

# Week 8: Spatial Interaction

Introduction to Geography  
Lehman College GEH 101/GEH 501  
Spring 2011

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# Mental Mapping Exercise

## **Draw a map of your neighborhood**

- Do not use any references!
- Include labels, symbols, diagrams, or anything else that might help someone interpret your map

# Mental Mapping Exercise

Part I: Draw a map of your neighborhood

Part II: Draw a map of the world and label the 10 most important cities

- Do not use any references!
- Your maps can be in whatever style you feel is most appropriate
- Include labels, symbols, relational diagrams, or anything that might help someone else to understand your maps

# Mental Map Pair-Share

- What does the map reflect about how the author interacts with her/his neighborhood?
- Think about:
  - **people** (e.g., family, peers, strangers)
  - **places** (e.g., transportation, recreation, landmarks, physical features)
  - **culture** (e.g., food, religion, ethnic groups)
  - **economy** (e.g., work, school, shopping)
  - **other aspects of society?**

# Mental Map Pair-Share

- What does the neighborhood map tell you about how its author interacts with **people** (e.g., family, peers, strangers), **places** (e.g., transportation, recreation, landmarks, physical features), **culture** (e.g., food, religion, ethnic groups), the **economy** (e.g., work, school, shopping), or any **other aspects of society**?
- How might your maps be different if you were at a different stage in your life?
- What makes the cities on the world map important?
- What sorts of geographic patterns (e.g., spatial, political, economic, linguistic) can you identify in the cities?

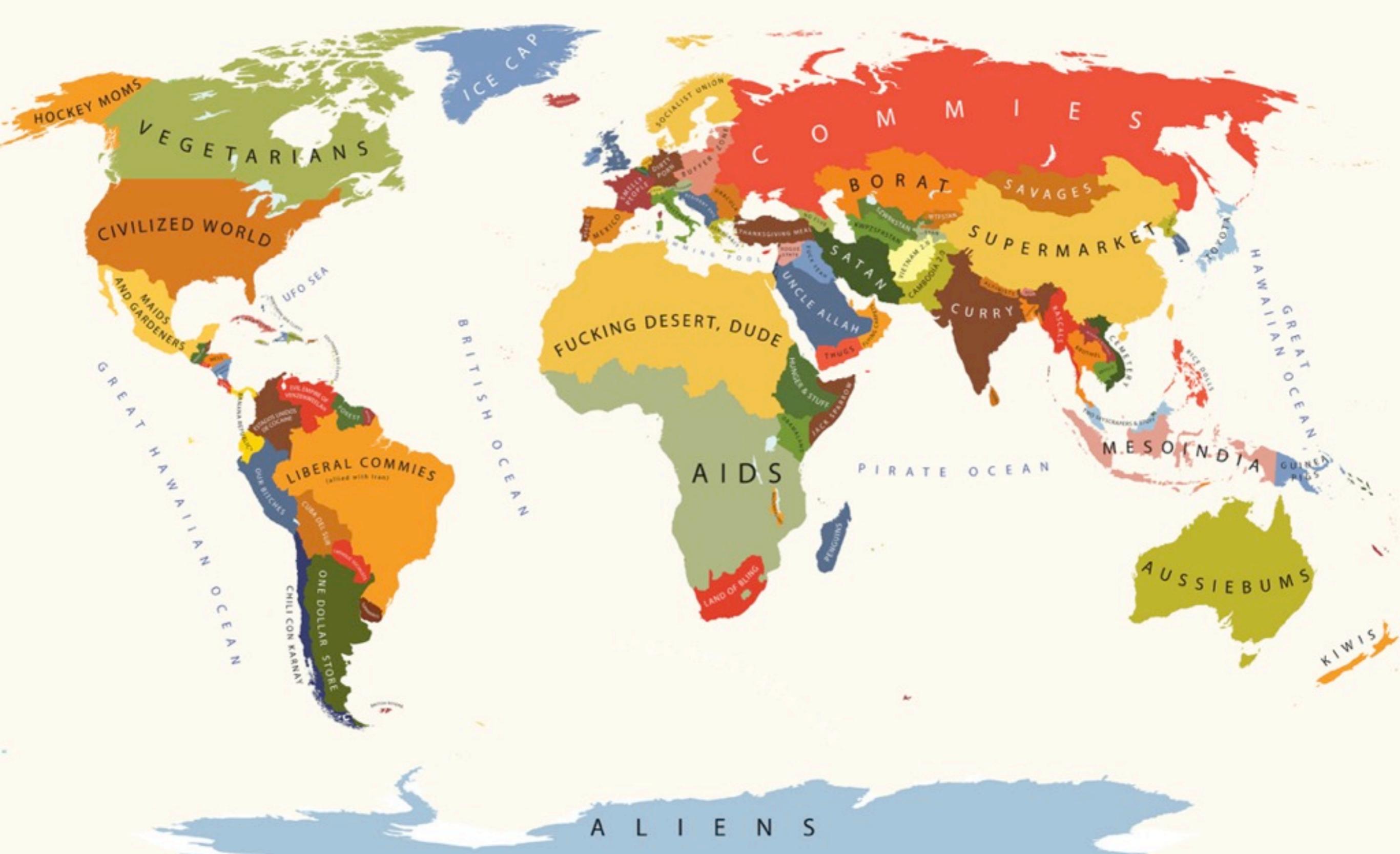
# Spatial Interaction

- Places are given meaning by how people conceptualize and interact with their environments
- Spatial interactions are shaped by the ways that people understand, know, and relate to different places
  - How do you feel about the walkability of your neighborhood?
  - What do you know about Sumatra? Paris?
  - What relationships exist between the U.S. and Japan?

# Spatial Interaction

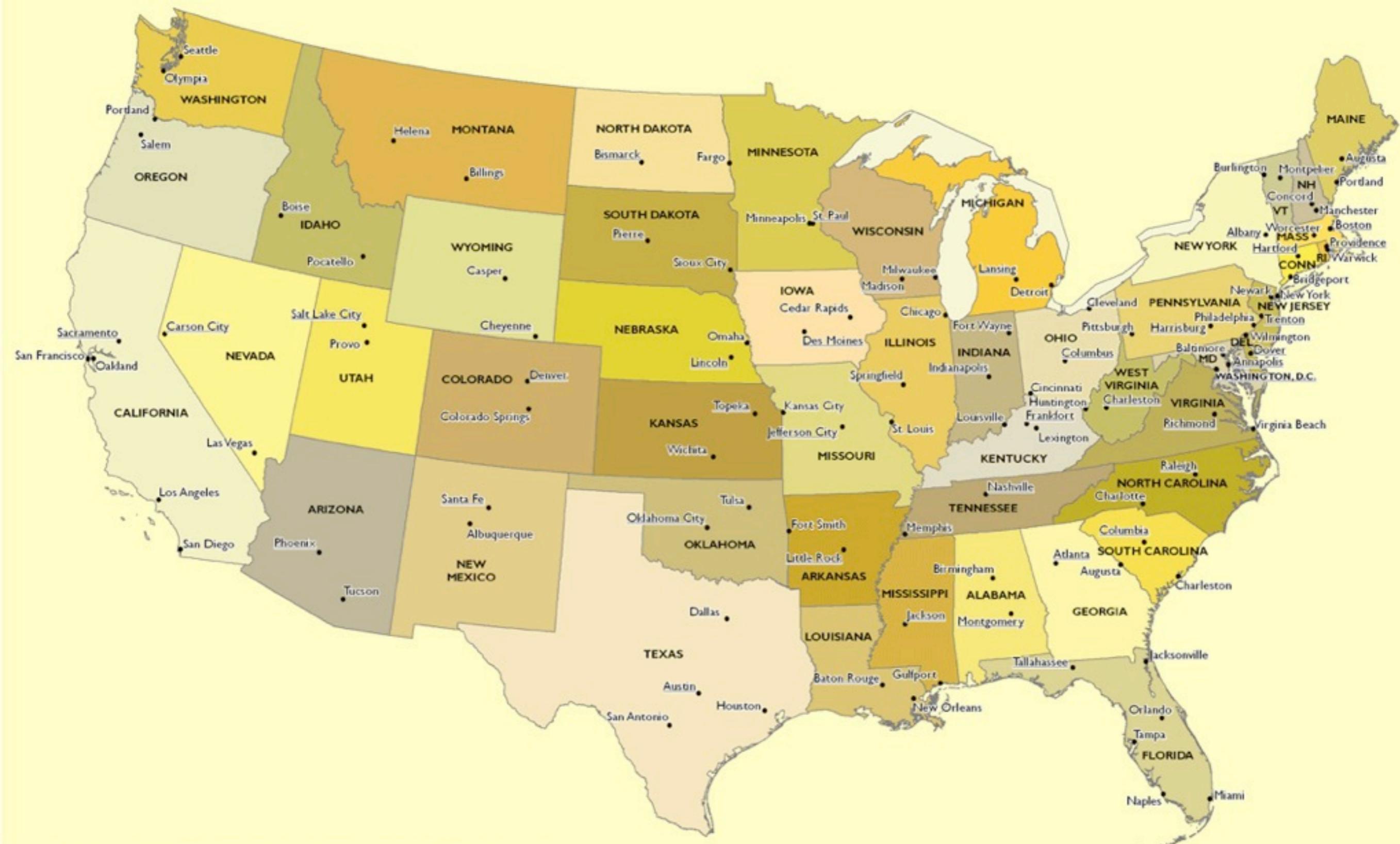
- Barriers and friction - affect frequency and ease of interaction
  - time-space
  - physical landscape
  - social, cultural, political, economic factors
  - psychological
- How might your neighborhood map have been different if you were at a different stage in your life?

