



THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

Vision 4, Part 2 (16:12-21) - Review, Bowls 6-7

LOOKING BACK

- “Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.” (Revelation 1:19)
 - Series of 6 visions
 - Begin with John seeing a sign
 - End with a proleptic view of the day of judgment
 - 1:1 — angels “signified” the revelation to John; communicated through symbols
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FIRST THREE VISIONS

- Vision 1, Chapters 1-3: the glorified Christ and the seven churches of Asia
 - Vision 2, Chapters 4-11 - what happens to the Roman Empire; judgment for her sins
 - Vision 3, Chapters 12-14
 - The dragon (Satan)
 - The beast (the Roman Church)
 - The false prophet (the Papacy)
 - The image of the beast (Holy Roman Empire)
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VISION 4 - GOD'S JUDGMENT OF THE BEAST

- Bowls 1-4 represent France rebelling from Catholic Church
 - Bowl 5 represents Italy reducing the kingdom of the Papacy from the Papal States to the Vatican
 - In less than 100 years, the Catholic Church (the beast) lost:
 - Its closest ally in Europe, France
 - The Holy Roman Empire (ended by Napoleon in 1806)
 - Vast amounts of territory across Europe
 - The Papal States
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LOOKING AHEAD

- Vision 4 - God's judgment of the beast and false prophet concludes
 - Bowl #6 - decline and fall of the Ottoman Turk Empire, groundwork laid for Armageddon
 - Bowl #7 - the World Wars decimate the kingdom of the beast (Europe)
 - Chapters 17-18 - reflections on Babylon
 - Chapter 19 - Jesus defeats the beast and false prophet (Armageddon)
 - Vision 5, Chapter 20 - God defeats the dragon (Armageddon) and judges the world
 - Vision 6, Chapters 21-22 - Heaven
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BOWL 6 - 16:12-16

Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame." And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.

6, 6, 6

- Sixth seal prepares us for the seven trumpets with the sealing of the 144,000
 - The sixth trumpet sets the stage for the 1,260 years and the seven bowls of wrath
 - The sixth bowl of wrath prepares us for “the battle of that great day of God Almighty” depicted in 19:11-20
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WHAT JOHN SAW

- “the great River Euphrates” - a barrier to the east; represents the Turkic powers (i.e. trumpet #6)
 - “dried up” - a gradual decline in power
 - “frogs”
 - An unclean animal with a harsh voice
 - Represent unclean spirits (see verse 14, cf. with 1 Timothy 4:1)
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MORE OF WHAT JOHN SAW

- “out of the mouths of...”
 - The beast - Rome, the Catholic Church,
 - The false prophet - the Papacy
 - The dragon - Satan
 - “which go out to”
 - “the kings of the earth” - the ten kingdoms which arose out of imperial Rome
 - “the kings...of the whole world” - those nations beyond
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ARMAGEDDON

- “Armageddon” = Har Megiddo, the “hill of Megiddo”
 - Solomon built an important military stronghold at Megiddo
 - Guards an important trade route connecting Egypt with Mesopotamia — a link between Europe, Asia, and Africa
 - Site of many important historical battles
 - Symbolizes the last great spiritual struggle between God and His enemies (“the battle of that great day of God Almighty”)
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THE DECLINE OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

