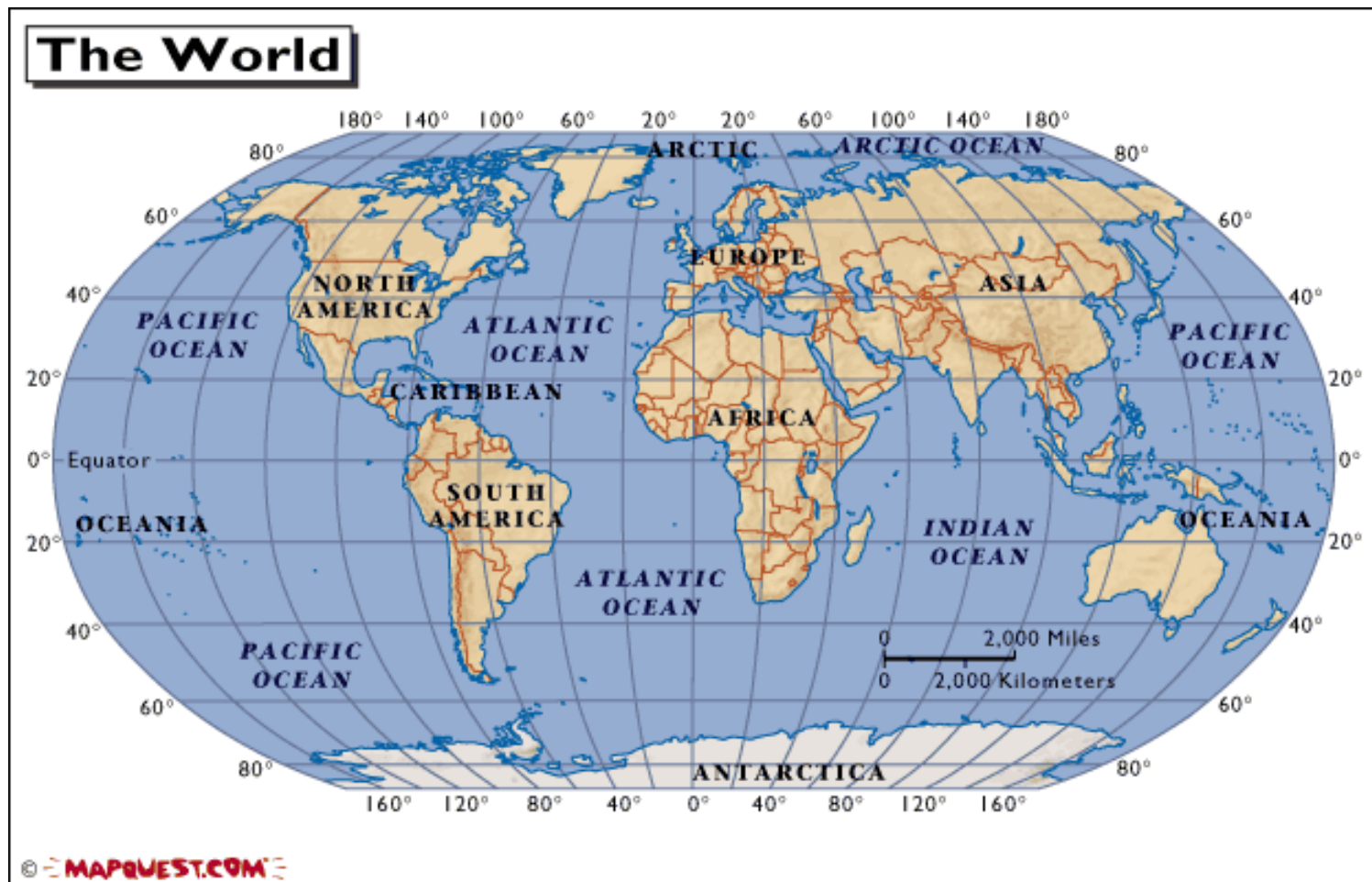


# Geographical background.

- Economists think geography important to understand historical and economic development
  - Traditional subsistence economy: climate, bacteria, land, water, etc.
  - Modern economy: trade, coastal lines, ports, roads, etc.
- Jared Diamond, *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies*, Norton, 1997
  - A fascinating book about how geography has shaped human societies

# Geography



# Geography of China

- Third biggest landmass after Russia and Canada, but a large part is rugged and inhospitable.
- Coast only in the East and mostly rugged and hilly. => Traditionally, inward orientation.
- Great differences in climate across regions.

