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Contemporary Human Geography, 2e

Lectures

Chapter 5

Language

Karl Byrand,
University of Wisconsin-Sheboygan

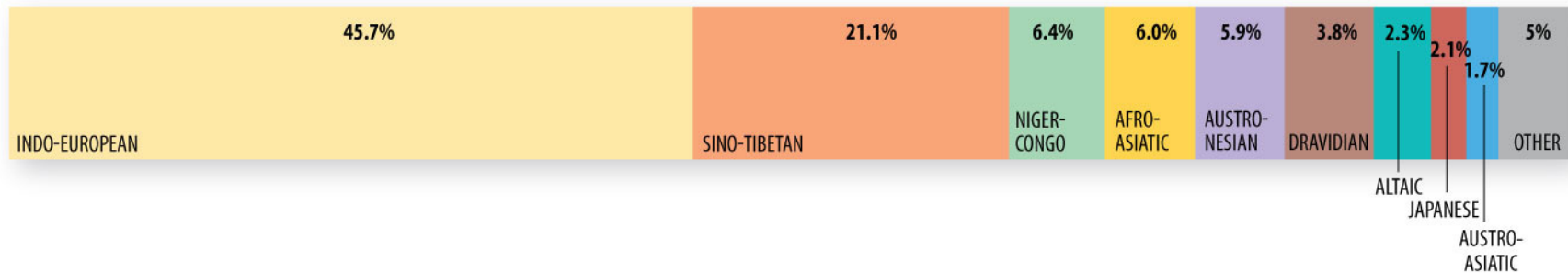
5.1 Classifying Languages

- Language
 - A system of communication through speech
 - A collection of sounds that a group of people understand to have the same meaning
- Literary tradition
 - A system of written communication

5.1 Classifying Languages

- Language family
 - A collection of languages related through a common ancestral language
 - Existed before written history

5.1 Classifying Languages



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LANGUAGE FAMILIES

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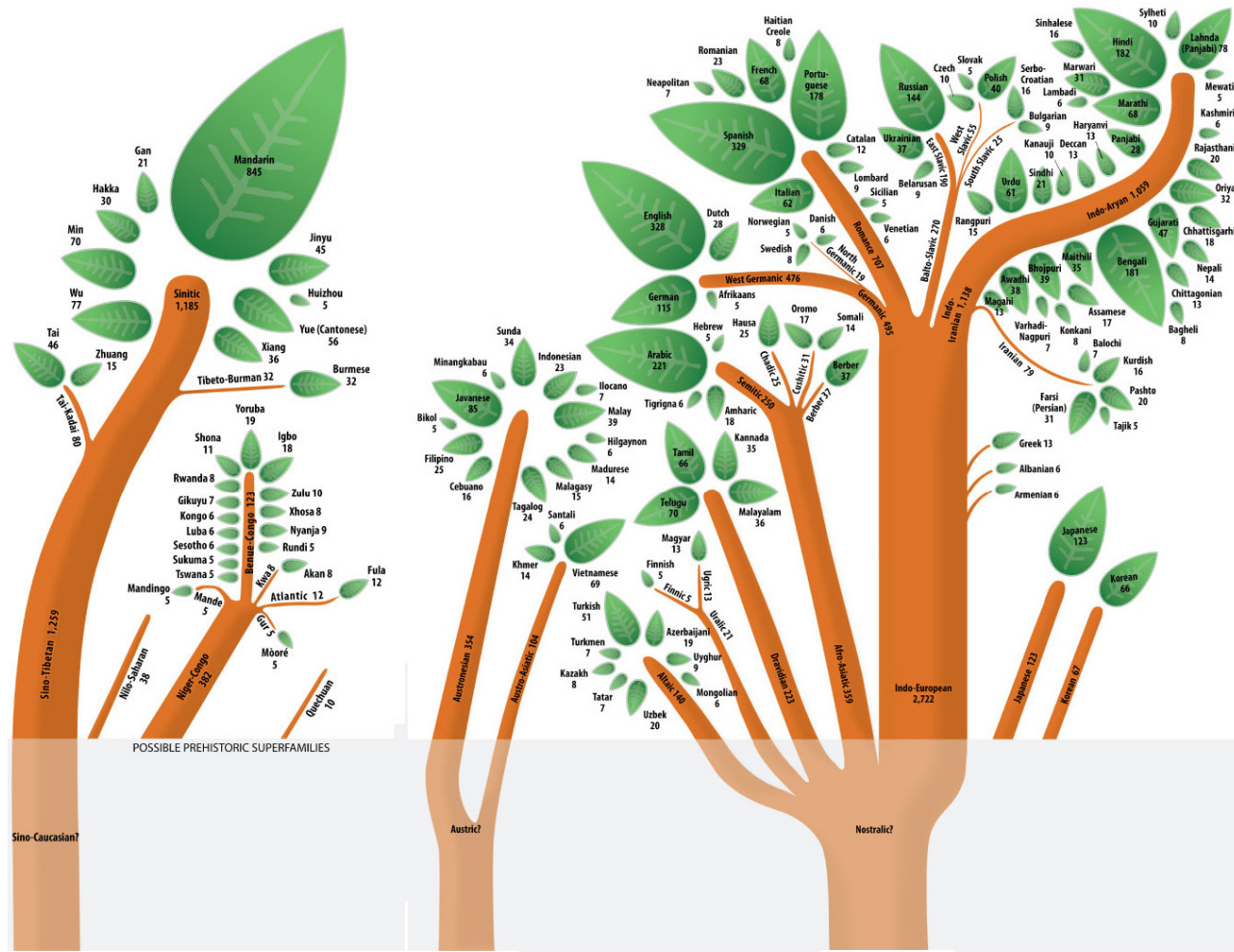
5.1 Classifying Languages

- Language branch
 - A collection of languages within a family related through a common ancestral language
 - Existed several thousand years ago
 - Confirmation through linguistic similarities and archeological evidence

5.1 Classifying Languages

- Language group
 - A collection of languages within a branch that share a common origin in the relatively recent past
 - Display few differences in grammar and vocabulary

