

Exploration of the Meaning of Power as it relates to American County Characteristics

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Introduction

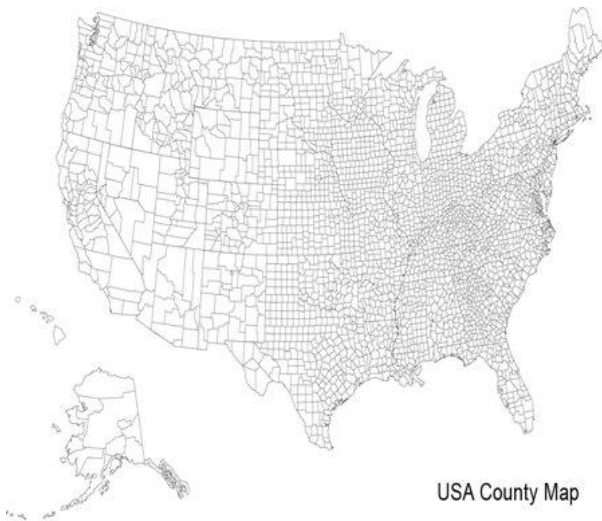
- Research Question: Why do counties in the US have the names and boundaries that they have?
- Thesis Statement: County boundaries, shapes and names in the US are determined by a complex mix of factors such as politics, physical geography, the development of technology, economics, and historical occurrences.
- Story time!



Literature Review

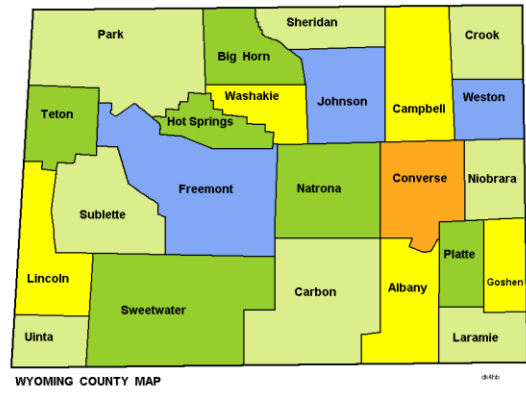
- *Power and Knowledge* (Foucault) + *Geography: Why it matters* (Murphy)
- Internet research
- Articles, video, images, US Census Bureau Regions





USA County Map

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WYOMING COUNTY MAP



Methods

- www.youtube.com/watch?v=QEdDU3ho1oE&t=1s
- Name categorization, shape observations, county size math
- Interviews with Kefalas, Knierim, and Shelley
- Script writing/editing
- Work in Studio Coe



Interviewees (Primary Sources)

- Kurt Knierim; History teacher at Rocky Mountain High School
- John Kefalas; Larimer County Commissioner
- Fred Shelley; Retired Assistant Professor of Geography from the University of Oklahoma, College of Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences

Summary of Findings

- Names: more European than Indigenous, lots of natural less religious, copycats, shared experience, and politics
- Shapes and Sizes: west v east, population, physical geography, economics, politics, technology
- Interviews had depth; web had breadth
- Murphy, importance of place; Foucault, power dynamics

Explore

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Around 80% of US Population live East of the yellow line

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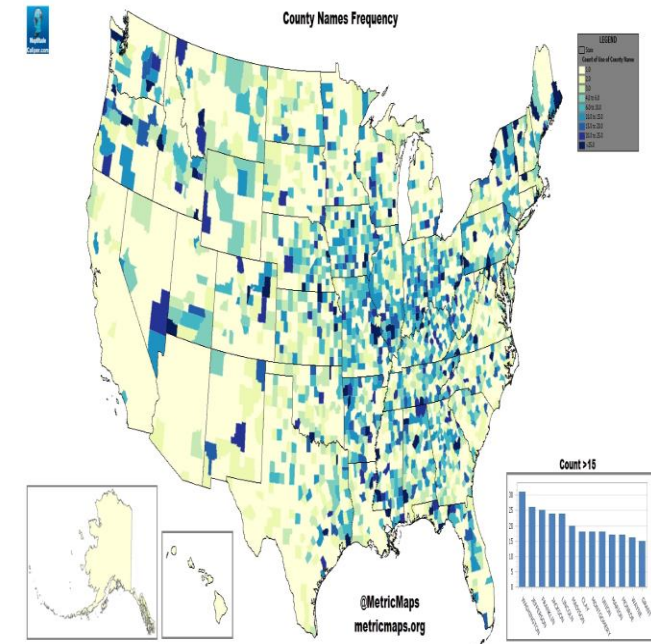
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Personal Reflection

- Learning!
- Challenges
- Light at the end of the tunnel
- Rewards



ALEXANDER B. MURPHY

GEOGRAPHY



why it matters

POWER/

KNOW-

LEDGE:

SELECTED INTERVIEWS
& OTHER WRITINGS

1 9 7 2 - 1 9 7 7

BY MICHEL
FOUCAULT

EDITED BY COLIN GURDON

Conclusion

- Complex mix of factors that influence county characteristics
- Reaffirms importance of place, geography can be vague but is nonetheless influential
- The hope of spreading knowledge and to learn more about place, yours as well as others

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