

Key Historical Events in Our Nation and Their Impacts to the Center of Population

1930

Center of population starts southwestward tilt due to immigration and internal movement of Americans to the Sun Belt.

1890

Oklahoma Land Rush opens unassigned land in Indian Territory to settlers.

In 1890, the U.S. Census Bureau declares the “end of the frontier”.

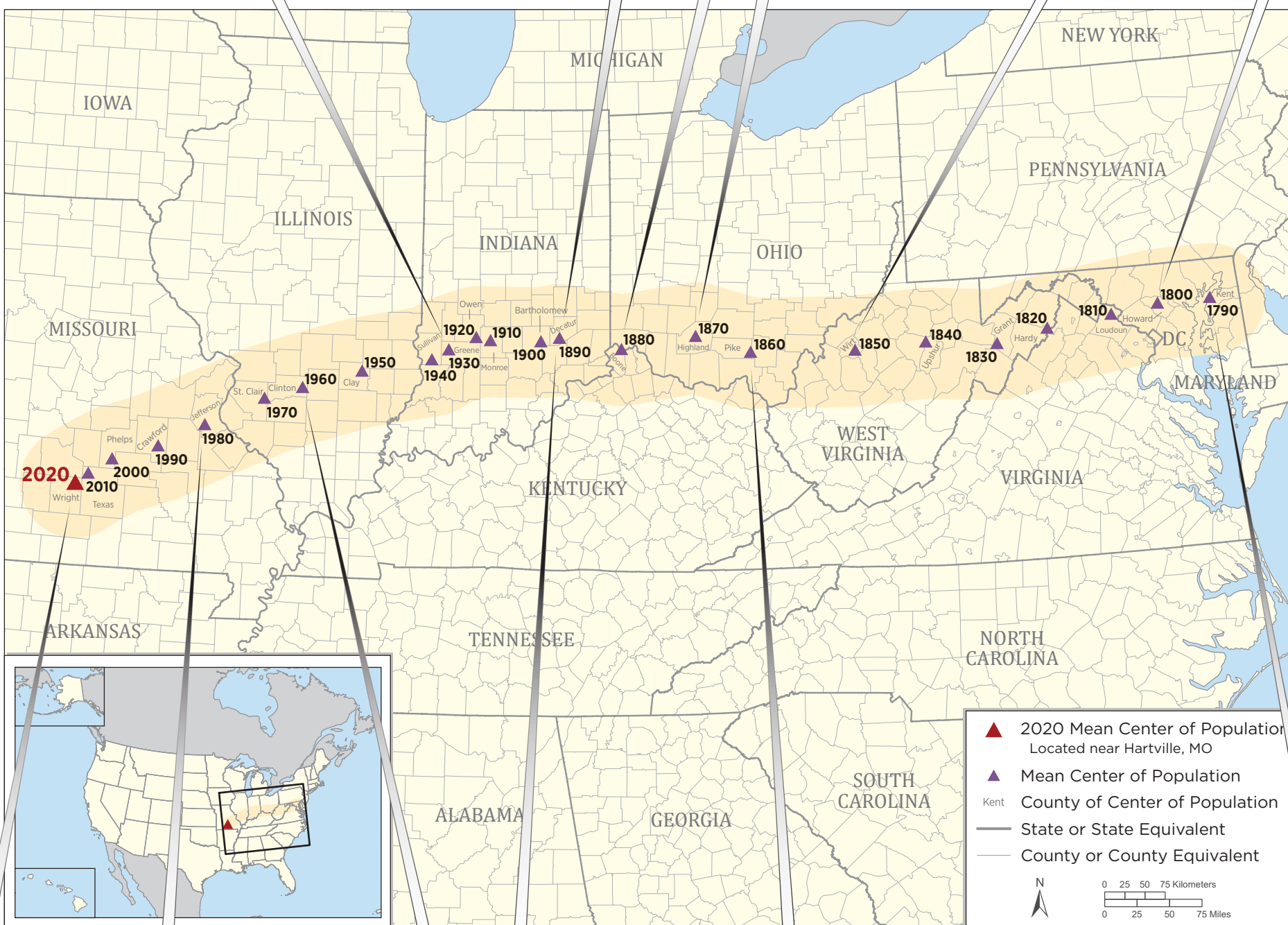
1870-1880

The Civil War (1861-1865) kills 750,000 people, but the westward movement continues.

The Transcontinental Railroad connects East to West in 1869.

1800-1850

The Cumberland Gap in the Appalachian Mountains is opened to wagons in 1775.



1980-2020

Population explodes in the South and Southwest. From 1980-2020, Sun Belt population jumps from 28% to 43% of the U.S. population.

Center of population stays in Missouri for the fifth decade in a row.

1890-1960

Center of population moves its smallest distance - just under 10 miles - from 1910-1920.

1892-1954

Ellis Island alone processed more than 12 million immigrants from Europe.

1860

From 1846-1869, nearly 400,000 people move west on the Oregon Trail.

Gold Rush (1848-1855) lures 300,000 people to California.

Center of population makes its largest jump: 103 miles from 1850-1860.

1790

About 3.9 million people lived in the 13 original colonies along the Atlantic Coast.