5.1 Classifying Languages



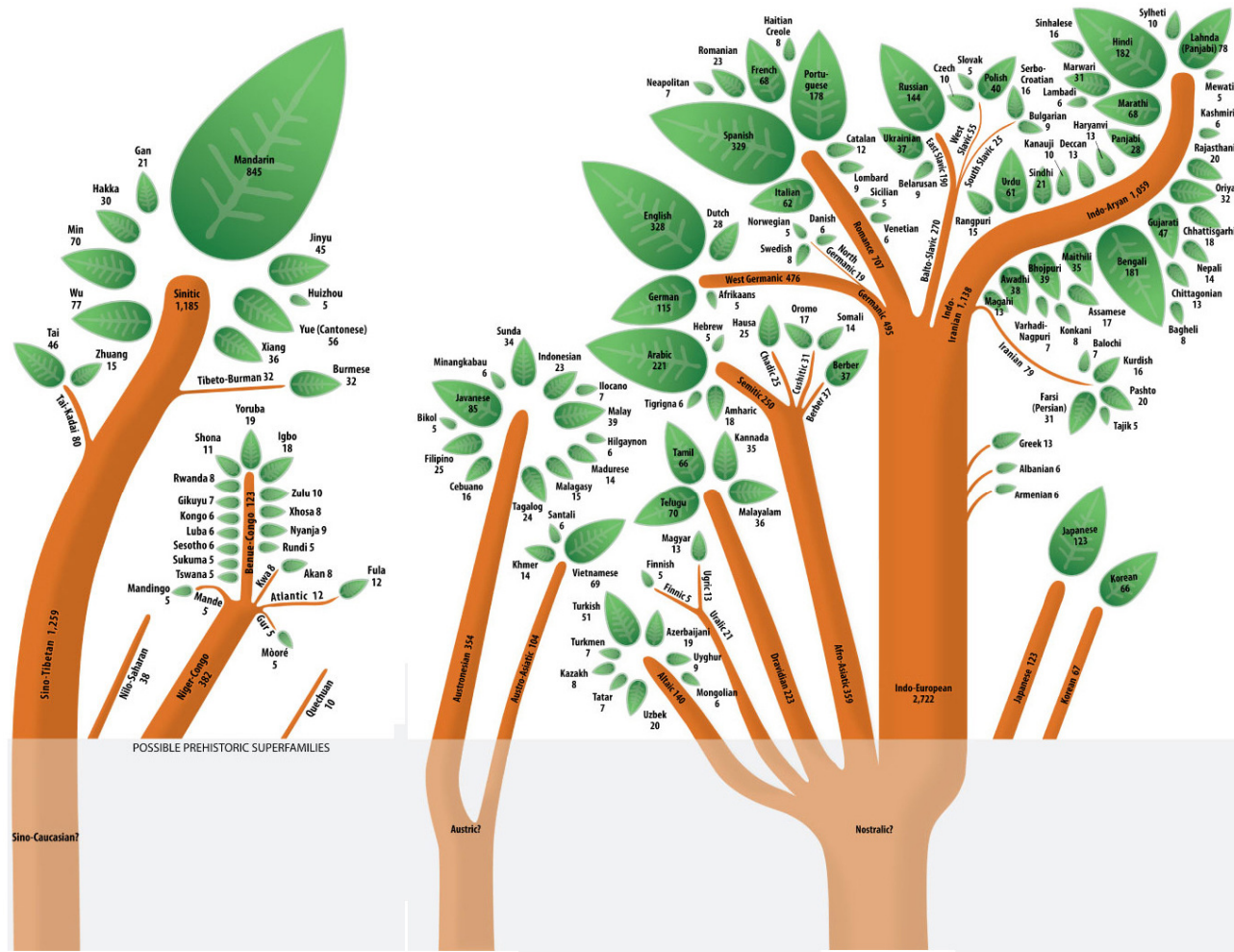
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LANGUAGE FAMILY TREE

5.1 Classifying Languages

- Native speakers
 - People for whom the language is their first language
- Language superfamilies
 - A handful of large language families that today's language families are descended from
 - Existed tens of thousands of years ago

5.1 Classifying Languages



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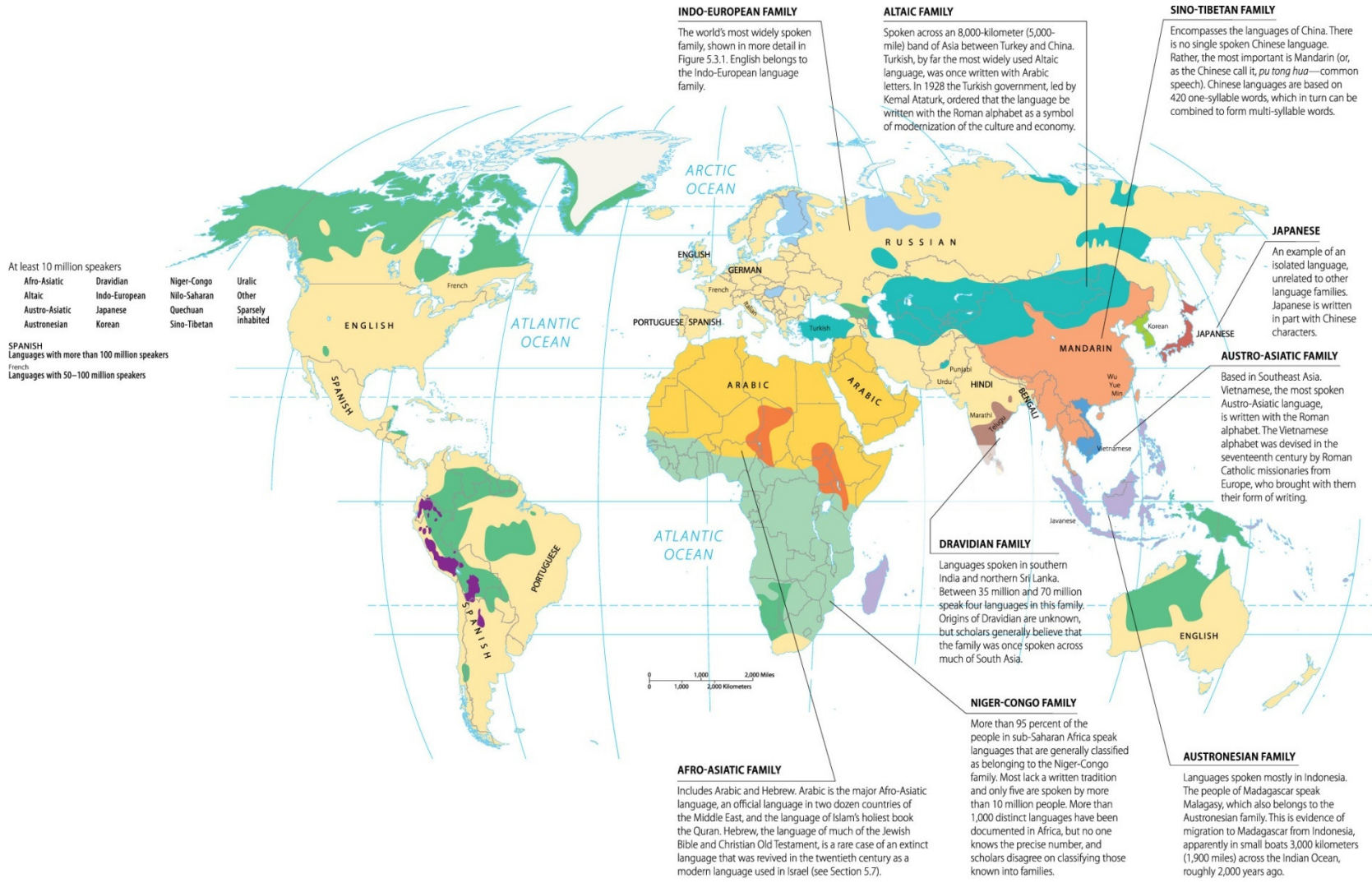
LANGUAGE FAMILY TREE

5.2 Distribution of Languages

- Two language families are used by two-thirds of the world
 - Indo-European
 - Sino-Tibetan

5.2 Distribution of Languages

LANGUAGE FAMILIES



5.3 Indo-European Languages

- Four branches with a large number of speakers
 - Germanic
 - Indo-Iranian
 - Romance
 - Balto-Slavic

