



World Forum on
Urban Forests
Mantova 2018

*The Past
Plenary keynotes*

The Forests that walked with the Cities: talking of history, trees and cities

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University of Florence



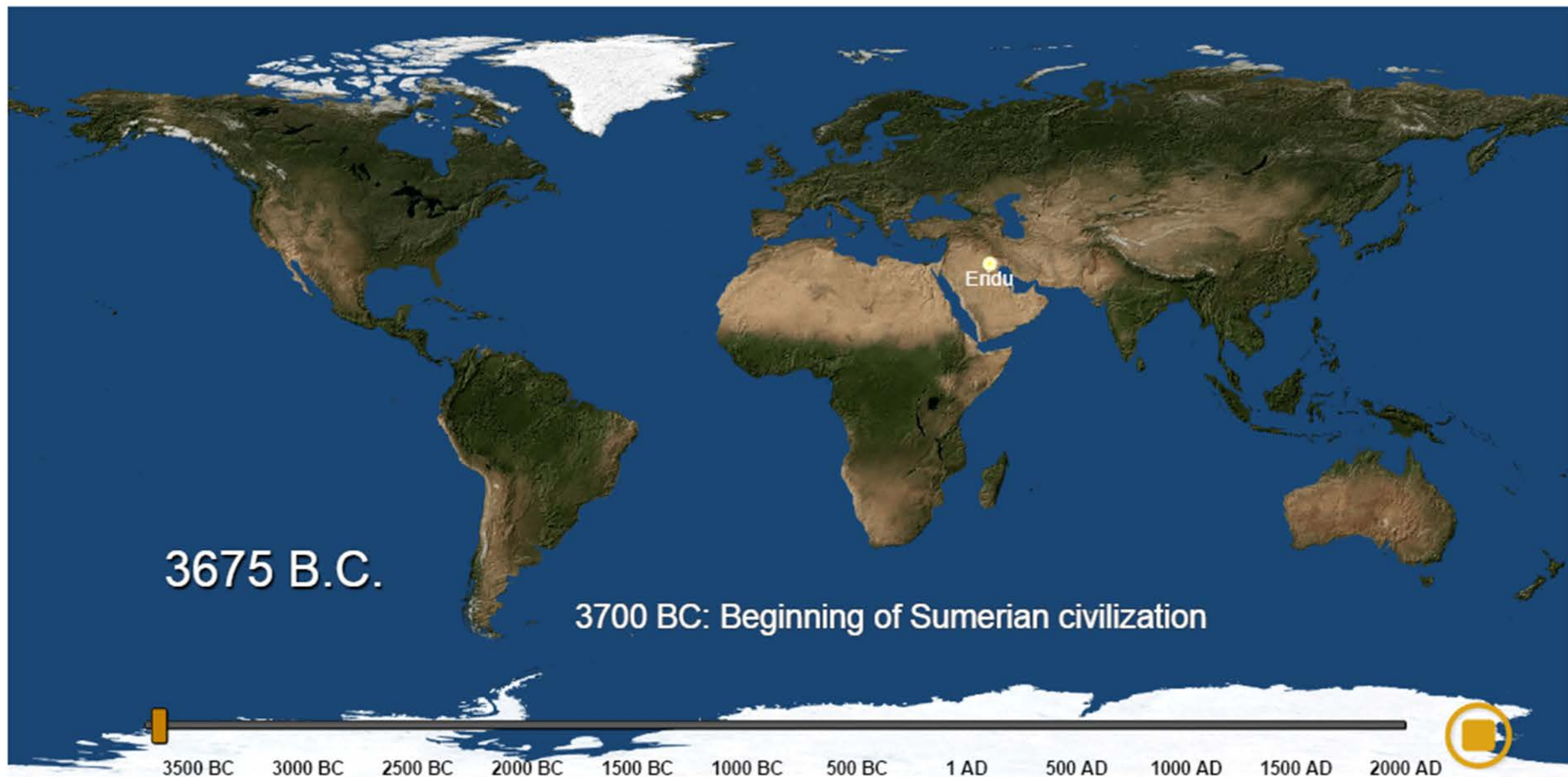
Driving Questions

- Why do we have trees in cities?
- And when the trees and the forests became so important for the life in cities?
- Which kind of relationships cities in different cultural/environmental contexts had with forest and trees?
- Which are the challenges in understanding the history trees/forest/city relationships and what can we learn from the past for the future?

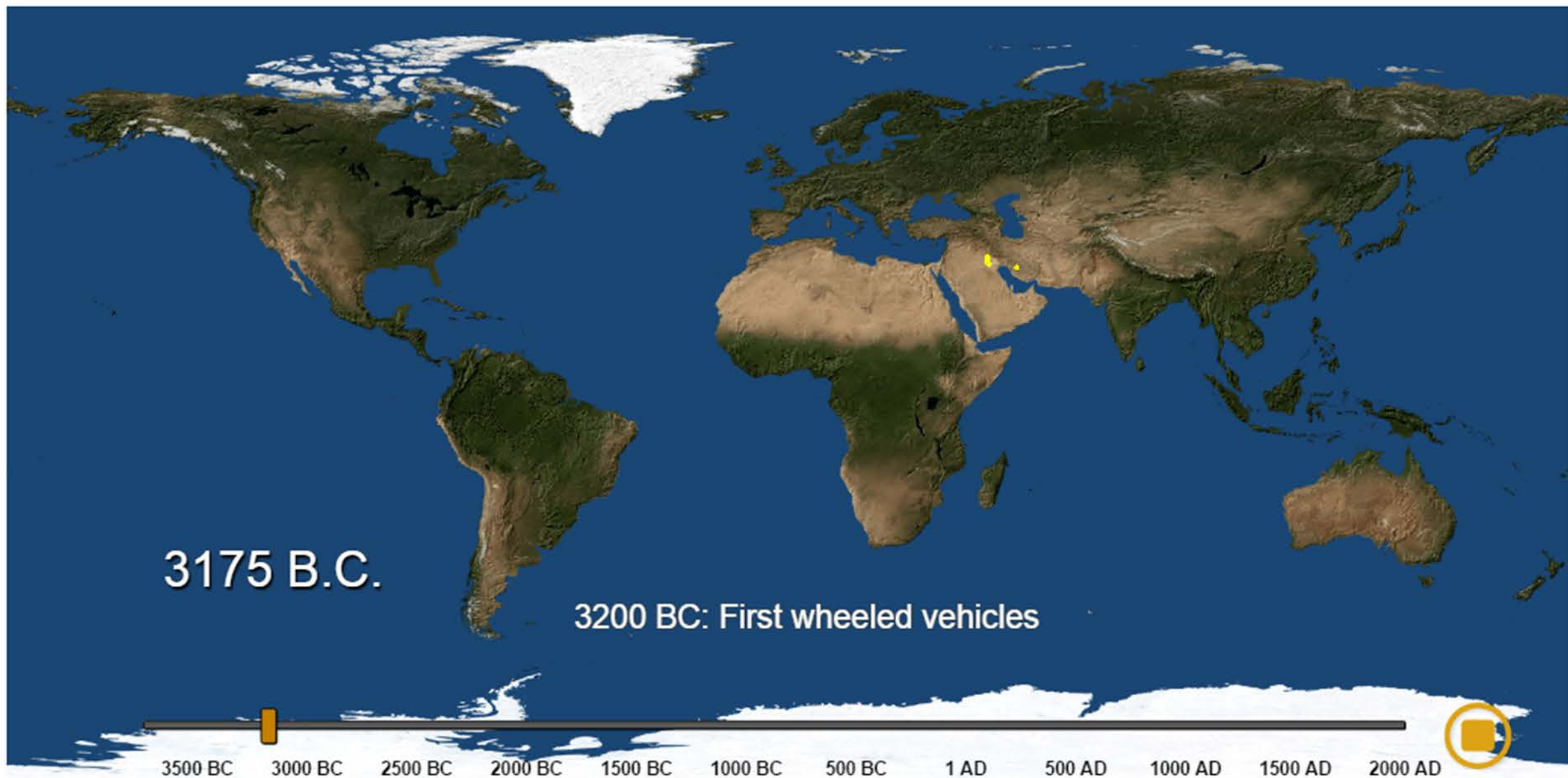
But first, let us recall urbanization history



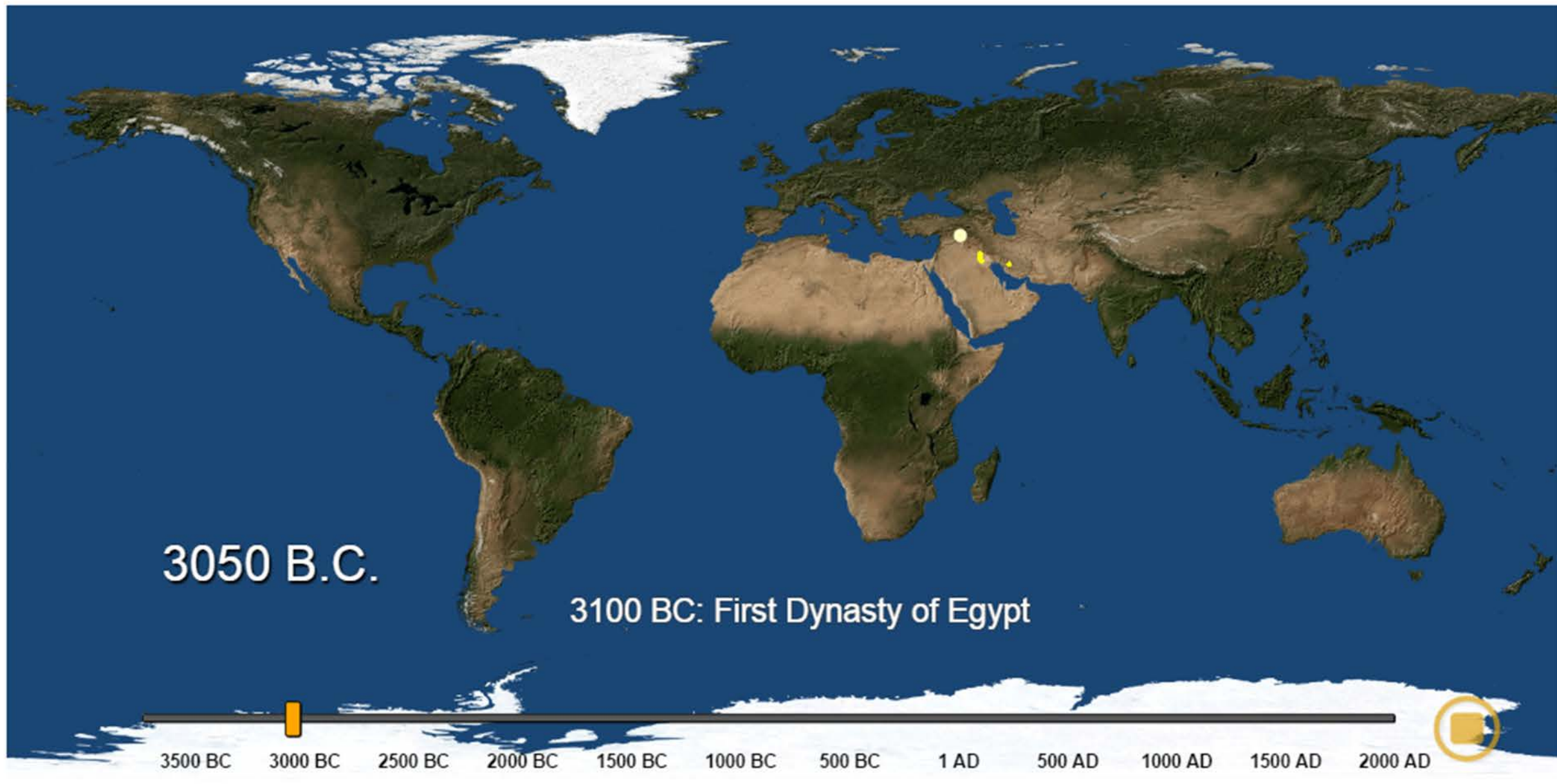
The history of urbanization, 3700 BC – 2000 AD (full-screen version)