# 中国地形

比例尺 1:10,000,000

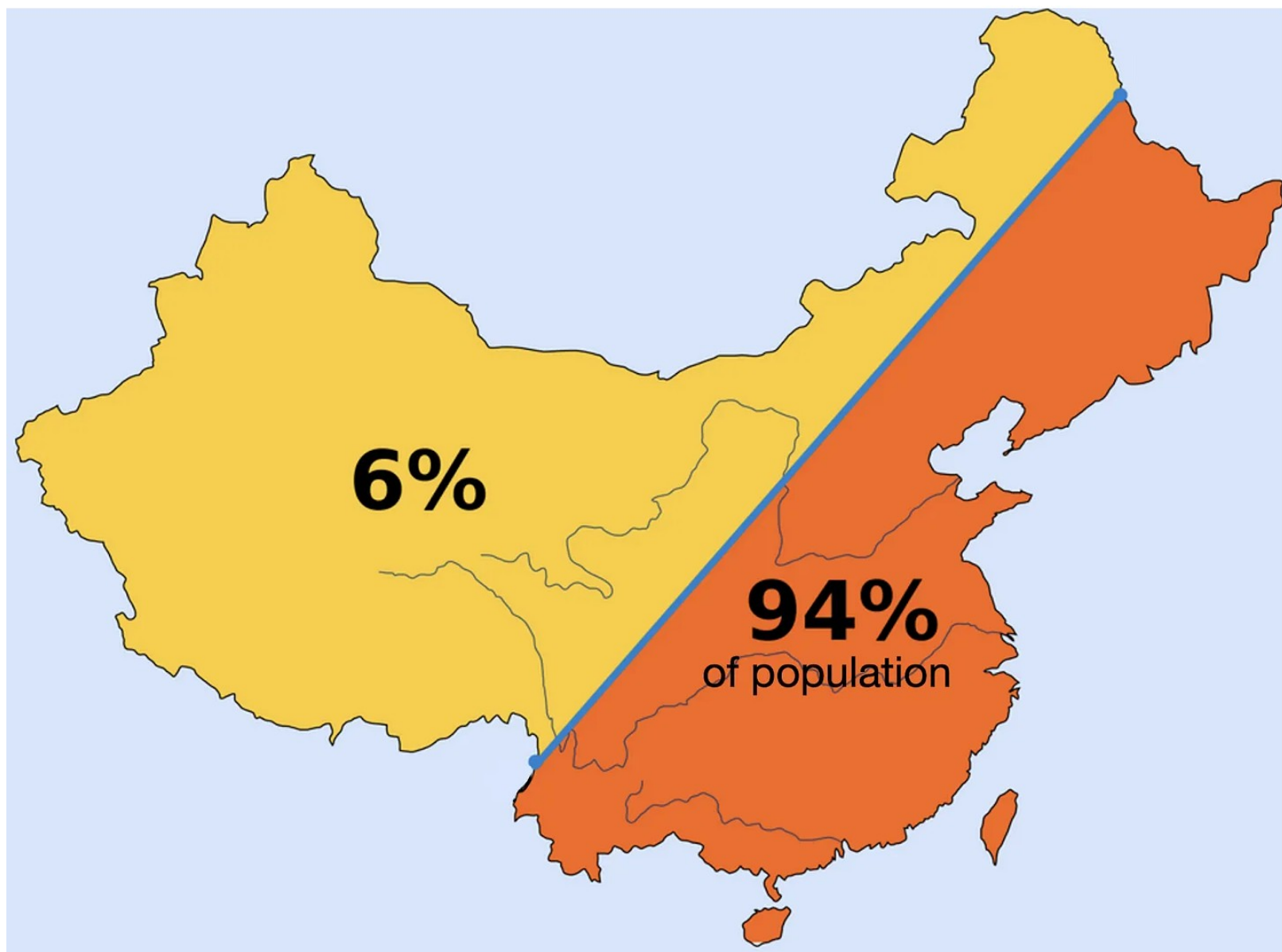


Land and population, 2012.

