

# THE ACCIDENTAL SUPER POWER

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THE NEXT GENERATION OF  
AMERICAN PREEMINENCE AND  
THE COMING GLOBAL DISORDER

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PETER ZEIHAN



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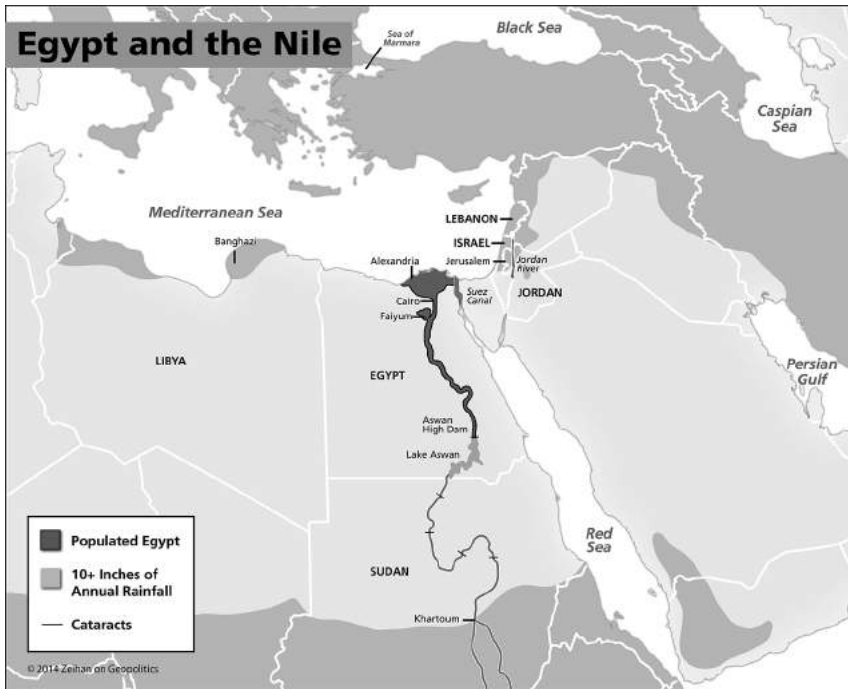
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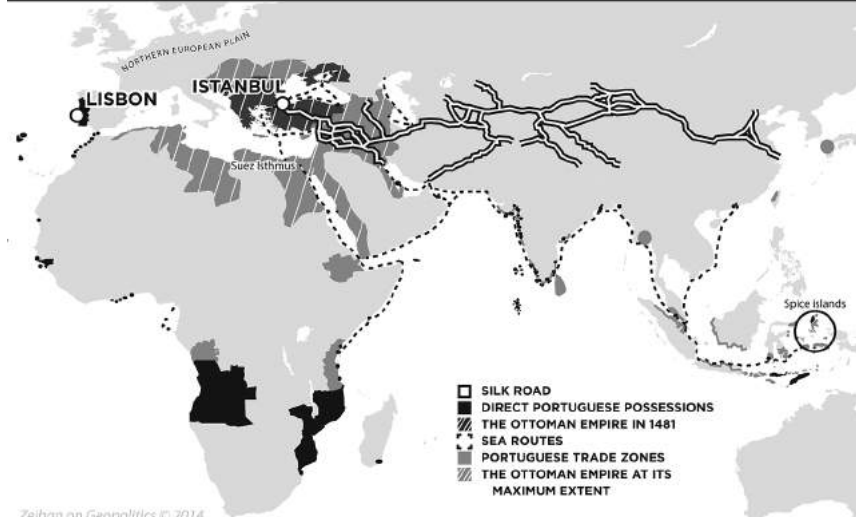
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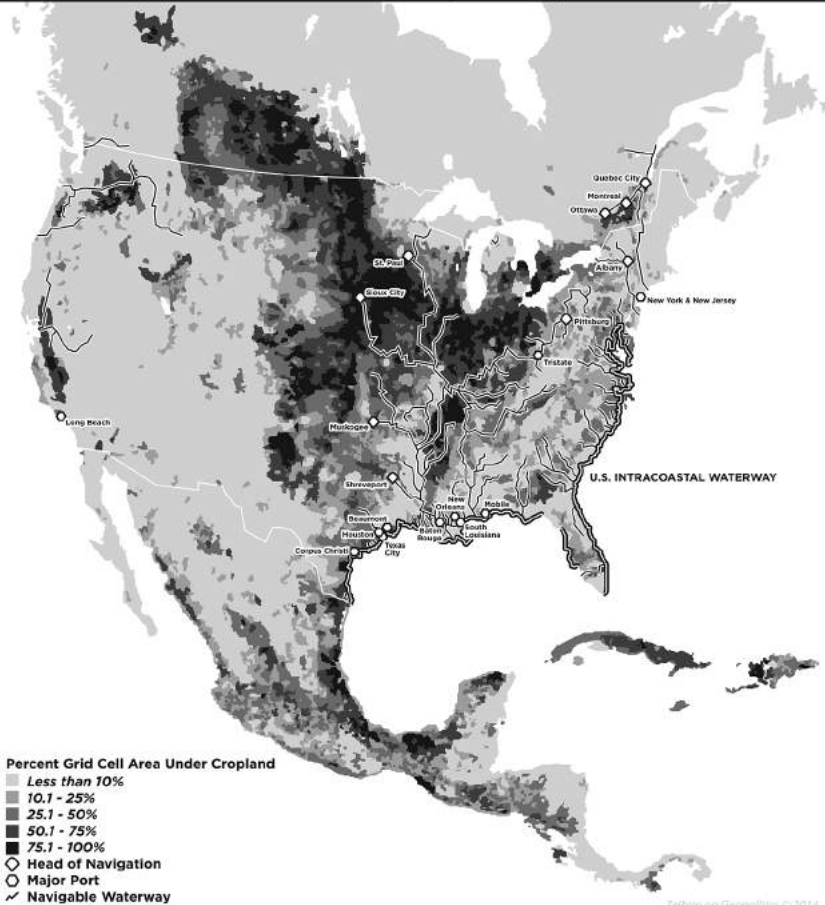
# Egypt and the Nile



# THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE, PORTUGAL, AND THE SILK ROAD

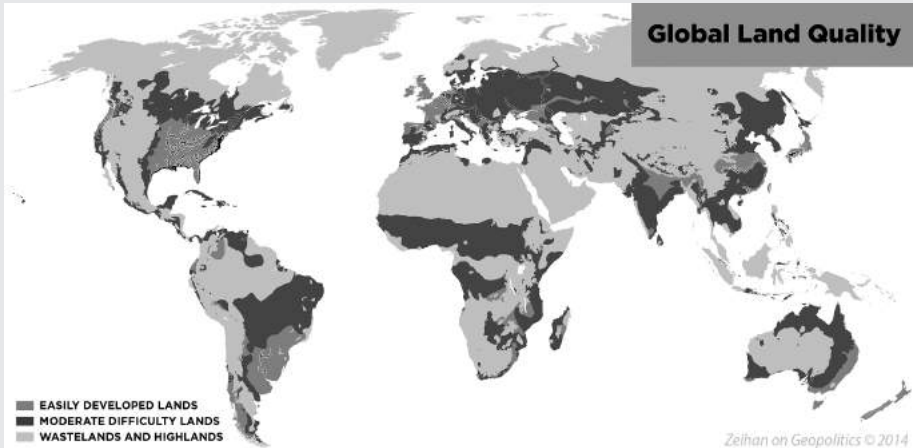


# UNITED STATES CROPLANDS, PORTS, AND RIVERS



## Global Breadbaskets and Dust Bowls

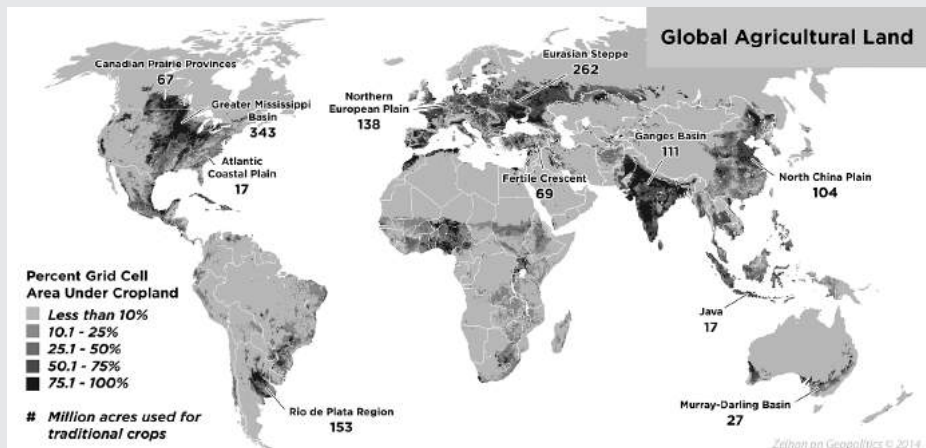
Climate combined with terrain and elevation is an excellent predictor of what nations can potentially do. Elevations over five thousand feet typically mean mountains, which eliminate navigable rivers from possibility. Rail lines also quickly fall into uselessness in the highlands—a slope as little as 0.25 percent reduces the weight a locomotive can lug by half—and the separating nature of mountain ridges means that any infrastructure built in one area does not benefit another. Tropical climates similarly complicate infrastructure and introduce endemic disease into the strategic math. Deserts, tundra, and taiga simply cannot generate large populations or feed them from local sources. Such wastelands and highlands have never generated powers with a global reach. Tropical powers may support larger populations, but they too tend to be sharply circumscribed.



On the other end of the spectrum are the Goldilocks zones with warmth but not oppressive heat and water but not excessive wetness. All of the major powers of the past five hundred years have come from these easily developed, temperate lands. As pure happenstance would have it, the easily developed lands of the United States are not only the largest contiguous piece of such lands in the world, but they are also almost perfectly overlain by the American waterway network.

Between such zones of ruin and perfection lie the transition lands that can be developed, but only if funded by a large and sustained supply of capital. Much of the economic and political activity of the past sixty years concerns these moderate-difficulty lands.

This second map puts geographic theory into practice. Unsurprisingly, the vast majority of the world's farmland is located in lands where development is easy.