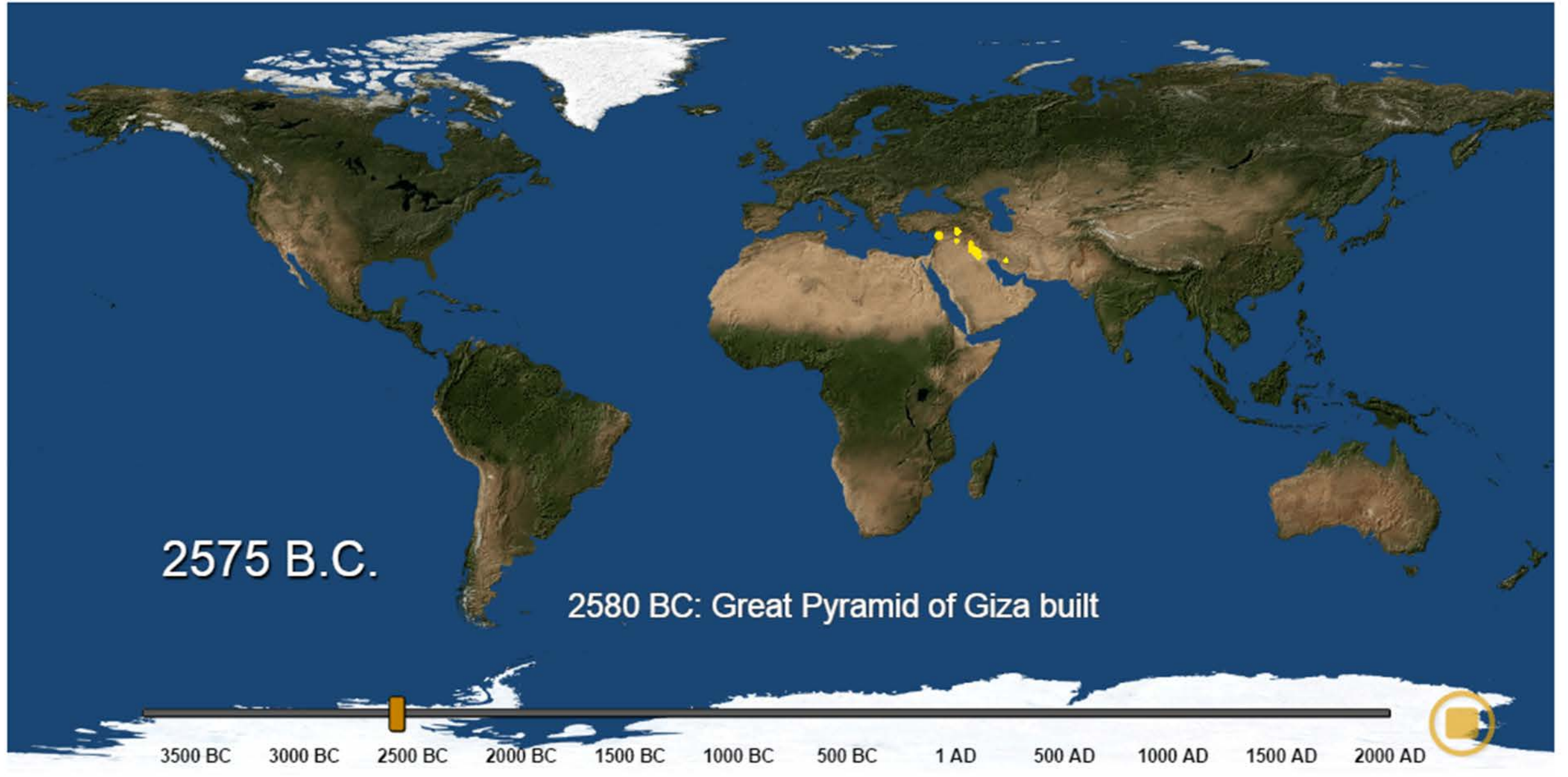
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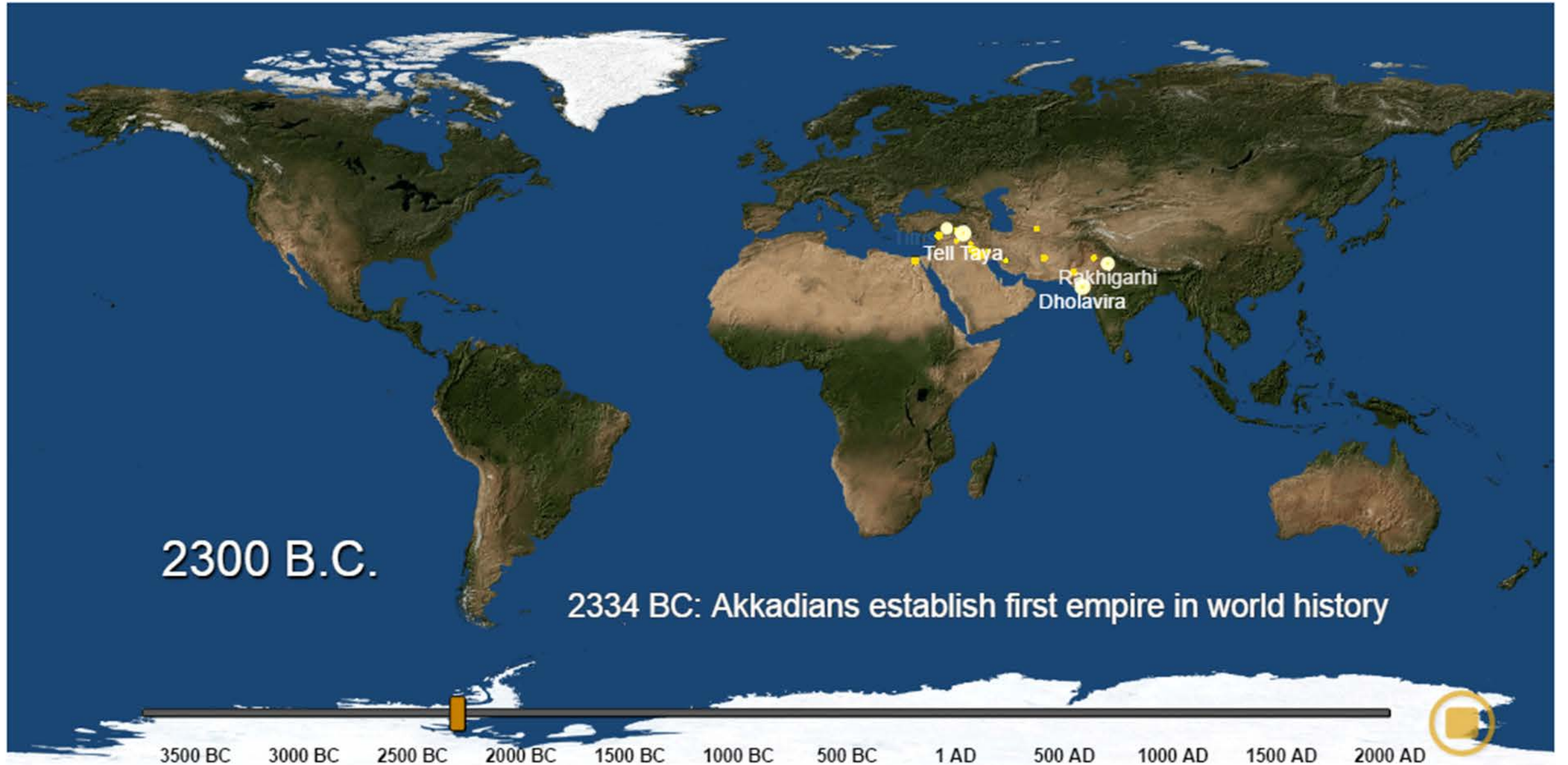
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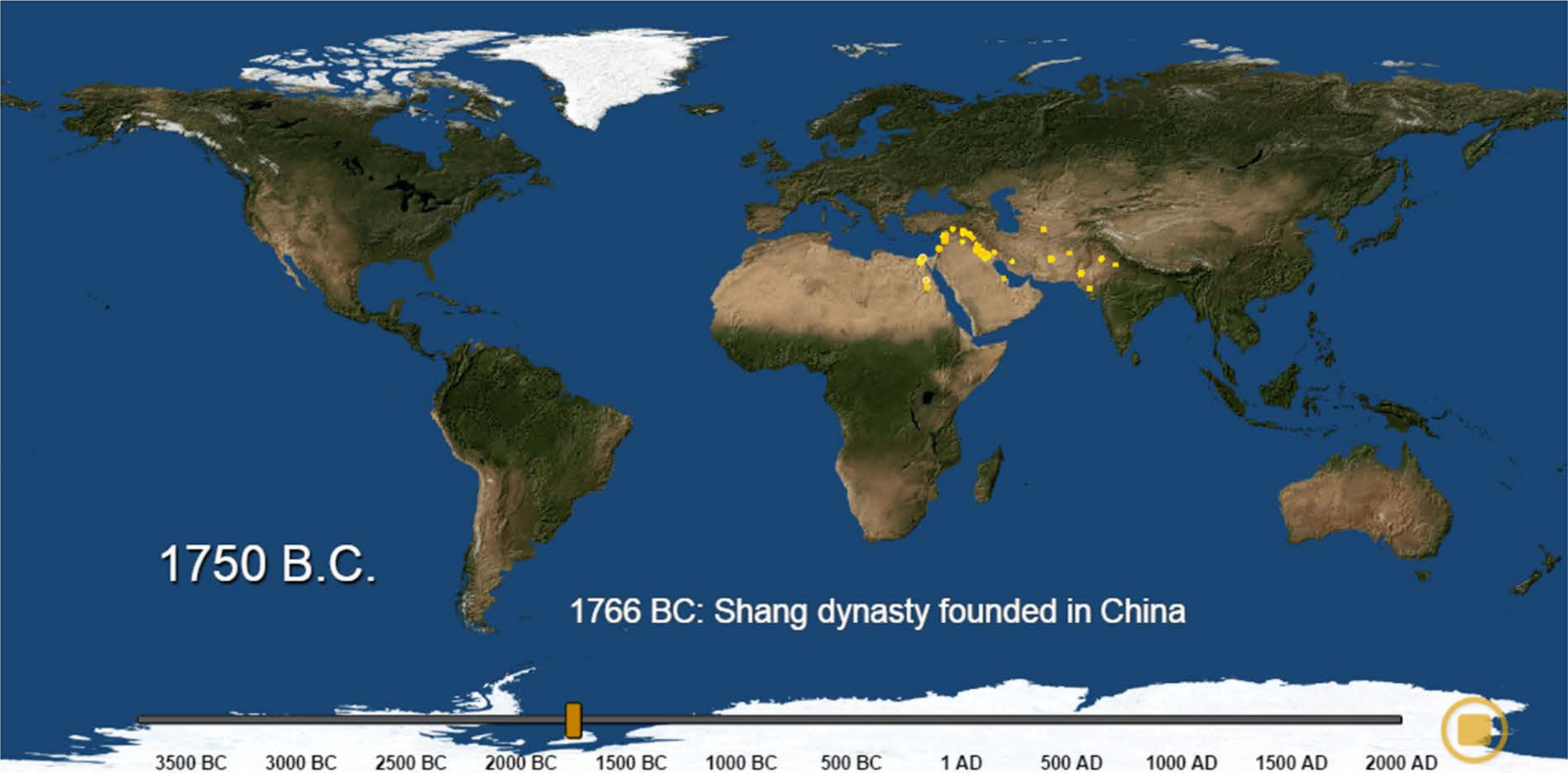
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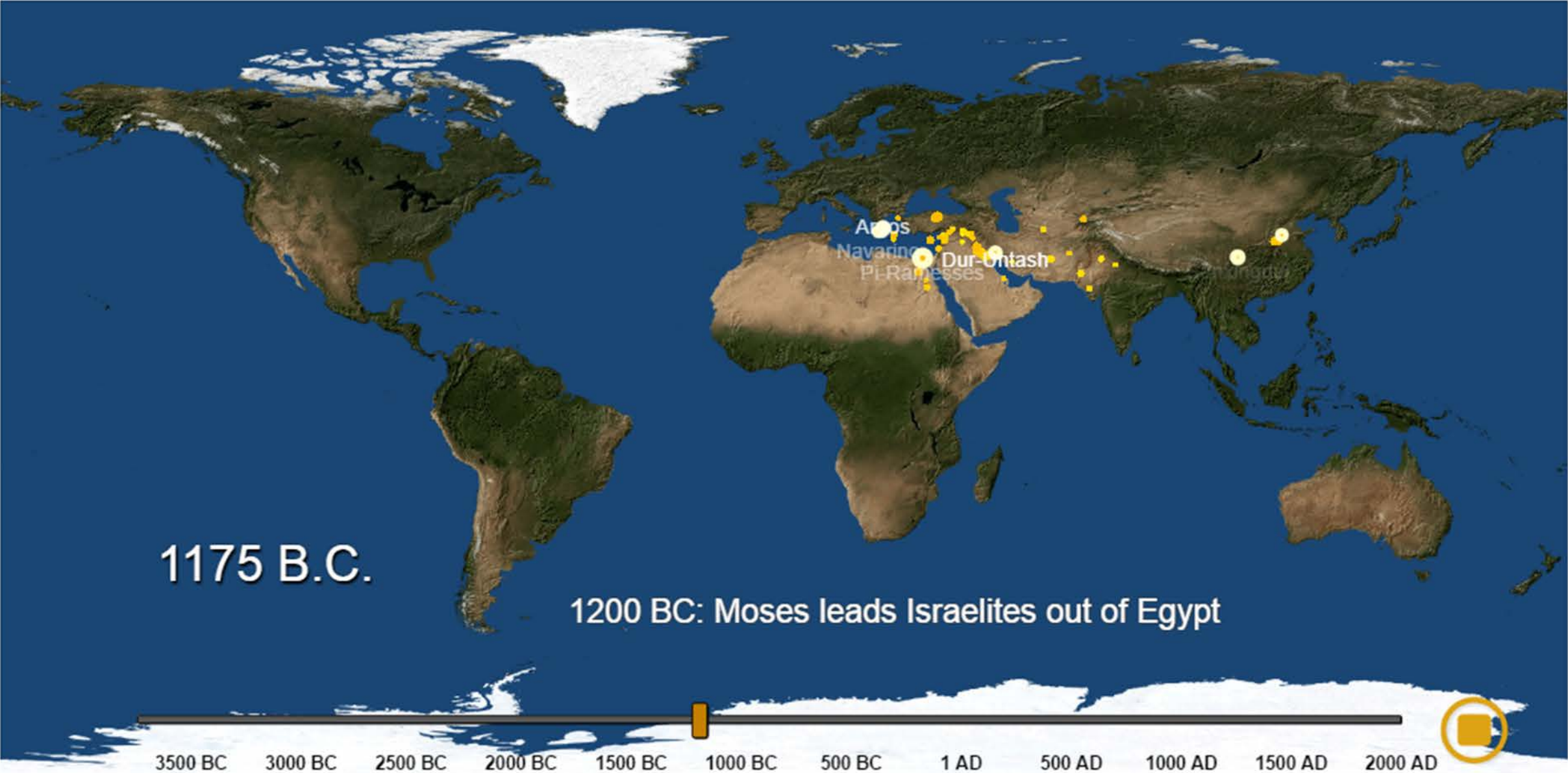
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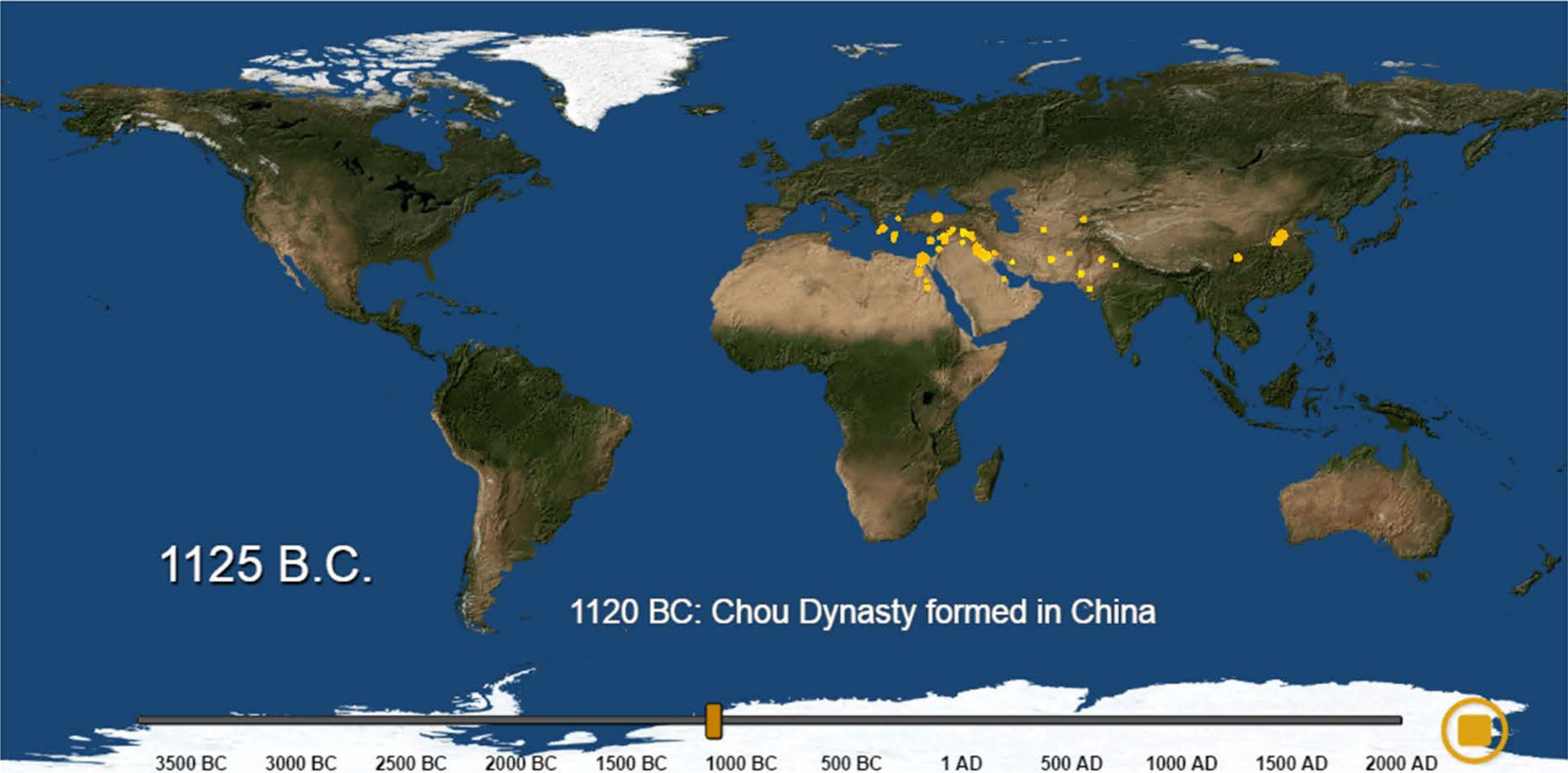
