AMERICA'S FOREIGN POLICIES
Past and Present
by Thomas A. Bailey
A brief history of the relations of
the United States with other nations,
and the conflict between cooperation
and isolation
Order from
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Mainsprings of WORLD POLITICS

Headline Series

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NUMBER 42 OCTOBER 1943

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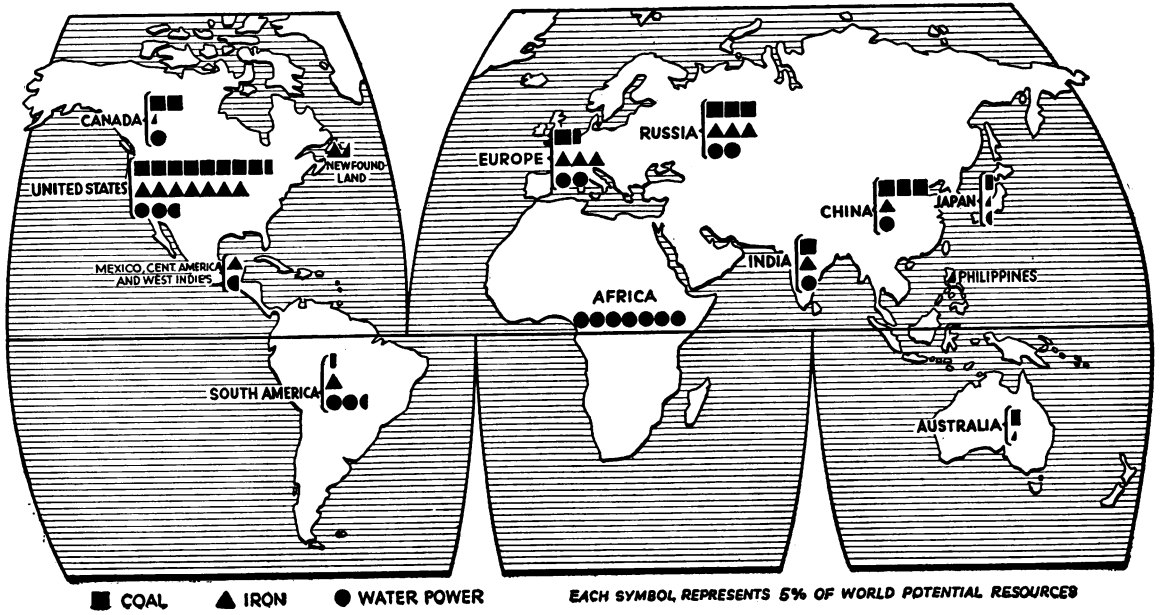
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POTENTIAL RESOURCES OF COAL, IRON ORE & WATER POWER

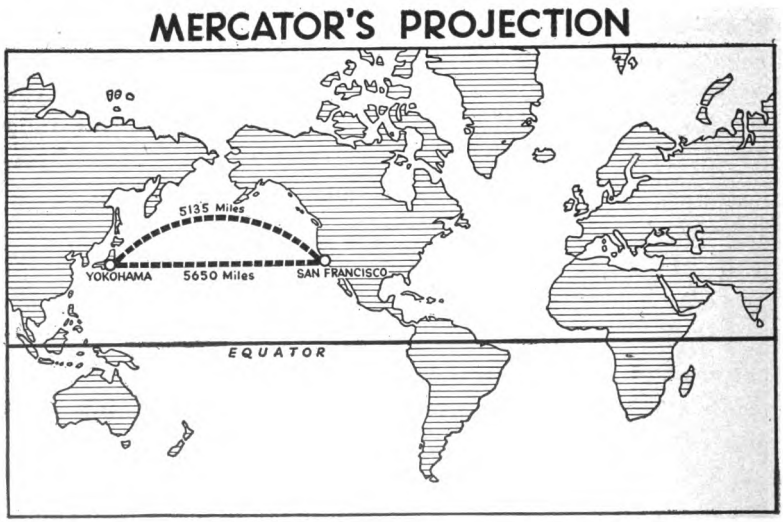


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1. The Map

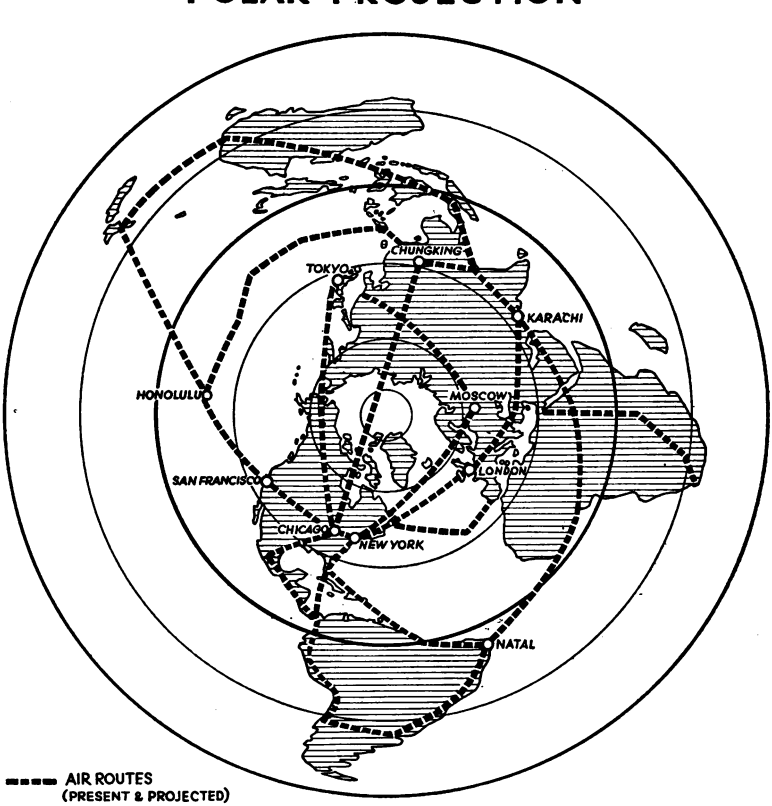
A globe provides the only accurate representation of the earth's surface. But it has certain disadvantages. We cannot carry it around for reference wherever we go. The human eye, moreover, is incapable of seeing the entire surface all at once. Despite obvious inaccuracies, therefore, the flat surface map is more useful in the study of a world in which the problems of any part must be considered in relation to the whole.

Every flat surface map of the globe will of necessity produce certain misrepresentations. The purposes for which each is designed, therefore, have to be clearly understood and accompanying distortions taken into account. No single map can fulfill every need. This is particularly true in a world of aviation and



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direct route by air from New York to Chungking is over the North Pole, instead of due west.