## ATLANTIC SEA APPROACHES TO NORTH AMERICA





## PACIFIC SEA APPROACHES TO NORTH AMERICA

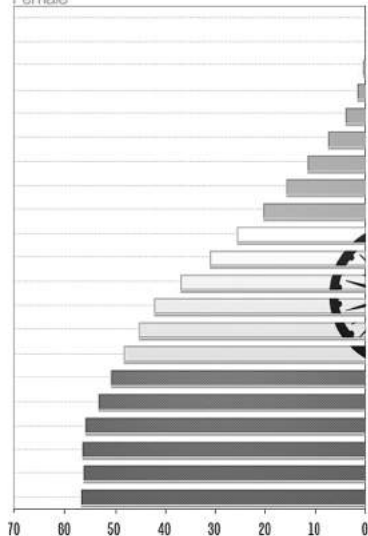


## The Bretton Woods World

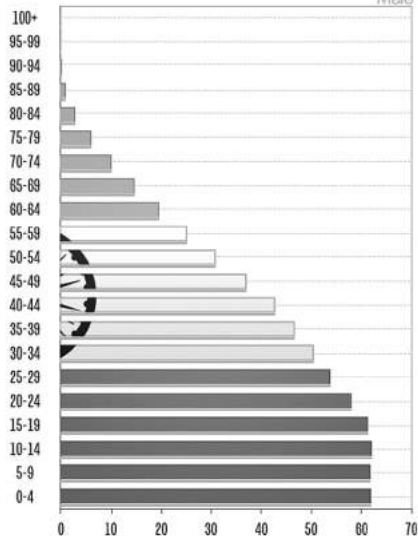


# INDIA DEMOGRAPHY: 2015

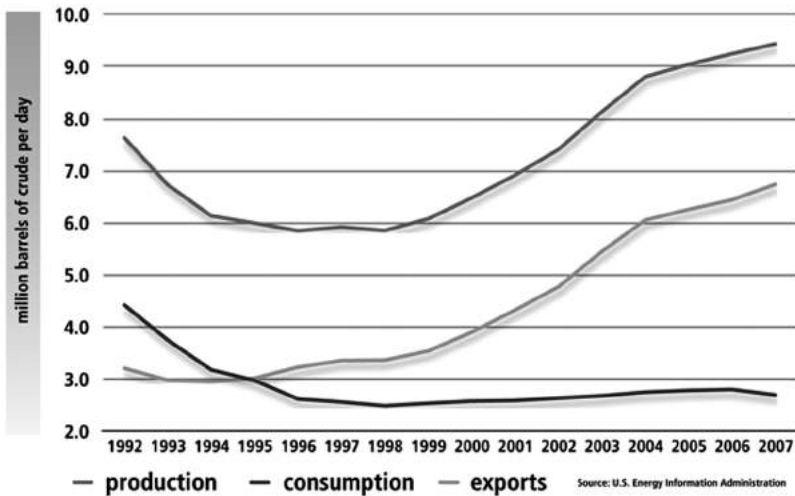
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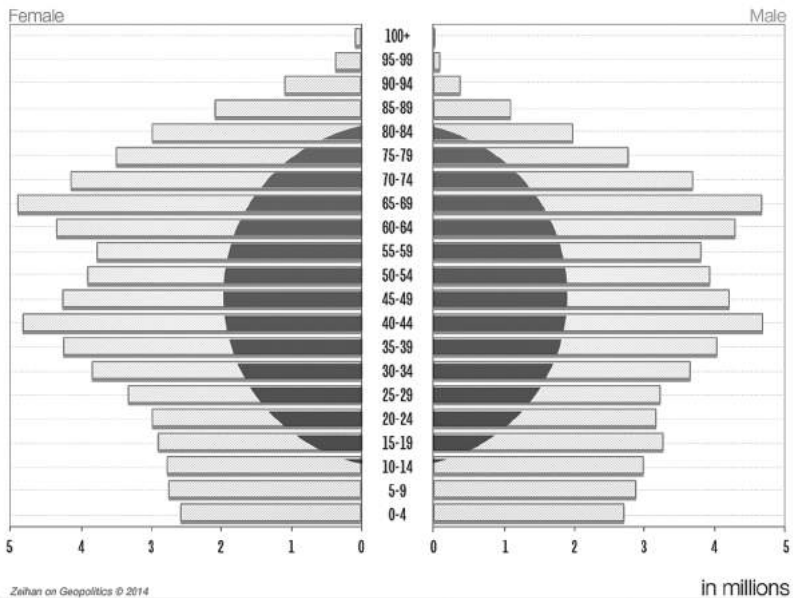
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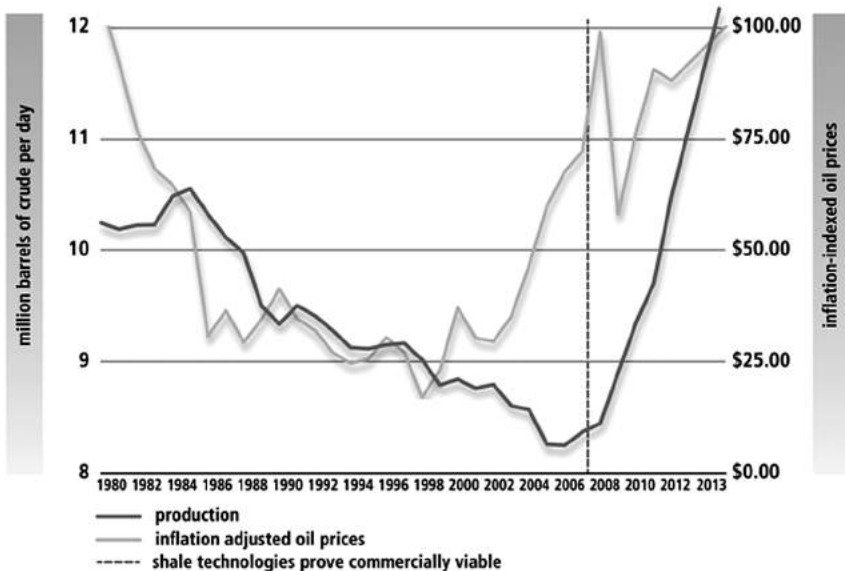
## Russian Oil Production, Consumption and Exports



# JAPAN DEMOGRAPHY: 2015



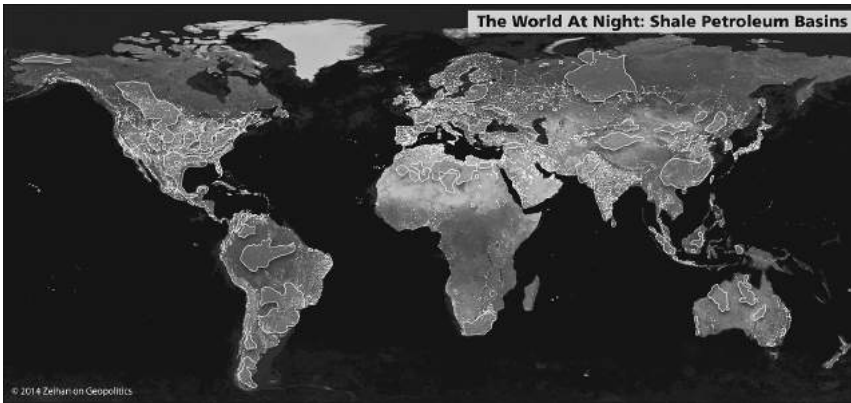
# United States Oil Production



**The World At Night: Conventional Petroleum Basins**

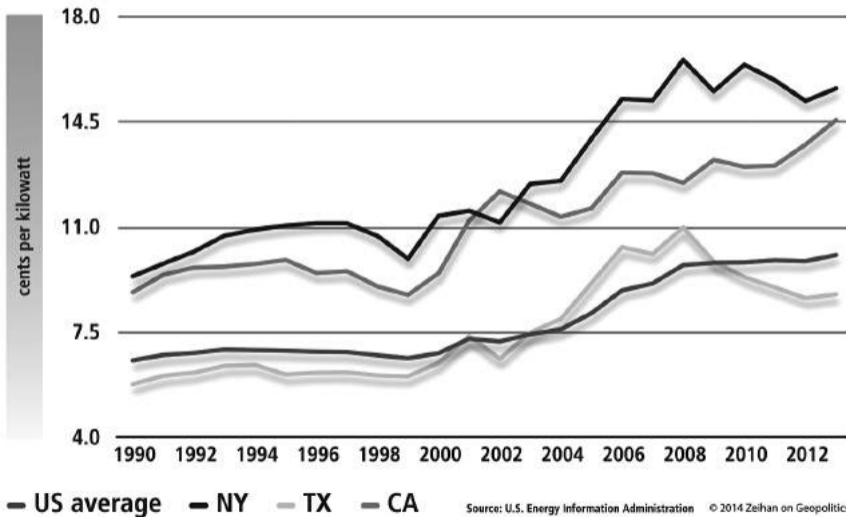


## The World At Night: Shale Petroleum Basins





# U.S. Electricity Prices



## Global Stability Map: 2015-2030

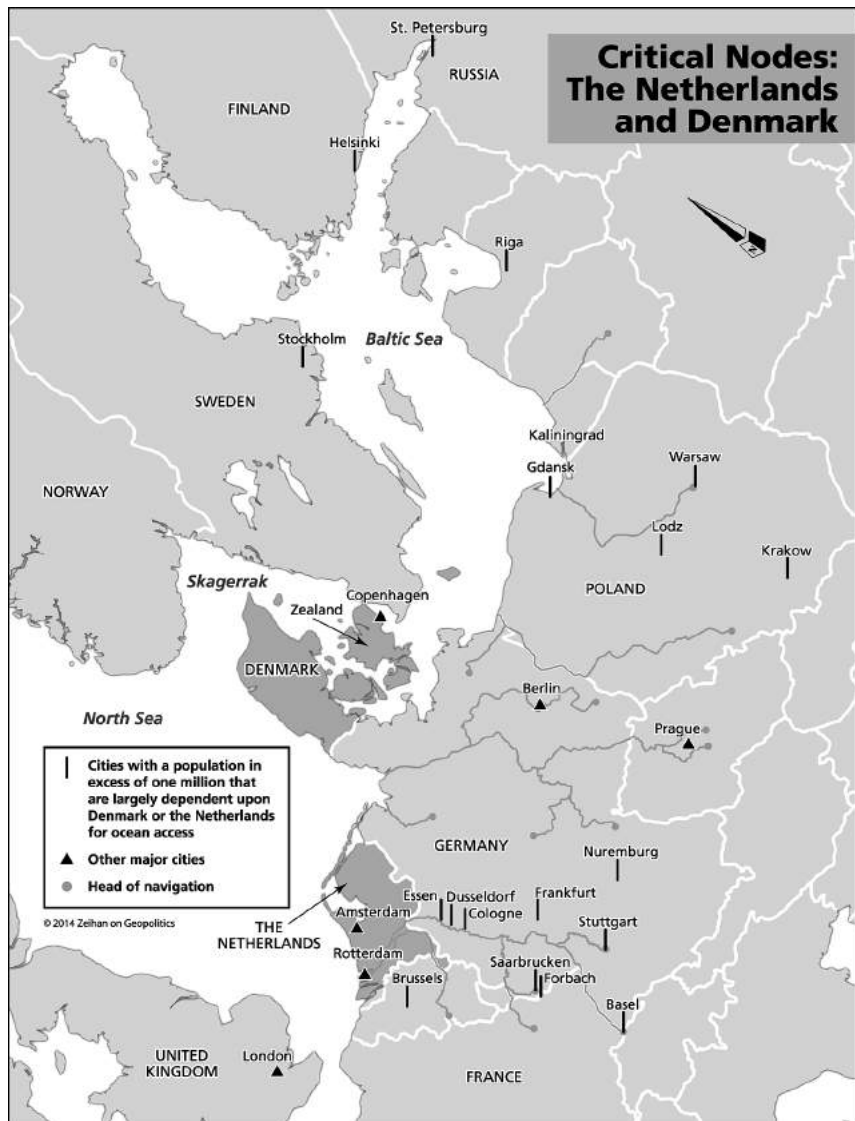


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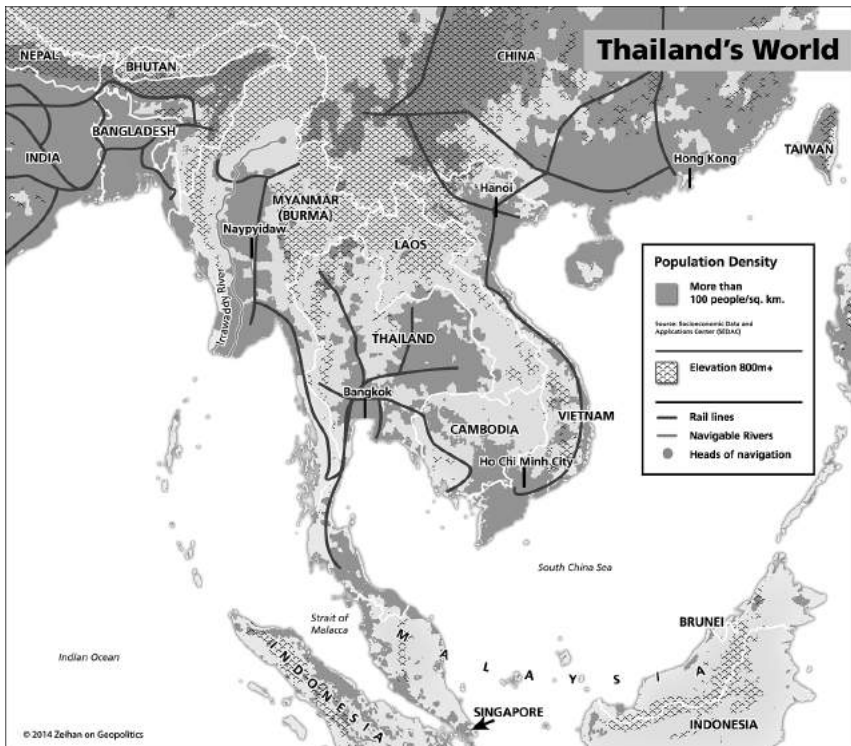
# America's Inner Circle