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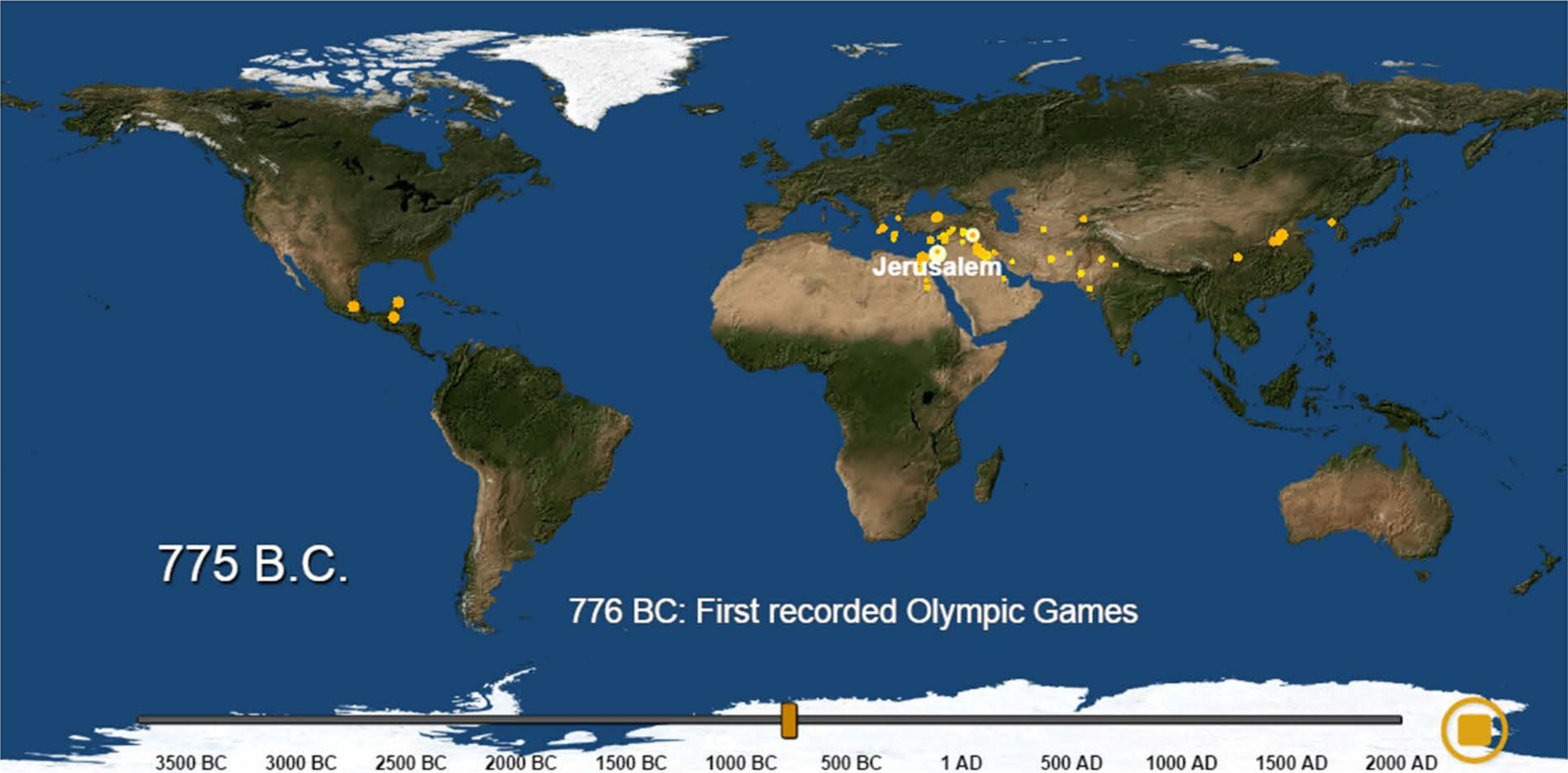
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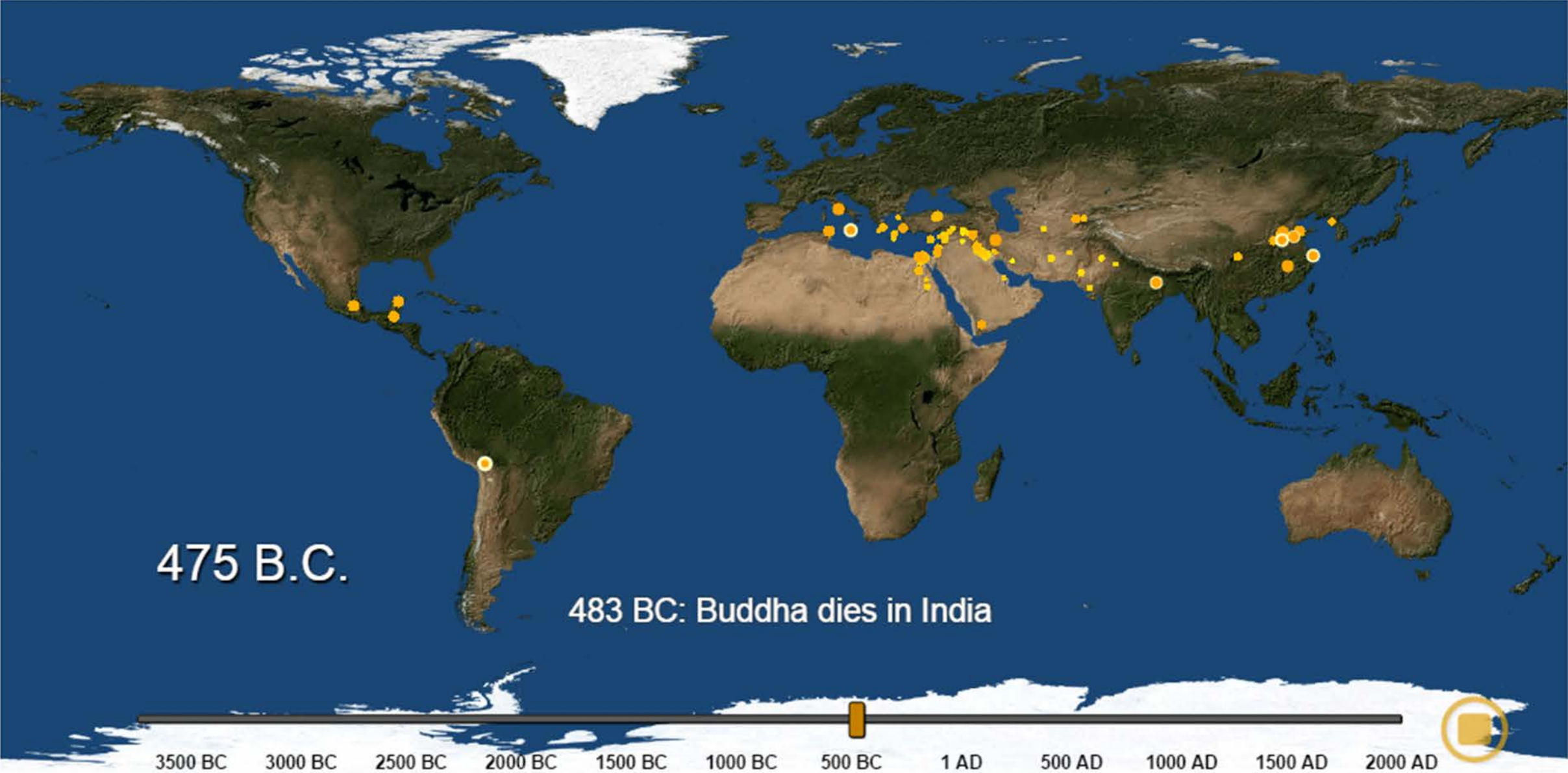
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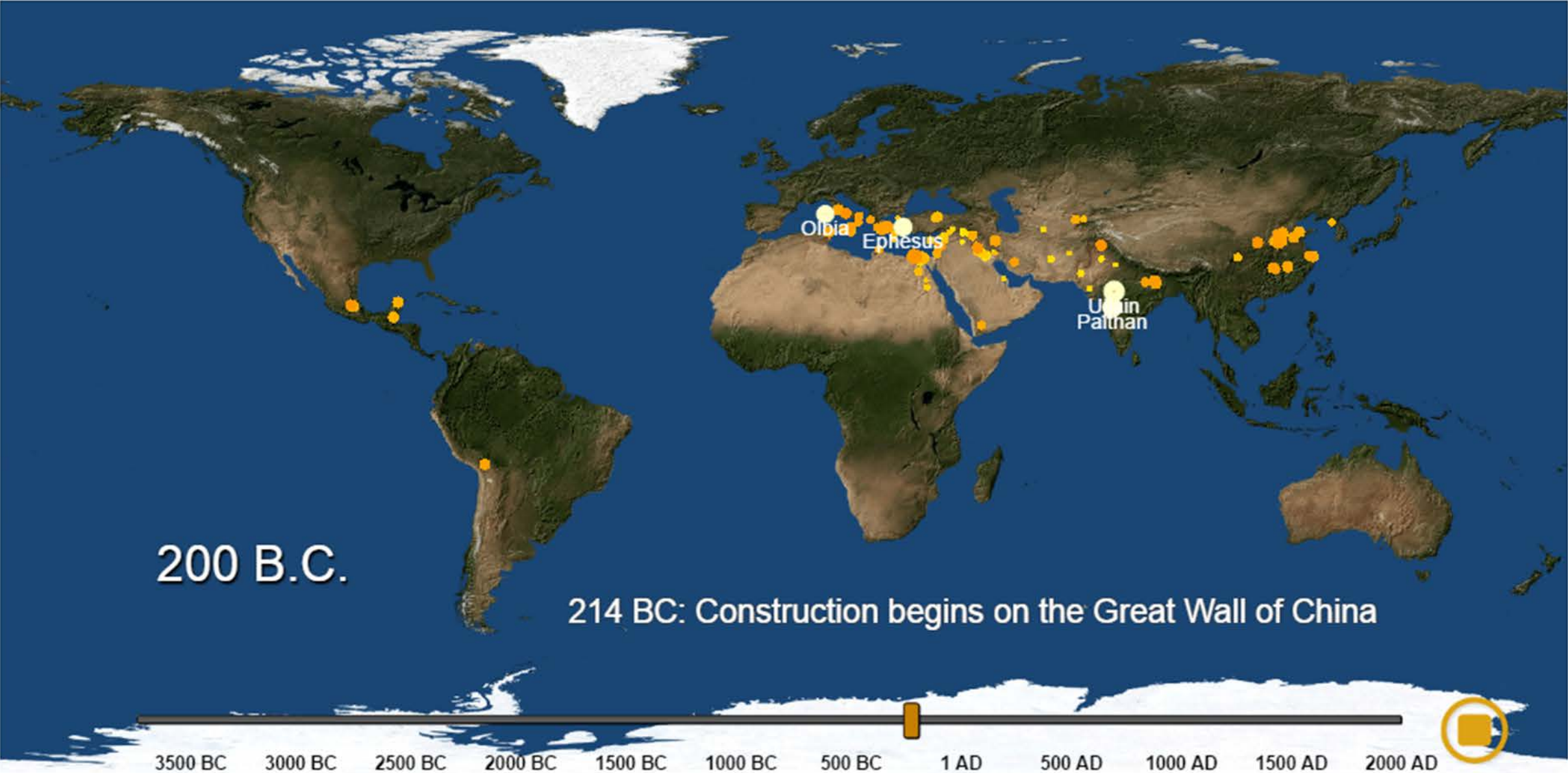
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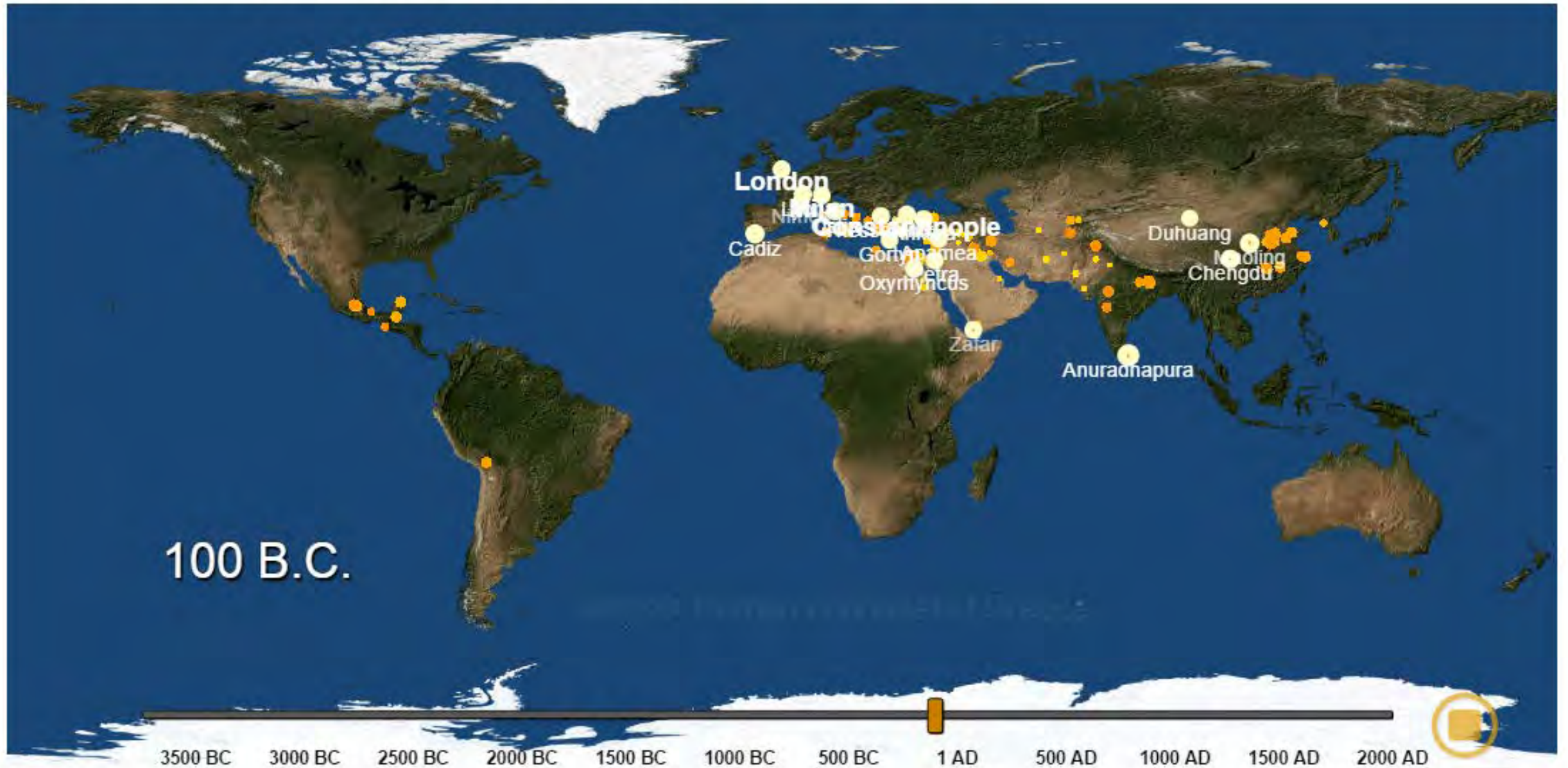
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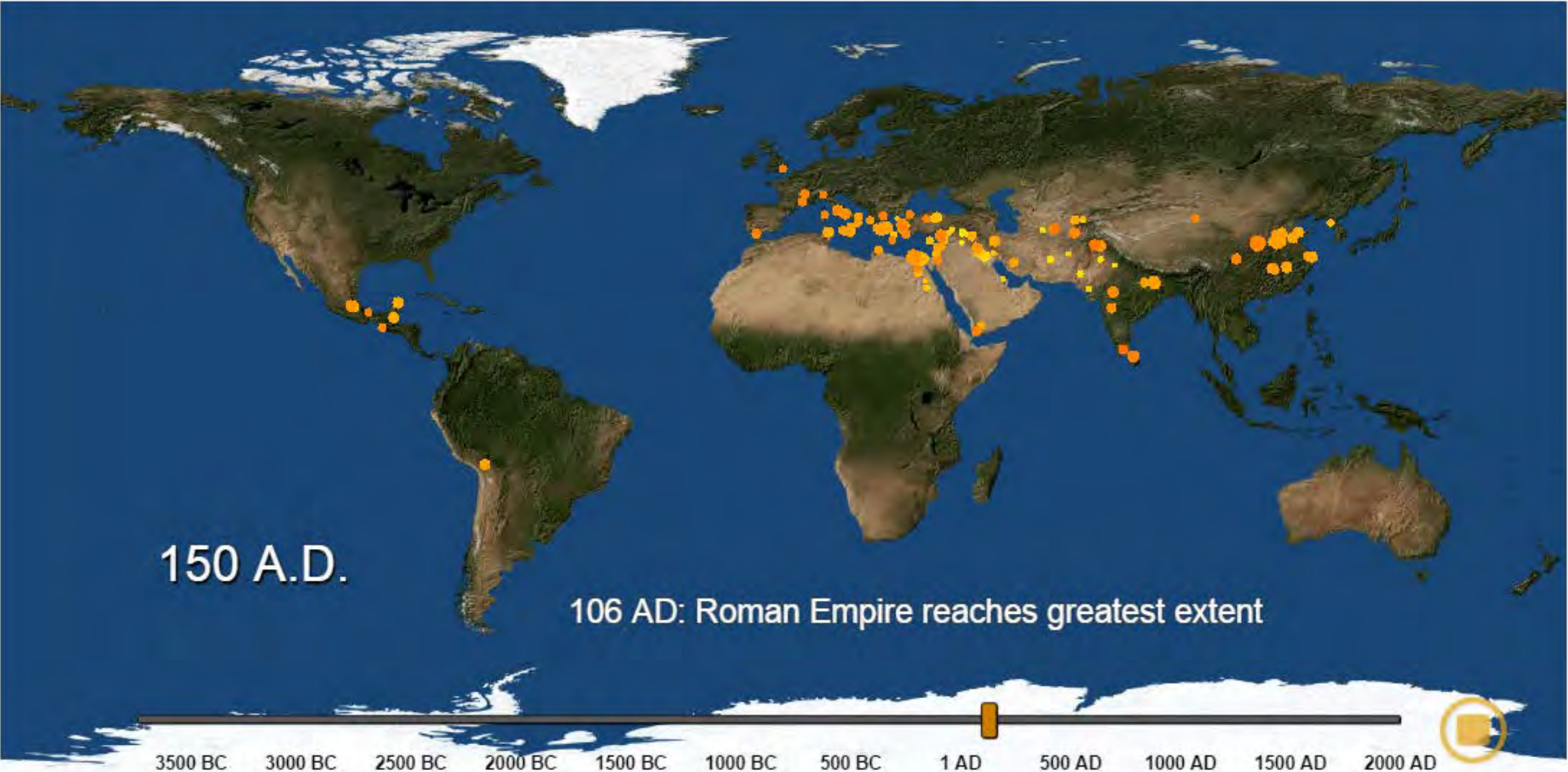
