



Rise of the City-States

By Parag Khanna

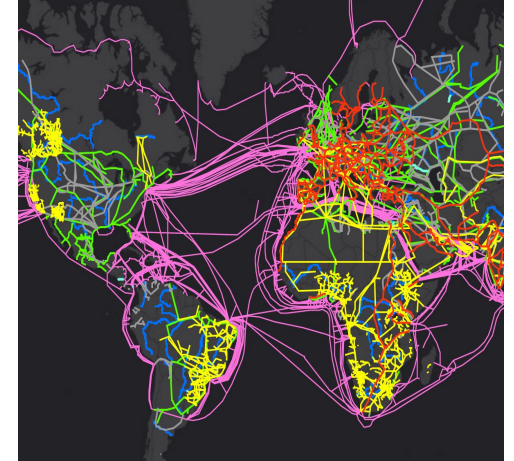
Cartographic Evolution



Natural Geography



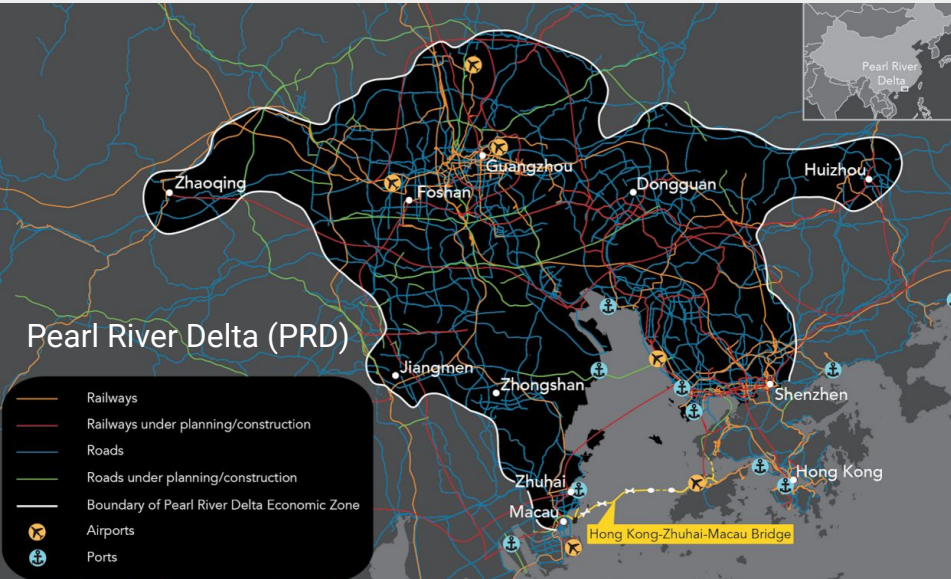
Political Geography



Functional Geography

“What we build today will last centuries.” - Santiago Calatrava

From Political to Functional Geography



From nations & borders to infrastructure & supply chains.

Transcending political divides to optimize land, labor and capital.