## Critical Nodes: The Netherlands and Denmark



# Thailand's World

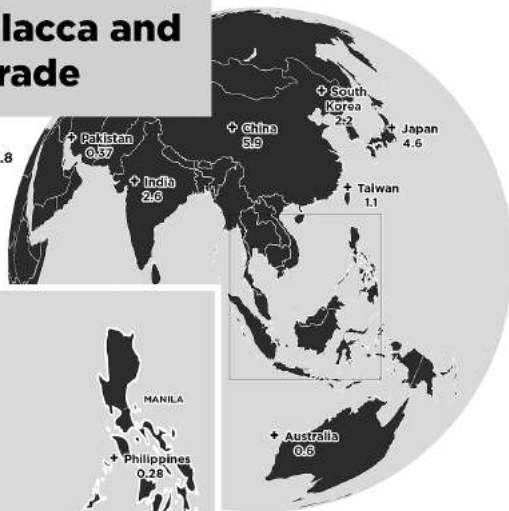


# The Strait of Malacca and the Global Oil Trade

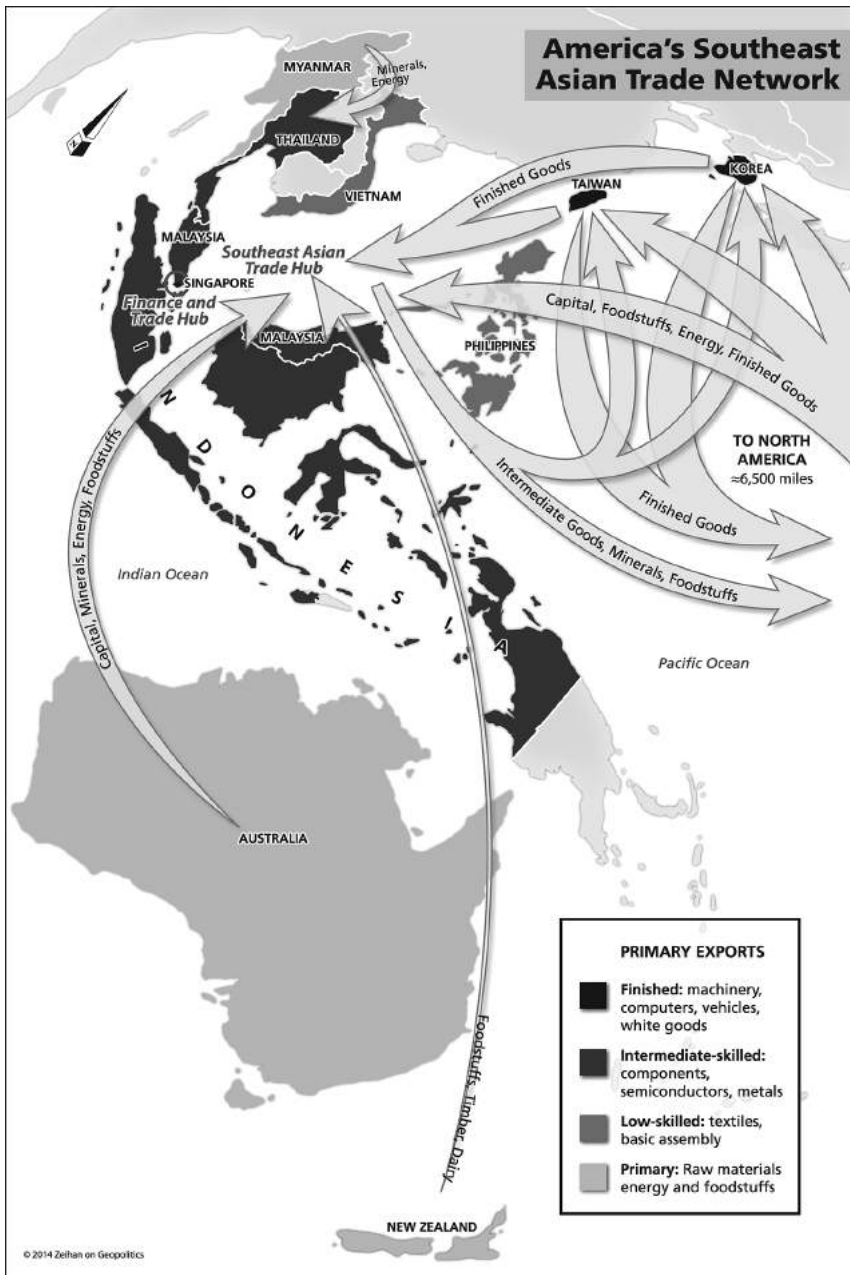
+ OIL IMPORTERS:  
IMPORTS IN  
MILLION BPD

\* OIL EXPORTERS:  
EXPORTS IN  
MILLION BPD

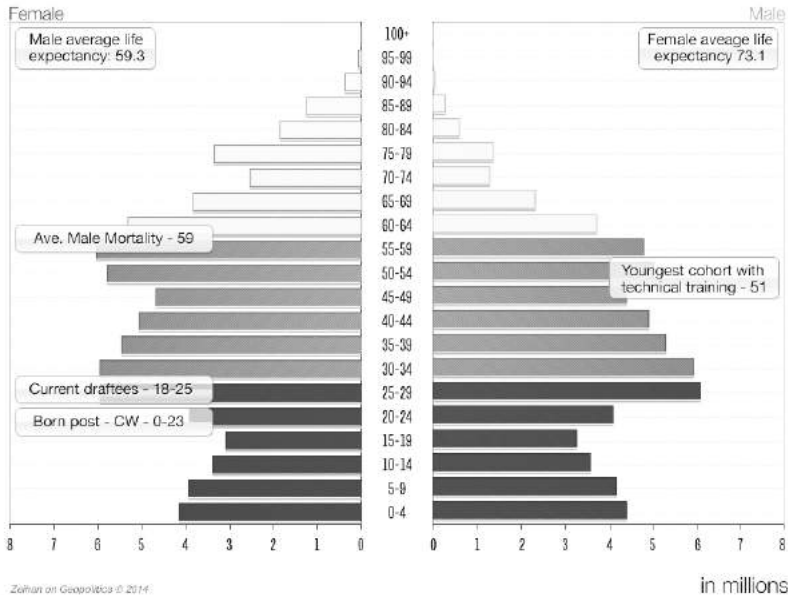
\* Saudi Arabia: 8.8  
\* UAE: 2.6  
\* Kuwait: 2.4  
\* Iran: 1.9  
\* Qatar: 1.4  
\* Oman: 0.78



# America's Southeast Asian Trade Network



# RUSSIA DEMOGRAPHY: 2015

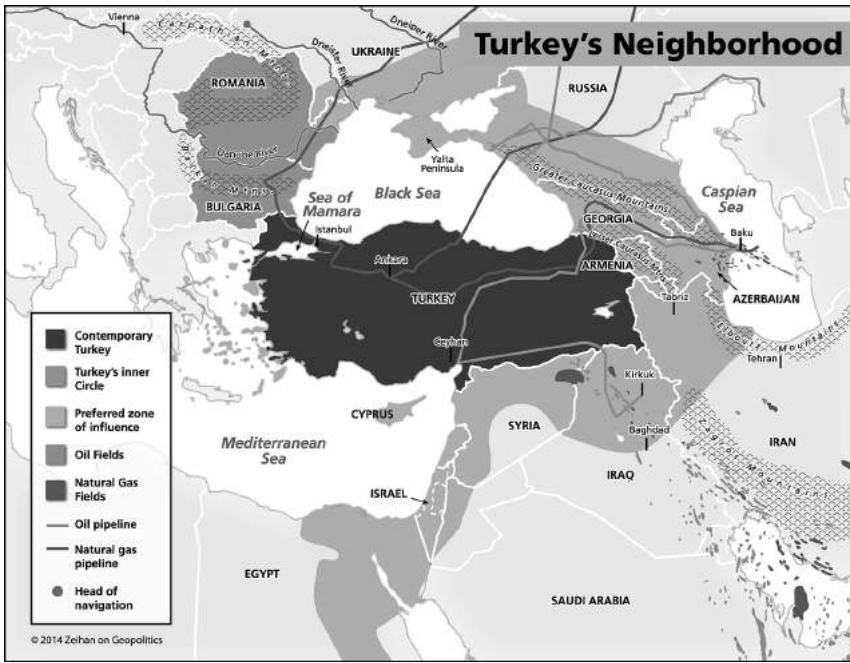




## Russia's Western Borderlands

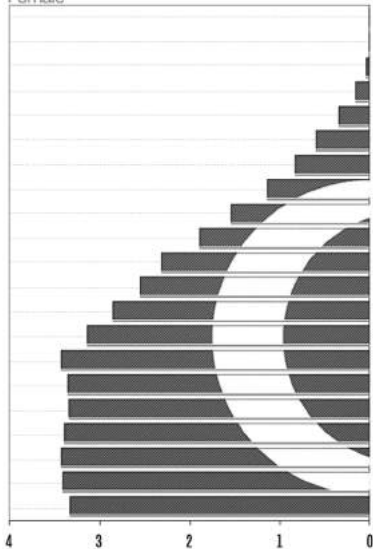


# Turkey's Neighborhood

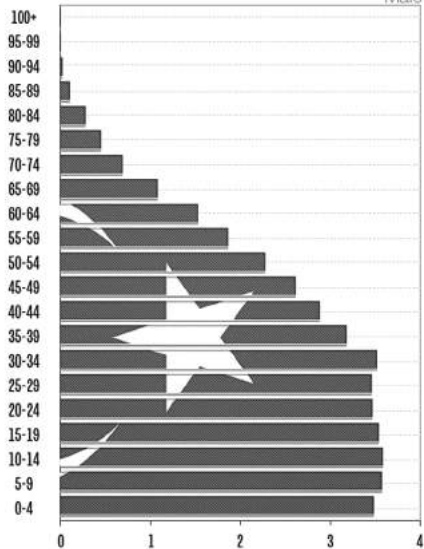


# TURKEY DEMOGRAPHY: 2015

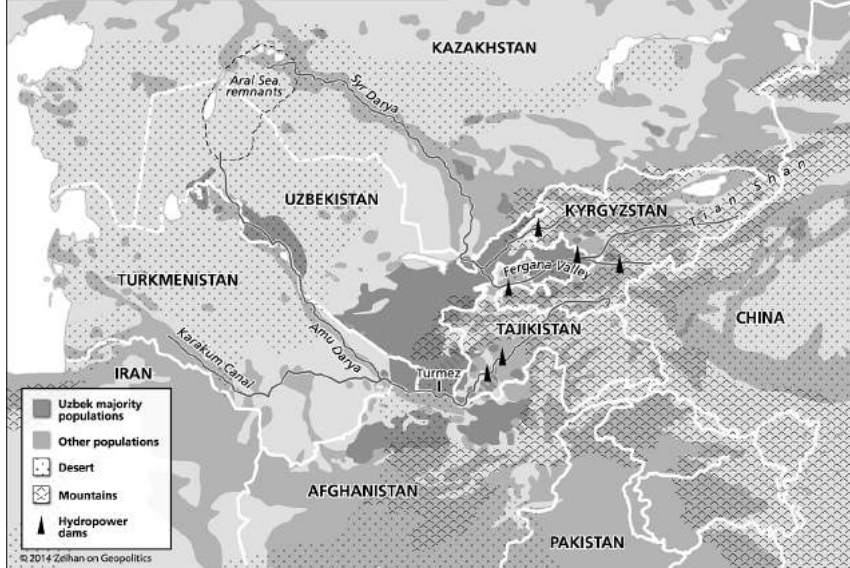
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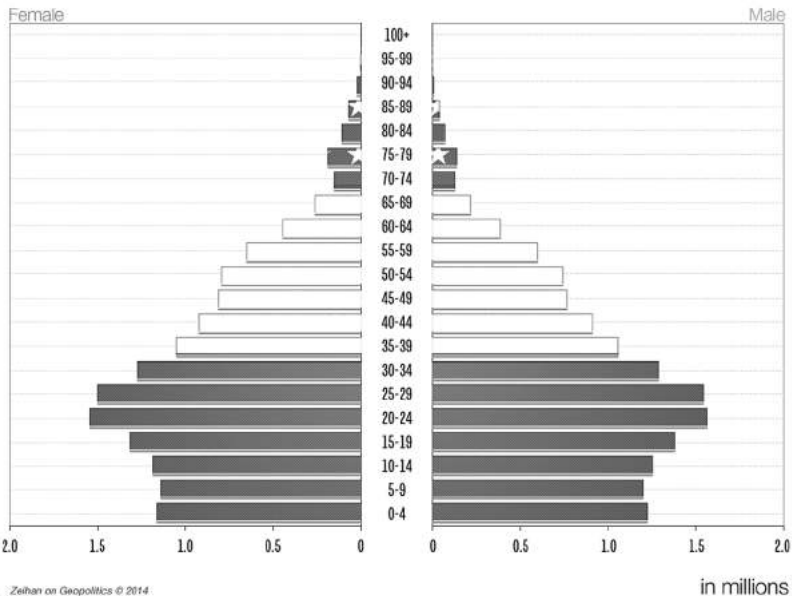
Male