# How Americans View the World

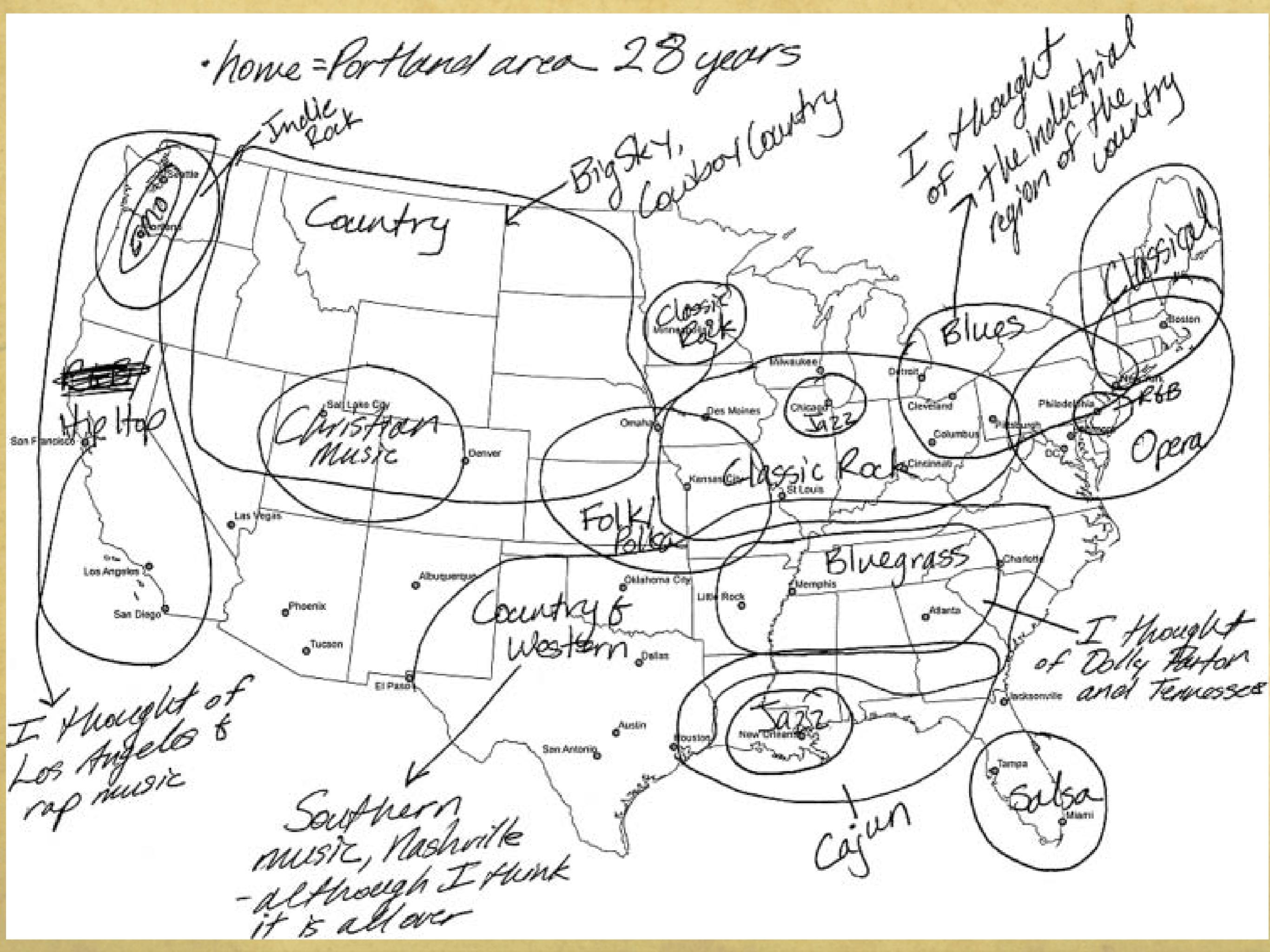


# Mapping Music

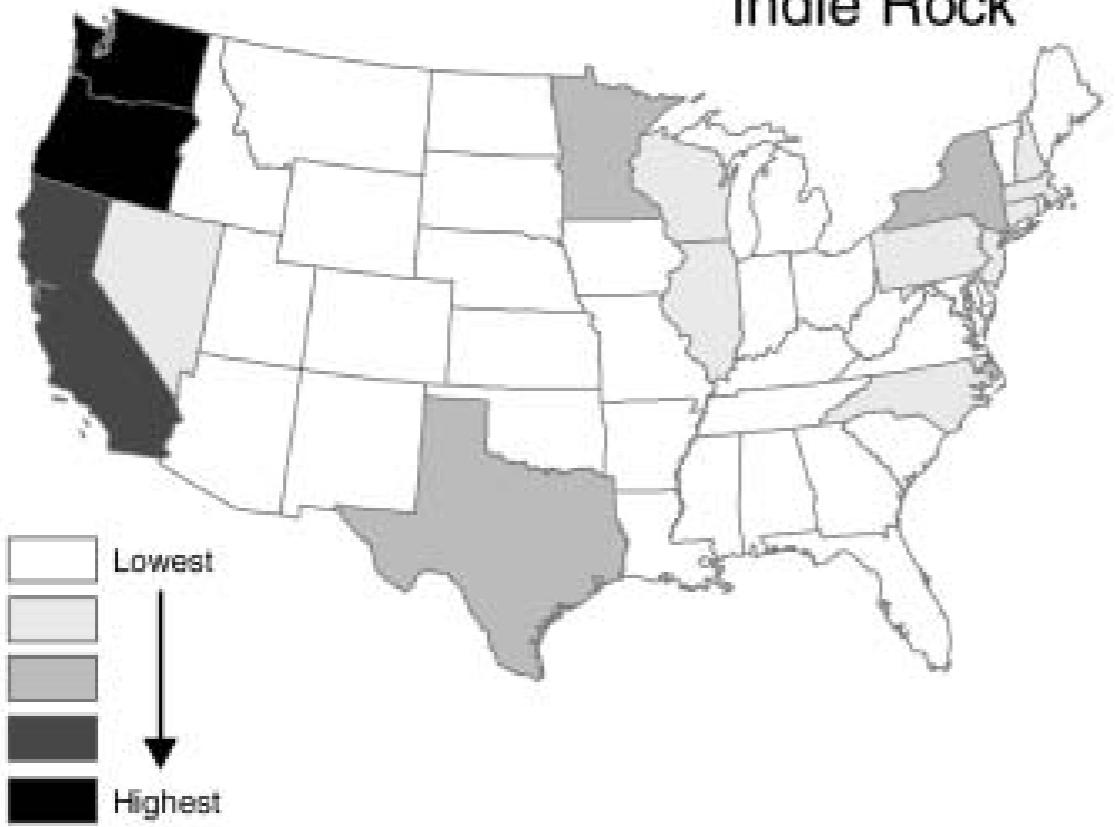
- |                   |                  |          |
|-------------------|------------------|----------|
| ● Afro-Funk       | ● Emo            | ● Oldies |
| ● Bluegrass       | ● Folk           | ● Opera  |
| ● Blues           | ● Funk           | ● Polka  |
| ● Cajun/Zydeco    | ● Gospel         | ● Punk   |
| ● Christian Rock  | ● Heavy Metal    | ● Reggae |
| ● Classical       | ● Hip-Hop/Rap    | ● R&B    |
| ● Classic Rock    | ● Indie Rock     | ● Salsa  |
| ● Country Western | ● Jazz           | ● Ska    |
| ● Easy Listening  | ● Lounge         | ● Soul   |
| ● Electronica     | ● Norteño/Tejaño | ● Swing  |