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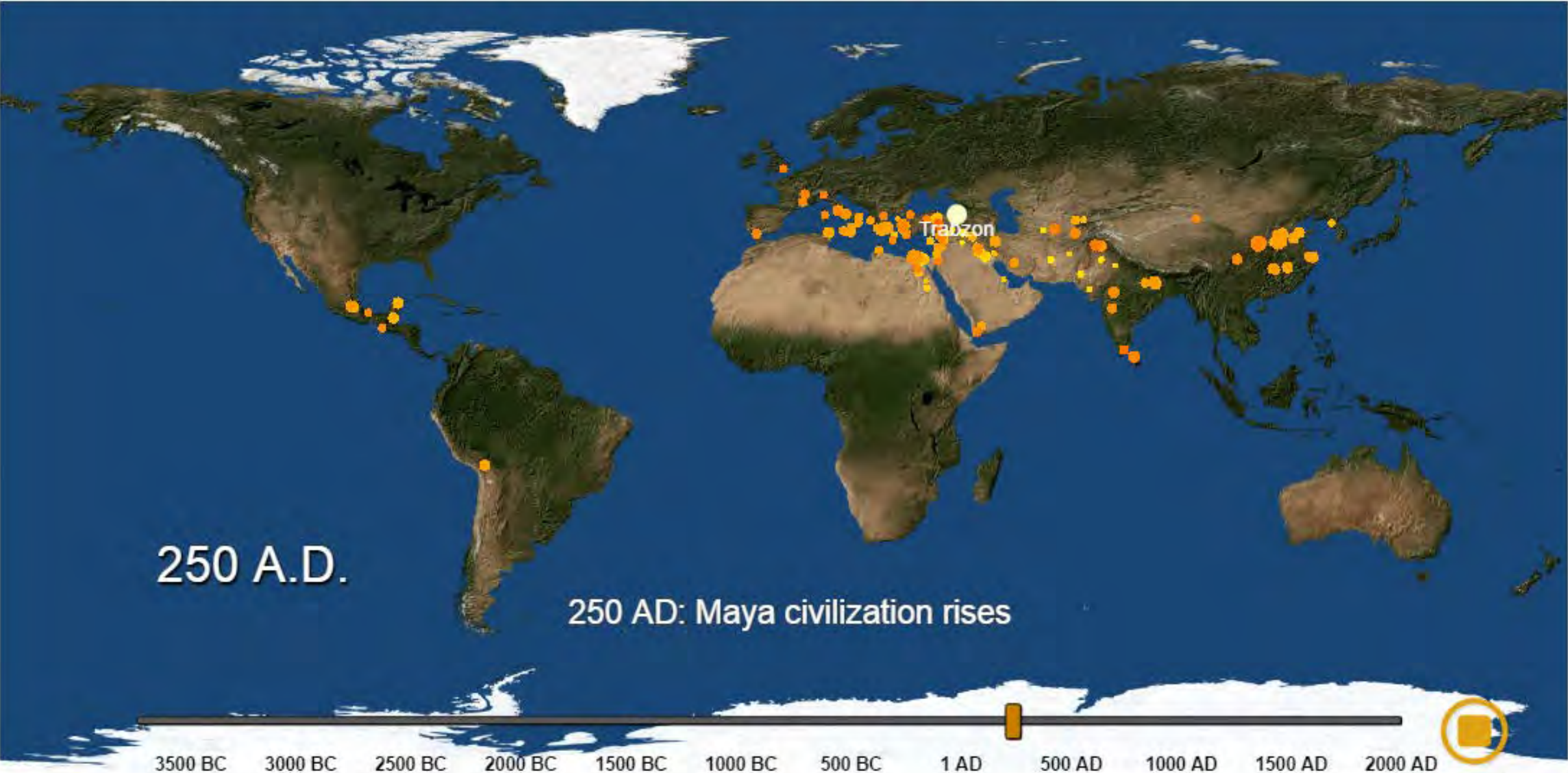
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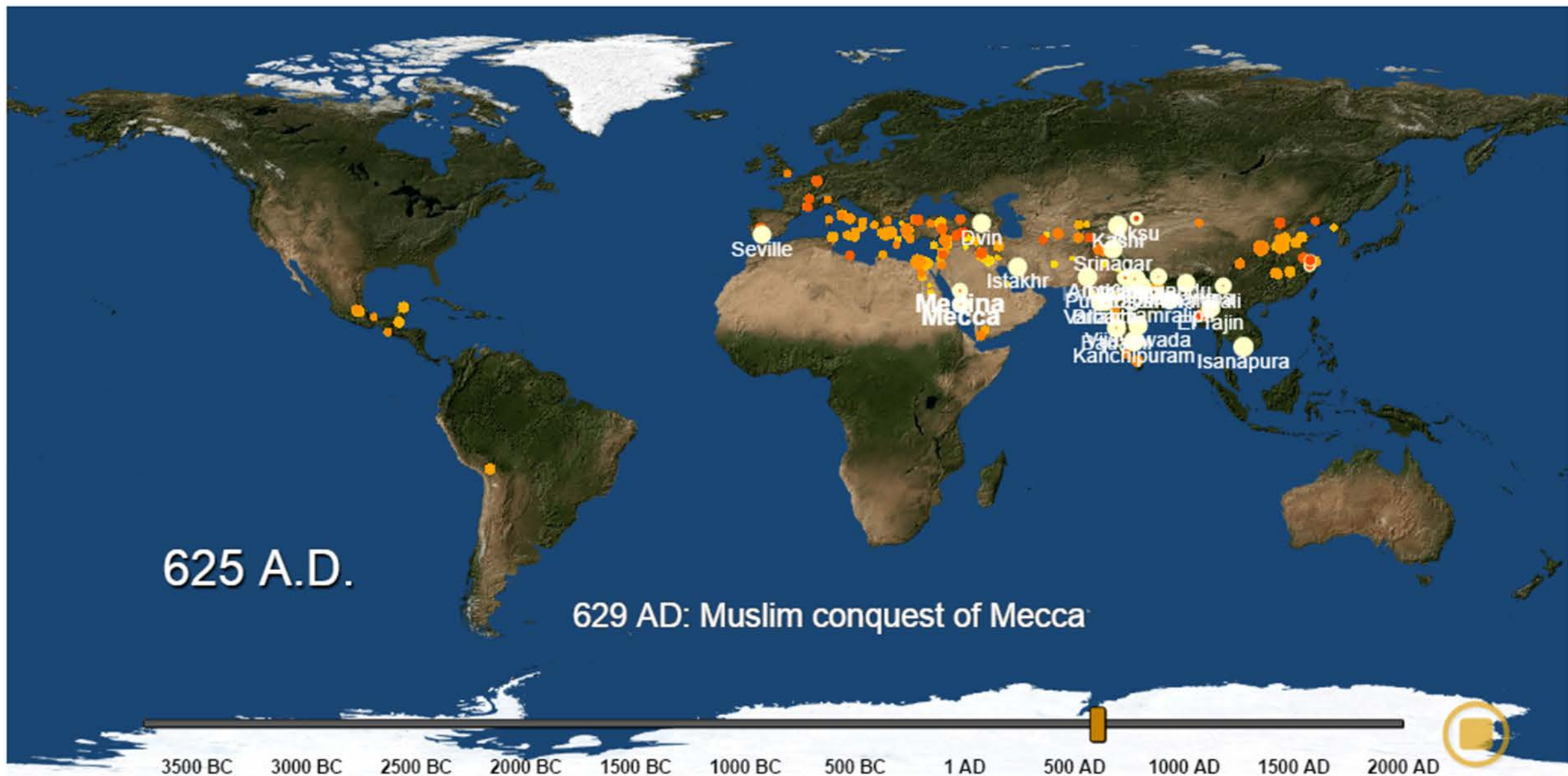
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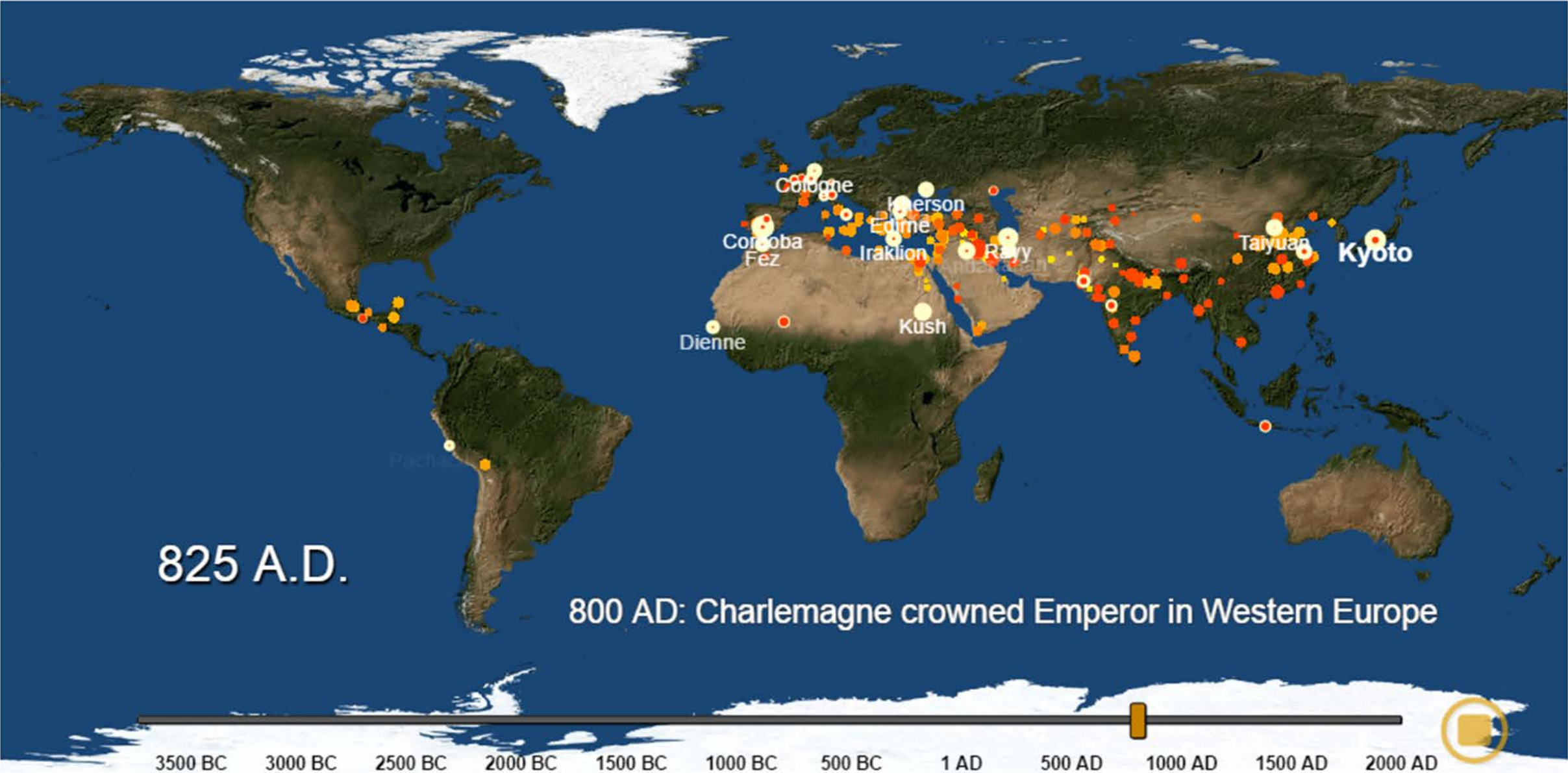
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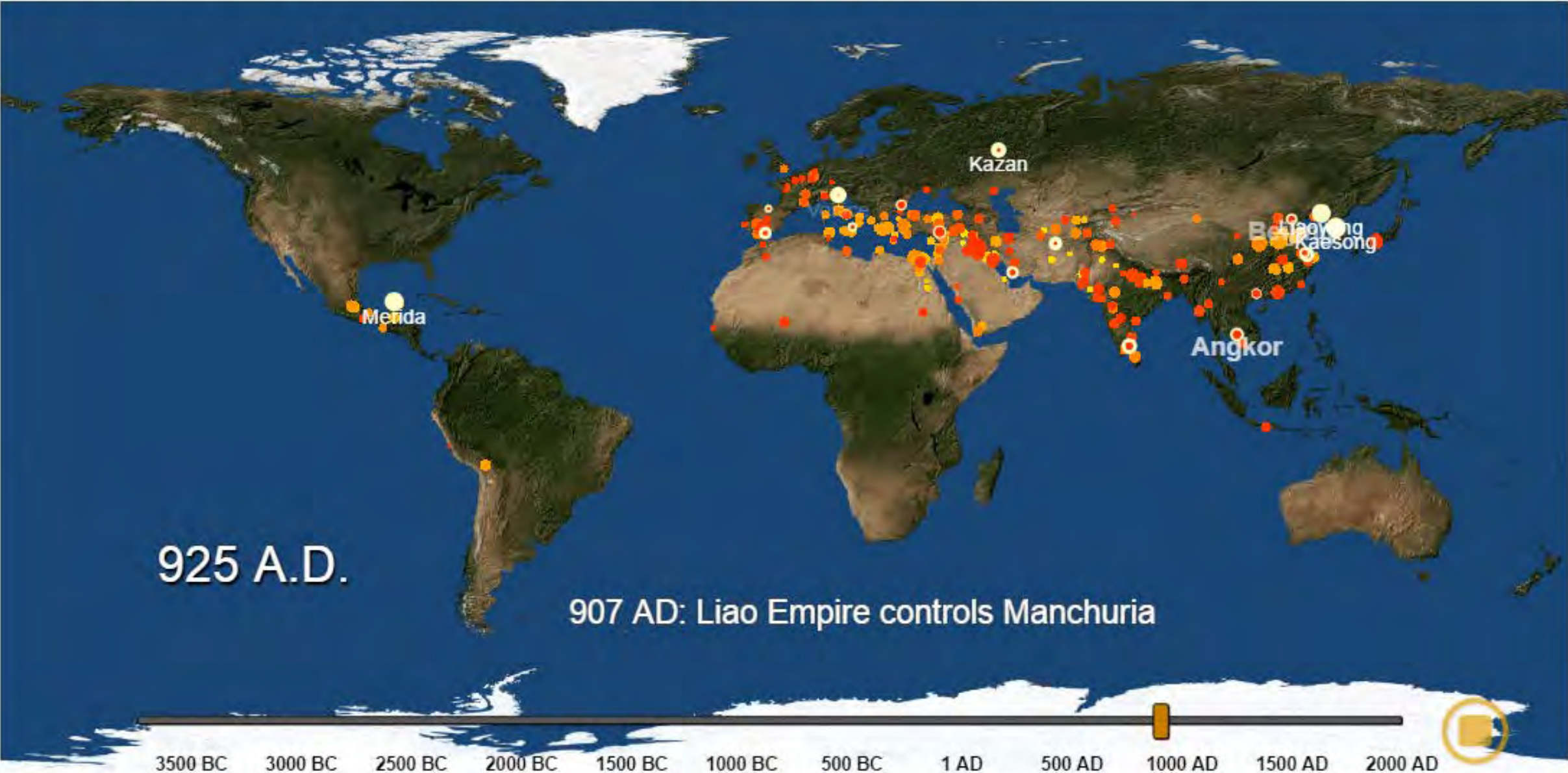
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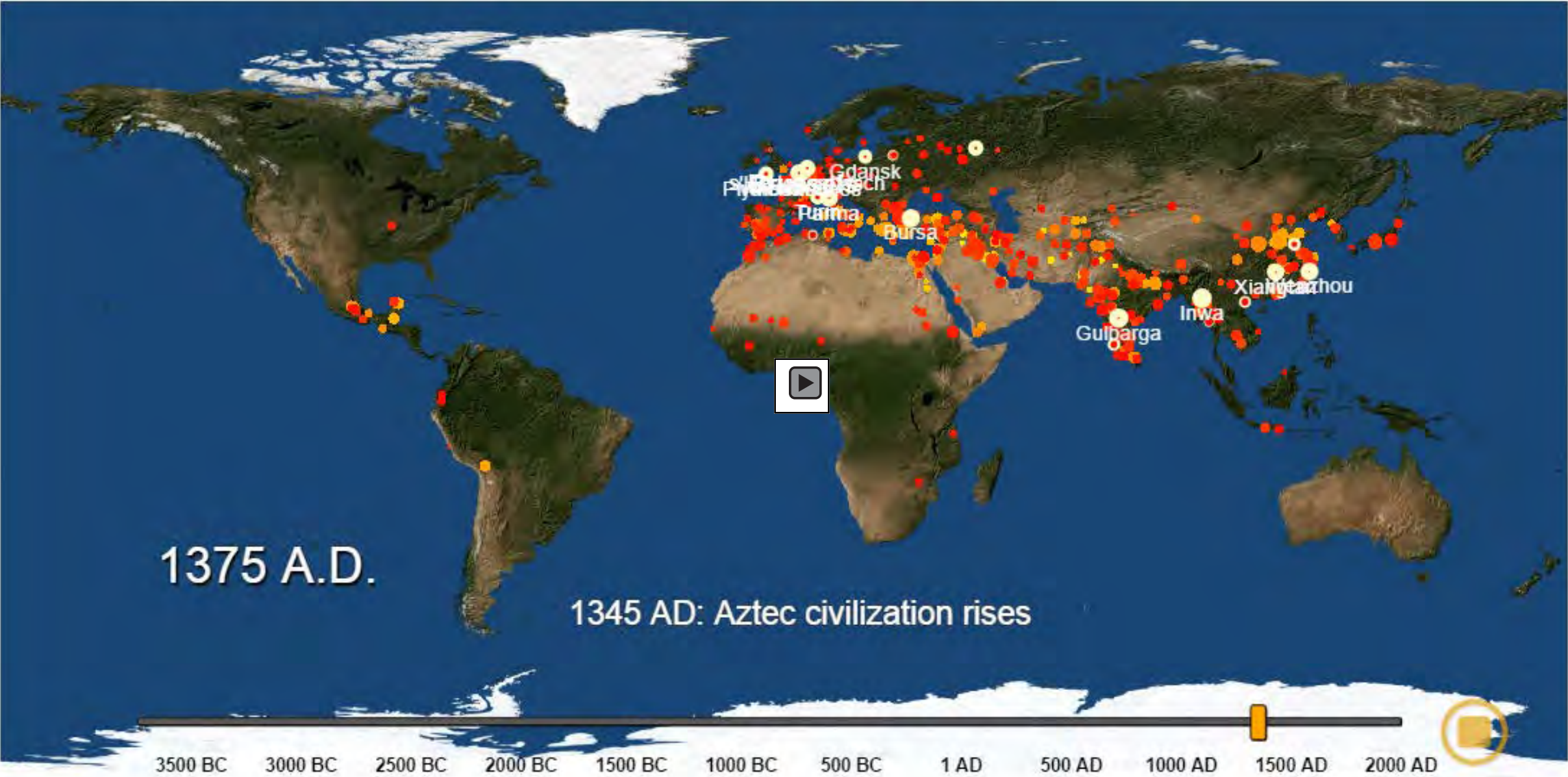