TRUMPET #6 - THE TURKIC POWER

- Originated in Central Asia, migrated into the Middle East
 - Seljuk Turks crossed the Euphrates in 1057, threaten the Byzantine Empire
 - 1095 - First Crusade called by Pope Urban
 - Seljuk Turks replaced by Ottoman Turks; conquer Constantinople in 1453
 - 1481-1566 - peak of Turkic power and wealth
 - 1683 - repelled from Vienna; reached its greatest extent in territory
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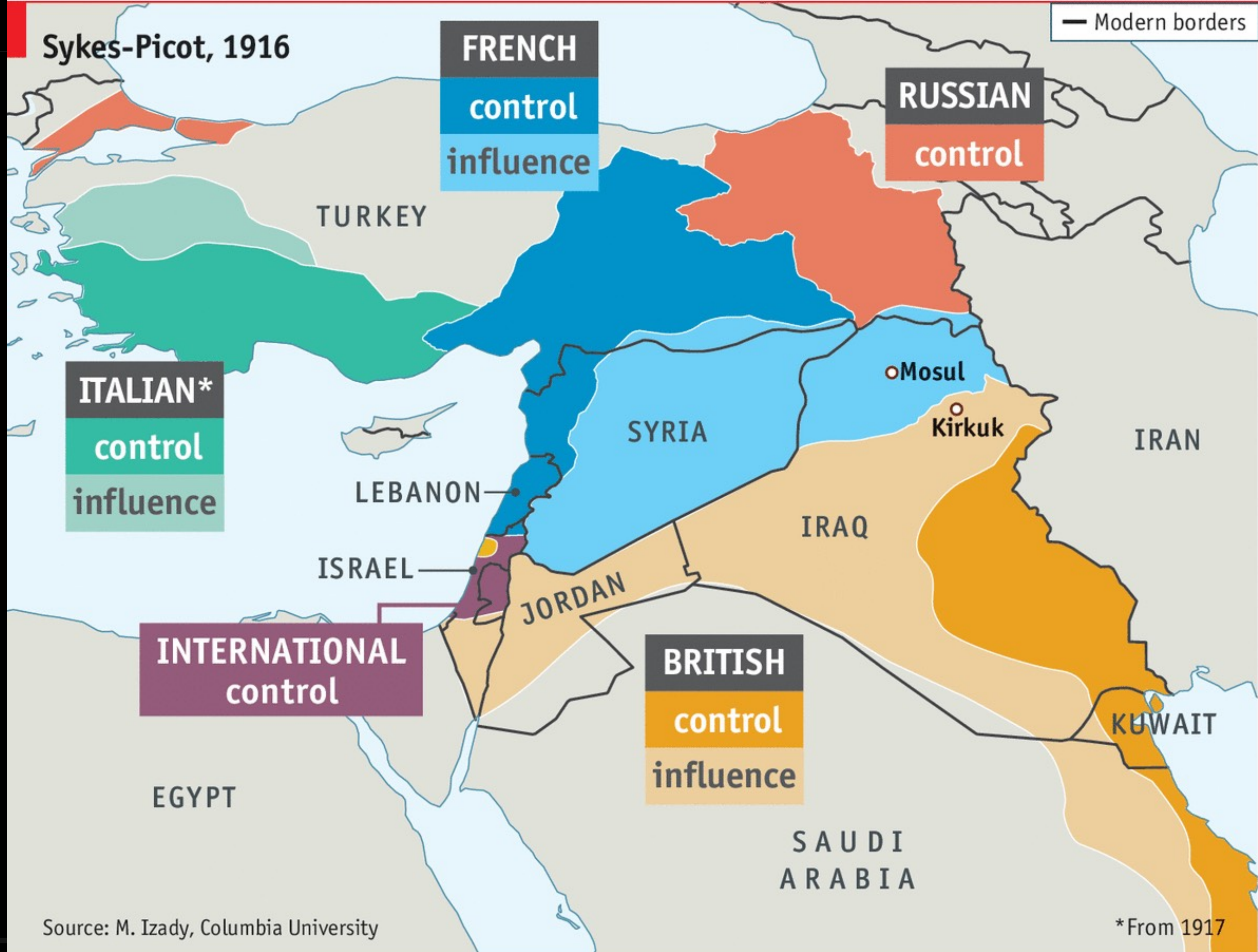
DECLINE OF OTTOMAN EMPIRE

- Europe advanced in shipbuilding and navigation; expanded trade and naval capabilities
 - Influx of American gold and silver into European coffers; created a trade imbalance
 - Industrial revolution widened technical skills gap
 - Medical advances in Europe lengthened life expectancy and health
 - Europe grew into a powerhouse while Turkic power gradually waned
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OTTOMAN EMPIRE DEFEATED IN WWI

- Turkey becomes an independent republic
 - England and France divide the rest
 - Encourages the growth of education
 - Sparks the growth of Middle Eastern nationalism
 - 1960's - final vestiges of European dominion are lost; many new sovereign nations emerge
 - "...so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared"
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Source: M. Izady, Columbia University

ARMAGEDDON

LATE 19TH/EARLY 20TH DECEIVING SPIRITS

- July 18, 1870 - The Vatican Council, papal infallibility
 - The foundations of fascism and communism are laid
 - The scientific establishment grows skeptical of faith
 - European philosophy grows antagonistic toward Christianity
 - Europe begins to discard Christianity, replacing it with atheism and humanism
 - Attempts to unite the world (e.g. The League of Nations, The U.N.)
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THEIR PURPOSE

- To gather the kings of the earth “to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.”
 - “And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army.” (Revelation 19:19)
 - “Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.” (Revelation 20:7-9)
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“Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame.”