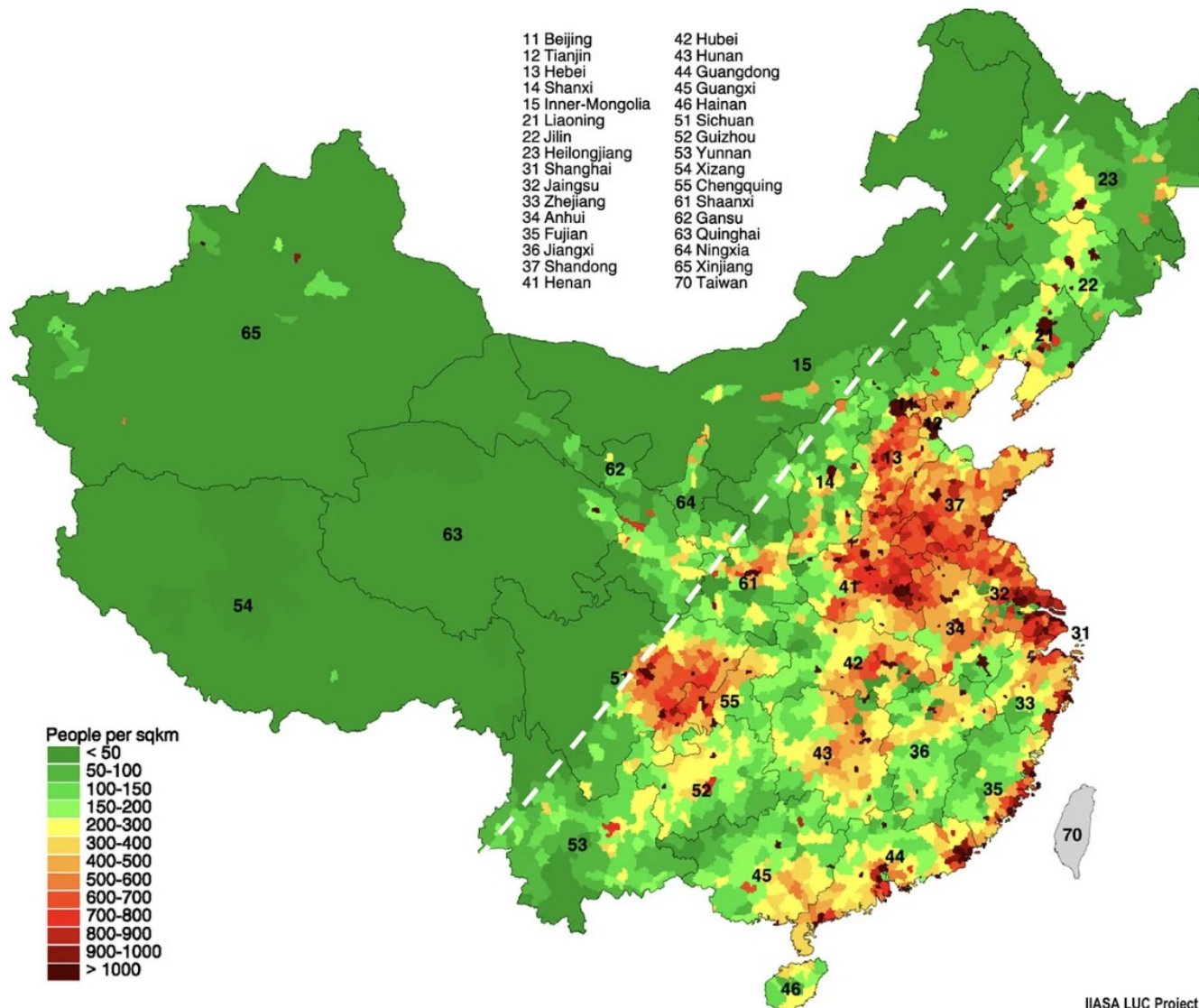
	Land area (millions of hectares)	Arable land (millions of hectares)	Arable land (percent)	Population (millions)	Arable land per capita (hectares)
China	939	135.4	14.4	1,351	0.10
India	297	156	52.5	1,237	0.13
United States	915	156	17.0	314	0.50
Russia	1,638	120	7.3	143	0.83
Indonesia	181	24	13.0	247	0.10

Sources: China arable land: Second National Land Survey (December 31, 2009). See chapter 12 for discussion. Other countries: World Bank, World Development Indicators, <http://devdata.worldbank.org/dataonline>. Arable land computed from WDI Arable Land Percent.

