

AN INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN CULTURE I: GENERAL INTRODUCTION: CULTURE AND GEOGRAPHY

2 1. What is American Studies?

1. What is American Studies?

3

- Analyzing the United States of America, sometimes including Canada (North America Studies)
- diverse aspects: history, geography, culture, literature, politics, economy
- not just description but theory

1. What is American Studies?

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- interdisciplinarity
 - ▣ traditional disciplines: Philology, History, Linguistics, Anthropology, etc.
 - ▣ “American Studies” takes its cues from a variety of disciplines and is constantly evolving
- this seminar will look at America from a “Cultural Studies” perspective

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2. What is Culture?

2. What is Culture?

6

- What do you think?

2. What is Culture?

7

- Culture consists of patterns, explicit and implicit, of and for behavior acquired and transmitted by symbols, constituting the distinctive achievement of human groups, including their embodiments in artifacts; the essential core of culture consists of traditional (i.e. historically derived and selected) ideas and especially their attached values; culture systems may, on the one hand, be considered as products of action, on the other as conditioning elements of further action.
- (A.L. Kroeber / C. Kluckhohn. *Culture: A Critical Review of Concepts and Definitions*. Cambridge, MA: Peabody Museums, 1952)

2. What is Culture?

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- this is just one definition
- from an anthropological “school”

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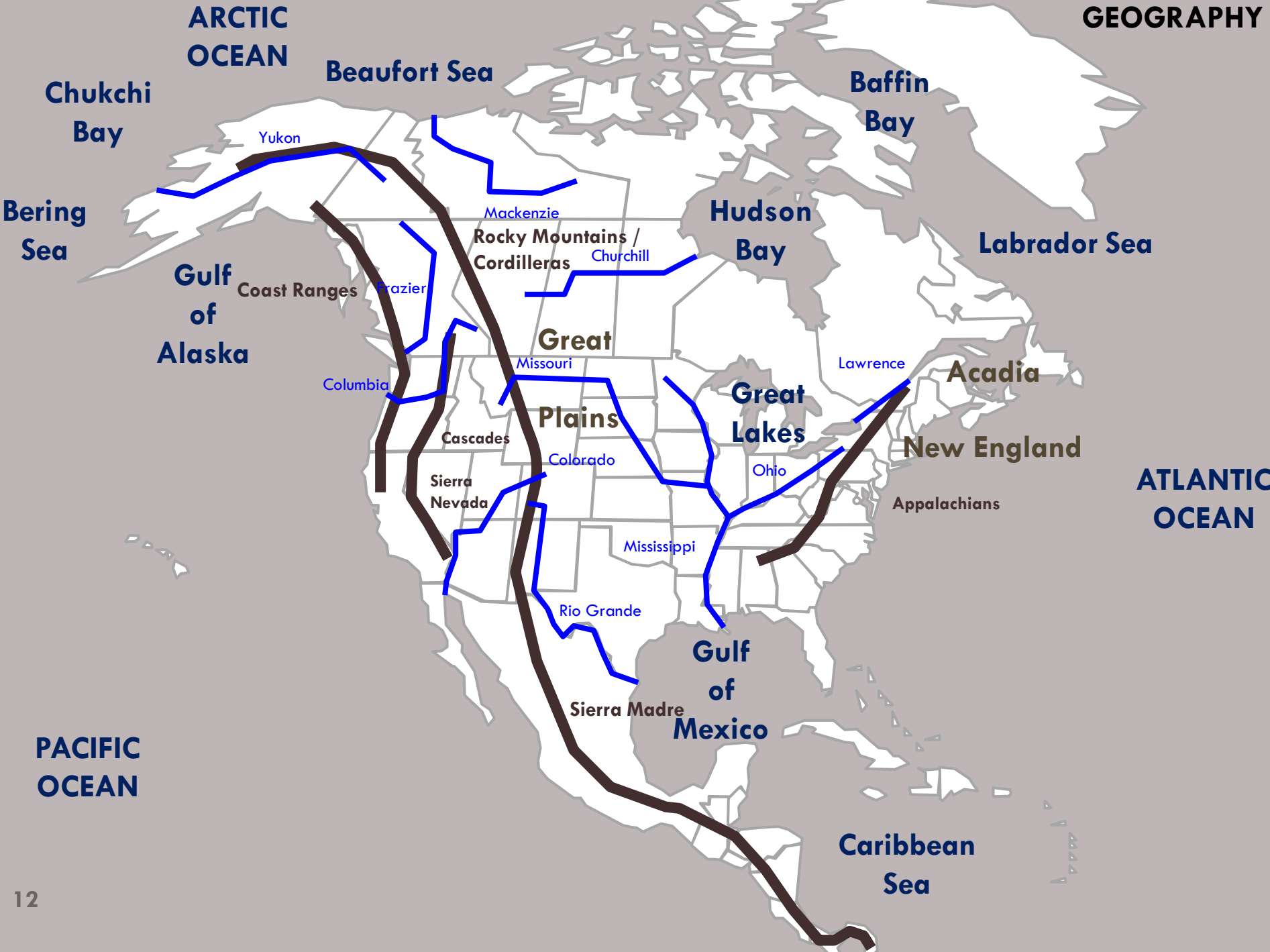
3. What is America?