5.3 Indo-European Languages

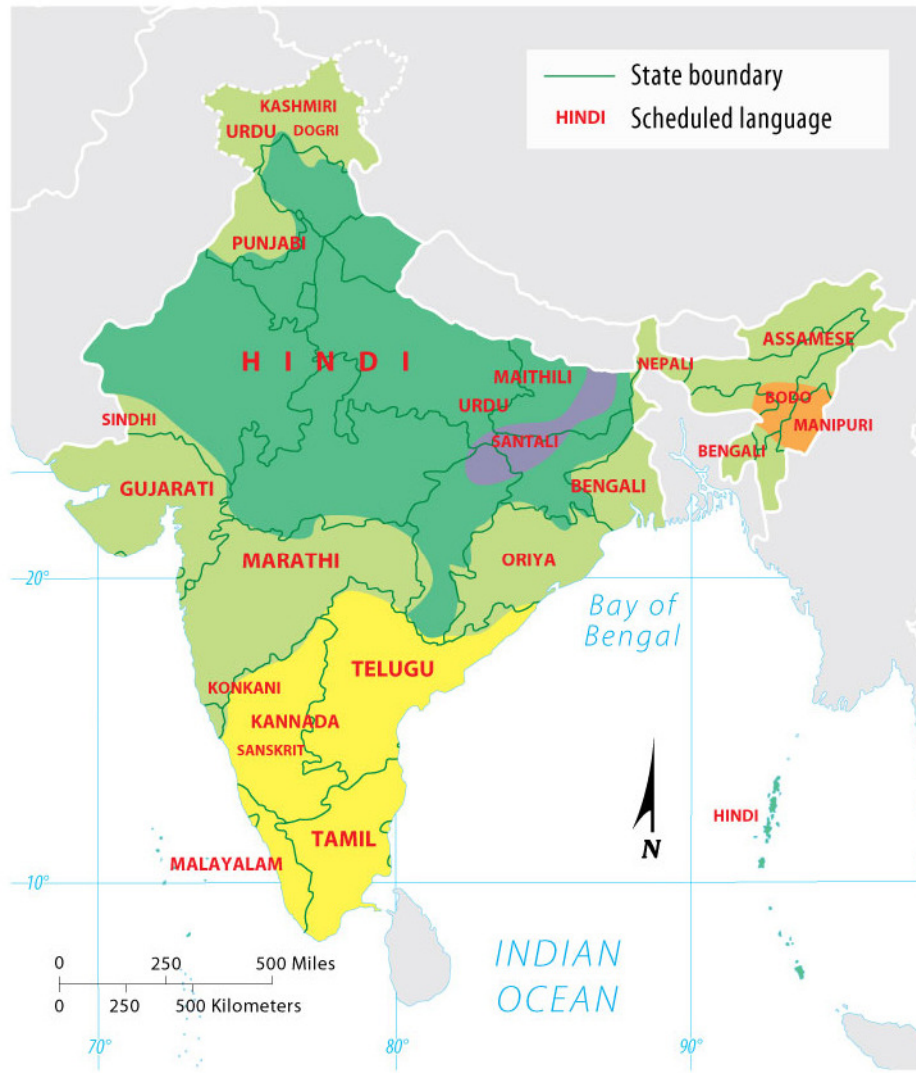
GERMANIC BRANCH OF INDO - EUROPEAN



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5.3 Indo-European Languages

LANGUAGES OF INDIA

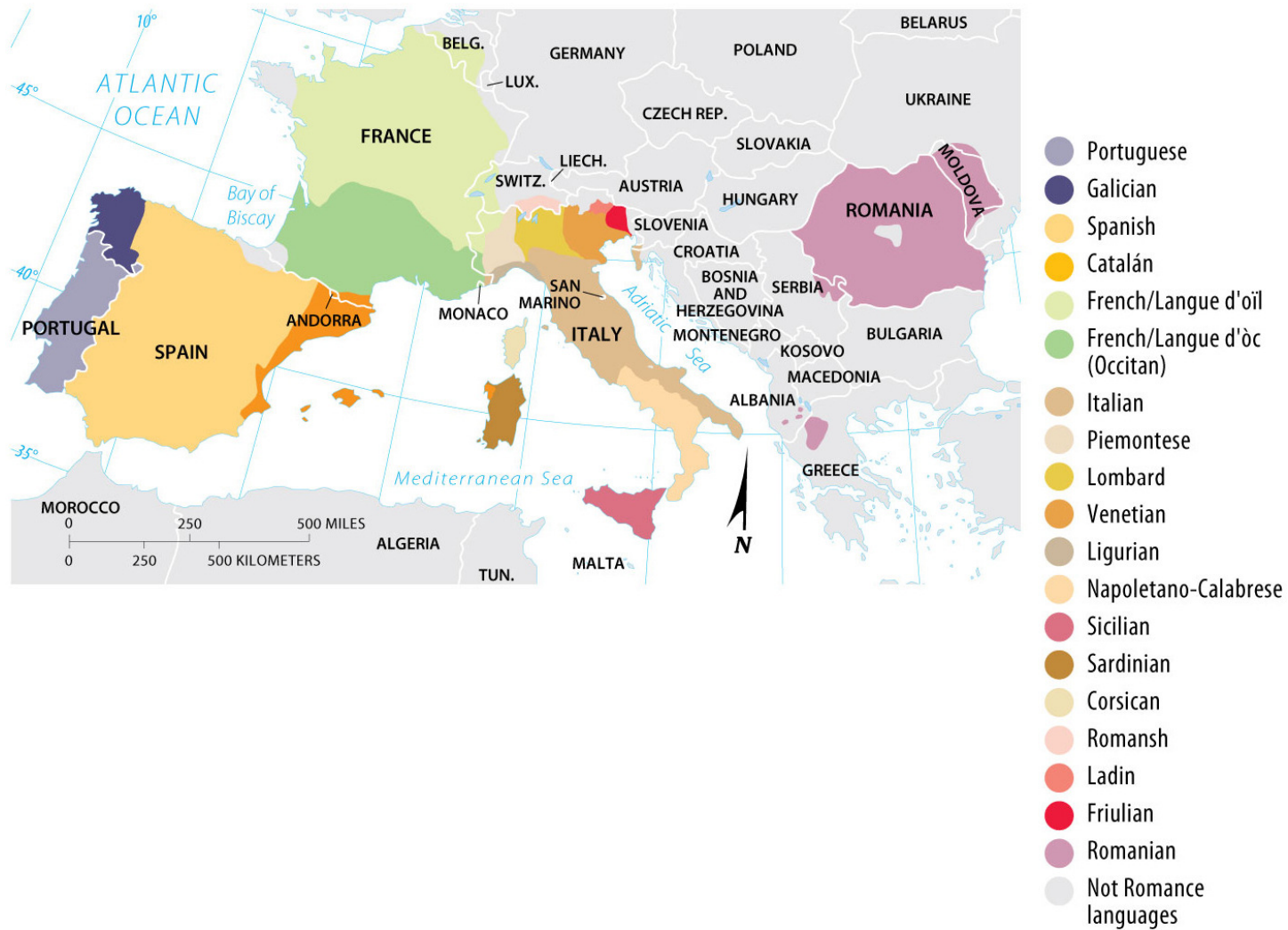


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5.3 Indo-European Languages

ROMANCE BRANCH OF INDO - EUROPEAN



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5.4 Origin and Diffusion

- Migration is the key diffusion process.
- Migration and isolation are key dialect-formation processes.
- Two theories
 - War theory
 - Peace theory

5.4 Origin and Diffusion

ORIGIN AND DIFFUSION OF INDO - EUROPEAN: NOMADIC WARRIOR THEORY



Kurgan migration

← 5000-4000 B.C.

← 4000-3000 B.C.

← 3000-2000 B.C.

