

# *How Megacities are Changing the Map of the World*

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Salini Impregilo  
Industrial Plan Presentation

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***CONNECTOGRAPHY***

MAPPING THE FUTURE  
of GLOBAL CIVILIZATION



***PARAG KHANNA***

# The Global Connectivity Revolution

## The Infrastructural Matrix: Exoskeleton on the Planetary Body

- Skeleton System /  
Transportation: Highways,  
railways, bridges, tunnels,  
airports, seaports
- Vascular System / Energy:  
Oil & gas pipelines and  
refineries, electricity grids  
and power plants
- Nervous System /  
Communications:  
Internet cables, satellites,  
data centers



# The Connectivity Atlas (<https://atlas.developmentseed.org/>)



Topographical Engineering and Mega-Infrastructures

Twin mega-trends: Urbanization and Connectivity



# Connectivity is Destiny: Reimagine How Life is Organized on Earth

Arc of History: Connectivity as Meta-Pattern  
Across Continents, Regions and Cultures

Paradigm Shift: Connectivity > Division

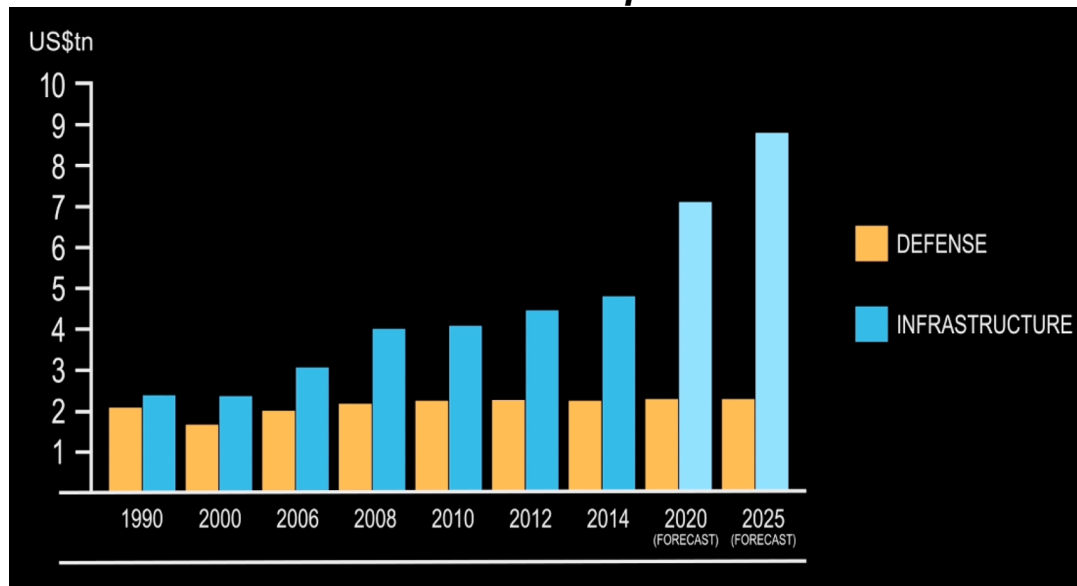
Bridges to Everywhere: Driving Growth

- Industrial revolution to World War I
- Keynes to *Wirtschaftswunder*
- Asian Tigers to China & AIIB

More Infra in next 40 years than past 4000 years  
Imperative: \$1T for every 1B people

“Extra-statecraft”: Infrastructure as strategic asset

**Connectivity - not sovereignty - is the organizing principle  
of the human species**



Political geography (nations & borders) ➡ Functional geography (infrastructure & supply chains)

Systems change: 19thC vertical empires ➡ 20thC horizontal states ➡ global network civilization

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

# Toward a Supply Chain World

History's most powerful law: Supply and demand

1648 (Westphalian System) to 1989 (Supply Chain World)

1989: WWW born — but supply chains are the original World  
Wide Webs: Not a thing but a system of transactions

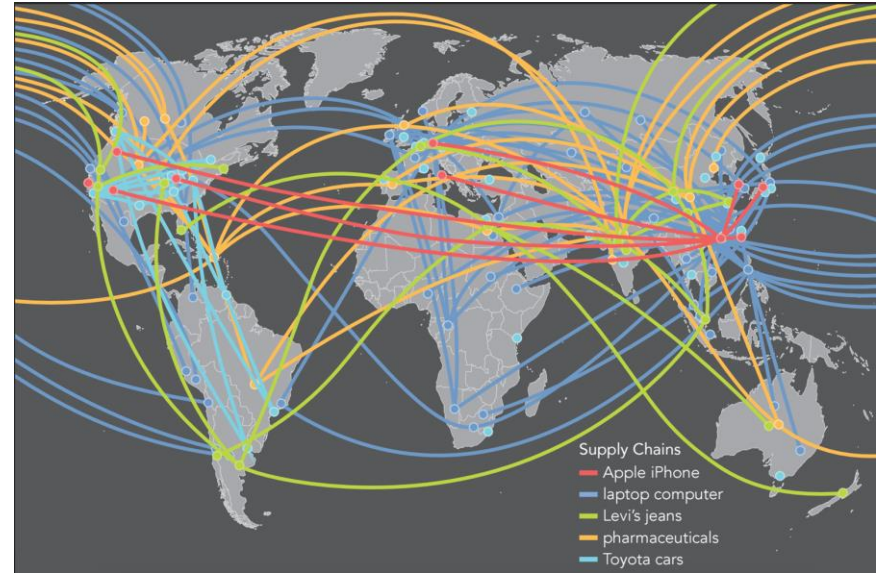
EoCW + Global capital markets + Deregulation +  
Infrastructure + Communications

