

DENSITY OF POPULATION IN DETAIL.

The series of maps numbered 10 to 20, on plates 3 to 6, inclusive, represent the density of the population in detail at each census. These being the first of a considerable number of maps in this volume prepared under a uniform plan, it is desirable to explain that plan somewhat fully. The county has in general been taken as a unit. From its population has been first subtracted the number found in cities of 8,000 inhabitants or more, the remainder being assumed to be in most cases distributed uniformly over the county. This remainder is then divided by the area in square miles of the county. The counties are then grouped into those having an average density of—

- Under 2 to a square mile (which are regarded as unsettled).
- 2 to 6 to a square mile.
- 6 to 18 to a square mile.
- 18 to 45 to a square mile.
- 45 to 90 to a square mile.
- 90 and over to a square mile.

Certain large counties, for example, some of those in the west, where the density of population is known to differ considerably in different parts, have been subdivided and certain parts thrown in one group and others in other groups.

The population of cities of 8,000 inhabitants or more is represented by dots of heavy color, roughly proportional to the population.

The different density groups above enumerated bear roughly a relation to the industries of the country. The lowest group, less than 2 inhabitants to a square mile, which represents what is here regarded as unsettled area, is peopled merely by hunters, prospectors, or those engaged in pastoral pursuits. The next group, 2 to 6 to a square mile, includes a sparse agricultural population mixed with a pastoral people. Where the population ranges from 6 to 18 to a square mile, agriculture is still practically the only occupation, but it is pursued under more settled conditions. With the next group, 18 to 45 to a square mile, manufactures and commerce have commenced to make some progress among a community essentially devoted to agriculture. Farms have been greatly subdivided and the cultivation of the soil is thorough.

In the last two groups, 45 to 90 and 90 and more inhabitants to a square mile, manufactures and commerce are, relative to agriculture, of great importance, and the people are in large proportion grouped in small towns and cities.

In 1790 the settled area of the country extended along the seacoast from eastern Maine to southern Georgia and inland almost continuously to the Appalachian mountains, covering practically the whole Atlantic plain. It extended into and beyond the mountains at several points, as up the Mohawk valley into central New York; in southwestern Pennsylvania and in the Tennessee valley. In the Mississippi valley were several incipient settlements, the largest of which was in northern Kentucky.

At that time our territorial limits extended westward to the Mississippi River and southward to the thirty-first parallel. Maine was then a district of Massachusetts; Vermont was a part of New York; West Virginia and Kentucky were parts of Virginia; Tennessee was the territory south of the river Ohio, and Georgia extended west to the Mississippi river. The present states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and eastern Minnesota then were included in the territory northwest of the river Ohio.

In 1800 the settled area had extended so as to include a large part of the Appalachian mountains. Nearly all of New Hampshire and Vermont were covered, and in New York settlement had reached the shores of Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence river. Three-fourths of Pennsylvania was a settled region, and most of Virginia and the Carolinas. The settled area in Kentucky had spread southwestward, invading Tennessee.

Several changes of territory are seen on this map. Vermont, Kentucky, and Tennessee had been admitted as states. The territory northwest of the river Ohio had been divided, the western part of it having become Indiana territory, while Mississippi territory had been organized, comprising the southern part of what is now Alabama and Mississippi.

In 1810 settlement had spread in great bodies across the Appalachian mountains, uniting with those areas which before were isolated. The acquisition of Louisiana had brought into the Union considerable settlements in the present states of Louisiana and Mississippi.

Among the changes of territory which had taken place during the preceding 10 years were the admission of Ohio and the formation of Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, and Orleans territories. The remaining part of the Louisiana purchase outside of Orleans, although not organized, was then known by the name of Louisiana territory.

In 1820 the frontier line, that is, the line which separates the settled area from the unsettled regions, had become very complex, extending from southeastern Michigan southwestward into Missouri territory, and thence making a great semicircle to the eastward, swept around the settlements of Louisiana, ending on the Gulf coast in that state. Within this, however, were many unsettled areas of considerable magnitude.

The territorial changes had been numerous during the decade. Alabama, Mississippi, Indiana, Illinois, Louisiana, and Maine had been admitted as states. Arkansas territory had been constituted.

In 1830 the frontier line extended from Lake Huron southward into Ohio, and thence westward to the present site of Kansas city, thence it turned by a southeast course to the Mississippi, and after including the settlements of Louisiana, reached the Gulf in that state. But, as before, there were several large areas yet unsettled included within this body of settlement, notably those in Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi. On the other hand, strips of settlement extended westward up the Missouri, Red, and Arkansas rivers.

During the decade the Floridas were acquired from Spain and organized as a territory, and the state of Missouri was admitted.

In 1840 settlement had extended in Michigan and Wisconsin to the forty-third parallel, and in Louisiana, Arkansas, and Missouri to their western boundaries, leaving, however, in these three states large unsettled areas.

During the decade Michigan and Arkansas were admitted as states, and Wisconsin and Iowa territories were created.

In 1850 settlement made little progress in Michigan, but in Wisconsin it extended from the head of Green Bay southwestward across Iowa to the mouth of the Platte, thence along the west boundaries of Missouri and Arkansas southward. The admission of Texas in 1845 added a large body of population in the eastern part of that state. The first Mexican cession, which added the area which is now California, Nevada, and Utah, and parts of Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona, was effected in 1848. This brought with it scattered bodies of population of Mexican origin. The discovery of gold in California had begun to draw population to San Francisco and the foothills of the Sierra, but as these western settlements were not of great magnitude, the map has not been extended to include them.

During the decade the states of Iowa, Wisconsin, Florida, and California were admitted, and the territories of Minnesota and Oregon created.