THE POLAR MAP

In considering, therefore, the relative positions of the land areas of the Northern Hemisphere, the North Polar projection of the world map is preferable. Indeed, it has become almost a necessity for illustrating on a flat surface the impact of aviation upon

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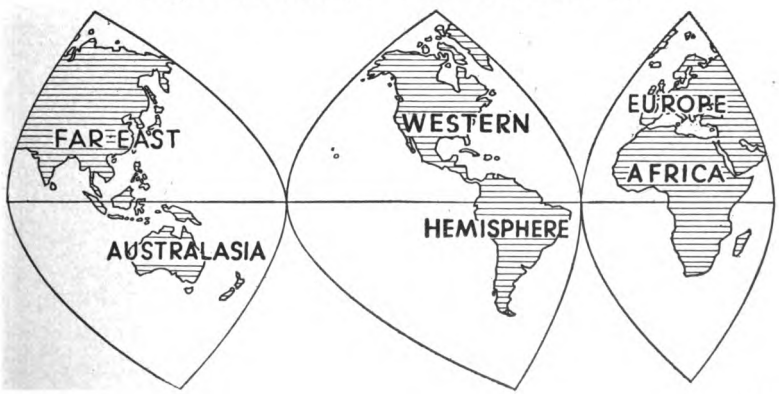
the strategic problems of World War II. In addition, one is able to plot more adequately the "around the world" aspect of global war, a distinct advantage, since the principal battle areas lie in the Northern Hemisphere. One can understand more readily, too, why Alaska, Newfoundland and Iceland and certain isolated points in northern Scandinavia and Soviet Siberia are already important centers of air transport.

But useful as the Polar projection is in plotting the air routes and in illustrating the global aspects of the war between the Northern Hemisphere Powers, its limitations can readily be seen. For as one moves in any direction from the central point on which the map is plotted the distortions grow in size. Thus, in the North Polar projection the land and sea areas of the Southern Hemisphere appear even more incongruous than in the old Mercator map.

EQUAL AREA MAPS

A third type of map, one which is especially useful in indicating the topography, resources and transportation systems of the land

EQUAL AREA PROJECTION

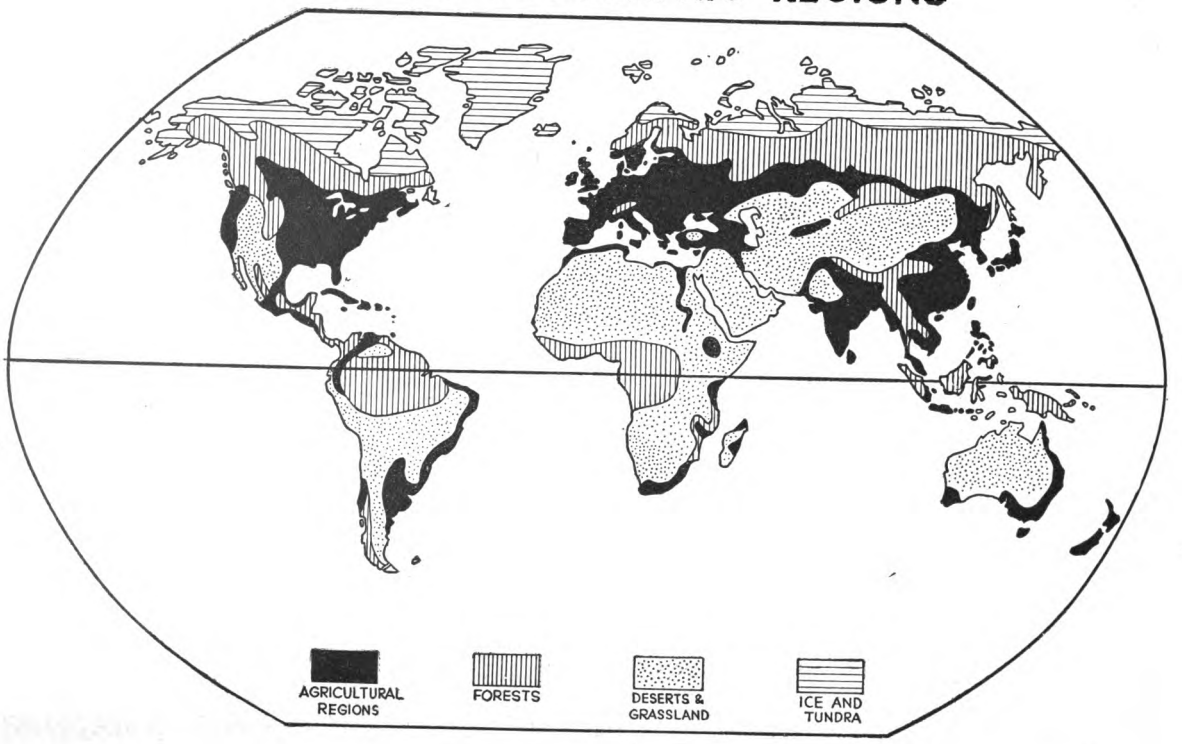


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NATURAL GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS

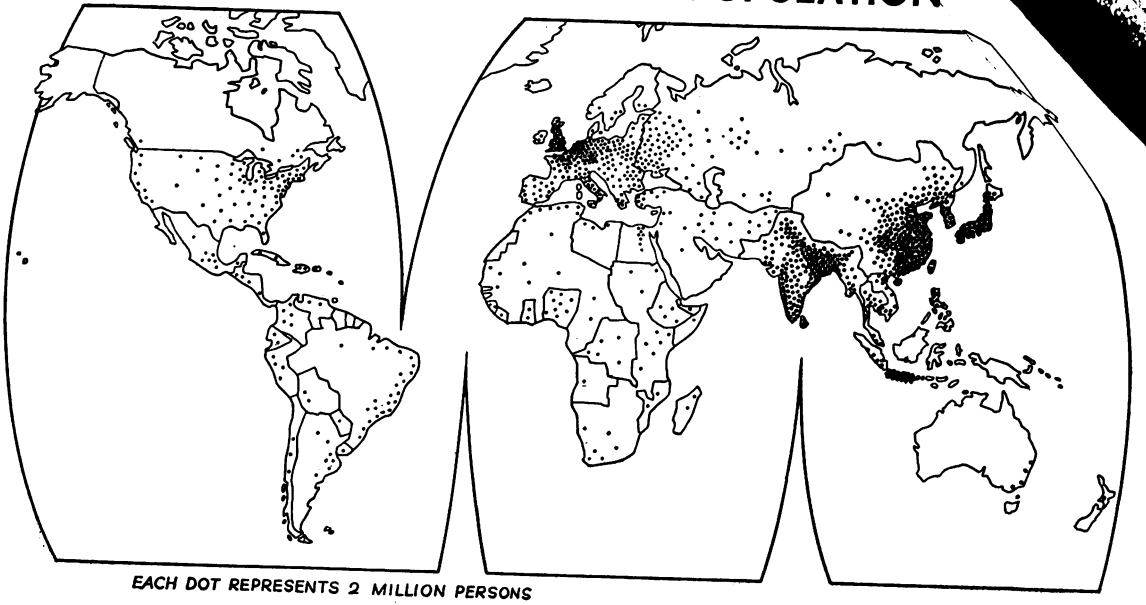


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DISTRIBUTION OF WORLD POPULATION