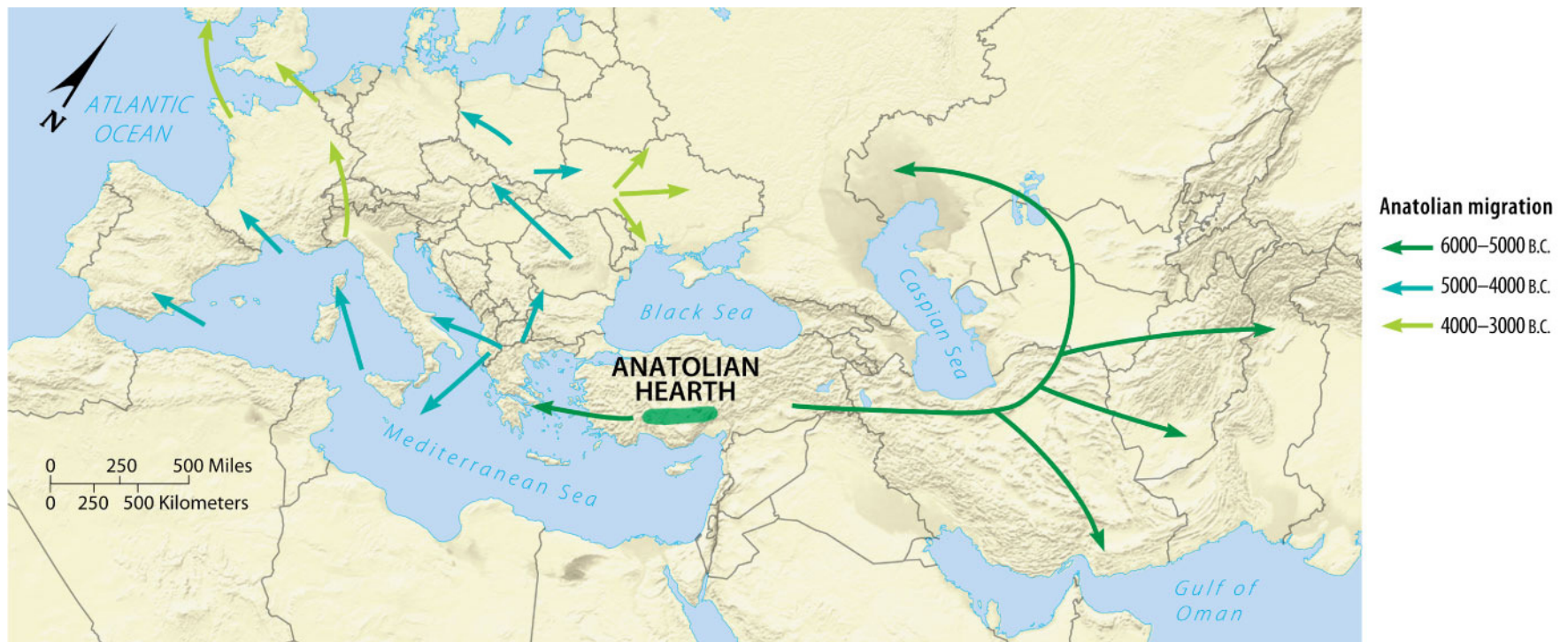
● Area infiltrated by 4000 B.C.

● Area infiltrated by 3500 B.C.

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5.4 Origin and Diffusion

ORIGIN AND DIFFUSION OF INDO - EUROPEAN: SEDENTARY FARMER THEORY



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5.4 Origin and Diffusion

INVASIONS OF ENGLAND



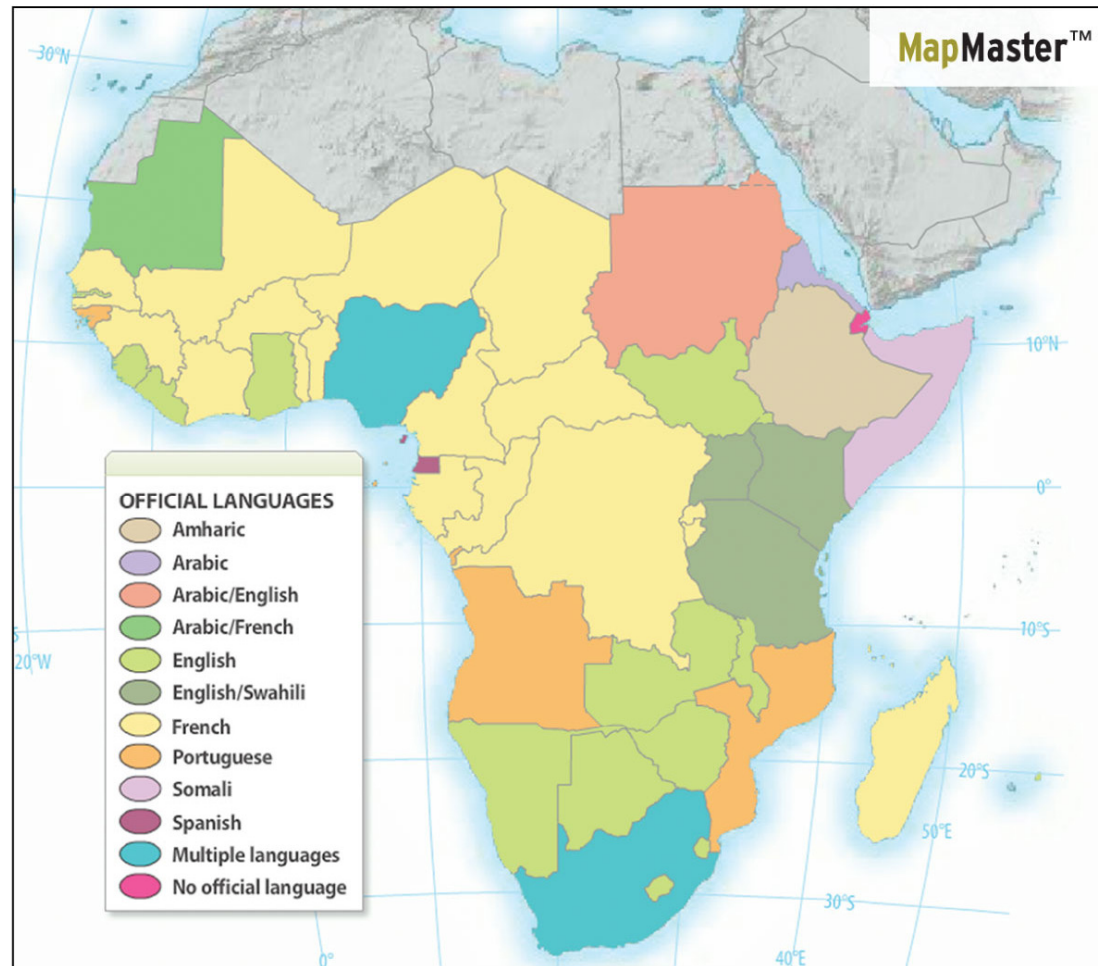
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5.4 Origin and Diffusion

- Official language
 - A language used for government for the conduct of business and publication of documents