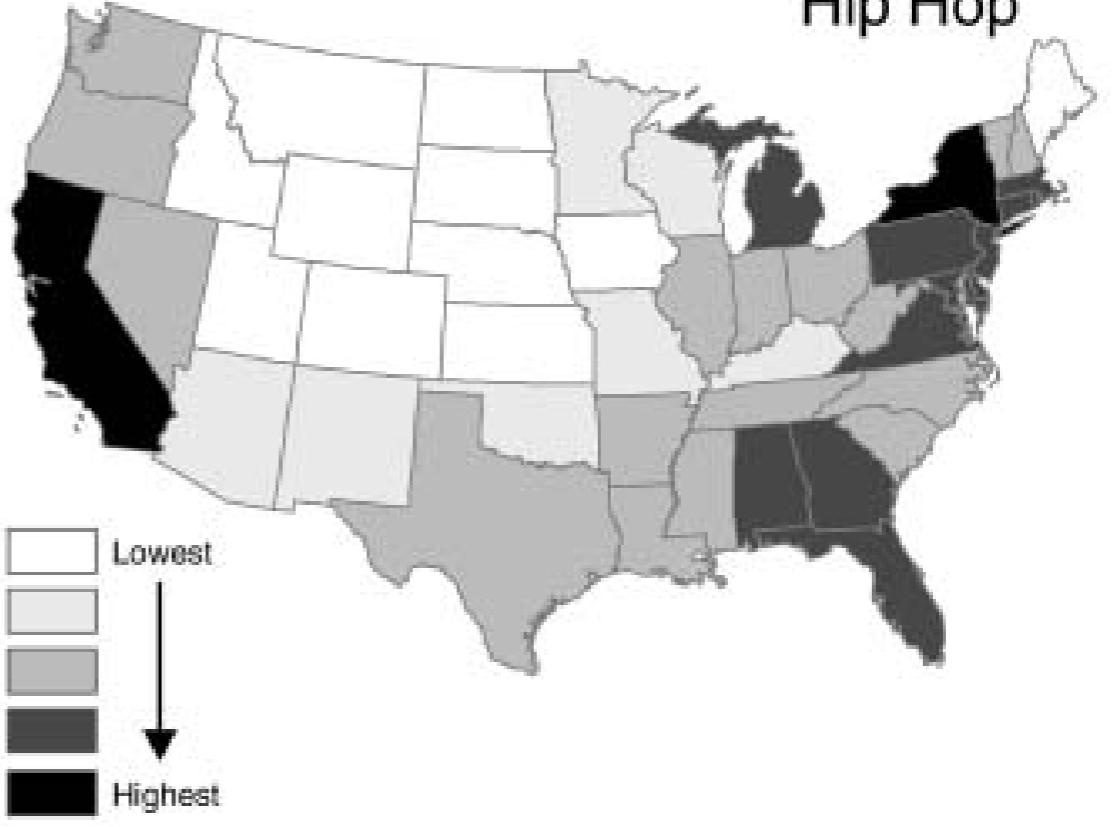
• home = Portland area 28 years



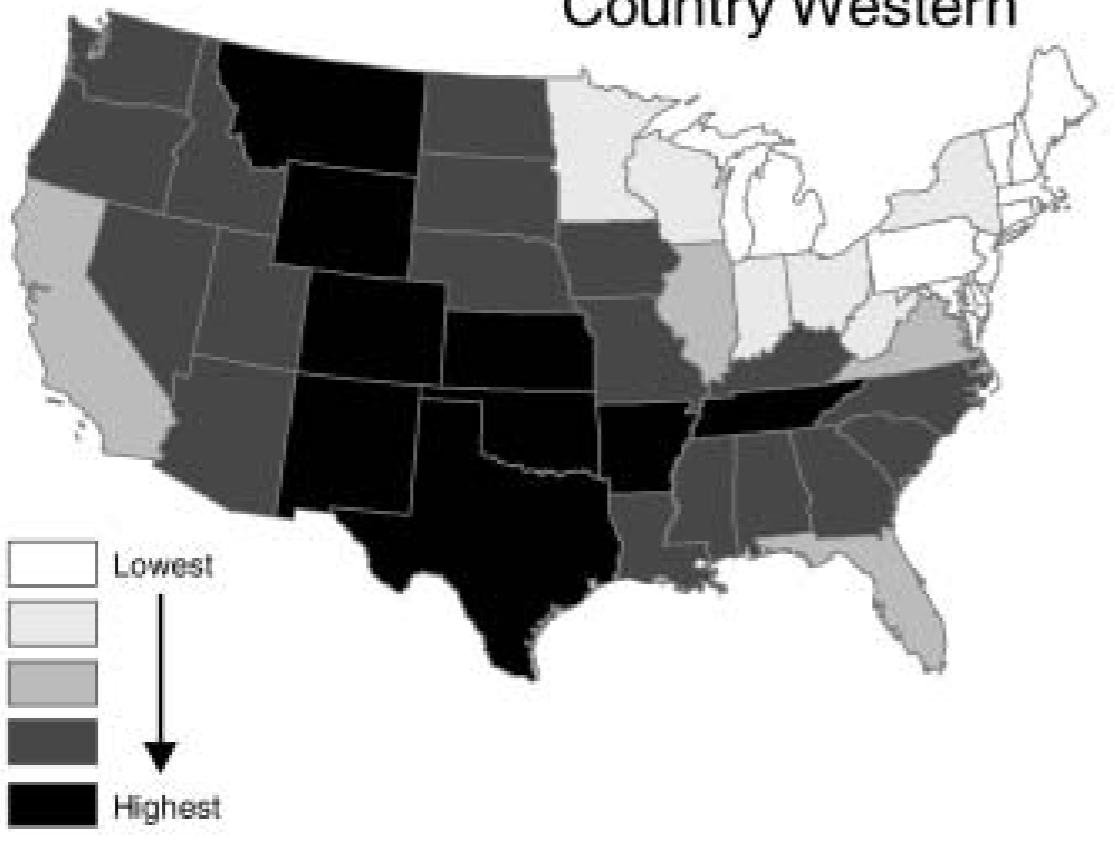
