



HUMAN geography

An experiential Approach

- Geopolitics
- Redistricting

Geopolitics

- Geopolitics: The practical geography of states interests—often has a negative connotation associated with hegemonic activity
 - Imperialism
 - American Foreign Policy
 - Adventurism
 - Tsarist Russia
 - Colonialism
 - British Empire
- Related Concept: State v. Nation v. Nation-State

Example of Geopolitics Interpreted

- "Only after one understands how freedom and rights are being suppressed by the managers of imperial states -- even as they preach peace, freedom, justice, rights, and majority rule to their citizens to maintain their beliefs in the morality of their society, and thus assure the continued support of the masses for inflicting such violence upon the world--can one write honest history. If one does not understand that process, one is almost certain to write a history in which, unbeknownst to the author, the background and documentation have been carefully created to give Managers of State the freedom to suppress other people's rights and transfer their wealth to the imperial center through unequal trades." -- *J.W. Smith, Economic Democracy; The Political Struggle for the 21st Century (M.E. Sharpe, 2000), p. 95*

Redistricting

- Every 10 years
 - Attempts to address demographic/geographic shifts and ensure equal representation
 - Has been interpreted through lens of civil rights law
- Controlled by state legislatures—usually the upper house
 - Oversight by three panel judge
 - 1 dem, 1 rep, & 1 ind.

Gerrymandering

- promotes vote dilution or limited competition between groups (usually parties—but sometimes race)
 - *HISTORY: In 1812, Jeffersonian Republicans forced through the Massachusetts legislature a bill rearranging district lines to assure them an advantage in the upcoming senatorial elections. Although Governor Elbridge Gerry had only reluctantly signed the law, a Federalist editor is said to have exclaimed upon seeing the new district lines, "Salamander! Call it a Gerrymander." This cartoon-map first appeared in the Boston Gazette for March 26, 1812.*



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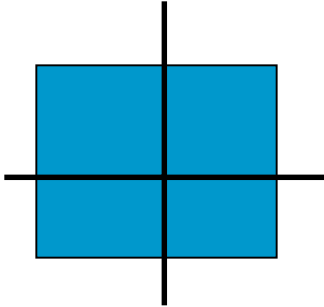




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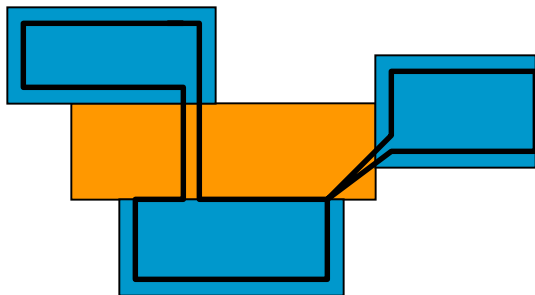
Crack