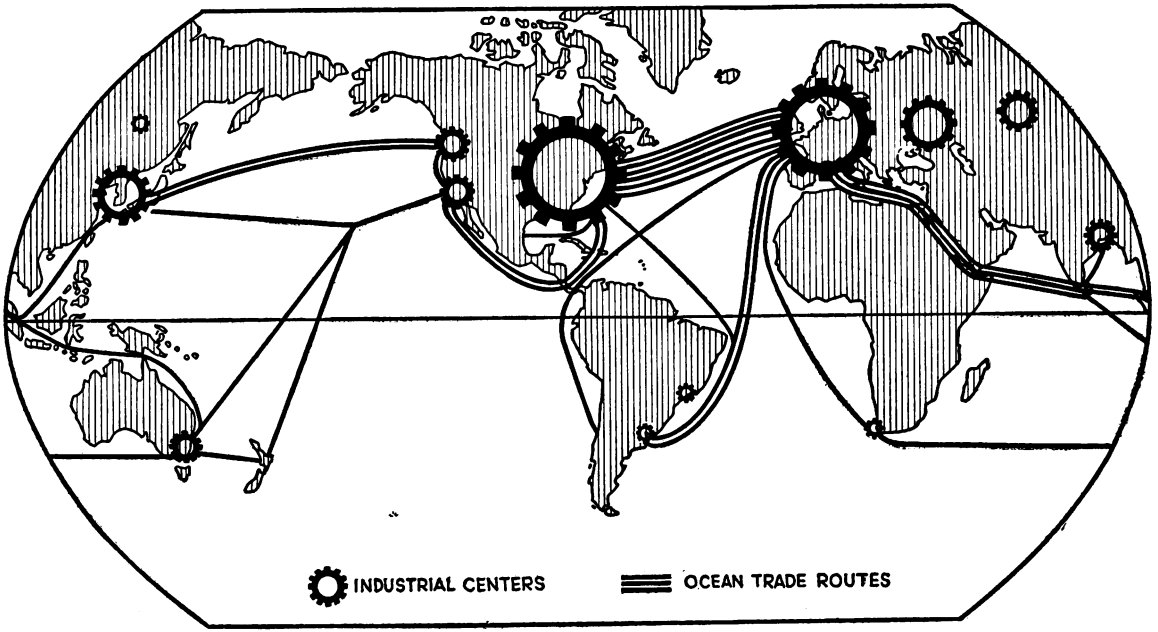
EACH DOT REPRESENTS 2 MILLION PERSONS

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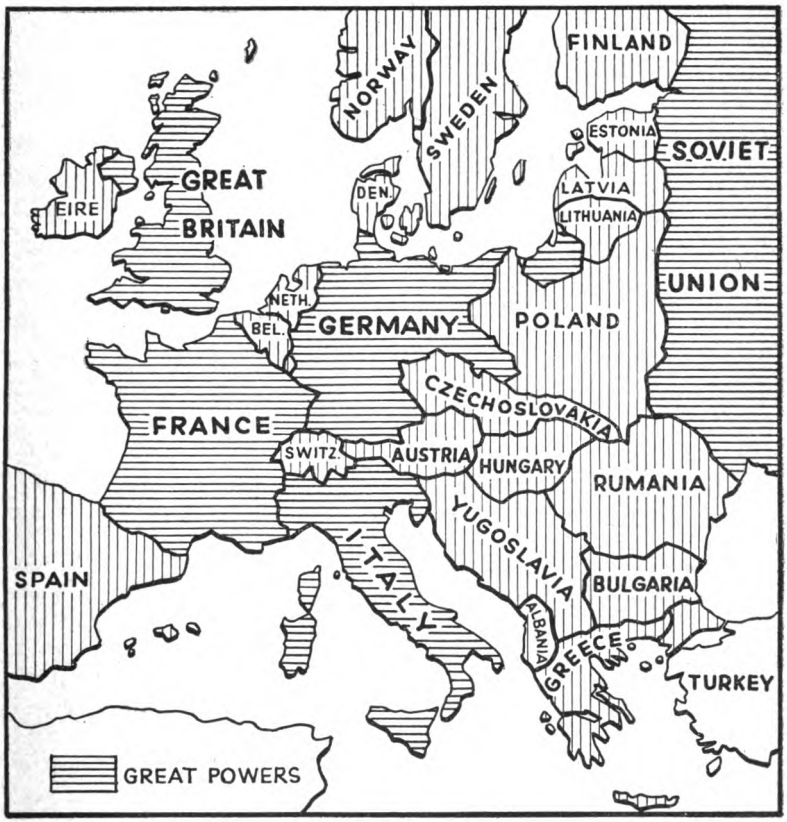
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"THE WORLD THAT MATTERS"



