

« James E. Taylor, "Group of non-native men on board boat, the 'Helena'; Group of non-native men outside brush arbor and frame structures nearby; Mountains in distance." Undated, from the Smithsonian Institute National Anthropological Archives.

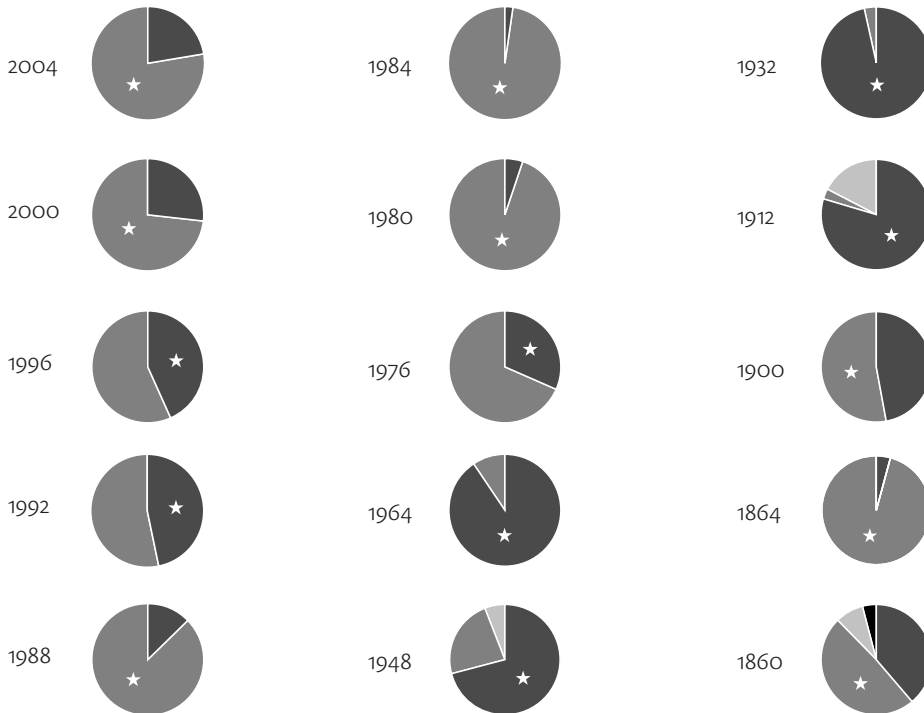
The lay of the land

REPUBLICANS TAKE PERVERSE GLEE in showing off maps of the 2000 and 2004 presidential elections with vast swathes of America plastered in the redness of their electoral victories. This is, of course, a nearly-useless view of the outcome of an election, and some clever designers have produced electoral maps in which states are proportionately scaled according to their population.

Still, the image of a red America bounded by two blue baffles on either side occupies a significant place in the American imagination. We know that acres don't vote. But something still rings true about the physical size of the American electoral regions, in much the same way that the splotches of red on maps of the British Empire did a better job of confirming the British hegemon than any other description of political and ethnocultural power.

So what if acres *did* vote? This series of graphs asks that question. It takes the winner-takes-all system of the electoral college and revalues it according to area rather than population. Under the real system, Vermont and Wyoming carry equal weight. Under this system, Wyoming is ten times weightier.

The lighter gray represents the Republicans; the darker is the Democrats. Lightest gray represents the Dixiecrats (1948), the Progressives (1912), or the Constitutional Union (1860). Black indicates the Northern Democrats (1860). A white star indicates the victor of the real election.



overbearing. ■
on the way to see it. The overbite was soon
answered wrong. Aidan crashed the Vespa
duck three years before that, but Pat had
There was no duck. There had been a
na see it."
"To bury the duck. But don't yet, I wan-
"Because I'm nuts or to bury the duck?"
day off."
"Go tell Rita you need the rest of the
it."
"You can't. I'm getting it and burying
"I wanna see it."
"Beak down, tail up."
body floating in the river."
"So you are right now looking at its
its body floated back up."
der for an unnaturally long time, and then
there are any in the river—and it stayed un-
was going to catch a fish—but I don't think
minute, then it dove under the water like it
but it didn't budge. It just hung out for a
away. The alpha duck quacked back at it,
behind while the rest of the duck herd flew
"It was an old gray duck and it stayed
or did it jump?"
"The shelter sucks. Do ducks have wrists
shelter's a nice place."
"No, in the river. Why the shelter? The
"In the shelter?"
"I just saw a duck commit suicide."
"What?"
this."

"Ok. You're never going to believe
"Kind of."
"Oh, um, hi. Do you have a minute?"
"Hi."
Aidan the call. He picked up:
eat my lunch. When I was finished, I gave
I walked down to the river to sit and
found single at thirty.
said goodbye to Rita, a lovely receptionist
found loitering by the public library, and
up with Murphy, a charming retriever mix
to wash some dogs. Around noon I finished
also an overbite. He drove off and I went in
reckoning had come, as he had a Vespa but
animals before Tuesday was. A moment of
Francis of Assisi! Animal Shelter on Thurs-
Aidan DROPPED ME OFF in front of the St.

ASSISI