Total Globalization: Capacity > Volume (Beyond “Hyper-  
globalization” versus “End of globalization”)

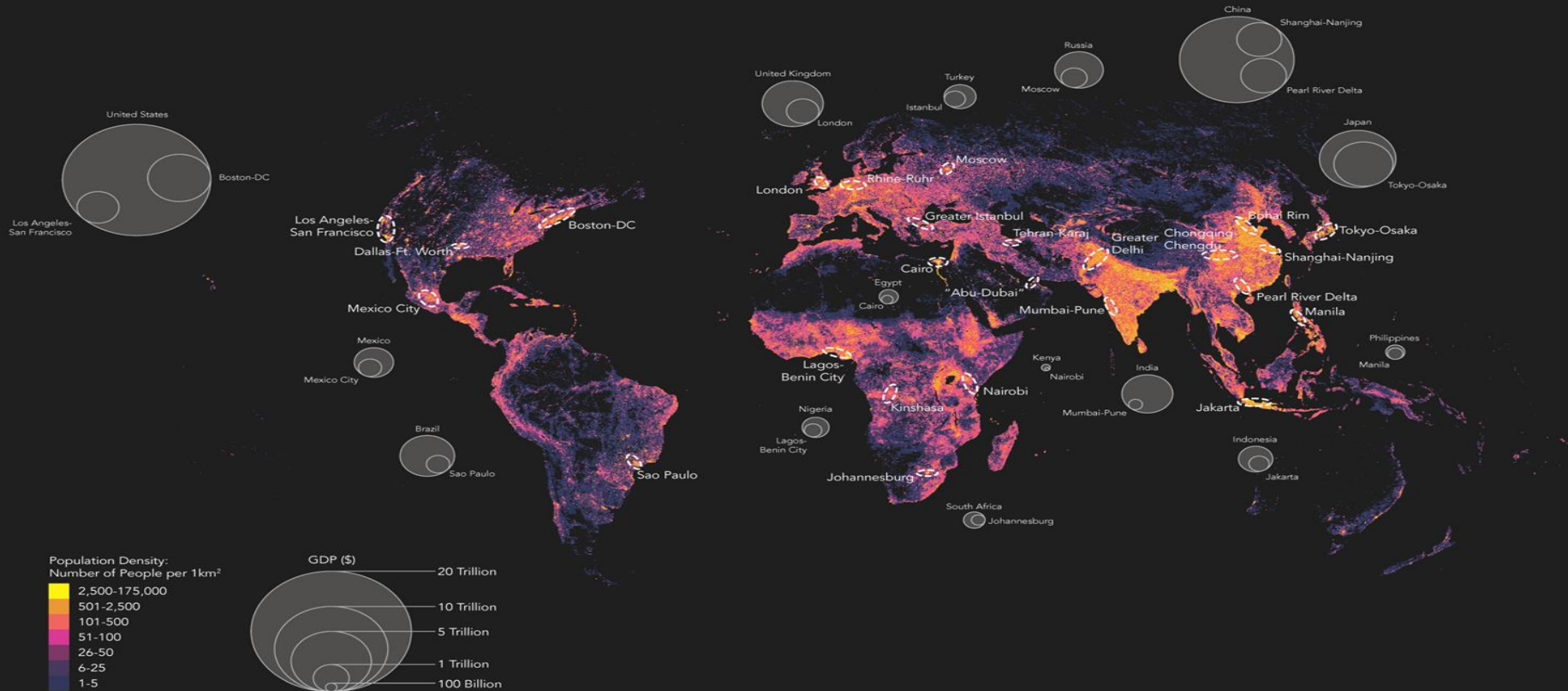
“Perfect Capitalism” (Kaku): Inefficiency is the enemy

Smith (free markets) + Ricardo (comparative advantage) +  
Durkheim (division of labor) + Big Data  $\Rightarrow$  Perpetual  
optimization of land, labor, capital, production

Trading atoms and bits: “Where” are complex global value  
chains? Things are “Made Everywhere”