The Devolution - Aggregation Dialectic

2nd Law of (Geopolitical) Thermodynamics: Maximum Entropy

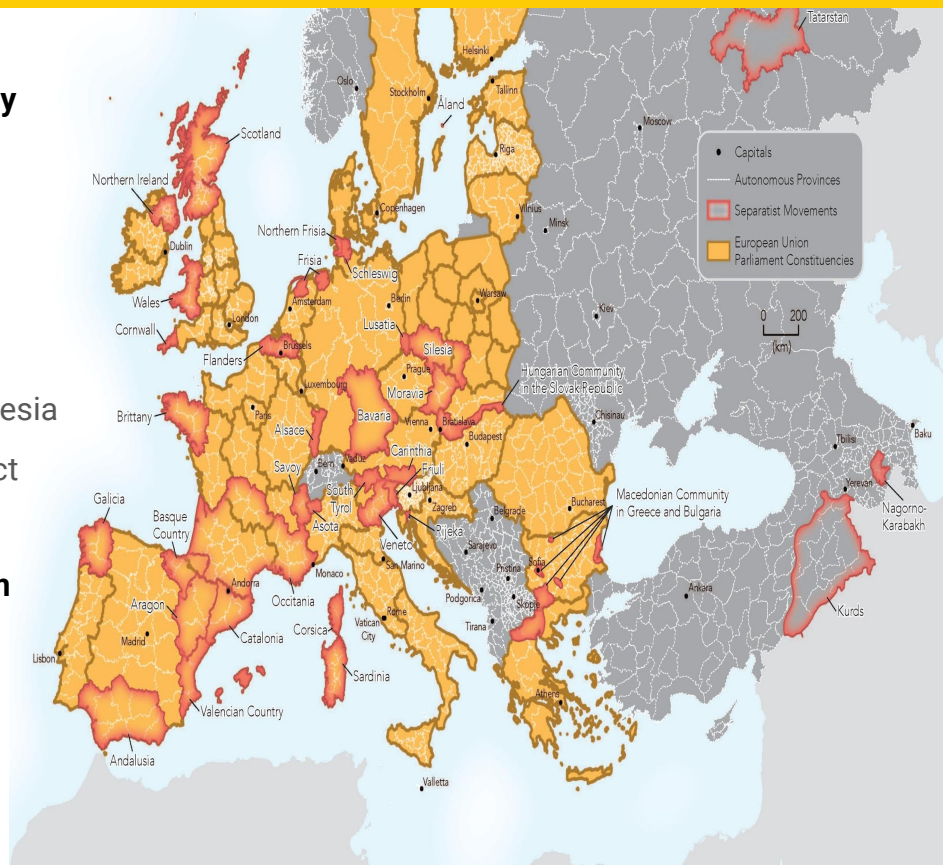
- Get the polity right: Devolution more universal than democracy
- Democracy fuels devolution: Brexit, Scotland, Northern Ireland
- Wilson meets Big Data: Catalunya, Veneto

Let the tribes win! Devolution contributes to peace

- Growing apart to stay together: India, Nigeria, Myanmar, Indonesia
- The more borders, the better: The wane of international conflict

“Too Small to Survive”: Tribalism as the Path to Globalism

- The virtues of settlement: Exclusive → Inclusive remapping
- Regional commonwealths: EU → *Pax Americana, Indica, Aseana, Africana, Arabia*