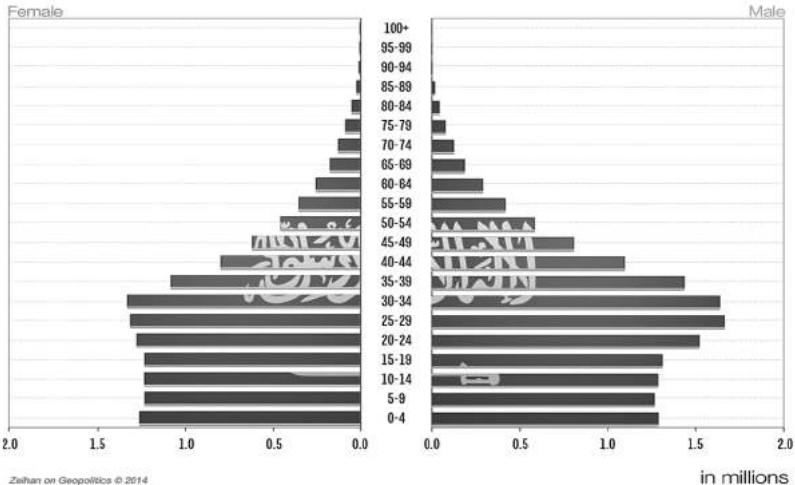
# Uzbekistan and Surrounds

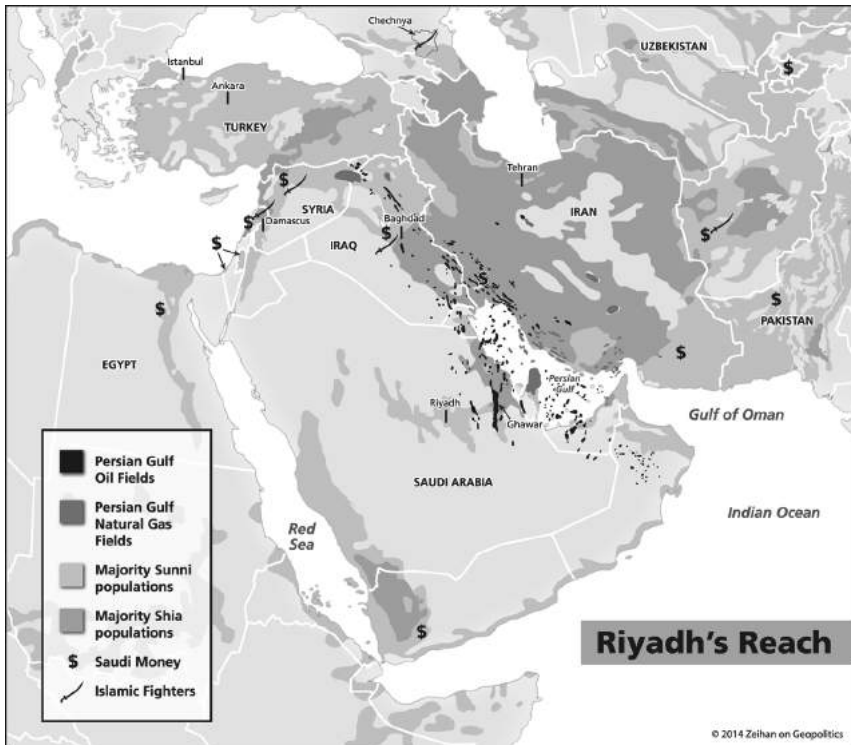


# UZBEKISTAN DEMOGRAPHY: 2015

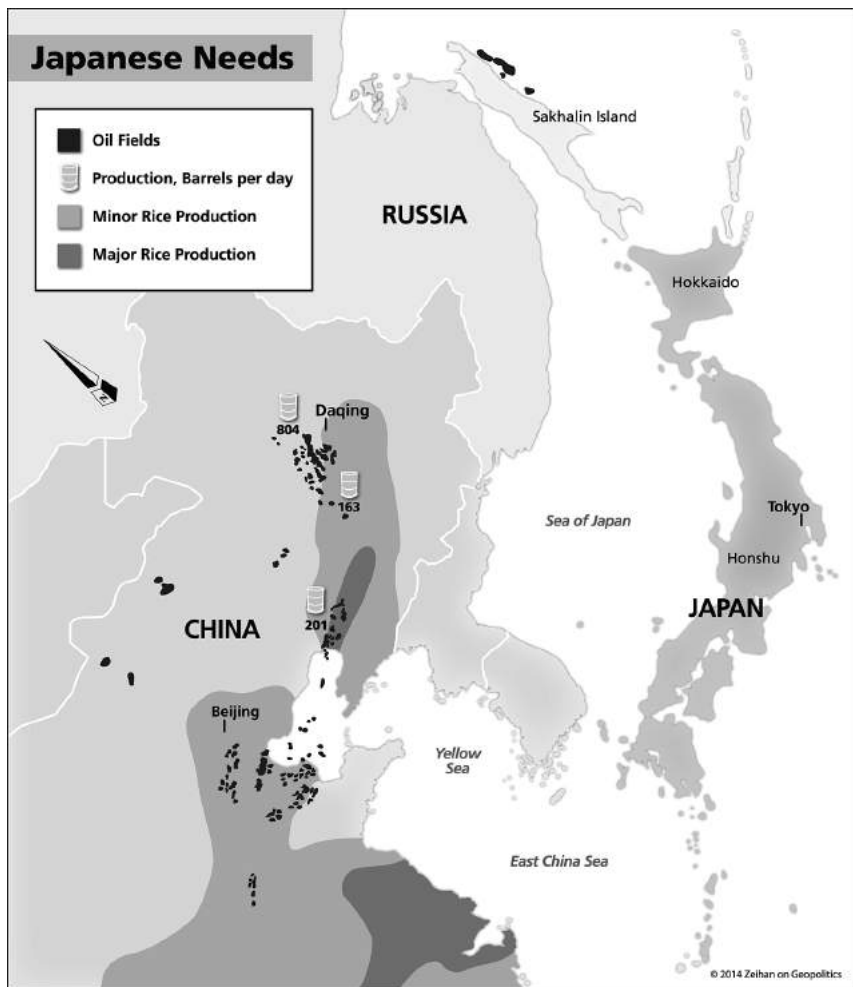
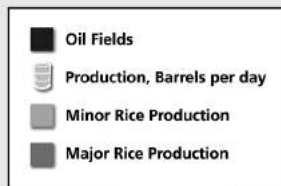


