

# The Geo of Geopolitics

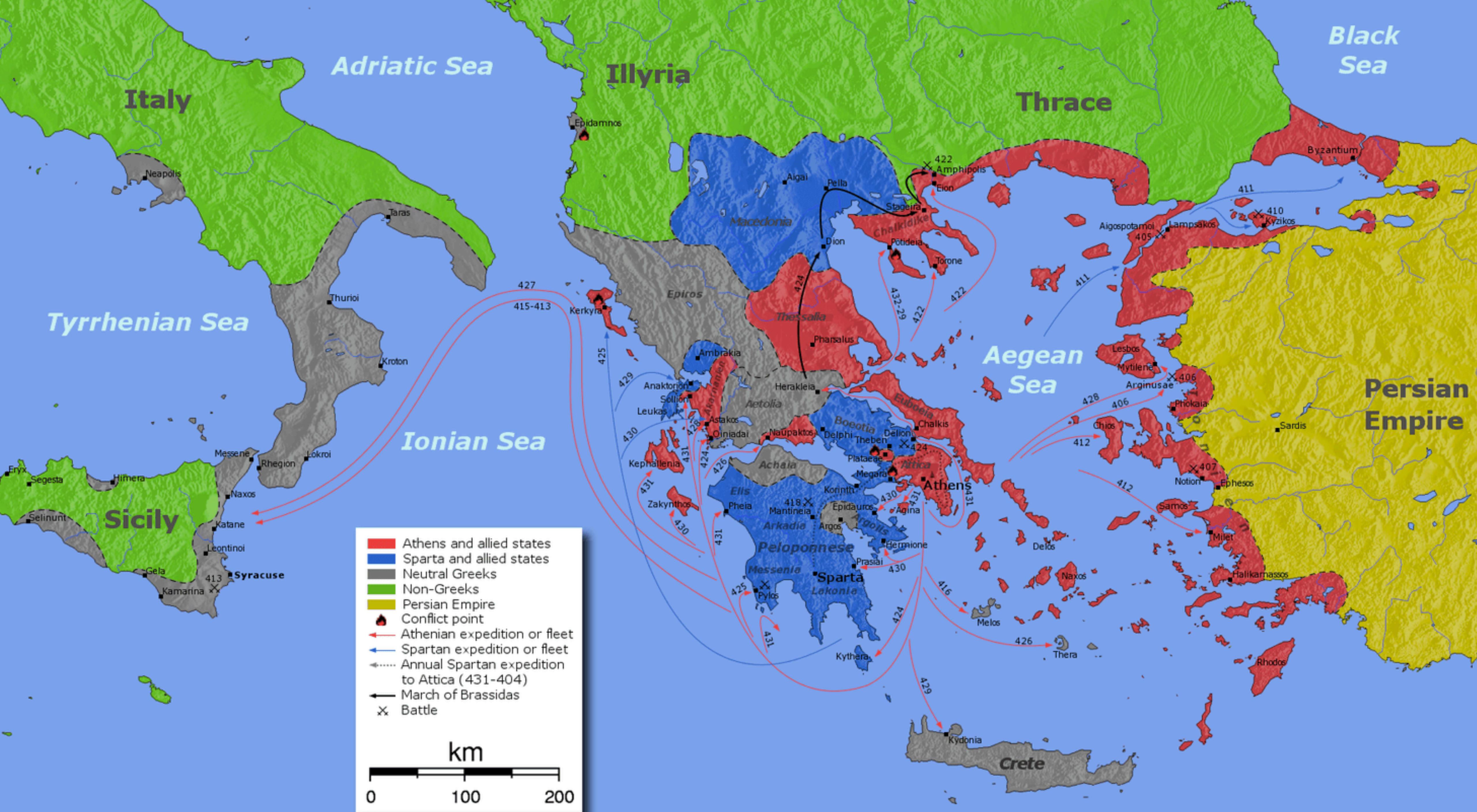
A Study of Empires

Noah Putnam // October 2023

# 2 Kinds of Empires

Continental

Thalassocratic



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# Thalassocratic



# 2 Kinds of Empires

## Continental

- Contiguous on land
- Larger population
- Resource rich
- Internal economy

***Limited by:*** Ethnic identity,  
geographical blockers

## Thalassocratic

- Water-based
- Smaller population
- Resources from trade
- Mercantile economy

