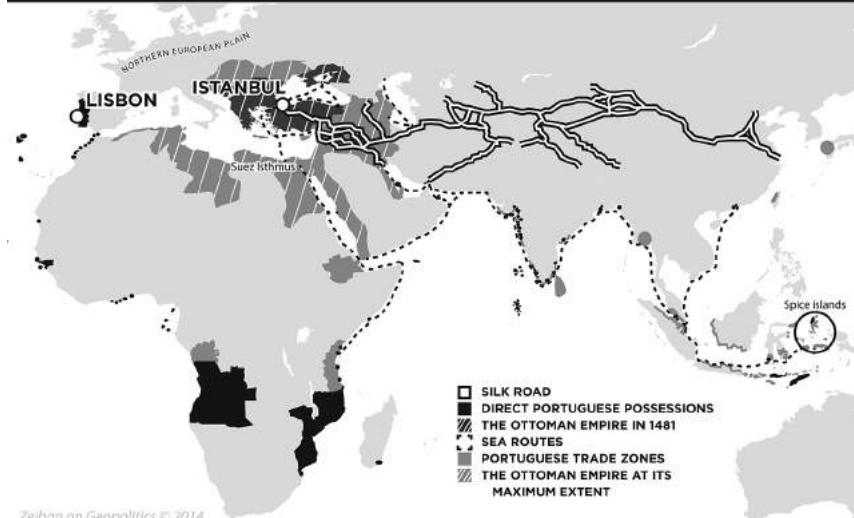
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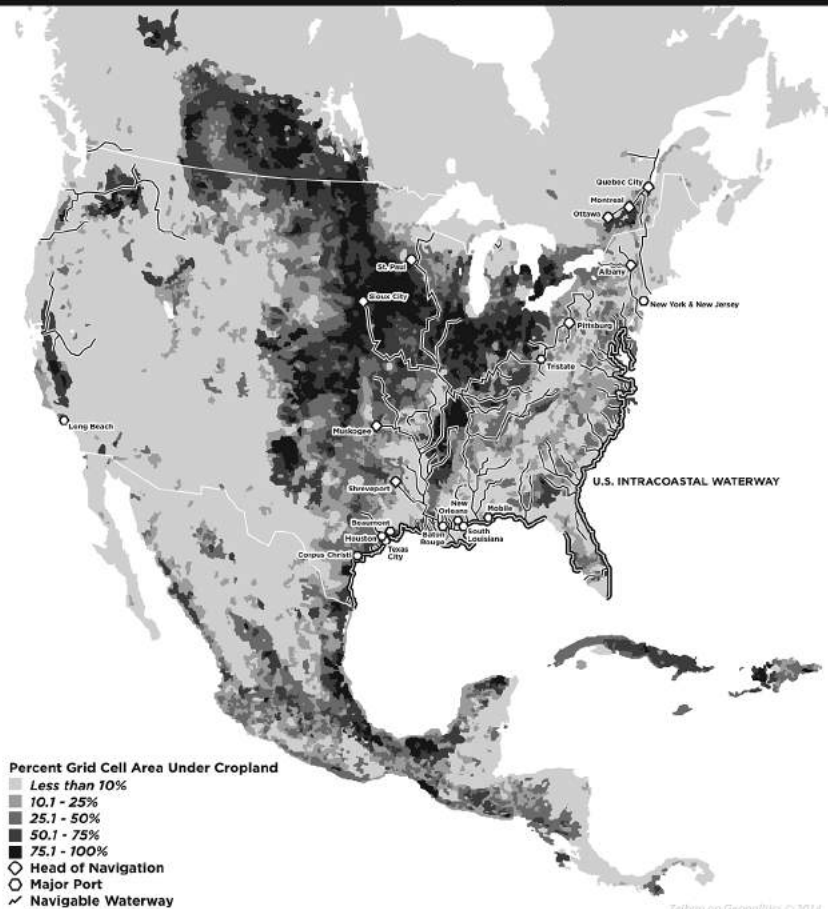
Egypt and the Nile



THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE, PORTUGAL, AND THE SILK ROAD

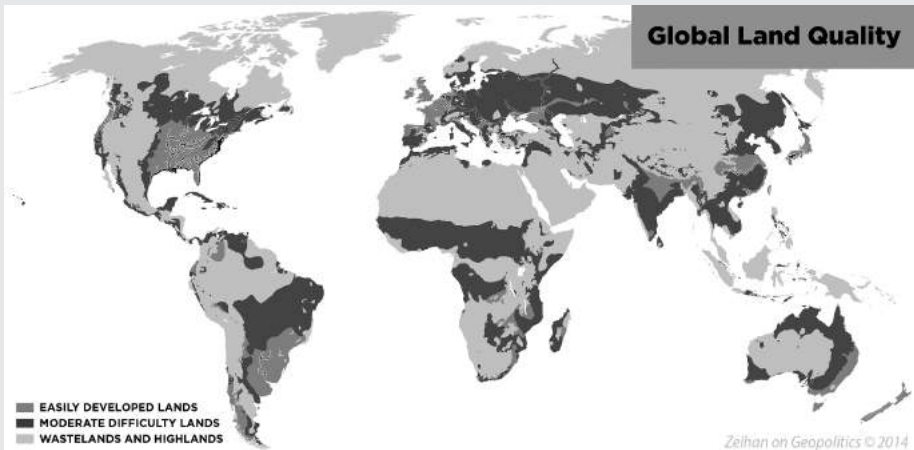


UNITED STATES CROPLANDS, PORTS, AND RIVERS



Global Breadbaskets and Dust Bowls

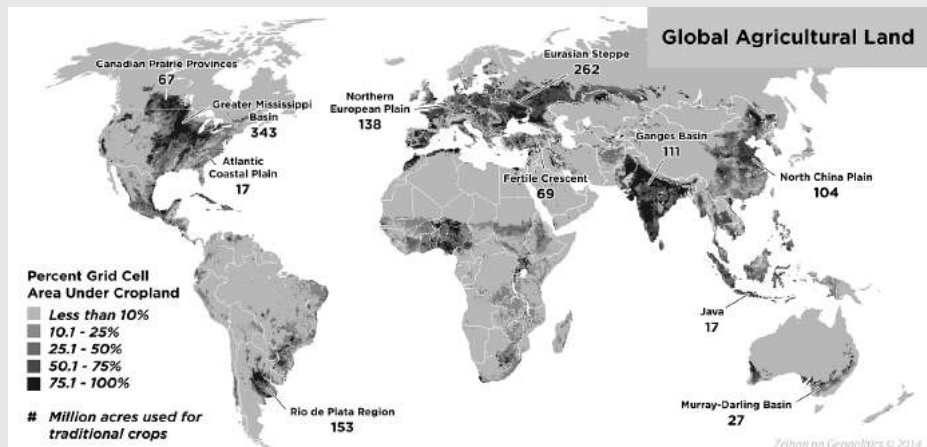
Climate combined with terrain and elevation is an excellent predictor of what nations can potentially do. Elevations over five thousand feet typically mean mountains, which eliminate navigable rivers from possibility. Rail lines also quickly fall into uselessness in the highlands—a slope as little as 0.25 percent reduces the weight a locomotive can lug by half—and the separating nature of mountain ridges means that any infrastructure built in one area does not benefit another. Tropical climates similarly complicate infrastructure and introduce endemic disease into the strategic math. Deserts, tundra, and taiga simply cannot generate large populations or feed them from local sources. Such wastelands and highlands have never generated powers with a global reach. Tropical powers may support larger populations, but they too tend to be sharply circumscribed.



On the other end of the spectrum are the Goldilocks zones with warmth but not oppressive heat and water but not excessive wetness. All of the major powers of the past five hundred years have come from these easily developed, temperate lands. As pure happenstance would have it, the easily developed lands of the United States are not only the largest contiguous piece of such lands in the world, but they are also almost perfectly overlain by the American waterway network.

Between such zones of ruin and perfection lie the transitions lands that can be developed, but only if funded by a large and sustained supply of capital. Much of the economic and political activity of the past sixty years concerns these moderate-difficulty lands.

This second map puts geographic theory into practice. Unsurprisingly, the vast majority of the world's farmland is located in lands where development is easy.



ATLANTIC SEA APPROACHES TO NORTH AMERICA



PACIFIC SEA APPROACHES TO NORTH AMERICA

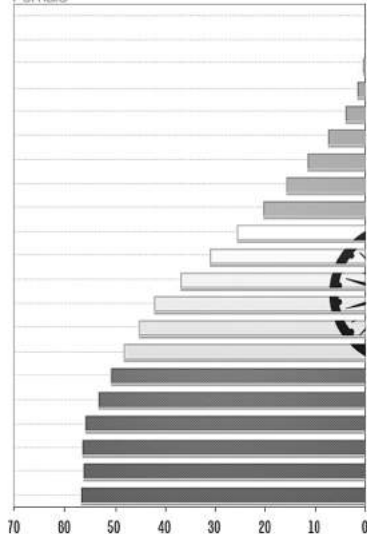


The Bretton Woods World

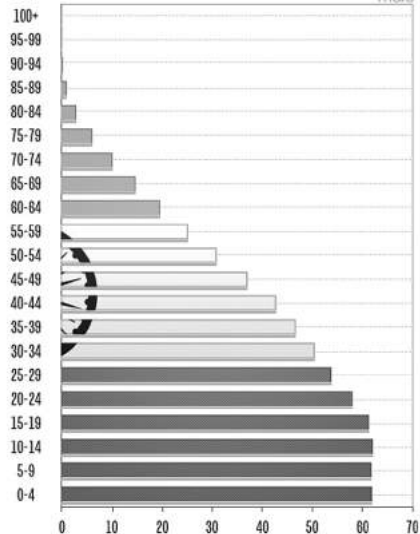


INDIA DEMOGRAPHY: 2015

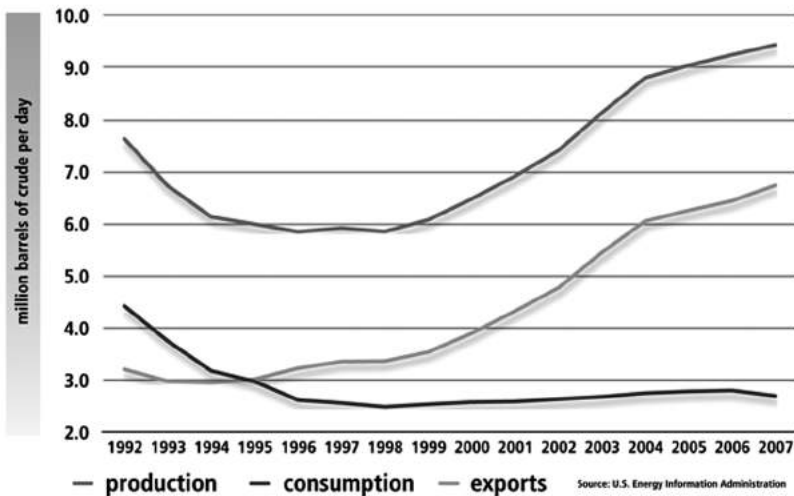
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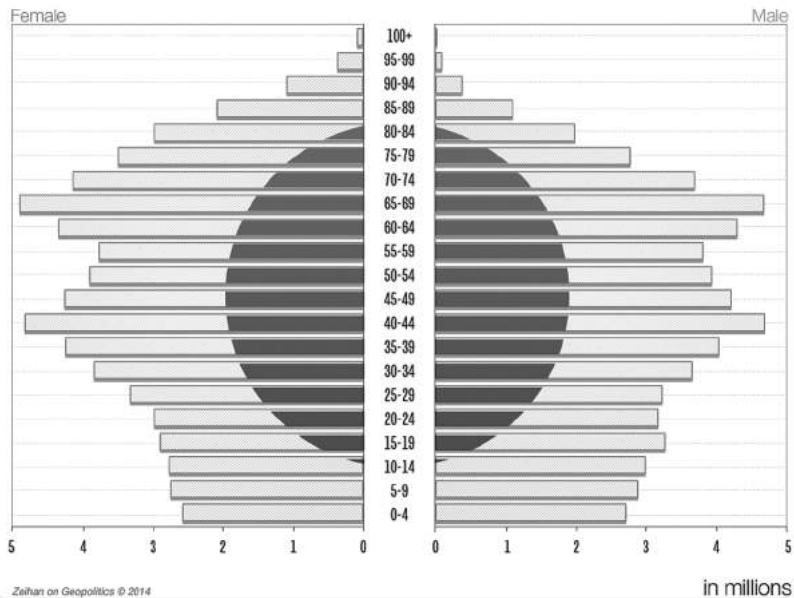
Male