5.4 Origin and Diffusion

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA



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5.5 Dialects

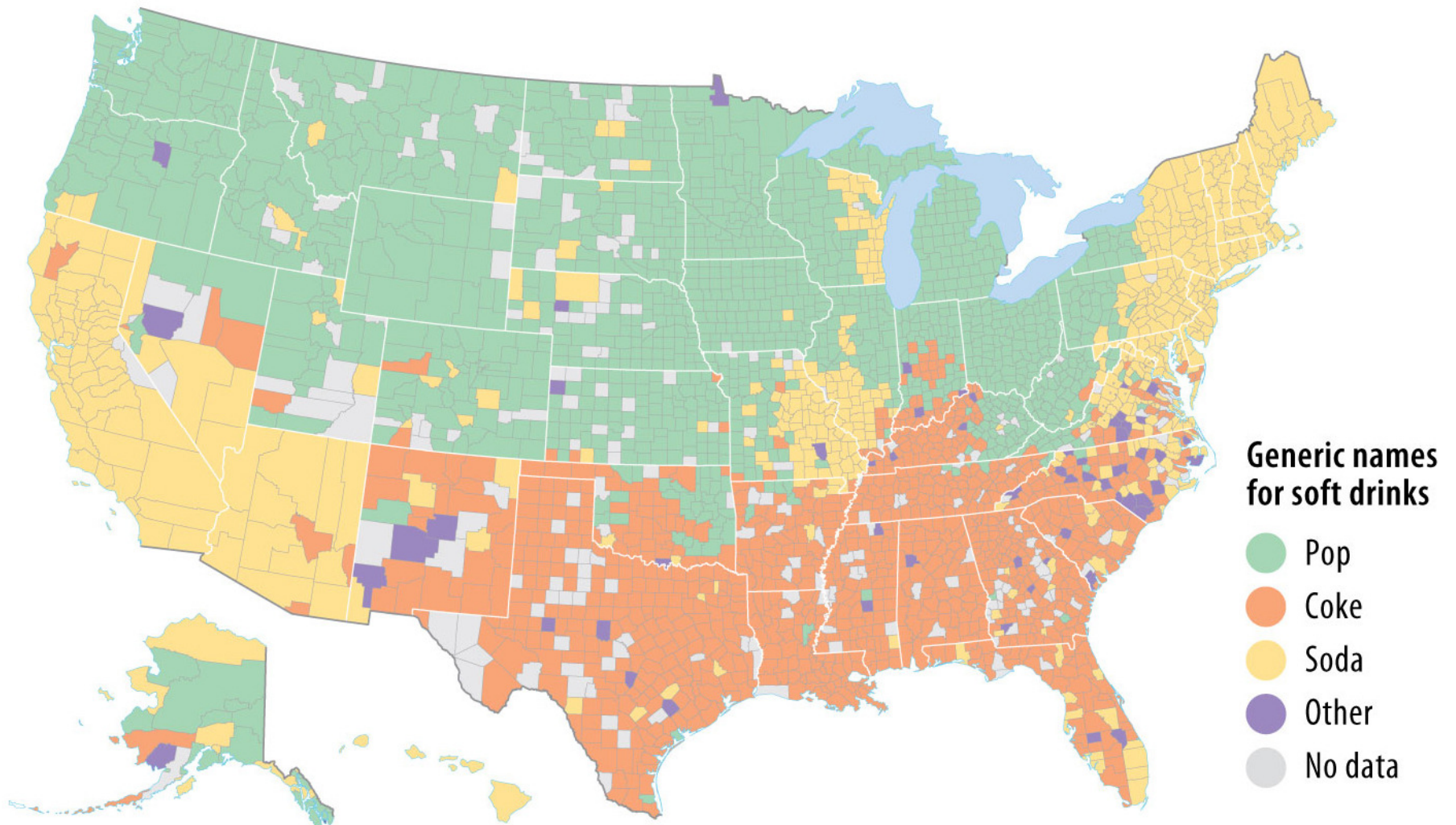
- Dialect
 - A regional variation of a language distinguished by a distinctive vocabulary, spelling, and pronunciation.
 - Are generally mutually intelligible

5.5 Dialects

- Isogloss
 - A word-usage boundary

5.5 Dialects

SOFT-DRINK DIALECTS IN THE UNITED STATES

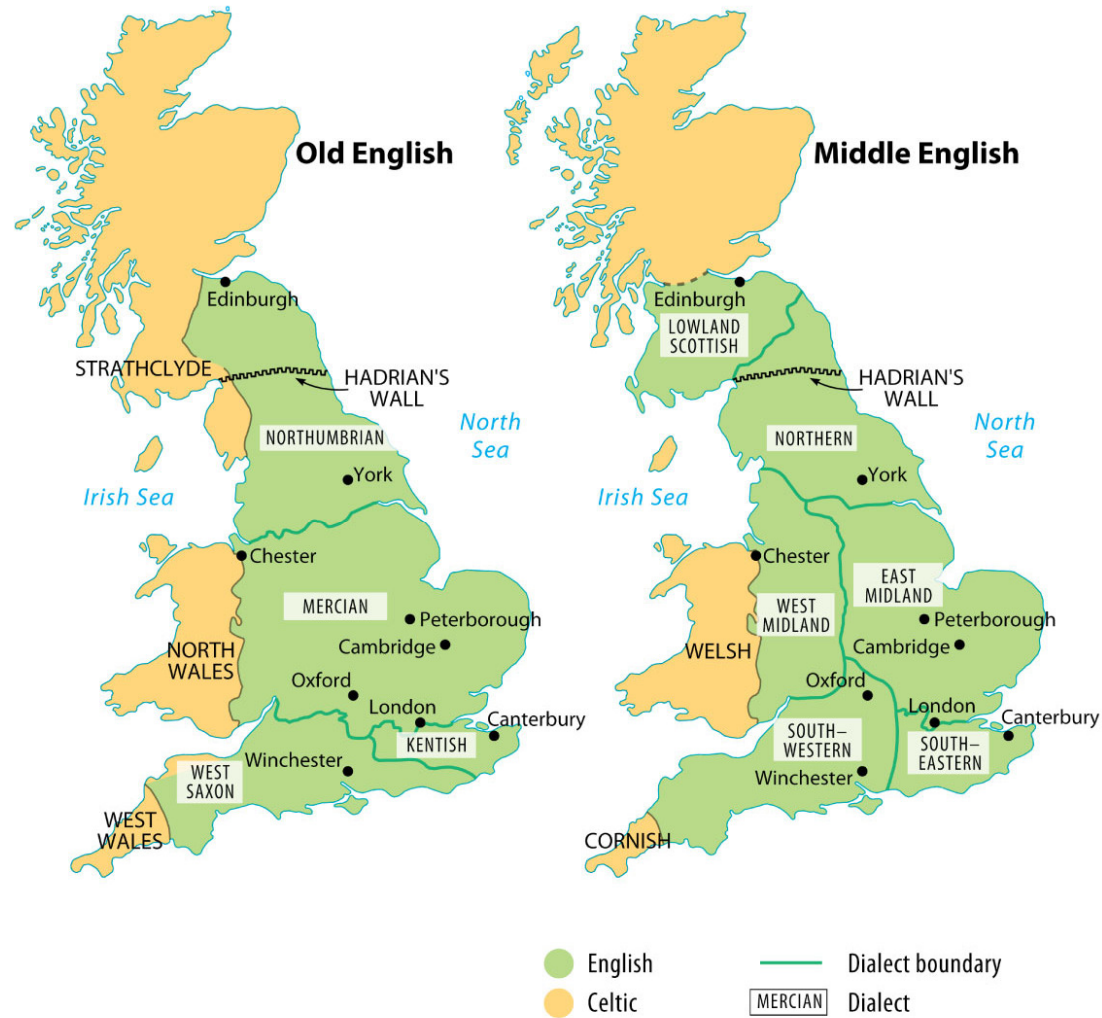


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5.5 Dialects

DIALECTS OF ENGLISH IN ENGLAND



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5.5 Dialects

- Differences Between British and American English
 - Vocabulary
 - Spelling

5.5 Dialects



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AMERICAN AND BRITISH ENGLISH DIALECTS

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5.5 Dialects

- Dialects in the United States
 - New England
 - Southeastern
 - Middle Atlantic