***Limited by:*** Political unity,  
trade networks

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**EUROPE**

**A S I A**



S I A













# Pre-WW1 European Continental Empires





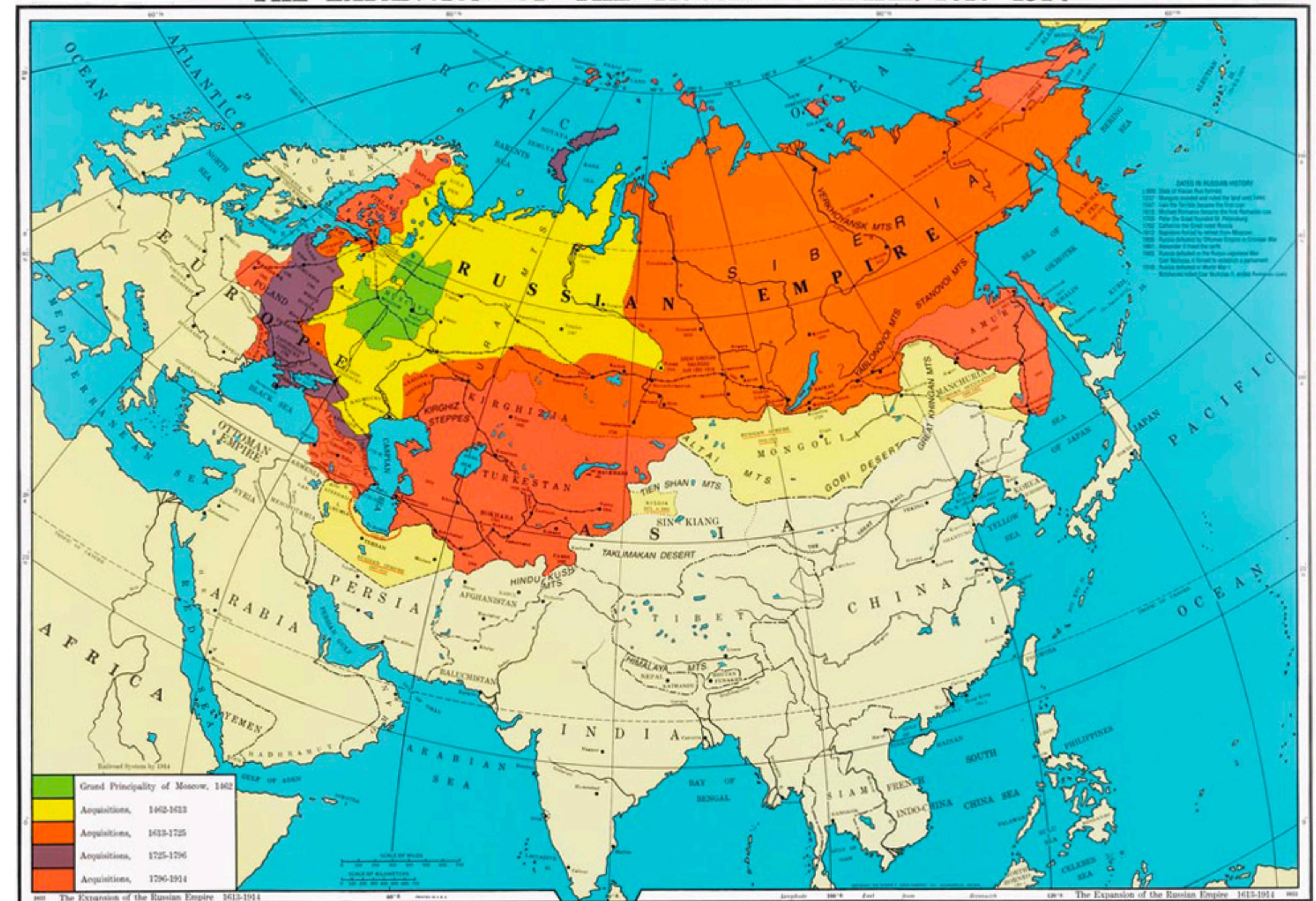
# Pre-WW1 European Continental Empires

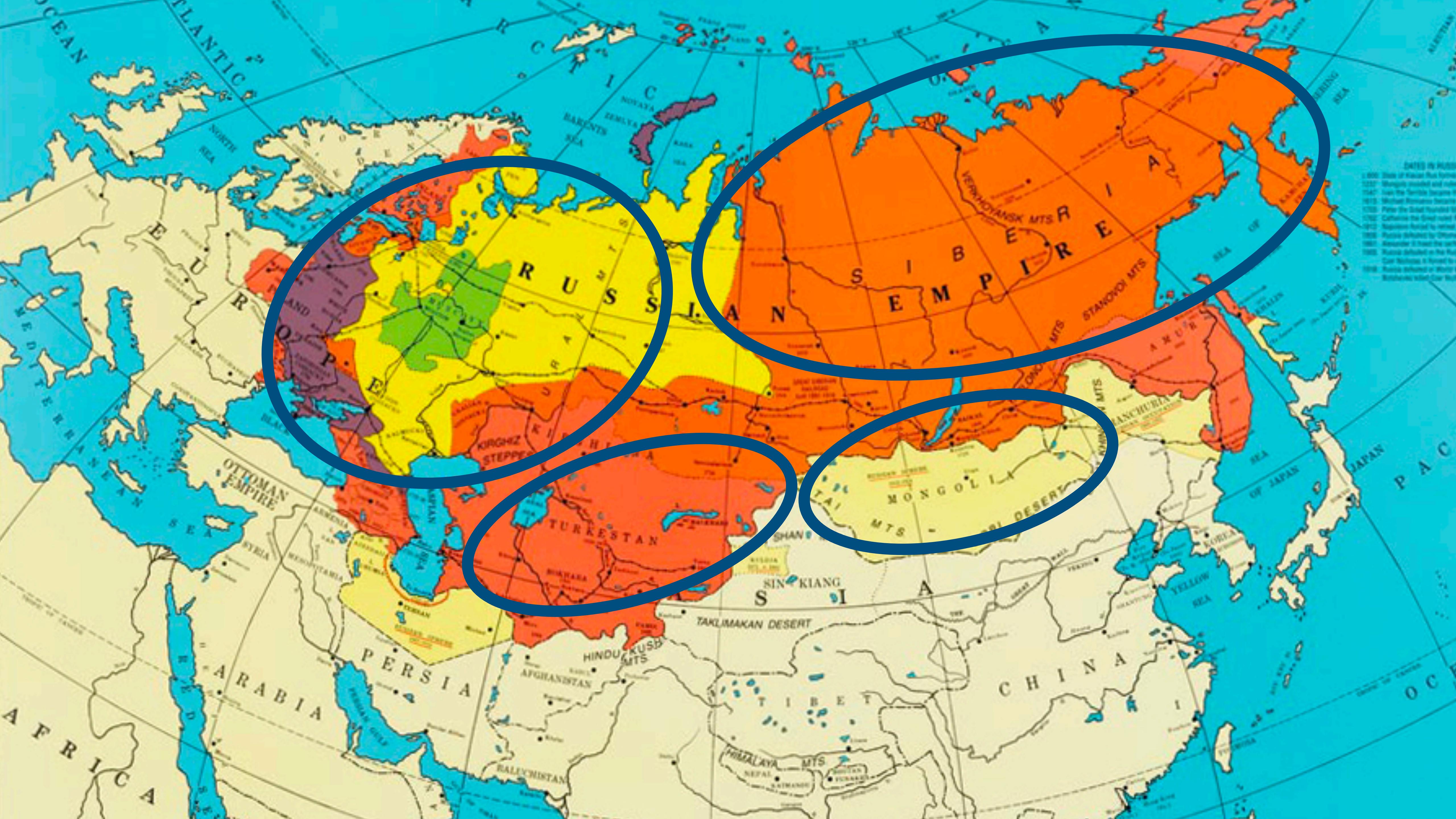




# The Taming of the Steppe

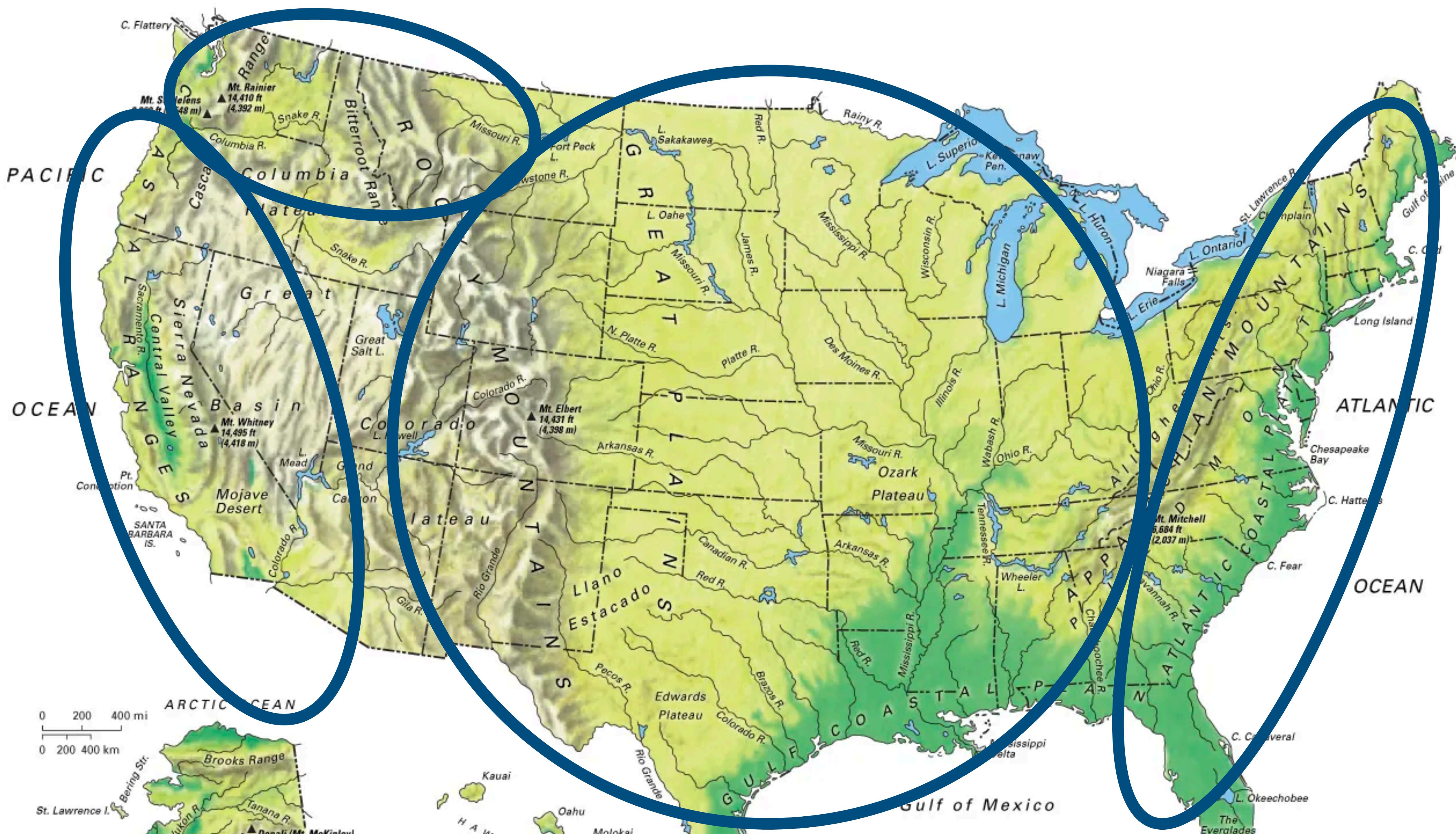
## THE EXPANSION OF THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE, 1613-1914

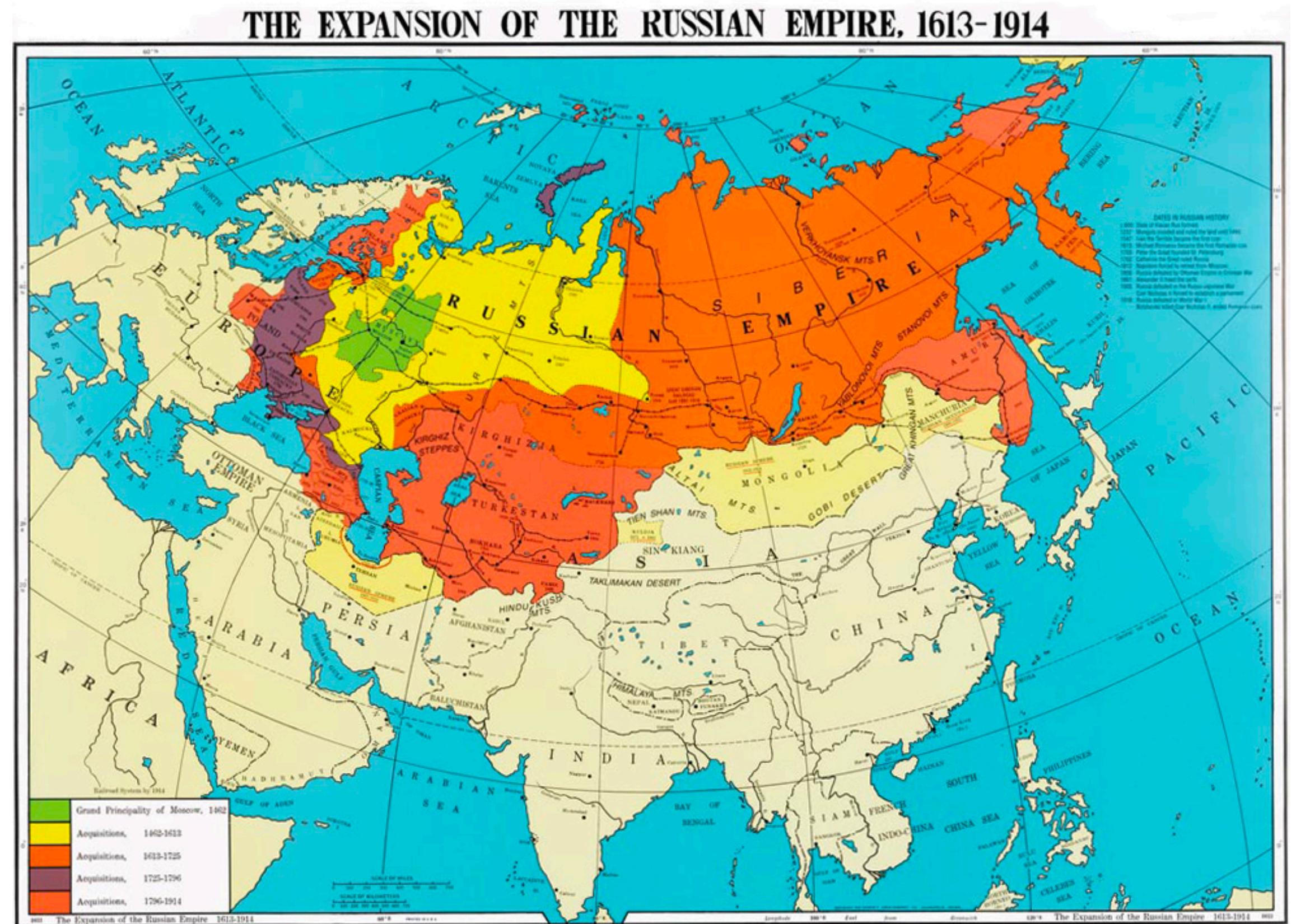
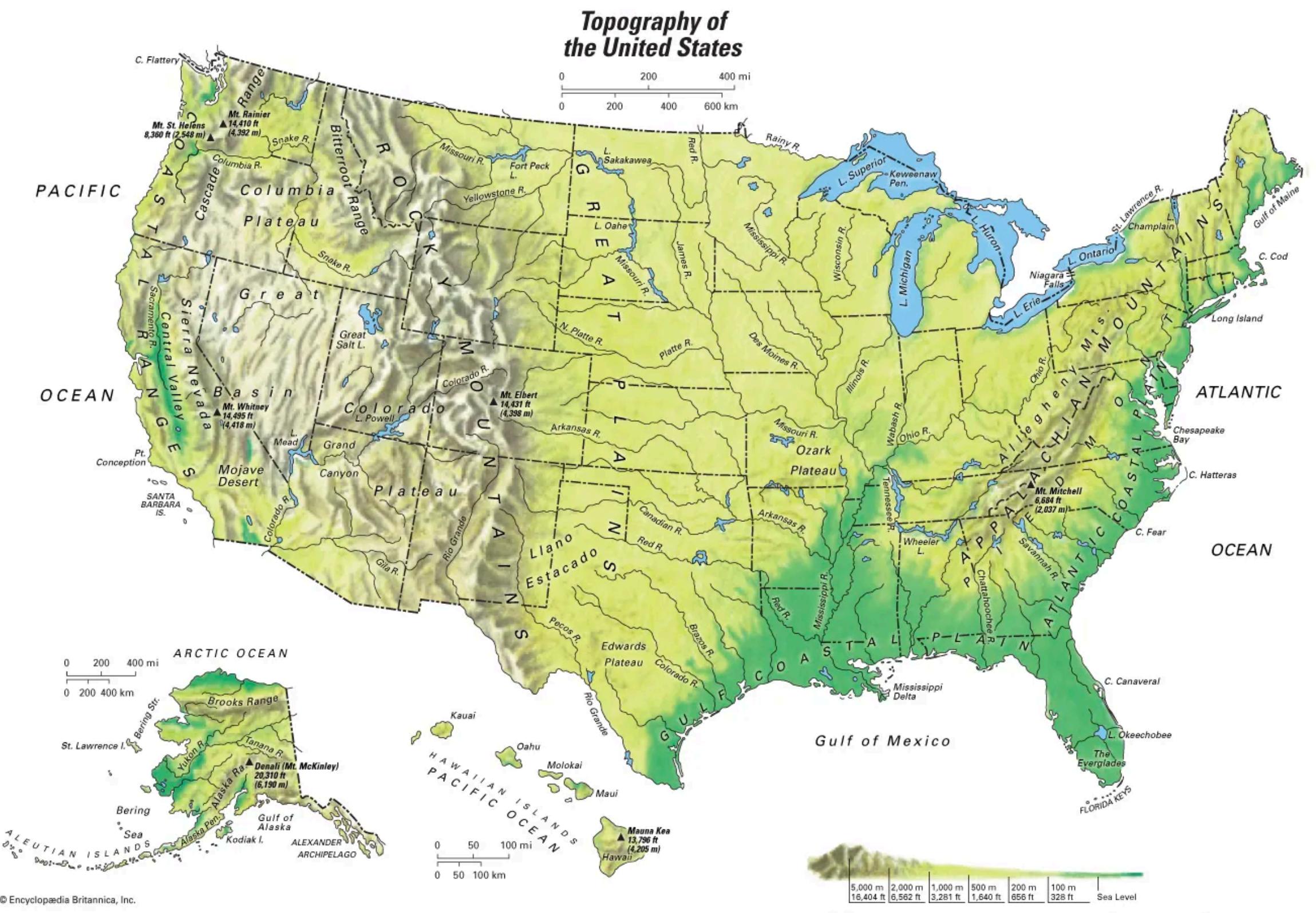