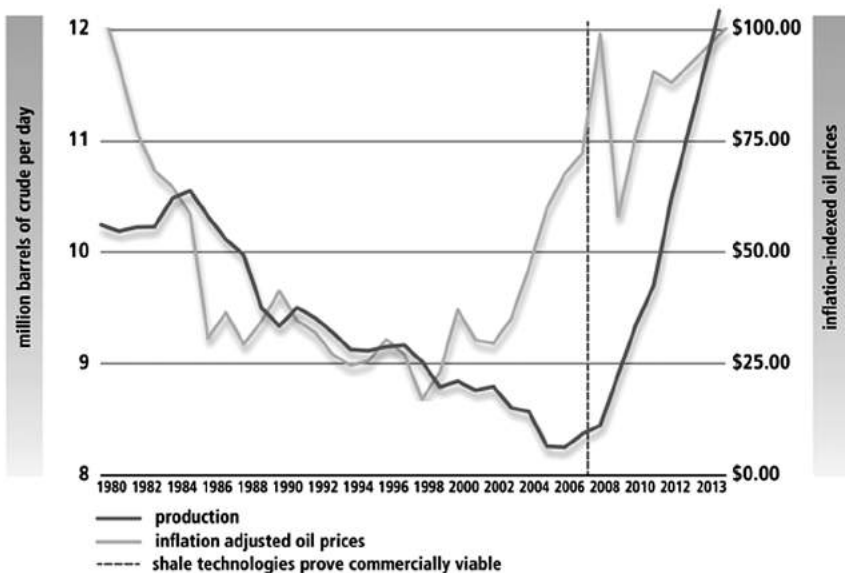
Russian Oil Production, Consumption and Exports



JAPAN DEMOGRAPHY: 2015



United States Oil Production



The World At Night: Conventional Petroleum Basins

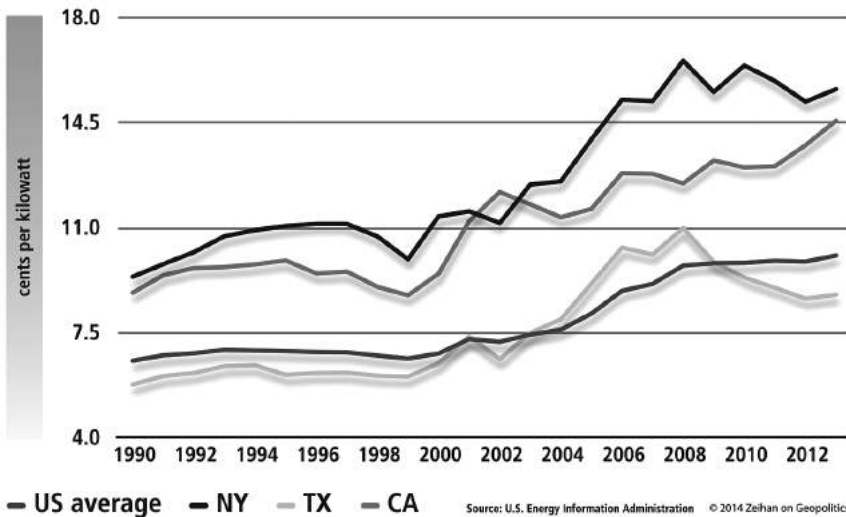


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The World At Night: Shale Petroleum Basins



U.S. Electricity Prices



Global Stability Map: 2015-2030

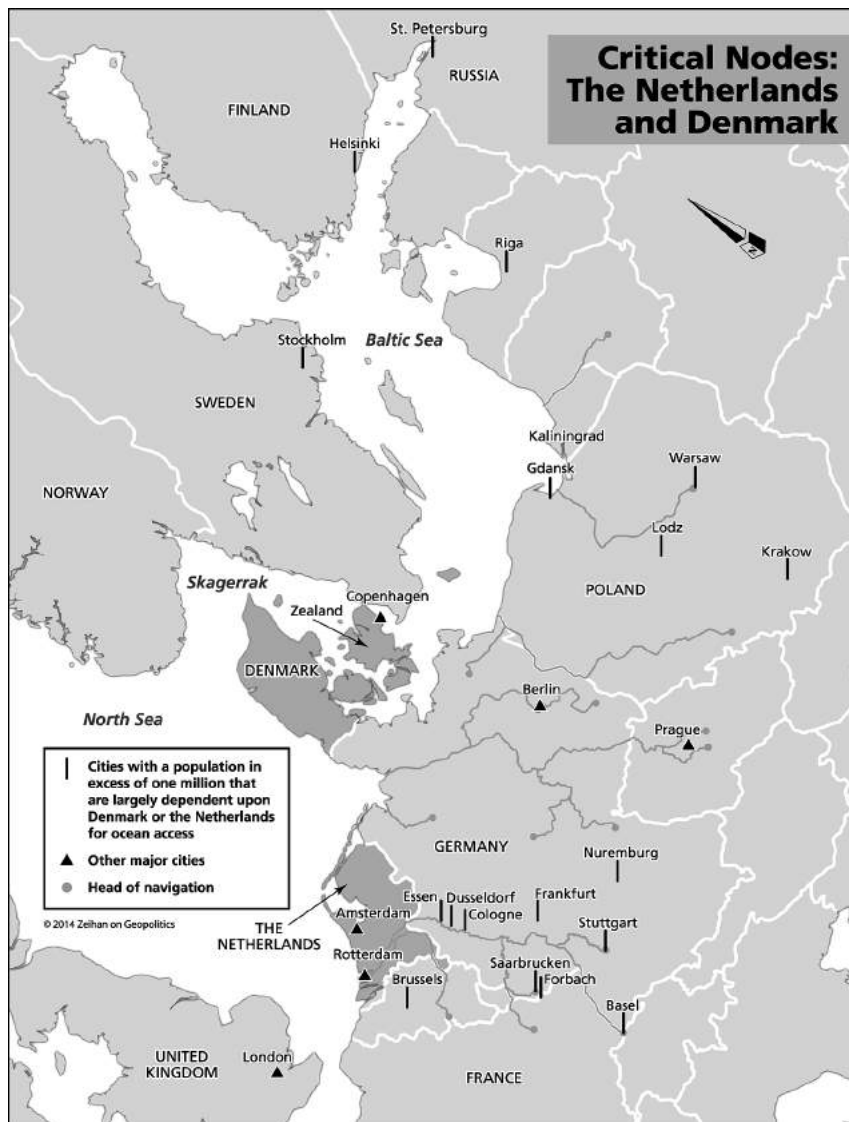


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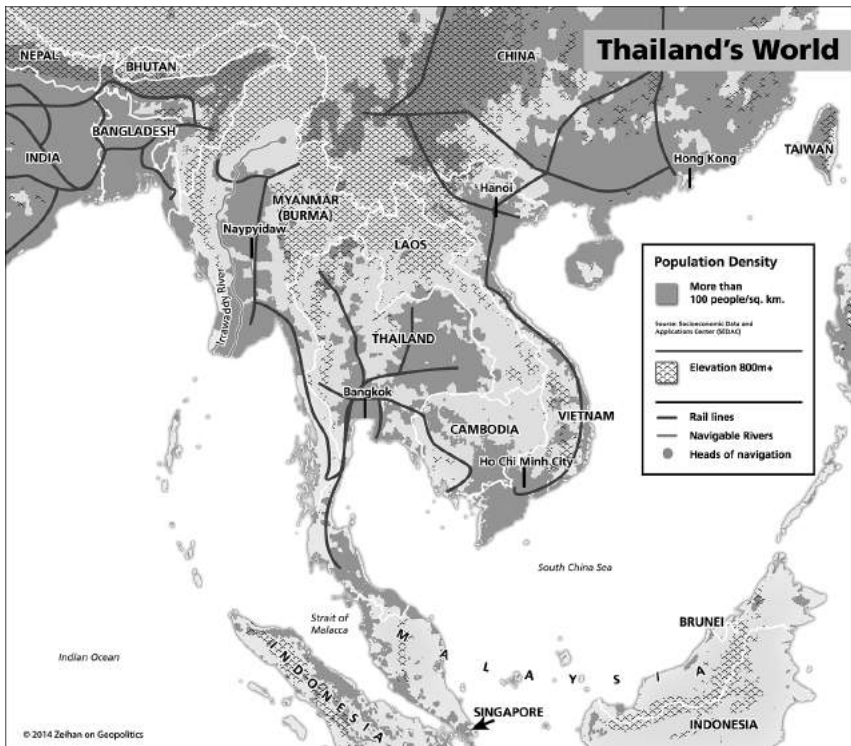
America's Inner Circle