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EUROPE - 1934

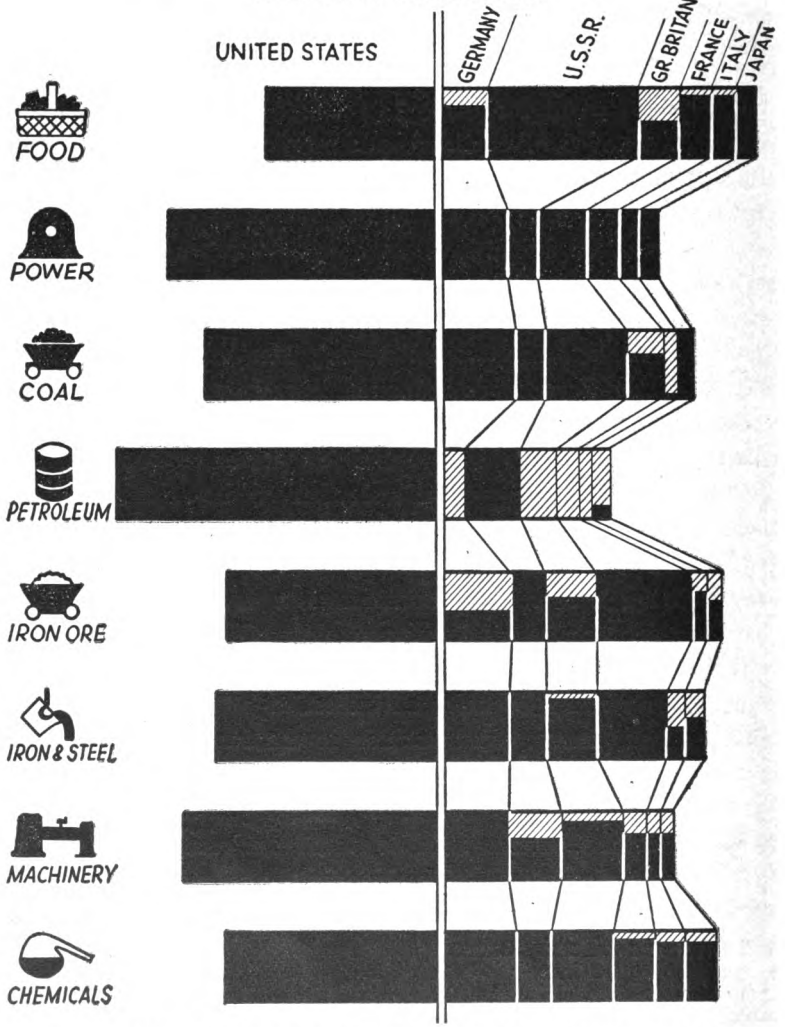


of any nation lies in the fact that the political, economic, and strategic circumstances of each continent or island area differ widely. It is natural, for instance, that a nation whose territorial base is located in Europe, will face problems of foreign relations with its neighbors quite at variance with those of an Asiatic or an American nation. The very words "Europe," "Far East,"

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ESSENTIALS OF POWER

PRE-WAR SITUATION



EACH BAR SHOWS TOTAL PRE-WAR CONSUMPTION OF 7 POWERS
BLACK AREAS = PORTION NORMALLY MET BY DOMESTIC PRODUCTION
SHADED AREAS = PORTION NORMALLY MET BY IMPORTS

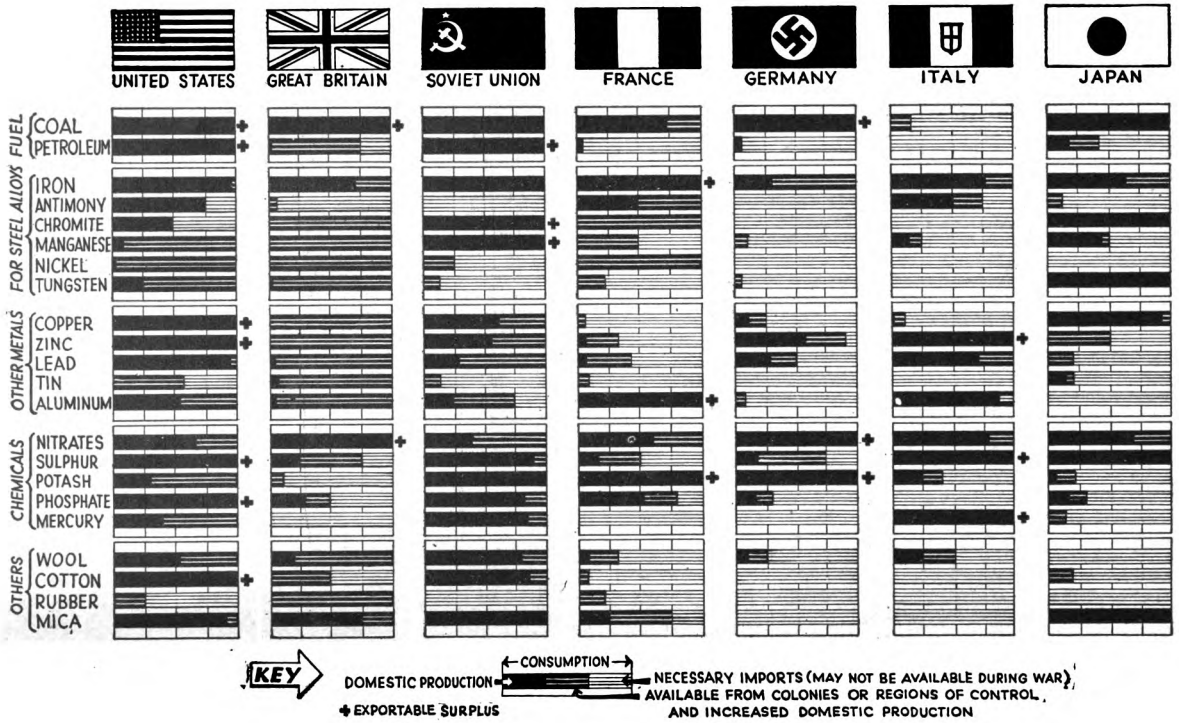
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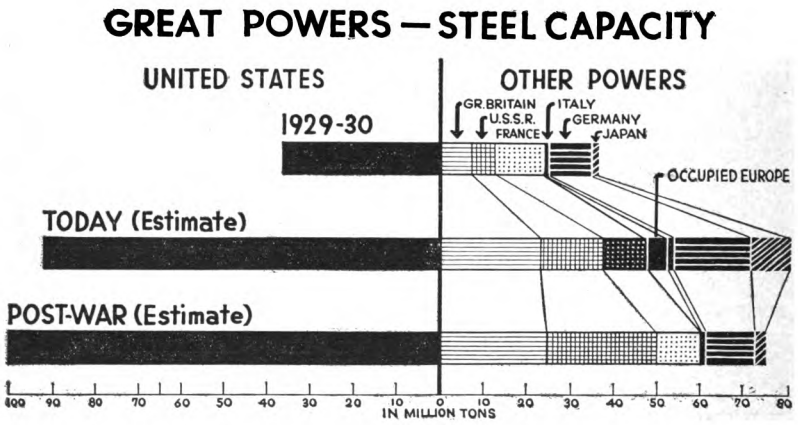
ESSENTIAL MATERIALS

ESTIMATED ON THE BASIS OF 1934 FIGURES



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the apparent combined industrial capacities of the aggressor states was inferior to that of the democratic nations. Even Russia, whose policies remained obscure, gave the impression of a nation under-industrialized in terms of her available raw material wealth. In the period 1929-1930, which marked a high point in output up to that time, the steel production of the major Powers stood as shown in the accompanying chart.