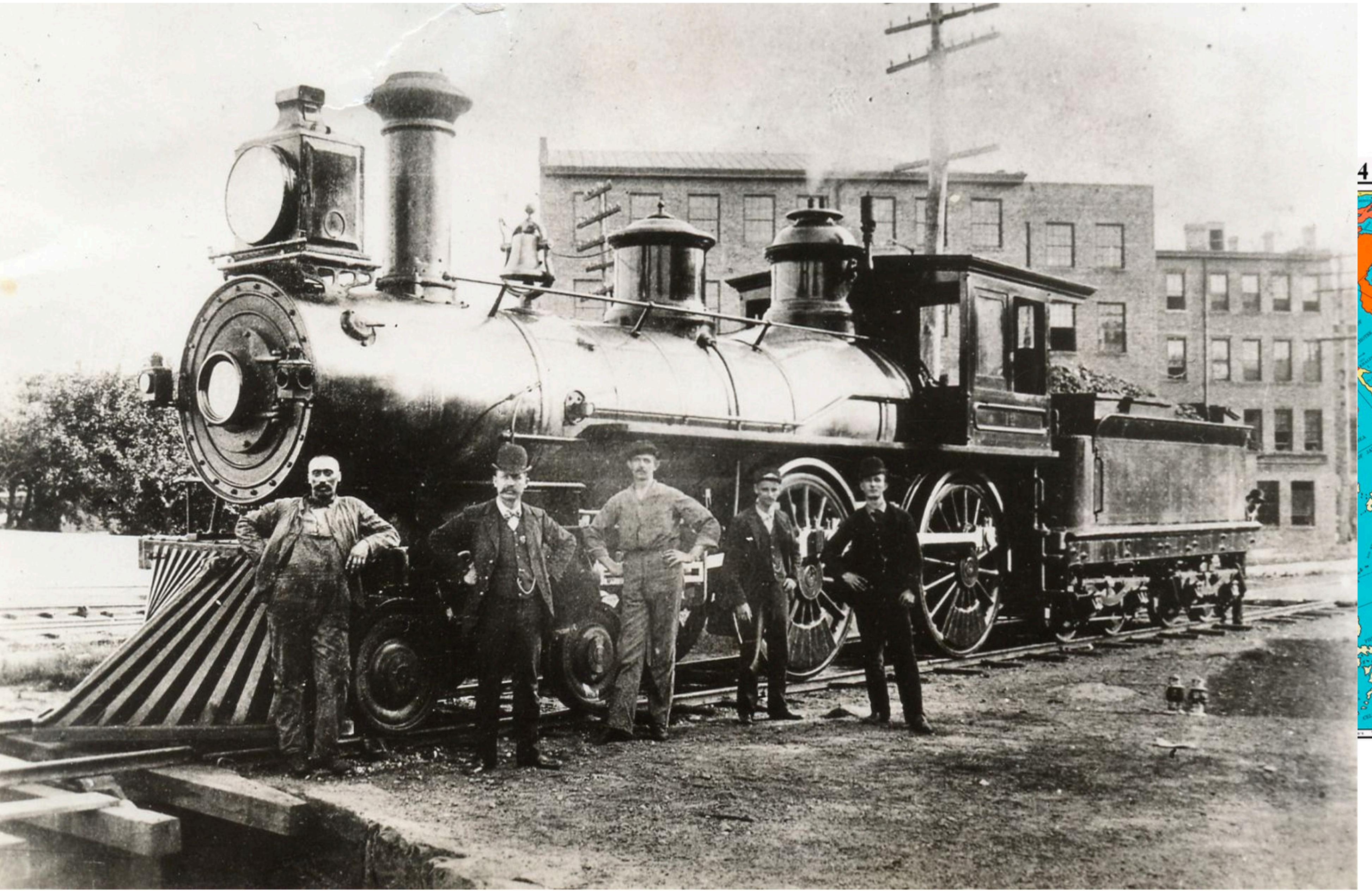


# Manifest Destiny









# 2 Kinds of Empires

## Continental

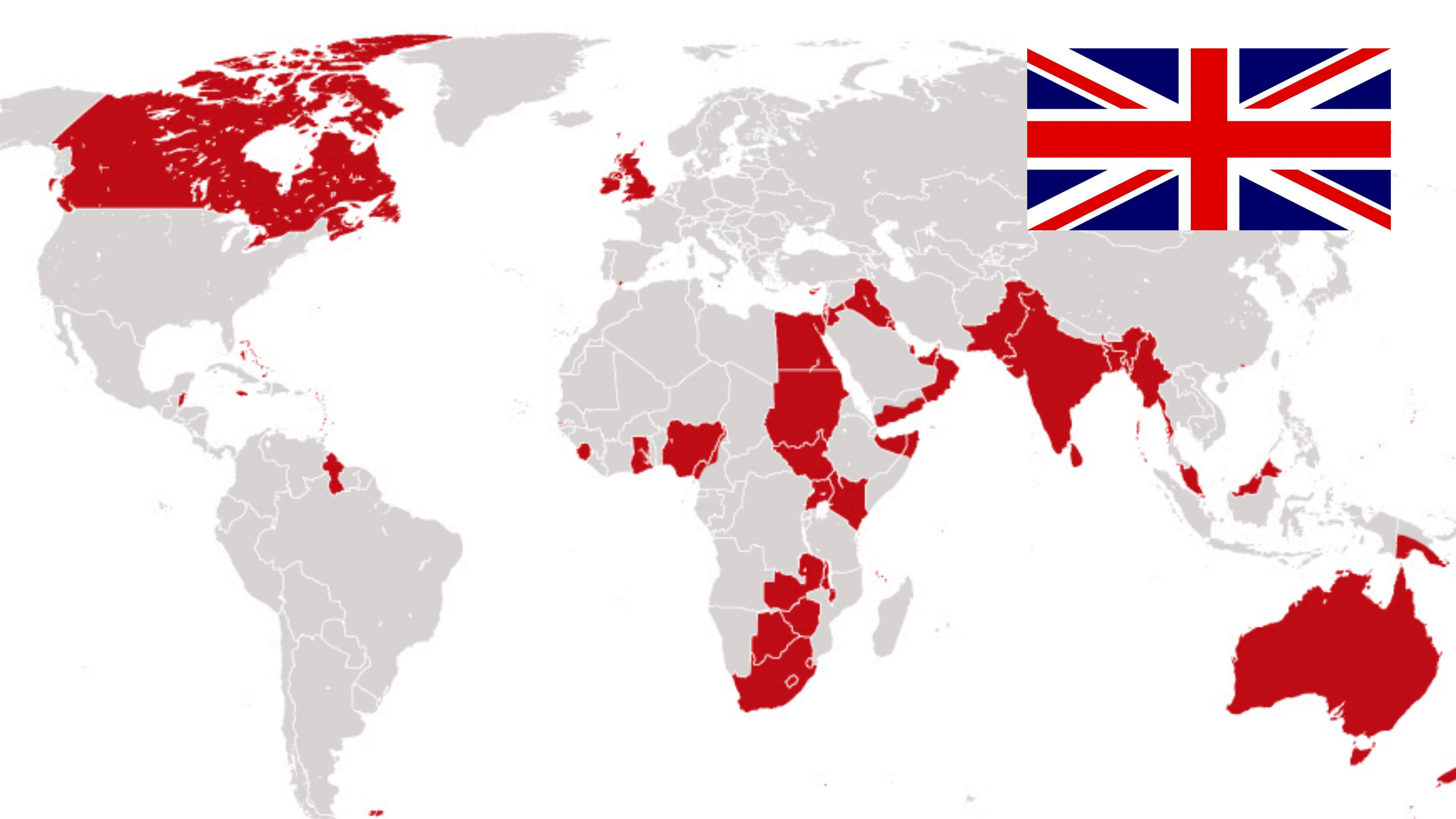
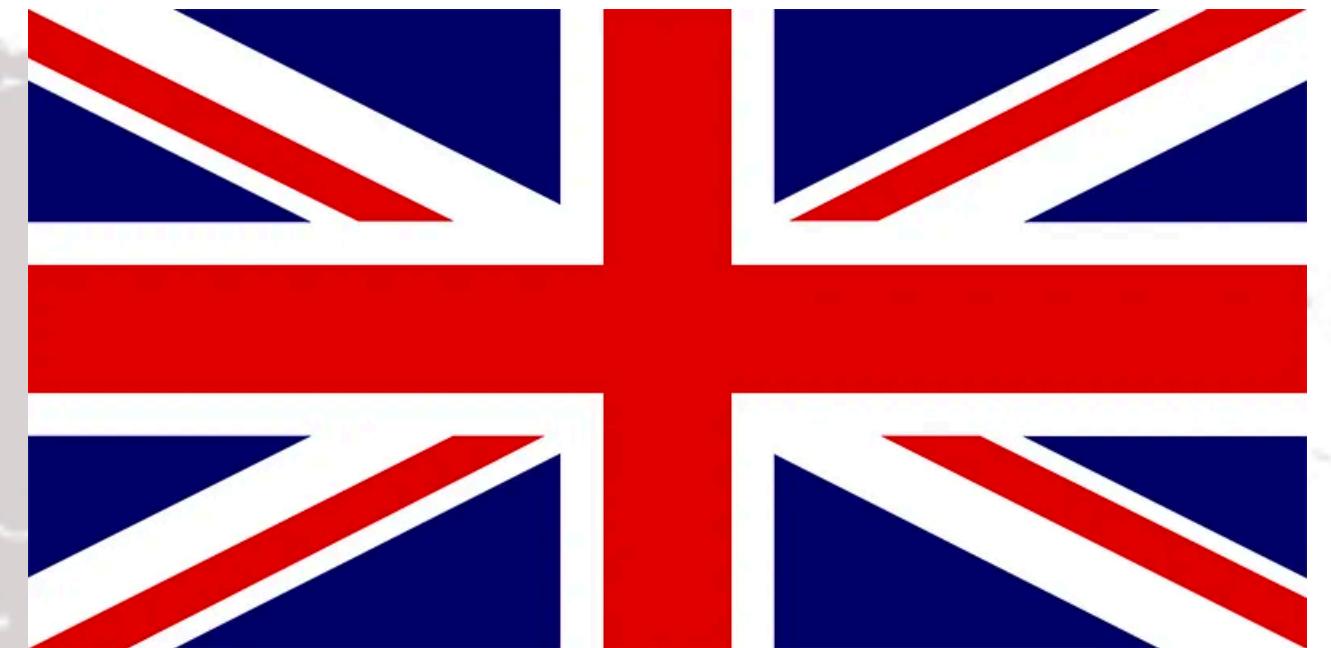
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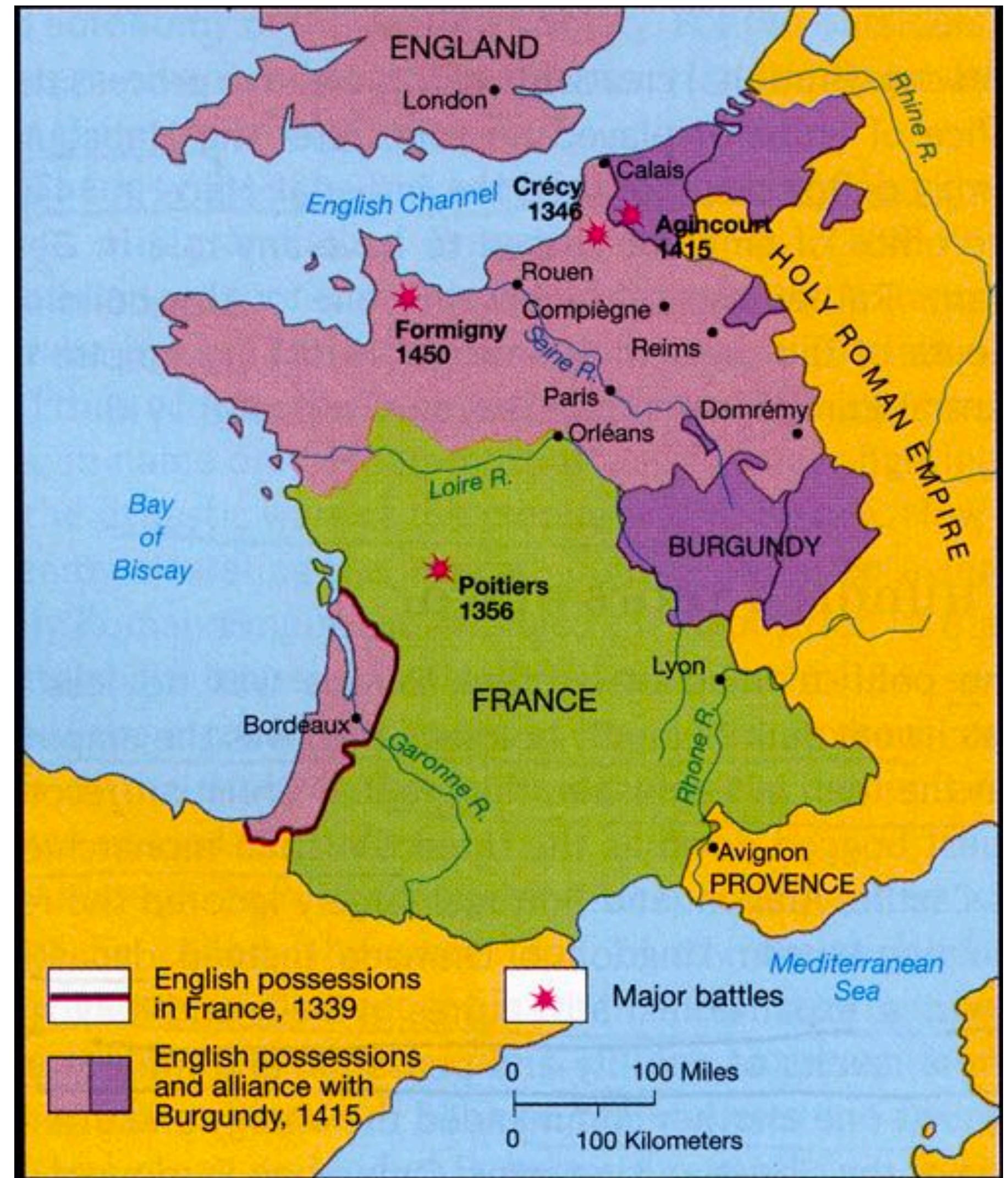