In 1860 there is noticed a greater progress of the frontier line northward in Michigan and westward in Minnesota and Iowa. The frontier line stepped across the Missouri river into Nebraska and Kansas, and in Texas made great westward advances. Settlements in the far west had made little advance, except in the gold regions of California.

In 1853 the Gadsden purchase from Mexico was effected, completing the main body of the United States as it now exists. During the decade Minnesota, California, and Oregon had been admitted as states, and Kansas, Nebraska, Utah, and Washington had been organized as territories.

In 1870 the frontier line had made but slight advance. It extended a few miles farther north in the lake states, a few miles farther west upon the slopes of the plains. This is the first of the series of maps which represents the entire area of the country, showing the settlements

in the Rocky mountains and Pacific states. It reveals a strip of settlement extending along the east base of the Rocky mountains from southeastern Wyoming through Colorado and New Mexico to Texas; another in central Utah at the base of the Wasatch; a large area in California, including much of the Sierra and the Pacific coast, and another in the Willamette valley in Oregon. Besides these, many small, isolated settlements were scattered over the mountains and valleys of this region.

During the decade many territorial changes were made. Alaska was purchased from Russia; West Virginia, Kansas, Nebraska, and Nevada were admitted as states, and the territories of Arizona, Colorado, Dakota, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming were organized.

In 1880 there was shown a great extension of settlement, particularly on the plains and in the Rocky Mountain region. The frontier line had made a striking advance into what was then believed to be a part of the Great American Desert, driving the buffalo and Indians before it. The areas of settlement at the east base of the Rocky mountains and in Utah, California, and Oregon had greatly increased. New areas had sprung up, as in Montana, eastern Washington, and southern Arizona.

During the decade Colorado was admitted as a state.

In 1890, which closes this series, the progress of settlement is seen to have been at least equally rapid with that of the decade before. Settlements in the Rocky mountains had increased enormously, and had joined with those moving up the plains, forming a continuous body of settlement. Those of Montana, Washington, Oregon, California, and Utah had spread until throughout this region the settled area has become the rule and the unsettled area the exception. There is no longer any frontier line.

The changes of territory during the decade were also marked. Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Washington, North Dakota, and South Dakota were admitted as states, and the territory of Oklahoma was created.

The following table sums up the progress of settlement in this country for the century:

CENSUSES.	Settled area (square miles).	Average density.
1790.....	239,935	16.38
1800.....	305,708	17.36
1810.....	407,945	17.75
1820.....	508,717	18.94
1830.....	632,717	20.33
1840.....	807,292	21.14
1850.....	979,249	23.68
1860.....	1,194,754	26.32
1870.....	1,272,239	30.31
1880.....	1,569,565	31.96
1890.....	1,947,280	32.16

Thus the settled area in 1890 was eight times as great as in 1790, and the density of settlement of this area twice as great, the population having become sixteen times as numerous.

The following table shows the proportion between the total area of the country and the settled area at each census:

CENSUSES.	Percentage which settled area bears to total area.
1790.....	28.98
1800.....	36.93
1810.....	20.40
1820.....	25.44
1830.....	30.73
1840.....	39.21
1850.....	32.85
1860.....	39.49
1870.....	42.04
1880.....	51.88
1890.....	64.36

In 1890 nearly two-thirds of the area of the country, excluding Alaska, was settled, under the arbitrary definition of settled area here used.

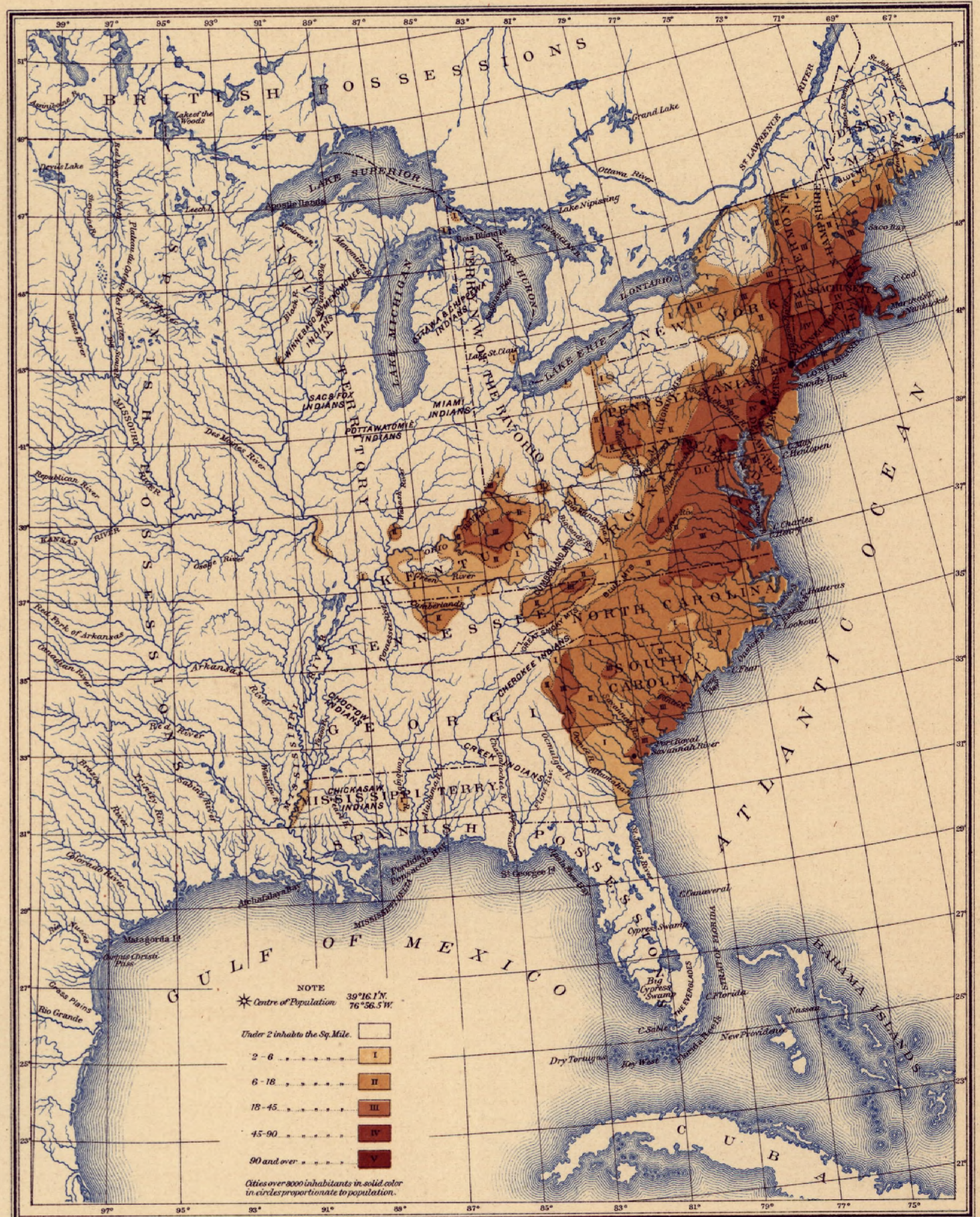
POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES. (EXCLUDING INDIANS NOT TAXED): 1790 TO 1820.