# Planetary Urbanization: Urban Archipelagos Define Humanity



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





# *Pax Urbanica: Cities Drive the Global Network Civilization*

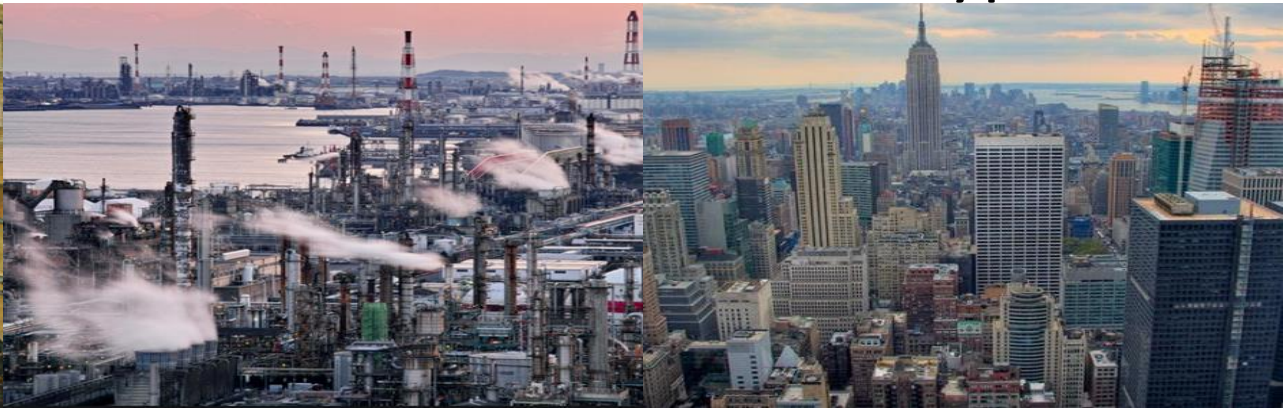




# Evolution and Coexistence of Urban Archetypes



Medieval stratification



Industrial mass production

Financial capitalism



Services hub



Peri-urban slums



Mega-city archipelago

***Building infrastructure will make our many divided cities become whole again***

# Connectivity: The Most Important Asset Class of the 21st Century

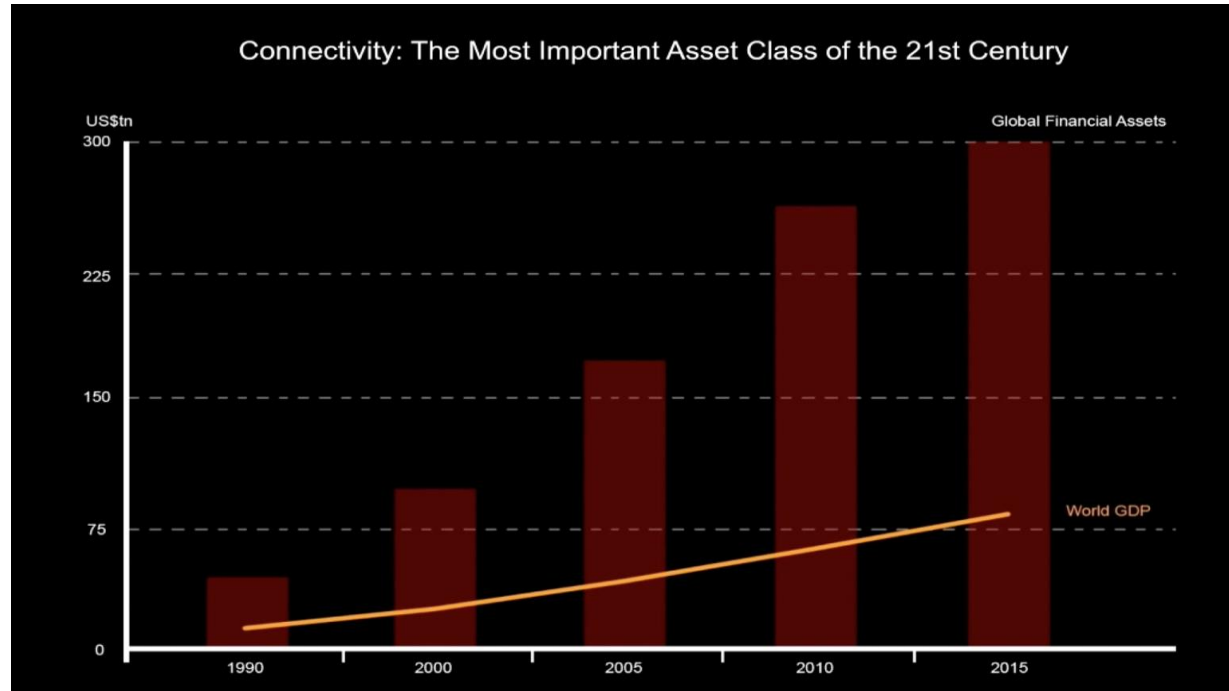
Spend now, gain later: Invest to reduce inequality, empower opportunity and raise quality of life

Turning \$300T of financial stock into tangible infrastructure: Permanent capital investing in the “connectivity asset class”