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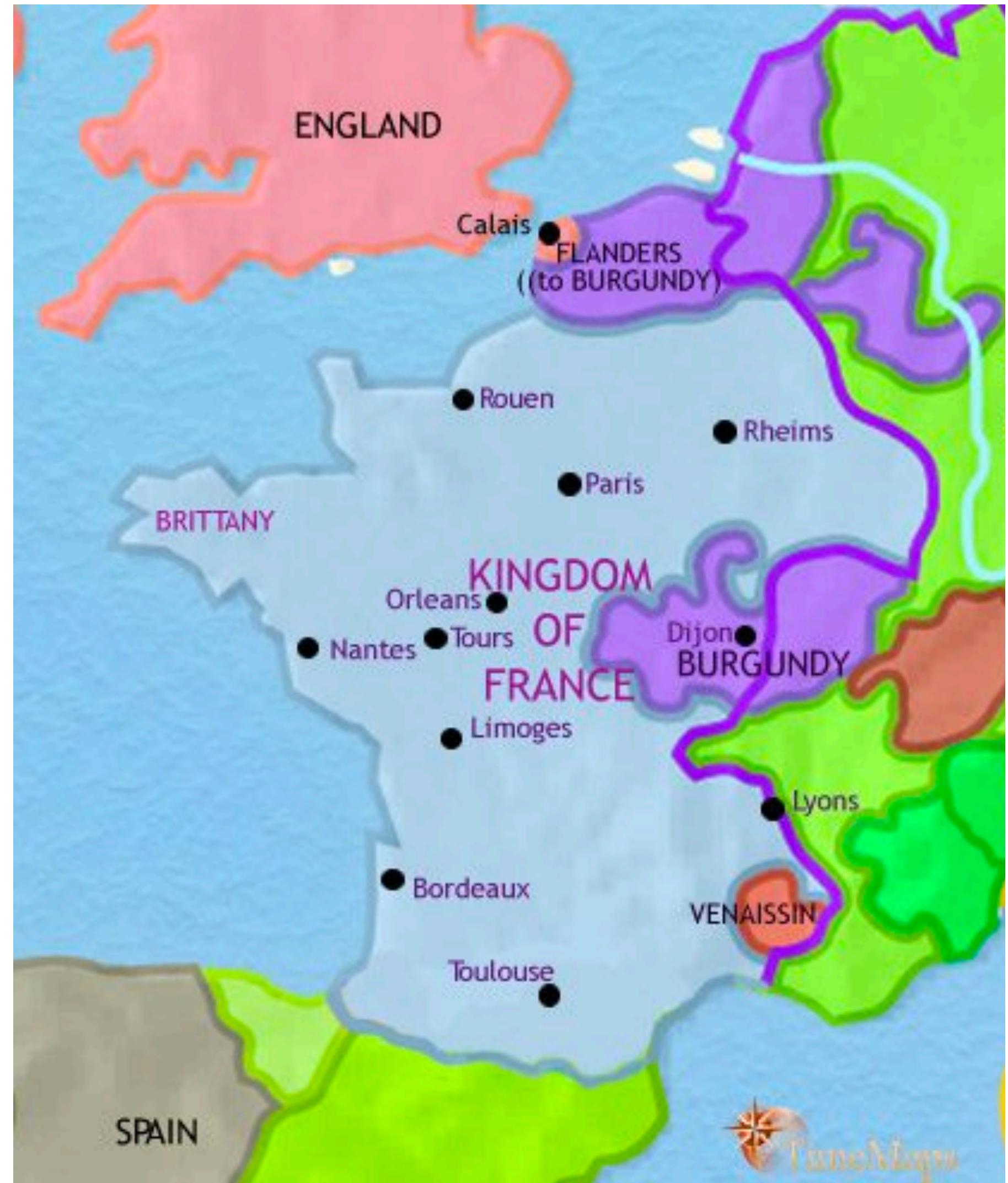
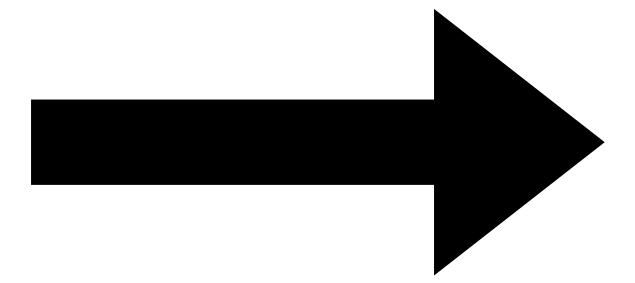
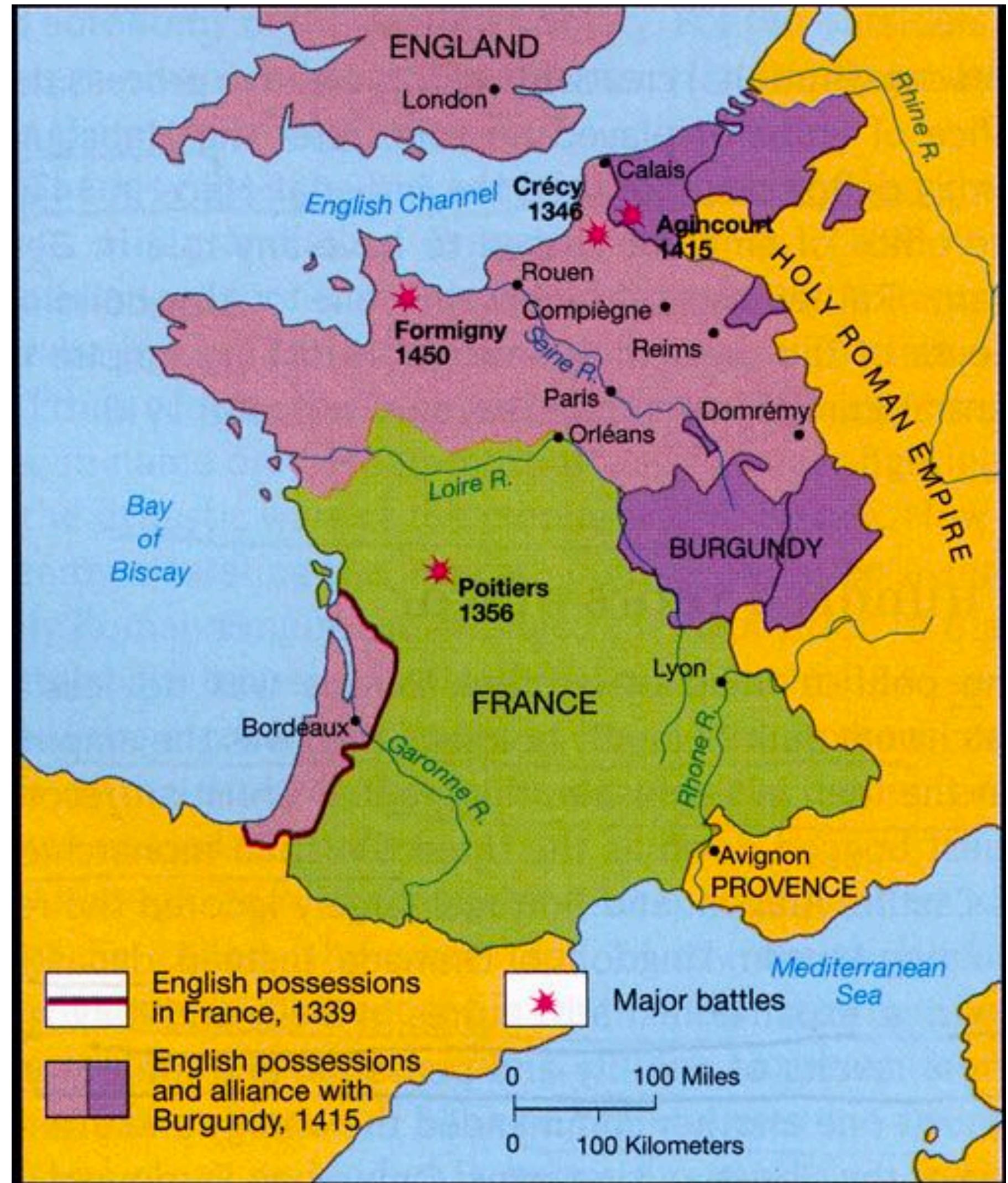
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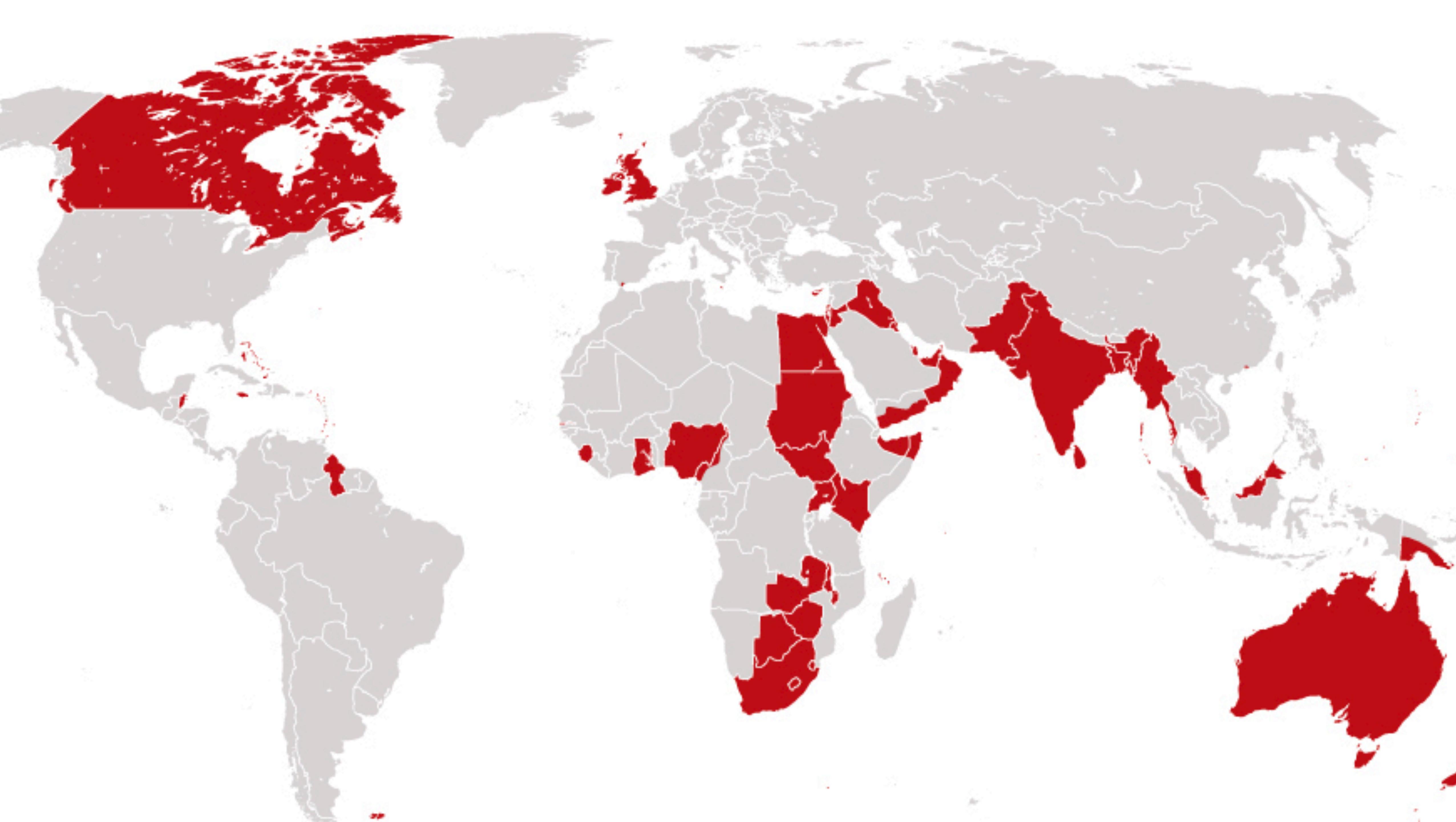