Critical Nodes: The Netherlands and Denmark



Thailand's World

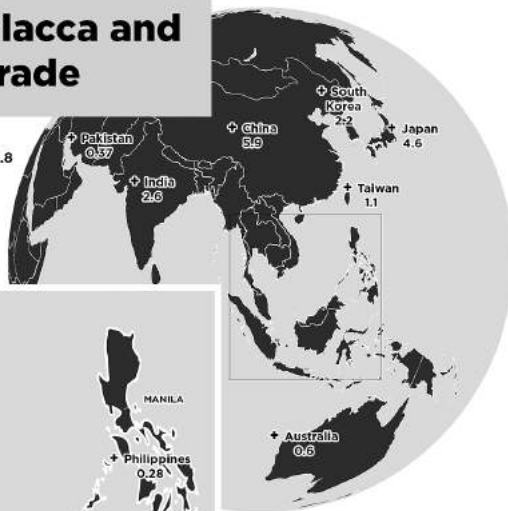


The Strait of Malacca and the Global Oil Trade

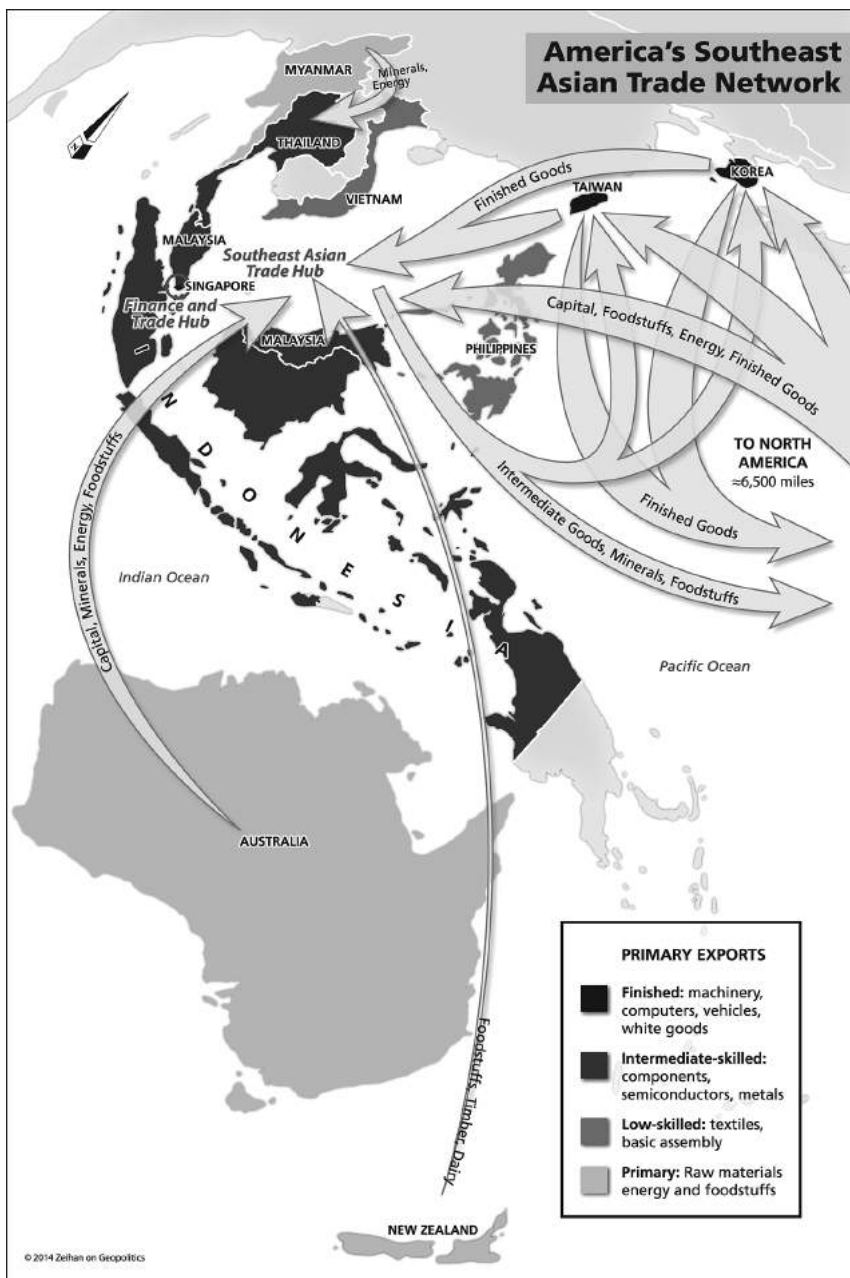
+ OIL IMPORTERS:
IMPORTS IN
MILLION BPD

* OIL EXPORTERS:
EXPORTS IN
MILLION BPD

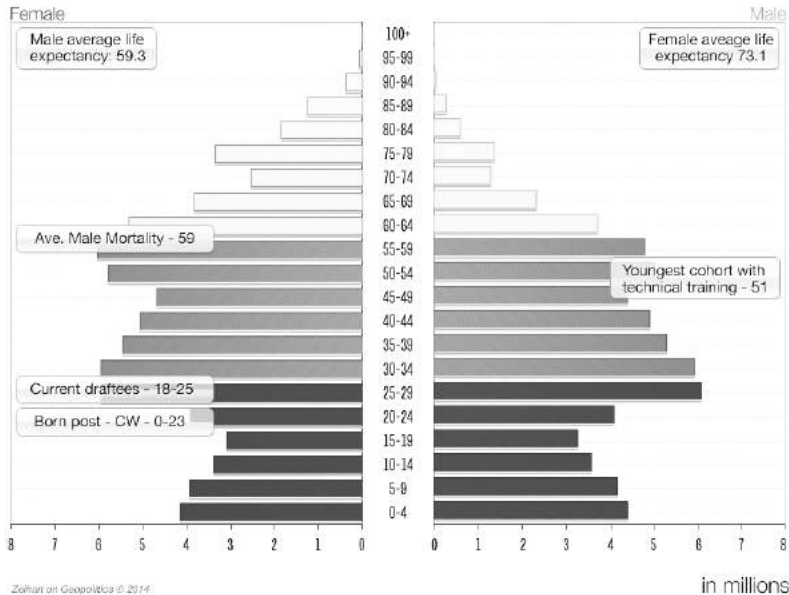
* Saudi Arabia: 8.8
* UAE: 2.6
* Kuwait: 2.4
* Iran: 1.9
* Qatar: 1.4
* Oman: 0.78



America's Southeast Asian Trade Network



RUSSIA DEMOGRAPHY: 2015



Russia's Western Borderlands

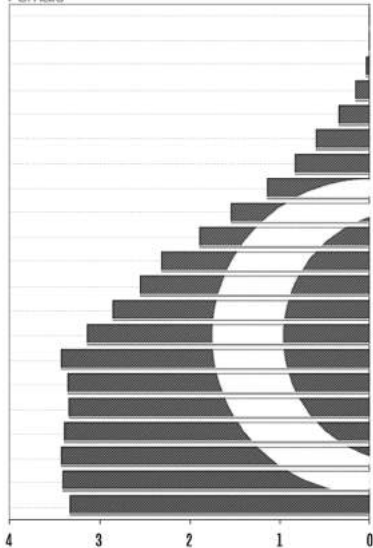


Turkey's Neighborhood

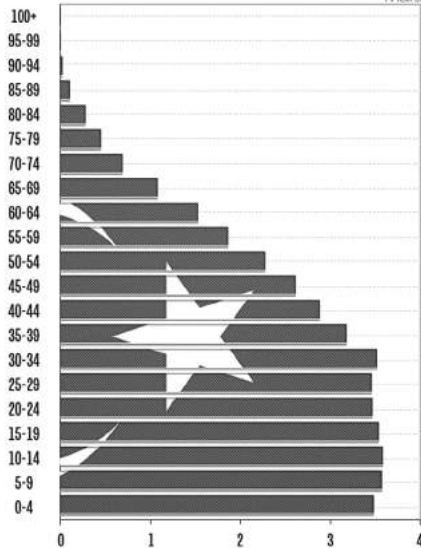


TURKEY DEMOGRAPHY: 2015

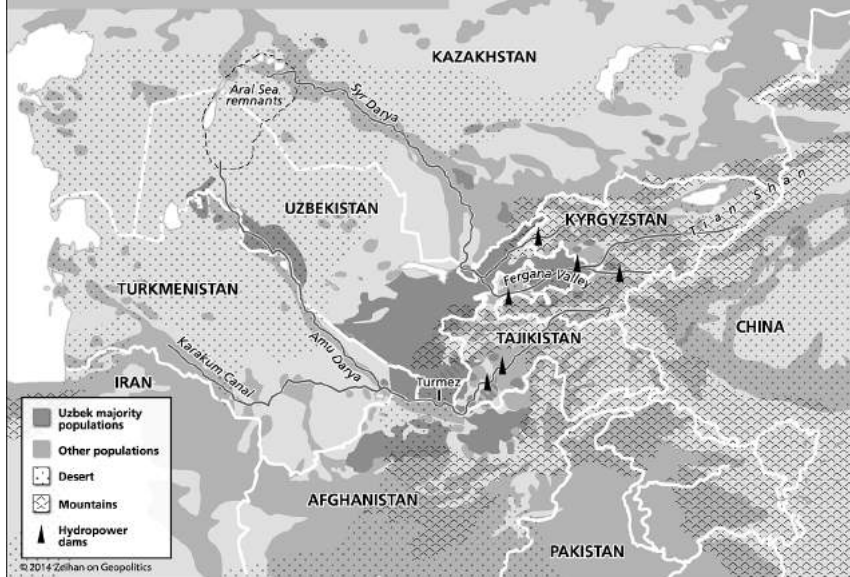
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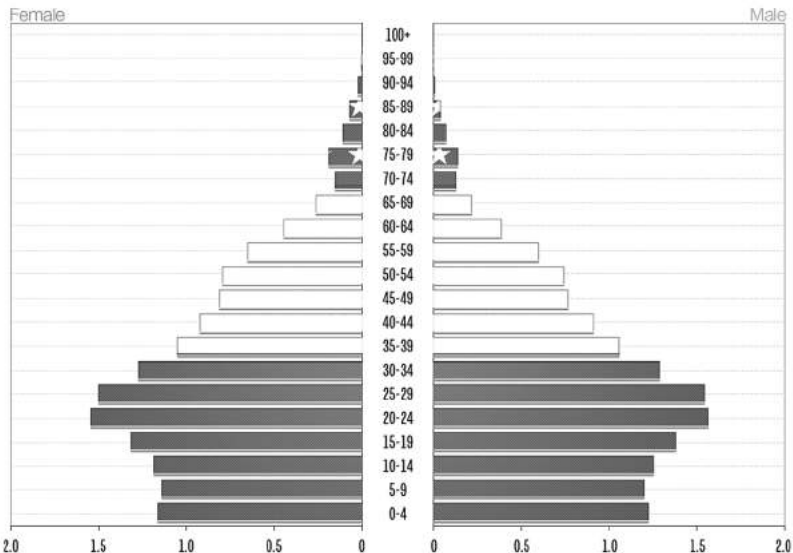
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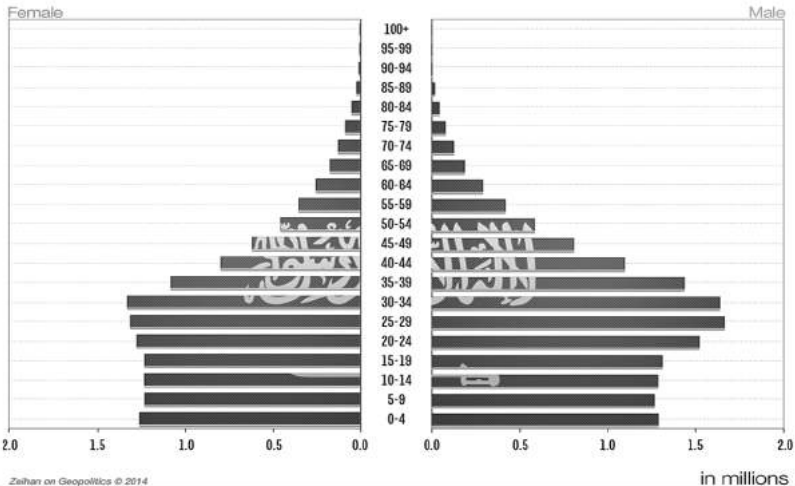
Uzbekistan and Surrounds