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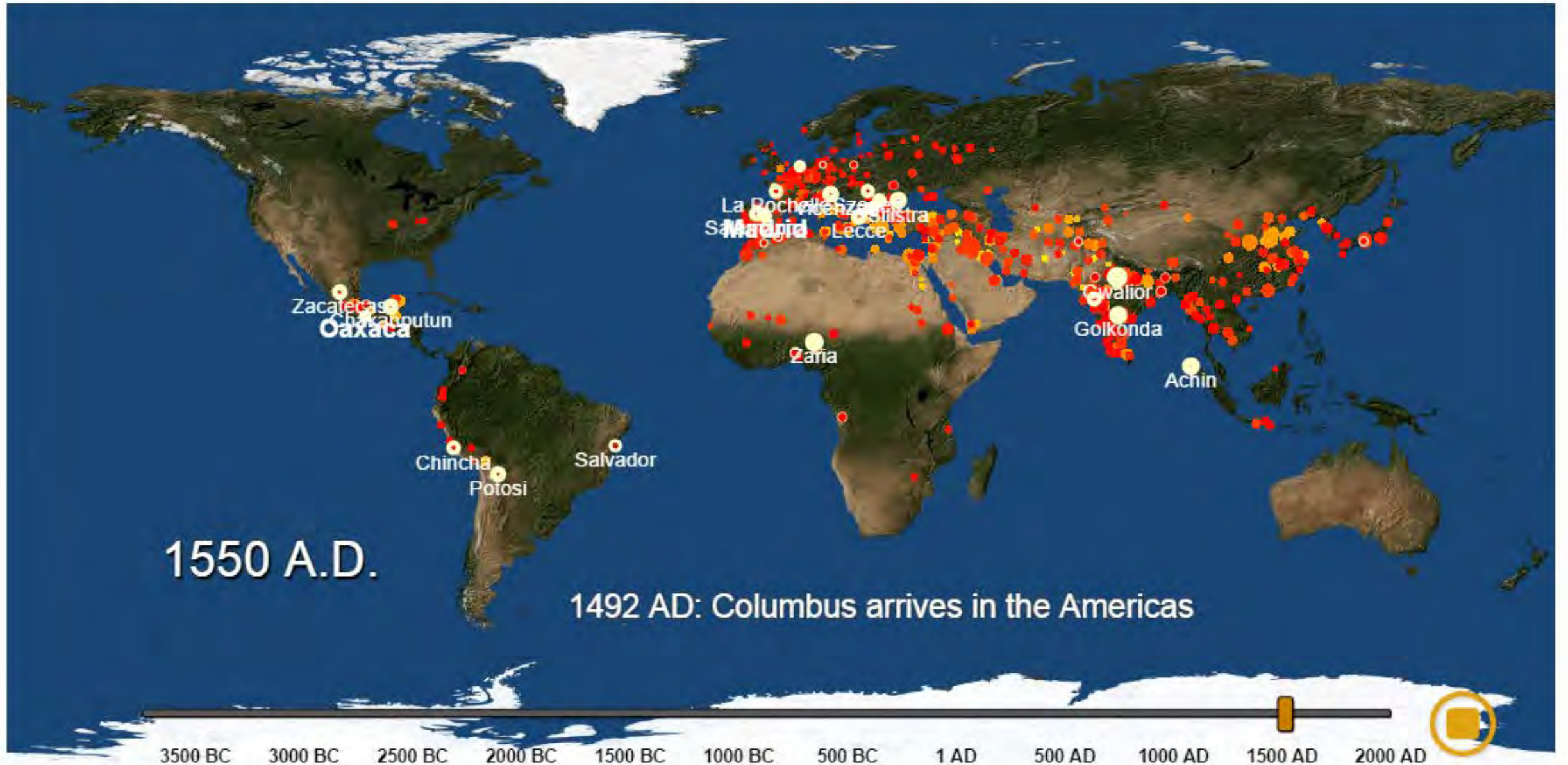
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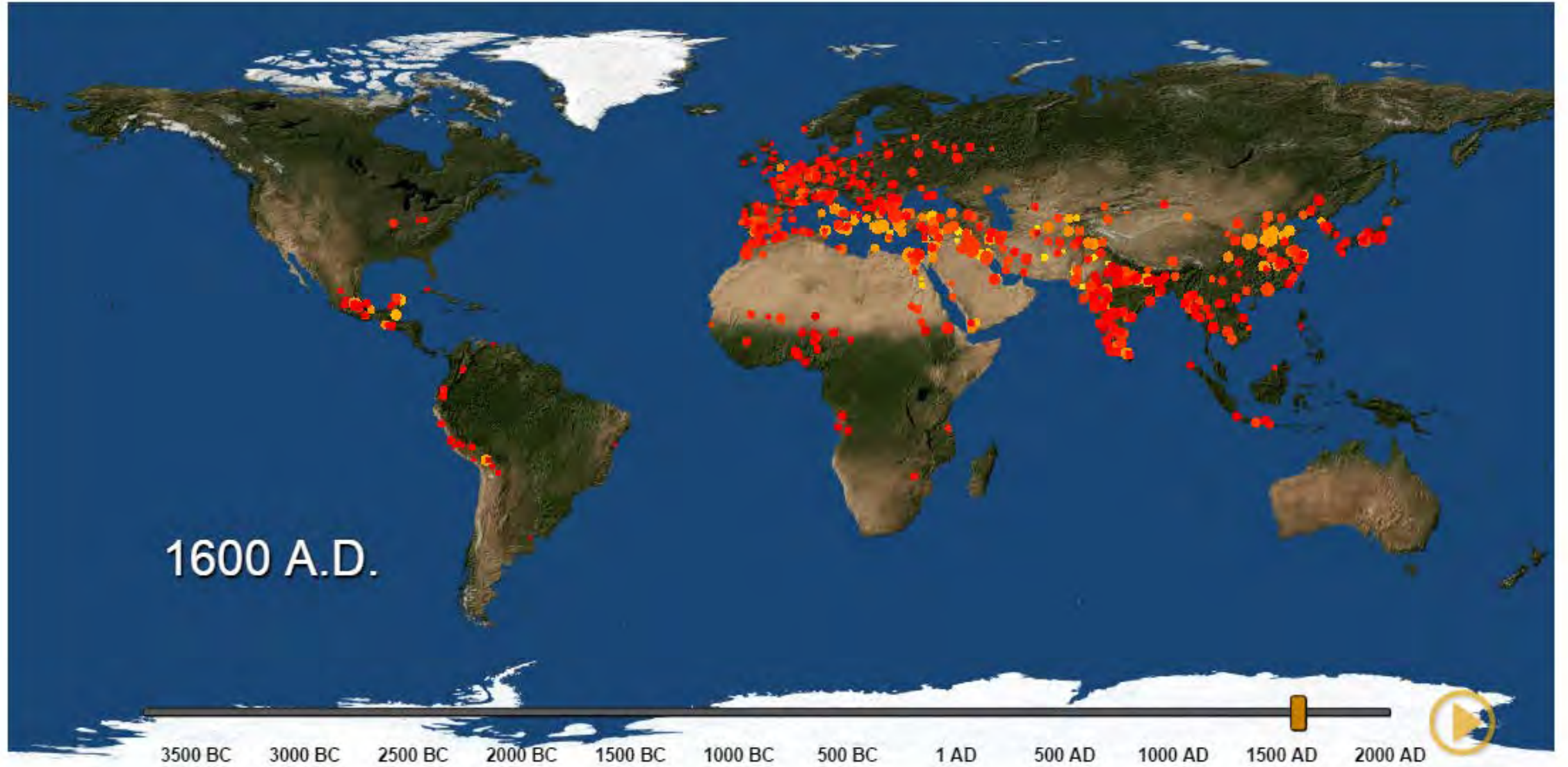
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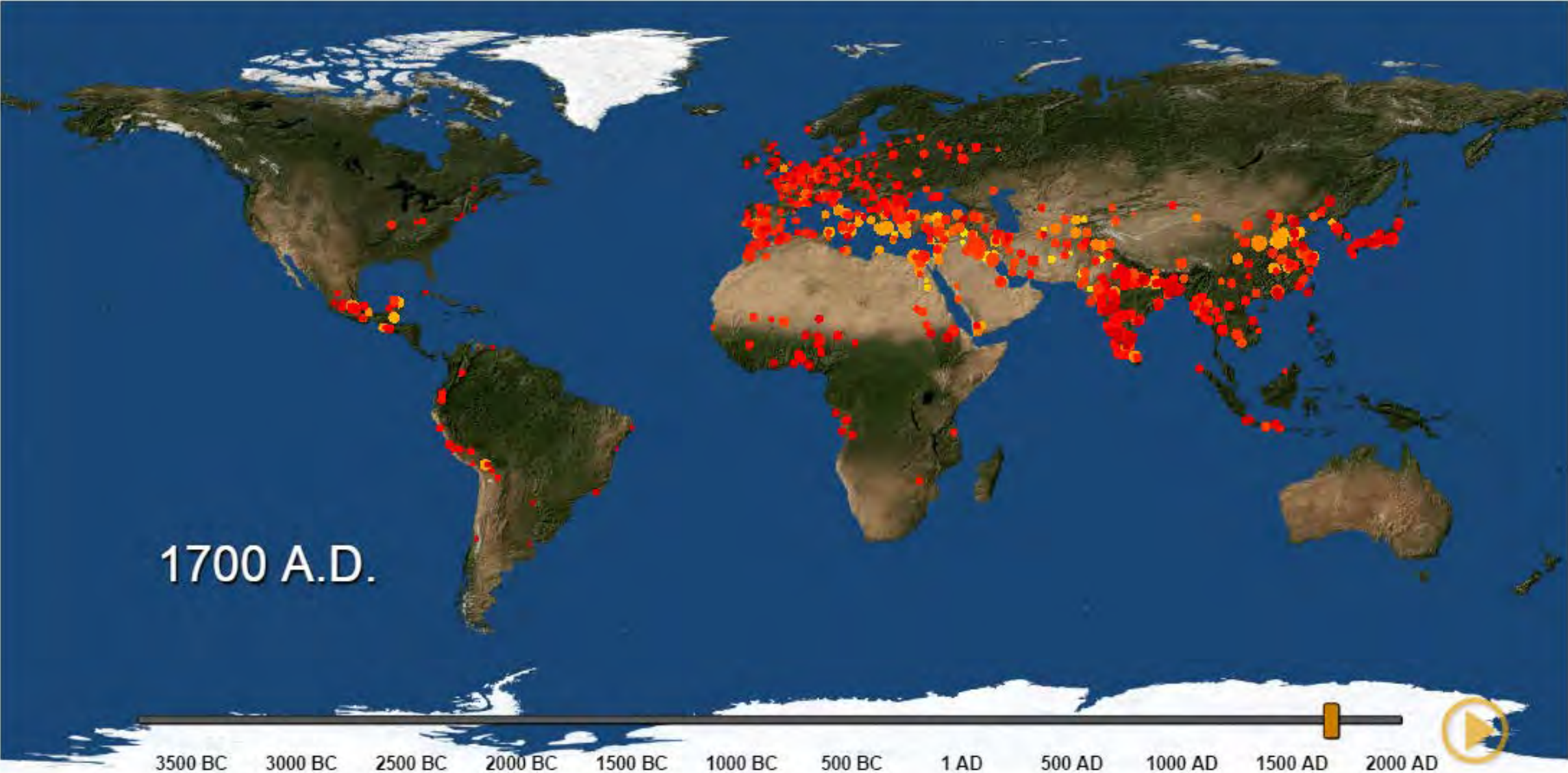
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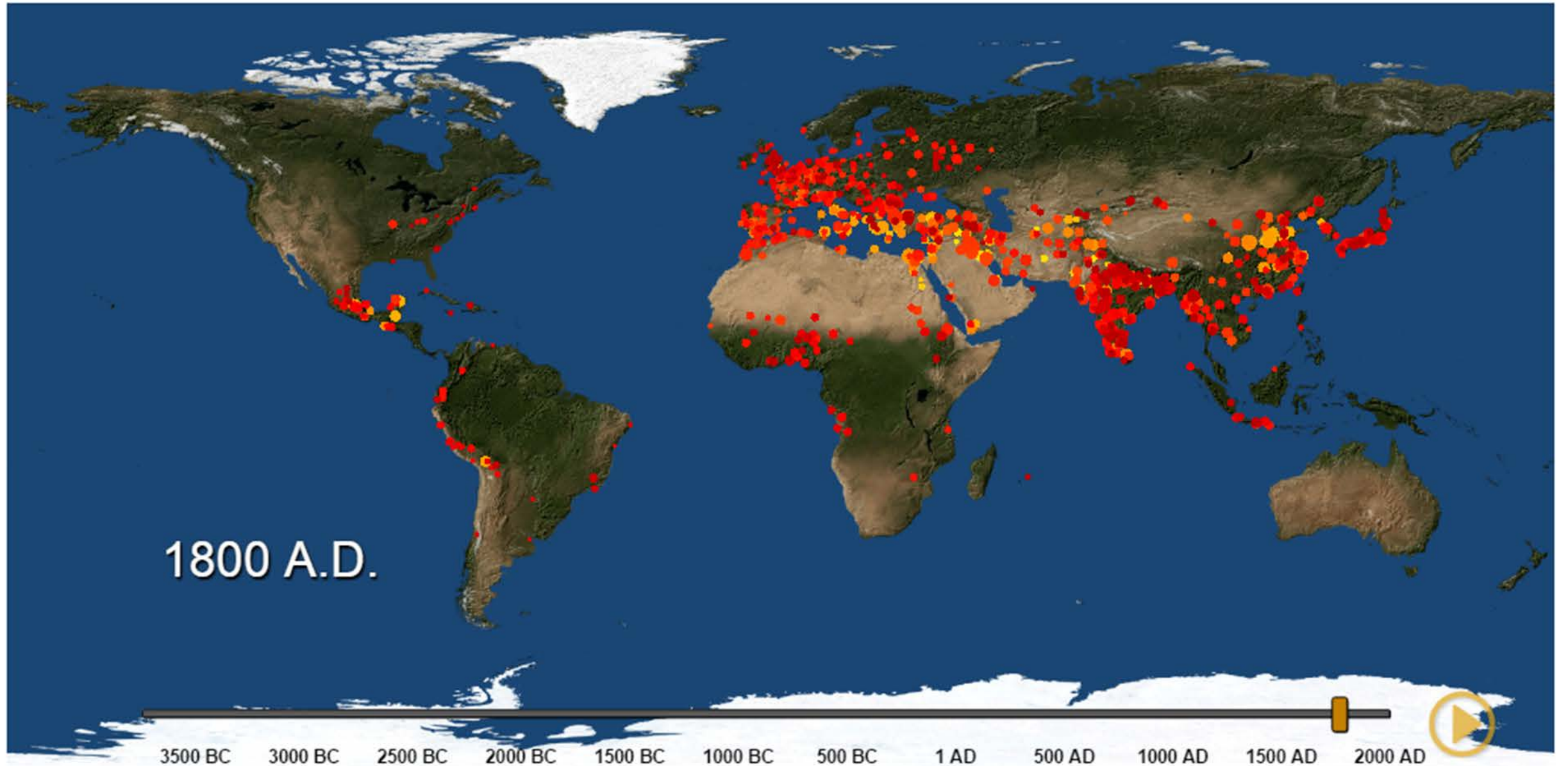