2. What is Culture?

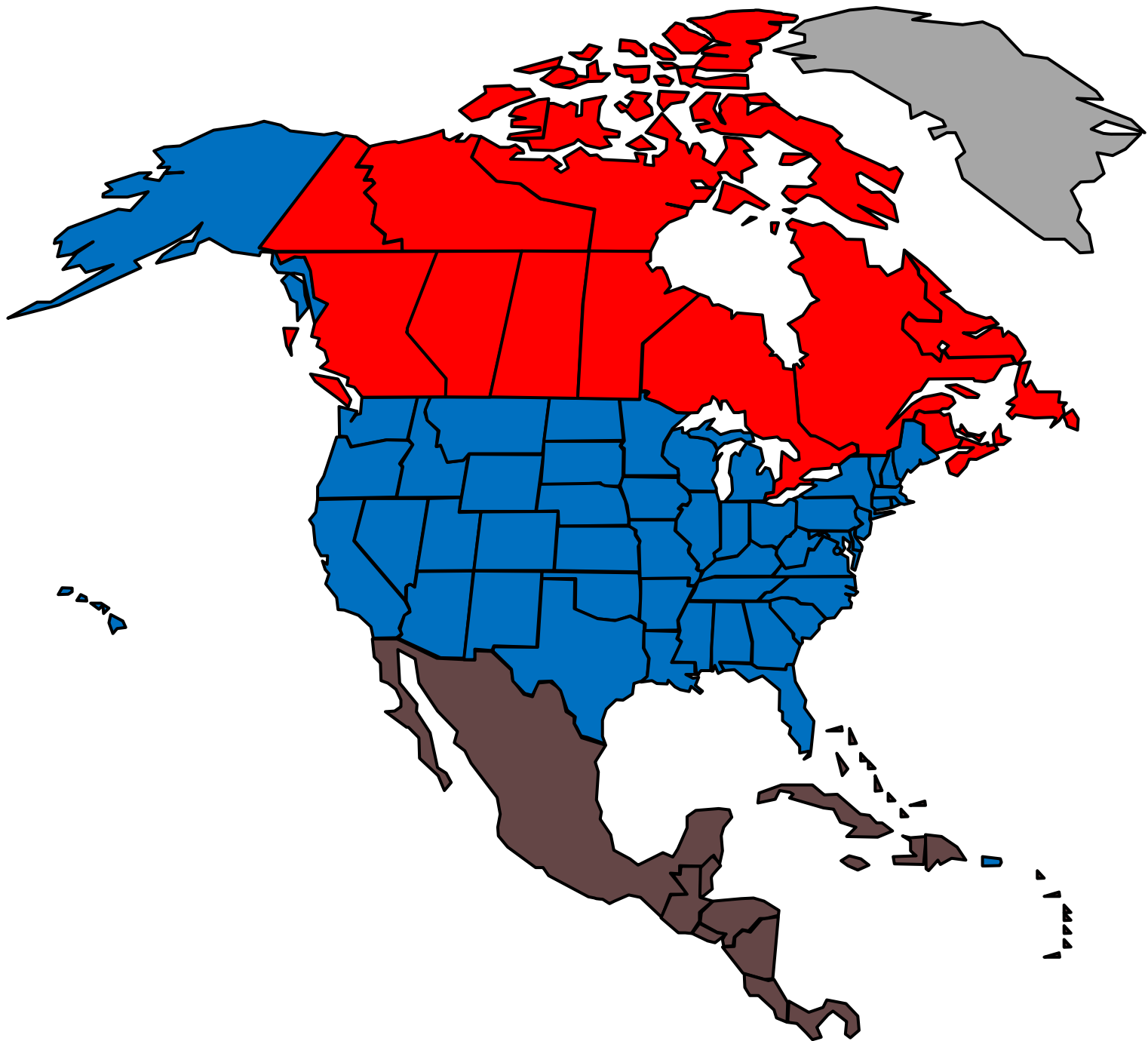
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- What do you think?

