

ETHNIC ATLAS OF THE UNITED STATES

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Why the Ethnic Atlas Project?

You may wonder why I should exert all the time and energy on something so far removed from my environmental, public interest and spiritual focus as the American ethnic picture.

A real puzzle. Ethnicity is my long-time hobby, and we all need hobbies to take our minds off the pressures of everyday life. Collecting and analyzing statistics is a way of giving my mind a pleasant diversion. Besides I have always shunned fiction (though I see why it has some value to others), and constructed puzzles have never appealed to me in any way. I like real puzzles such as the amount of non-renewable energy each person actually consumes or the amount of land necessary to supply food for an individual or family. The ethnic picture of both Appalachia and the United States has always been a real puzzle to me. And even more challenging after dealing with this ethnic subject for decades is the changing face of that ethnic picture over time. Here hobby gives way to social and academic pursuits and I have encouraged team members to devote study time to the subject.

I've heard at various times that this or that person is part of an ethnic group. Well, that applies to the majority of Americans and so to be ethnic is not of itself something distinctive. We are all ethnic in some way or other; it is just that the scene is so confused for some that they prefer to abandon their ethnic identification. Certainly some people are more ethnic than others in the sense of their own personal awareness of belonging to one or other group. In the deep down heart of things, most would like further identity and would like to uncover more about their own roots. They too would like to answer this puzzle of who am I or who is this community in which I live.

Personal preferences. Awareness of our ethnic roots and rootedness grows on Americans, especially when tired of having to move from place to place and being forced to start over again. In the striving for stability, we seek to discover inherited ways and emotions and psychological traits, all coming with a genealogical history. Orphans want to know their parents; native born Americans carry out ancestry searches; third generation Americans return to the Old Country; ex-slaves are fascinated with tracing their cultural backgrounds. We have roots so often hidden and wait to be exposed. We start to appreciate the high prices our forebears paid to make us who we are today -- and we thank God for them as gift. Thus our ethnicity may and should enter into our own spiritual development and journey of faith.

Ethnic and ecological consciousness. Ethnic awareness can also be environmental awareness -- our homes and community structures, our interactions with friends, our recreational and educational choices, our sicknesses and weaknesses, our celebrations and joys, our ways of conducting funerals and weddings, and our many interrelationships -- are frequently rooted

in our ethnicity or in the collective ethnicity of a community. How we solve problems in the dynamic of a democratic people is a challenge that invites our deeper search of our own inherited values. Thus ethnicity enters into our current public interest issues and ought not to be swept under the rug. By knowing who we are we can discover what we are destined to become.

Individual ethnicity. We can ask about our individual ethnic roots. From early times I knew I was different from the groups who lived on farms near us in Mason County. I was coming to my own ethnicity. Many of our neighbors were of English and Scottish stock, descendants from early 1775-1800 pioneer settlers. There we worked beside mountain people generally of Scotch-Irish background, who were day laborers during the Second World War. Besides, there were the Afro-Americans who lived in nearby Washington, Kentucky who were of a different race and cultural background. And then finally my Irish-American classmates at St. Patrick's School were somewhat the same and yet had different temperaments and ways of acting. Yes, all were different from us -- my relatives of Alsatian and Germanic origin, all folks who were handy at making homemade sausage and sauerkraut. We all had differences and yet we were all Americans. Were these differences worth preserving, enhancing and celebrating as part of a national identity? Or were we destined to become a melting pot?

Deeper questions. As I delved deeper into the ethnicity puzzle, it became apparent that personal observation was a mere first level. When I penetrated further and asked individuals about their ethnicity, some obliged with ease, telling stories with pride. However, others dismissed the question as unimportant and went about their daily tasks. Still others actually took offence with, "Why do you need to know?" Suddenly as a researcher I found myself withdrawing, because this subject is considered by some to be a personal matter like one's brand of underwear or how one prays. Could I go still further without infringing on the privacy of others? I began to realize that communities of people identify in public ways through ethnic gathering places and events. They celebrate their ancestry, culture or race in some way through festivals and family gatherings, and through support of museums and shrines. I have attended German, Italian, Greek, Appalachian, Hispanic, and Slavic festivals, and Irish parades, gone to Black and Native American museums, and visited Wendish Lutheran, French Huguenot, Russian Orthodox, and Hungarian Catholic churches. But even in our highly diversified country, the number of distinctively ethnic locations are few, and it takes an effort to discover and visit them. And often enough they are vanishing from our American landscape.