### Indie Rock



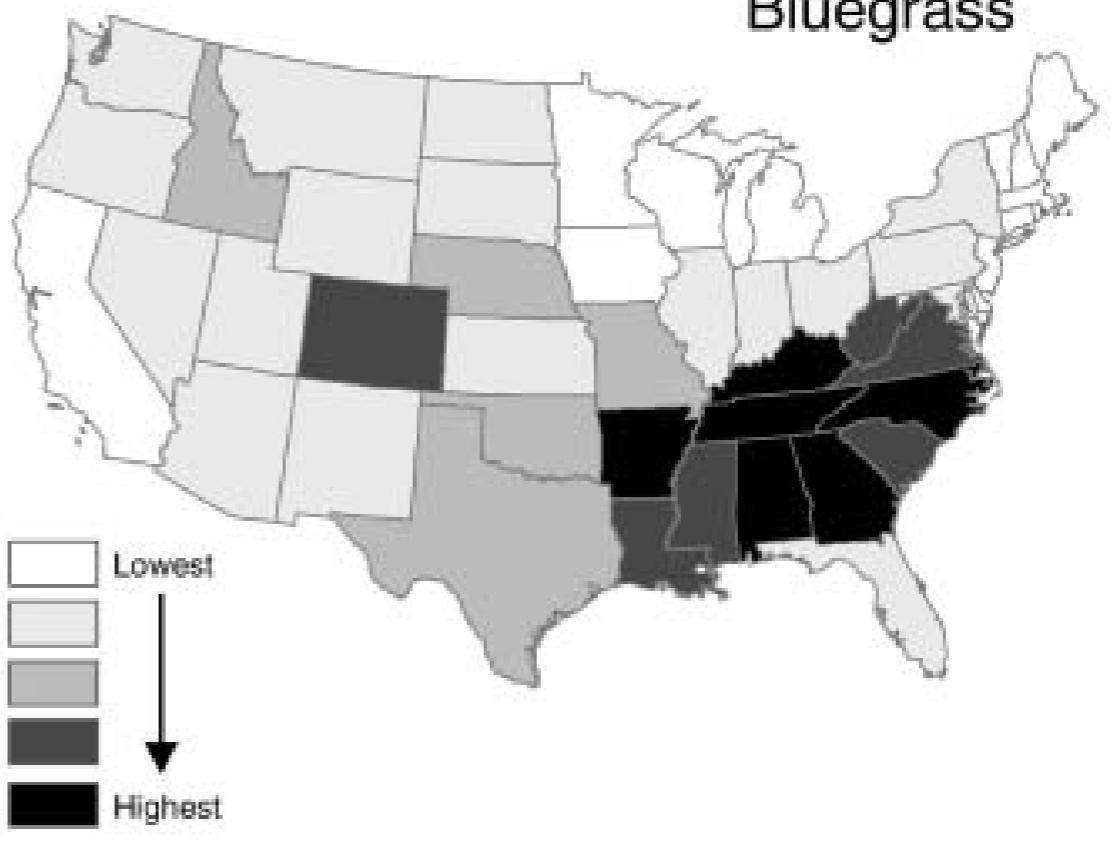
### Hip Hop



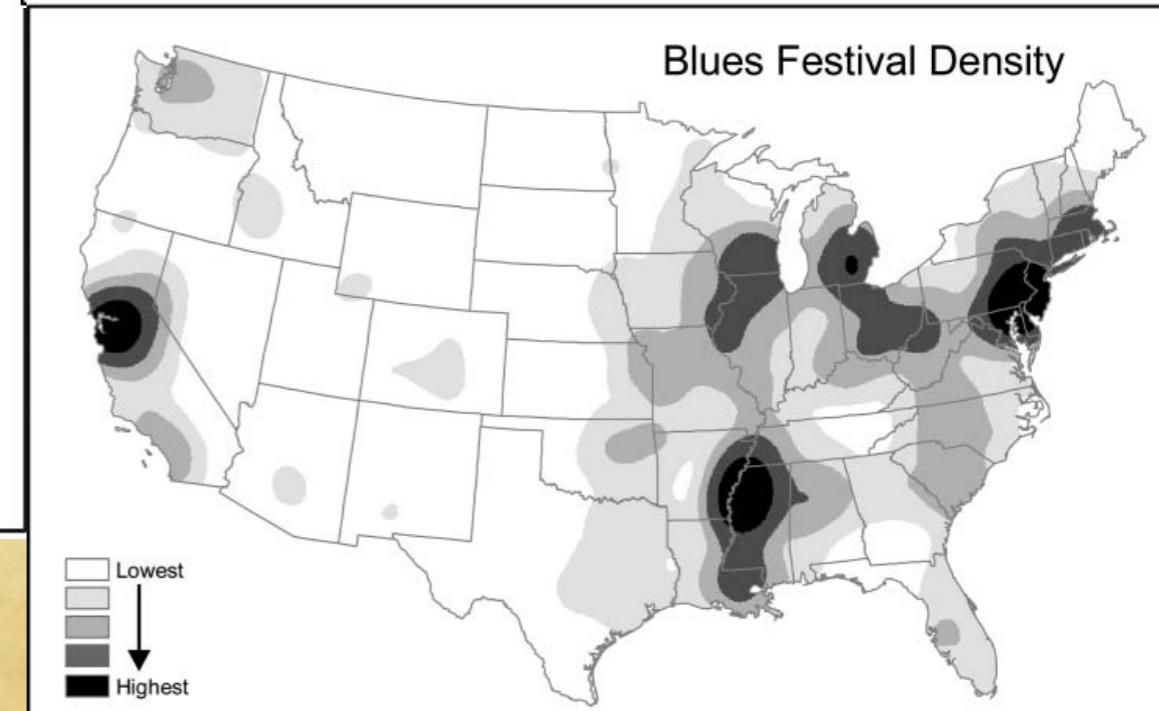