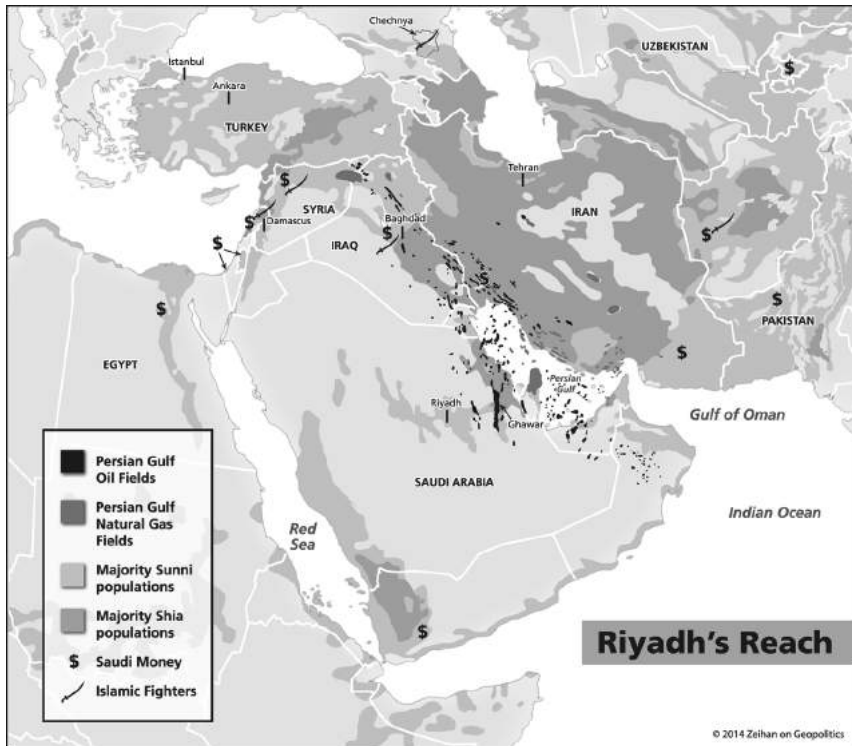


UZBEKISTAN DEMOGRAPHY: 2015

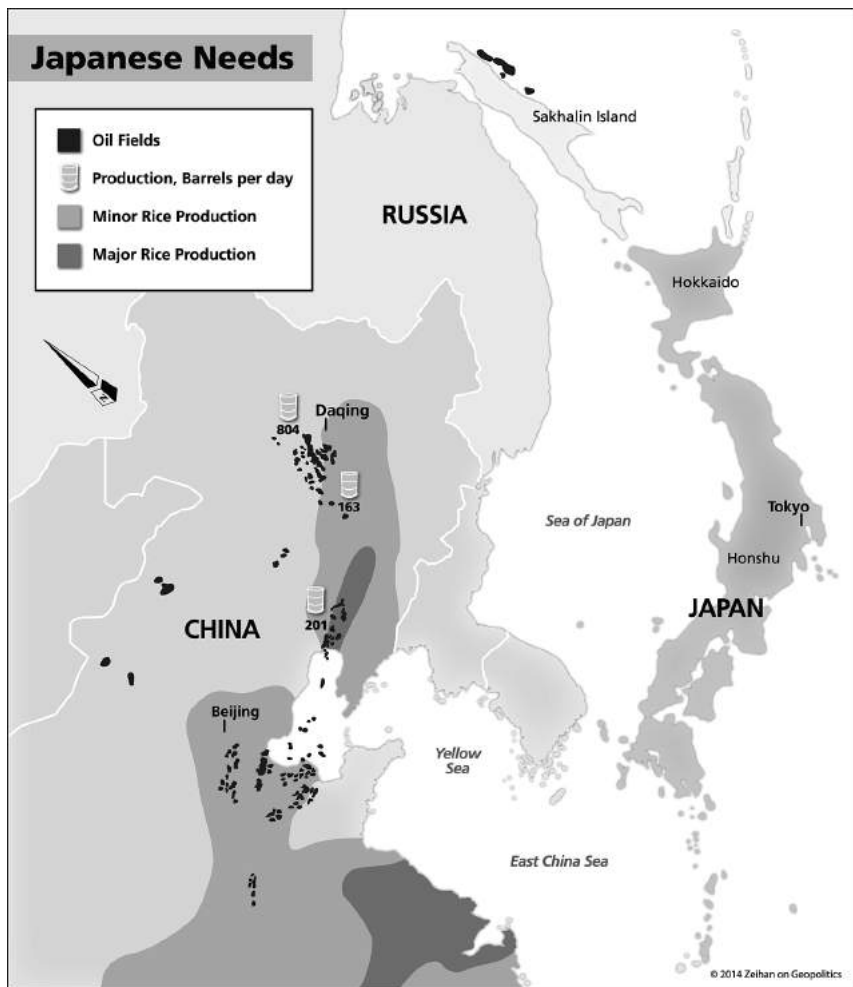
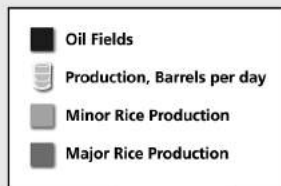