# SAUDI ARABIA DEMOGRAPHY: 2015

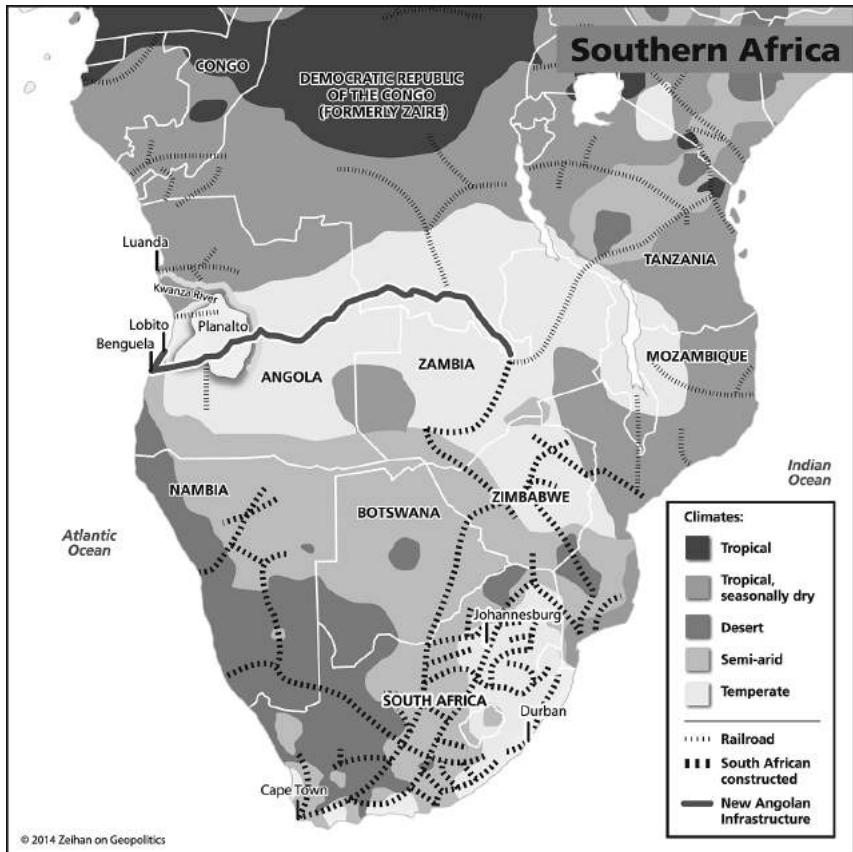




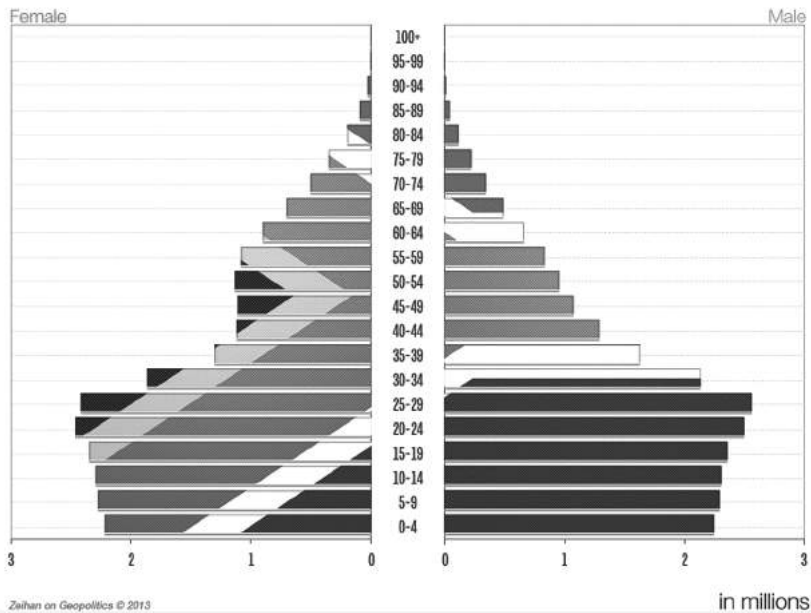
# Japanese Needs



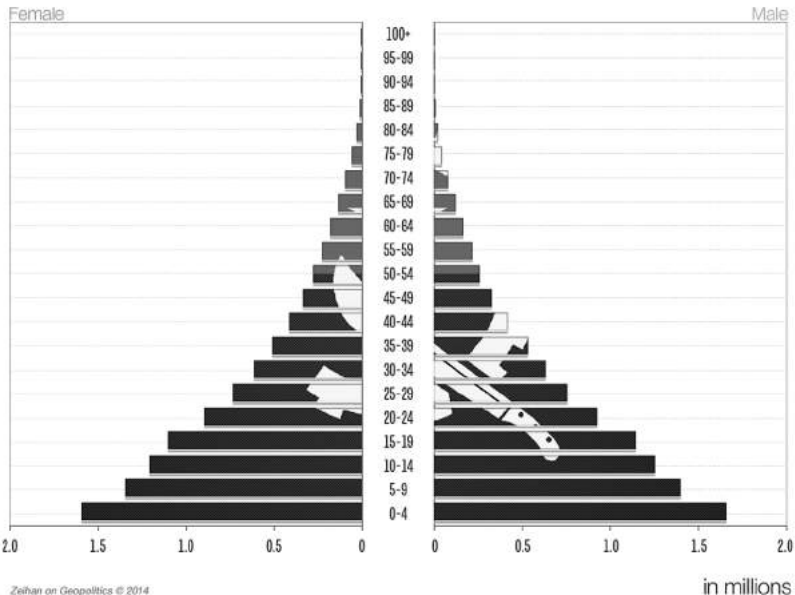




# SOUTH AFRICA DEMOGRAPHY: 2015

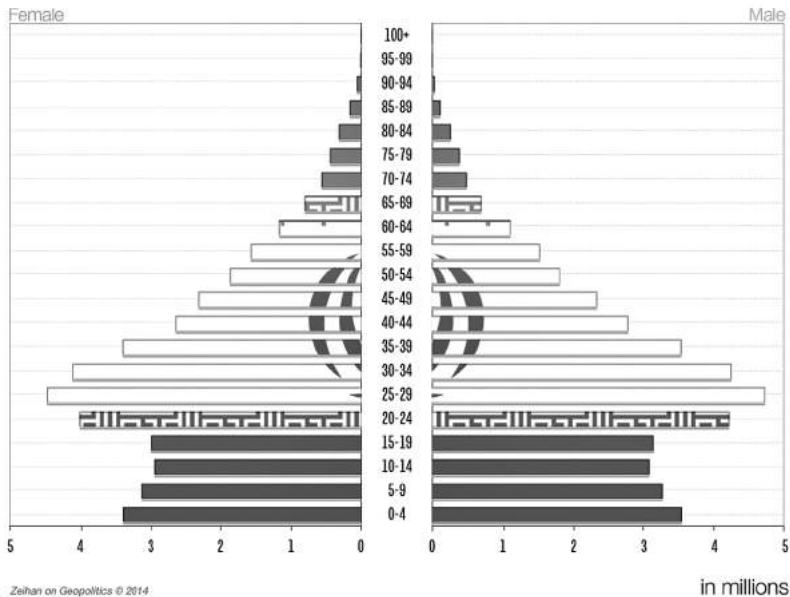


# ANGOLA DEMOGRAPHY: 2015

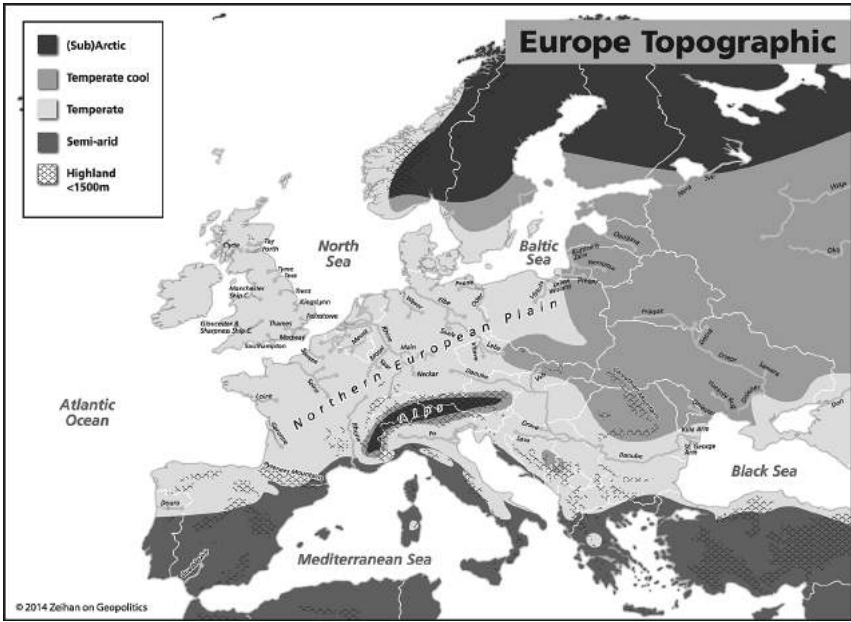
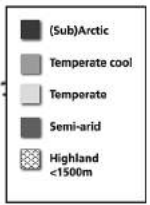




# IRAN DEMOGRAPHY: 2015



# Europe Topographic



# Europe Political

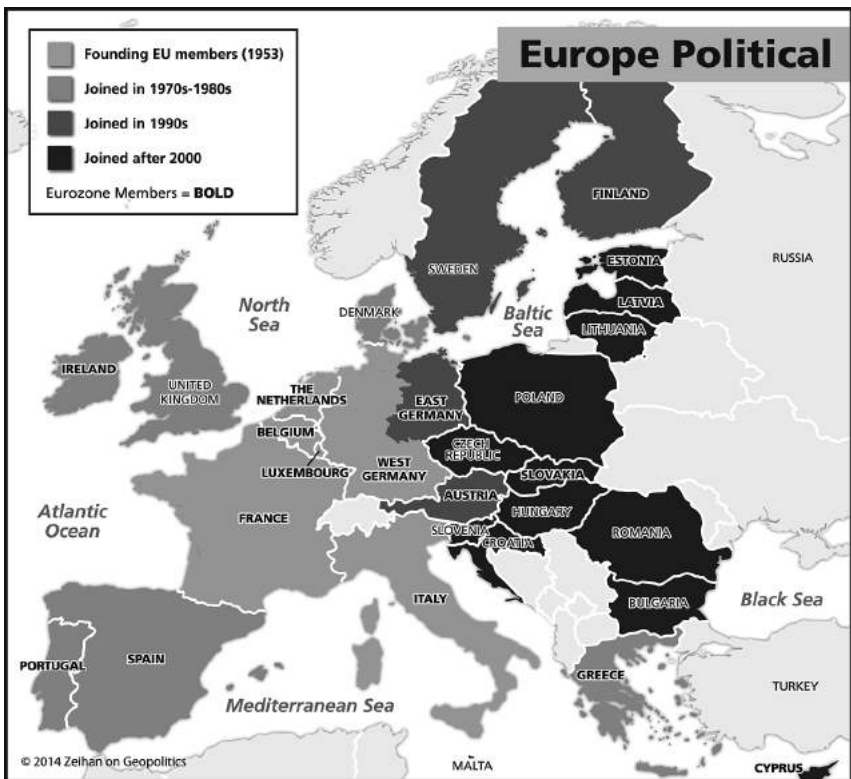
Founding EU members (1953)