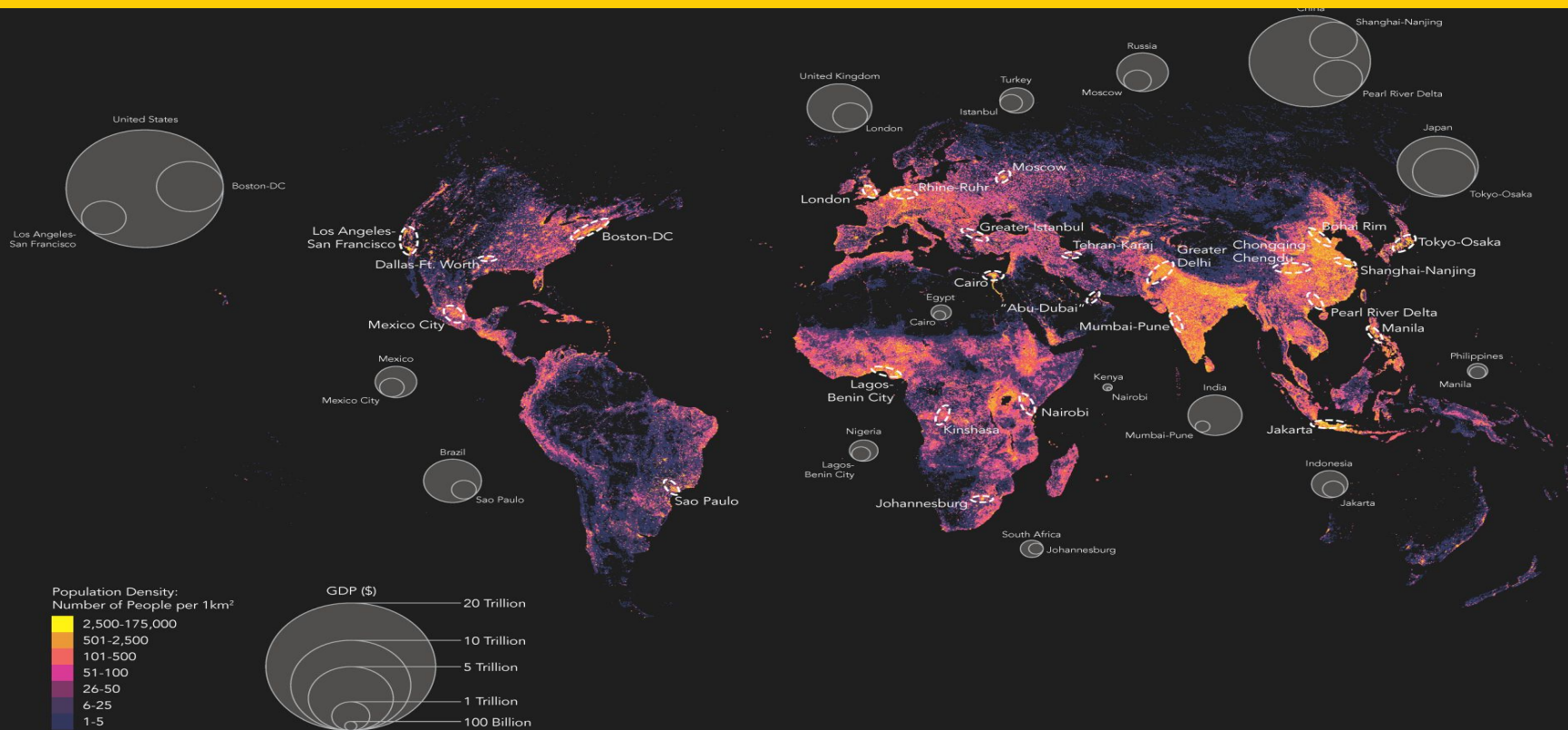


The Asian Center of Gravity



POPULATION: Asia = 4 Billion > Americas (1 Billion) + Europe/Middle East/Africa (2 Billion)