– *Revelation 16:15*

HE RETURNS LIKE “A THIEF”

- To the church in Sardis: “Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.” (Revelation 3:3)
 - “Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.” (Matthew 24:42-44)
 - See also 1 Thessalonians 5:2-3 and 2 Peter 3:10-11
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“Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. When they are already budding, you see and know for yourselves that summer is now near. So you also, when you see these things happening, know that the kingdom of God is near...But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

—Luke 21:29-31, 34-36

BOWL 7, 16:17-21

Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, "It is done!" And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth. Now the great city was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath. Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. And great hail from heaven fell upon men, each hailstone about the weight of a talent. Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great.

WHAT JOHN SAW

- This bowl is poured out on the air
 - The atmosphere above us
 - The dominion of Satan: he is “the prince of the power of the air” (Ephesians 2:2)
 - “noises and thunderings and lightnings...And great hail...” - the complete judgment of God
 - Psalm 18:13-15 and Revelation 11:19
 - “earthquake” — a shakeup of social and political institutions
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MORE OF WHAT JOHN SAW

- “such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth” - no other time in human history would rival the instability of this time.
 - “And great Babylon was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of His wrath”
 - Babylon = the “great city;” represents those who collude and comply with the beast
 - Revelation 14:9-10, “If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, [10] he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb.”
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STILL MORE OF WHAT JOHN SAW

- “the great city was divided into three parts” — no longer unified; fractured
 - “every island fled away, and the mountains were not found” - the nations once aligned with Babylon abandoned her
 - “Men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, since that plague was exceedingly great.”
 - Echoes bowls 4 (16:9) and 5 (16:11)
 - The bowls of wrath should have provoked repentance; instead, mankind was further entrenched in rebellion
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THE WORLD WARS

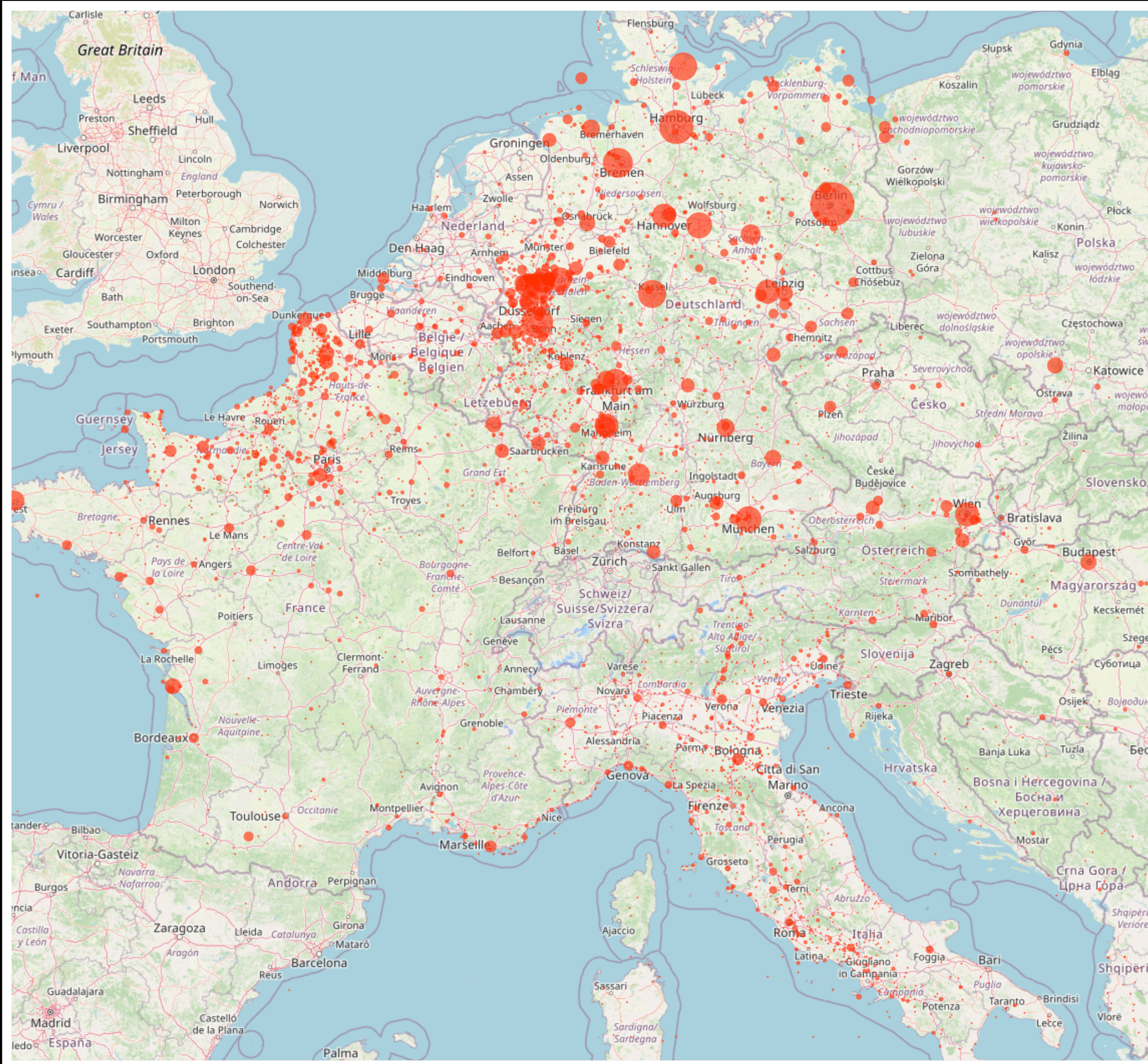
“The hundred years after 1900 were without question the bloodiest century in modern history, far more violent in relative as well as absolute terms than any previous era. Significantly larger percentages of the world's population were killed in the two world wars that dominated the century than had been killed in any previous conflict of comparable geopolitical magnitude (see Figure 1.). Although wars between 'great powers' were more frequent in earlier centuries, the world wars were unparalleled in their severity (battle deaths per year) and concentration (battle deaths per nation-year)...”