PLATE 3.

10. DISTRIBUTION IN 1790.



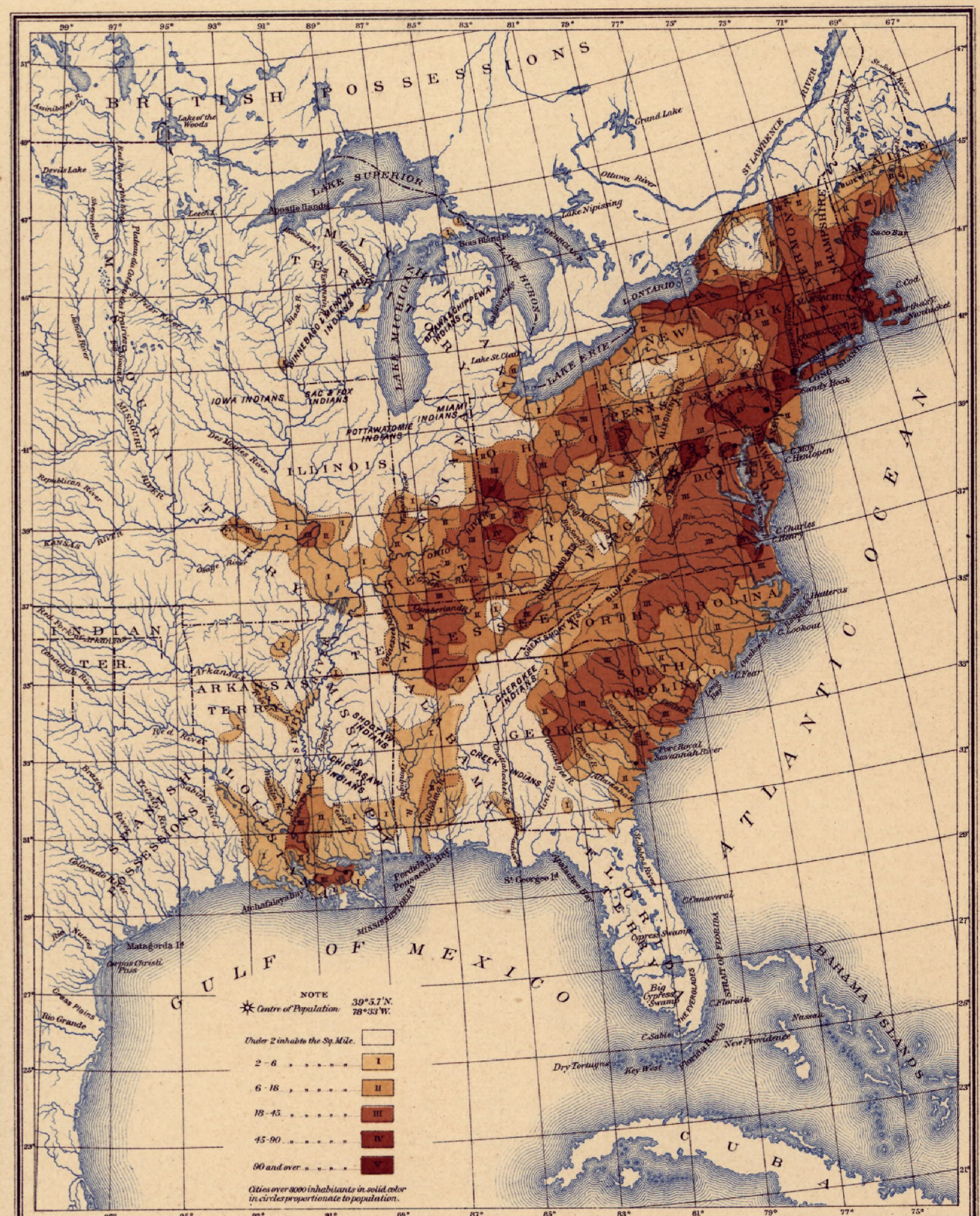
11. DISTRIBUTION IN 1800.