Planetary Urbanization: Megacity Archipelagos Define Humanity



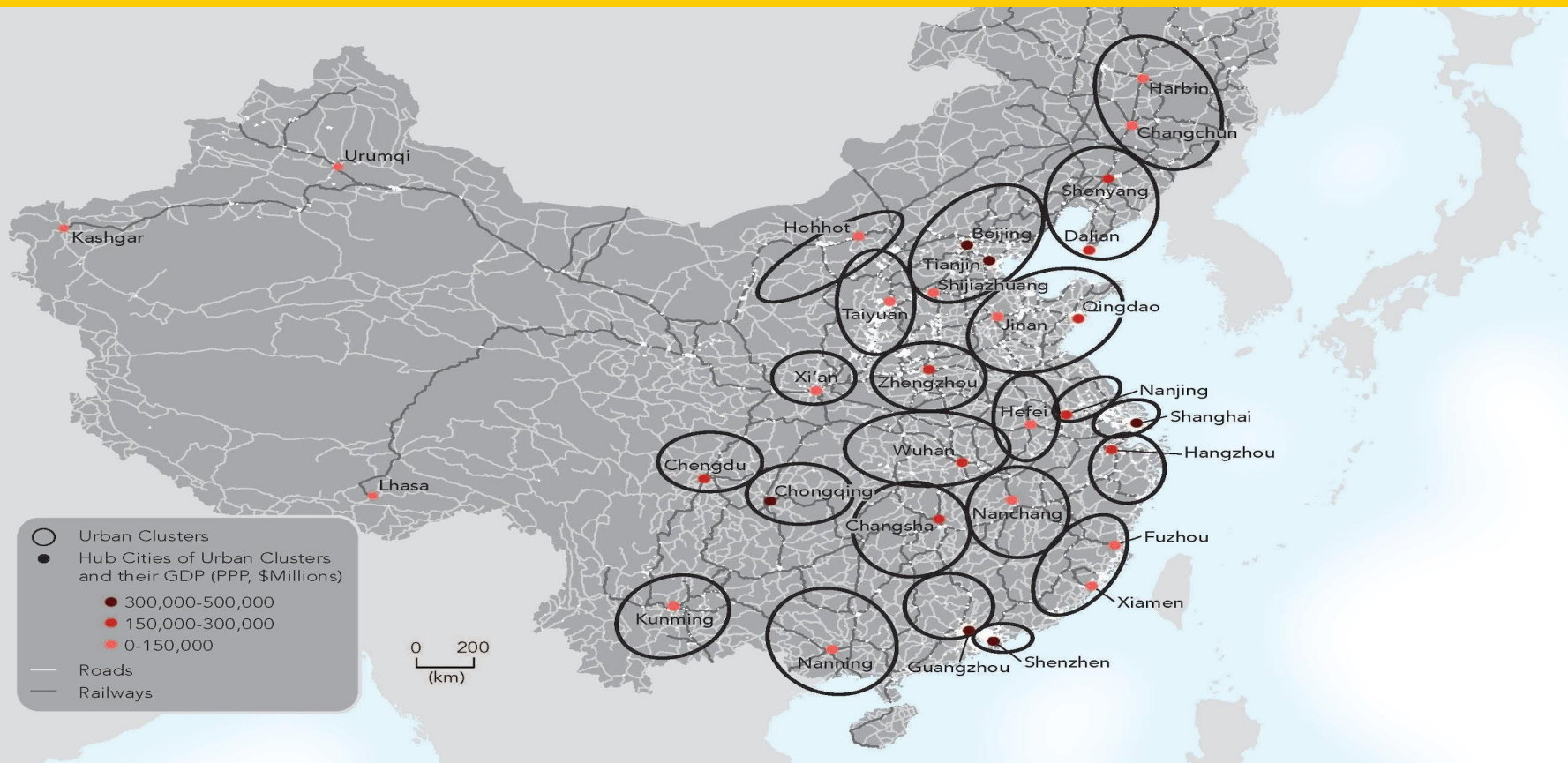
From Nations to Nodes: 50 Mega-Cities or 200 Countries?



- 2030: Brighter lights, same cities
- Megacities up to 10% of global pop. by 2030

- Cities need countries more than vice-versa
- How cities think: Connectivity over territory