“By any measure, the Second World War was the greatest man-made catastrophe of all time. And yet, for all the attention they have attracted from historians, the world wars were only two of many twentieth-century conflicts. Death tolls quite probably passed the million mark in more than a dozen others.* Comparable fatalities were caused by the genocidal or 'politicidal' wars waged against civilian populations by the Young Turk regime during the First World War, the Soviet regime from the 1920s until the 1950s and the National Socialist regime in Germany between 1933 and 1945, to say nothing of the tyranny of Pol Pot in Cambodia.”

—Ferguson, *The War of the World*, p. xxxiv

CONNECT THE SYMBOLISM WITH HISTORY

- Verse 18, “such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth”
 - Ferguson, “By any measure, the Second World War was the greatest man-made catastrophe of all time.”
 - Hailstones falling from heaven = the advance of artillery, aerial bombing, nuclear weapons
 - “Then every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.” — realignment of world powers
 - Judgment of *Babylon*
 - France and Germany decimated by the two world wars
 - Two powers most closely aligned with the Catholic Church through the Holy Roman Empire
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1939-09

- AUSTRALIA
- GREAT BRITAIN
- NEW ZEALAND
- SOUTH AFRICA
- USA
- Unknown

“MEN BLASPHEMED GOD BECAUSE OF
THE PLAGUE OF THE HAIL, SINCE THAT
PLAGUE WAS EXCEEDINGLY GREAT.”

“But (this) did not happen without sins on our part: for that justice and that care for the poor which (most mendaciously) the Communists advertise, we in reality ought to have brought about ages ago. But far from it: we Westerners preached Christ with our lips, with our actions we brought the slavery of Mammon. We are more guilty than the infidels: for to those that know the will of God and do not do it, the greater the punishment. Now the only refuge lies in contrition and prayer. Long have we erred. In reading the history of Europe, its destructive succession of wars, of avarice, or fratricidal persecutions of Christians by Christians, of luxury, of gluttony, of pride, who could detect any but the rarest traces of the Holy Spirit?”

—C.S. Lewis, *The Latin Letters*, January 7, 1953

“I certainly feel that very grave dangers hang over us. This results from the great apostasy of the great part of Europe from the Christian faith. Hence, a worse state than the one we were in before we received the faith. For no one returns from Christianity to the same state he was in before Christianity, but into a worse state: the difference between a pagan and an apostate is the difference between an unmarried woman and an adulteress Therefore many men of our time have lost not only the supernatural light, but also the natural light which the pagans possessed.”

—C.S. Lewis, *The Latin Letters*, September 15, 1953