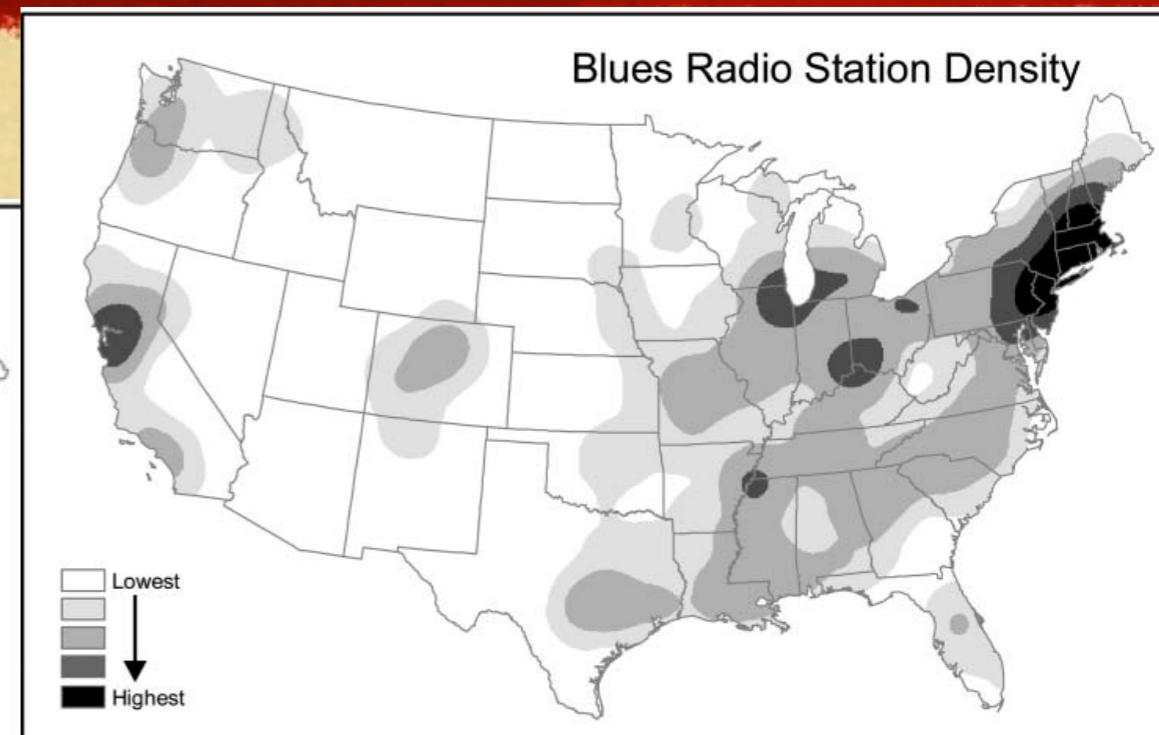
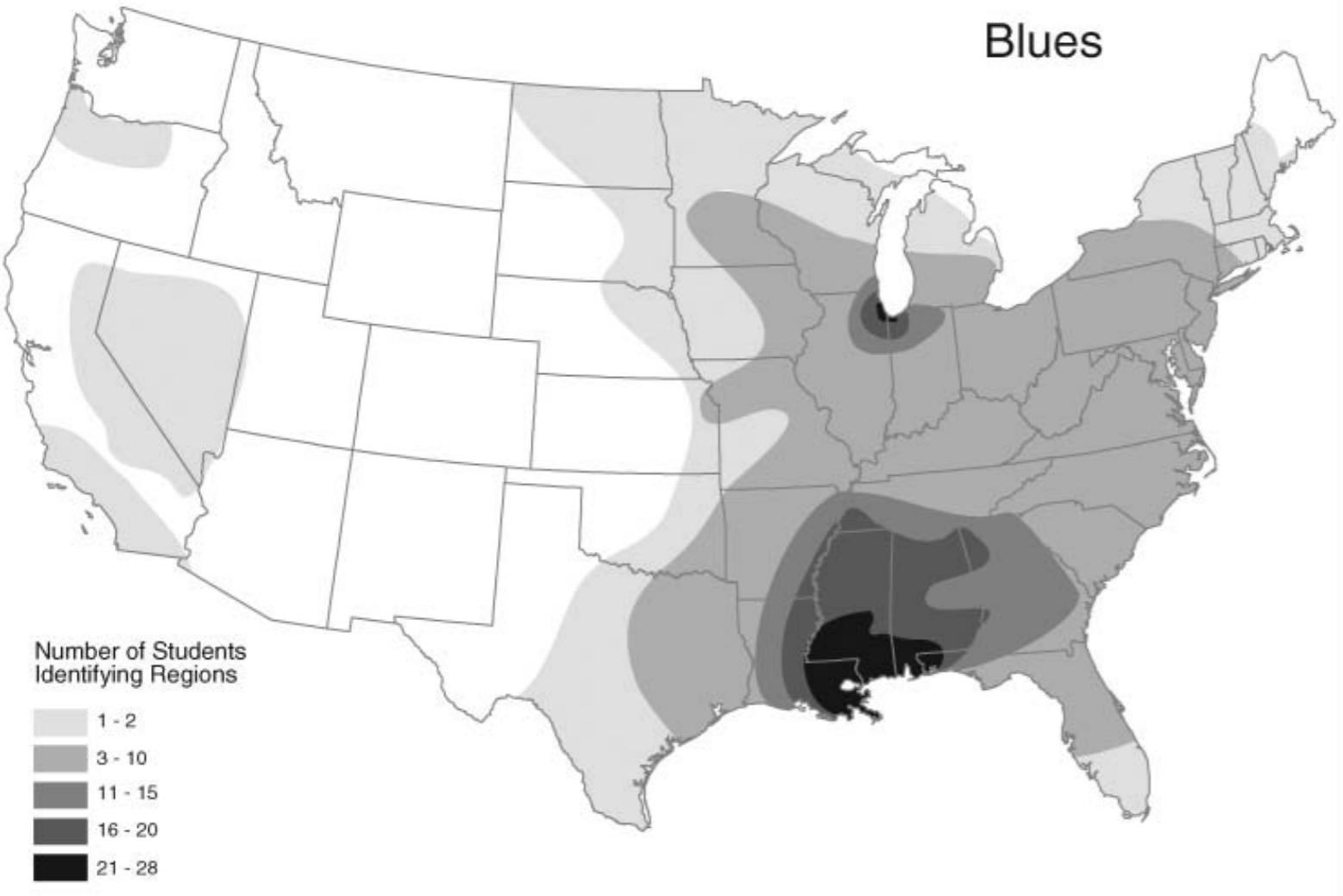
### Country Western