Joined in 1970s-1980s

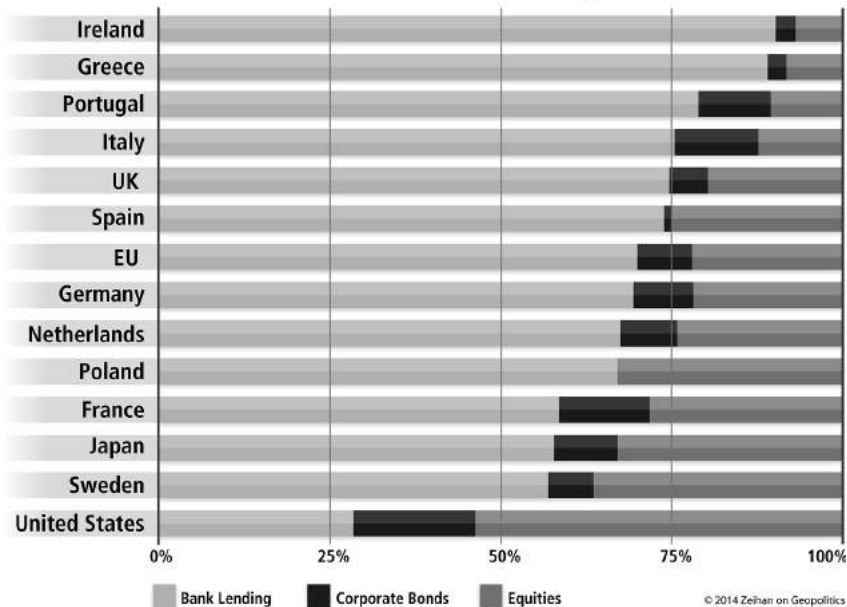
Joined in 1990s

Joined after 2000

Eurozone Members = **BOLD**

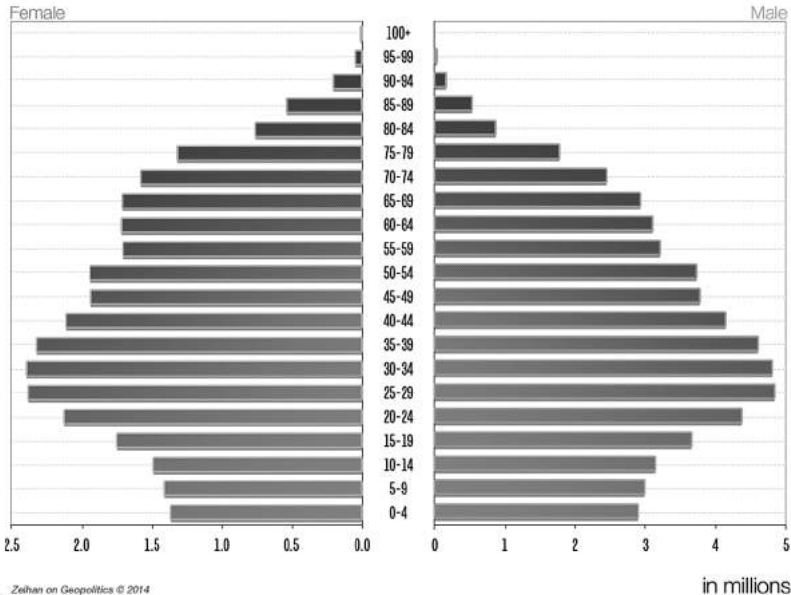


## Private Sources of Funding, 2011

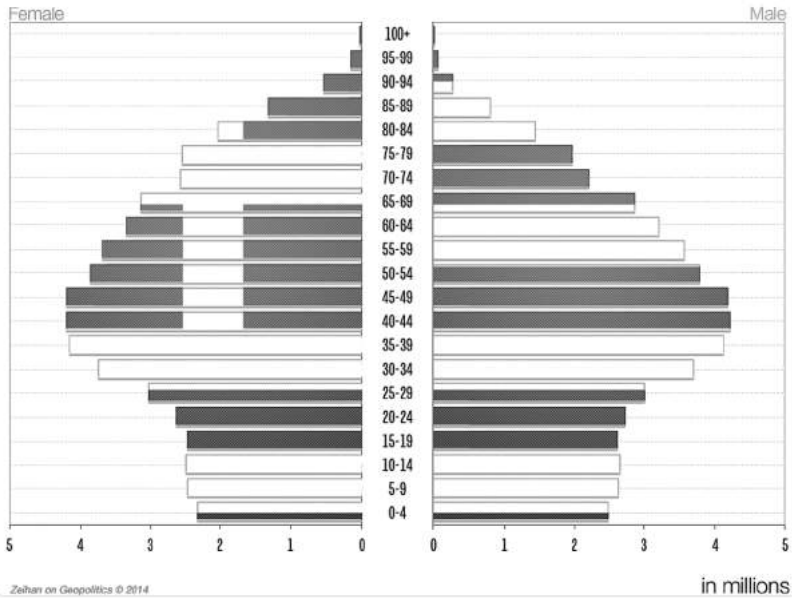




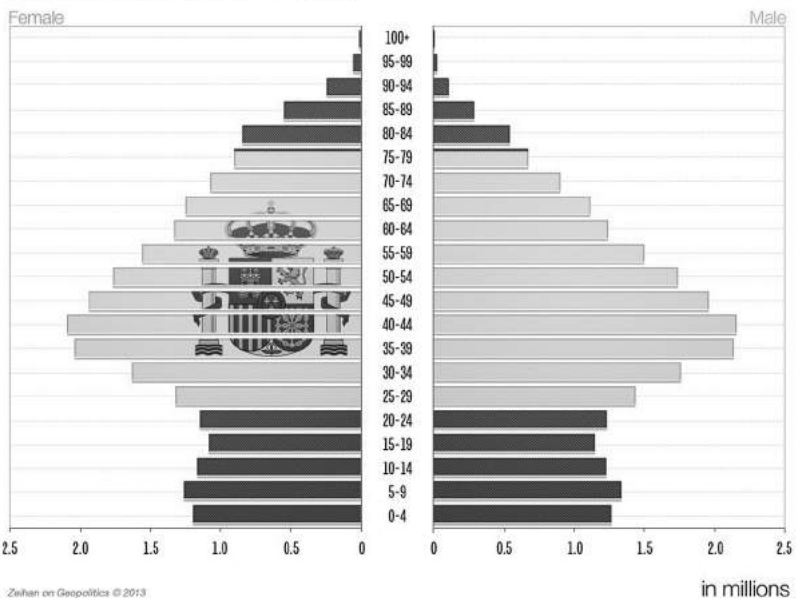
# COMBINED DEMOGRAPHY OF PORTUGAL, SPAIN, ITALY AND GREECE: 2000



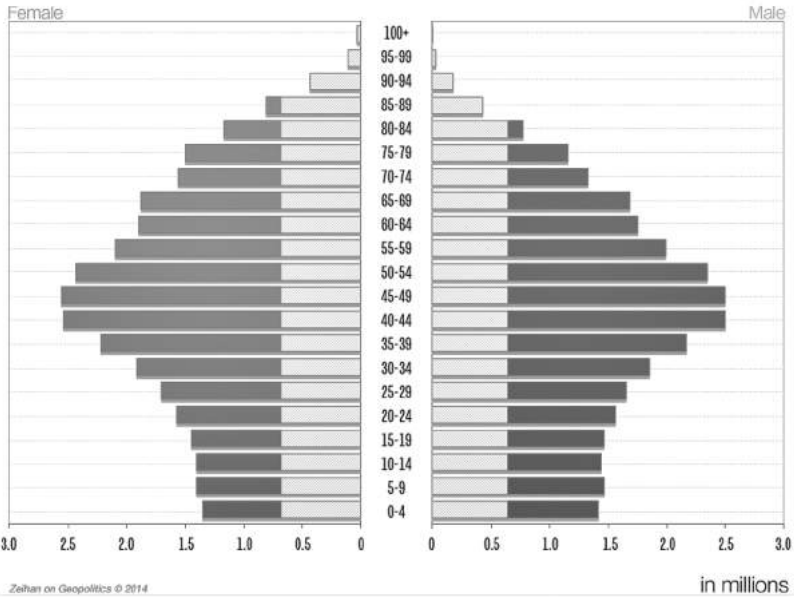
## GREECE DEMOGRAPHY: 2015



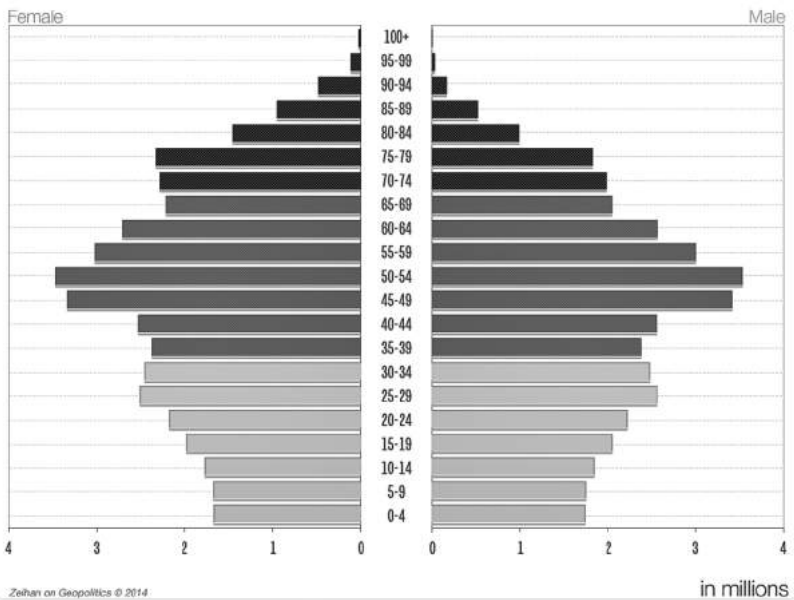
## SPAIN DEMOGRAPHY: 2015



## ITALY DEMOGRAPHY: 2015



## GERMANY DEMOGRAPHY: 2015

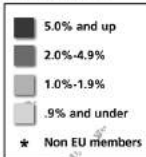


### Billion USD of German Exports

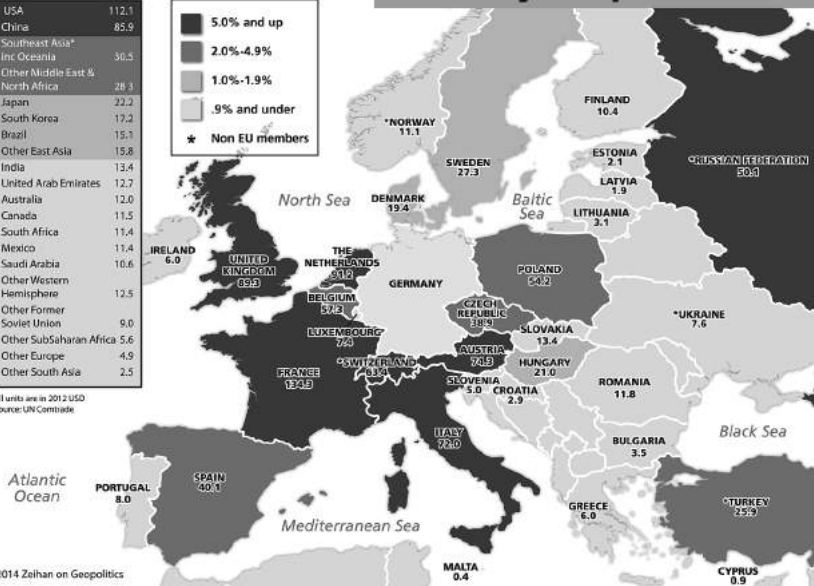
|                                  |       |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| USA                              | 112.1 |
| China                            | 85.9  |
| Southeast Asia*                  |       |
| Inc Oceania                      | 30.5  |
| Other Middle East & North Africa | 28.3  |
| Japan                            | 22.2  |
| South Korea                      | 17.2  |
| Brazil                           | 15.1  |
| Other East Asia                  | 15.8  |
| India                            | 13.4  |
| United Arab Emirates             | 12.7  |
| Australia                        | 12.0  |
| Canada                           | 11.5  |
| South Africa                     | 11.4  |
| Mexico                           | 11.4  |
| Saudi Arabia                     | 10.6  |
| Other Western Hemisphere         | 12.5  |
| Other Former Soviet Union        | 9.0   |
| Other Sub-Saharan Africa         | 5.6   |
| Other Europe                     | 4.9   |
| Other South Asia                 | 2.5   |

All units are in 2012 USD  
Source: UN Comtrade

### Percent of Total German Exports



## Germany's Export Profile



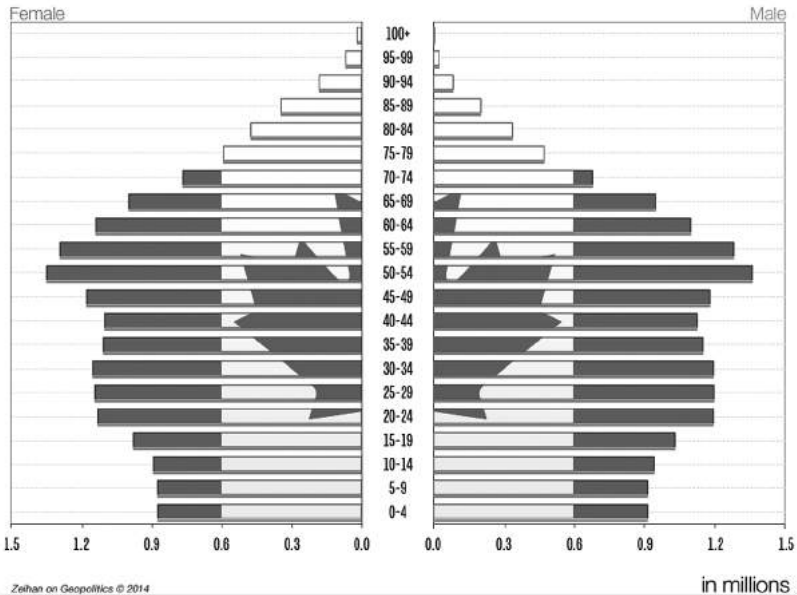
And the shield isn't done. It also hives off Ontario from Quebec. There is only one multilane road connecting the two, the 401, which follows the shore of Lake Ontario and the Saint Lawrence River for nearly its entire length. The shield reaches down all the way to the lake and the river in several places, and dominates the northern suburbs of Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, and Quebec City, complicating significant northward urban expansion. In fact, only Toronto is sufficiently free from the shield in other directions that it can expand in any meaningful way (mostly to the southwest along Lake Ontario). One result is that Ontarian and Quebecois cities sport some of the most expensive real estate in North America, despite being in a climate that is far from balmy. Another

is that despite being surrounded by Anglophone Canada, the Quebecois of Quebec have so few practical connections to their neighbors that they have fairly easily been able to maintain their Francophone status.

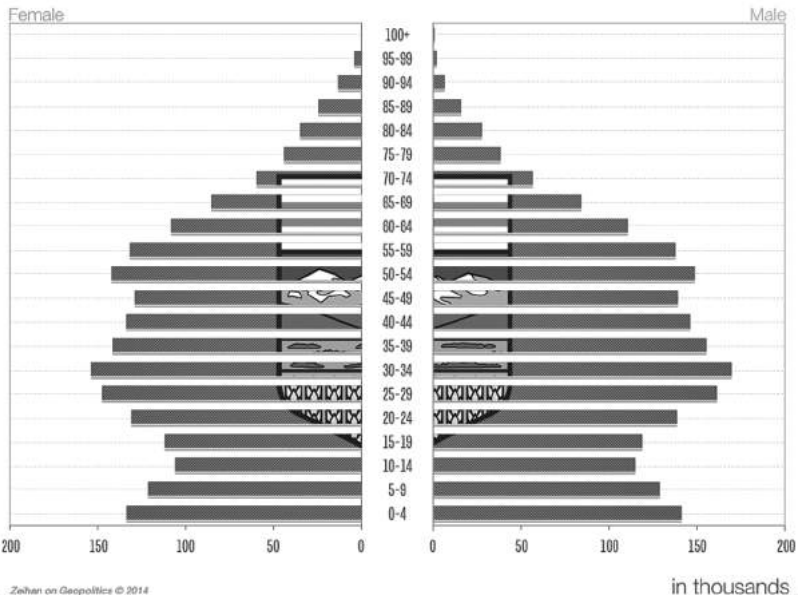
East of Francophone Canada lie the Maritime provinces, which are, well, maritime and not linked into the rest of the country much at all. From the bridge crossing at Quebec City, a single road snakes across two hundred miles of the southern extension of the Canadian Shield south of