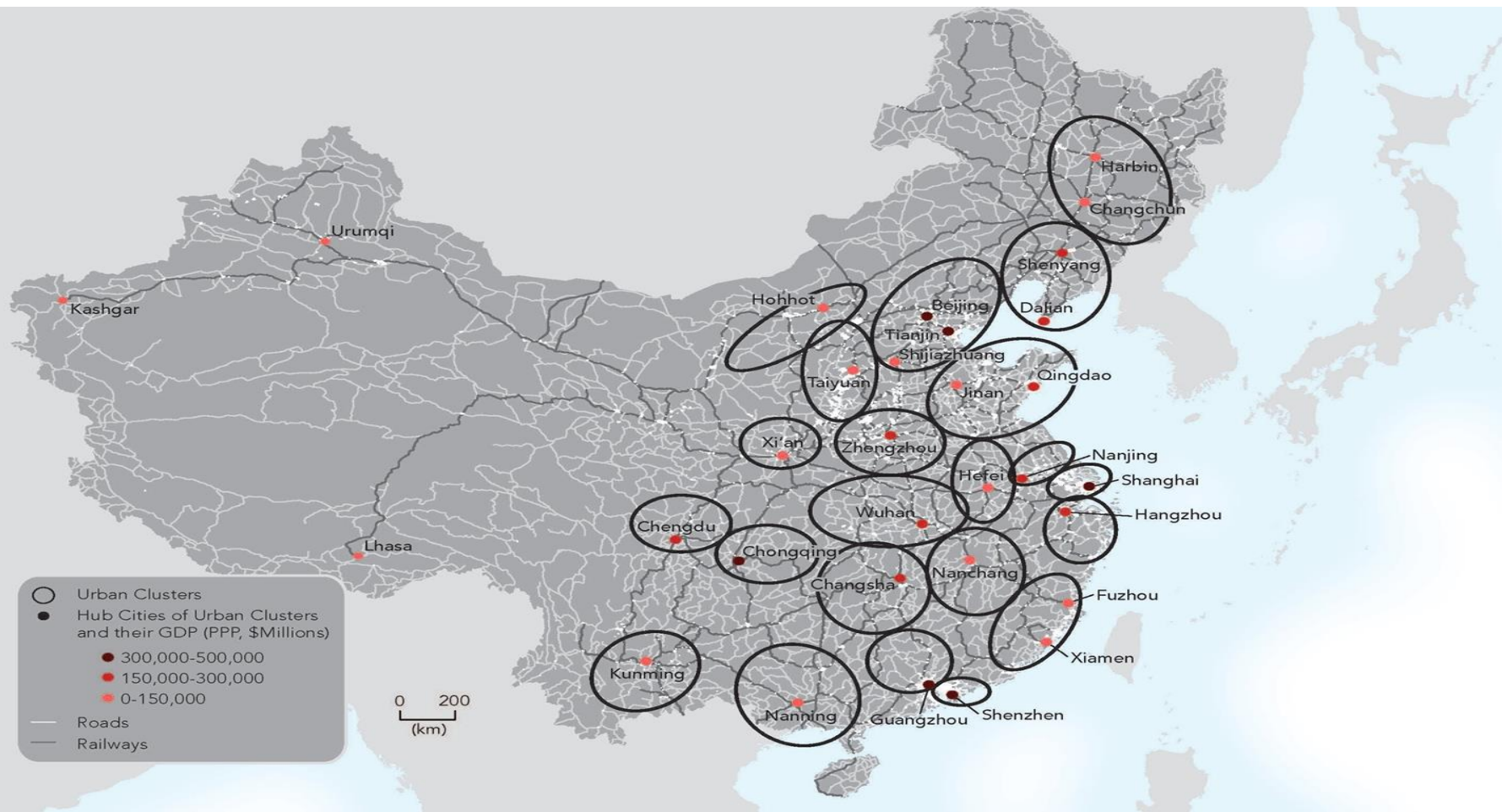
Capitalize regional banks to finance large-scale job-creating infrastructure (G-20) (Lin)

Private wealth, pensions, insurance, SWFs, private equity, hedge funds, asset managers