National picture. Going to the U.S. Department of Commerce's Census Bureau became the next logical step. People reveal their first and second ethnic choices in much the same way that they give other vital information, knowing that the individual identity of the subject will not be revealed. Often they do so reluctantly

and with little of the forethought needed for precise results. The total accumulation of vast amounts of national information makes for a comprehensive picture, which appears to approximate the true picture by the sheer weight of numbers. Granted the limitations in the expertise of census takers and those determining the sampling formulas within the Census Bureau, we still receive a relatively good approximation of an authentic American ethnic picture. Certainly the census conclusions for Georgia do not resemble those of Vermont; nor does the Texas picture look like North Dakota's. The reporting with all its limits does present a composite picture.

The American category. The numbers of those in certain parts of the country who answer "American" or "United States" for ethnicity is growing. Because I like my French and German ancestries and, upon visiting the Old World home places, I feel a kinship with these distant cousins, I regret that others do not share that rootedness in their own ancestry. Some are unfamiliar with their distant roots or have had grandparents and great grandparents from a number of different nationalities; they never talk about ethnic roots or they believe that they have lost them. The fact is that while the number of the unidentified grows, so do new immigrants and those who acquire through personal research some identification with their own past. Others marry into stronger ethnic groups and feel comfortable identifying with them. In fact, even though the notion of an American melting pot has some reality, still people with strong ethnic ties form the great majority of our country.

Crossing ethnic lines. Several decades ago an account appeared of an Irish-American infant who was raised by an Amish community and became part of it. Some marry into strongly ethnic families or become part of an ethnic culture in which they enter and take up residence. These crossings are more commonplace than one might expect. The ethnic diversity of major cities points to immense opportunities for such crossings. Perhaps the challenge is for all of us to become in part the ethnicity that others enjoy celebrating. I have become a little English, Scottish, Scotch-Irish, Afro-American and Irish by enjoying the traits of our neighbors. Americans could forego the melting pot and embrace a bubbling stew in which the parts are distinct and worth recognition for what they are. We are challenged to taste and participate in their special foods, dances, costumes, and celebrations as worthy of our appreciation as well. They make us who we are, a welcoming and hospitable country that does not demand that everyone be the same in order to be "American" and patriotic. Can't we champion others' ethnicity and seek to preserve it as we preserve threatened species or endangered language groups?

American character. That myth of a melting pot is especially strong in Kentucky which has more people designating themselves today as "American" or "United States" than any other

state. However, the environmental and spiritual health of our nation involves remembering our roots as best we can. We need to champion ethnicity in celebration and in festivals, and so every town, county and church festival should offer opportunities to display the local ethnic flavor whether singular or diverse. When people can make heirloom ethnic dishes or take out and use national dress, the occasion should be welcomed. At the dedication of the new Catholic church in London, Kentucky, 25 people of different ethnic groups carried their national flags.

Religious designation. Many religious groups have ethnic and cultural roots as, for example, Greek festivals are associated with local Greek Orthodox churches. Often religious statistics are reported according with greater or lesser degree of accuracy to numbers of a particular ethnic group. In my first draft of the yet unpublished Ethnic Atlas in the 1980s I gave special attention to Jewish groups, mainly because some Jewish people do not like to be identified with their lands of origin before migration to this country. Some might be offended by our giving them a special designation --though concentrations in California, New York and Florida and other locations are well known and are often reported as part of Russian, German, Romanian, Lithuanian and other ethnic groupings. People are mobile and enter and leave these religious groups through intermarriage or conversion. This atlas based on 2000 data does not single out any religious groups as such, except that most groups that are designated "Am" or Pennsylvania Germans are Amish, Mennonite, and associated religious groupings.

Appalachian identity. Let's return to one of my basic intentions in developing this atlas, namely to help determine the identity of Appalachian peoples, especially in the Central region where I reside and work. Are my neighbors English or Scotch-Irish or German, or a mix along with other sub-groups? Have Appalachian people emerged as a new ethnic grouping? Are people losing their ethnic identity in these mountains and to what degree? No doubt some of the areas of America where ethnic identification is lowest (increased numbers of those designated as "X" on our maps) are those of the Southeast and the Appalachian and Ozark regions. These regions have witnessed sharp declines in English identity to the point that one wonders what exactly has happened. Lower birth rates may account for some changes, but there is more to that story, which we are starting to research.

Mobility. New groups are moving into every region of our country. There has been a sharp increase in the Hispanic groups as well as an influx of Asian, Middle Eastern, and other immigrant groups that has resulted in strong expansion in the size of certain minority groups. This has occurred in parts of Appalachia as well, especially in the Appalachian counties of North and South Carolina and in moderate-sized cities in various Appalachian states. The overall picture is that of expanding diversity in certain parts of our country, and declining traditional ethnic strength in certain rural areas.