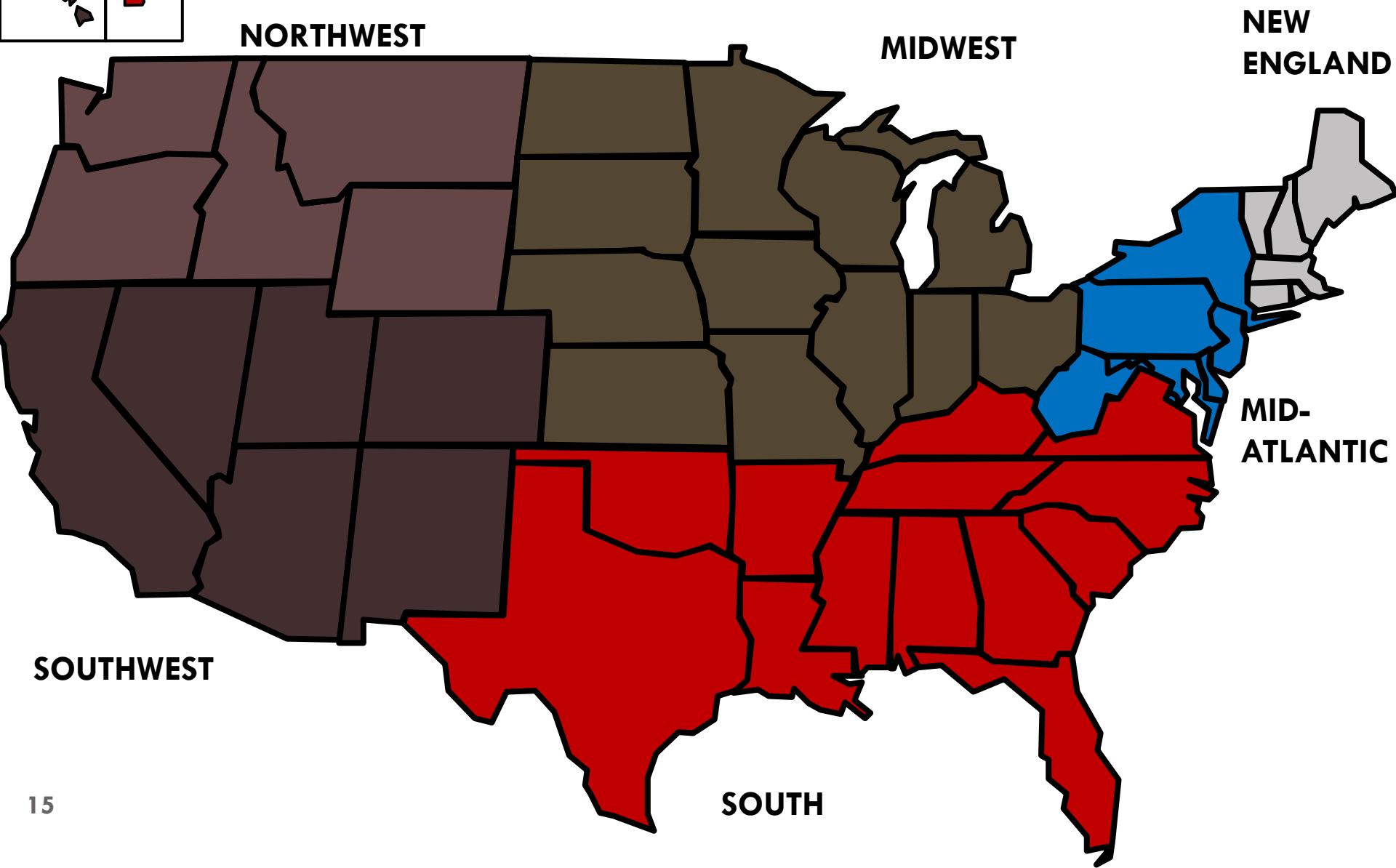
3.1. Geography



3.2. States and Regions



US REGIONS



NEW ENGLAND

NH: New Hampshire

★ Concord

1.3 Mio

ME: Maine

★ Augusta

1.3 Mio

VT: Vermont

★ Montpelier

0.6 Mio

NY: New York

★ Albany

19.5 Mio

MA: Massachusetts

★ Boston

6.6 Mio

PA: Pennsylvania

★ Harrisburg

12.6 Mio

RI: Rhode Island

★ Providence

1 Mio

CT: Connecticut

★ Hartford

3.5 Mio

DE: Delaware

★ Dover

0.9 Mio

NJ: New Jersey

★ Trenton

8.7 Mio

WV: West Virginia

★ Charleston

1.8 Mio

MD: Maryland

★ Annapolis

5.7 Mio

★ Washington DC

0.6 Mio

MID-
ATLANTIC

MIDWEST

ND: North Dakota

★ Bismarck

0.6 Mio

MN: Minnesota

★ St. Paul

5.3 Mio

WI: Wisconsin

★ Madison

5.7 Mio

MI: Michigan