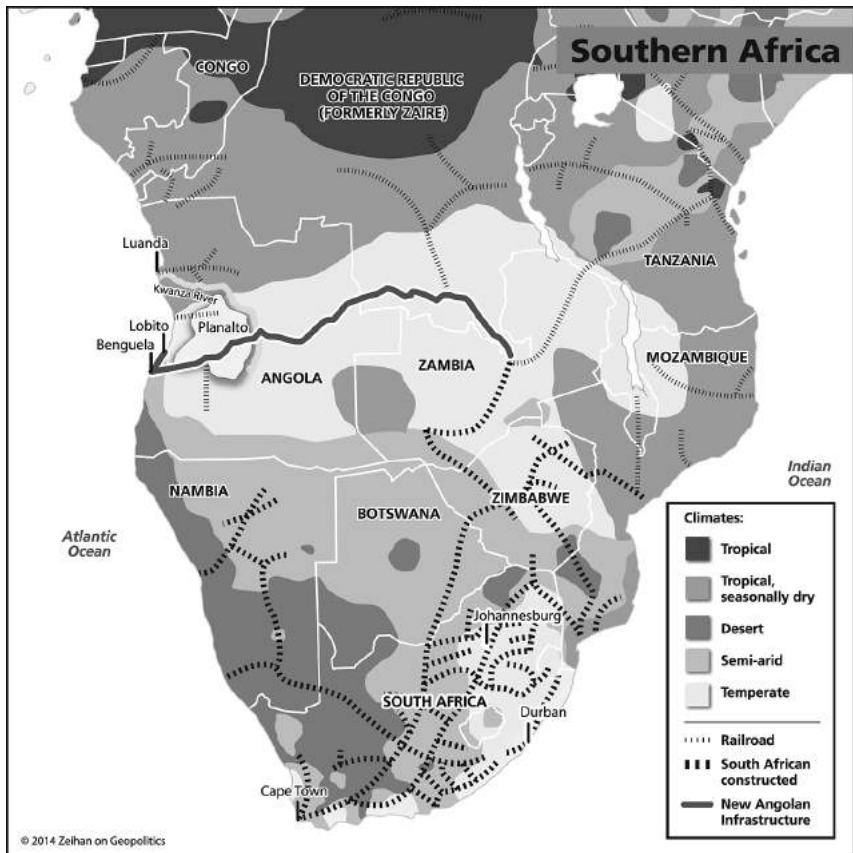
SAUDI ARABIA DEMOGRAPHY: 2015



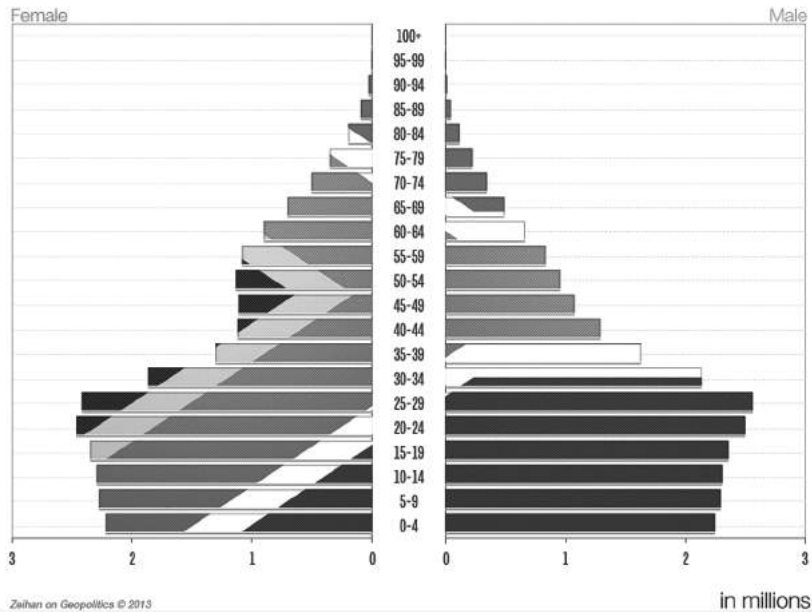


Japanese Needs

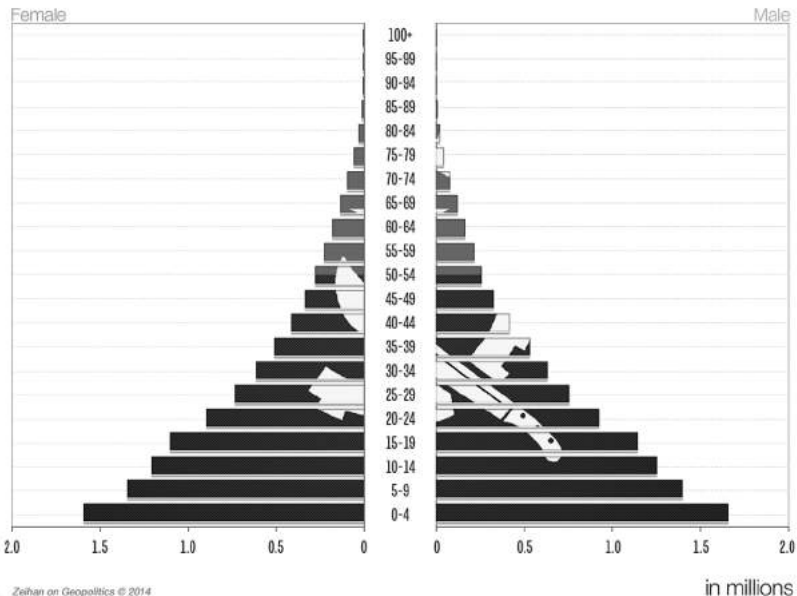


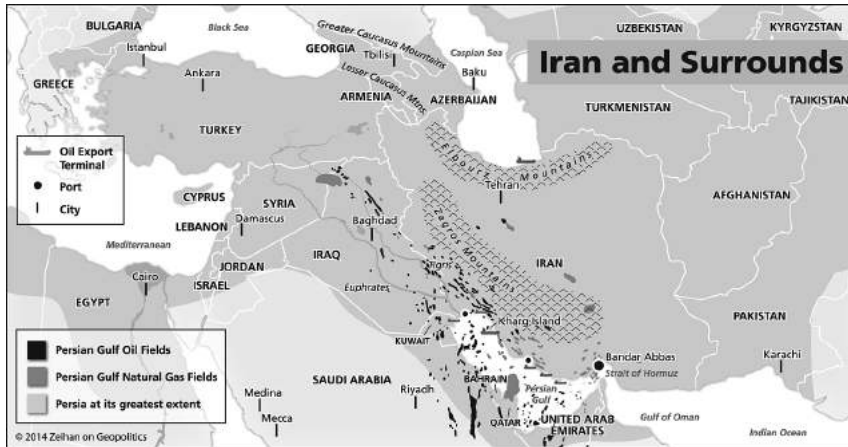


SOUTH AFRICA DEMOGRAPHY: 2015

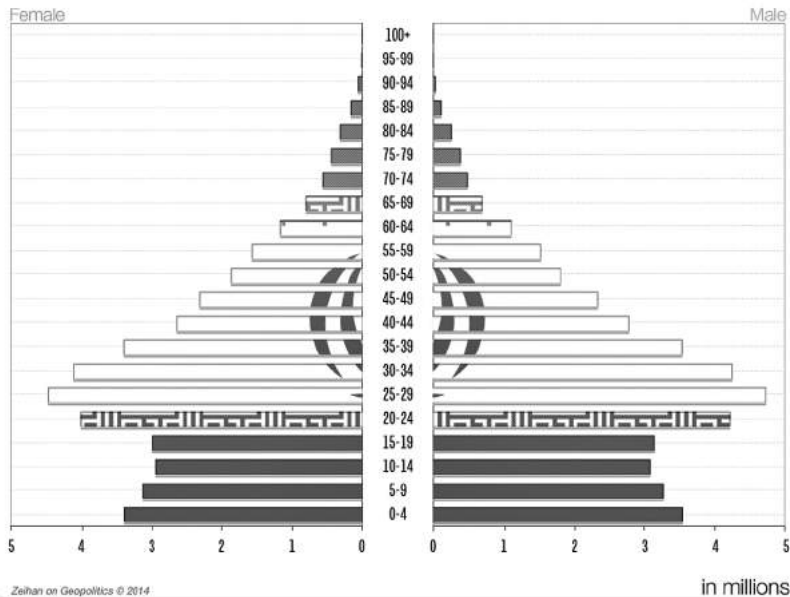


ANGOLA DEMOGRAPHY: 2015

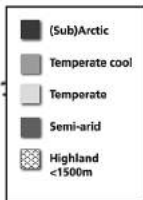




IRAN DEMOGRAPHY: 2015



Europe Topographic



Atlantic Ocean

North Sea

Baltic Sea

Northern European Plain

Black Sea

Mediterranean Sea

Europe Political

Founding EU members (1953)