What lies ahead? A picture of ethnicity is never precise because many constituents simply don't know or care to reveal their roots. With a heightened interest in ancestry and genealogy studies by ordinary people, one could expect more widespread identification with ancestry strains. Numbers of Native Americans claimed such identity publicly when race/ethnicity became a source of growing pride among various Indian nations and tribes. The rapid growth in the population of the Hispanics and other recent immigrants, as well as sheer numbers of people entering our country from diverse ethnic groups, will actually counteract the so-called melting pot phenomenon. Certain ethnic groups will continue to be in decline in older industrial, mining and agricultural areas with population decline. When communities age or experience out-migration the ethnic strength or identity suffers, unless efforts are made to counteract such trends. The Midwest and Great Plains have experienced loss of smaller agricultural ethnic groups; however, nearby urban centers often attract these ethnic groups through employment opportunities.

The *Ethnic Atlas of the United States* using 2000 U.S. Census data is part of a total picture, and that picture is emerging now that we have our base computer-generated maps in place. It is now easier to assemble the collected data from the 1980s and 1990s and to compare these data sets with each other. The changing picture calls for analysis and discussion, which will be made available from our team in a short while.

General Notes

Each state map illustrates all ethnic and racial groups of more than one thousand people in every county in the United States. Those ethnic or racial groups with populations of first ancestry (the preferred or major ancestry of citizens of mixed ancestry) reported from 1,000 to 10,000 in the particular county are designated by a parenthesis (); those groups of more than 100,000 people are shown in brackets []; those rare instances of 1,000,000 or are found with a <>. In states with numerous counties (TX, GA, KY, TN, NC) colored dashes for predominant ethnic groups are inserted in place of code letters of the same color with a very small code letter above the dash. This is required in order to economize space.

When in excess of 10%, the percentages of Hispanics, Afro-Americans, and Native Americans are given in black numbers for Afro-Americans and Native Americans and red numbers for Hispanic concentrations. The codes H = __, A = __ or N = __ are found where the designated group is unclear; in sparsely populated counties of 100 to 1000 Hispanics or Native Americans, the codes are given in small letters h = and n=.

It is easier to distinguish particular ethnic and racial groups by retaining the same colors or shades for all maps, e.g., German is always light blue, Irish is green, Italian is purple and English is tan. One must acknowledge that using a variety of closely related colors makes it difficult for some who suffer from various degrees of color-blindness to distinguish the groups with ease. For the most part, the code letters are specific for a given groups.

In present day mobile America, some ethnic groups are not as localized as they were in the times of primary settlement during the 19th and early 20th centuries. However, some concentrations of localized groups, such as the Belgian community in northern Wisconsin or the Czechs in Texas still exist. These are indicated by solid coloring or bordering. In some instances, previous rural clusters as the Germans from Russia districts of the West, general borders are indicated. Small former concentrations of various ethnic groups found principally in Midwestern states are designated by the use of { }.

It is difficult to illustrate all sizeable groups in many urban and ethnically diverse counties. Thus we have resorted to side captions with moderate- and large-sized cities, though the order of appearance does not necessarily mean greater importance. For instance, Lake County and neighboring counties in Indiana require additional space and so are placed in the margins. For California, Florida, Illinois, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Wisconsin, it is necessary to add pages, with ethnic groups recorded according to counties listed; bold numbers indicate the location of the county in question.

"American" or "United States" ancestry was reported with far greater frequency in the year 1990 than in 1980, and then in 2000 to a more pronounced degree. This phenomenon is more often found in the Appalachians, the Southeast, and the Ozarks. These are generally stock from mixed English, German, Irish, and Scottish backgrounds. In the last two U.S. Censuses there has been a dramatic decline in the number reporting English. This increasing non-ethnic designation will be the subject of discussion in upcoming volumes showing the 1980 and 1990 national ethnic profile. In states with colored dashes in place of the code letter, an "x" is replaced by a black dash.

Notes on Various Ethnic Groups

Germanic ancestry. German is and has traditionally been the major ethnic group in the United States; however up until 1980 it often shared the status with the English. This holds from Pennsylvania across the Midwest and into the Western states. In states where the "Germans from Russia" have colonized rural areas we have inserted the approximate boundaries on the various state maps. Today, few people report belonging to that category and perhaps report instead simply "German" ethnicity. The pale blue color is also used for Austrians "Au" and for Swiss "Z," even though the latter includes people of French-Swiss and Italian-Swiss ancestry. Dutch people are designated in dark brown and predominate in areas of Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Michigan. Belgians and Luxembourgers settled are in smaller numbers generally in the Midwest.