Infrastructure as the newest SDG:  
Sustainable infrastructure for the future

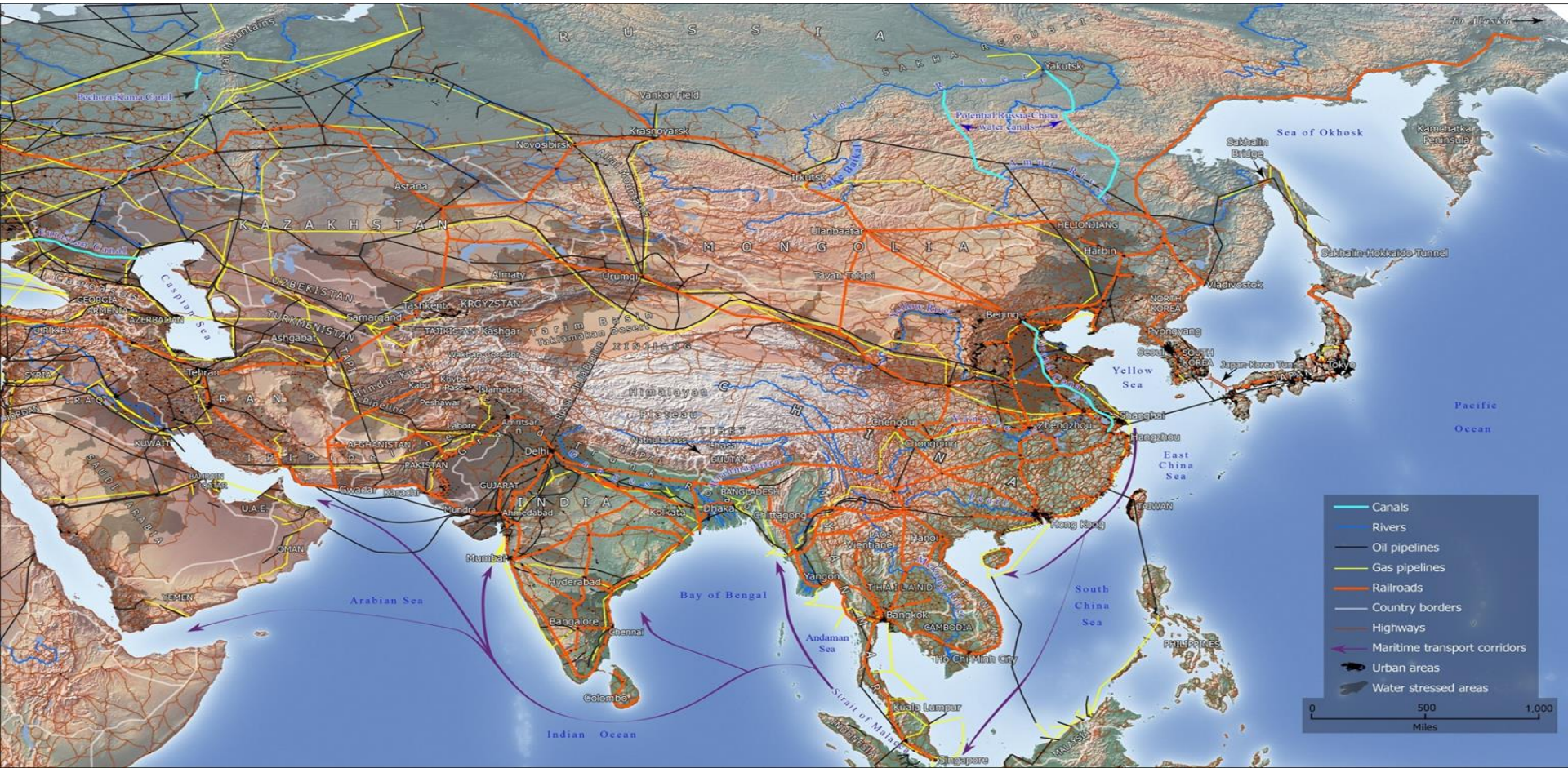


# China: Empire of Mega-Cities



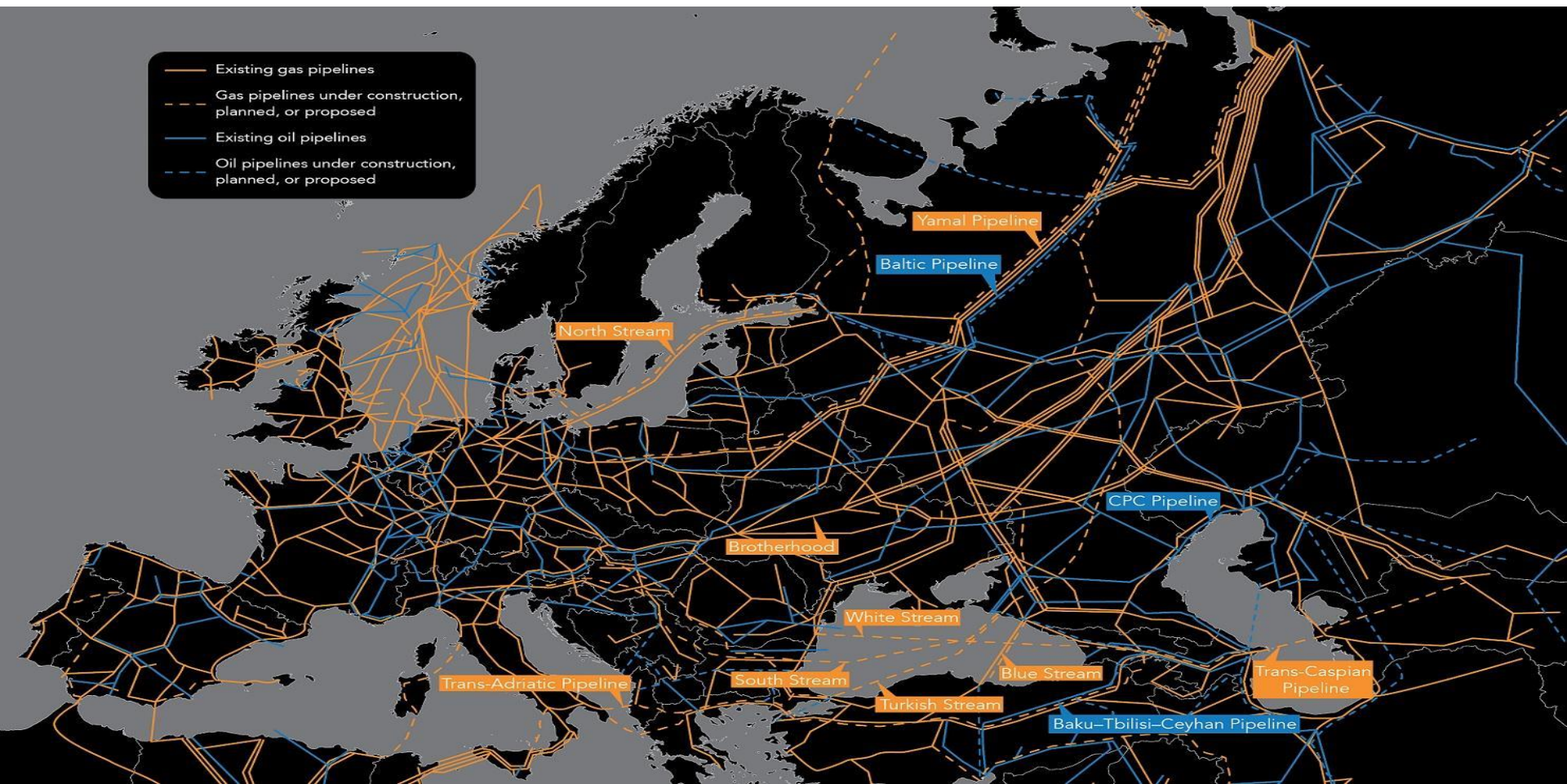


# East Meets West: Eurasia's Iron Silk