China: Empire of Mega-Cities

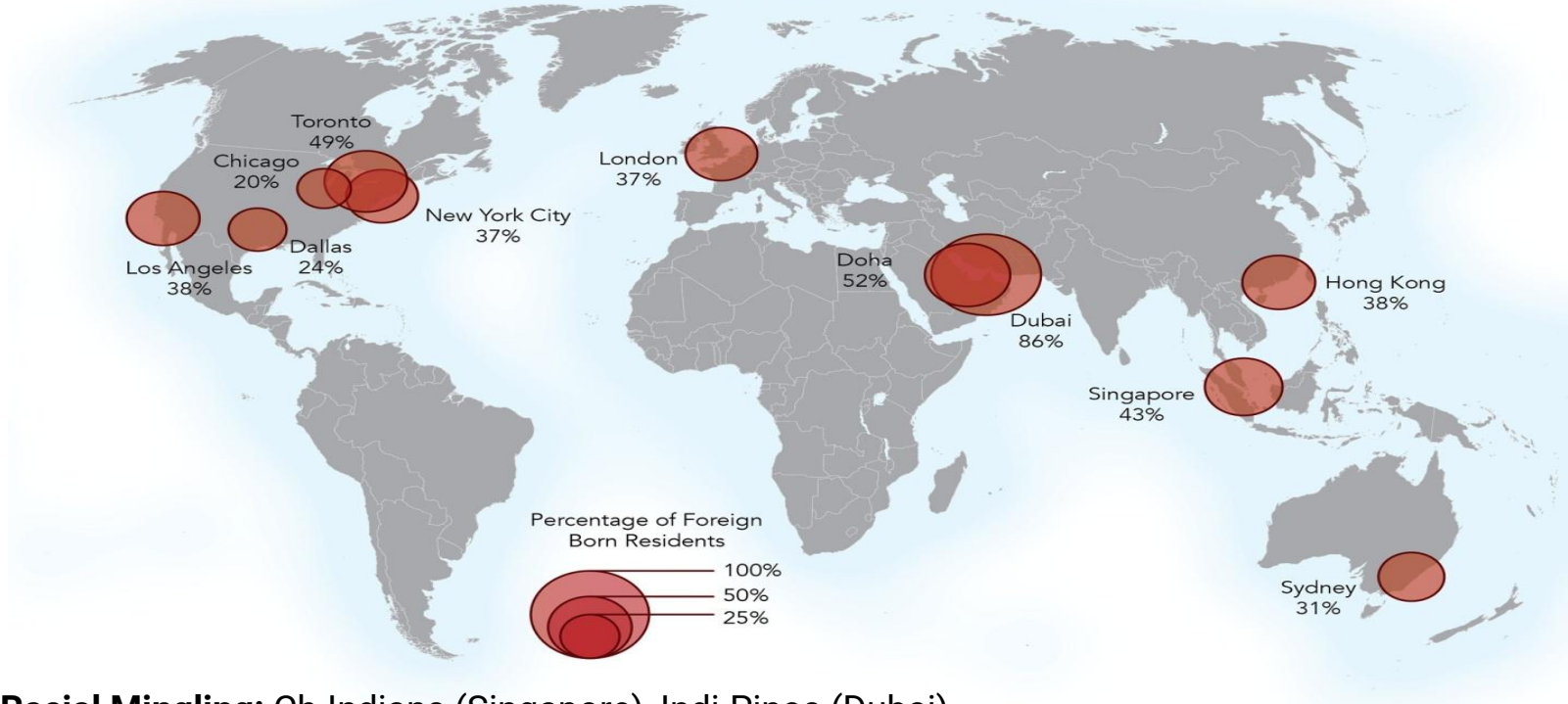




- Top-ranked cities for flows:
- Goods
 - Services
 - Capital
 - People
 - Data

What's the next global city?

All Great Global Cities are Melting Pots



- **Racial Mingling:** Ch-Indians (Singapore), Indi-Pinos (Dubai)
- **From Nationalism to Civicism:** Cumulative not exclusive identities

The Rise of “Diplomacy”



Urban Devolution: Power to the Cities

- ▶ **Listening to people, not politicians**
 - ▶ Transparent access to public data for enhanced response to citizen demands; NYC Human Rights Law/Commission
- ▶ **Building their own energy grids**
 - ▶ Mapping energy needs to target green investments (e.g. Amsterdam)
- ▶ **Owning their streets**
 - ▶ Sidewalk Labs (Google) maps traffic patterns to reduce congestion and plan future CRE investments
- ▶ **Keeping their money**
 - ▶ Post-Brexit, London Mayor Sadiq Khan seeking autonomy over taxation, spending, borrowing
- ▶ **Attracting inward investment**
 - ▶ Issuing infrastructure bonds and attracting foreign investors into tech (e.g. Glasgow, Tel Aviv)
- ▶ **Recruiting talented migrants**
 - ▶ Potential “London visa” for finance sector; foreigners voting in municipal elections (NYC, Hamburg)
- ▶ **Engaging in “Diplomacy”**
 - ▶ Int’l collaboration (e.g. C-40); commerce (e.g. London-SG “Fintech” bridge); Shareconomy (Uber, AirBnb)
- ▶ **Pushing for federal autonomy**
 - ▶ Autonomous legal and fiscal status (Mexico City, London, Mumbai)



London Mayor Sadiq Khan

Pax Urbanica: Cities Drive the Global Network Civilization





THANK YOU!

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