Note: A hectare is a square 100 meters on each side, equal to about 2.5 acres.



# Chinese Population Density

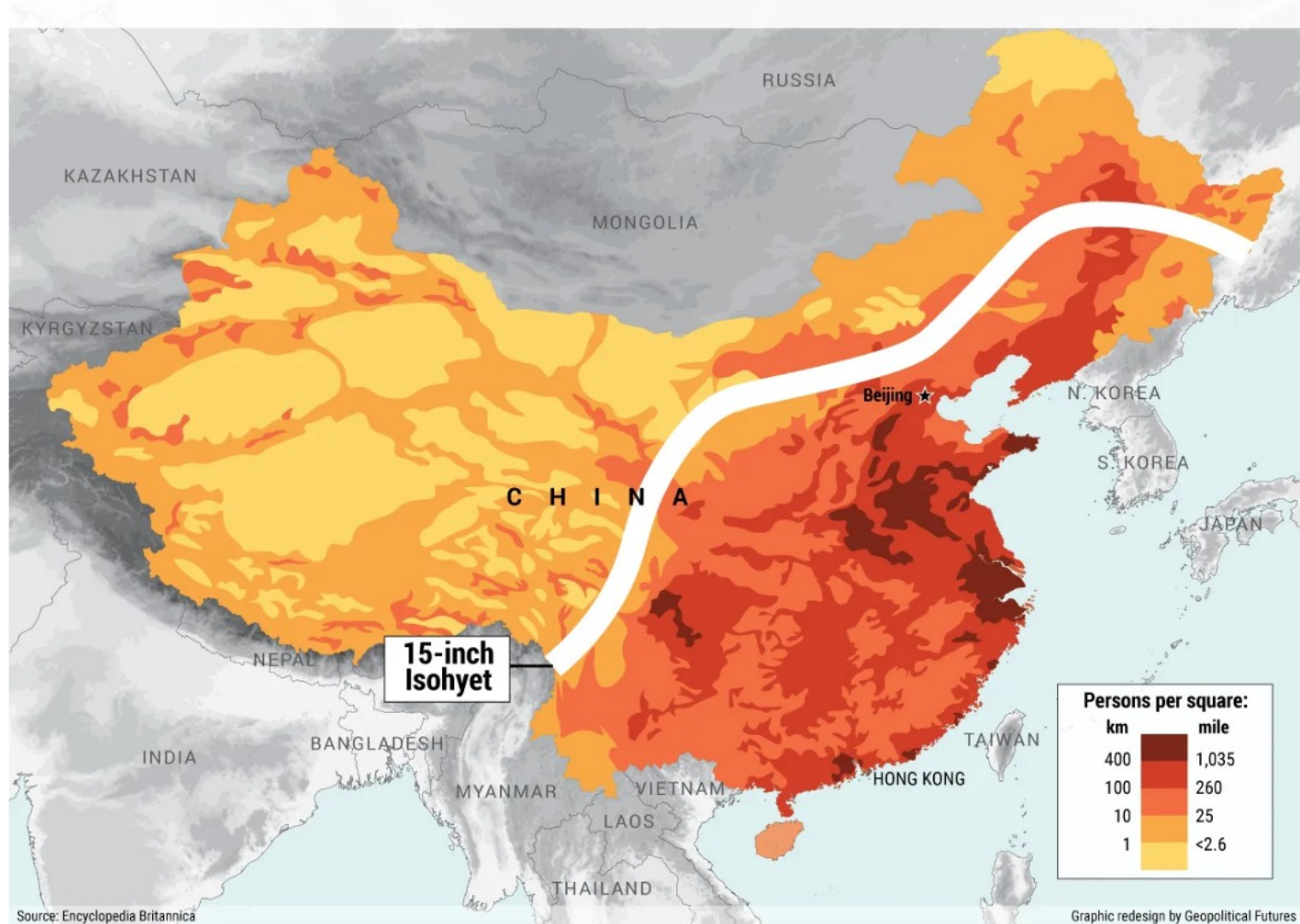


IIASA LUC Project

Source: IIASA LUC Project [Via VividMaps](#)