Joined in 1970s-1980s

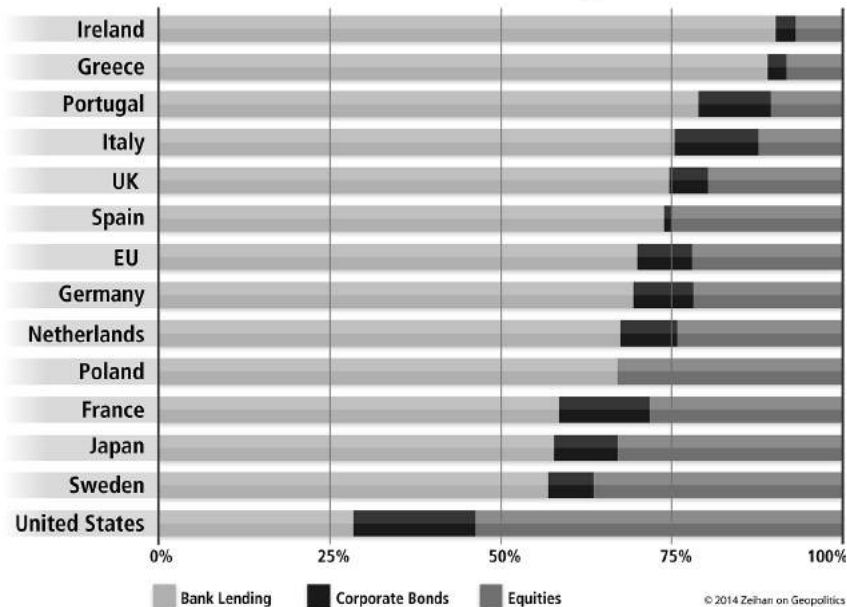
Joined in 1990s

Joined after 2000

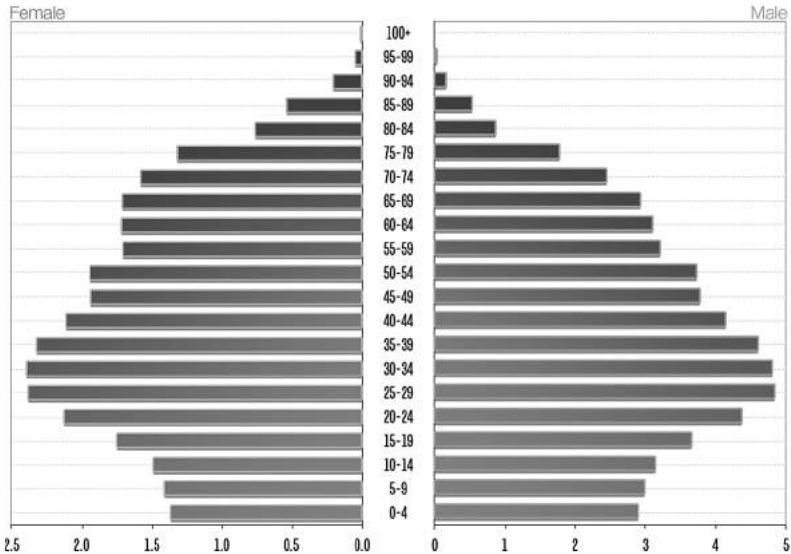
Eurozone Members = **BOLD**



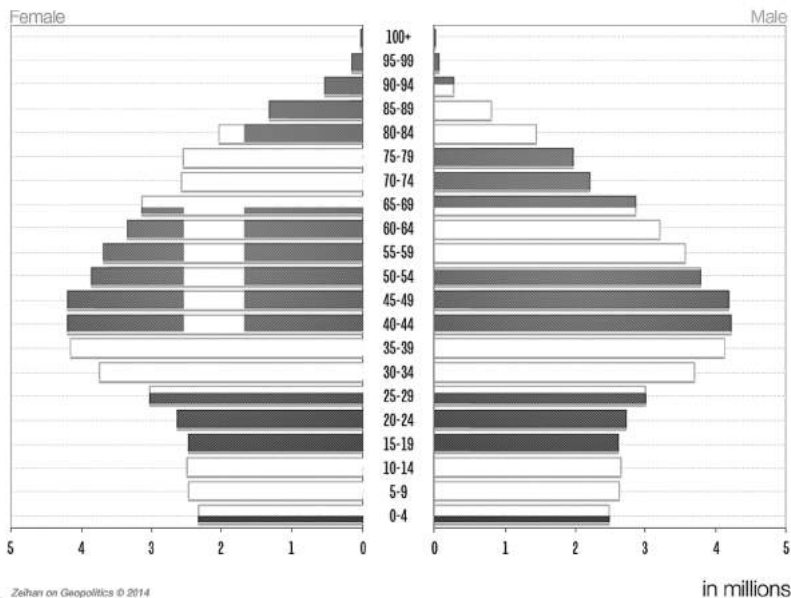
Private Sources of Funding, 2011



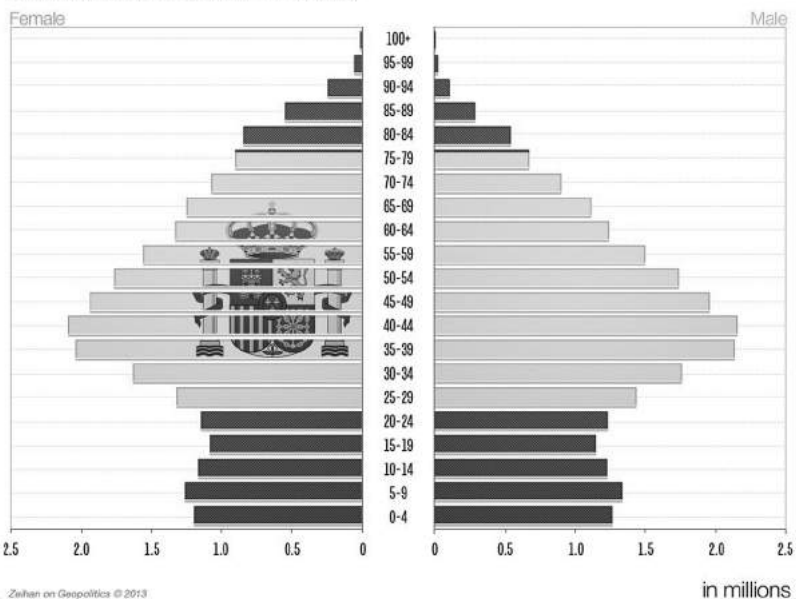
COMBINED DEMOGRAPHY OF PORTUGAL, SPAIN, ITALY AND GREECE: 2000



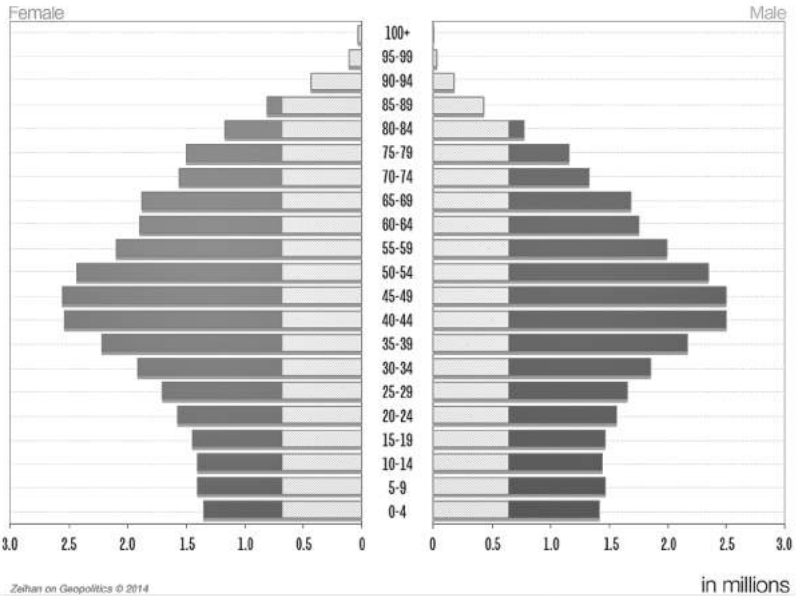
GREECE DEMOGRAPHY: 2015



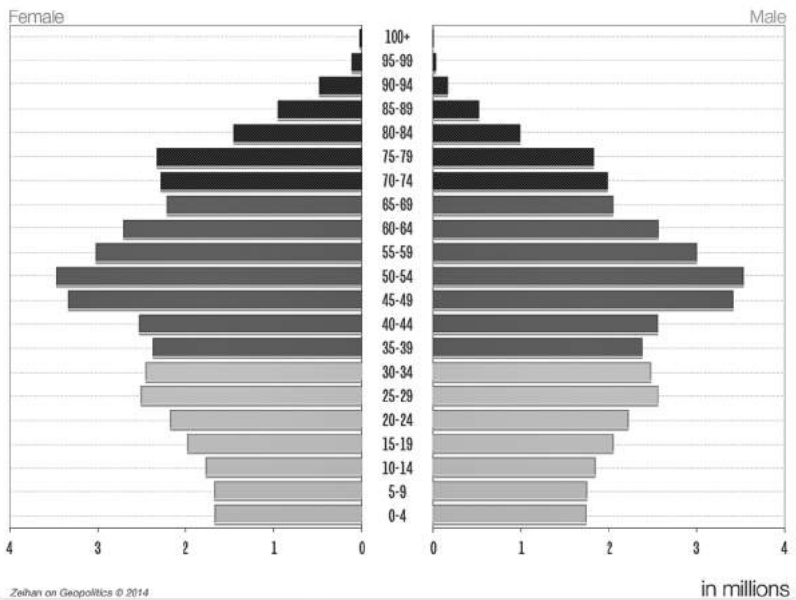
SPAIN DEMOGRAPHY: 2015



ITALY DEMOGRAPHY: 2015



GERMANY DEMOGRAPHY: 2015

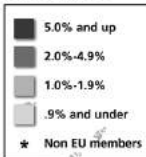


Billion USD of German Exports

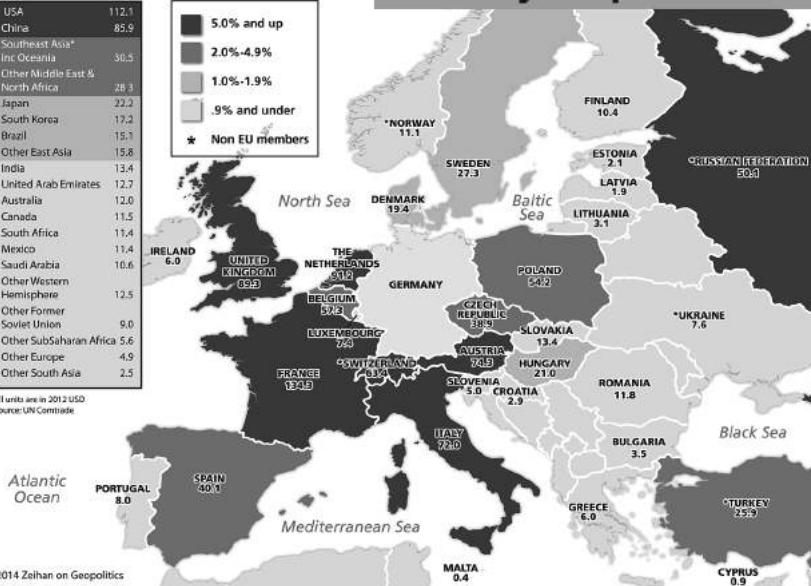
USA	112.1
China	85.9
Southeast Asia*	
Inc Oceania	30.5
Other Middle East & North Africa	28.3
Japan	22.2
South Korea	17.2
Brazil	15.1
Other East Asia	15.8
India	13.4
United Arab Emirates	12.7
Australia	12.0
Canada	11.5
South Africa	11.4
Mexico	11.4
Saudi Arabia	10.6
Other Western Hemisphere	12.5
Other Former Soviet Union	9.0
Other SubSaharan Africa	5.6
Other Europe	4.9
Other South Asia	2.5

All units are in 2012 USD
Source: UN Comtrade

Percent of Total German Exports



Germany's Export Profile



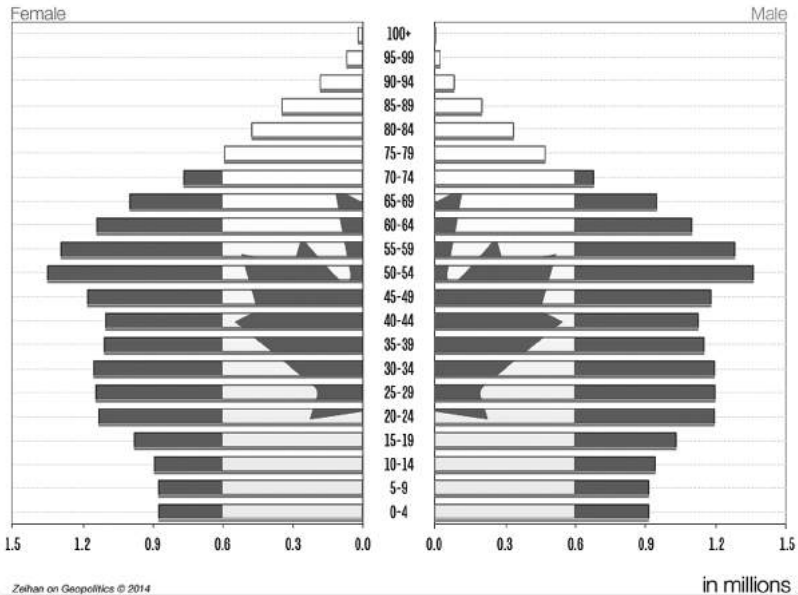
And the shield isn't done. It also hives off Ontario from Quebec. There is only one multilane road connecting the two, the 401, which follows the shore of Lake Ontario and the Saint Lawrence River for nearly its entire length. The shield reaches down all the way to the lake and the river in several places, and dominates the northern suburbs of Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, and Quebec City, complicating significant northward urban expansion. In fact, only Toronto is sufficiently free from the shield in other directions that it can expand in any meaningful way (mostly to the southwest along Lake Ontario). One result is that Ontarian and Quebecois cities sport some of the most expensive real estate in North America, despite being in a climate that is far from balmy. Another

is that despite being surrounded by Anglophone Canada, the Quebecois of Quebec have so few practical connections to their neighbors that they have fairly easily been able to maintain their Francophone status.

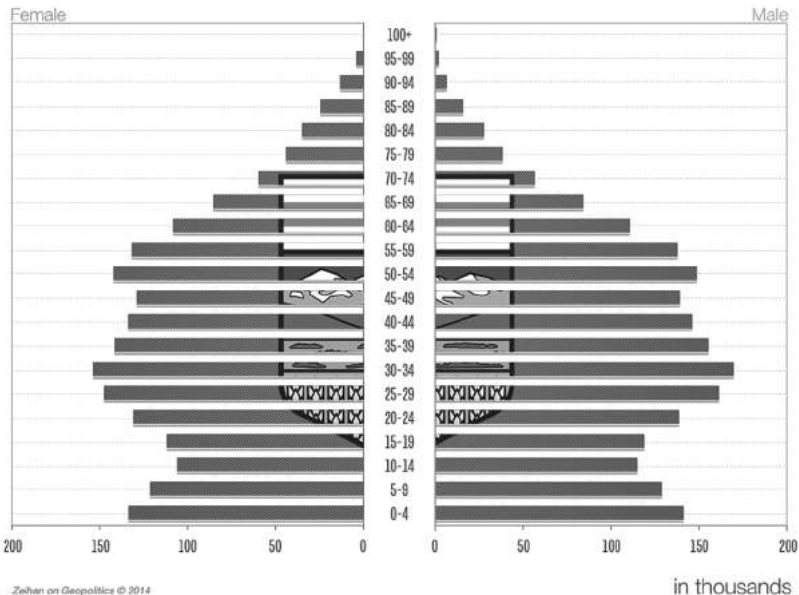
East of Francophone Canada lie the Maritime provinces, which are, well, maritime and not linked into the rest of the country much at all. From the bridge crossing at Quebec City, a single road snakes across two hundred miles of the southern extension of the Canadian Shield south of