5.5 Dialects

DIALECTS IN EASTERN UNITED STATES



Eastern U.S. speech areas

- Northern
- Midlands
- Southern

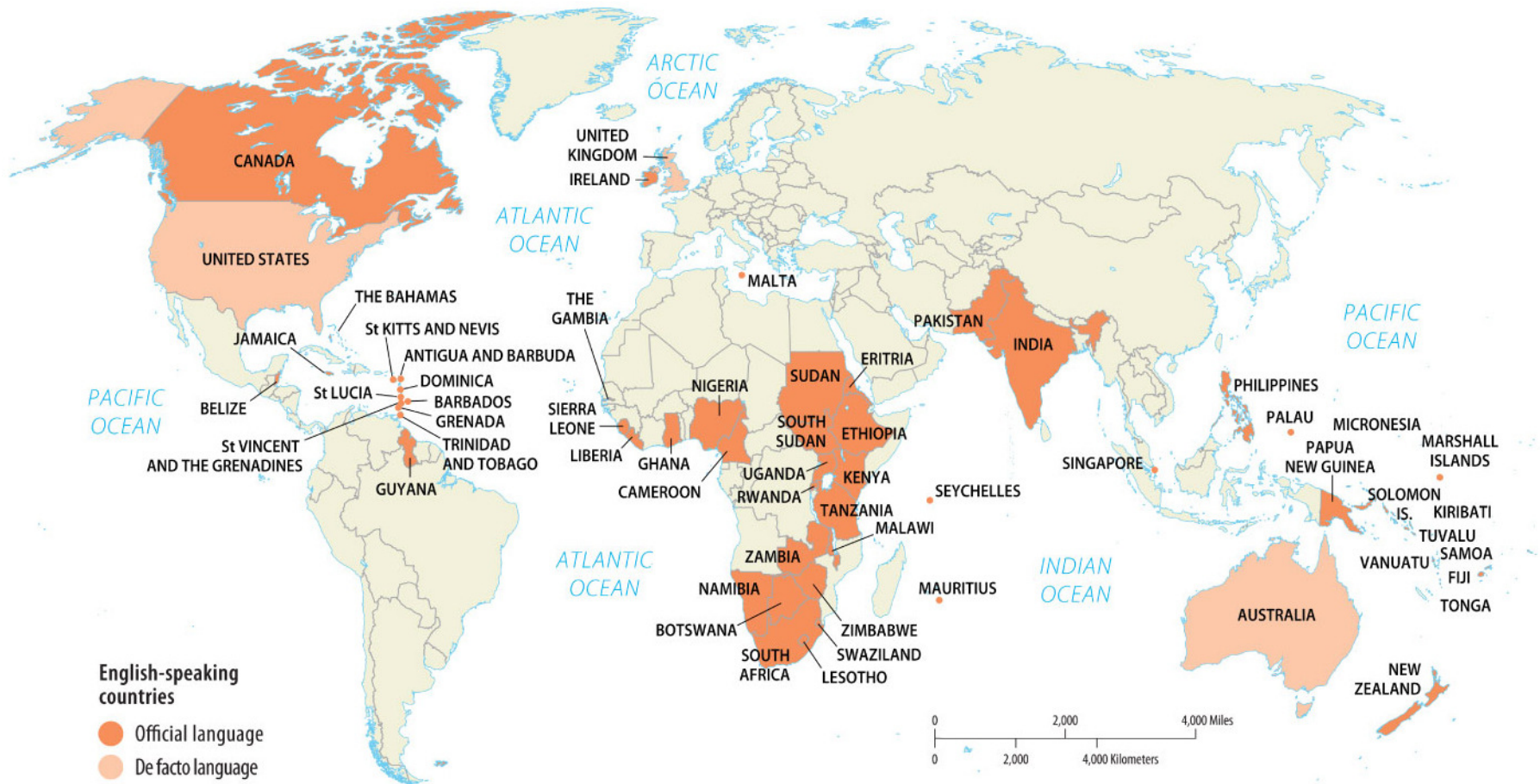
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5.6 Global Dominance of English

- Lingua franca
 - A language of international communication
 - Pidgin English
- Global distribution of English
 - English is the official language in 54 countries.

5.6 Global Dominance of English

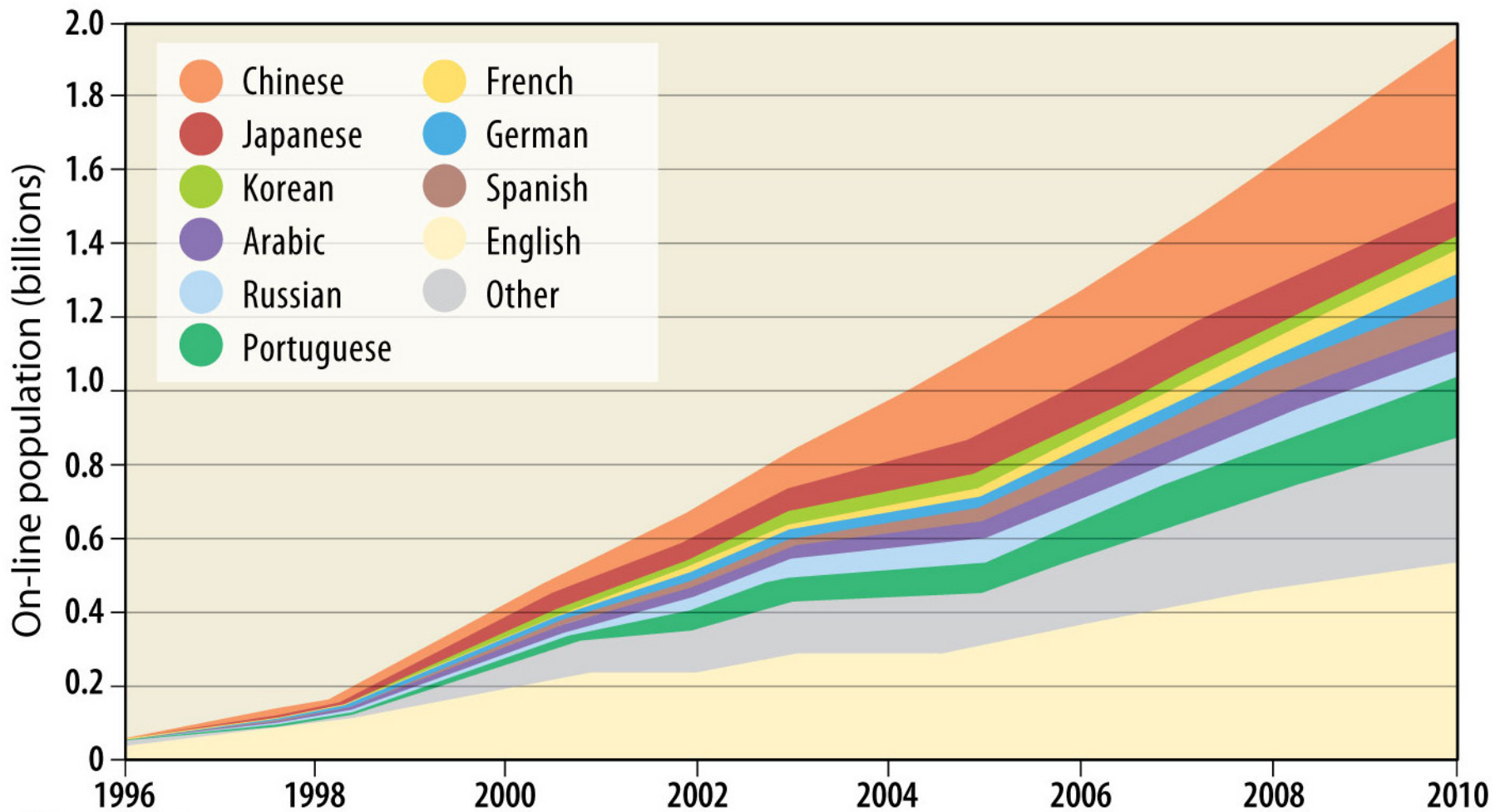
ENGLISH - SPEAKING COUNTRIES



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5.6 Global Dominance of English



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LANGUAGES OF ONLINE USERS

5.7 Isolated, Endangered, and Extinct Languages

- Isolated languages
 - Languages unrelated to any other
 - Are not attached to any language family

5.7 Isolated, Endangered, and Extinct Languages



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ISOLATED LANGUAGE: BASQUE

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5.7 Isolated, Endangered, and Extinct Languages

- Extinct languages
 - Languages that are no longer spoken or read in daily activities by anyone in the world
 - Are not attached to any language family

5.7 Isolated, Endangered, and Extinct Languages



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REVIVAL OF AN EXTINCT LANGUAGE: HEBREW

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5.7 Isolated, Endangered, and Extinct Languages

- Preserving endangered languages
 - ~473 endangered languages
 - Preserved Celtic languages
 - Irish Gaelic
 - Scottish Gaelic
 - Welsh
 - Cornish
 - Breton
 - Political and military strength determines survival

