



# What is geography?



- The study of spatial variation
- How – and why – things differ from place to place on the surface of the earth
- The study of how observable spatial patterns evolved through time

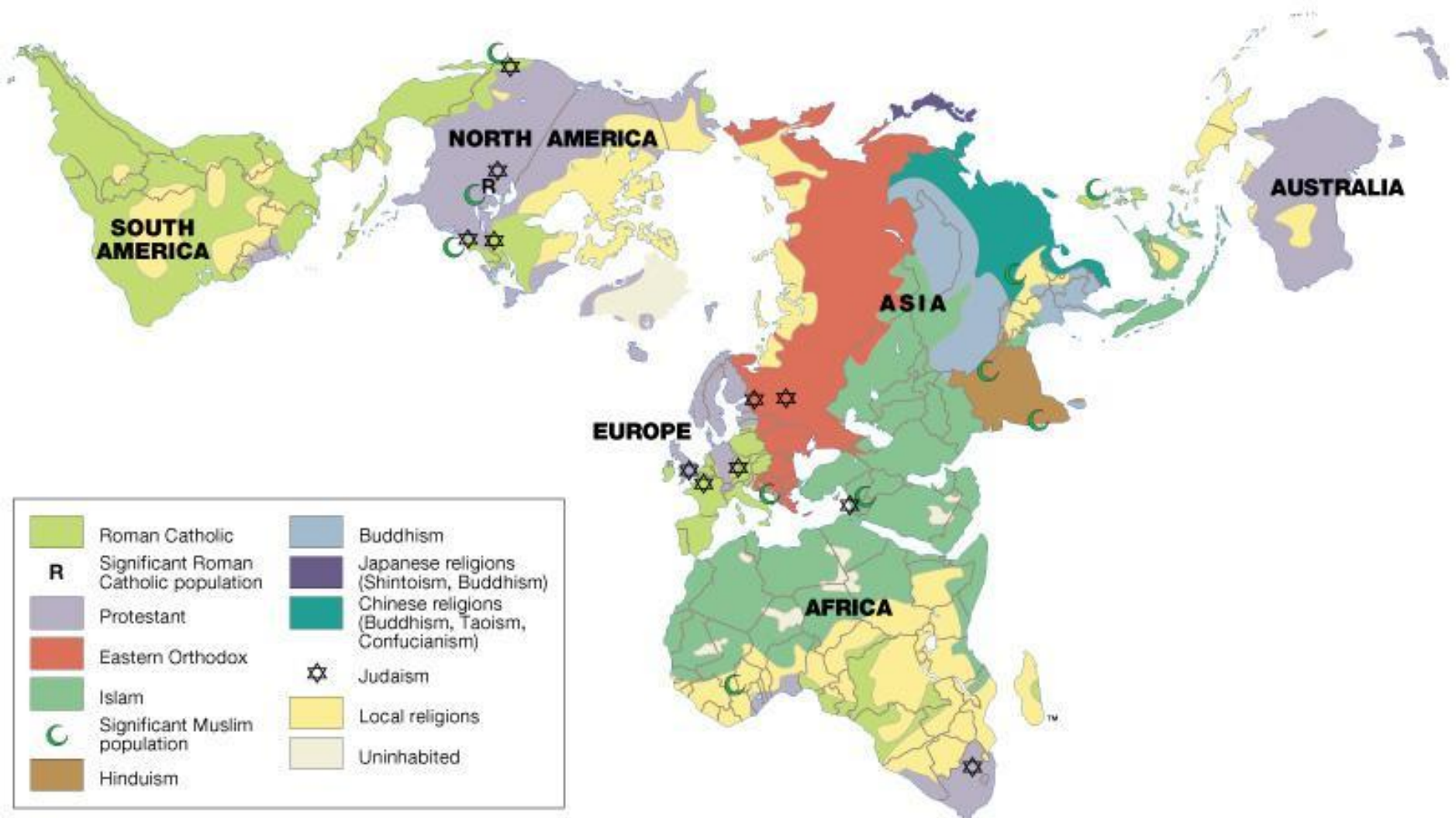