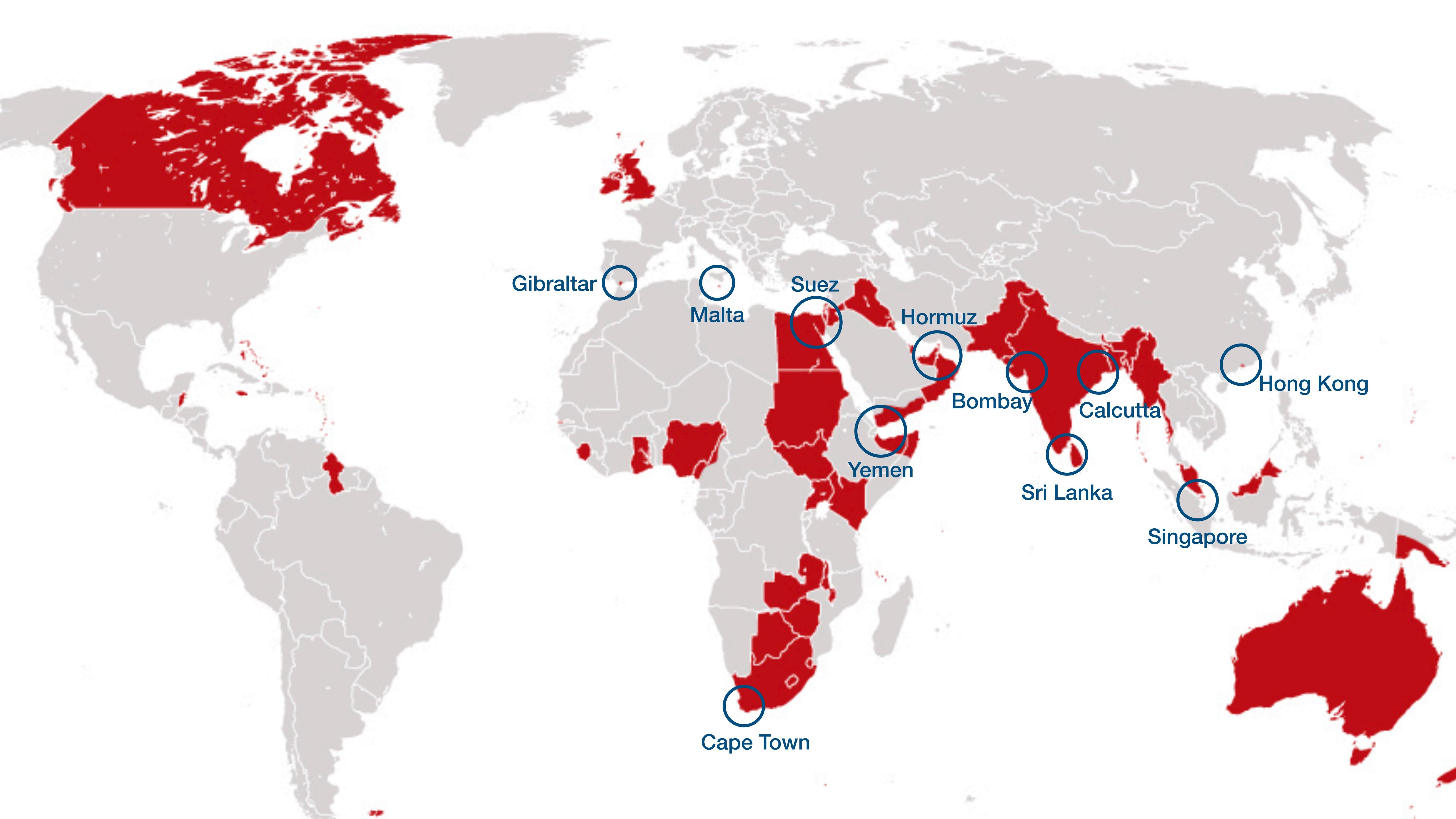
# Siege of Calais (1558)

*“When I am dead and opened,  
you shall find ‘Philip’ and  
‘Calais’ lying in my heart”*