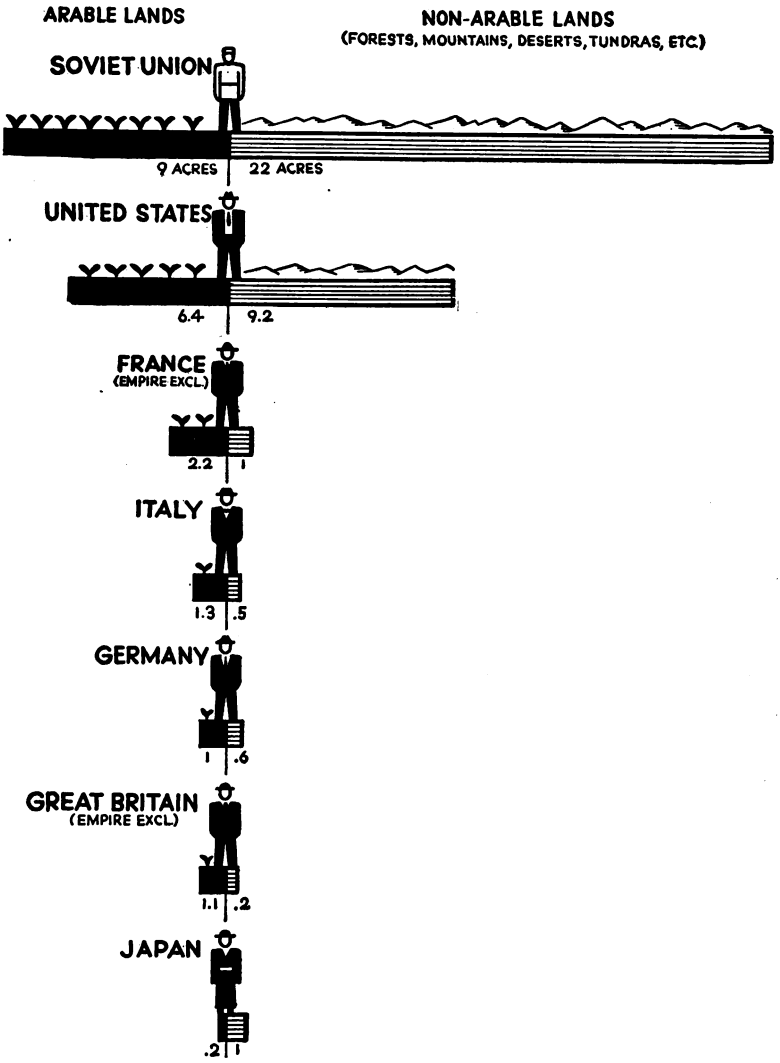
These comparisons in steel output were reflected in the comparative size in production and consumption of the other essential raw materials by the same industrial Powers. Here again the outstanding position of the United States was clearly indicated. Our consumption of most items equaled the total of the other nations combined.

"GUNS WITHOUT BUTTER"

Between 1934 and 1939, however, a veil of mystery descended upon the world's raw material trade. While Germany, Italy and

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PER CAPITA LIVING SPACE IN 1938

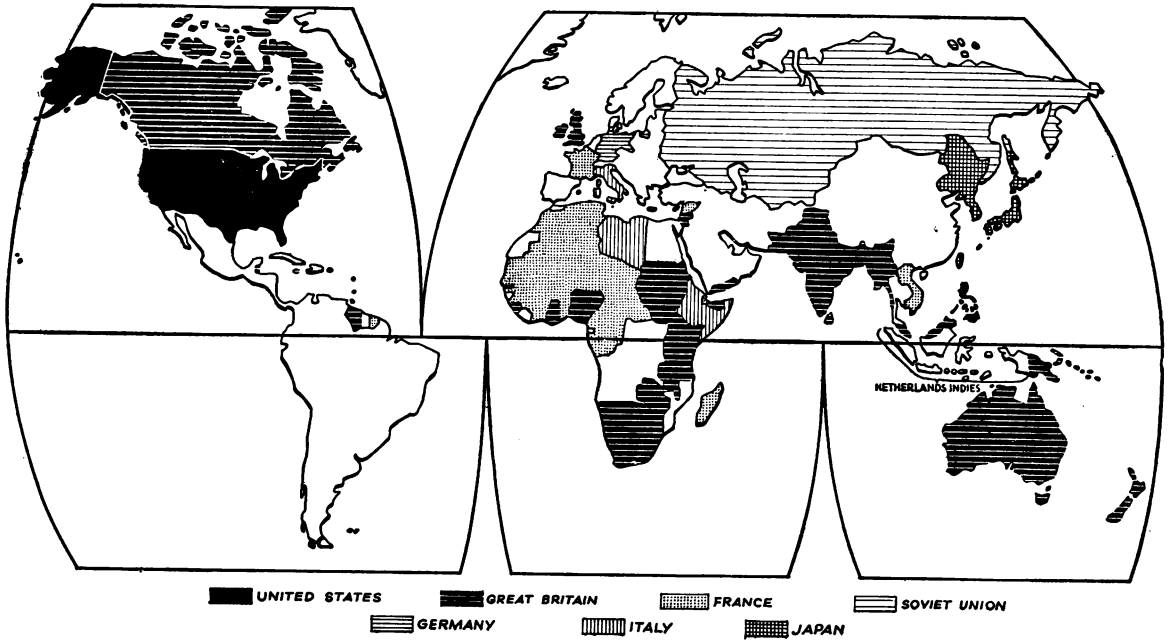


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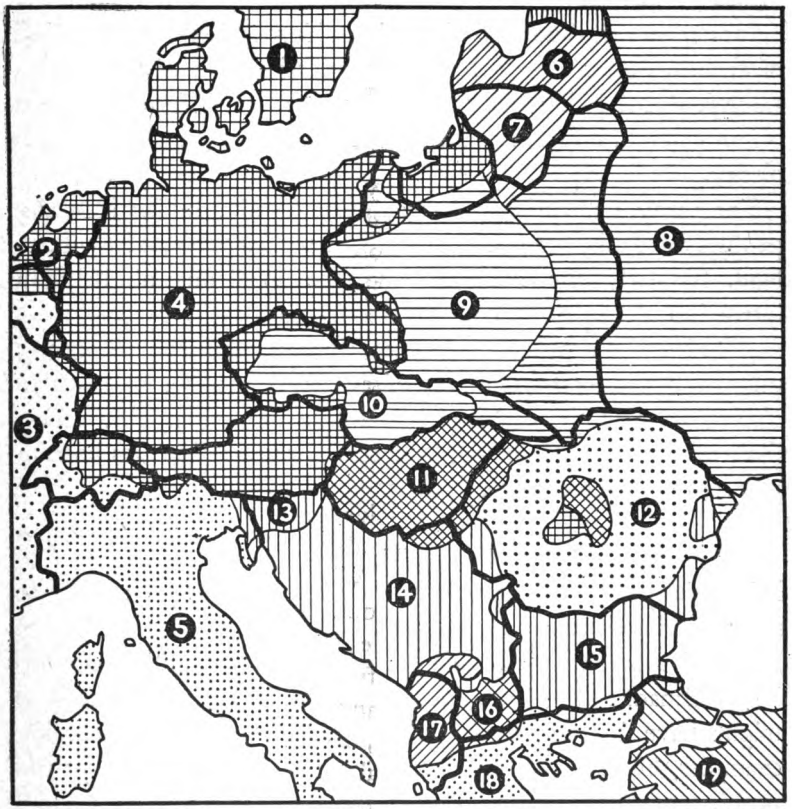
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THE POSSESSIONS OF THE GREAT POWERS IN 1938