Roads

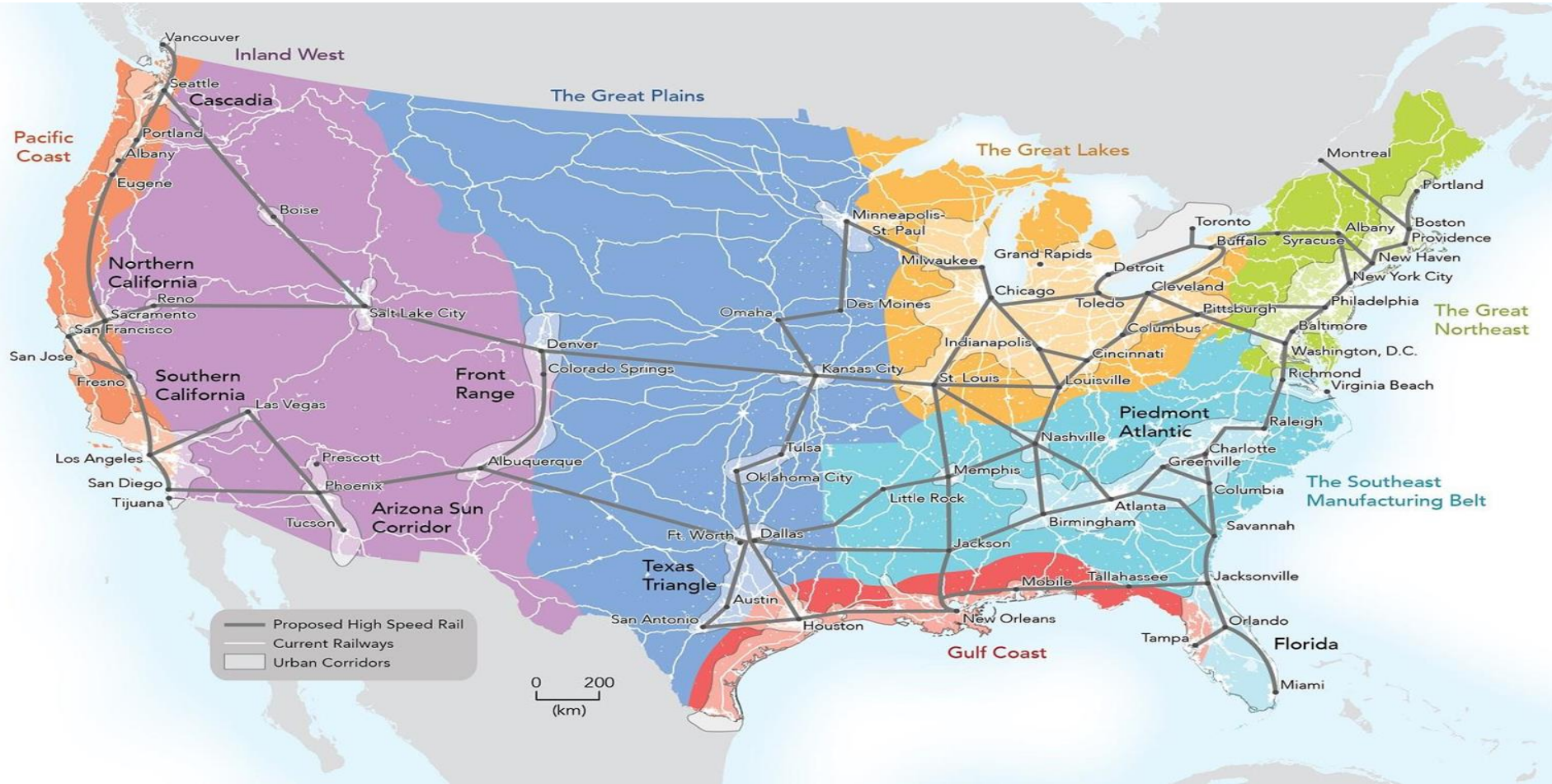




# Europe: From Singular Dependence to Reverse Flows



# Functional > Political: The United City-States of America



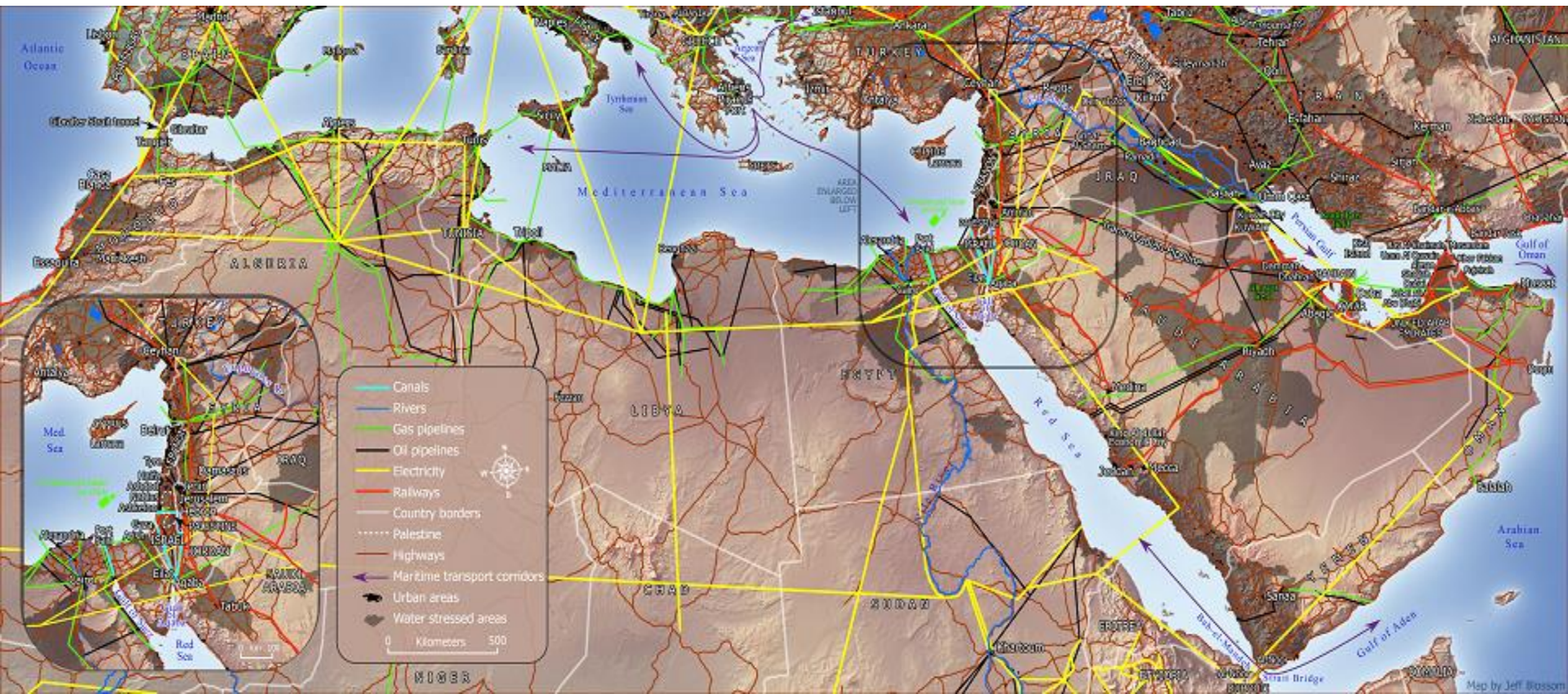