**Queen Mary I**

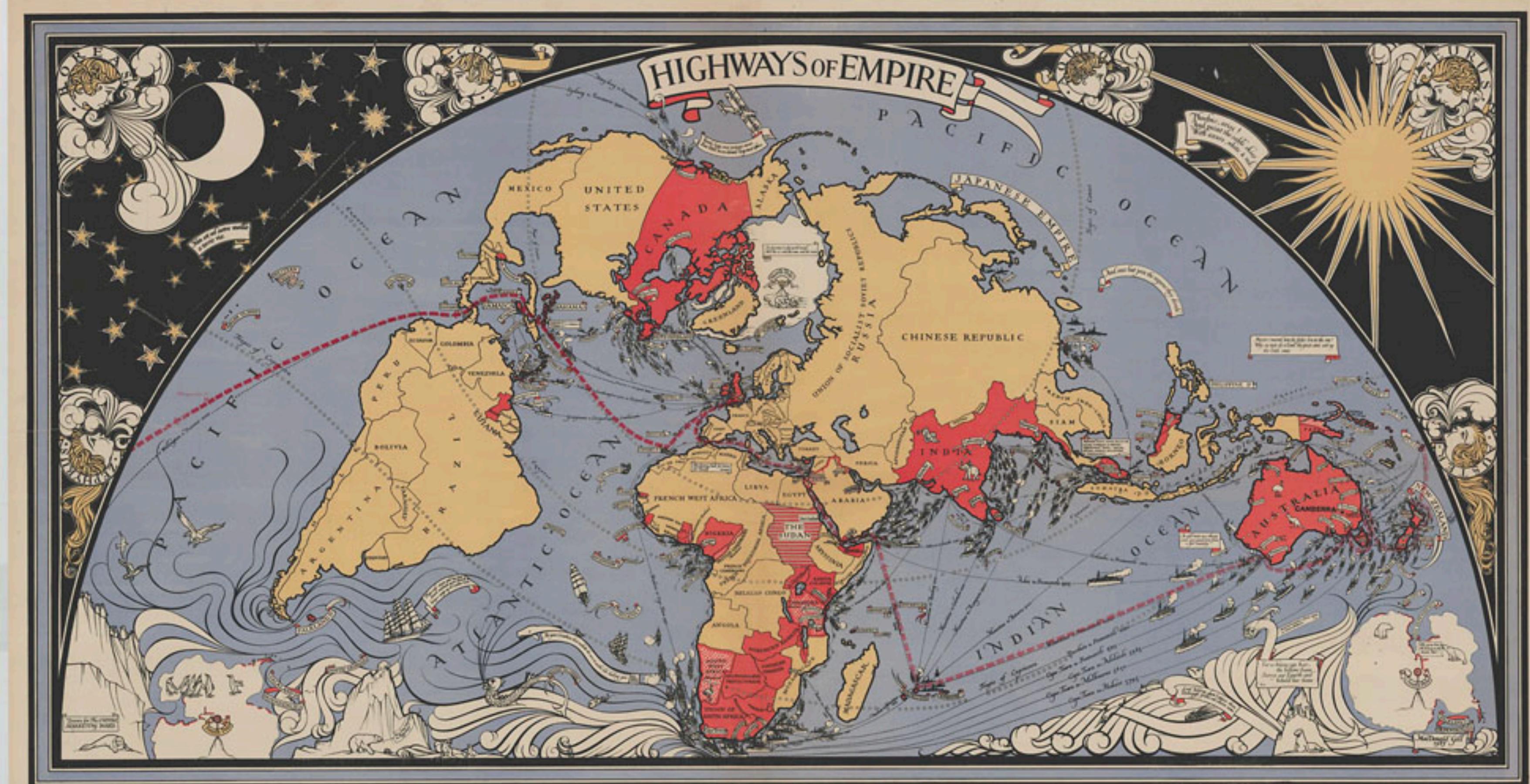






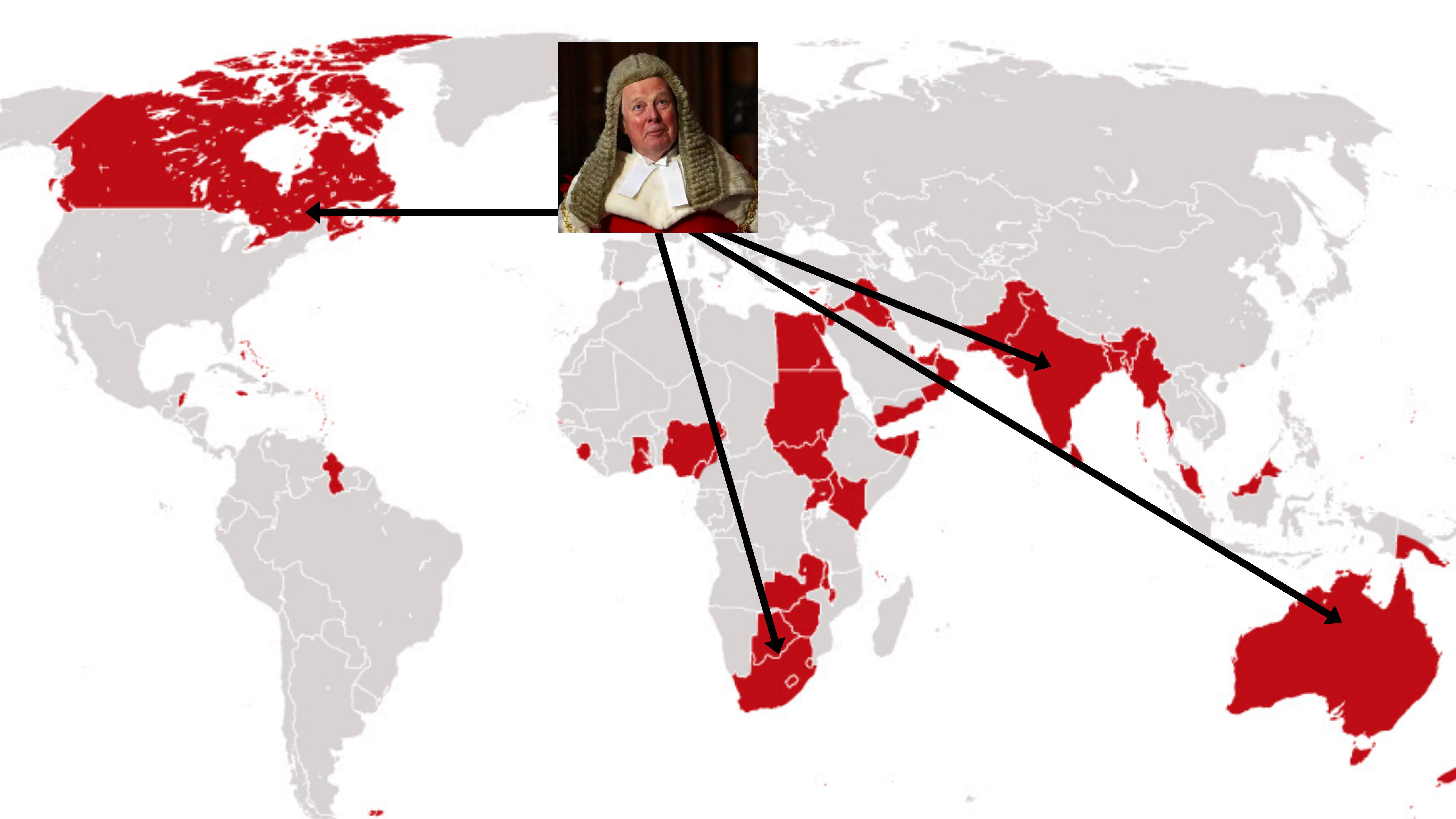


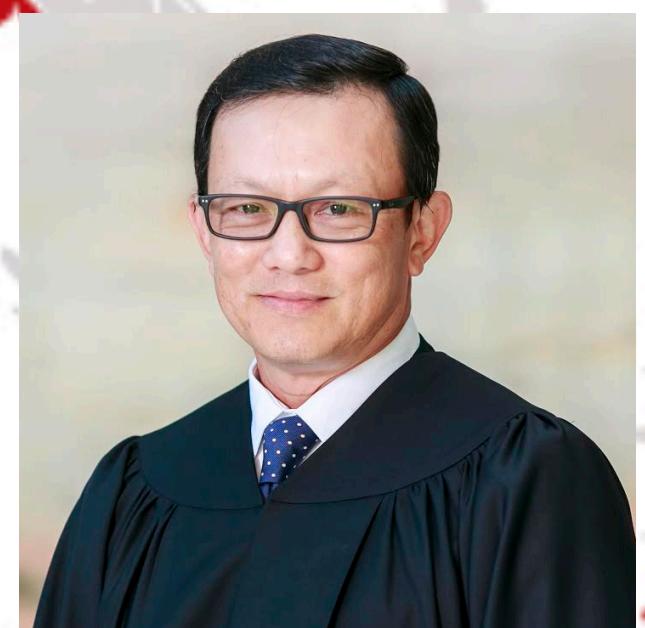
# Mercantilism

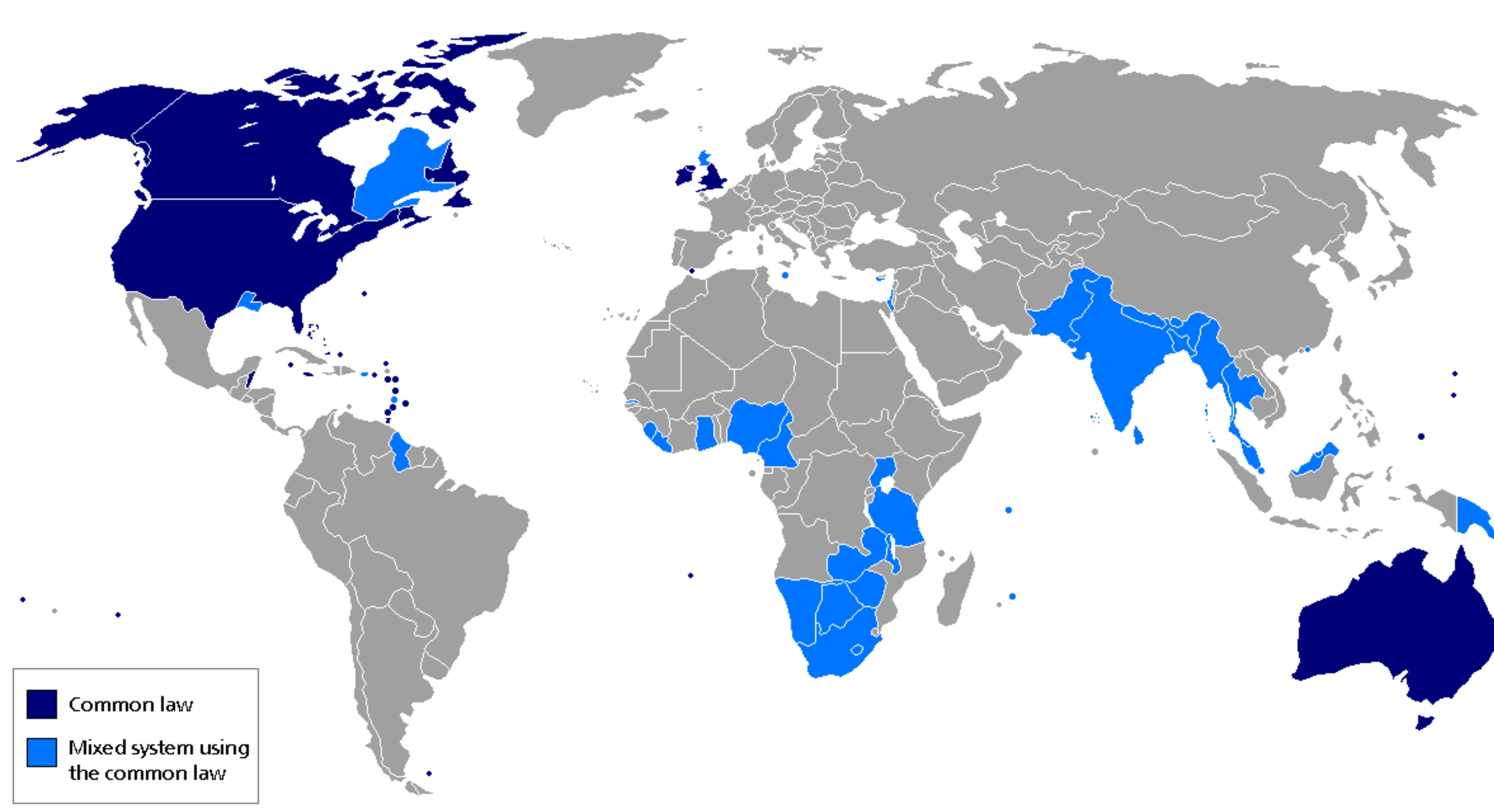


BUY EMPIRE GOODS FROM  
HOME AND OVERSEAS





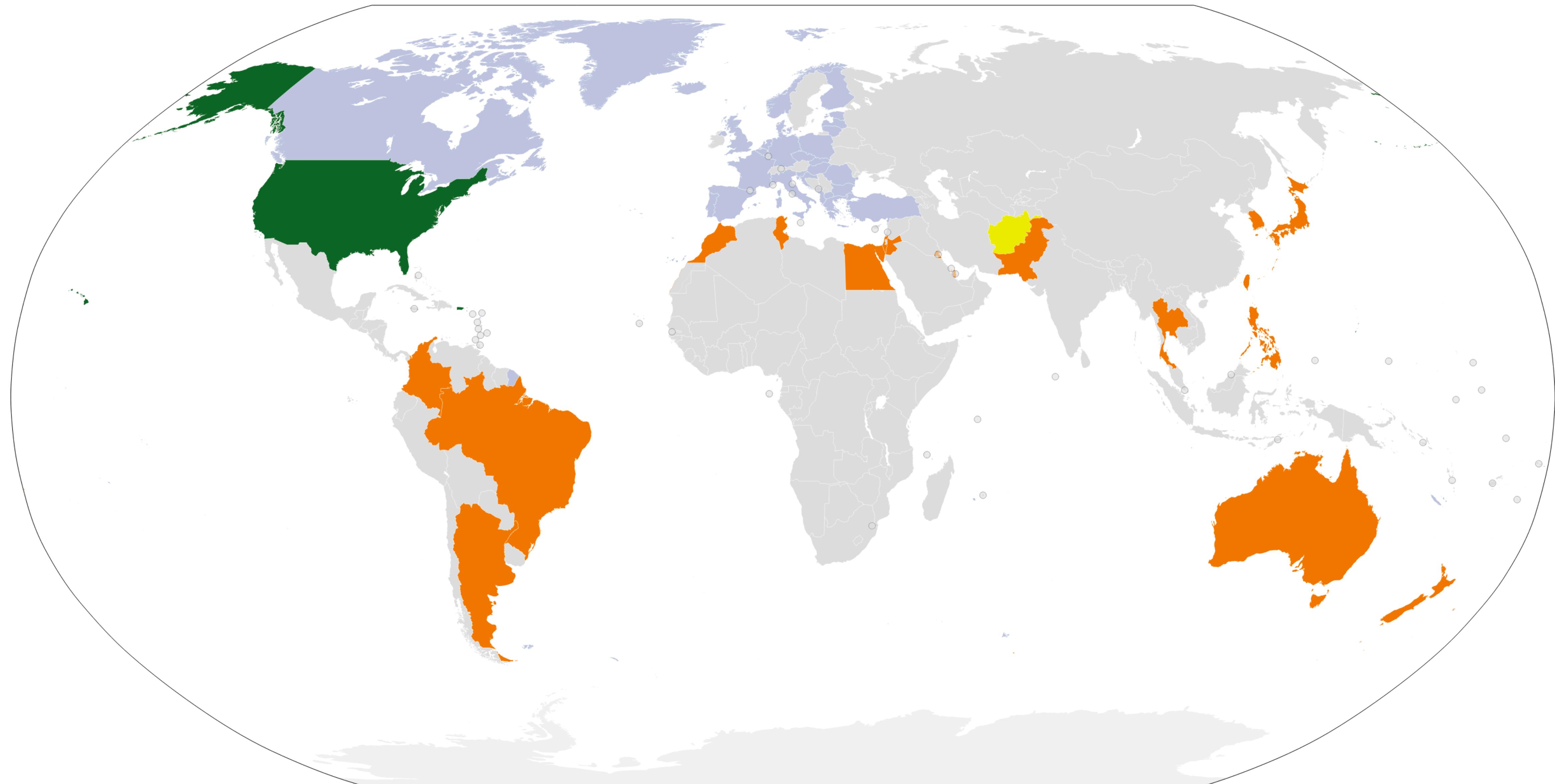


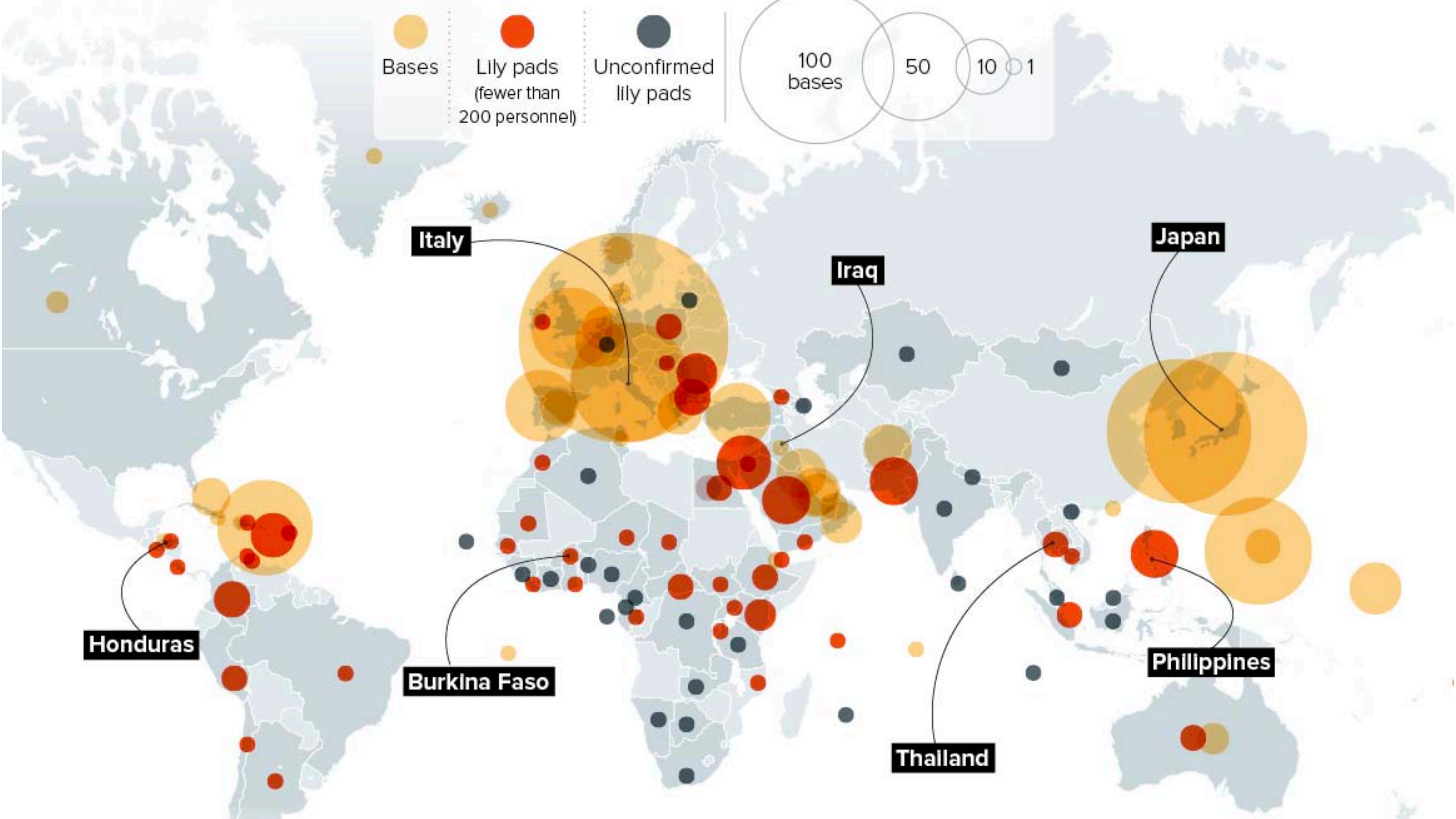


# Thucydides Trap

	Period	Ruling Power	Rising Power		Result
1	First half of 16th century		France	Hapsburgs	War
2	16th–17th centuries		Hapsburgs	Ottoman Empire	War
3	17th century		Hapsburgs	Sweden	War
4	17th century		Dutch Republic	England	War
5	Late 17th–early 18th centuries		France	Great Britain	War
6	Late 18th–early 19th centuries		United Kingdom	France	War