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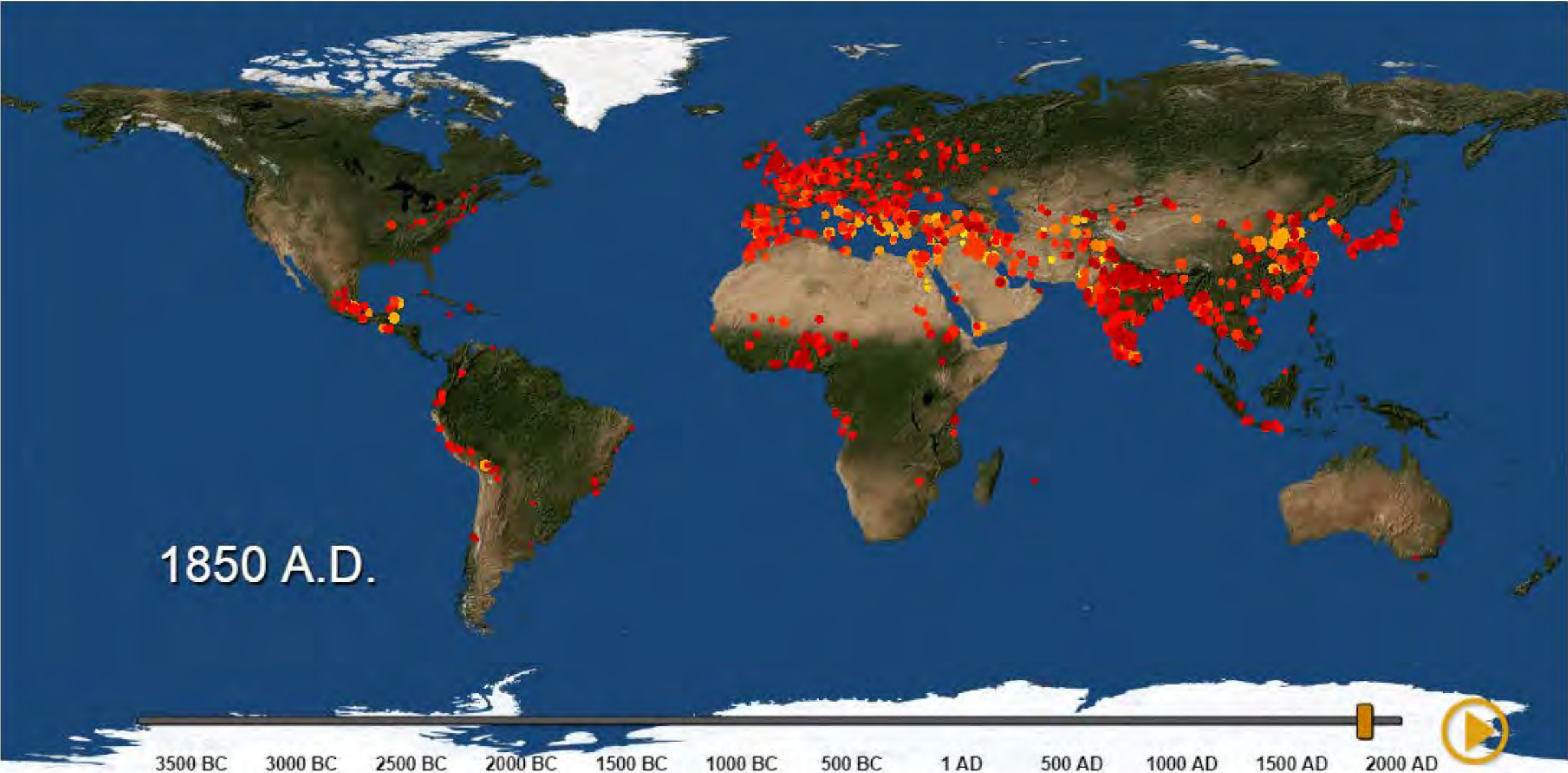
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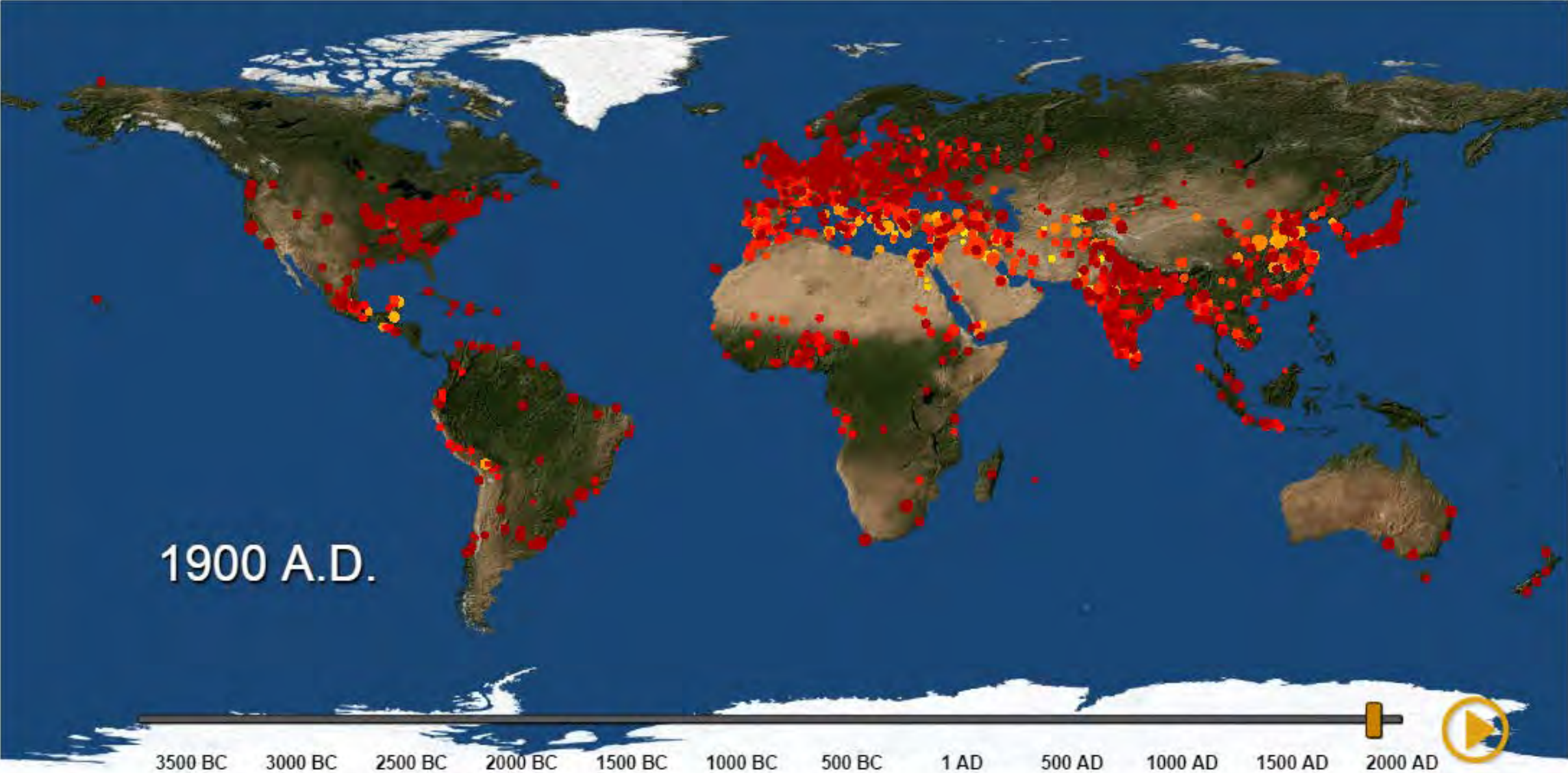
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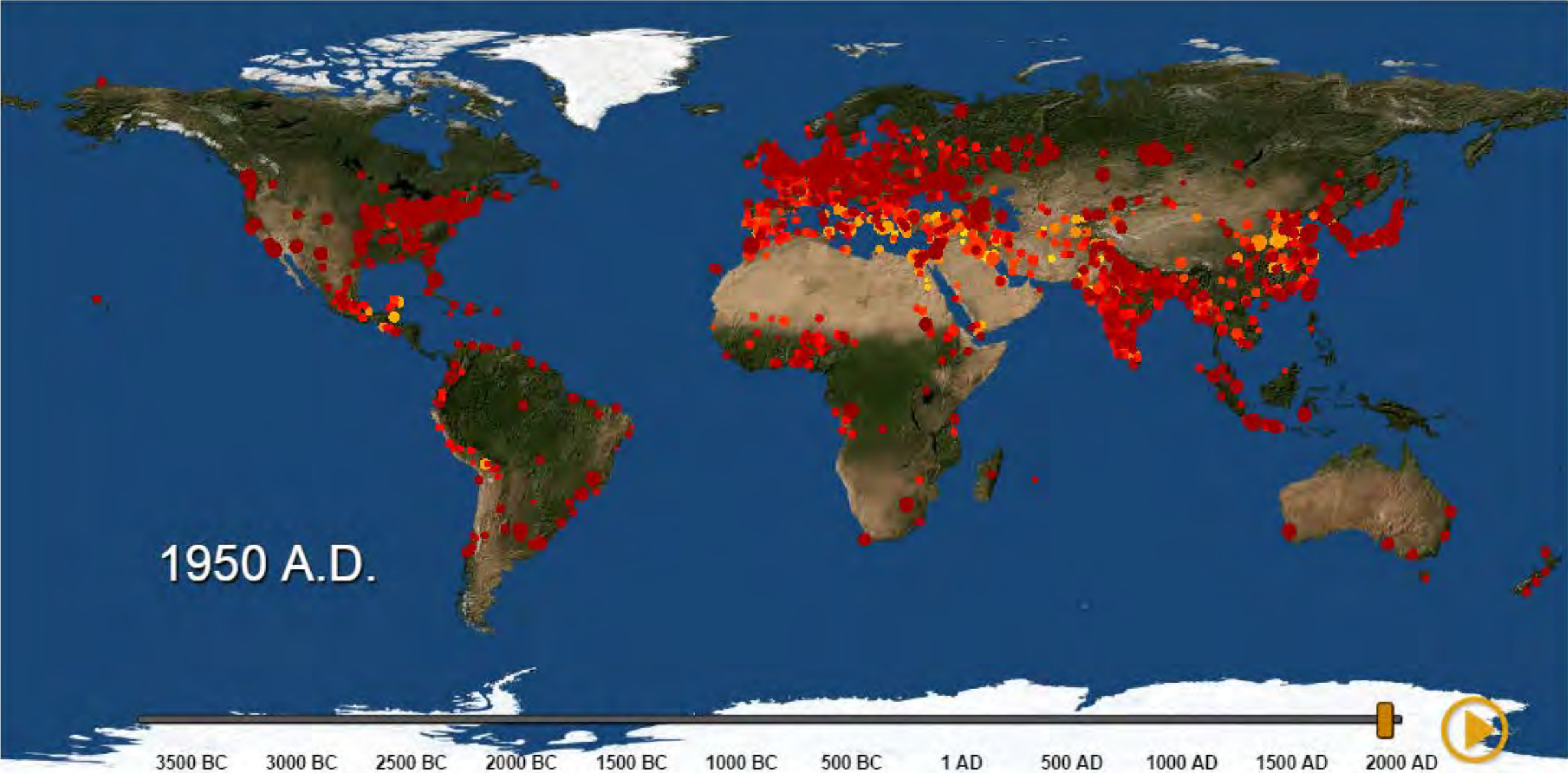
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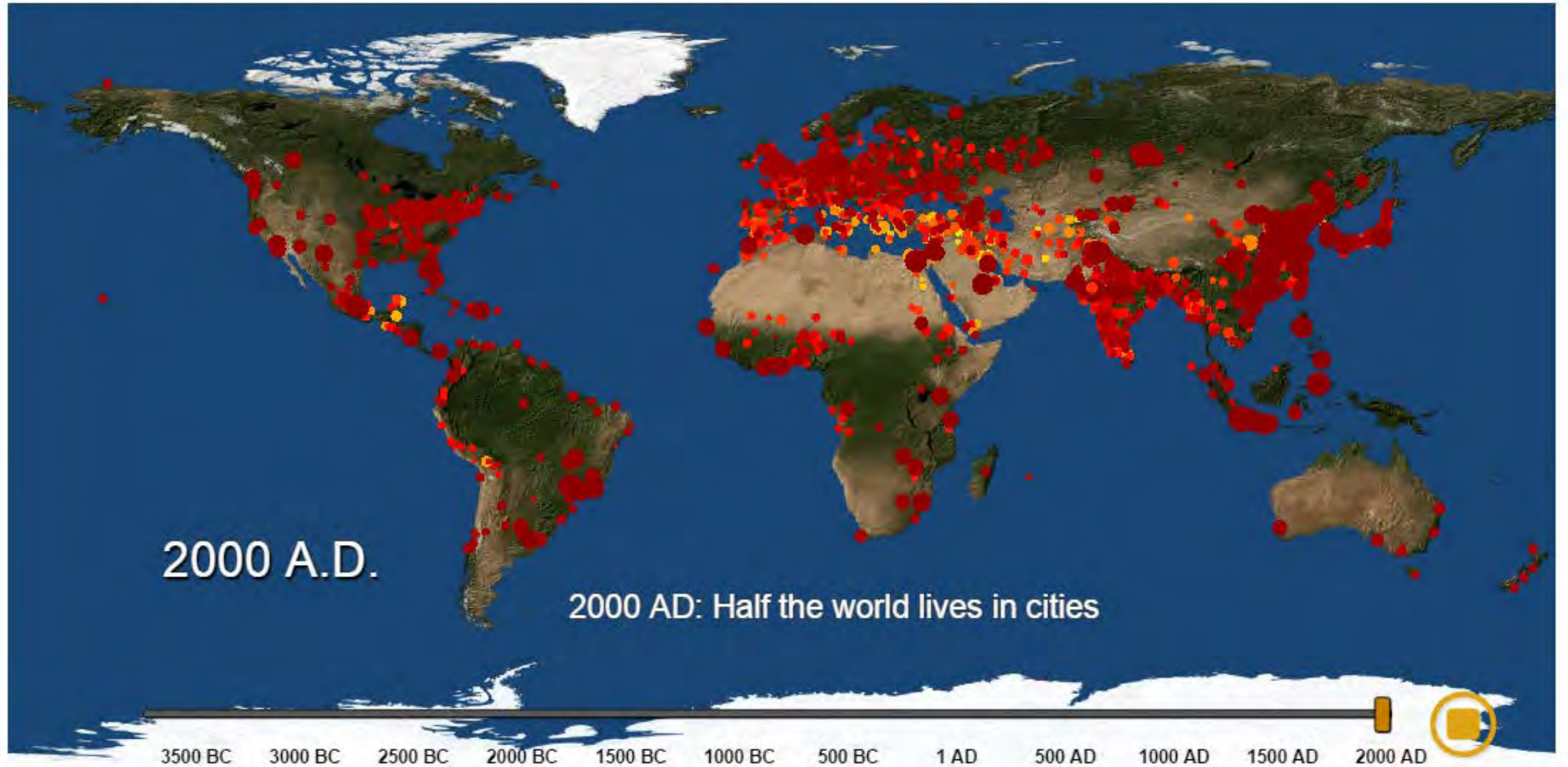
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Cities change in the long term...