# Think Geology, not Nationality: From NAFTA to North American Union





# From Sykes-Picot to *Pax Arabia*





# From “Scramble for Africa” to *Pax Africana*





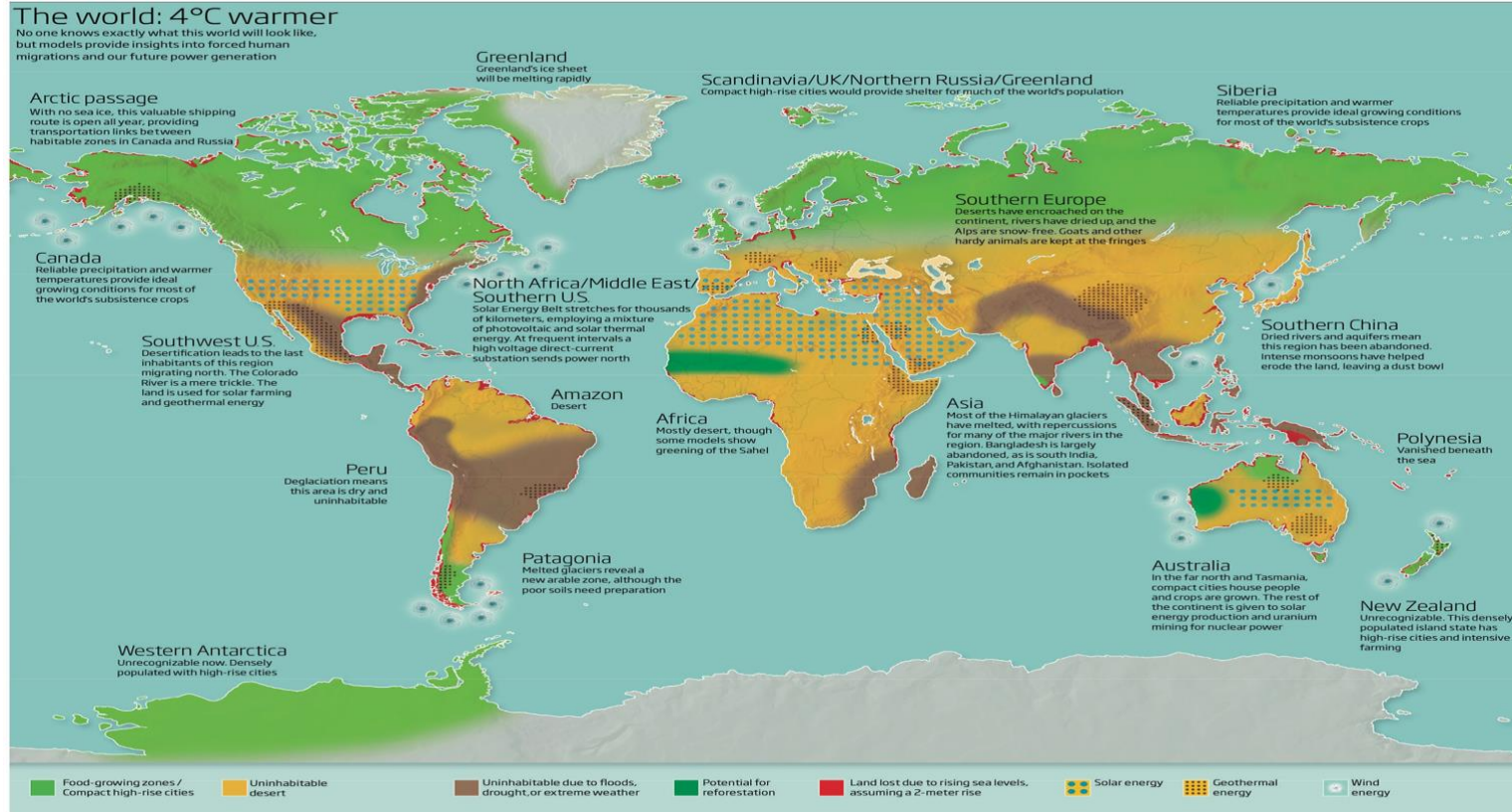
# A 4 Degree Warmer World: Are We Investing in Adaptation?