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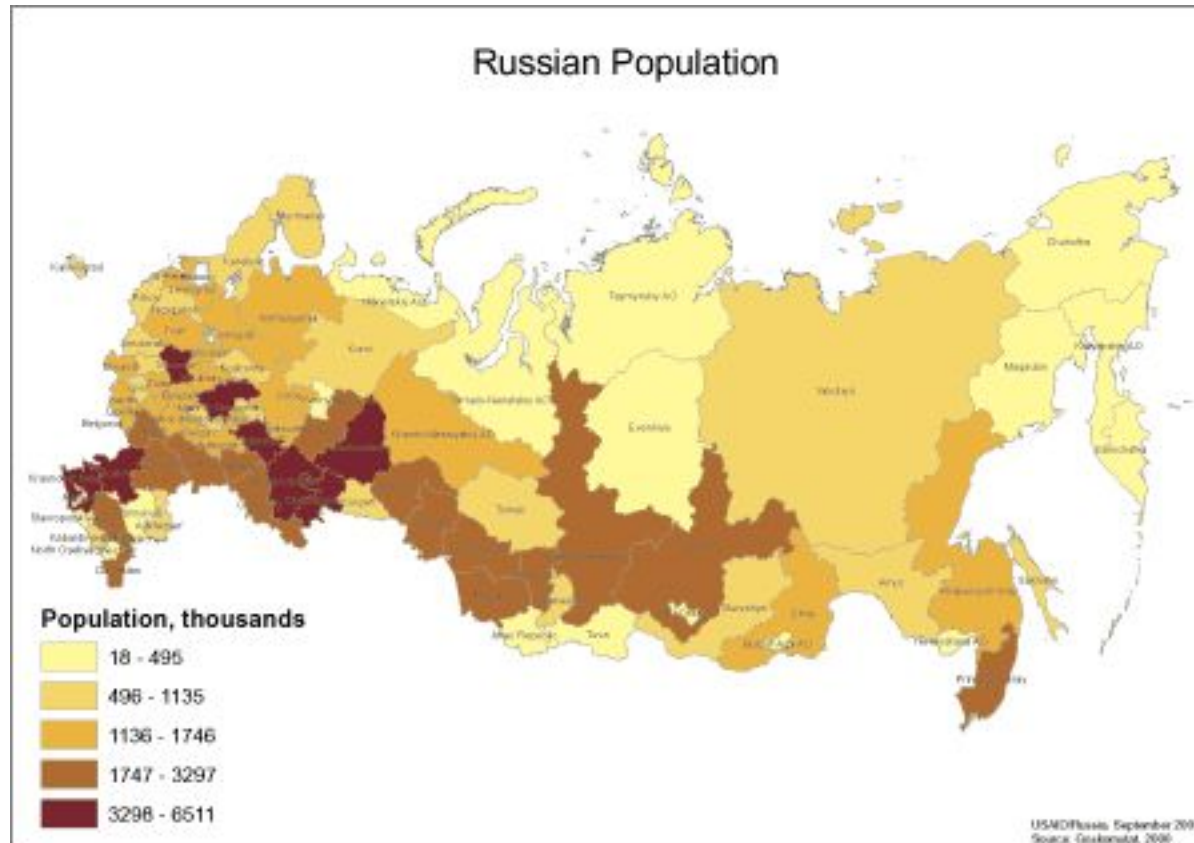


- Geography is a *spatial* science
- *Spatial behavior* of people
- *Spatial relationships* between places
- *Spatial processes* that create or maintain those behaviors and relationships