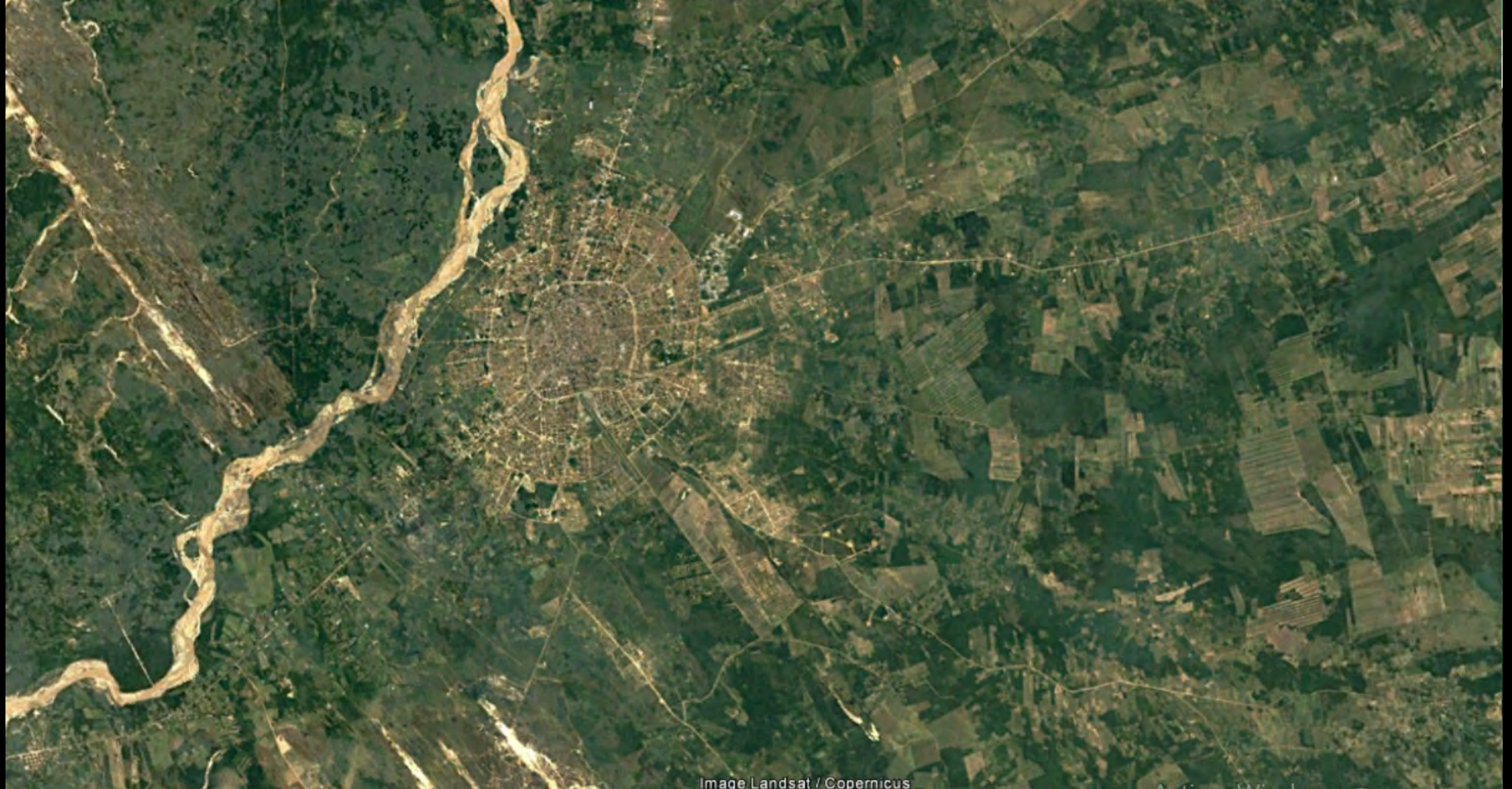


.....as well as in the short term

1986

The Forests that walked with the Cities

Santa
Cruz de la
Sierra
(Bolivia)





