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Geographic Visualization

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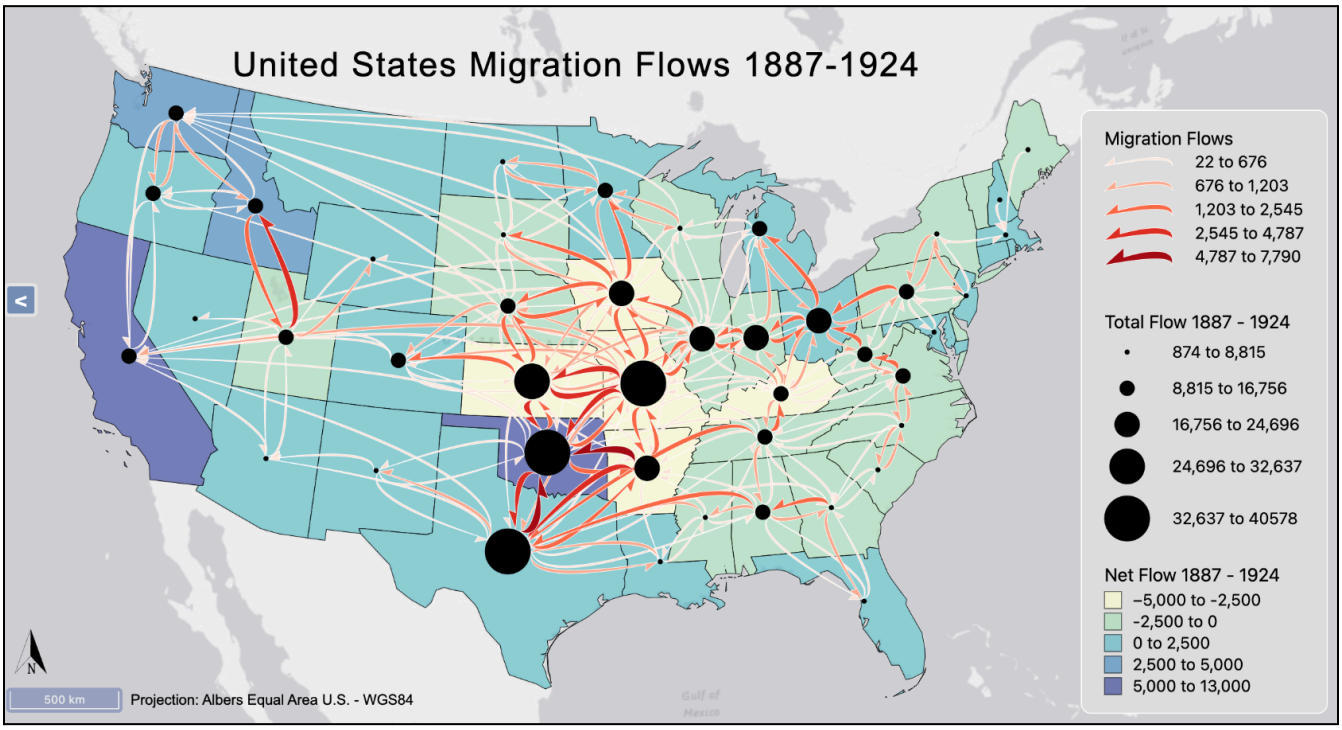
Assignment 6

Flow Map:



Justification of Flow Map Design:

For this map, I used a yellow-green-blue symbology to display net flow using a quantiles classification for the base map. The light yellow color nicely blends into the blue midway point, then becomes saturated purple, representing the most extreme positive flow. I used a manual breaks classification to display the data, with the values -5000 to -2500, -2500 to 0, 0 to 2500, 2500 to 5000, and 5000 to 13000. I chose these numbers because the first 4 intervals hold the bulk of the data and represent it evenly. In contrast, the last interval holds the maximum data

and the other most extreme positive values. I chose a natural breaks classification for the node values, as it created an even and readable spread of nodes to represent total flow numbers for each state. The dark black color of each node also creates an easy leverage point for the map viewer to find the middle of each state. Lastly, I chose to display the top 200 flows with a natural break classification for the flow arrows. This way, flow patterns from each state could be visualized. This can be somewhat busy, but only showing the top 25, 50, or 100 flows didn't capture the entire country and lost a lot of information. I also chose red to symbolize the intensity of the flow, which contrasts nicely with the base map colors.

Interpretation of Flow Patterns:

On this map, there is a lot of migration out of the midwest and south of the country towards the West. The states with the most people migrating out of the area include Iowa, Missouri, Kentucky, and Arkansas. Contrastingly, the states with the most influx of migrants include Oklahoma, California, Idaho, and Washington. Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas are the states with the most total flow, as seen in the large nodes on the map. Oklahoma also has the largest net flow and total flow, and many intense migration flows go into the state compared to other states.