★ Lansing

10 Mio

OH: Ohio

★ Columbus

11.5 Mio

IN: Indiana

★ Indianapolis

6.4 Mio

IL: Illinois

★ Springfield

13 Mio

IA: Iowa

★ Des Moines

3 Mio

MO: Missouri

★ Jefferson City

6 Mio

KS: Kansas

★ Topeka

2.8 Mio

NE: Nebraska

★ Lincoln

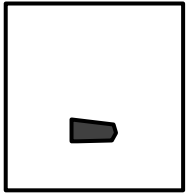
1.8 Mio

SD: South Dakota

★ Pierre

0.8 Mio

SOUTH



PR: Puerto Rico

★ San Juan
4 Mio

VA: Virginia

★ Richmond
7.9 Mio

KY: Kentucky

★ Frankfort
4.3 Mio

AR: Arkansas

★ Little Rock
2.9 Mio

TN: Tennessee

★ Nashville
6.3 Mio

OK: Oklahoma

★ Oklahoma City
3.7 Mio

NC: N. Carolina

★ Raleigh
9.4 Mio

SC: S. Carolina

★ Columbia
4.6 Mio

MS: Mississippi

★ Jackson
3 Mio

AL: Alabama

★ Montgomery
4.7 Mio

GA: Georgia

★ Atlanta
9.8 Mio

LA: Louisiana

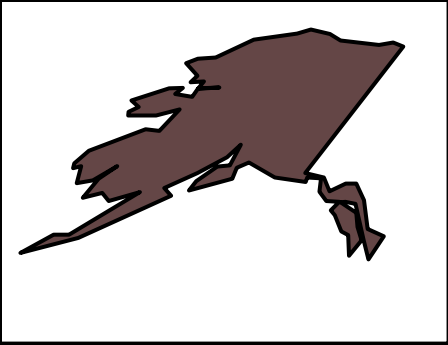
★ Baton Rouge
4.5 Mio

FL: Florida

★ Tallahassee
18.5 Mio

TX: Texas

★ Austin
24.8 Mio



AK: Alaska

★ Juneau

0.7 Mio

WA: Washington

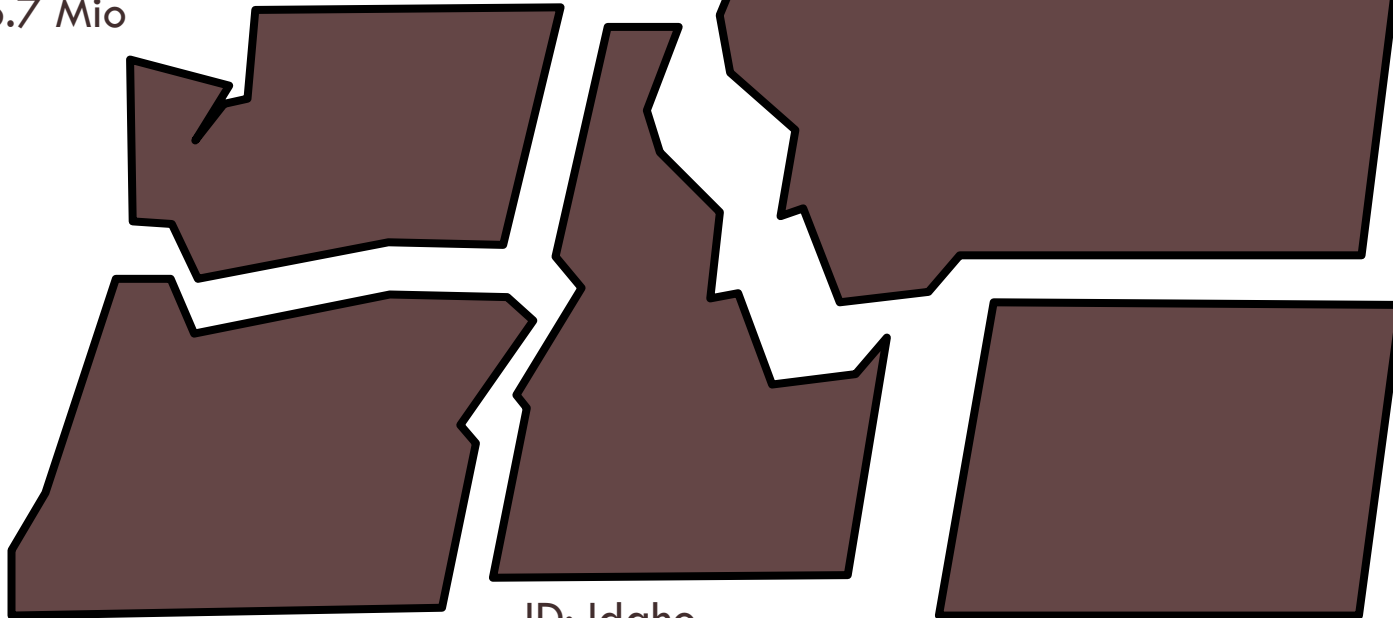
★ Olympia

6.7 Mio

MT: Montana

★ Helena

0.9 Mio



OR: Oregon

★ Salem

3.8 Mio

ID: Idaho

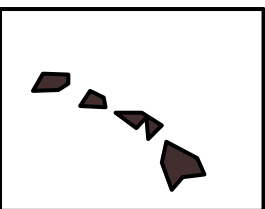
★ Boise

1.5 Mio

WY: Wyoming

★ Cheyenne

0.5 Mio



HI: Hawaii
★ Honolulu
1.3 Mio

NV: Nevada
★ Carson City
2.6 Mio

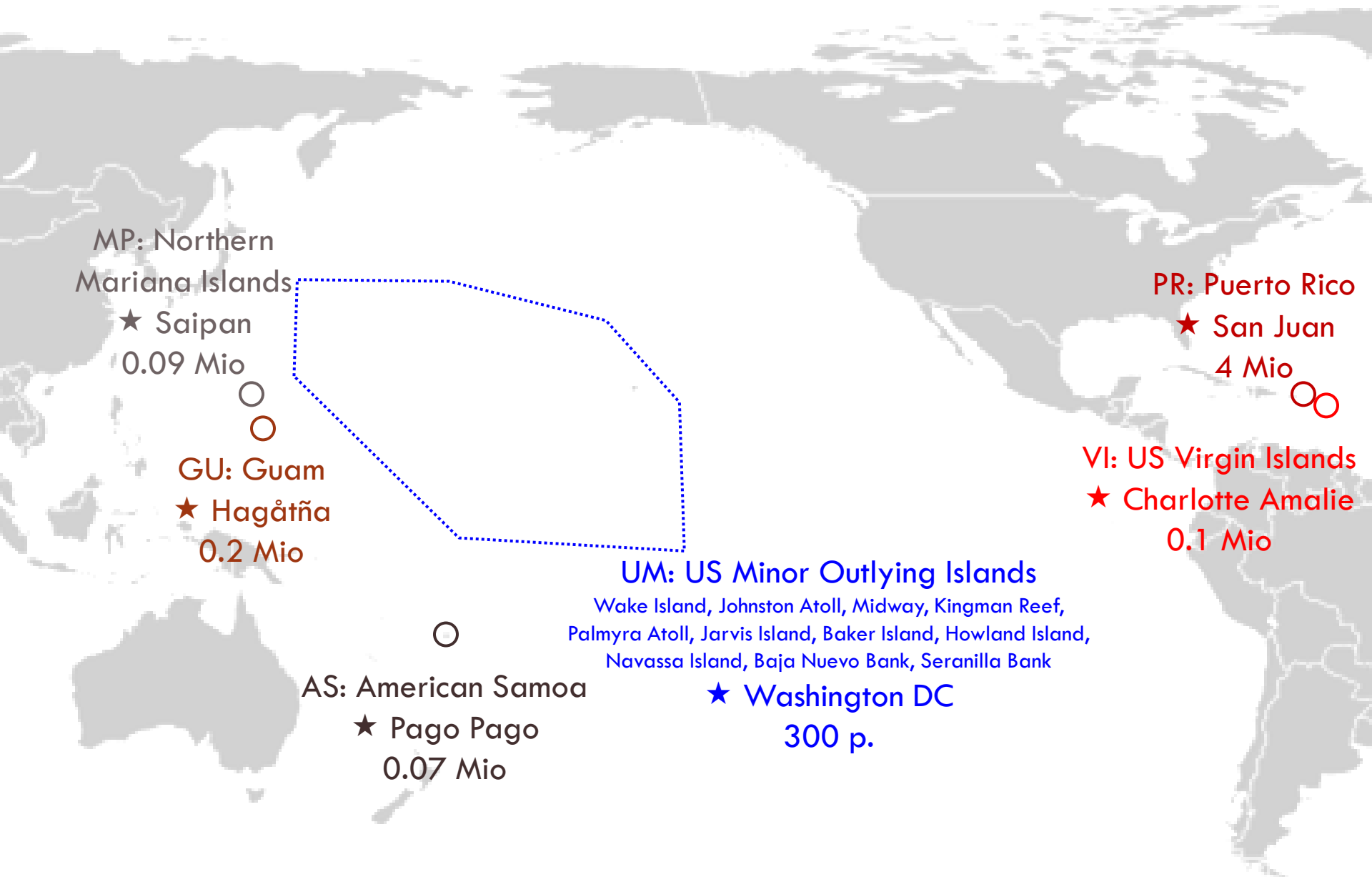
UT: Utah
★ Salt Lake City
2.8 Mio

CO: Colorado
★ Denver
5 Mio

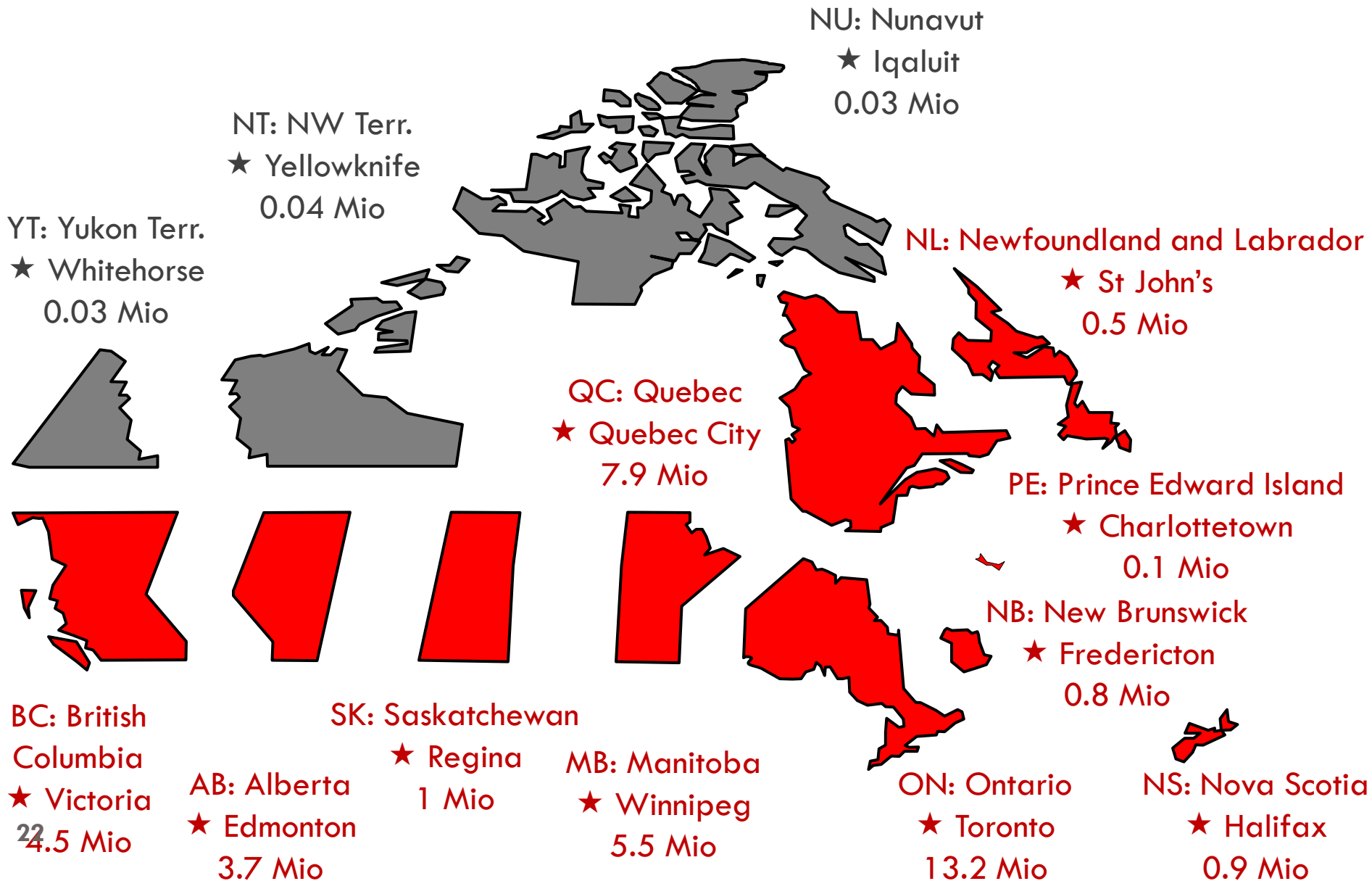
CA: California
★ Sacramento
37 Mio

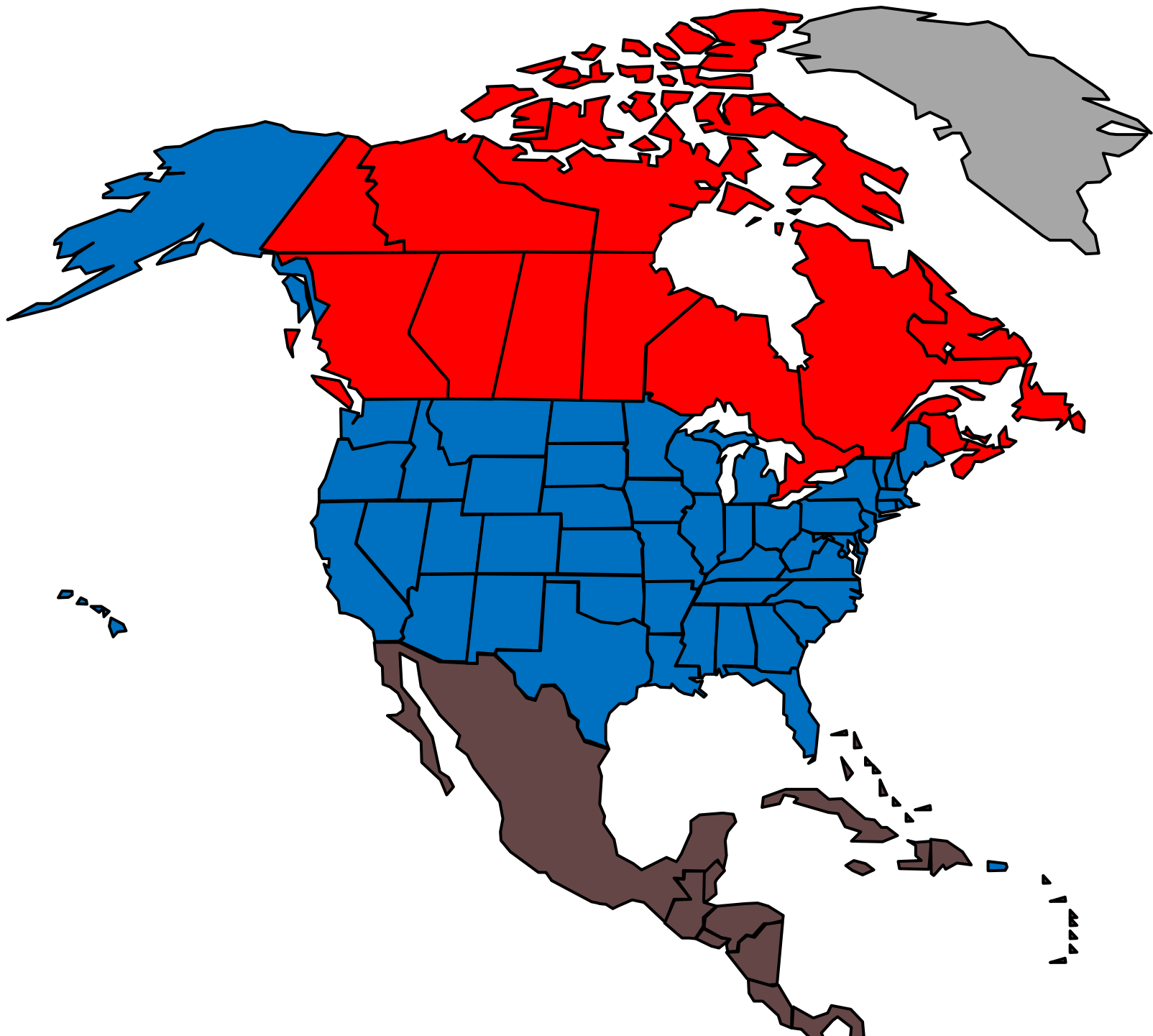