# 15-inch Isohyet and China Population Density

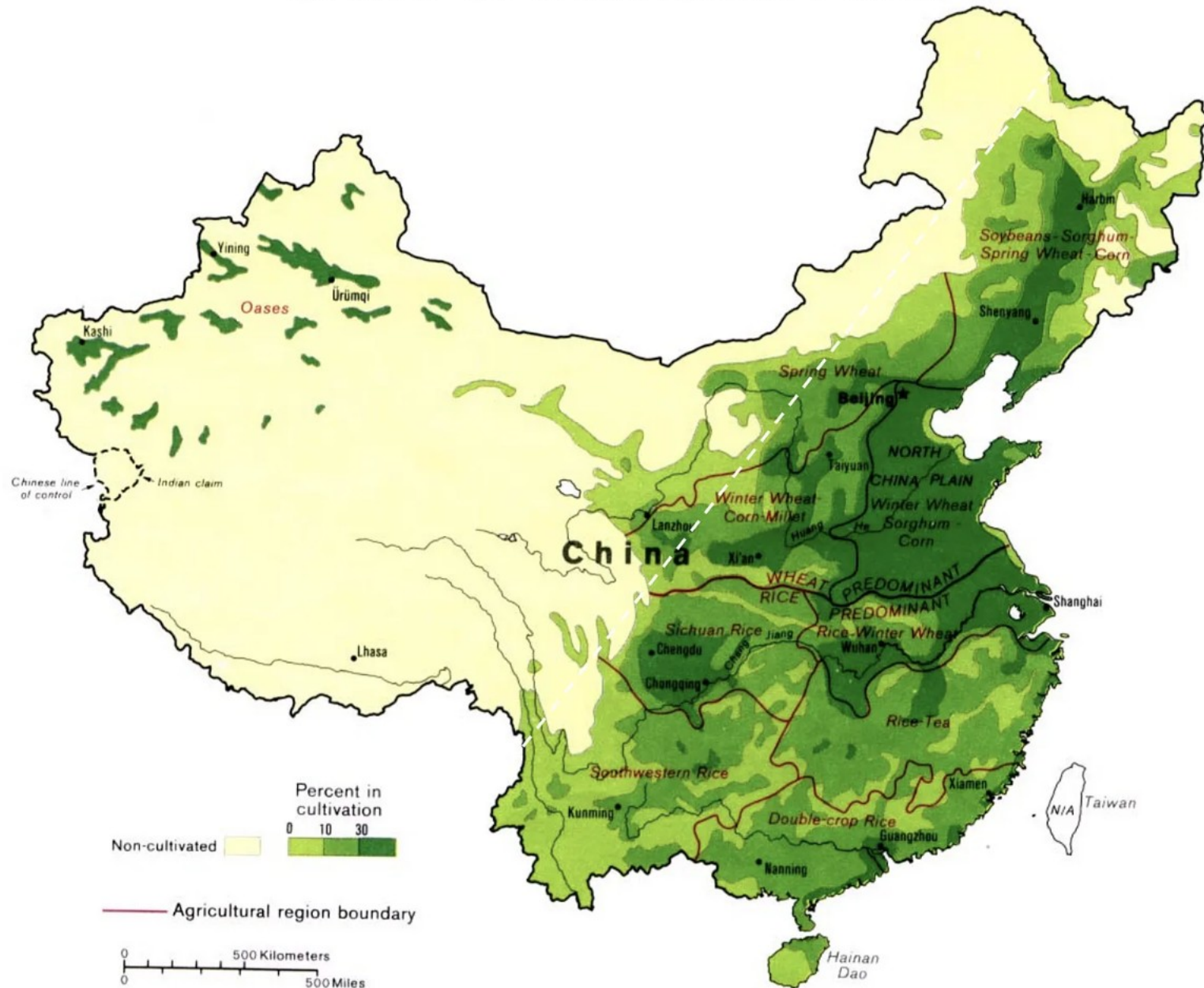








# Share of Cultivated Land





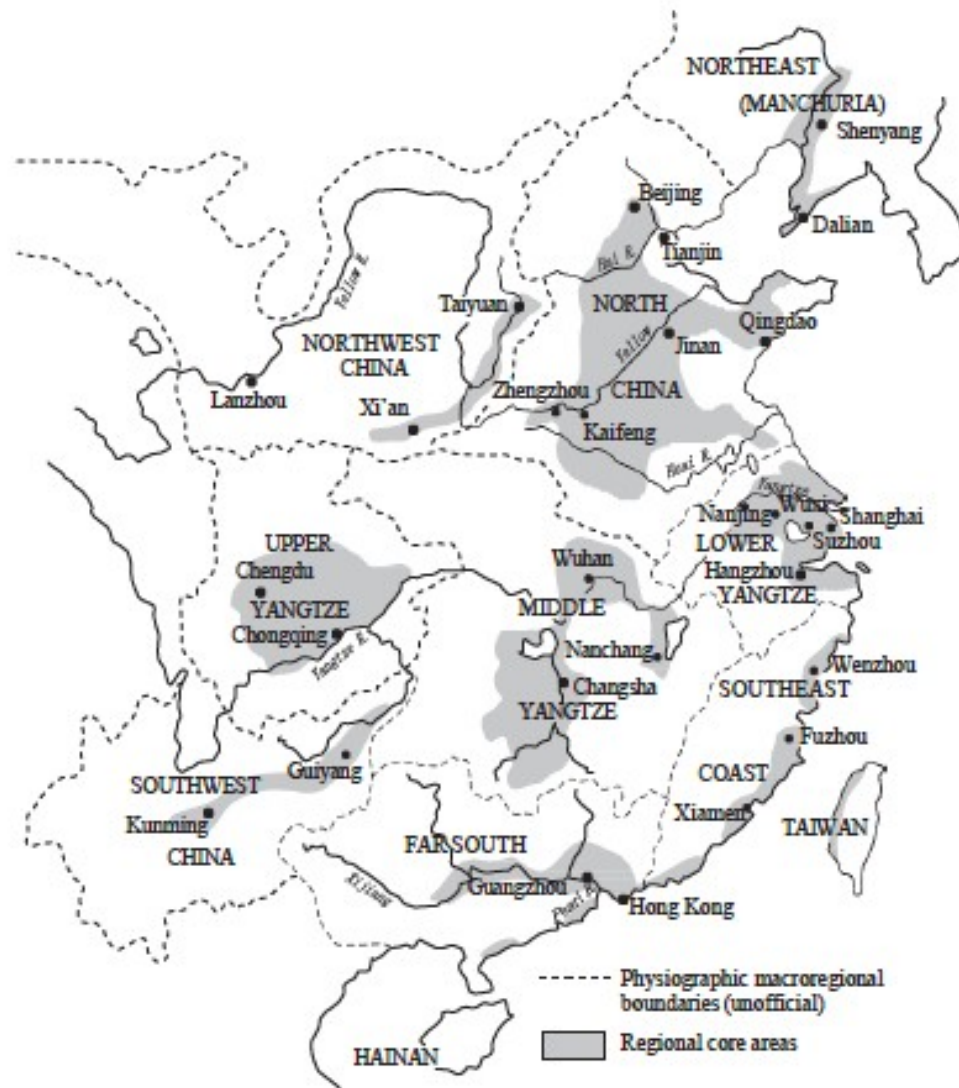




# Provinces and regions

- 22 provinces + Taiwan
- 4 national municipalities (Beijing, Shanghai, Chongqing, Tianjin)
- 5 autonomous regions (Guangxi, Tibet, Ningxia, Inner Mongolia, Xinjiang)
- 2 special autonomous regions (Hong Kong, Macau)

# China's macroregions





# Natural resources

- China has oil and coal (mostly in the North) and shale gas deposits, but they are small relative to the population.
- Hydroelectric potential is substantial.
- Overall, relative scarcity of natural resources relative to size of population and economy.

# High speed railway