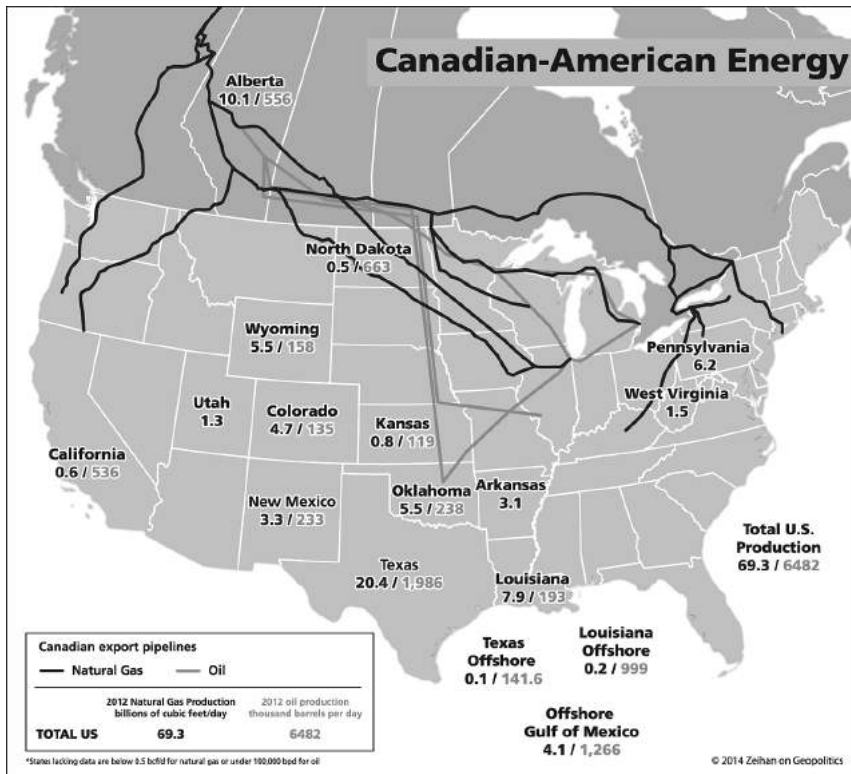
# CANADA DEMOGRAPHY: 2015



# ALBERTA DEMOGRAPHY: 2015



# Canadian-American Energy



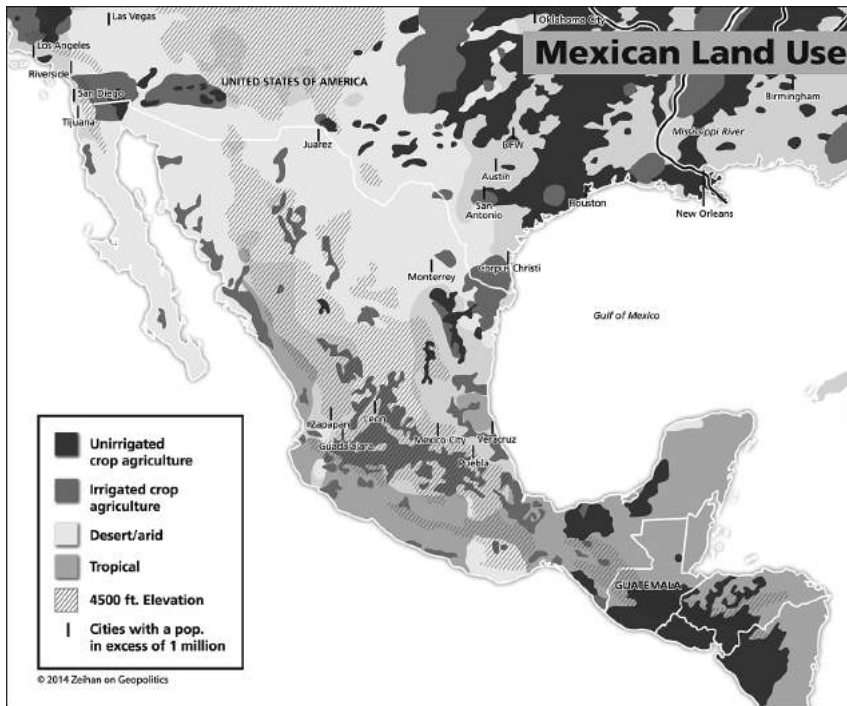


## North American GDP

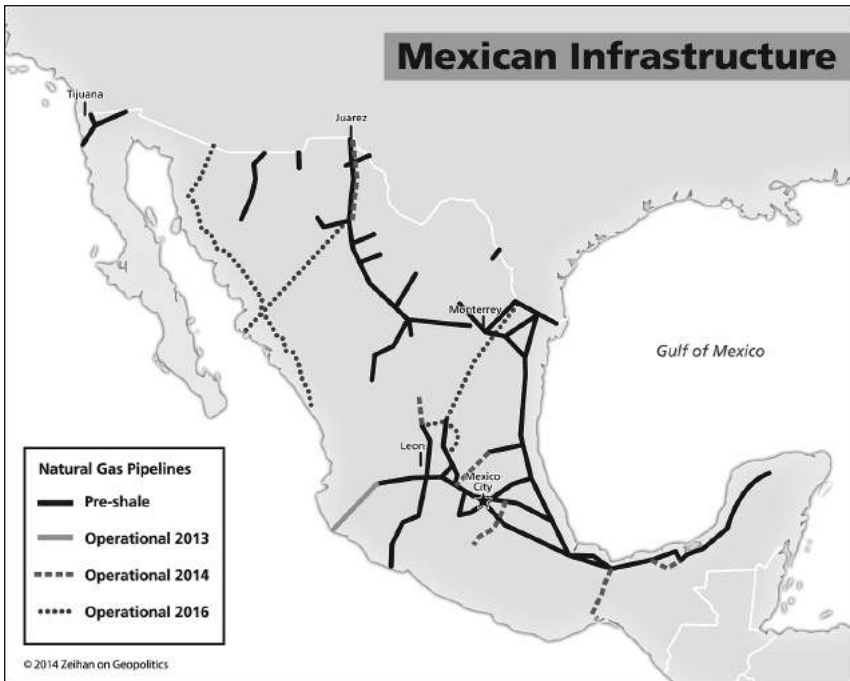
|  | per capita GDP<br>in thousand<br>U.S. dollars* | per capita GDP<br>as a % of<br>Canadian average | per capita GDP<br>as a % of<br>American average |
|--|--|---|---|
| <b>Alberta (richest Canadian province)</b> | <b>82</b>                                      | <b>153%</b>                                     | <b>162%</b>                                     |
| <b>British Columbia</b>                    | <b>50</b>                                      | <b>93%</b>                                      | <b>99%</b>                                      |
| <b>Ontario</b>                             | <b>51</b>                                      | <b>96%</b>                                      | <b>102%</b>                                     |
| <b>Quebec</b>                              | <b>46</b>                                      | <b>85%</b>                                      | <b>90%</b>                                      |
| <b>Canada (national average)</b>           | <b>54</b>                                      | <b>100%</b>                                     | <b>106%</b>                                     |
| <b>PEI (poorest canadian province)</b>     | <b>39</b>                                      | <b>72%</b>                                      | <b>76%</b>                                      |
| <b>Maryland (richest U.S. state)</b>       | <b>70</b>                                      |   | <b>139%</b>                                     |
| <b>California</b>                          | <b>57</b>                                      |   | <b>113%</b>                                     |
| <b>New York</b>                            | <b>55</b>                                      |   | <b>109%</b>                                     |
| <b>US (national average)</b>               | <b>51</b>                                      |   | <b>100%</b>                                     |
| <b>Texas</b>                               | <b>49</b>                                      |   | <b>98%</b>                                      |
| <b>Mississippi (poorest U.S. state)</b>    | <b>37</b>                                      |   | <b>73%</b>                                      |