AZ: Arizona
★ Phoenix
6.6 Mio

NM: New Mexico
★ Santa Fe
2 Mio



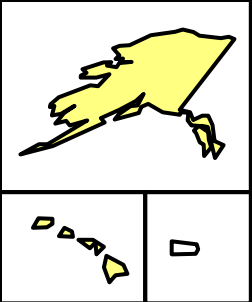
CANADIAN PROVINCES AND TERRITORIES





3.3. History of Expansion

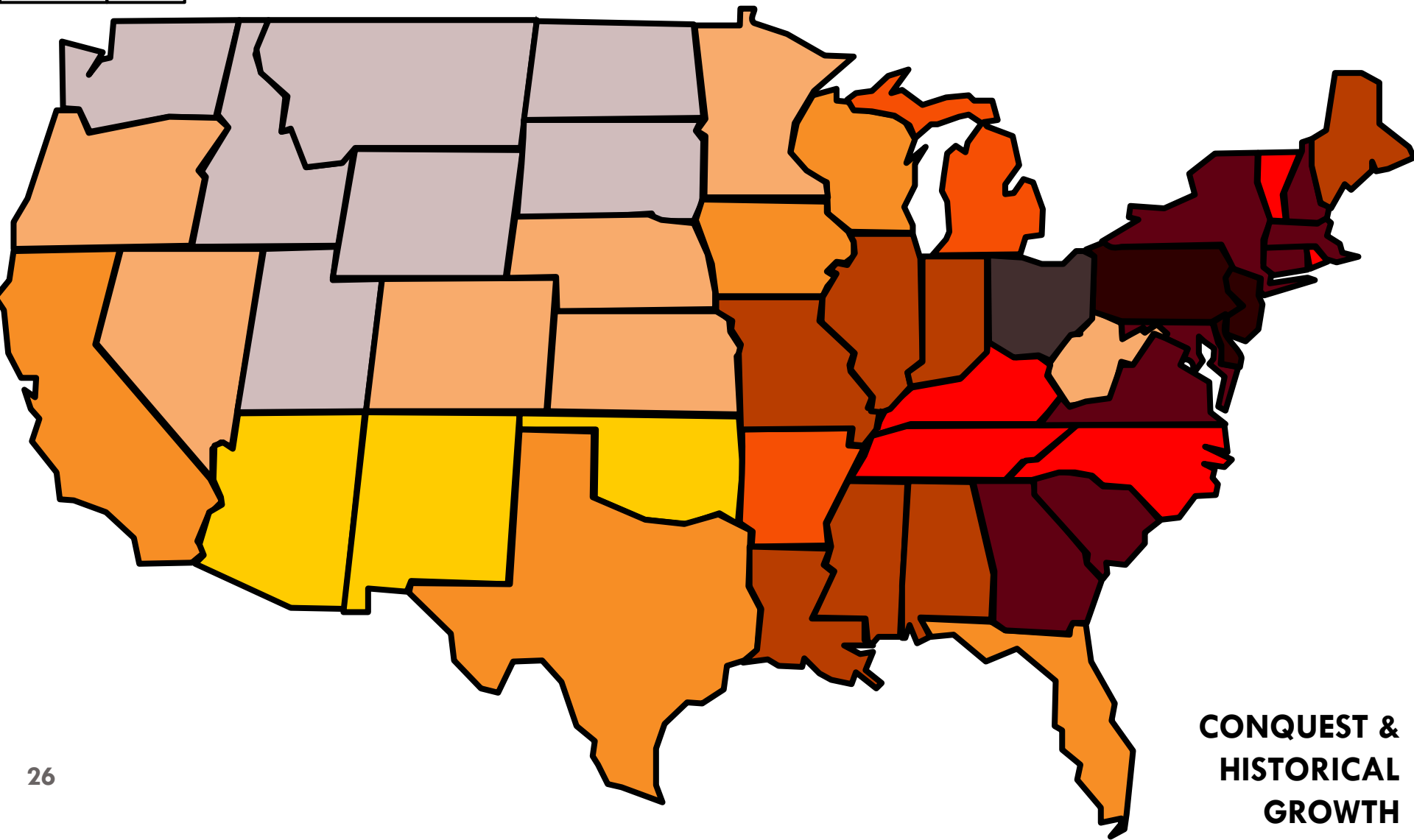




1787: DE, PA, NJ (1st-3rd)
 1788: GA, CT, MA, MD, SD, NH, VA, NY (4th-11th)
 1789: NC, '90: RI, '91: VT, '92: KY, '96: TN (12th-16th)
 1803: OH (17th)

1812: LA, '16: IN, '17: MS, '18: IL, '19: AL, '20: ME, 21: MO: (18th-24th)
 1836: AK, '37 MI (25th-26th)
 1845: FL, TX, '46: IA, '48: WI, '50: CA (27th-31st)
 1958: MN, '59: OR, '61: KS, '63: WV, '64: NV, '67: NE, '76: CO (32nd-38th)

1889: ND, SD, MT, WA, '90: ID, WY, '96: UT (39th-45th)
 1907: OK, '12: 'NM, AZ (46th-48th)
 1959: AK, HI (49th-50th)