5.7 Isolated, Endangered, and Extinct Languages



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ENDANGERED LANGUAGE: WELSH

5.8 French and Spanish in North America

- French in Canada

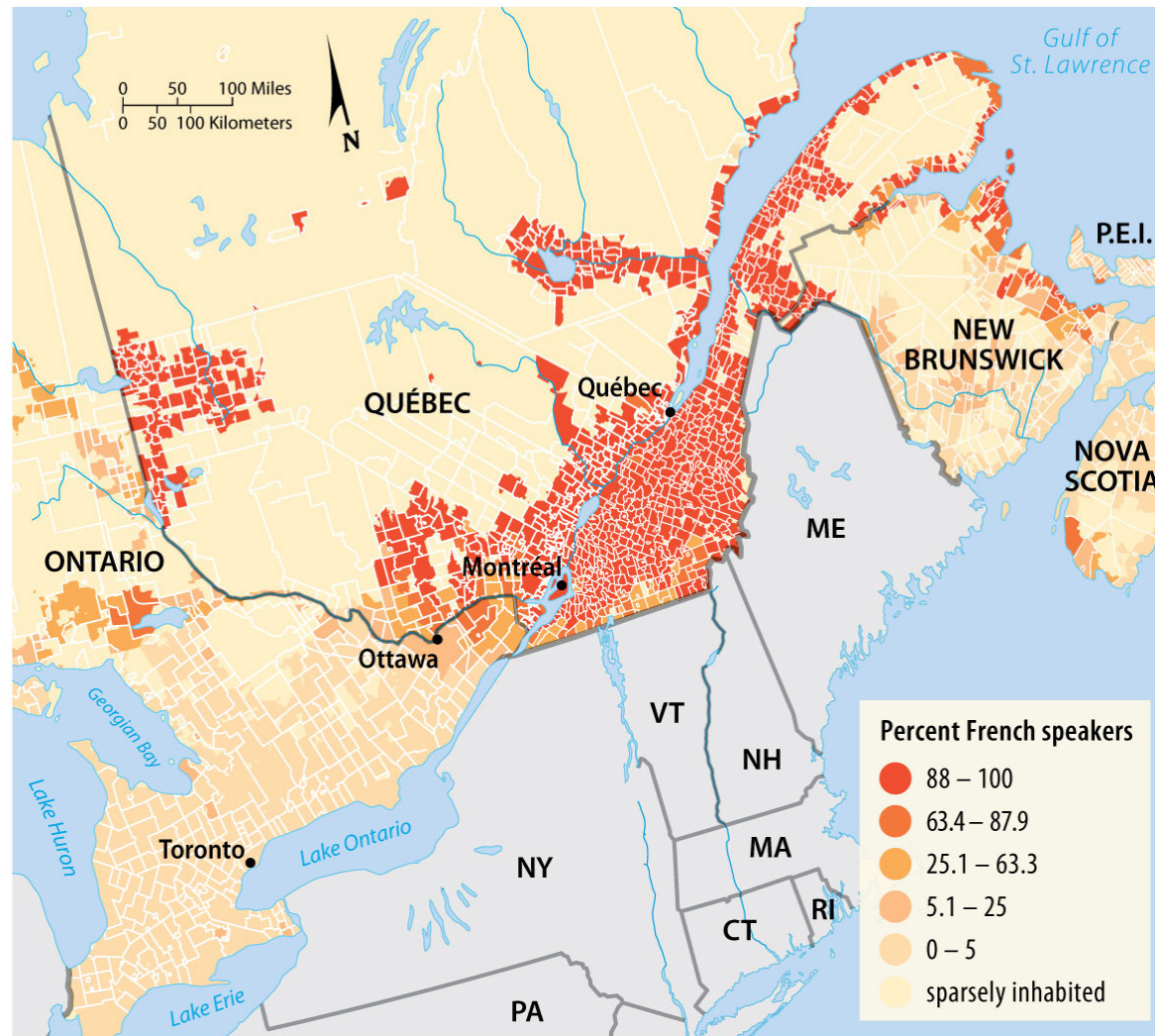
5.8 French and Spanish in North America



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FRENCH IN CANADA: "HELLO"

5.8 French and Spanish in North America



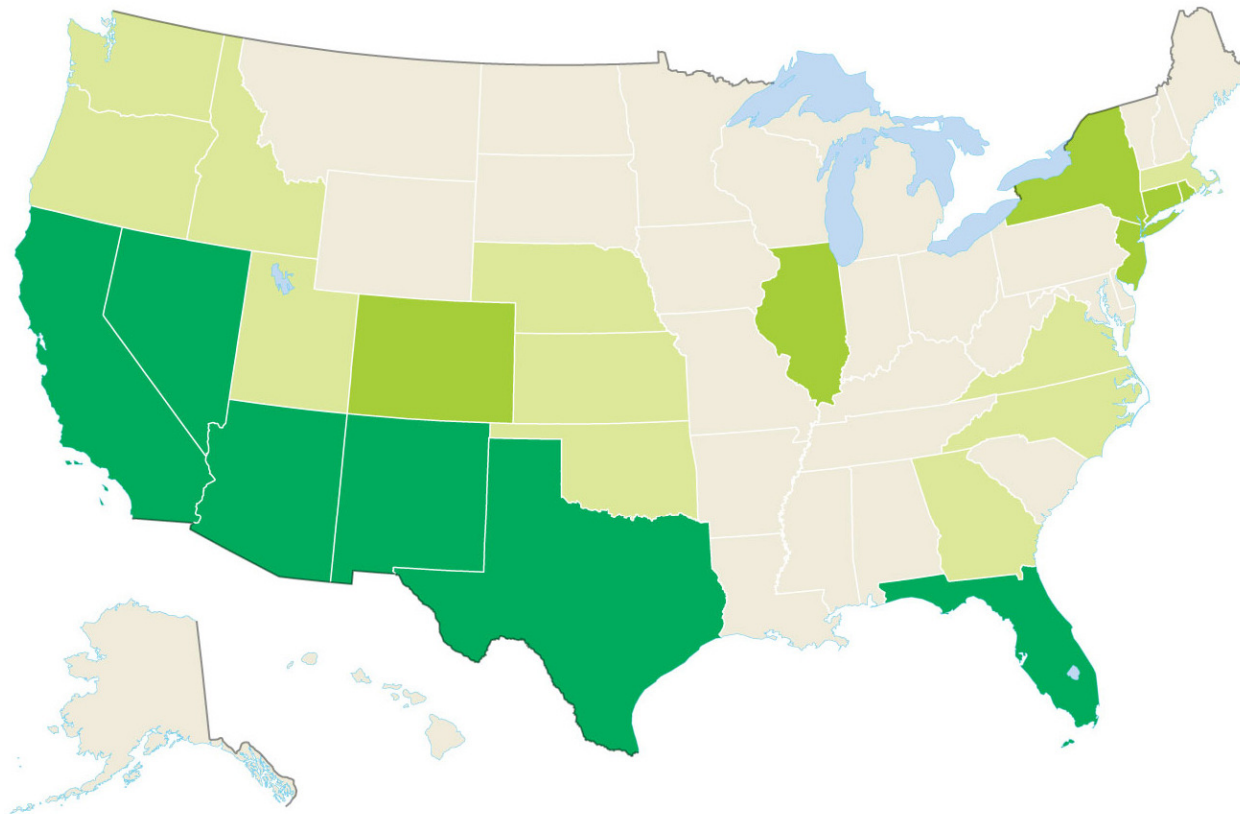
FRENCH/ENGLISH LANGUAGE BOUNDARY IN CANADA

5.8 French and Spanish in North America

- Spanish in the United States

5.8 French and Spanish in North America

DISTRIBUTION OF SPANISH BY U.S. STATES



Percent of population that speak Spanish at home

- above 15.0
- 9.1 – 15.0
- 5.1 – 9.0
- 1.0 – 5.0

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5.8 French and Spanish in North America

- Creolized (Creole) language
 - A mixing of a colonizing and indigenous language
 - Franglais, Spanglish

5.8 French and Spanish in North America



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BISLAMA, A CREOLE LANGUAGE OF VANUATU

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5.9 Multilingual States

- Belgium

5.9 Multilingual States



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LANGUAGE DIVERSITY IN BELGIUM