Arctic ice melts,  
tropical cities  
submerge

Food in the North,  
people in the South?

Conserving and  
harnessing water

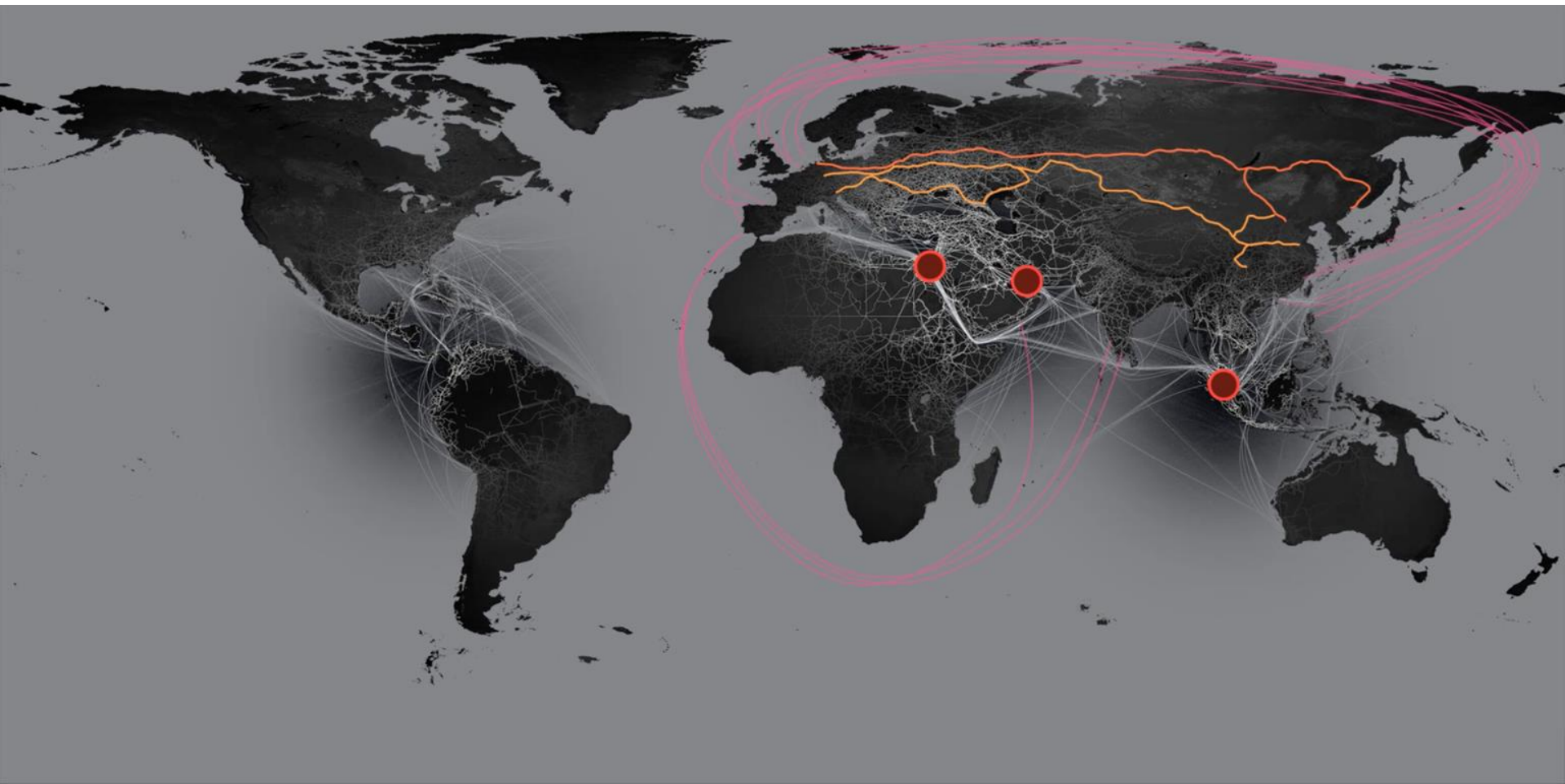
Renewables: Slow  
warming, build local  
resilience



# The Arctic: Navigable and Livable



# No More Chokepoints: Connectivity Creates Pathways for Stability





# From Connectivity to Resilience: Building a Better World

Complementary Global Goods: American Security and Chinese Infrastructure

Connectivity leads to shared prosperity, progress and peace

No more “resource wars”: From “peak oil” to “gas glut”; US selling oil to China!

Regionalism and Reciprocity: Mutual Connectivity and Co-Creation

Infrastructure companies enable connectivity and have a responsibility to improve societal quality of life through their projects

Companies that are the conduits of connectivity through large and complex projects will be the most long-lasting and profitable drivers of global growth