# Spatial variation: predominant religion



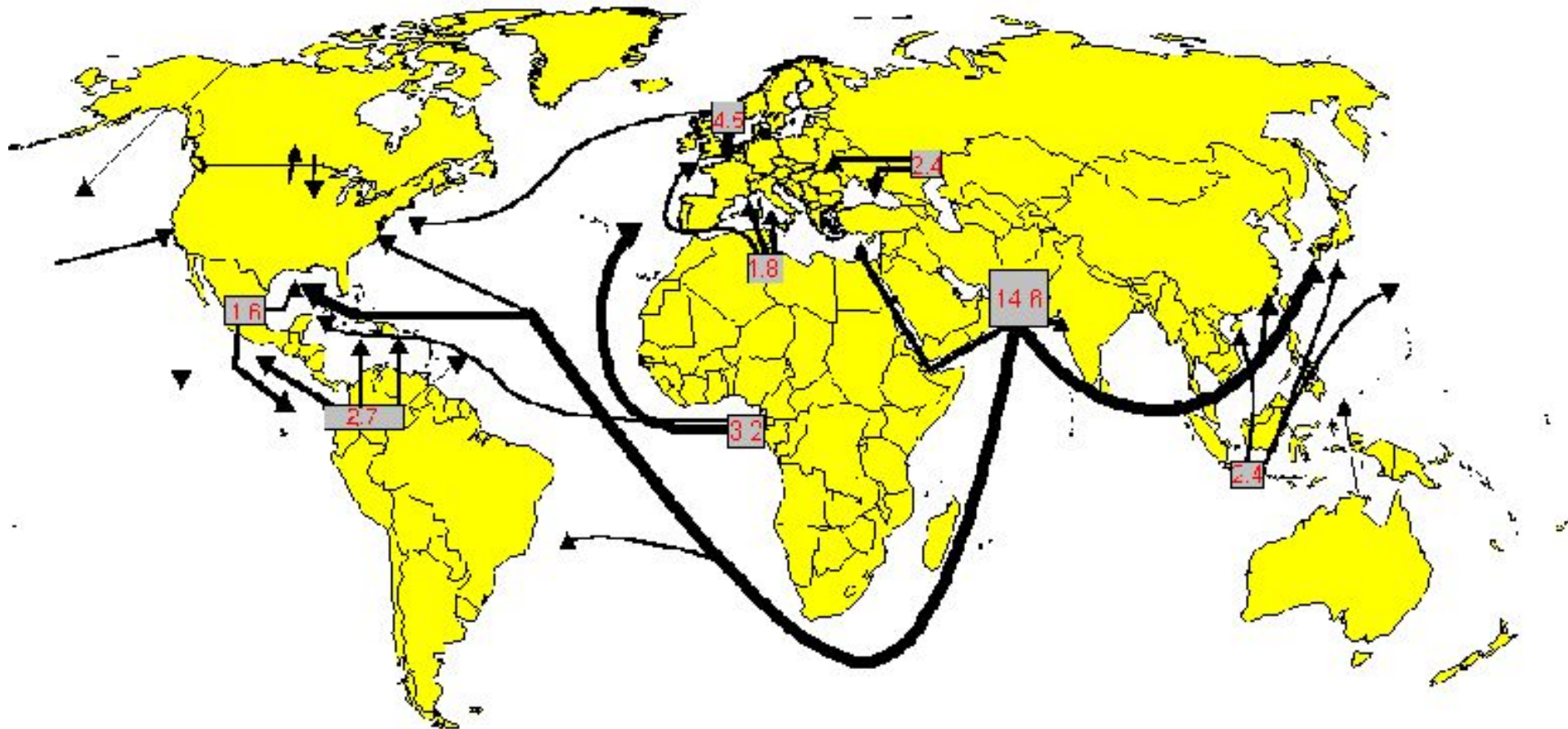
# Spatial behavior of people: population