**CONQUEST &
HISTORICAL
GROWTH**

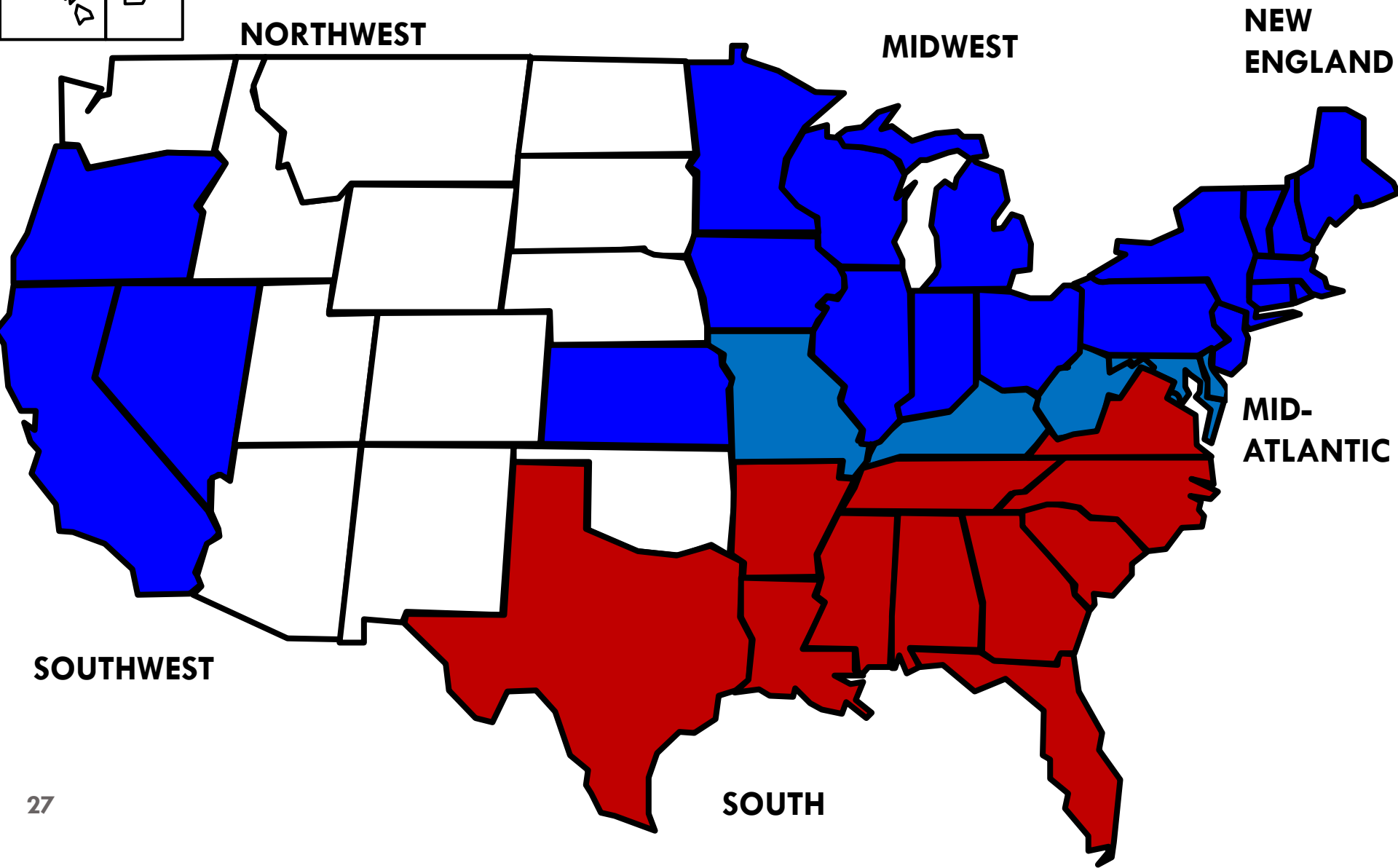
CIVIL WAR (1861-65)