\*2001 value of \$1.05 USD per CAN

Sources: U.S. Census, Statistics Canada

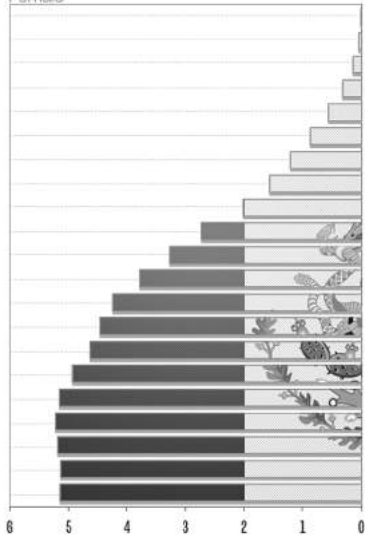


# Mexican Infrastructure

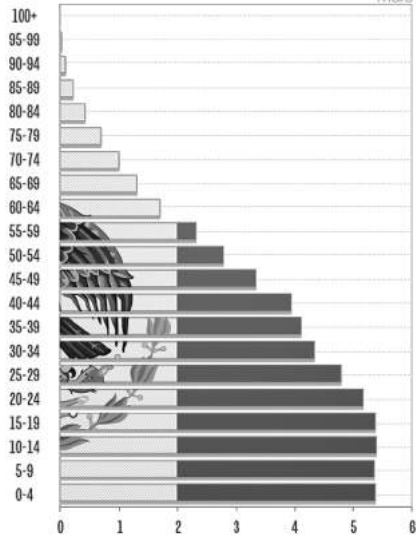


# MEXICO DEMOGRAPHY: 2015

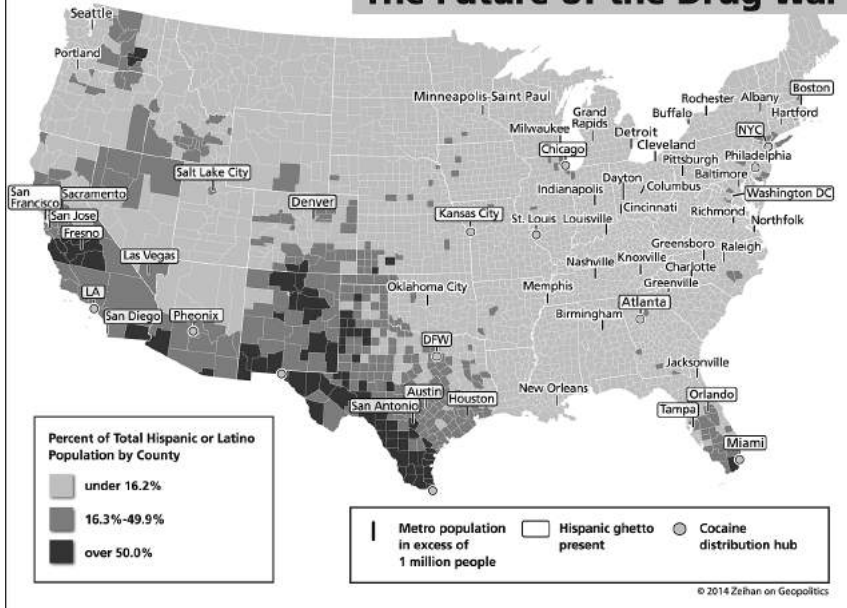
Female



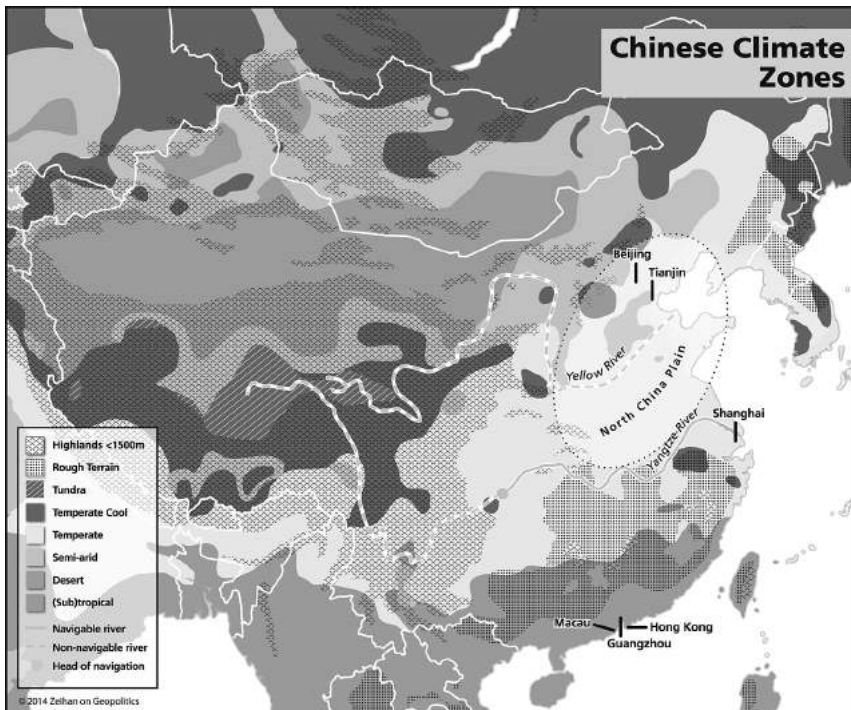
Male



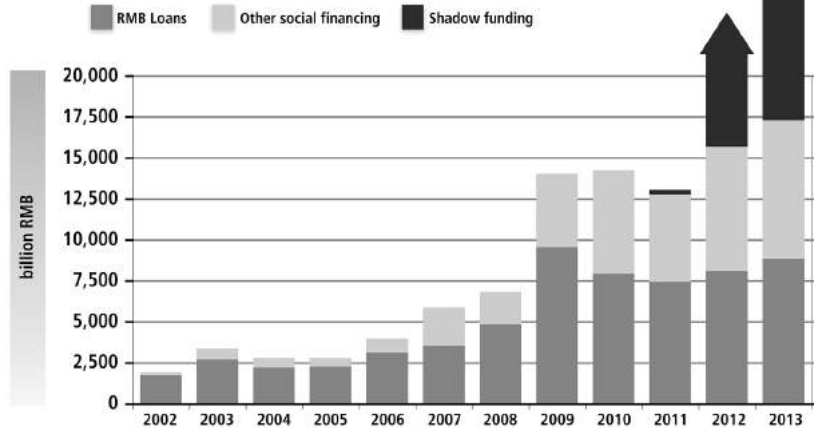
# The Future of the Drug War



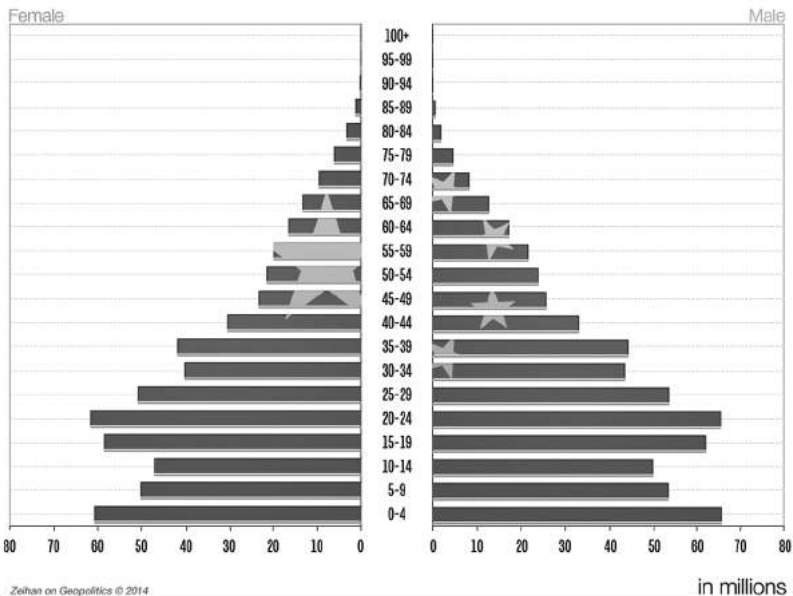
# Chinese Climate Zones



# Chinese Lending

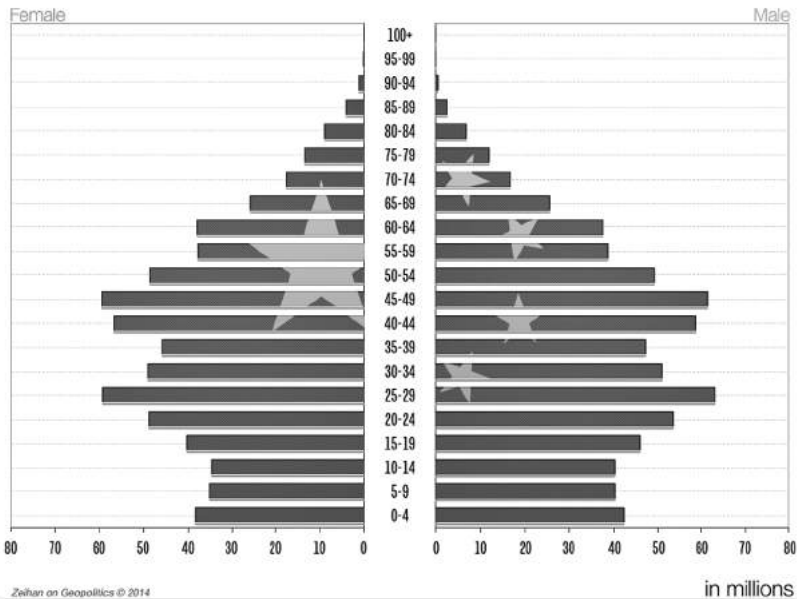


# CHINA DEMOGRAPHY: 1990



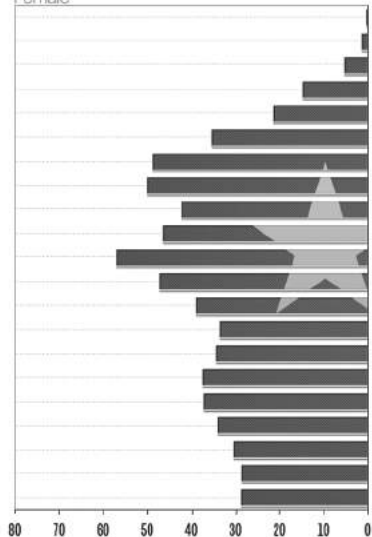


# CHINA DEMOGRAPHY: 2015

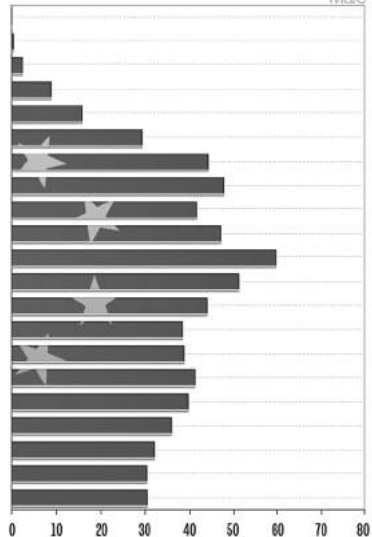


# CHINA DEMOGRAPHY: 2040

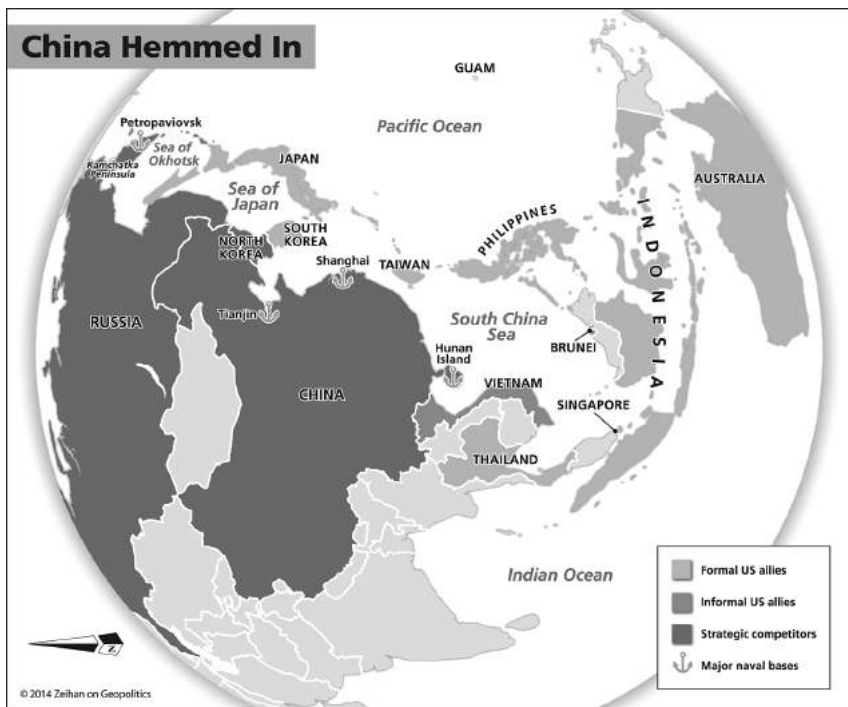
Female



Male



# China Hemmed In



# Chinese Economic Concentrations



|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Lightest Gray | Exports > Private consumption > Investments      |
| Light Gray    | Investments ≈ Private consumption ≈ exports      |
| Medium Gray   | Investments > Private consumption > exports      |
| Dark Gray     | Investments > (Private consumption + exports)    |
| Black         | Investments > 2x (Private consumption + exports) |

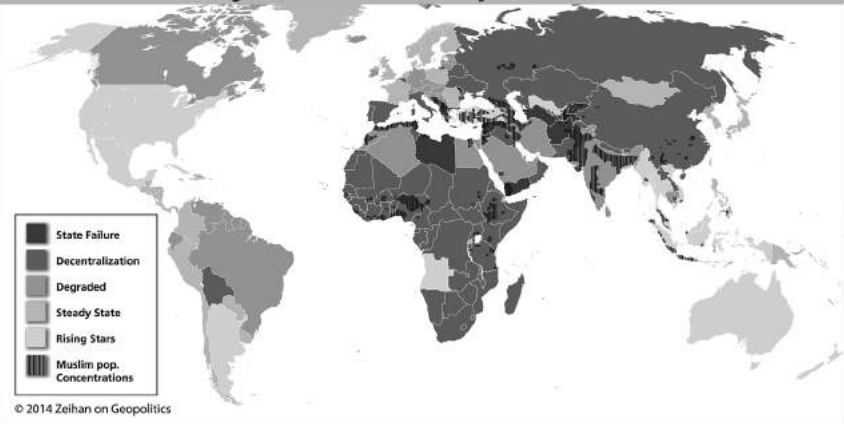
\*Investment includes loans and all forms of legal financing

## Global Stability and Skilled Migrant Sources



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# Global Stability and Muslim Population Concentrations



# Pakistan

Persons per sq. mi.

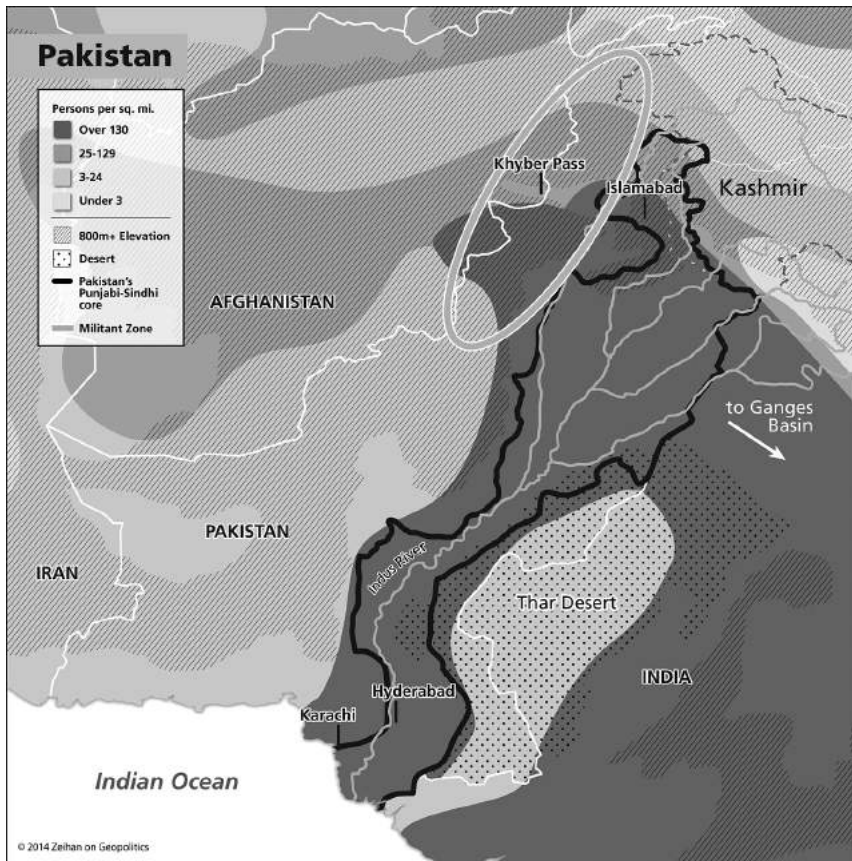


800m+ Elevation

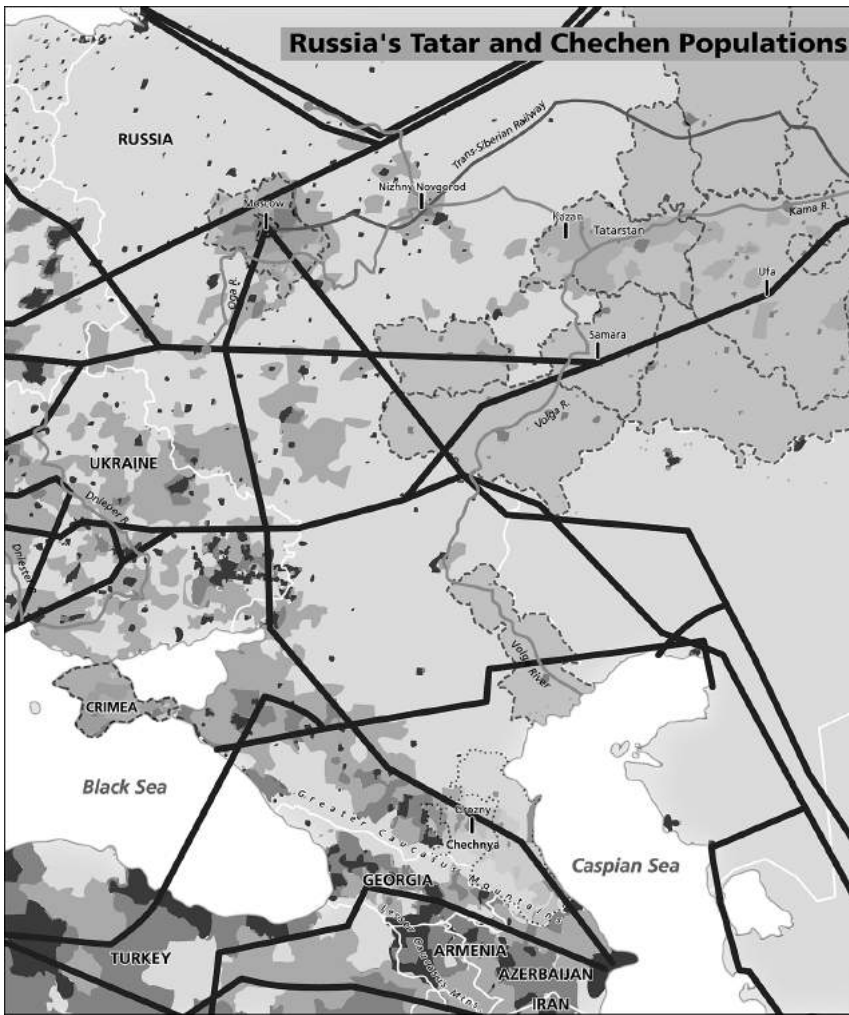
Desert

Pakistan's Punjabi-Sindhi core

Militant Zone



# Russia's Tatar and Chechen Populations



- Major Petroleum Trunklines
- Navigable rivers
- Head of Navigation

- Republics with over 50,000 Chechens
- Republics with over 500,000 Tatars

## Population Density people per sq. km.

- Over 100
- 50.1-100
- 25.1-50
- Under 25

Source: Socioeconomic Data and Applications Center (SEDAC)