12. DISTRIBUTION IN 1810.



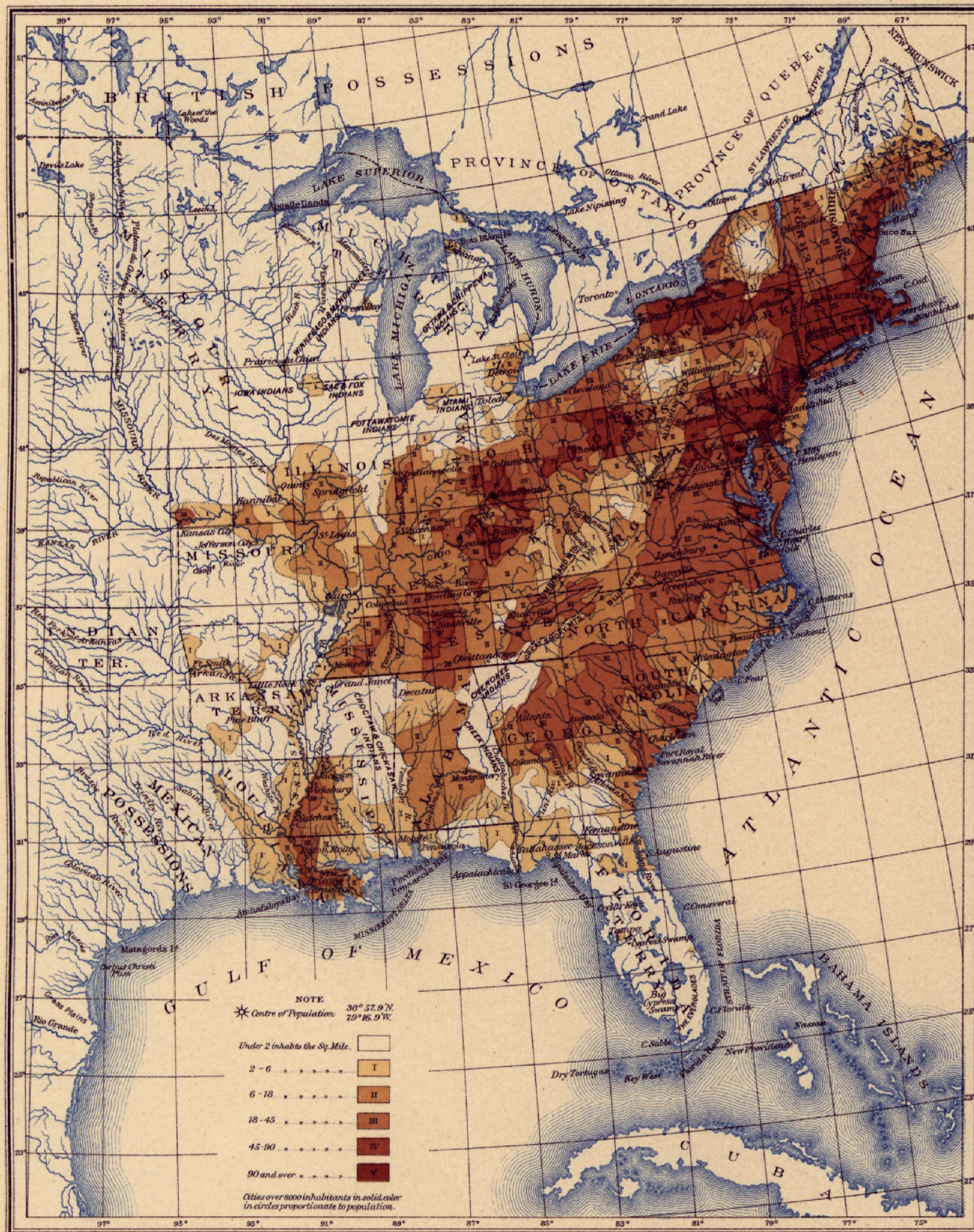
13. DISTRIBUTION IN 1820.