English people. English was the language of choice in the first days of the Republic, though German narrowly missed being so designated. The basic English stock (tan color) goes back for three or more centuries, but people reporting "English" as the number one (primary choice) ethnic group have sharply declined in number in recent decades. Thus the number of counties with predominantly English ancestry has also dropped and generally been replaced by counties where "American" or "United States" has become the leading group.

Celtic groups. "Irish" (dark green color) is a major grouping in our country; they are found in significant numbers in all states but especially in New England and New York. The category generally refers to those whose ancestors came from Ireland but includes some who are more precisely "Scotch-Irish." Scottish people are also highly dispersed throughout the United States but are not nearly as numerous as the Irish and do not predominate in any county. They are closely related to the "Scotch-Irish," who emigrated from Scotland to Ireland prior to coming to America. "S" for Scottish and "SI" for Scotch-Irish are always orange; but when the two groups taken together cumulatively exceed 1,000, the "S" is used. Welsh (olive green) is a smaller ethnic group; Welsh people clustered near Eastern and Western mining areas and parts of the rural Midwest; they are

now found in many metropolitan areas.

French people. The "French" or "French Canadian" categories in New England, upper New York and Louisiana are often from the same stock and so in cases of county predominance they are grouped together. In Louisiana, the smaller number of "Acadians" is included in this calculation as well except where specifically designated. The French (light green) are found in all metropolitan areas and are generally fewer than the Germans, Irish and English.

Italians. One finds Italians (purple color) in all metropolitan areas but this group is highly represented in the Northeast (e.g., New Jersey, New York and Connecticut). California and parts of the West have sizeable numbers of Italians as well. Increasing numbers are now found in Florida.

Scandinavian groups. Scandinavians are found in the rural North Central States with strong Norwegian and Finnish areas still detectable especially in North Dakota and Minnesota. In recent decades Scandinavians have tended to disperse among various Metropolitan areas and increasingly in those of Florida and the South. Scandinavian groups (plum color) may be either depicted individually or as "Sc" as a sum of the groups when in excess of one thousand within a given county. In several counties of the upper Midwest the total Scandinavian sub-groups result in making "Sc" predominant in a given county. Rural Danish and Swedish settlements have tended to become more diluted and are often shown by {Sw} or {Dn}.

Eastern Europeans. The most popular Slavic groups (peach colored) are the Polish "P" and the Russian "R," with the latter including sizeable numbers of Jewish people. In only a few counties do the Polish predominate, and in several (Nebraska, Wisconsin, and Texas) the Czechs are predominant or of second ranking. When cumulated groups of Slavic people exceed 1,000 this is indicated by "Sv."

Lithuanians are the most numerous Baltic group with some Latvians listed in larger Eastern and Midwestern cities. Virtually no concentrations of Estonians are found in the country. Greeks are found in many urban areas of the East but also in much of the urban United States, though there is no county predominance. Several New England states along with New York list Albanians. Hungarians settled in the Northeast and Great Lakes, but dispersal into numerous metropolitan areas may be noted.

Jewish. Originally, this ethnic study included "Jewish" as a sub-cultural grouping from data furnished from non-census sources. Russians are most likely of Jewish background, but so are some Hungarians and a minority of Germans, Poles and other Eastern Europeans. Israeli ethnic groups are included as reported by the U.S. Census.

Middle East. Increasingly one finds in major eastern and other metropolitan areas a variety of Middle Easterners (e.g., Armenian, Arabic, Syrian, Turkish). These groups (colored dark blue) now number in the millions. In some regions where significant numbers exist, the particular group is specified as Arab or Armenian; in those areas of sparse settlement, a cumulative "ME" is given. Central Asians (e.g., Afghans) have also begun to arrive in noticeable numbers since 1990.

Hispanics and Latino of any Race. The rapidly expanding population of Hispanic people (pink backgrounds and red lettering) is the predominant group throughout California and the West and in many counties of Texas where the former primary group was German or mixed German/English. The Cuban, Mexican, Puerto Rican and other Hispanic groups are listed together as in census data even though there are clear concentrations of these three groups in various parts of the country (e.g., Cubans in Florida and Mexicans in the Southwest). If migration and natural growth rates continue, in a few decades Hispanics will replace Germans as the predominant ethnic group.