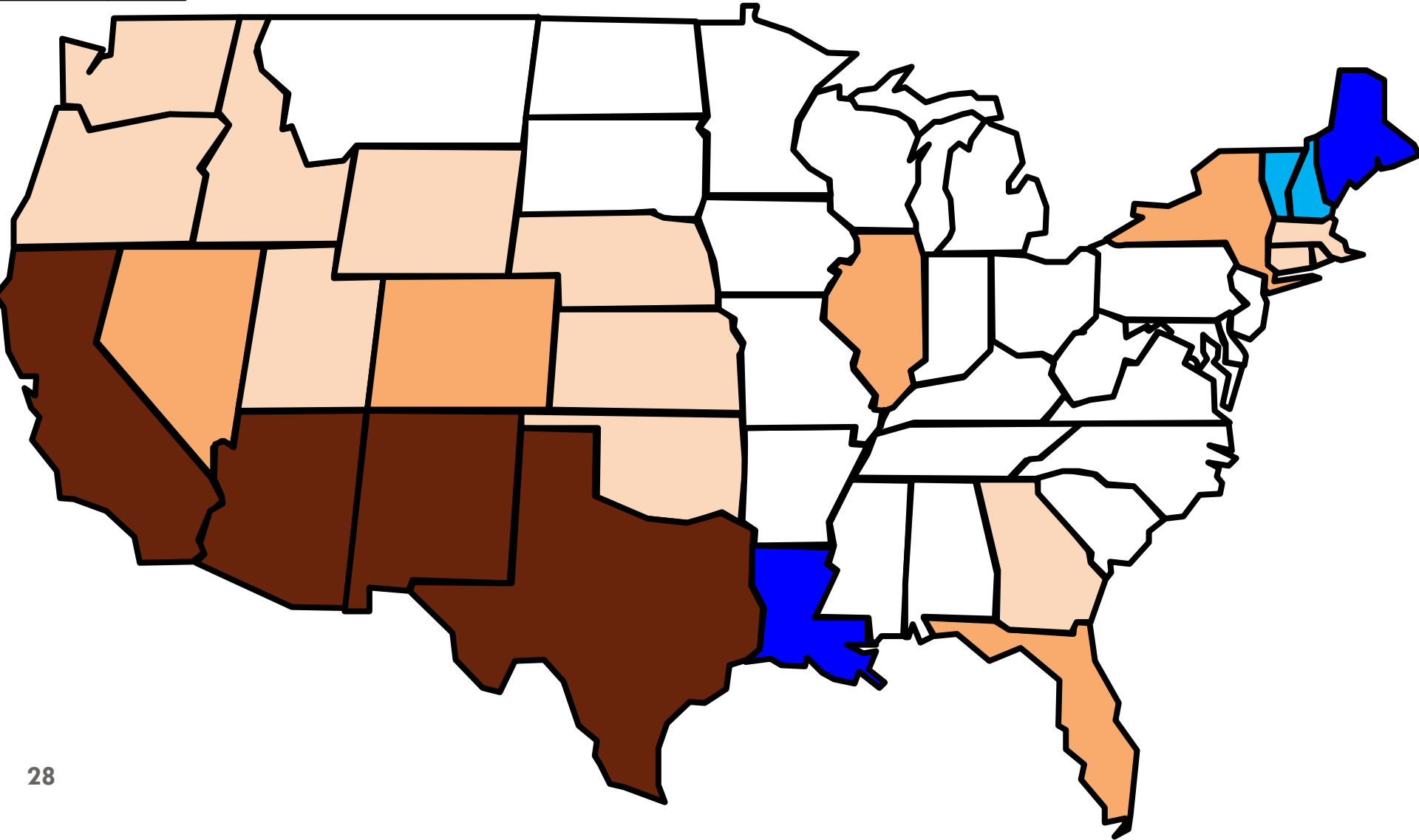


Union

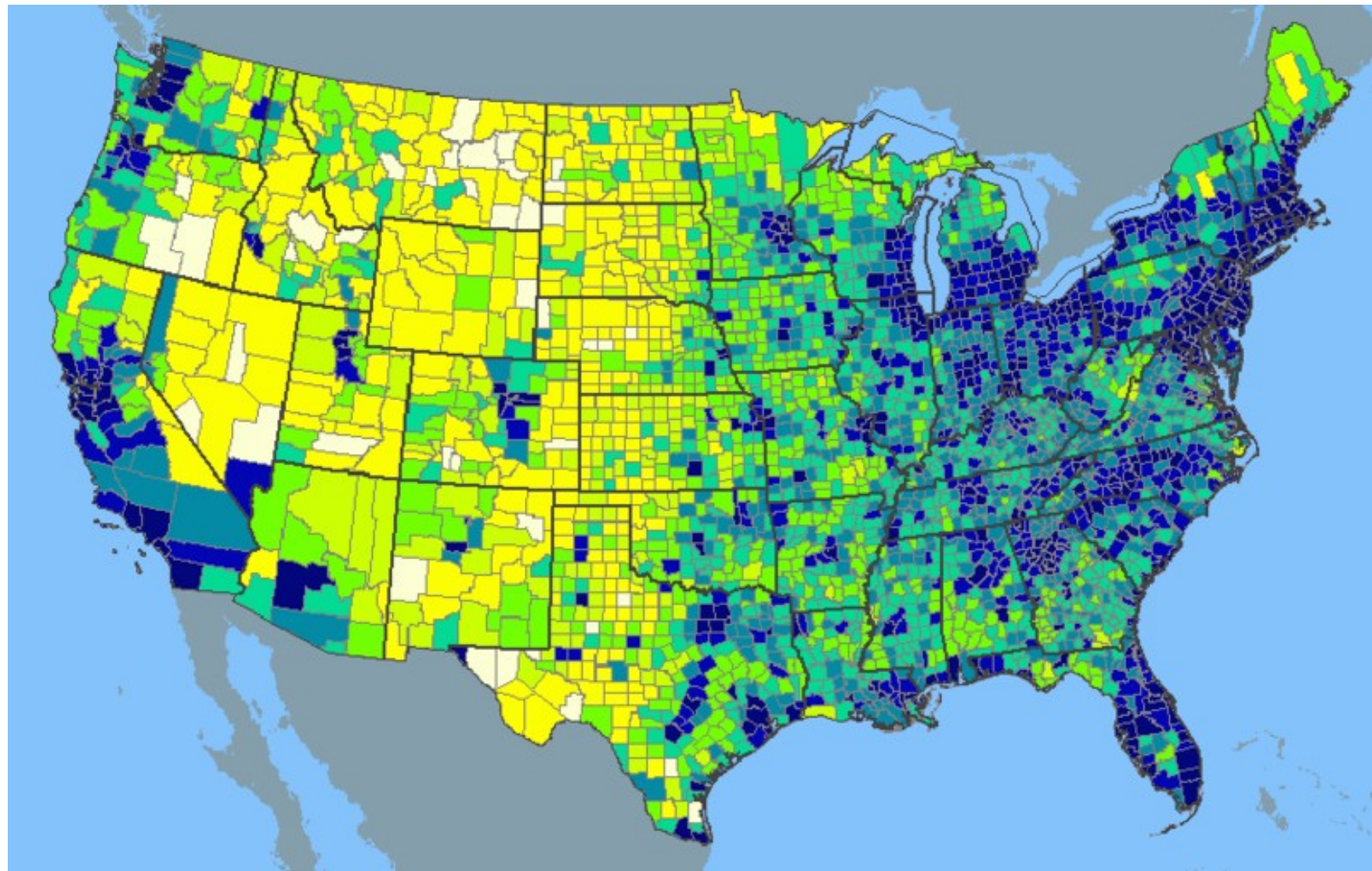
Union border states with slavery

Confederate States of America (1861-1865)

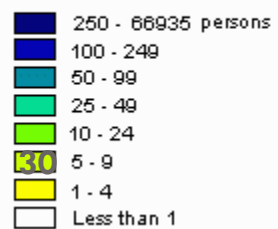




3.4. Population Density



Population Density 2000
(per square mile)



3.5. Ethnicity / Race / Descent

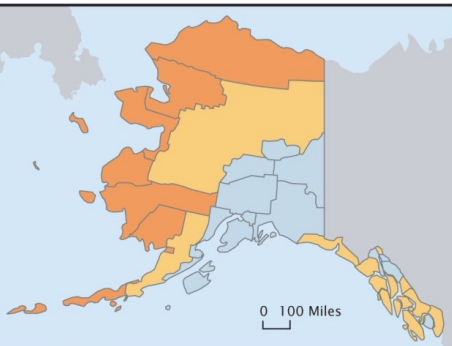
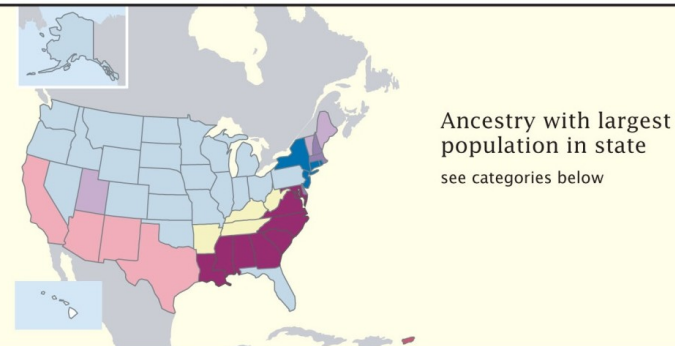


Figure 3. Largest Ancestry: 2000

(Data based on sample. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see www.census.gov/prod/cen2000/doc/sf3.pdf)



Ancestry with largest population in state
see categories below