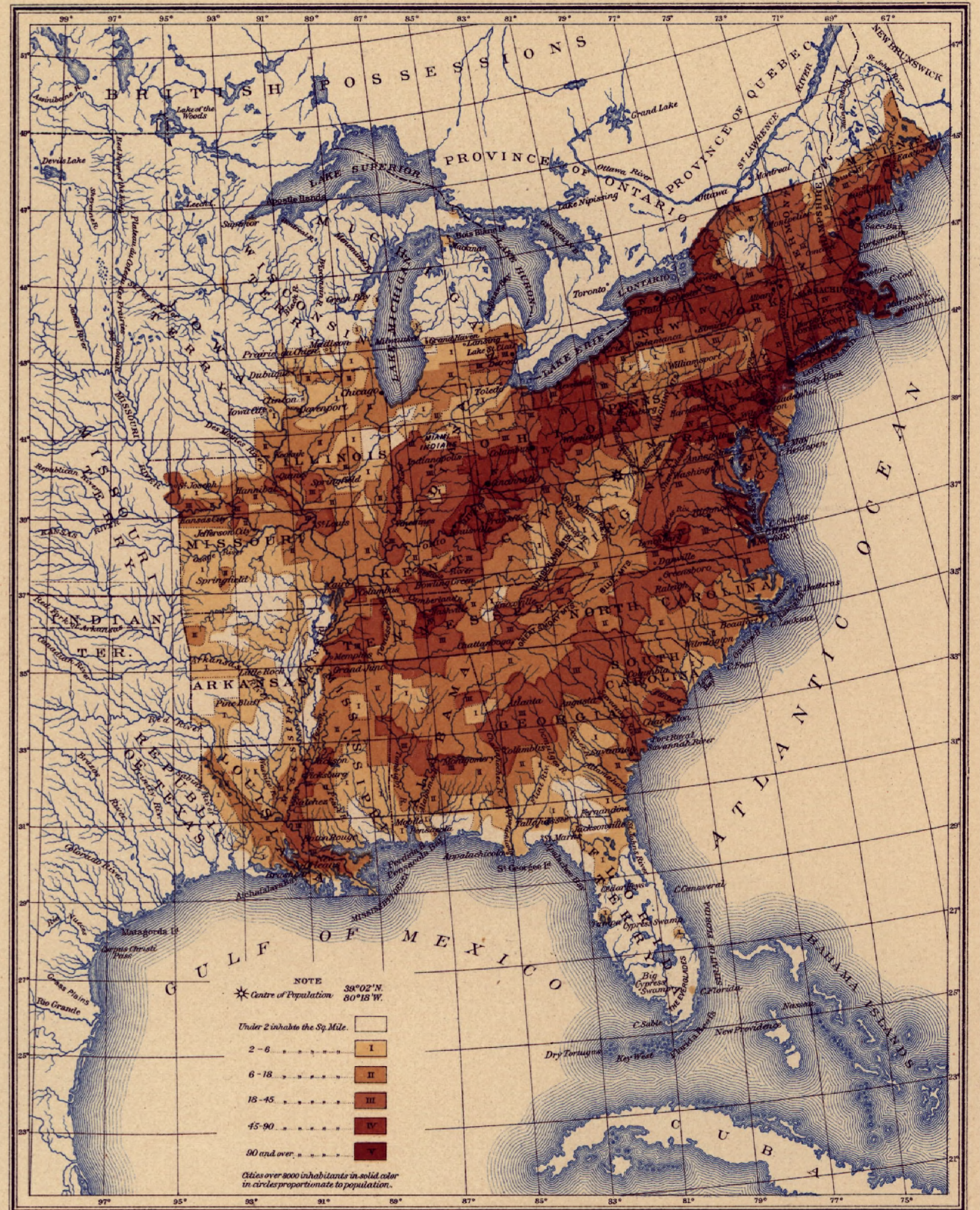
POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES. (EXCLUDING INDIANS NOT TAXED): 1830 TO 1860.

PLATE 4.

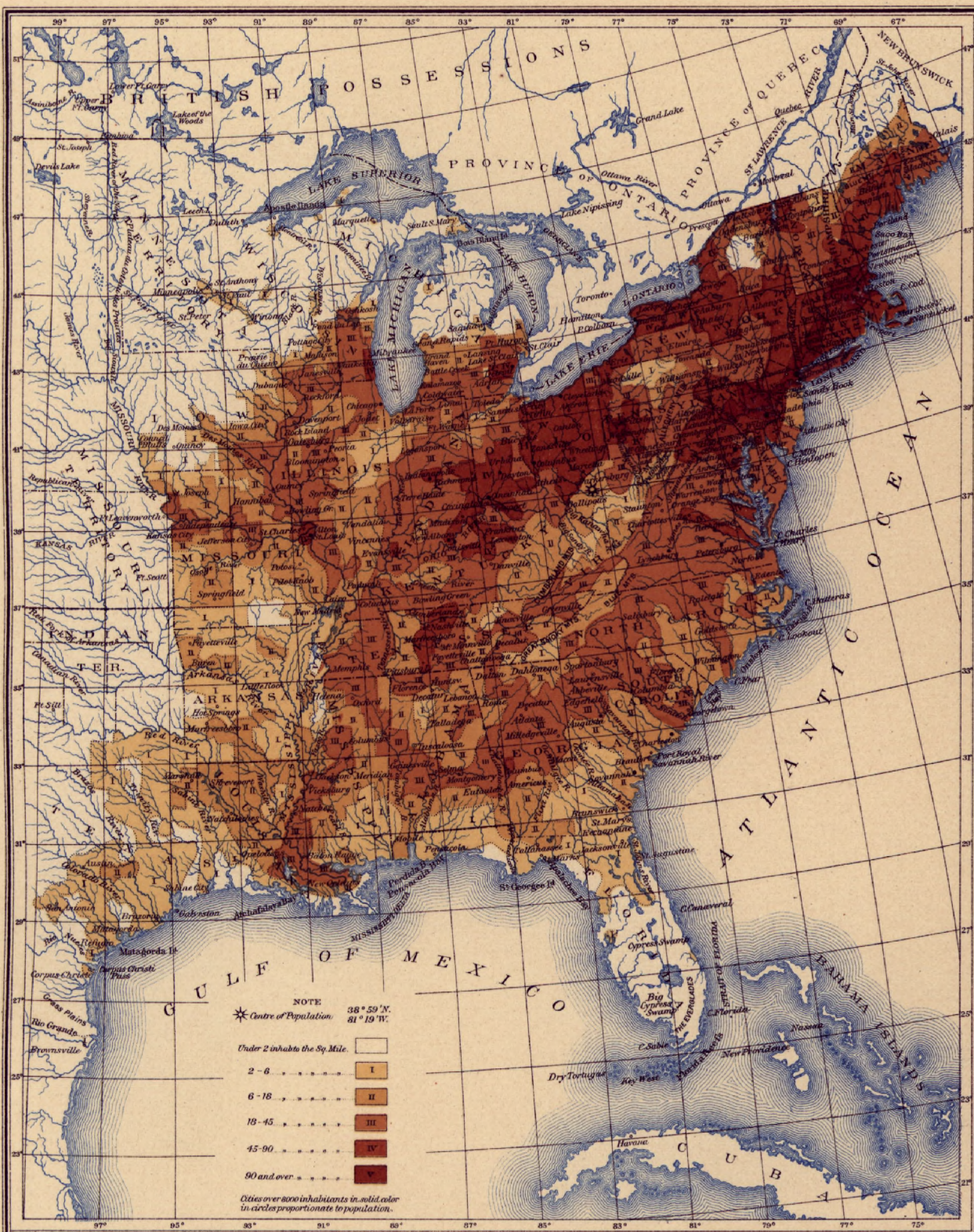
14. DISTRIBUTION IN 1830.