Portuguese (gray-colored) are also classified as Latinos. They are found in large numbers in the southern New England states, in Mid-Atlantic states, and in California and Hawaii. Cape Verdeans, Azoreans and Brazilians are also found especially in the southern New England states.

Blacks or Afro-Americans. "A" (gold colored) includes all descendants of early immigration from Africa prior to the abolition of the slave trade. A minor category indicates recent arrivals from parts of Sub-Saharan Africa as "Af." The latter groups generally appear in major urban metropolitan areas and some university centers. "Hispanic" populations include some cross-categories when the race is black, but that confusion is rare outside of New York City with its Dominican and other Caribbean people. However, the rural South with strong Afro-American populations, as in the Mississippi Delta and Carolina coast, has not been highly influenced by recent migration from Africa except in large metropolitan areas such as Atlanta and Miami.

Native Americans. Major federal and state Indian Reservations (I.R.) are listed on the respective state maps. As will become evident, these are not always contiguous with the county boundaries in which they are located. In a number of counties with reservation land, the Native Americans are the predominant group, and thus the entire county as well as the reservation is colored yellow.

Asian-Americans. Asian-Americans (blue-green color) are, as a cumulative grouping, predominant in Hawaii and San Francisco; they have increased rapidly in many metropolitan areas and university centers throughout the country. Where the cumulative types exceed 1,000 an "AA" is used; when above 10,000 (AA). In some metropolitan areas the substantial sub-groups (Chinese,

Japanese, etc.) are indicated based on available racial data.

Color Code

<u>Afro-American</u>	A (gold; darker gold area +50%; lighter gold = 25- 49%)
Sub-Saharan African	AF (gold)
West Indian	WI; (gold) Bahamian Bah; Barbadian Bar;
Belizean	Blz; Haitian Hai; Jamaican Jm;
Trinidadian and Tobagonian	T&T
<u>Asiatic-American</u>	As (blue green)
Asiatic Indian	AsI; Chinese Ch; Filipino Fp;
Hmong	Hm; Japanese J; Korean K;
Laotian	Lao; Thai Th; Vietnamese VN
<u>Hispanic</u>	H (red or pink field, darker pink 50% or more)
Mexican	Mx, Puerto Rican PR, Cuban Cu
<u>Germanic</u>	G (light blue)
Austrian	Au (light blue)
Belgian	Be (olive green)
Dutch	D (dark brown) Pennsylvania Germans AM
Luxembourger	Lx (olive green)
Scandinavian	Sc (watermelon pink) also "DFNS"
Danish	Dn; Finnish Fn; Norwegian Nw;
Swedish	Sw; Icelandic Ic
Swiss	Z (light blue)
<u>English</u>	E (tan)
Canadian	Cn; Australian Aust; British (included in English)
<u>Celtic</u>	
Irish	I (dark green)
Scotch	S (orange)
Scotch-Irish	SI (orange or orange & green stripes)
Welsh	W (olive green)
<u>Basque</u>	Bq
<u>French</u>	F (light green); French Canadian FC
<u>Middle East/ Mediterranean</u>	
Greek	Gk (lavender)
Italian	It (purple)
Cypriot	Cyp
Maltese	Mte
Portuguese	Pg (gray)
Middle East	ME (dark blue) also Arabian Ab or "Arab"
Afghan	Afg; Armenian Ar; Assyrian or Chaldean Asy;
Egyptian	Eg; Iranian Ir; Israeli Is; Jordanian Jd
Lebanese	Lb; Palestinian Pal; Syrian Sy; Turkish
<u>Eastern European</u>	
Albanian	Alb
Baltic	Bc (olive green)
Estonian	Es; Latvian Lv; Lithuanian Li
Slavic	Sv (peach field and red borders)
Bulgarian	Bg; Croatian Cr; Czech, Czechoslovakian Cz;
Polish	P; Macedonian; Russian R; Serbian Sb;
Slovak	Sk; Slovene Slv; Ukrainian U; Yugoslav Yg
Hungarian	Hg (dark brown)
Romanian	Rm (olive green)
<u>Native American</u>	NA Yellow field (black lettering of group)

State Codes

AL	MT
AK	NE
AR	NV
AZ	NH
CA	NJ
CO	NM
CN	NY
DE	NC
DC	ND
FL	OH
GA	OK
HI	OR
ID	PA
IL	RI
IN	SC
IA	SD
KS	TN
KY	TX
LO	UT
ME	VT
MD	VA
MA	WA
MI	WV
MN	WI
MS	WY
MO	