5.9 Multilingual States



LANGUAGES IN BELGIUM

5.9 Multilingual States

- Switzerland

5.9 Multilingual States



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LANGUAGE DIVERSITY IN SWITZERLAND

5.9 Multilingual States

LANGUAGES IN SWITZERLAND

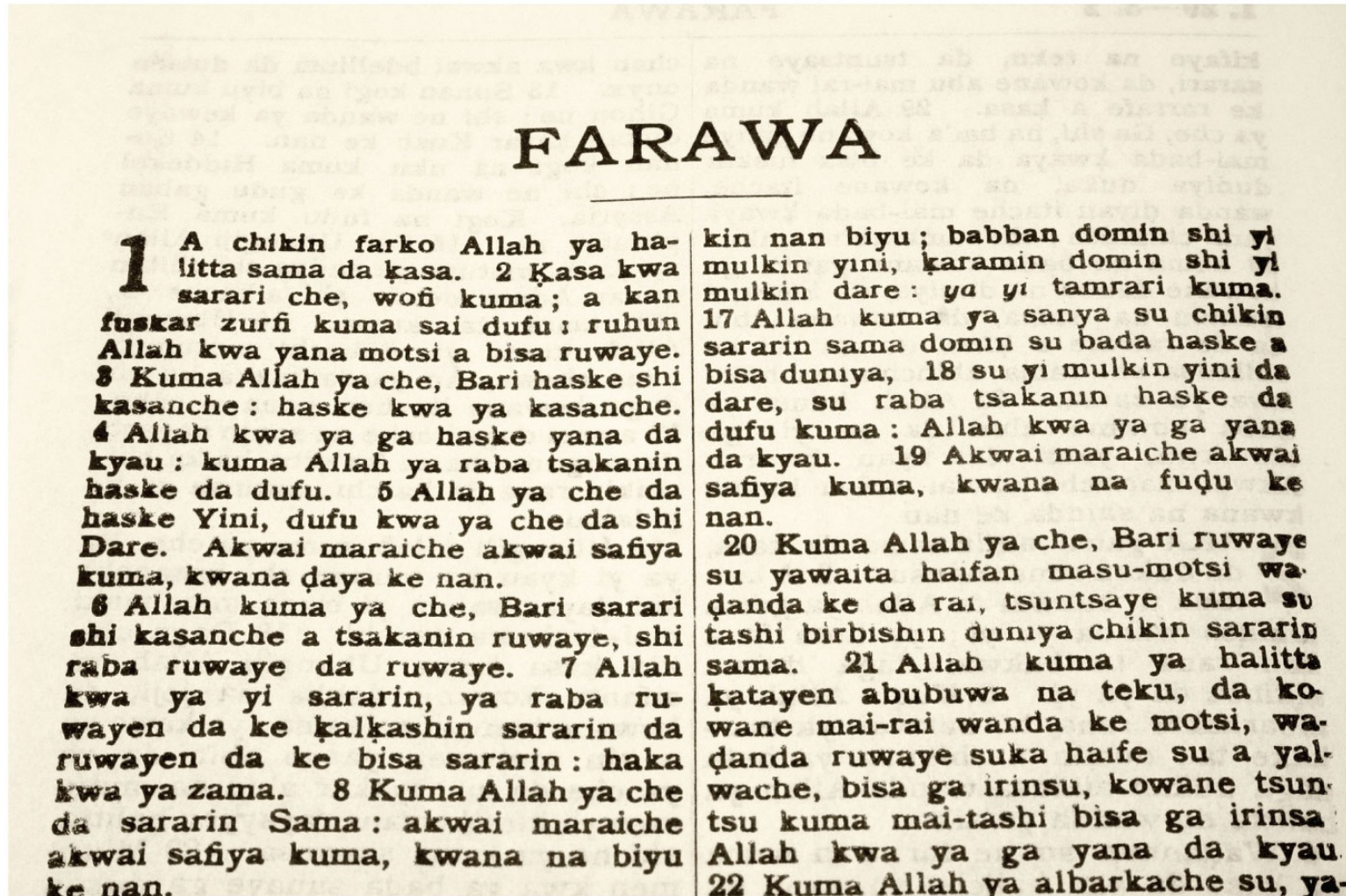


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5.9 Multilingual States

- Nigeria

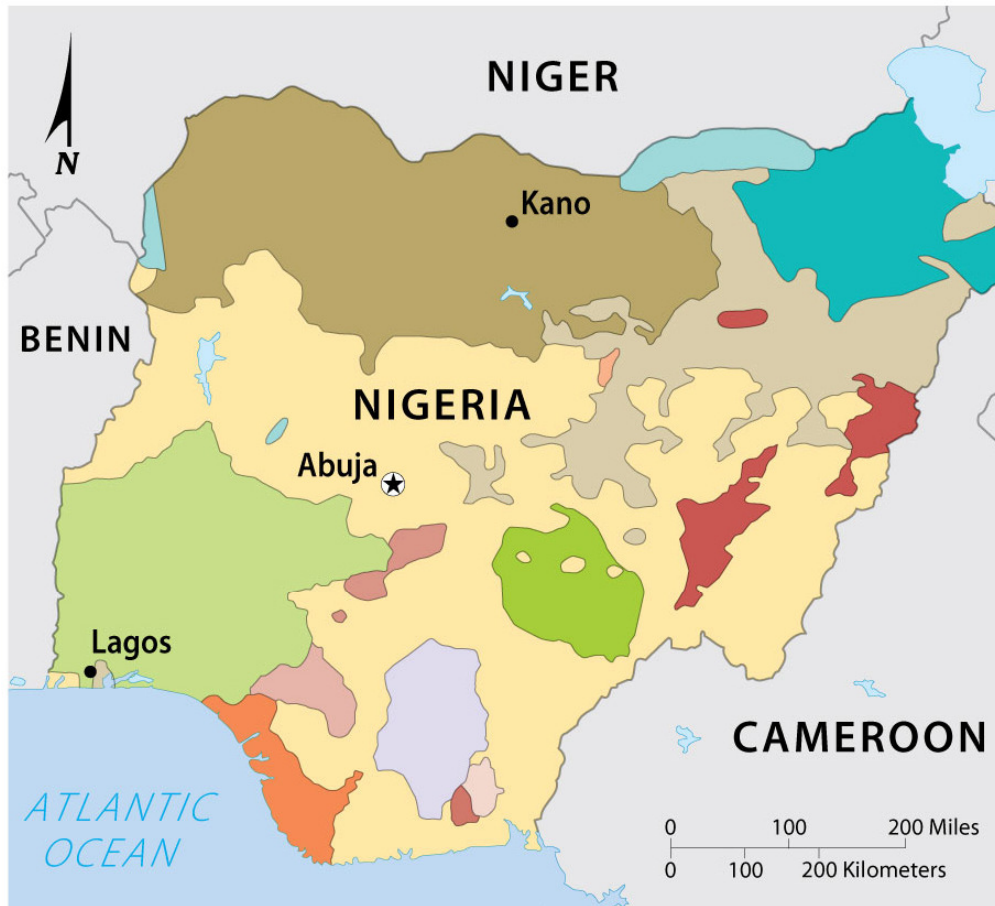
5.9 Multilingual States



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LANGUAGE DIVERSITY IN NIGERIA

5.9 Multilingual States



All languages with over 1 million speakers

Niger-Congo Family

- Adamawa Fulfulde
- Anaang
- Ebira
- Edo
- Ibibio
- Igbo
- Izon
- Nigerian Fulfulde
- Tiv
- Yoruba
- other peoples

Afro-Asiatic Family

- Hausa
- other peoples

Nilo-Saharan Family

- Kanuri
- other peoples

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LANGUAGES IN NIGERIA

Chapter Review

- Key Questions
 - How are languages classified?
 - How are languages distributed?
 - How do languages share space?