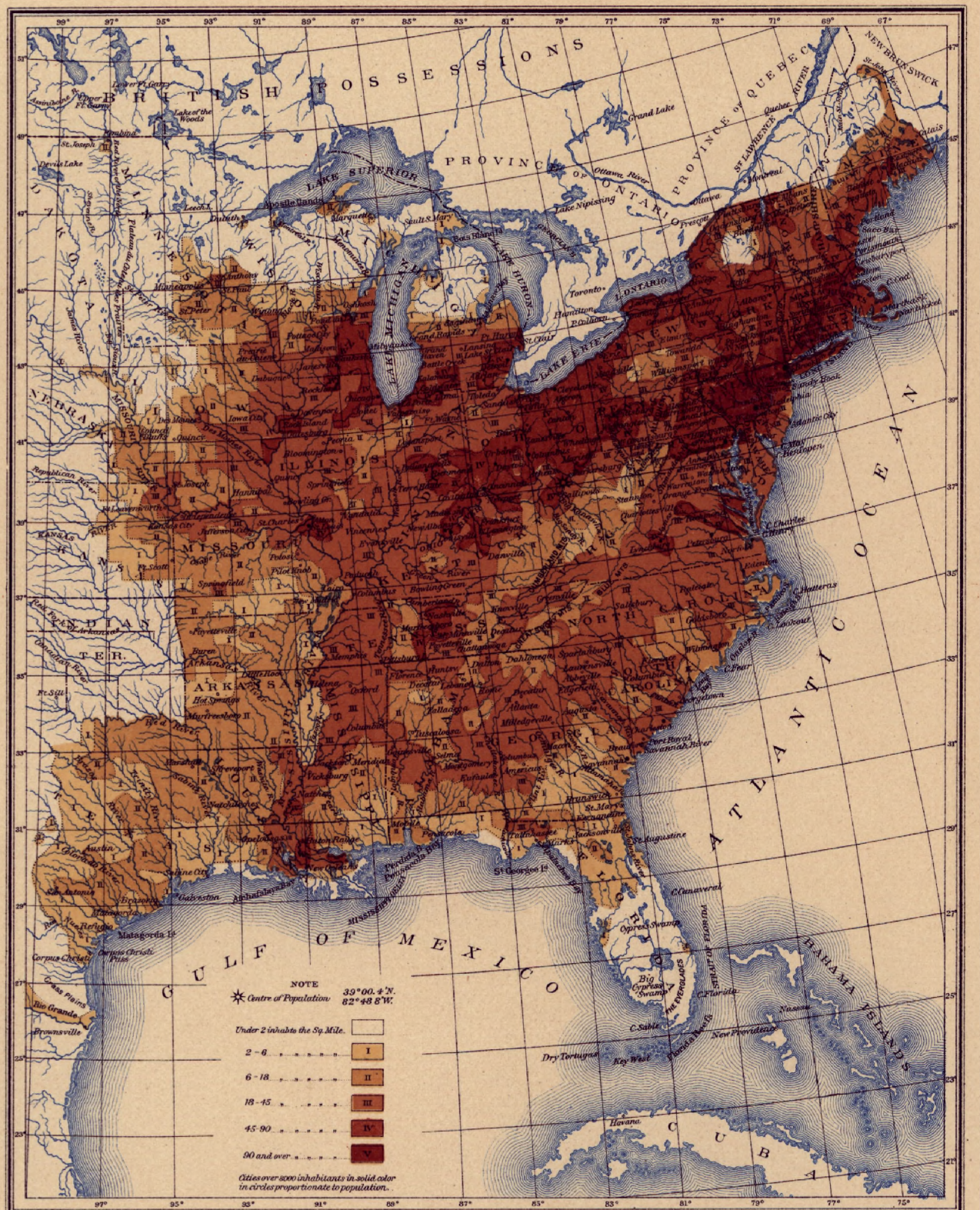
15. DISTRIBUTION IN 1840.