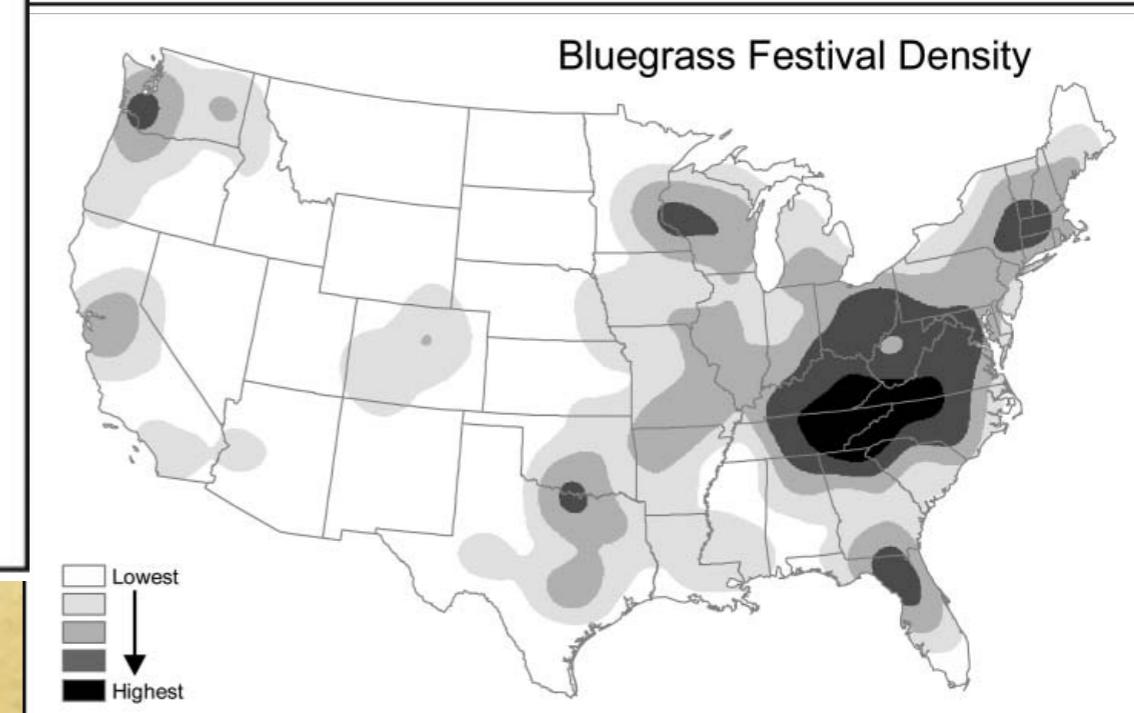
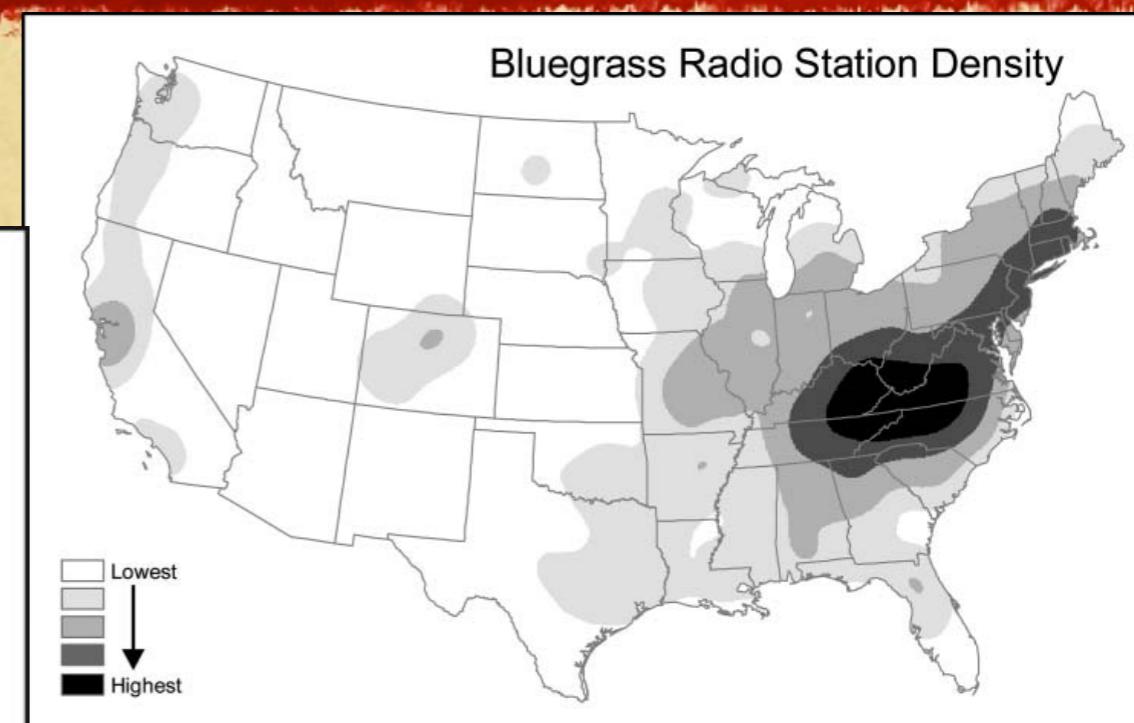
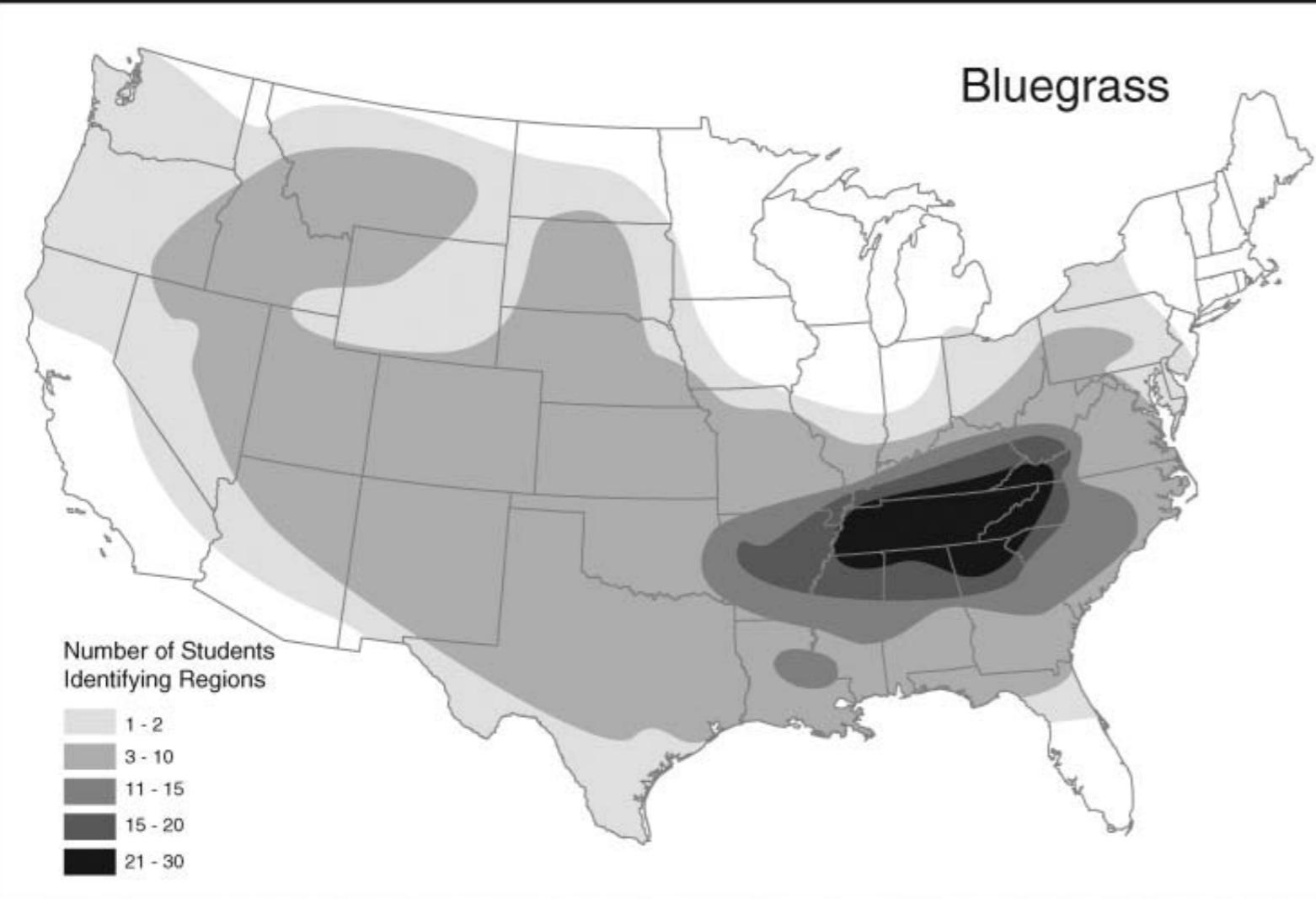
### Bluegrass