7	Mid-19th century		United Kingdom, France	Russia	War
8	19th century		France	Germany	War
9	Late 19th–early 20th centuries		Russia, China	Japan	War
10	Early 20th century		United Kingdom	United States	No war
11	Early 20th century		Russia, U.K., France	Germany	War
12	Mid-20th century		Soviet Union, U.K., France	Germany	War
13	Mid-20th century		United States	Japan	War
14	1970s–1980s		Soviet Union	Japan	No war
15	1940s–1980s		United States	Soviet Union	No war

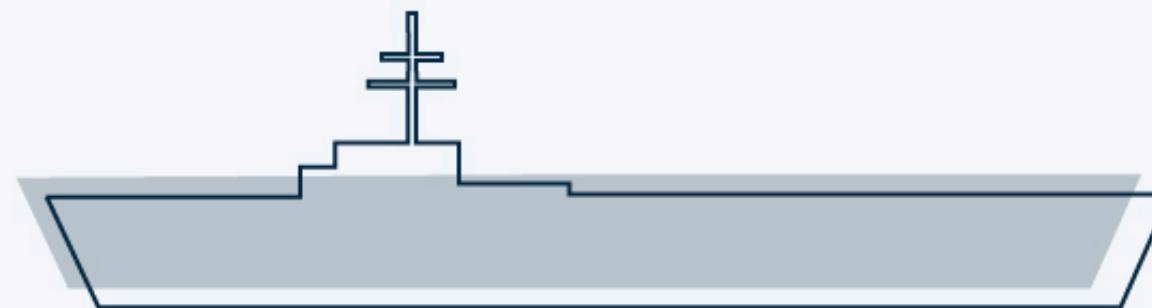
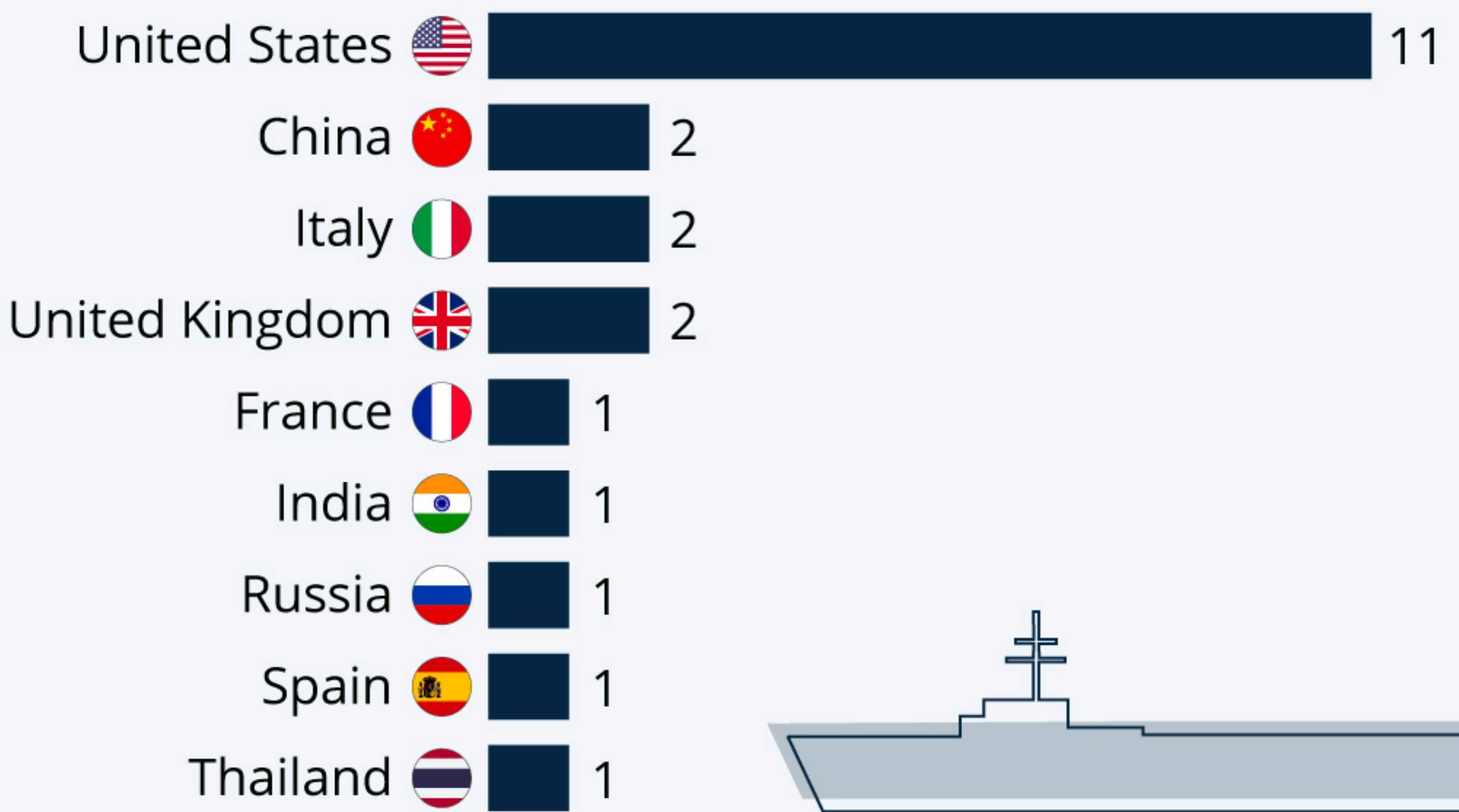
# US: Continental or Thalassocratic?







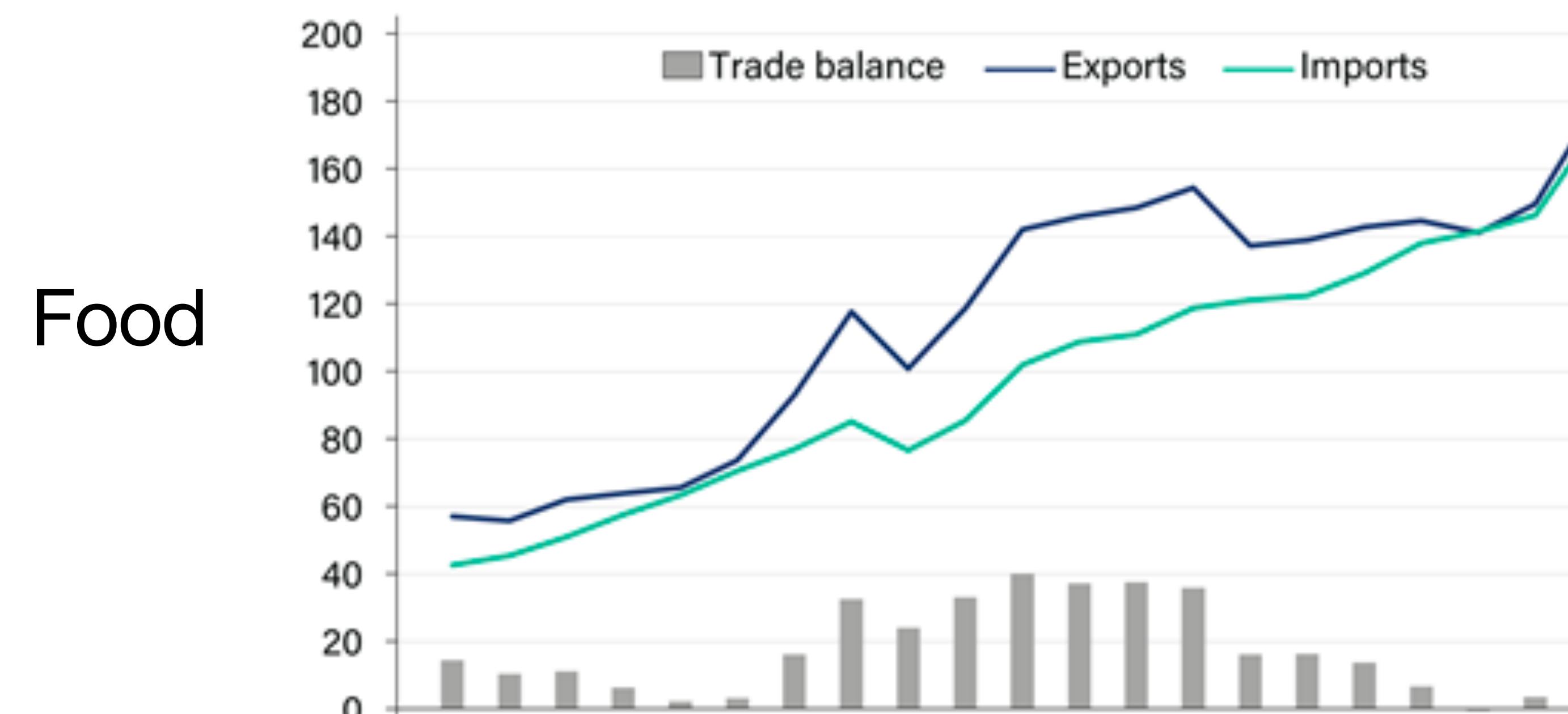
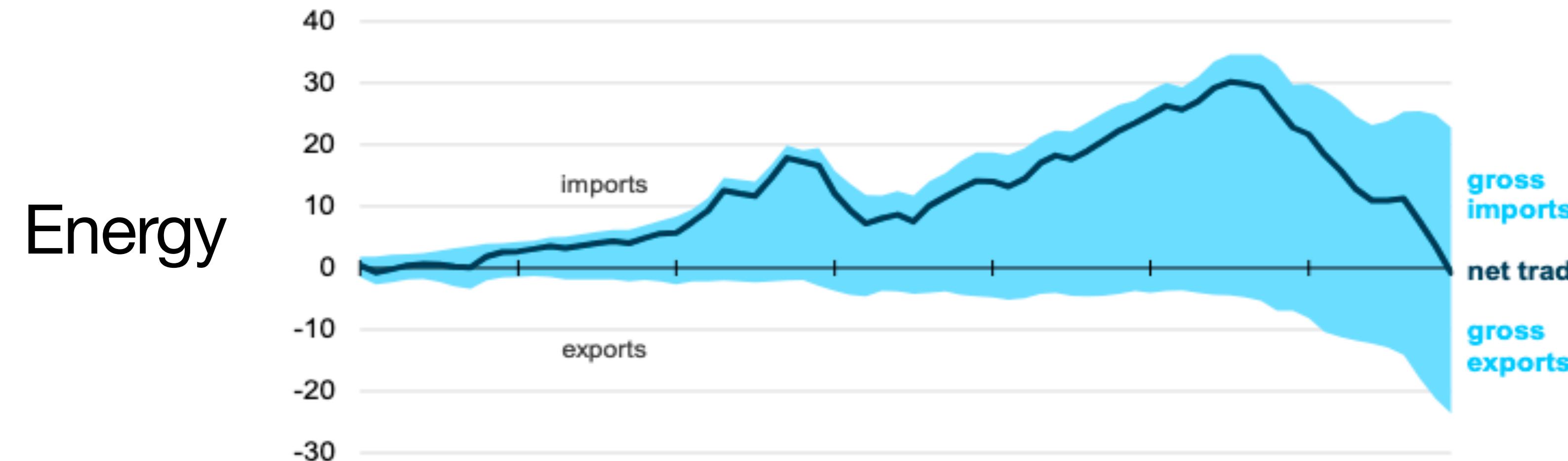
## Number of aircraft carriers in operation worldwide as of December 2019\*