Pack



Stack



Silent

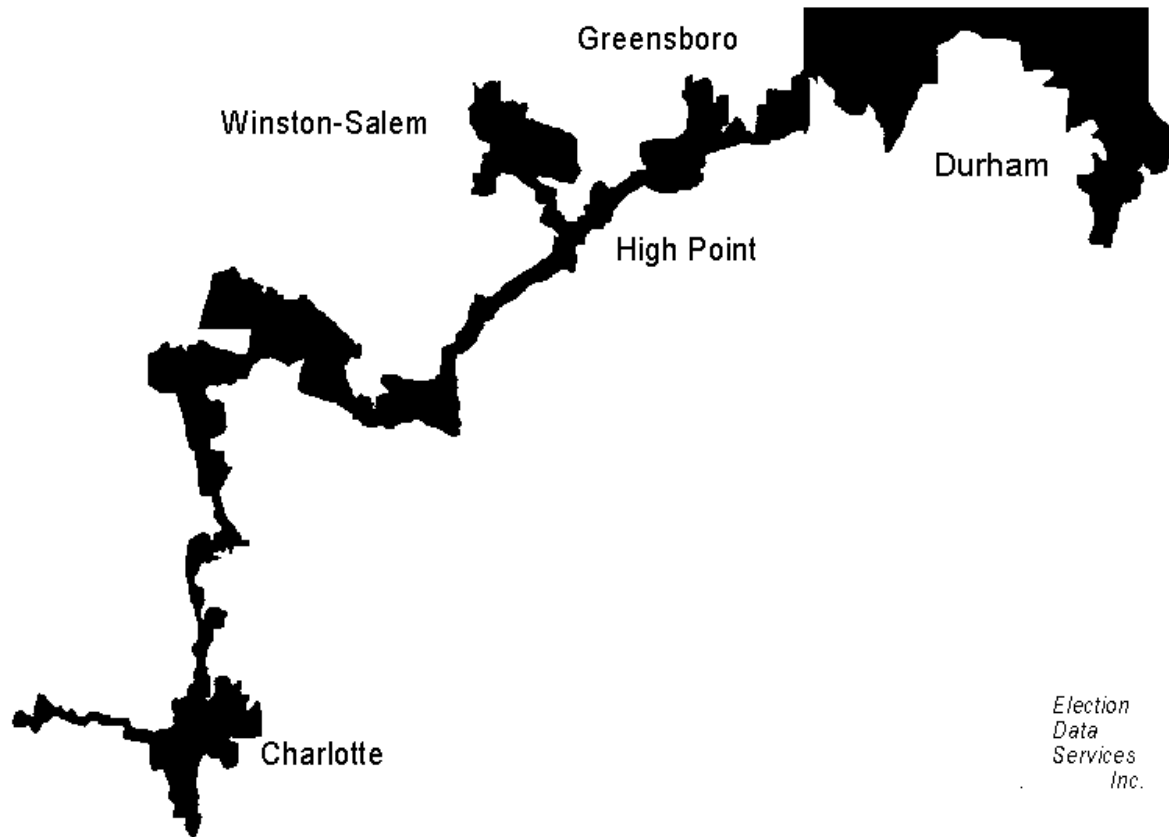


After



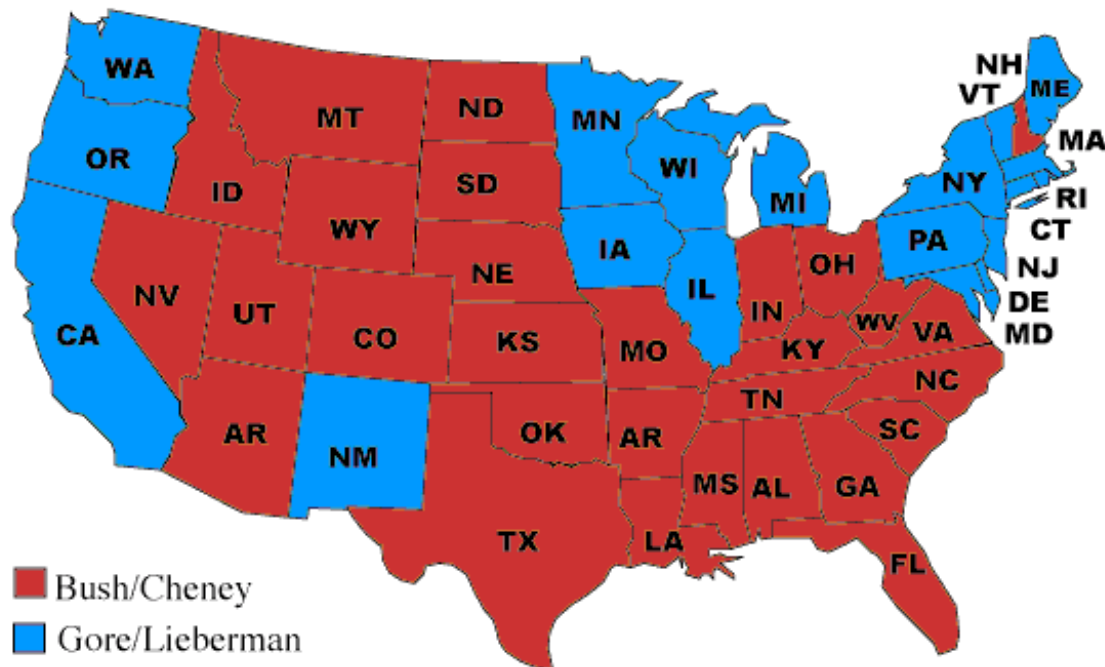
Before

Recent Cases North Carolina 12th



Electoral Geography

- Observed Patterns

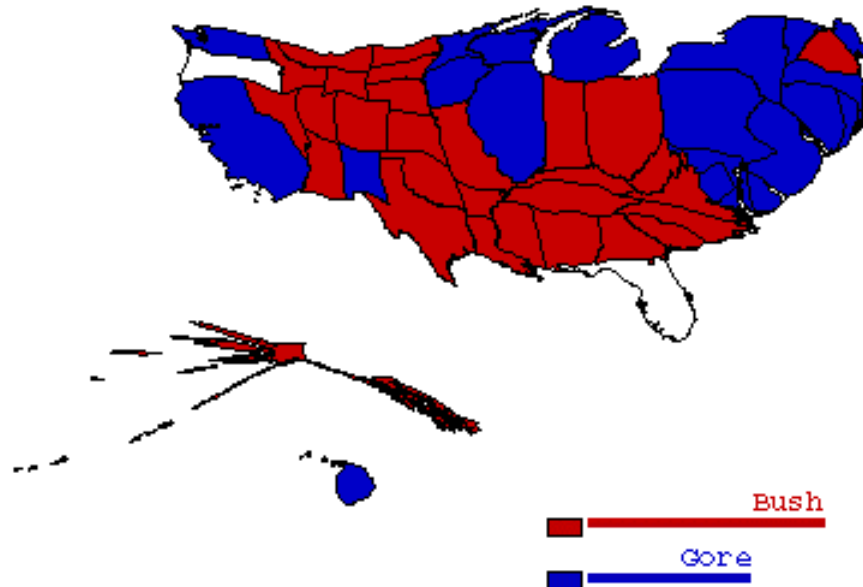




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- Cartogram based on Electoral Votes by S. Fabrikant (UCSB)





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ESRI US Today county

The vote Tuesday, county by county

Vice President Gore won in 677 counties and Texas Gov. George W. Bush in 2,434 counties, according to preliminary results.