# Blues



# Bluegrass



# Geographies of Music

- What do these maps tell us about the spread and influence of musical genres in shaping other genres?
- What factors shape musical diffusion?
- How do the maps that we create reflect our stereotypes and knowledge of people and places? How might this shape our interactions with those places and the people there?

# Social Barriers and Friction

- Examples of social barriers and factors that increase/decrease the friction of spatial interactions
  - **Cultural:** language, religion, racism, pop media
  - **Political:** laws, trade agreements/embargoes, imperialism
  - **Economic:** transport costs, natural resources, production

# Spatial Diffusion

- How do “things” move from place to place through time?
- What are some methods for transmission/transportation of:
  - People
  - Goods and resources
  - Money
  - Ideas, Knowledge, Culture
  - Plants, Animals, Diseases

# How does music travel?

## A JAZZ HISTORY MAP OF THE UNITED STATES

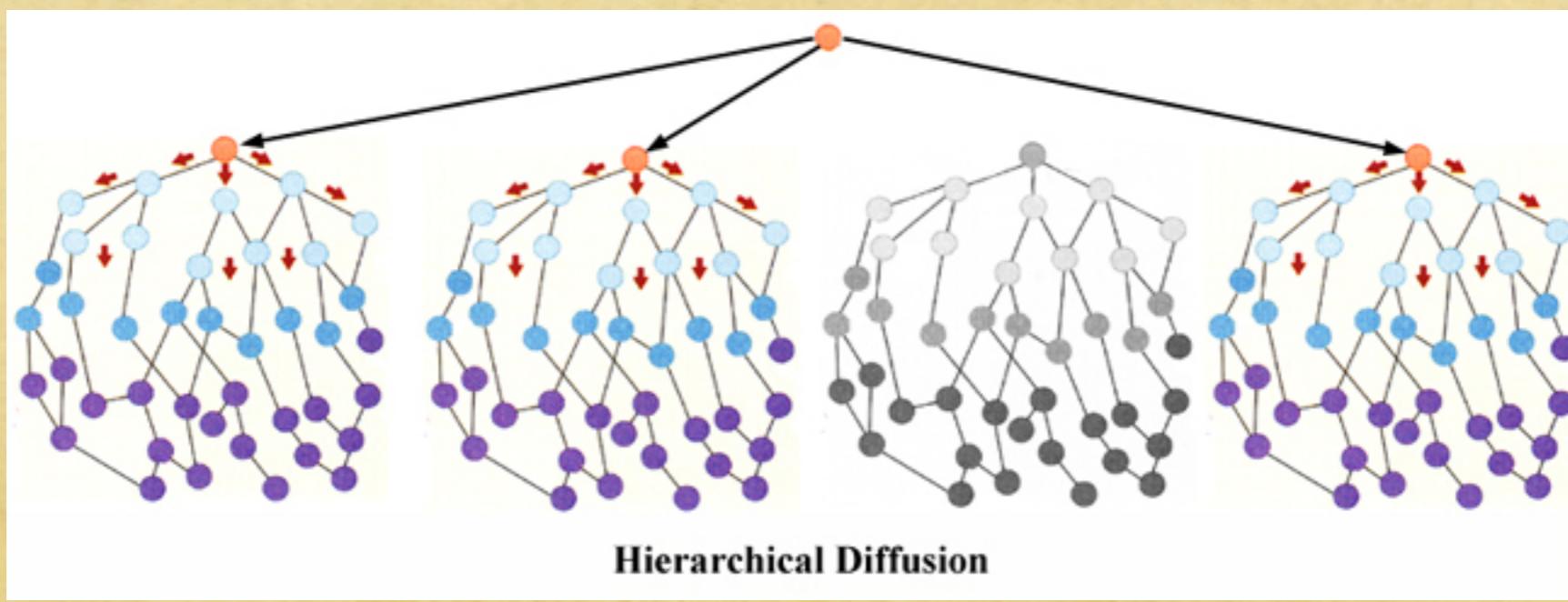


# Spatial Diffusion Patterns

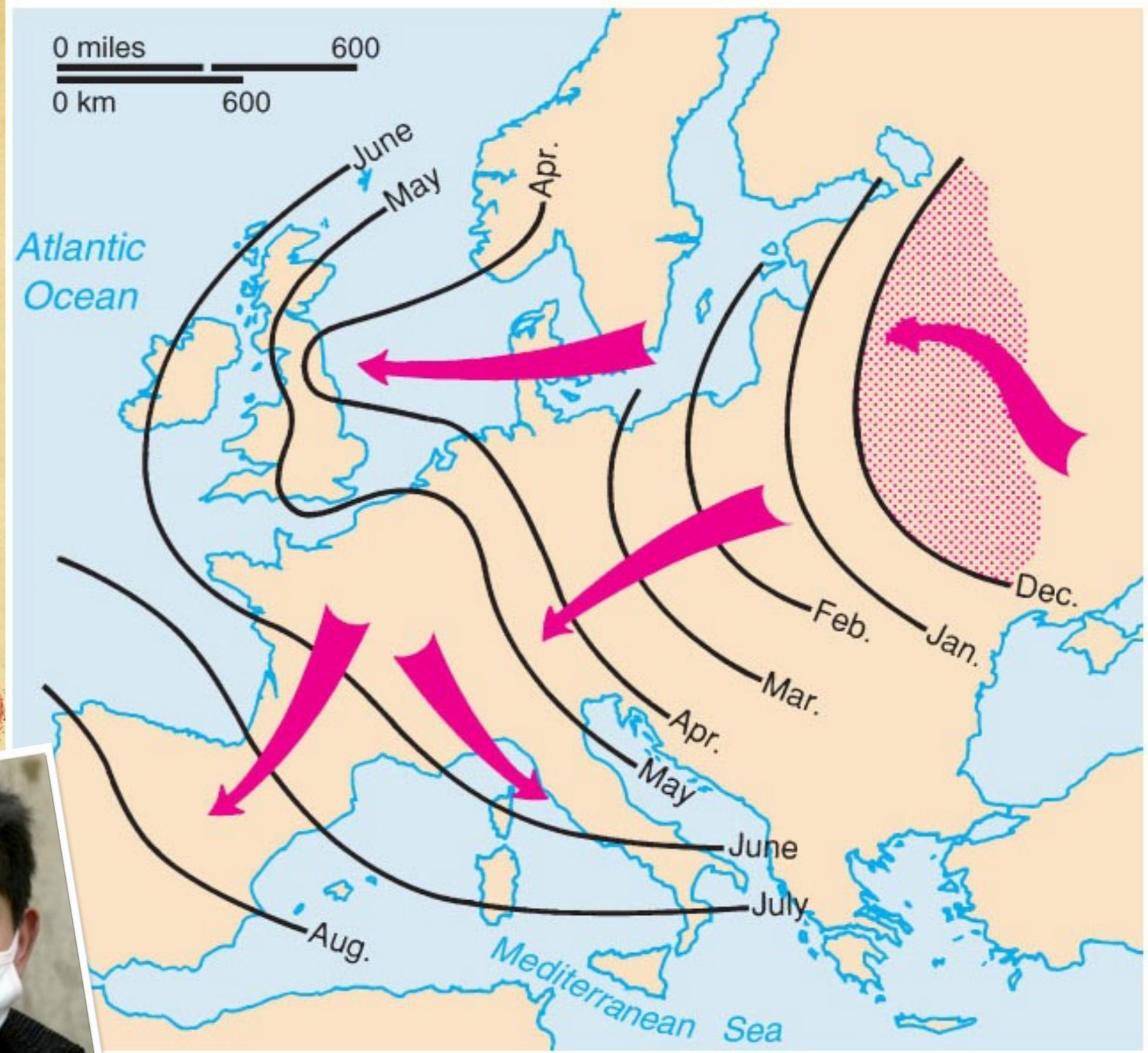
- Different patterns of spatial diffusion can be observed for different “things”
- Depends on the structures influencing how and why the things travel through space
  - does it need to be physically moved?
  - what types of friction affect it?

# Spatial Diffusion Patterns

- Contagious (expansion): spreads outward from the origin
- Relocation: Jumps from one place to the next
- Hierarchical: Stages of spread from local to translocal to local



