



What is  
kinship  
intensity?

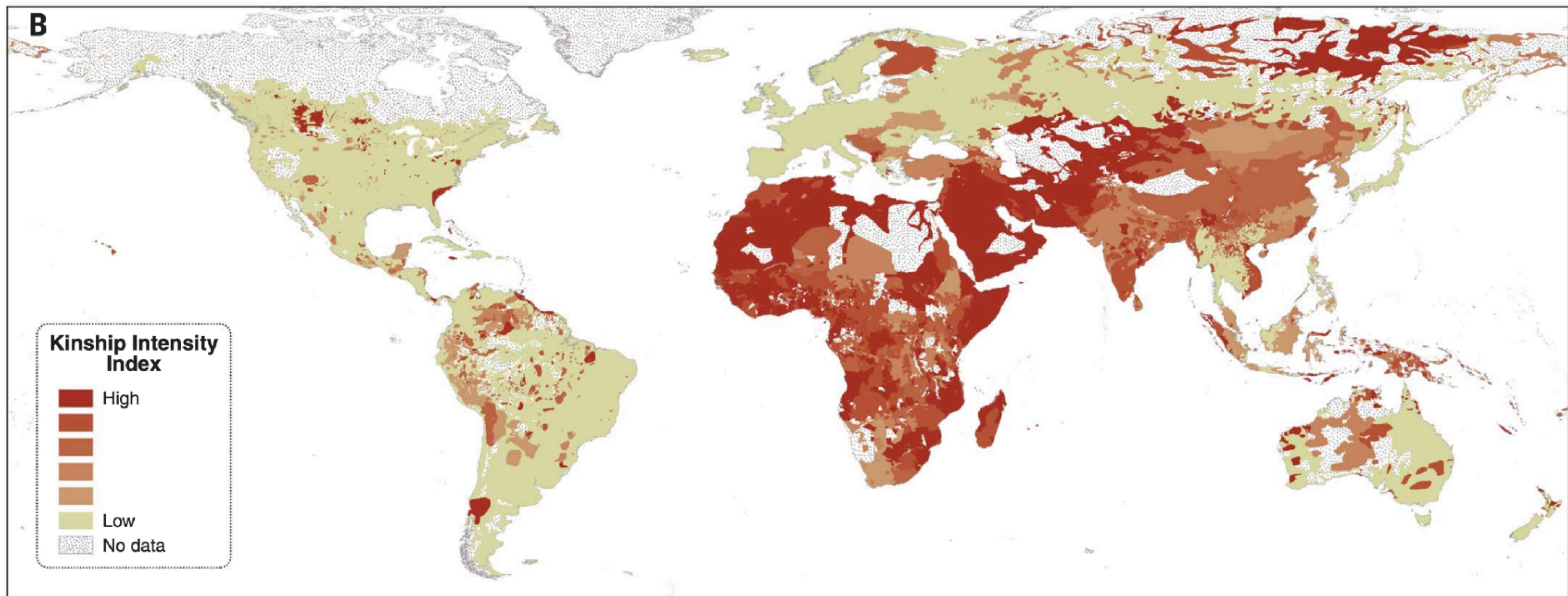
Kinship intensity refers to the degree to which social organization, cooperation, and obligation are structured through dense, corporate kin networks.

life is organized around strong social groups rather than around individual members.

- Common Metrics Used to Measure Kinship Intensity
  - Prevalence of cousin marriage (especially FBD marriage)
  - Endogamy rates
  - Corporate descent groups (clans, lineages)
  - Unilineal descent systems (patrilineal or matrilineal)
  - Segmentary lineage organization
  - Strength of extended-family co-residence
  - Lineage-based political authority
  - Collective liability (feud, blood compensation, kin responsibility)

# What Is Kinship Intensity?

- Kinship intensity refers to the degree to which social organization, cooperation, and obligation are structured through dense, corporate kin networks.
- It captures how strongly social life is organized around descent groups rather than individuals.
- Common Metrics Used to Measure Kinship Intensity
  - Prevalence of cousin marriage (especially FBD marriage)
  - Endogamy rates
  - Corporate descent groups (clans, lineages)
  - Unilineal descent systems (patrilineal or matrilineal)
  - Segmentary lineage organization
  - Strength of extended-family co-residence
  - Lineage-based political authority
  - Collective liability (feud, blood compensation, kin responsibility)



**Fig. 1. Church exposure and kinship intensity around the world.** (A) Exposure to the medieval Western (blue shading) and Eastern (green shading) Churches at the country level. The inset shows the Western Church exposure for regions within Europe based on the diffusion of bishoprics between 550 and 1500 CE (blue shading). The map delineates the boundaries of the Carolingian Empire (orange line) and the divide between Western and socialist Europe (pink line; after Churchill's Iron Curtain speech). (B) The kinship intensity index (KII) for ethnolinguistic groups around the world.