Tide of Nations

User Testing Verbal Response

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Of the initial user testing results that I received, there were several recommendations that I did not immediately address in the code. I detail those below.

It was suggested that adding panning as a navigation technique would be beneficial. I agree with this completely, but did not have time to implement the change. That will be in a later version of the application.

It was suggested that I add a label to the Characters box. I think this may be a good idea, but I don’t want the interface to get too wordy and cluttered. I’ll do future user testing to address this.

It was suggested that I make the time navigation buttons larger so that are more visible. User testing confirms that finding these controls is not an issue, and I believe that increasing their size would clutter the area.

It was suggested that I swap the mini-map and control boxes for greater visibility. This seems to be primarily an aesthetic preference, not a usability issue, so it was not a priority for me, especially considering that user testing showed that there was more trouble finding the mini-map than the controls. However, I do plan to address this in future user testing.

It was suggested that I make the era date and the era summary closer together. I understand the reasoning behind this, but I believe that I will simply add the era date to the beginning of the era summary, rather than move the prominent location of the era date. This feature simply hasn’t been added yet.

It was suggested that I add sounds to all of the event boxes. I fully plan to do this, I just haven’t finished yet. It will be in a future version of the application.

It was suggested that I increase the zoom level so that more detail is available. While that makes a lot of sense right now, I do not believe that it will be necessary once I have more data for each region. The purpose of the application is to present the big picture of history, not so much the details, so this may be counterproductive. Still, I will address it in future user testing.

It was suggested that I add a timeline to the interface. This was part of the original plan for the application, I simply didn’t have time to complete the feature before the presentation. It will be in a future version of the application.

It was suggested that I visibly disable the time navigation buttons when at the beginning or end of the era list. I fully agree with this suggestion, and will implement it in the future.

It was suggested that the font may be too small. I will address this in future user testing.

It was suggested that I make the scroll bars for the text more visible. This was not addressed immediately because I already intended to overhaul the look and feel of the scroll bars, post presentation so that they will better fit with the aesthetics of the rest of the application. I saw no reason to make an interim adjustment based on a single recommendation.

It was suggested that I speed up the graphic transitions when moving from one era to the next. This too was a single recommendation, and not a common trend. Since this struck me a personal preference, rather than a common usability detriment, I decided to address the recommendation by including a question asking about transition speed preferences in the next user testing survey. Results seem to indicate that this may be beneficial, so I’ll include it in the future.

It was suggested that I make the mute button brighter so that it is easier to see. I believe that adding the glow on hover effect will be sufficient to solve this issue, so I will see if it comes up again in another round of user testing.

It was suggested that I include event markers that appear on the map during era transition. Clicking on the markers would load event details in the way that clicking the event boxes at the left of the screen do. I think that this is a wonderful idea, and I intend to include it in the application post-presentation. Time constraints prevented me from doing so before the presentation.

It was suggested that I refactor the Go to Region feature so that the centered location is visible, instead of hidden by the modal. I think that this is a good idea that will take some planning to achieve effectively. It will be completed in the future.

It was suggested that I add images/examples to the tutorial and decrease the wordiness. User testing indicates that this is the preference, so I will complete it in the future.

It was suggested that I turn the Largest Nations list into links that activate the nation details box. I fully agree with suggestion, and it will be included in a future version.

It was suggested that I make the application more mobile friendly. While the application is somewhat responsive, it is far too complex to be fully responsive or to work effectively on smaller devices. This is something that I may consider once the current version of the application is complete, but I do not believe that it is currently a priority.