# Spatial relationships between places: trade

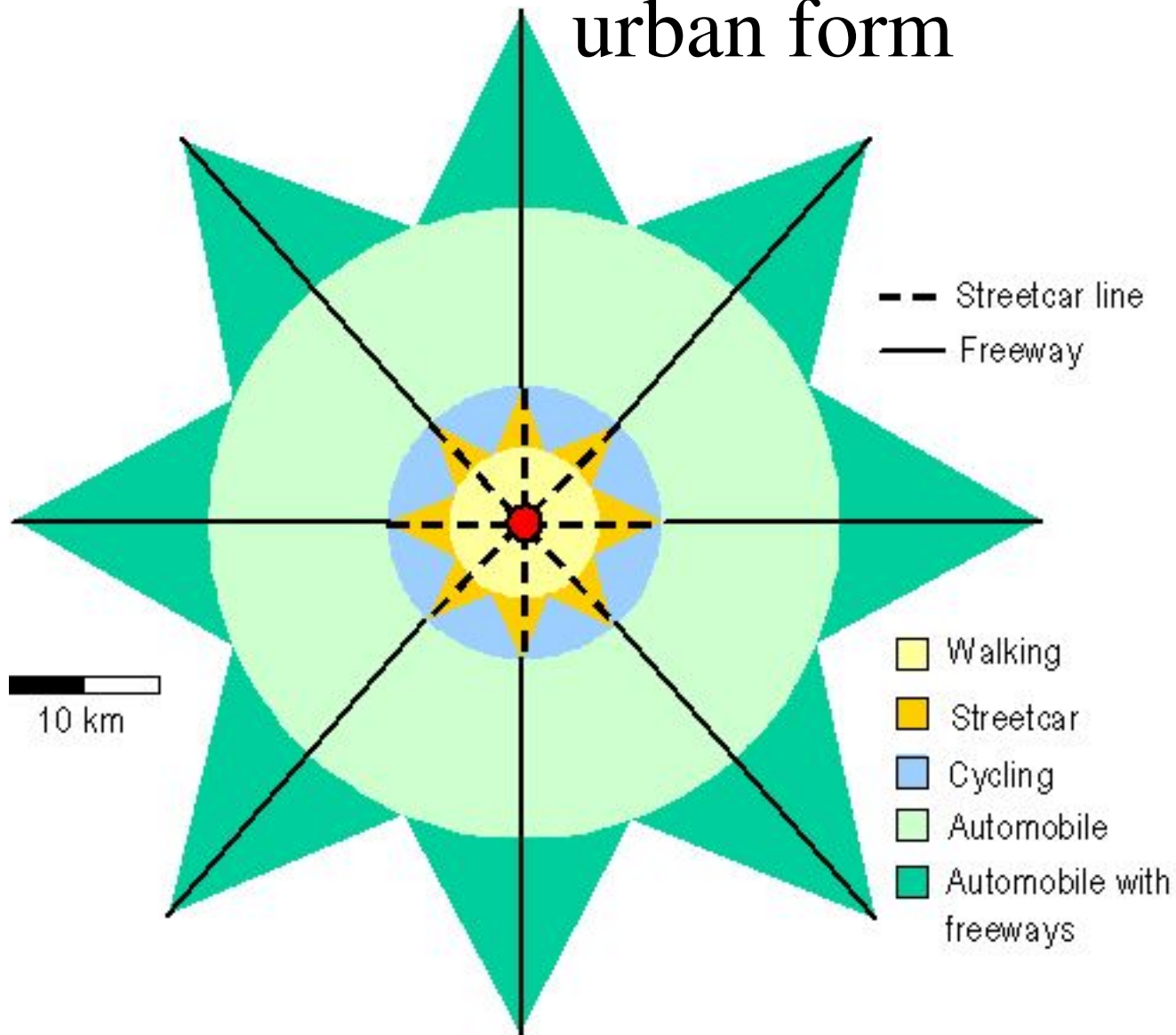
## World Crude Oil Flows 1997

34.8 Million Barrels Per Day





# Spatial processes: commuting and urban form



# Five fundamental themes of geography

- 1) Location: the meaning of relative and absolute position on the earth's surface
  - Sample terms: Latitude and longitude, site and situation, direction, distance, scale
  - Skills: Map reading, identification
  - Questions: Where is \_\_\_\_\_? Where is \_\_\_\_\_ relative to where I am?

# Five fundamental themes of geography

2) Place: the distinctive and distinguishing physical and human characteristics of locales

- Sample terms: Physical and cultural landscapes, sense of place
- Skills: Description, compare and contrast
- Questions: What does \_\_\_\_\_ look like? Why? How is it different from \_\_\_\_\_?



# Five fundamental themes of geography

- 3) Relationships within places: the development and consequences of human-environment relationships
- Sample terms: Ecosystems, natural resources, environmental pollution
  - Skills: Evaluation, analysis
  - Questions: What human-environment relationships are occurring? How do they affect the place and its inhabitants?

# Five fundamental themes of geography

- 4) Movement: patterns and change in human spatial interaction on the earth
- Sample terms: Migration, diffusion, globalization
  - Skills: Explanation, prediction
  - Questions: How has this spatial pattern developed? Will it continue to change? What does it mean for the places involved?

# Five fundamental themes of geography

5) Regions: how they form and change

- Sample terms: Formal vs. functional regions
- Skills: Synthesis, application
- Questions: How has this spatial pattern developed? Will it continue to change?  
What does it mean for the places involved?