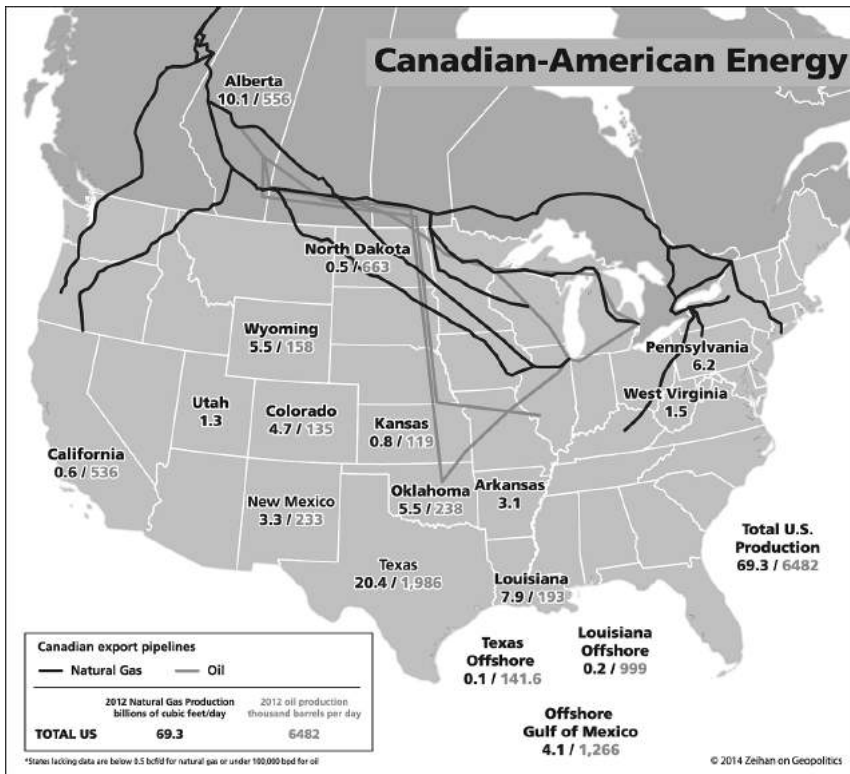
CANADA DEMOGRAPHY: 2015



ALBERTA DEMOGRAPHY: 2015



Canadian-American Energy

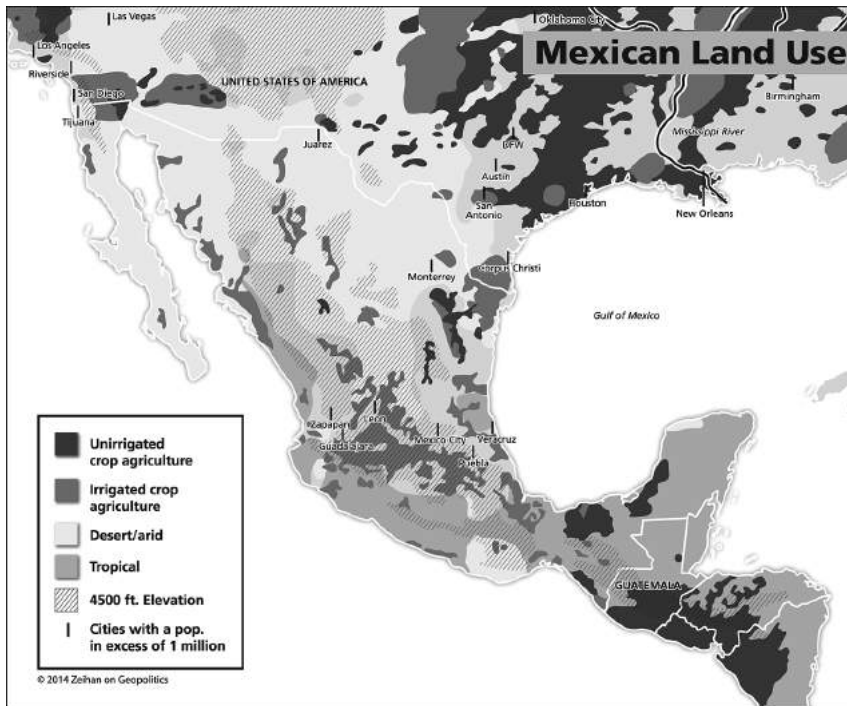


North American GDP

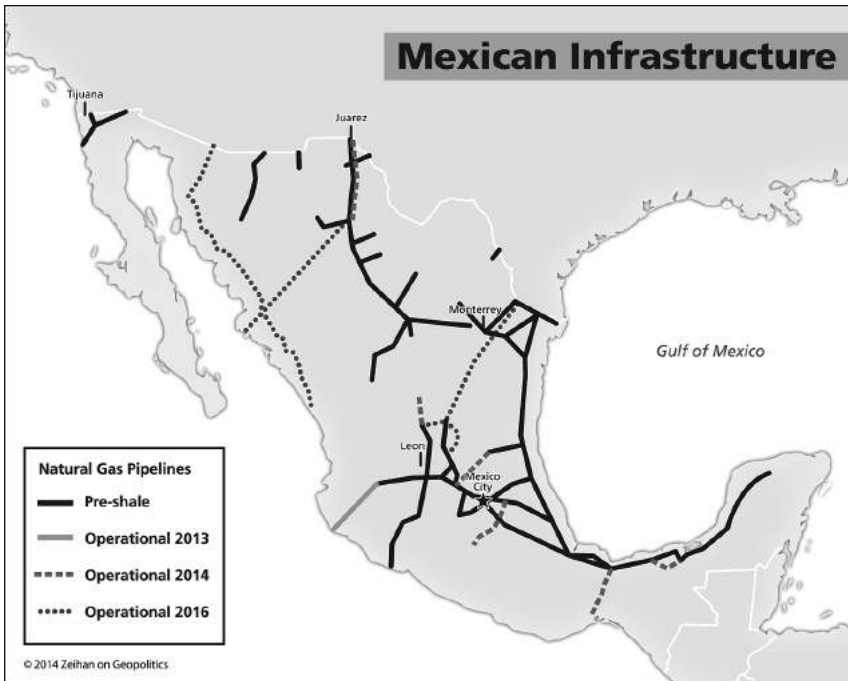
	per capita GDP in thousand U.S. dollars*	per capita GDP as a % of Canadian average	per capita GDP as a % of American average
Alberta (richest Canadian province)	82	153%	162%
British Columbia	50	93%	99%
Ontario	51	96%	102%
Quebec	46	85%	90%
Canada (national average)	54	100%	106%
PEI (poorest canadian province)	39	72%	76%
Maryland (richest U.S. state)	70		139%
California	57		113%
New York	55		109%
US (national average)	51		100%
Texas	49		98%
Mississippi (poorest U.S. state)	37		73%

*2001 value of \$1.05 USD per CAN

Sources: U.S. Census, Statistics Canada

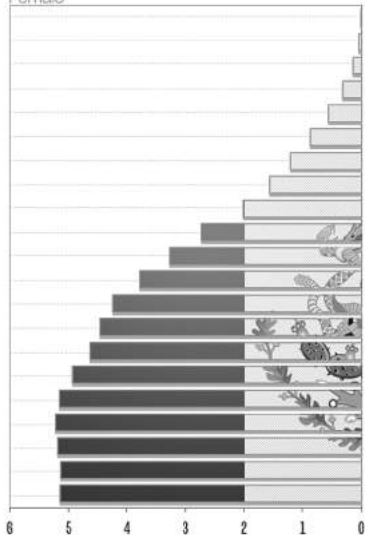


Mexican Infrastructure

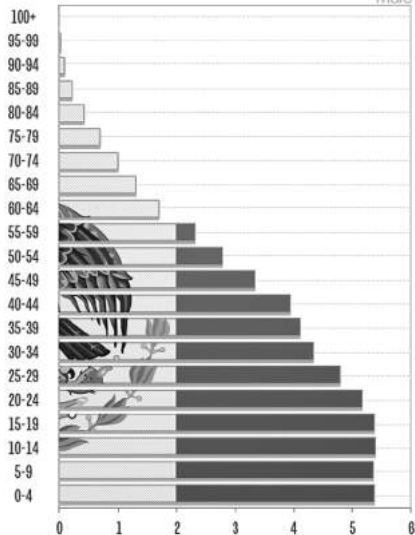


MEXICO DEMOGRAPHY: 2015

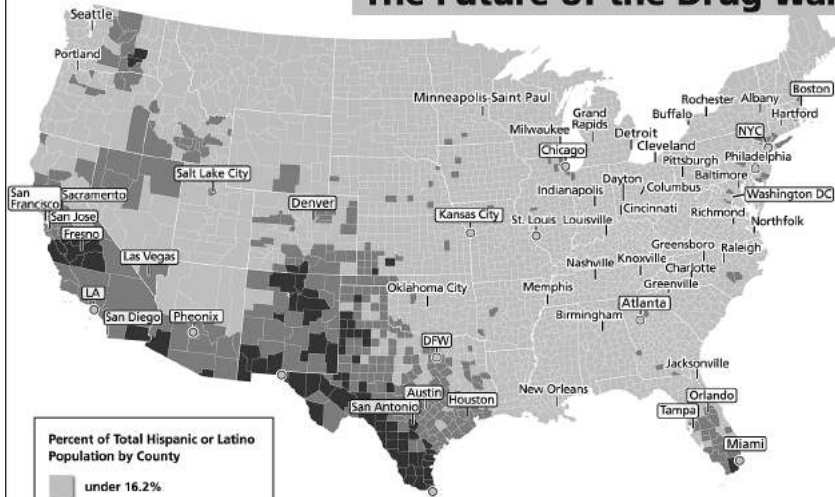
Female



Male



The Future of the Drug War



Percent of Total Hispanic or Latino Population by County

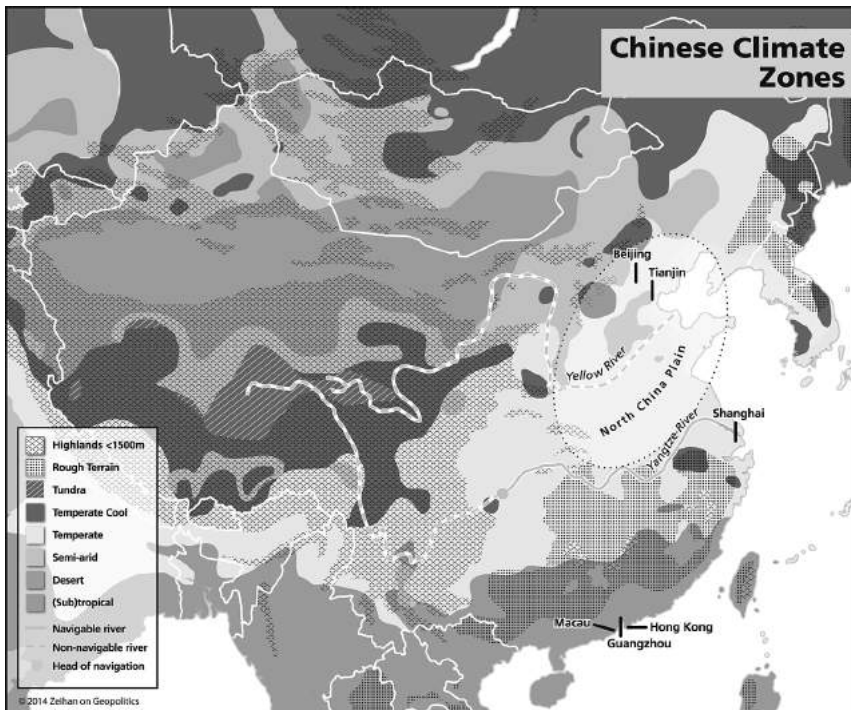
- under 16.2%
- 16.3%-49.9%
- over 50.0%