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THE PEOPLES OF CENTRAL EUROPE



1. SCANDINAVIANS (DANES & SWEDES) 2. DUTCH 3. FRENCH 4. GERMANS
5. ITALIANS 6. LETTS 7. LITHUANIANS 8. EAST SLAVS 9. POLES 10. CZECHS
11. MAGYARS 12. RUMANIANS 13. SLOVENES 14. SERBS AND CROATS
15. BULGARIANS 16. MACEDONIANS 17. ALBANIANS 18. GREEKS 19. TURKS

and Serbian rule and others under Rumanian control in the Dobruja. Hungary and Bulgaria have never ceased to cry out against the loss of considerable numbers of their respective peoples to other national groups. This was one of the strongest

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because the British Navy controls the exits from the Mediterranean at Gibraltar and Suez. A less restricted, though strategically difficult problem, has been faced by Germany, due to the fact that her freedom of passage into the Atlantic is obstructed by the proximity of the British Isles.

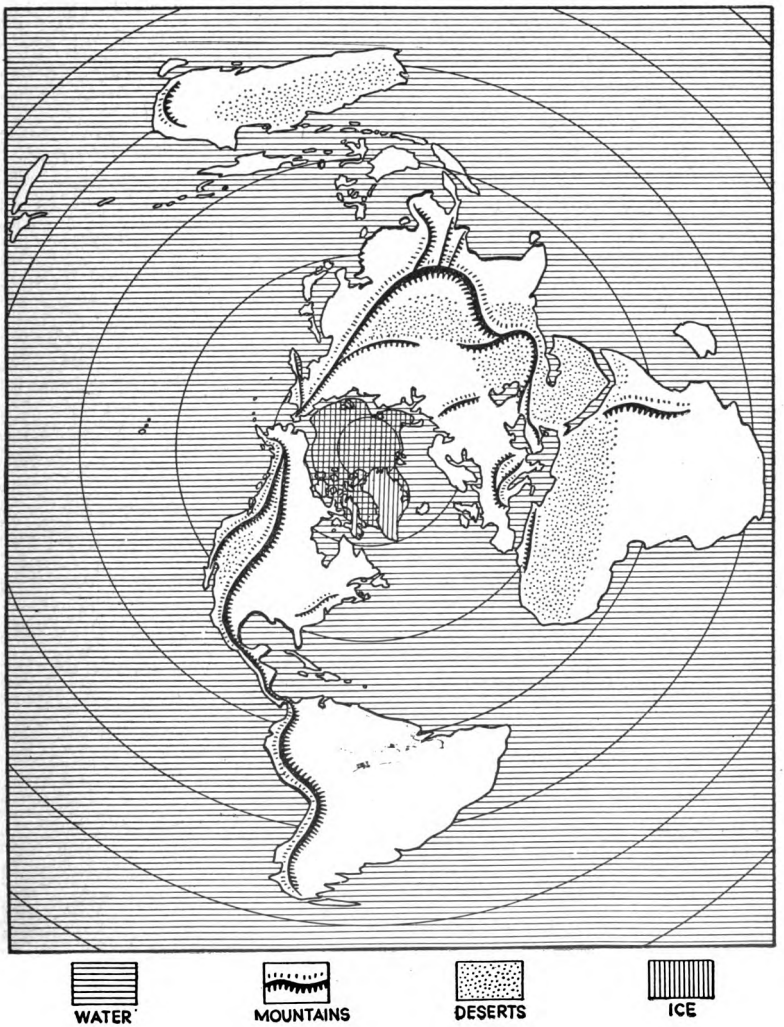
PROBLEMS OF COLONIAL DEFENSE

The last, and in many respects a more complicated, land and sea situation is typified by a combination of insular and continental positions. This applies particularly to the colonial nations and



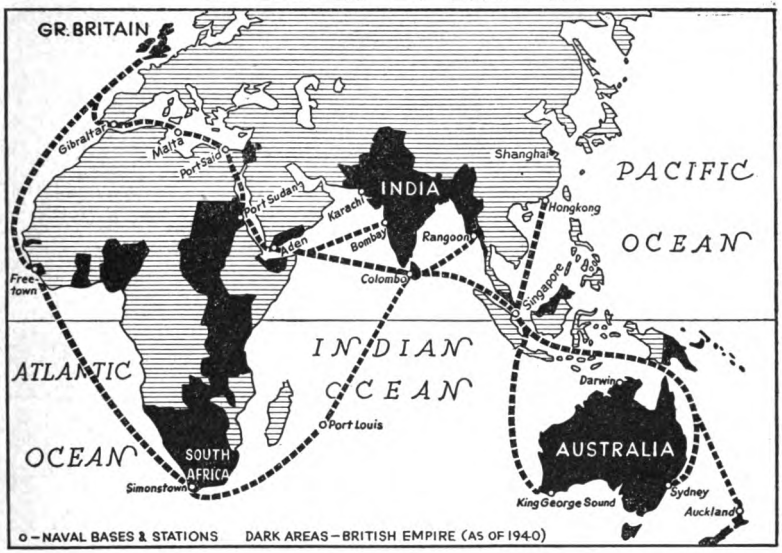
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NATURAL BARRIERS



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LIFELINES OF EMPIRE



the most strategic points along the principal marginal seas and ocean highways. The British Isles, of course, gave control of the English Channel, the North Sea, and the outlet from the Baltic to the Atlantic Ocean. By their possession of Gibraltar, Malta and Port Said the British navy could maintain command of the world's most important inland sea, provided the fleets of Italy or France remained sufficiently inferior. Similarly Suez, Port Sudan, and Aden assured control both of the Suez Canal and the Red Sea through which British merchant ships and men-of-war could sail in peace into the vast Indian Ocean, on whose shores so many British possessions lie.