# Contagious Diffusion



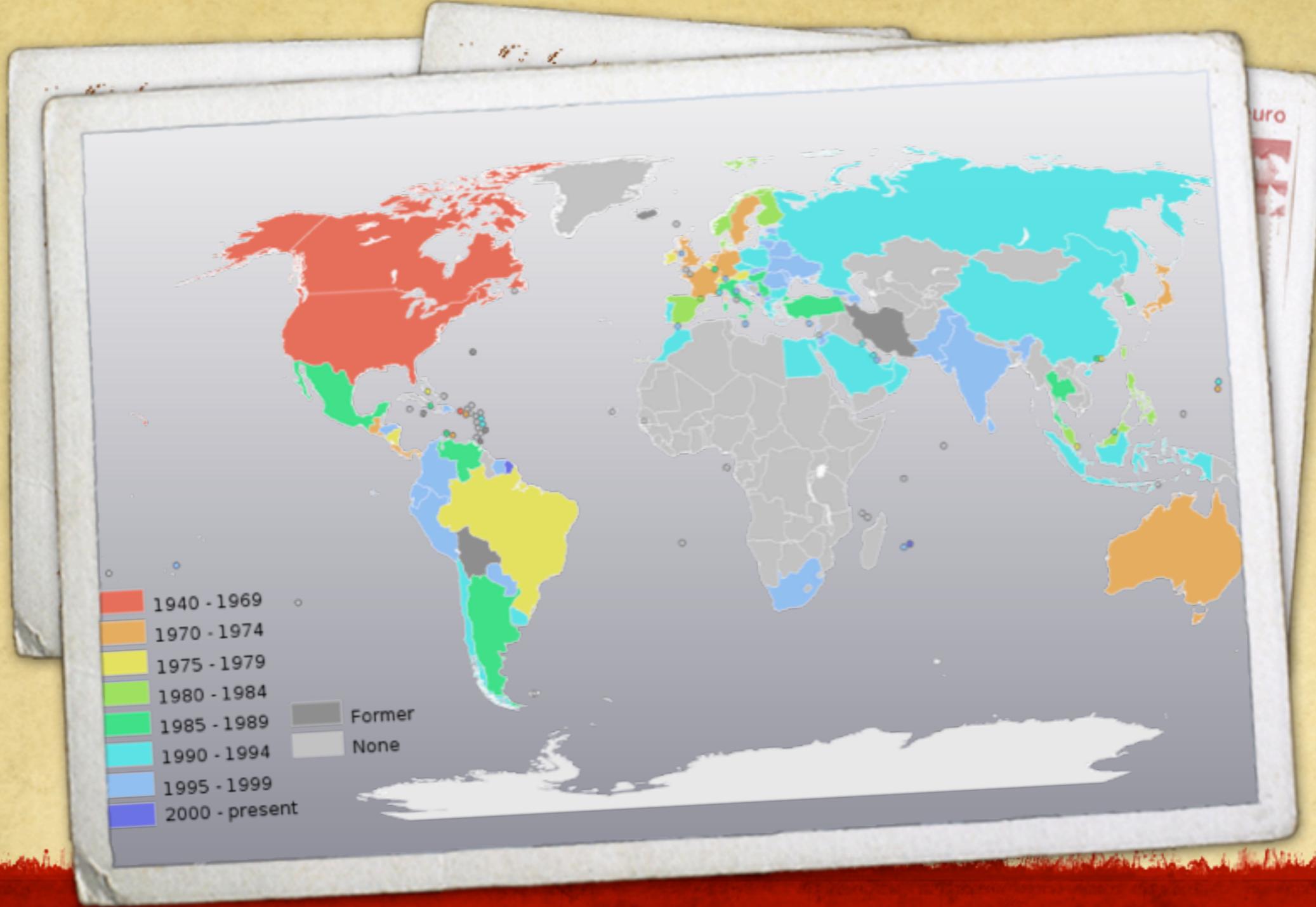
European Influenza Pandemic of 1781

# Relocation: Black Populations and Hip-Hop



# Hierarchical Diffusion

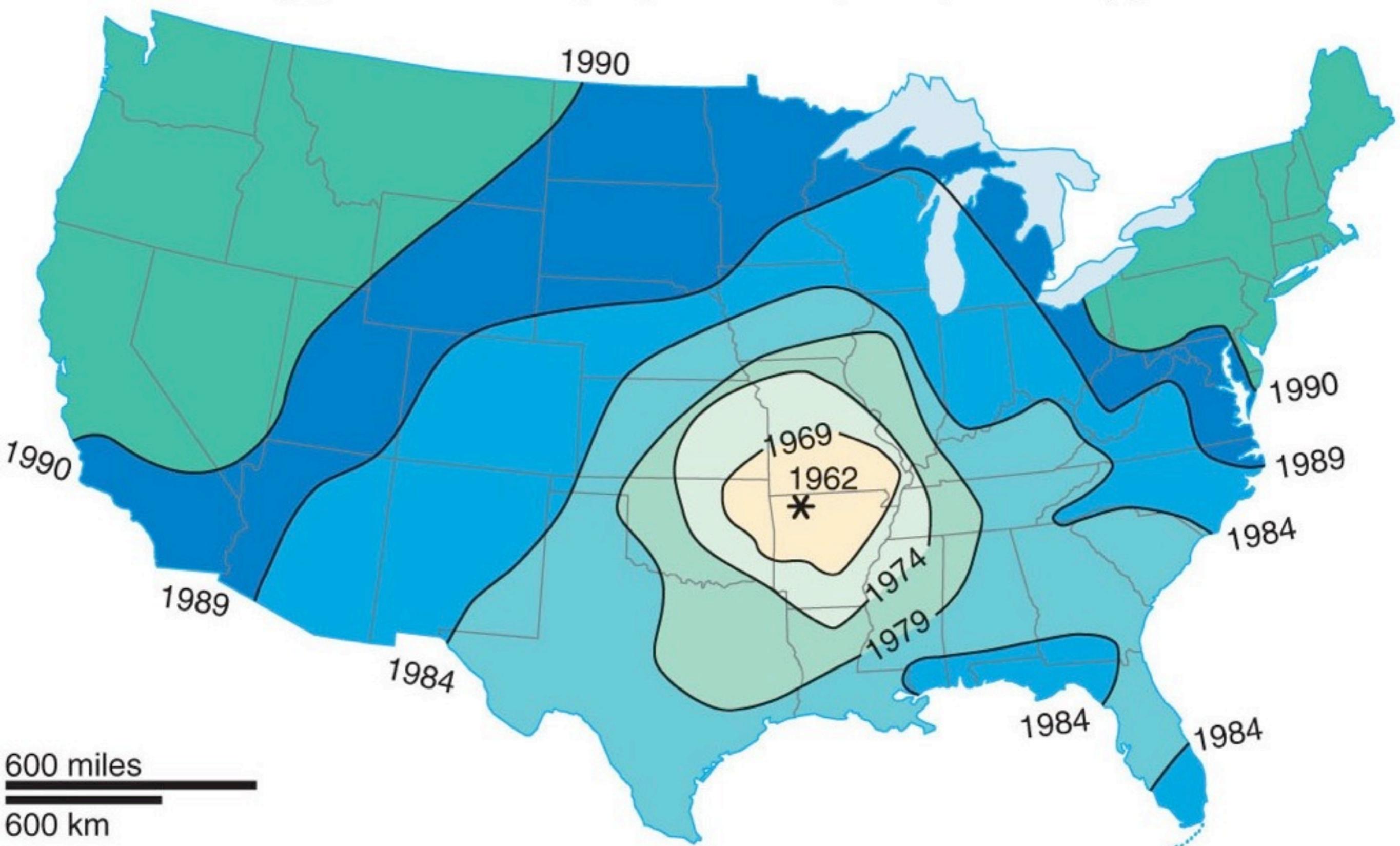




# Hierarchical Diffusion: McDonalds

# The Spread of Wal\*Mart

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# Technology

## ● Transportation

● Ships

● Rail

● Cars

● Airplanes

## ● Communication

● Printing Press

● Telephones

● Computers

● Satellites

● Internet



# Internet Diffusion and Interaction

- Connects people with shared interests, ideologies, etc.
- How do new forms of social media reshape human interactions?
- Who has access? China, Egypt, Australia...
- YouTube, Facebook, reddit/digg, Twitter, flickr, wikipedia
- Memes: sociocultural information transmitted from person to person; the social equivalent of a gene. Can mutate and evolve over time.

# Globalization

- With increasing interaction comes increasing interdependence
- Spatial impacts of the 2008 Financial Crisis

# Time-Space Compression

- David Harvey, Anthropologist and Geographer at Graduate Center
- *The Condition of Postmodernity* (1990)
  - "processes that . . . revolutionize the objective qualities of space and time"
  - modernization is about removing spatial barriers to speed up and accelerate the pace of life to reduce turnover time, driven by the process of capital accumulation, which has the effect perpetually working to "annihilate space through time"

# Globalized Finance

- Shift from gold to electronic exchanges
- International Banking
  - Lending and investment is global and instantaneous
  - Global financial crisis
- Transnational Corporations
- Global Markets and Marketing
- State sovereignty? “The World is Flat”?

# Time-Space Compression

- Shift from gold to electronic exchanges
- International Banking
  - Lending and investment is global and instantaneous
  - Global financial crisis
- Transnational Corporations
- Global Markets and Marketing
- National sovereignty

# Global Governance

- Political alliances, trade agreements, etc.
- United Nations (UN)
- International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank
- World Trade Organization (WTO), NAFTA, ALBA
- International Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)
- Anti-Globalization actors

# Term Paper Thought Points

- How does spatial interaction factor in to your topic?
- Does your topic affect friction or barriers to diffusion?
- What is the role of communication and transportation technologies
- Who is affected by your topic? Is that shaped by spatial diffusion?