## First and second island chains in the Pacific

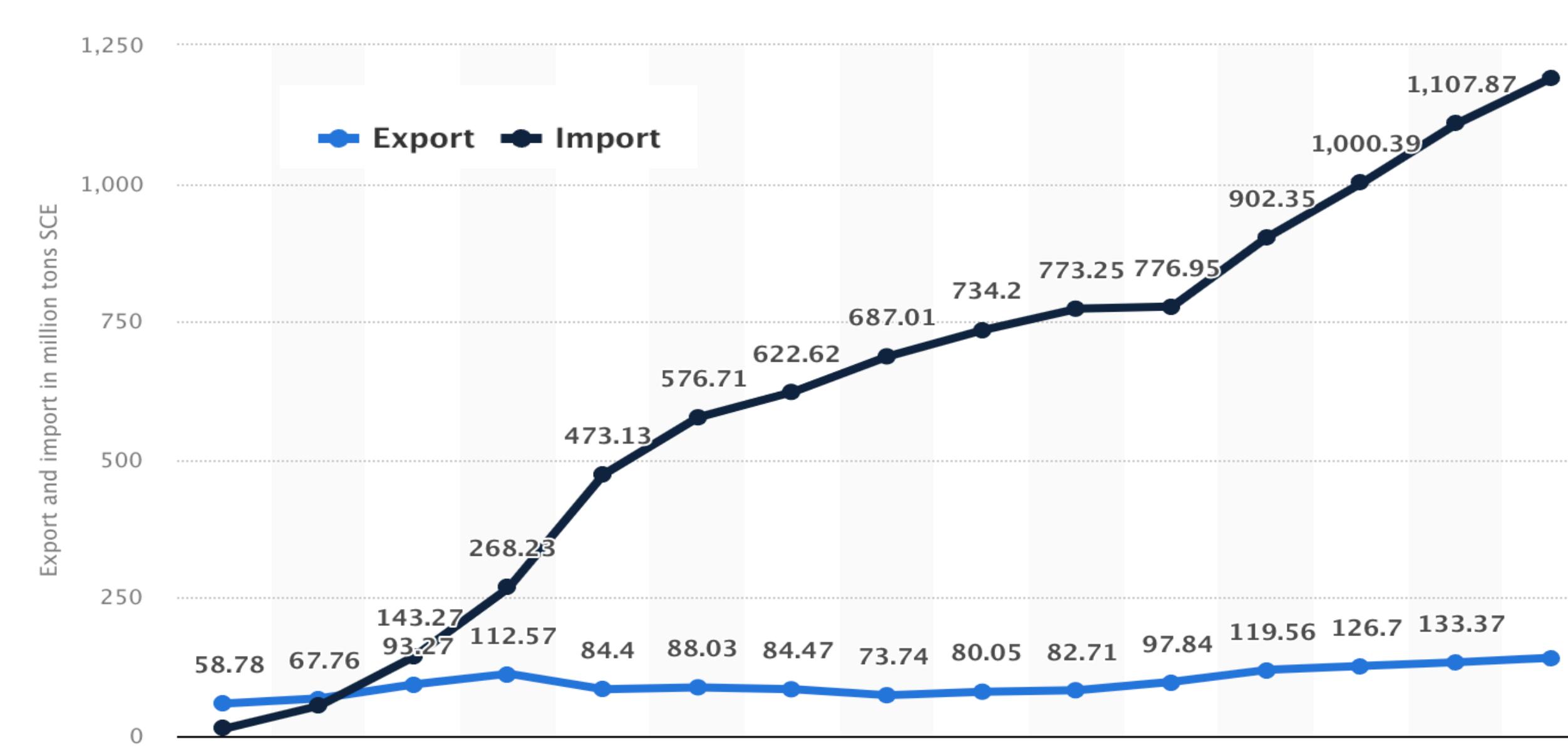


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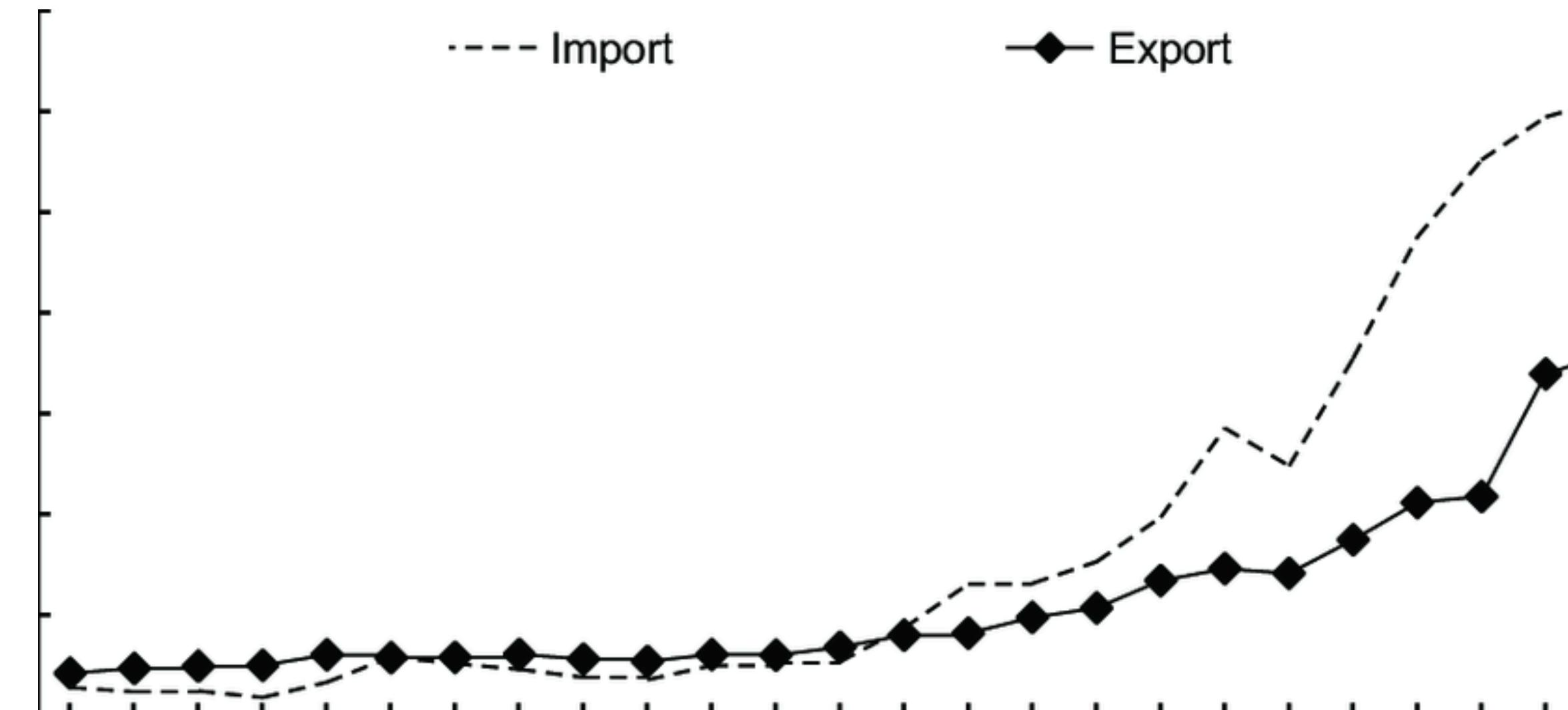


# China: Rising Continental Power?

Energy

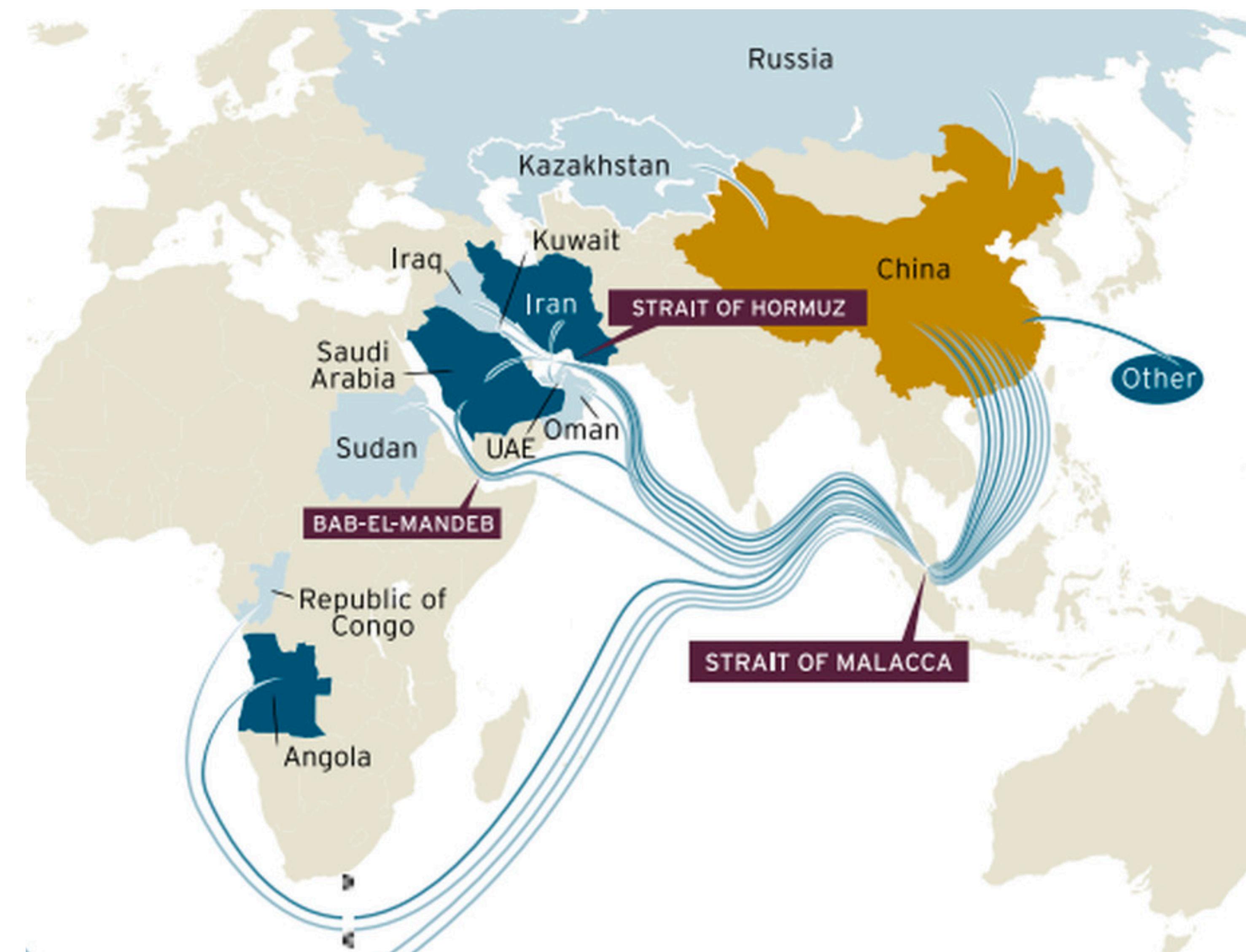


Food



# China: Rising Continental Power?

Energy Trade Flows



# Halford Mackinder: “The Geographical Pivot of History”