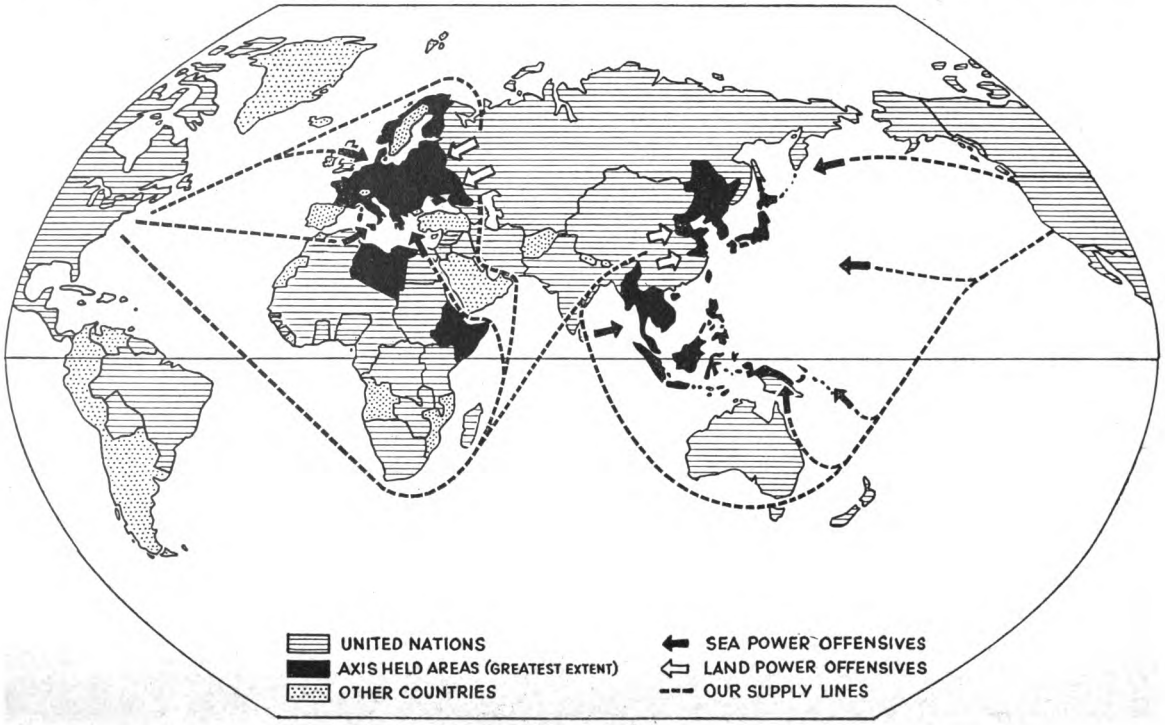
The anchor point of Britain's Far East command was Singapore, with Hongkong to the north, and Simonstown in South Africa and King George Sound in Australia controlling the southern entrances to the Indian Ocean. Preceding the rise of

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AXIS BETWEEN LAND POWERS AND SEA POWERS



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HOW WORLD MAPS ARE MADE

B. T.

Suppose you are traveling from Albany to Boston and get lost in a town called Fitchburg. You will probably pull out a road map. From the map you will learn that Boston is due east and is some thirty miles away. You will also learn, probably, that the state of Massachusetts looks somewhat like an old-fashioned telephone receiver and is about one and a half times larger than Connecticut. In short, you assume that the map will tell you (1) distance, (2) direction, (3) the shape of the land, (4) the size of the area. And usually a map does tell you these things quite accurately.

But if you think that a world map can also tell you all these things you are very much mistaken. There isn't a single world projection that can tell you distance, direction, shape and size all at once. The trouble is that the earth is spherical and the map is flat, and the curved surface cannot be transferred to a flat surface. There is very little error when a map covers a small area like a city or a state, but when it covers the whole of the United States the error becomes noticeable, when it covers a big area like the Pacific Ocean the error becomes great enough to worry military strategists, and when it covers the whole of the world the error becomes so great that it is practically impossible to convey any adequate picture of the world.

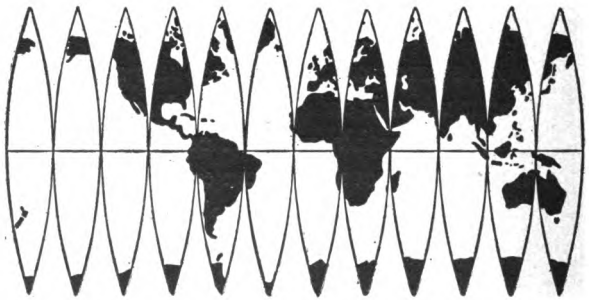
The only map of the world that can tell you distance, direction, shape and size correctly is the globe, but the globe is an awkward thing to carry in your pocket and furthermore you cannot look at all its surfaces at the same time.

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A plain picture of the globe which is known to map makers as the orthographic projection has much the same drawbacks. In the maps above, you cannot see the other side of the world when you are looking at the Americas, and when you are looking at North America South America looks compressed, while when you are looking at South America North America looks contracted.

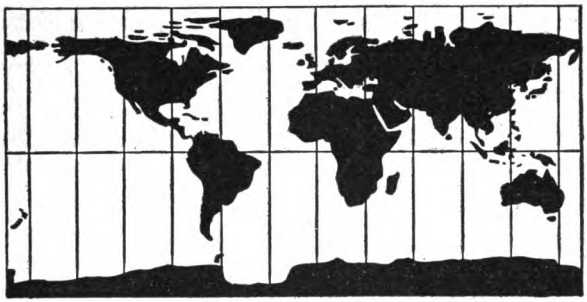
If you look at a globe closely, you may notice that it is covered with leaf-shaped gores. If these gores were peeled off and laid on a flat surface they would look like this:



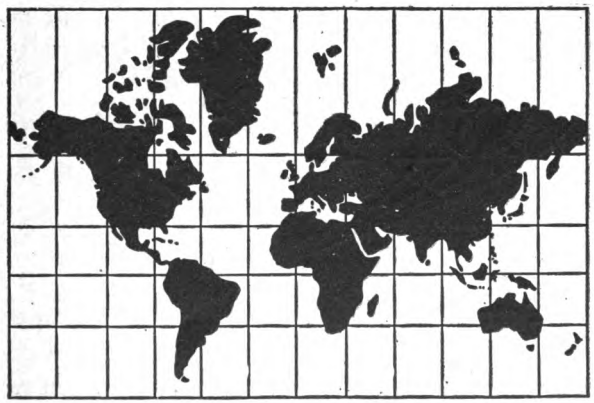
These sections all represent the surface of the earth correctly, but they are disconnected and it is difficult to visualize the whole.