Metro population
in excess of
1 million people

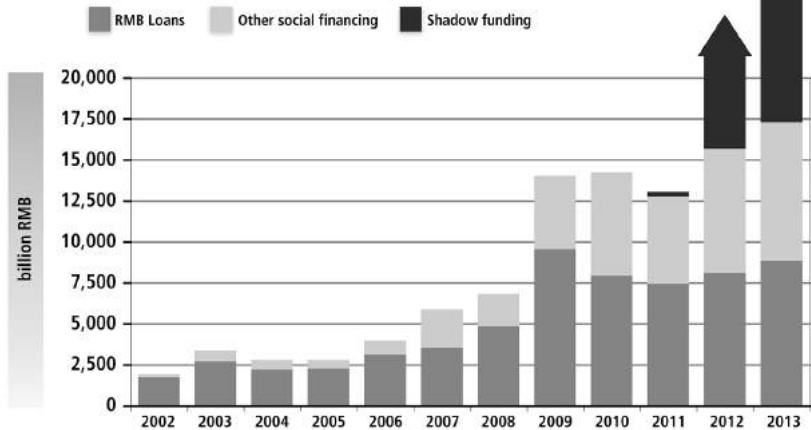
Hispanic ghetto
present

Cocaine
distribution hub

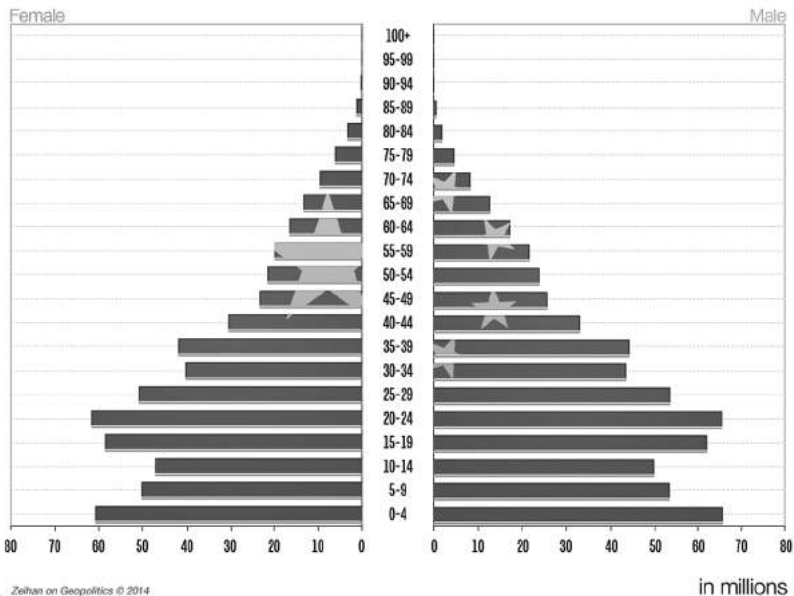
Chinese Climate Zones



Chinese Lending

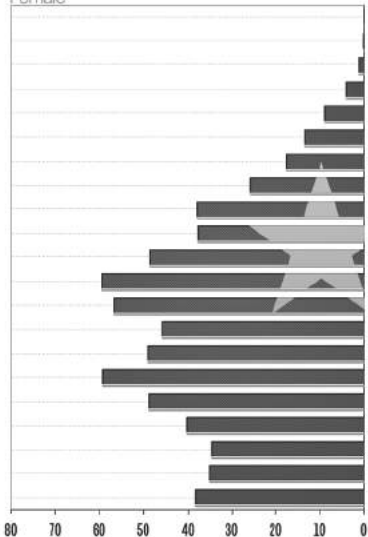


CHINA DEMOGRAPHY: 1990

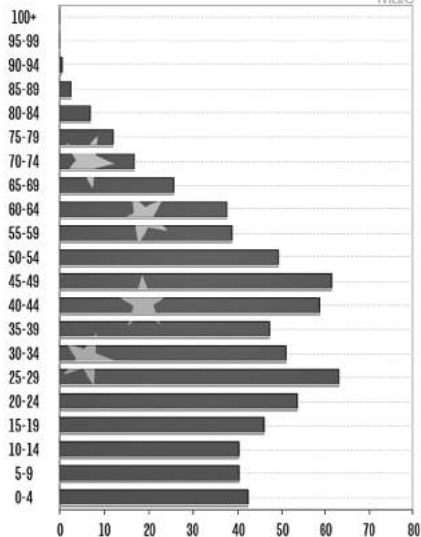


CHINA DEMOGRAPHY: 2015

Female



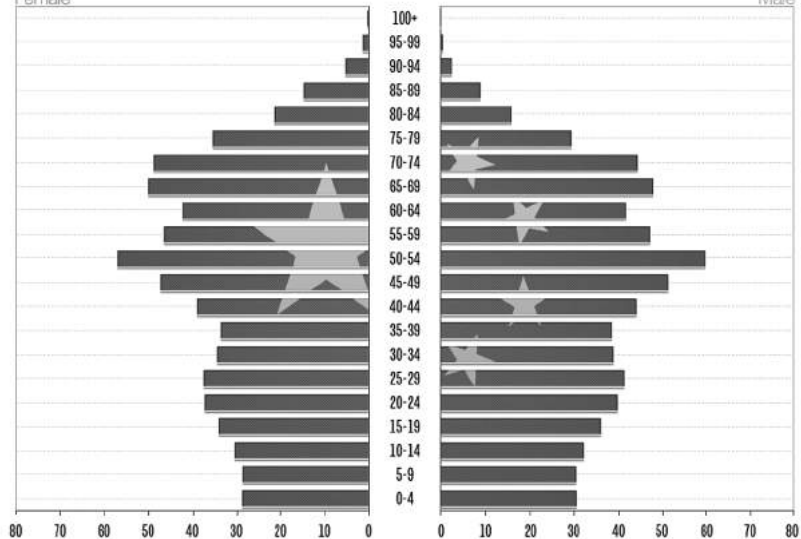
Male



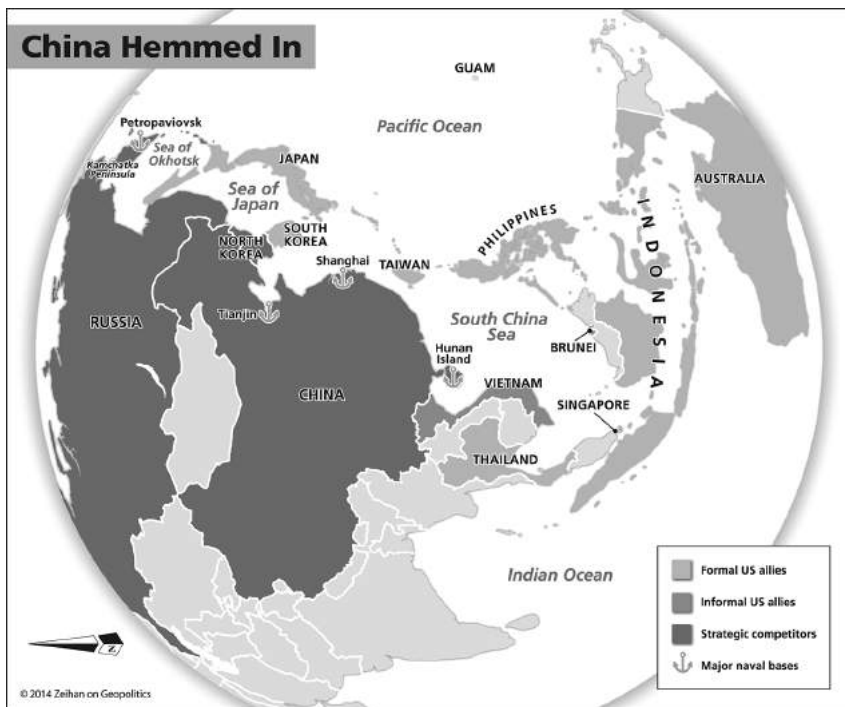
CHINA DEMOGRAPHY: 2040

Female

Male



China Hemmed In



Chinese Economic Concentrations



Global Stability and Skilled Migrant Sources

A world map illustrating the sources of skilled migrants based on the stability of their home countries. The map uses a grayscale color scheme where darker shades represent less stable or more problematic states, and lighter shades represent more stable or promising states. The legend on the left identifies six categories: State Failure (darkest gray), Decentralization (dark gray), Degraded (medium-dark gray), Steady State (medium gray), Rising Stars (light gray), and Skilled Labor Concentration (hatched pattern). The map shows that many countries in Africa, parts of Asia, and South America are in the 'State Failure' or 'Decentralization' categories, while countries in North America, Europe, and Australia are in the 'Steady State' or 'Rising Stars' categories. The 'Skilled Labor Concentration' category is represented by a hatched pattern, which is visible in some countries in Europe and Asia.

Legend:

- State Failure
- Decentralization
- Degraded
- Steady State
- Rising Stars
- Skilled Labor Concentration

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Global Stability and Muslim Population Concentrations



Pakistan

Persons per sq. mi.

Over 130

25-129

3-24

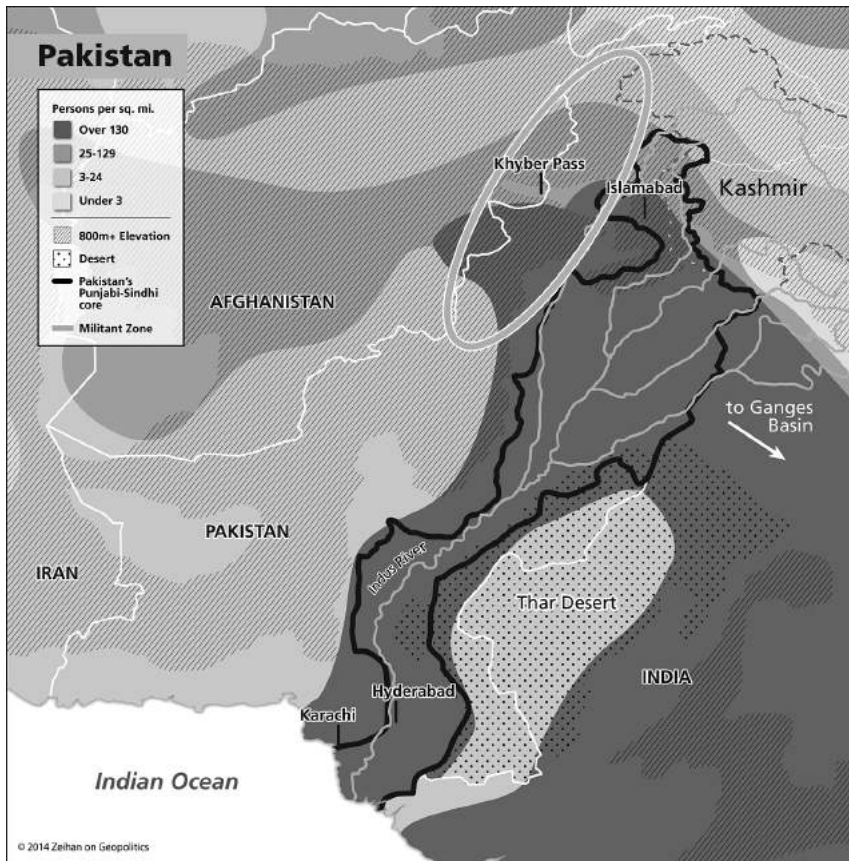
Under 3

800m+ Elevation

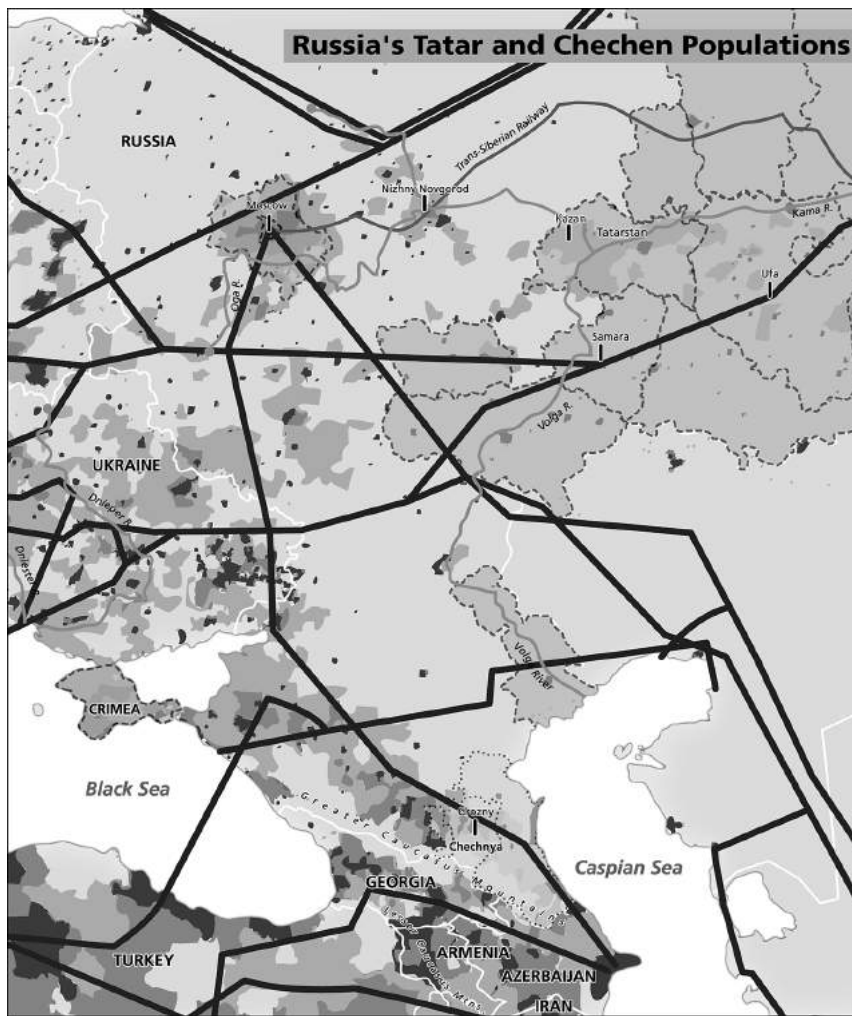
Desert

Pakistan's
Punjabi-Sindhi
core

Militant Zone



Russia's Tatar and Chechen Populations



- Major Petroleum Trunklines
- Navigable rivers
- Head of Navigation

- ▨ Republics with over 50,000 Chechens
- ▨ Republics with over 500,000 Tatars

Population Density people per sq. km.

- Over 100
- 50.1-100
- 25.1-50
- Under 25

Source: Socioeconomic Data and Applications Center (SEDAC)