16. DISTRIBUTION IN 1850.

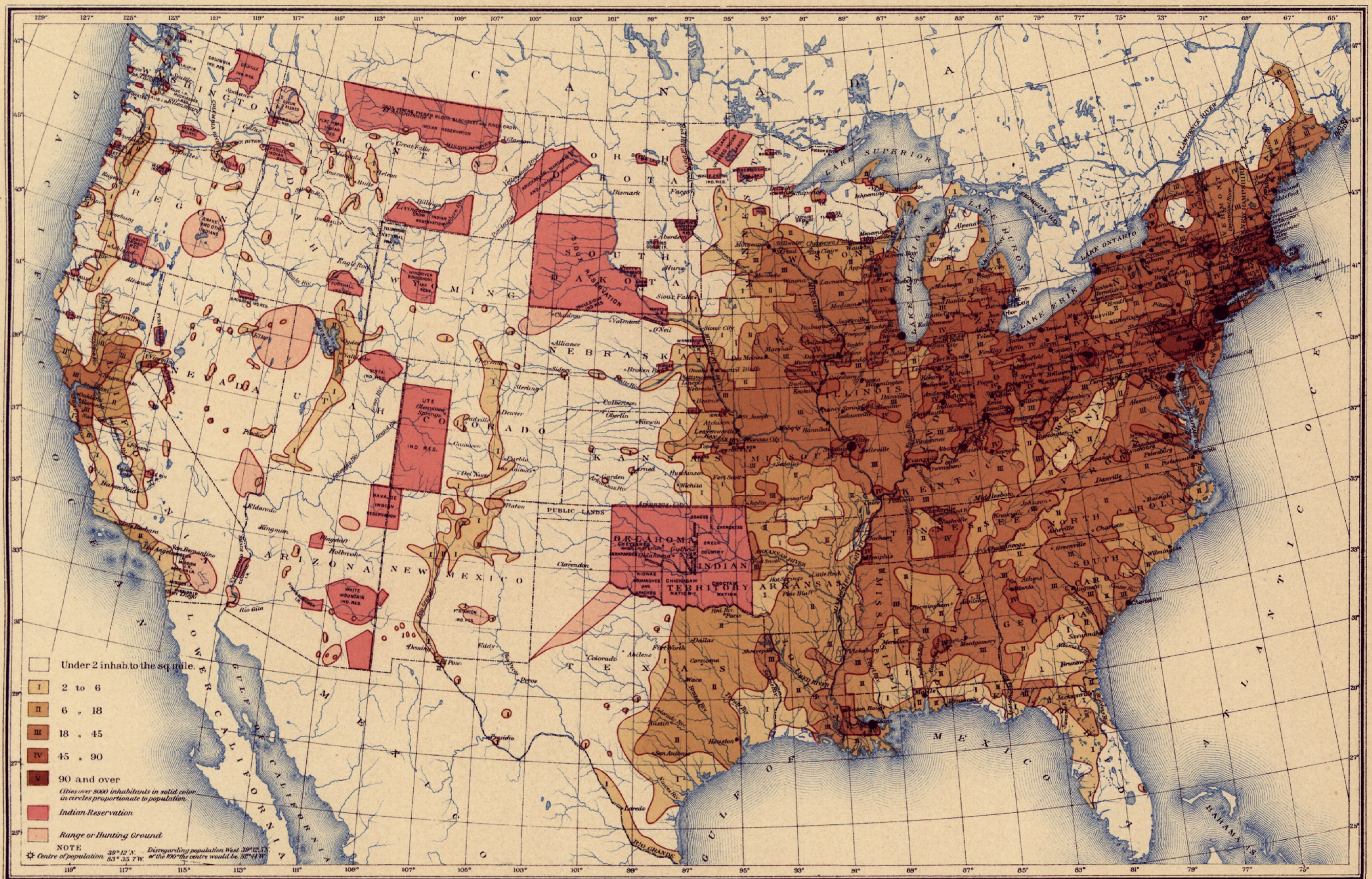


17. DISTRIBUTION IN 1860.

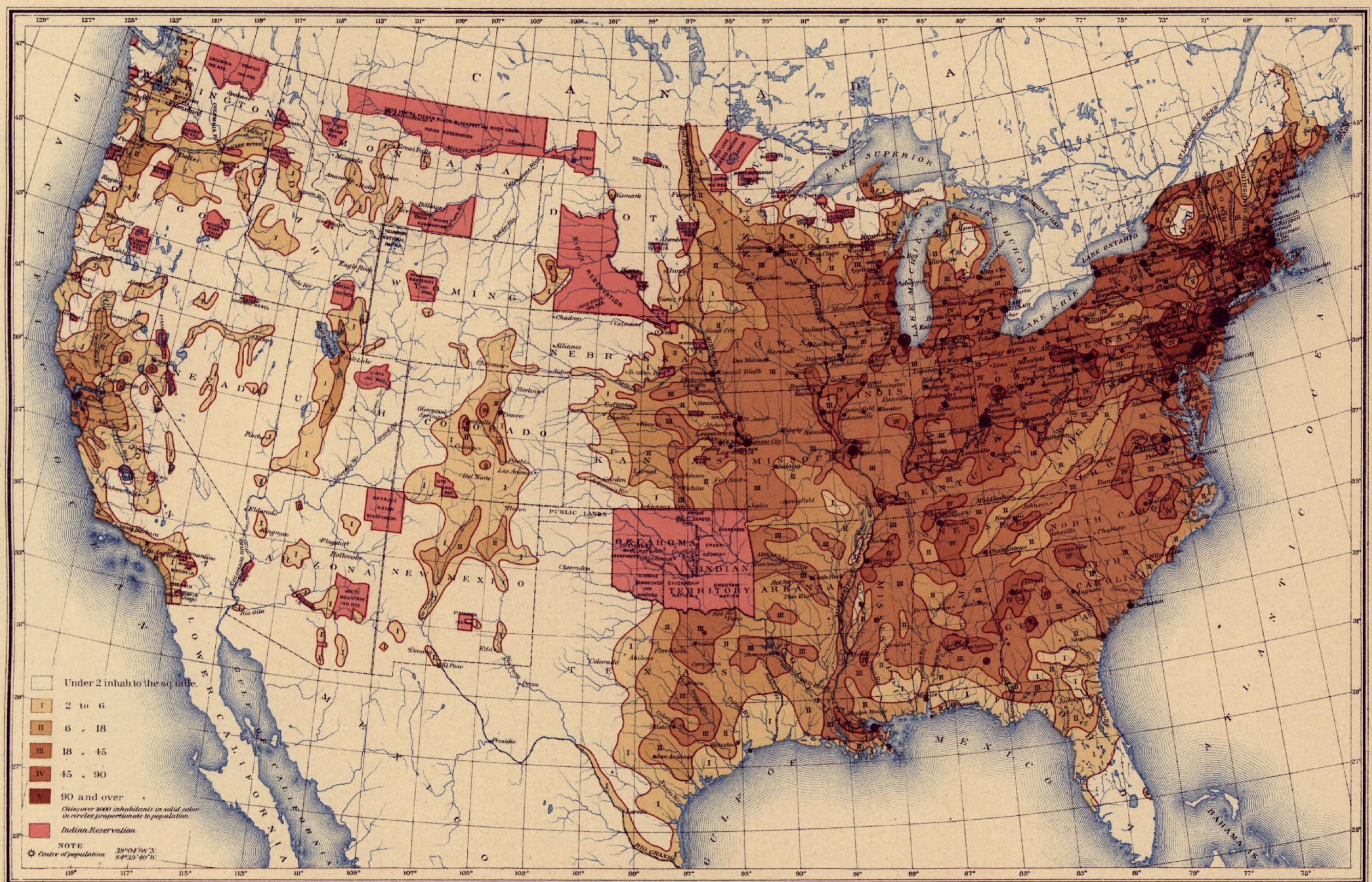


18. DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES (EXCLUDING INDIANS NOT TAXED): 1870.

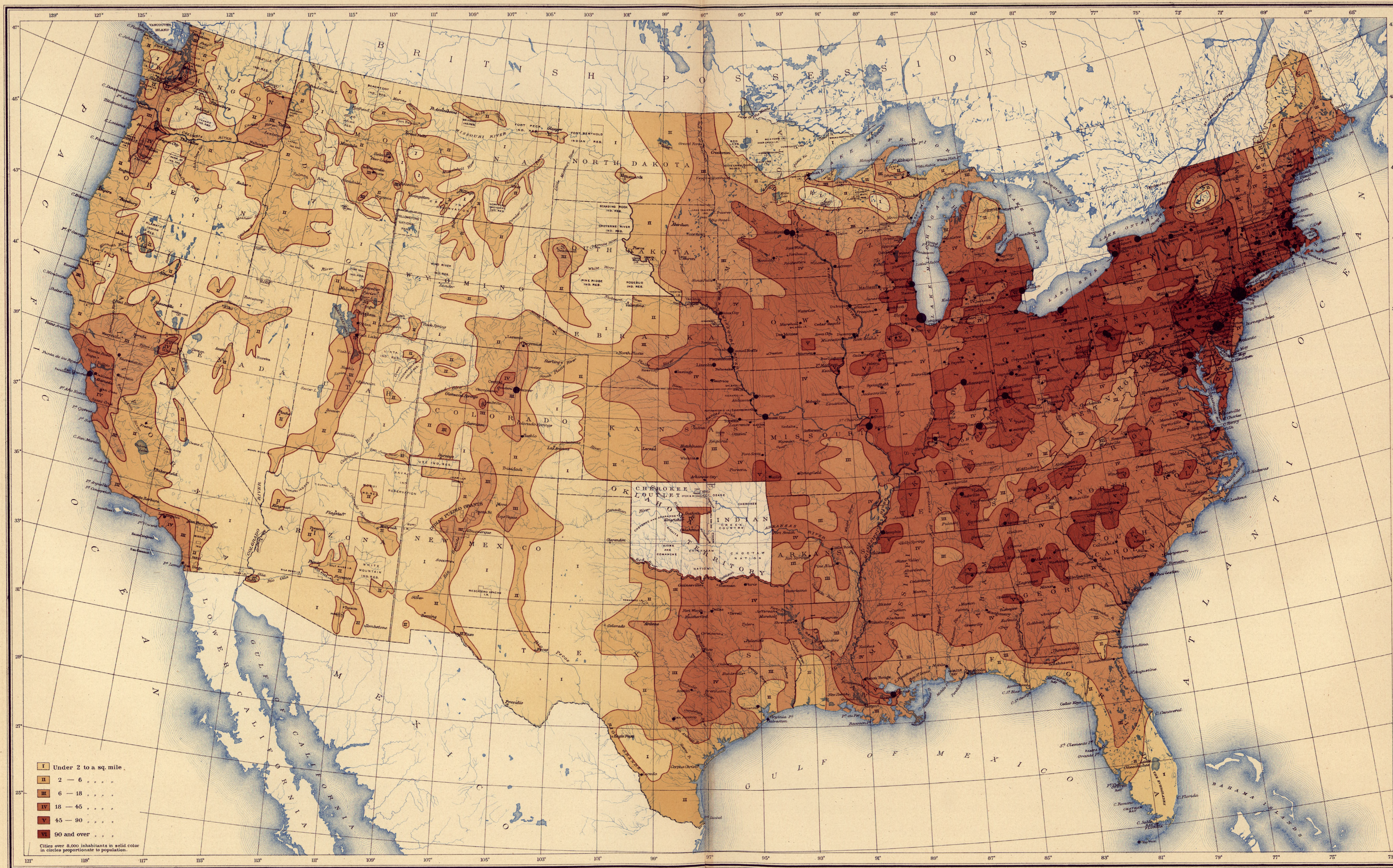
PLATE 5.



19. DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES (EXCLUDING INDIANS NOT TAXED): 1880.



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22. PROPORTION OF URBAN TO TOTAL POPULATION, BY STATES AND TERRITORIES—HISTORICAL: 1790 TO 1890.

[Colorado, Nevada, and Florida are not shown, because these States had urban population in 1880 and 1890 only.]