If we make each leaf-shaped piece square-edged so that the

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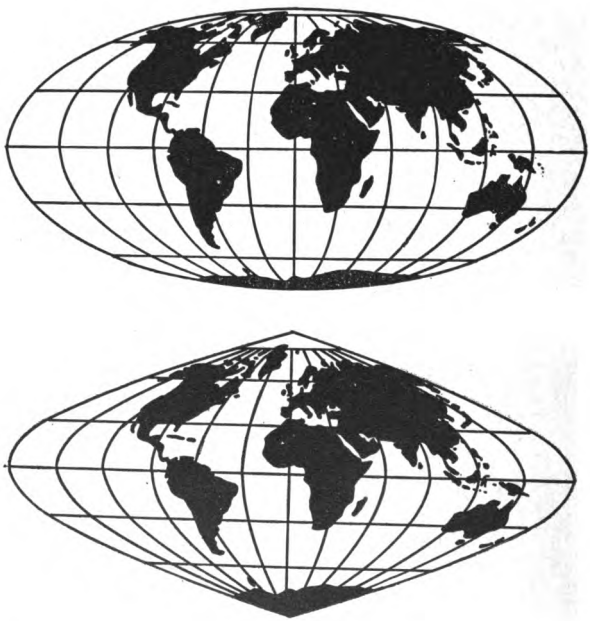
whole globe appears on a rectangle it is easier to read, but since we have stretched out the polar sections horizontally they have become elongated in shape and the scale has become different from the unstretched section. Now if we stretch the northern and southern regions vertically in the same proportion we will regain the correct shape, although the scale will become still more distorted. This world map is known as the Mercator projection, which is the one you will find in all school rooms. It is more or less correct as to the shapes of the land masses but is totally incorrect as to their relative sizes. Greenland, which is actually one-third the size of the United States, looks about twice its size. But



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the Mercator projection always keeps the north at the top, and straight lines always show true directions. For these reasons it is used extensively for navigation.

The distortion of size in the Mercator was caused by our stretching the polar regions so that the poles which are points actually stretched to equal the length of the equator. By reducing the poles again to points we can avoid this difficulty, and map the world in an oval or lozenge shape. This time we have less stretching to do, and the relative sizes of the land areas can stay uniform.

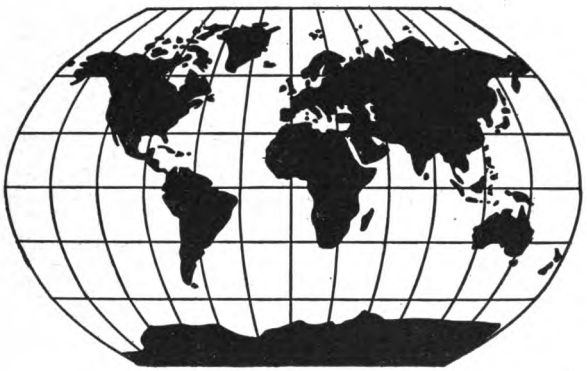


This type of map with uniform area scale is called an equal-area map. These maps tell us accurately the relative size of continents, oceans, nations, etc., but the trouble is that, as you can readily see

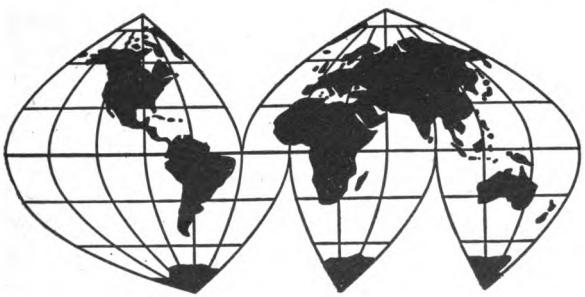
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from the illustration, the shapes are so distorted along the shoulders that one can hardly recognize the common land configurations.

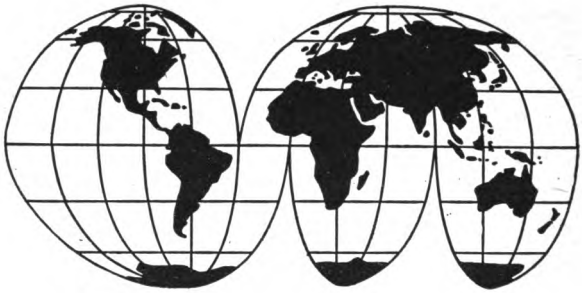
To overcome this difficulty it has been suggested that the poles be represented by half the length of the equator. This will lessen the distortion around the edges, but it does not overcome the distortion completely. This is an easy map to read and extensively used in Europe.



Another way of overcoming the difficulty is to split the world into segments as illustrated here, and on the following page.



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Now we have more or less correct pictures of the continents, both in shape and in size, but the relationship between the continents is completely distorted.

All the projections we have discussed are centered around the equator and are most accurate around the equator, but since the centers of civilization are in the temperate zones and the current war is being fought mostly in the northern hemisphere, projections with the north pole at the center have also become useful. These are not new projections—they are just projections with a new point of view. They can be made so that areas are equal



LAMBERT'S POLAR MAP



STEREOGRAPHIC POLAR MAP

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POLAR AZIMUTHAL MAP



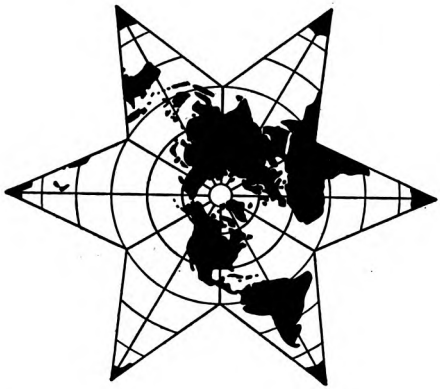
POLAR GNOMONIC MAP

(Lambert's polar projection), or so that the shapes of the lands remain correct (stereographic polar projection), or so that distances along the meridians are correct from the north pole to any point in the world (polar azimuthal projection), or in such a way that any straight line from point to point on the map marks the shortest course between those points on the earth (polar gnomonic projection). The last one is a very distorted map and it can cover only a part of a hemisphere, but since it is correct as to direction it is used for flying.

In all these polar projections the distortion below the equator is great. To avoid this it has been suggested that the area below the equator be split as shown in the maps on the following page. These are probably the most satisfactory polar projections.

We have described most of the common world projections. None of them alone can give us accurate distance, direction, shape and size in any one map. But there are usually several projections suitable for particular purposes. If, for instance, you are comparing the sizes of different continents any one of the equal-area projections will be adequate. If you are showing the shortest dis-

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tance from New York to Archangel the gnomonic projection is most suitable. In the days of discovery and exploration the "Mercator world" was quite satisfactory. But today, in the age of aviation and radio, when we are tied to the rest of the world in so many ways, the picture of the world has also become more complex. And we are forced to become multi-map minded.

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