.....as well as in the short term

1996

Santa
Cruz de la
Sierra
(Bolivia)

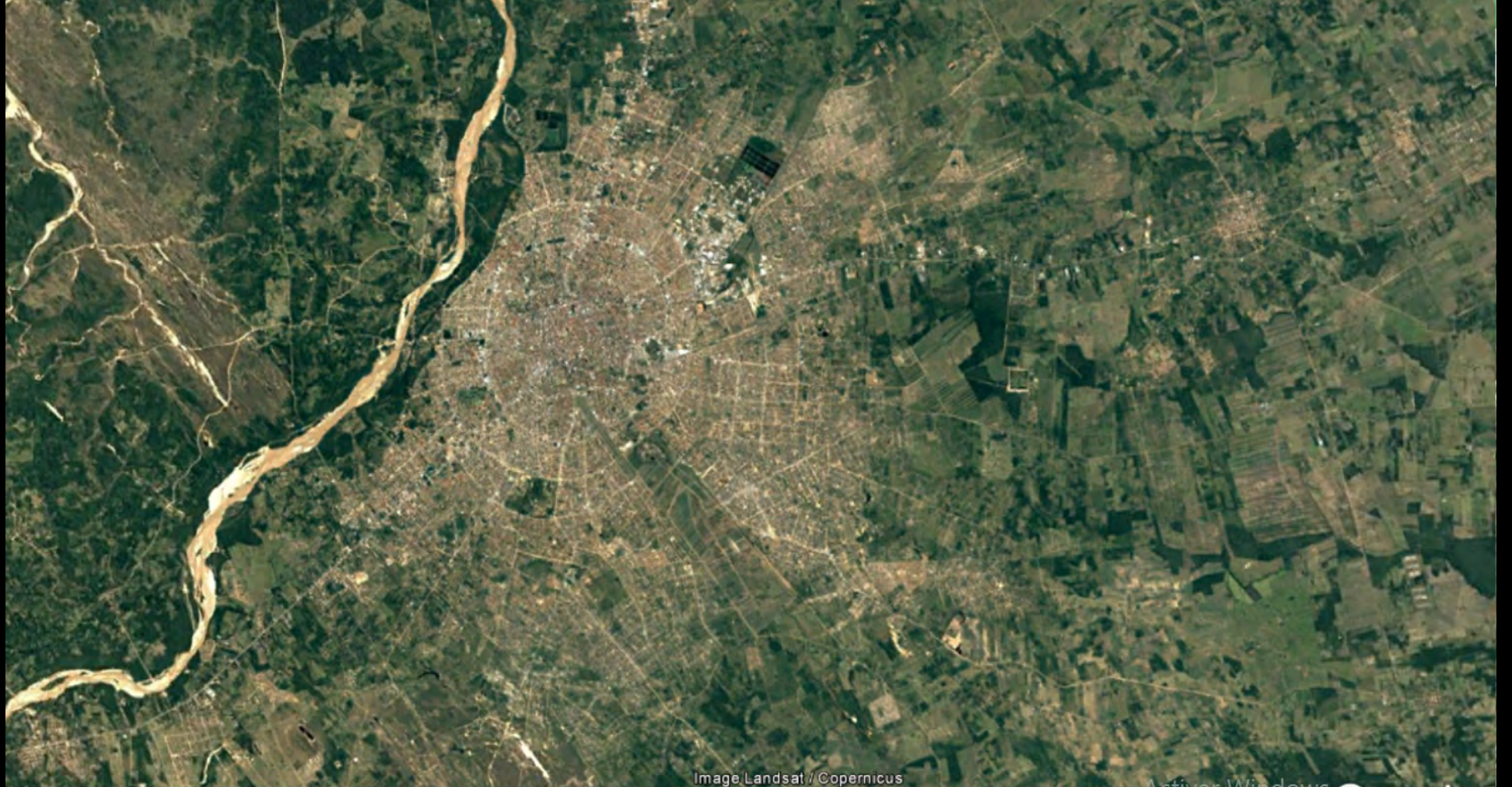




.....as well as in the short term

2006

Santa
Cruz de la
Sierra
(Bolivia)

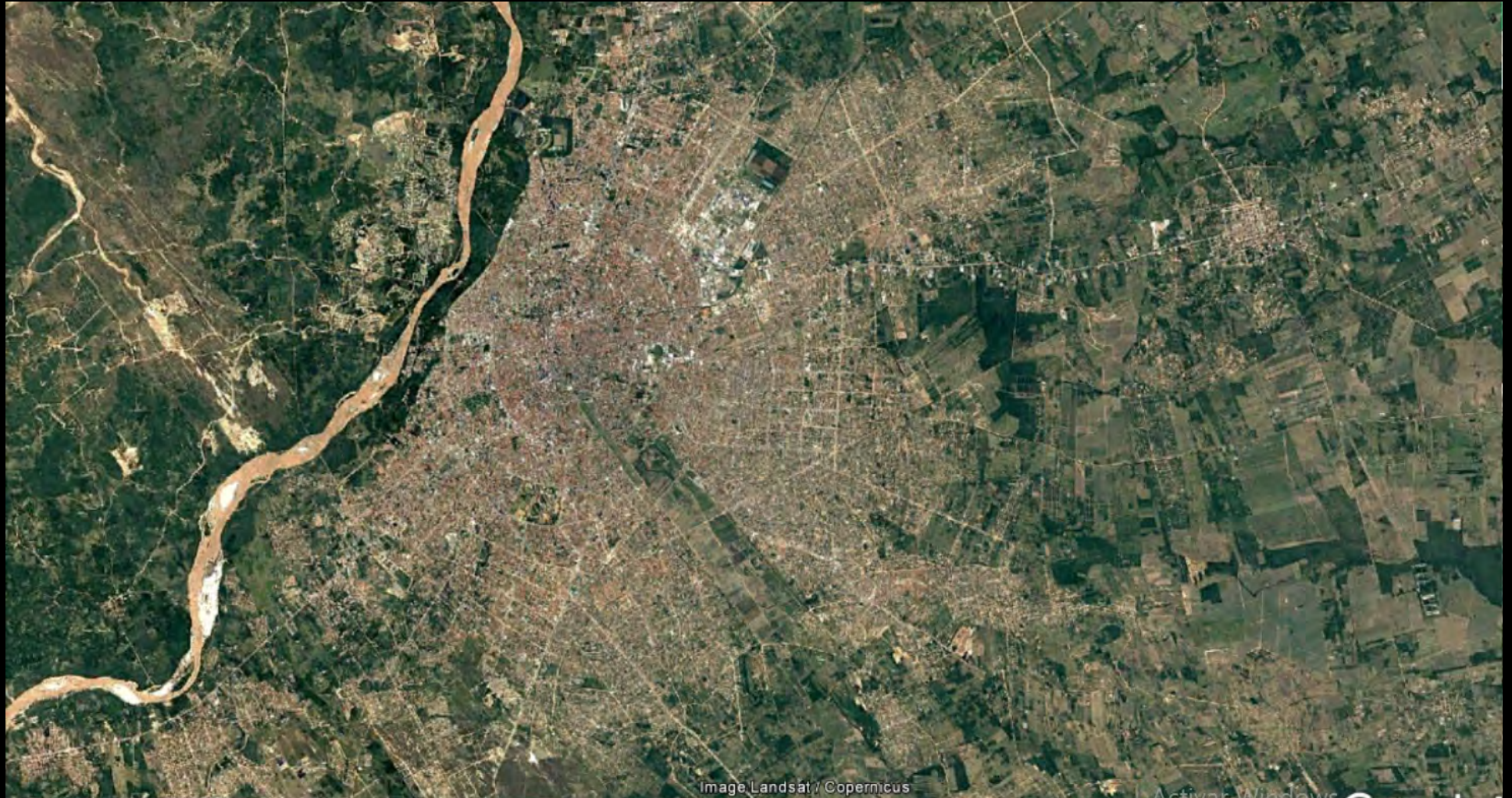




2016

.....as well as in the short term

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Cruz de la
Sierra
(Bolivia)

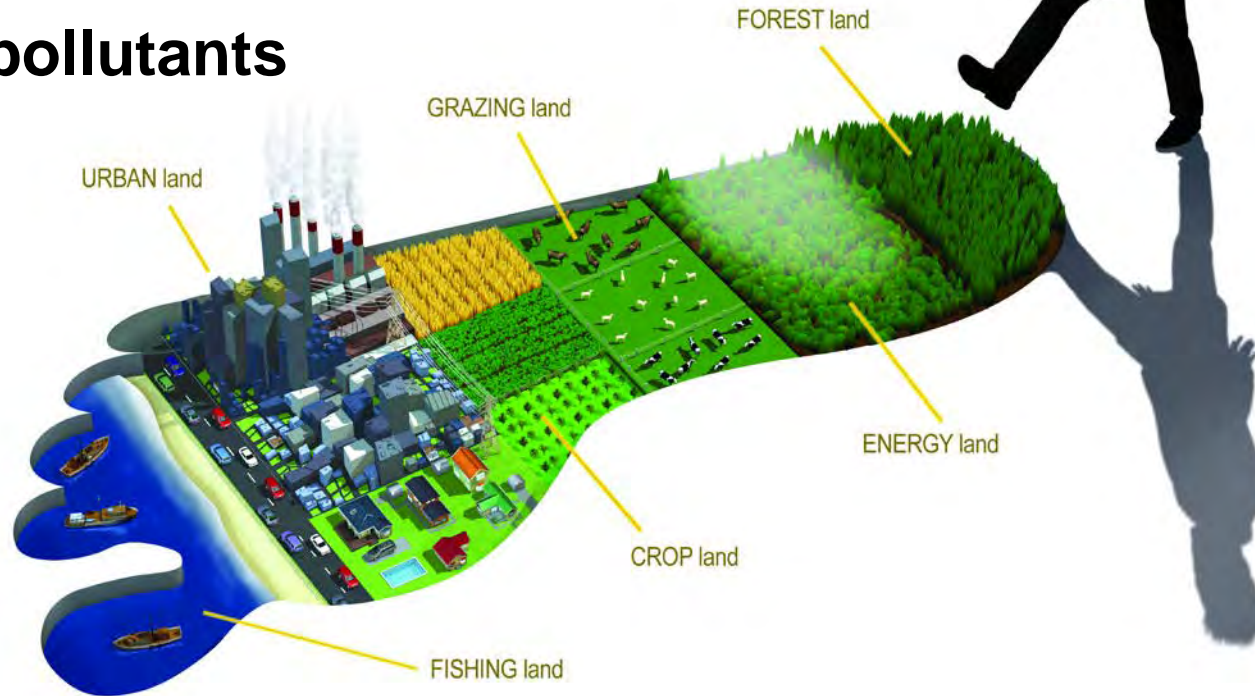


The Forests that walked with the Cities

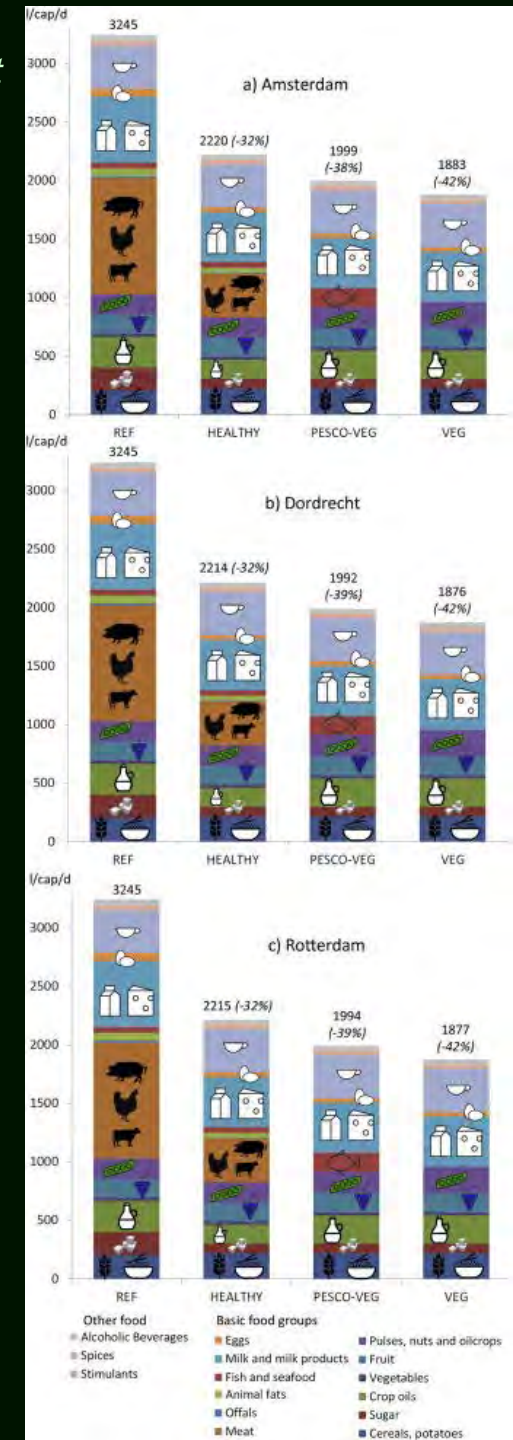
The urban footprint

- 54% **people**
- 70% **energy**
- 80% **water**
- 80% **food**
- 75% **pollutants**

(Rough estimates various sources ± n.d.)



The lack of consistent data on the world's cities makes it hard to understand the overall impact of urbanization



- Other food
 - Alcoholic Beverages
 - Spices
 - Stimulants
- Basic food groups
 - Eggs
 - Milk and milk products
 - Fish and seafood
 - Animal fats
 - Offals
 - Meat
 - Pulses, nuts and oilcrops
 - Fruit
 - Vegetables
 - Crop oils
 - Sugar
 - Cereals, potatoes



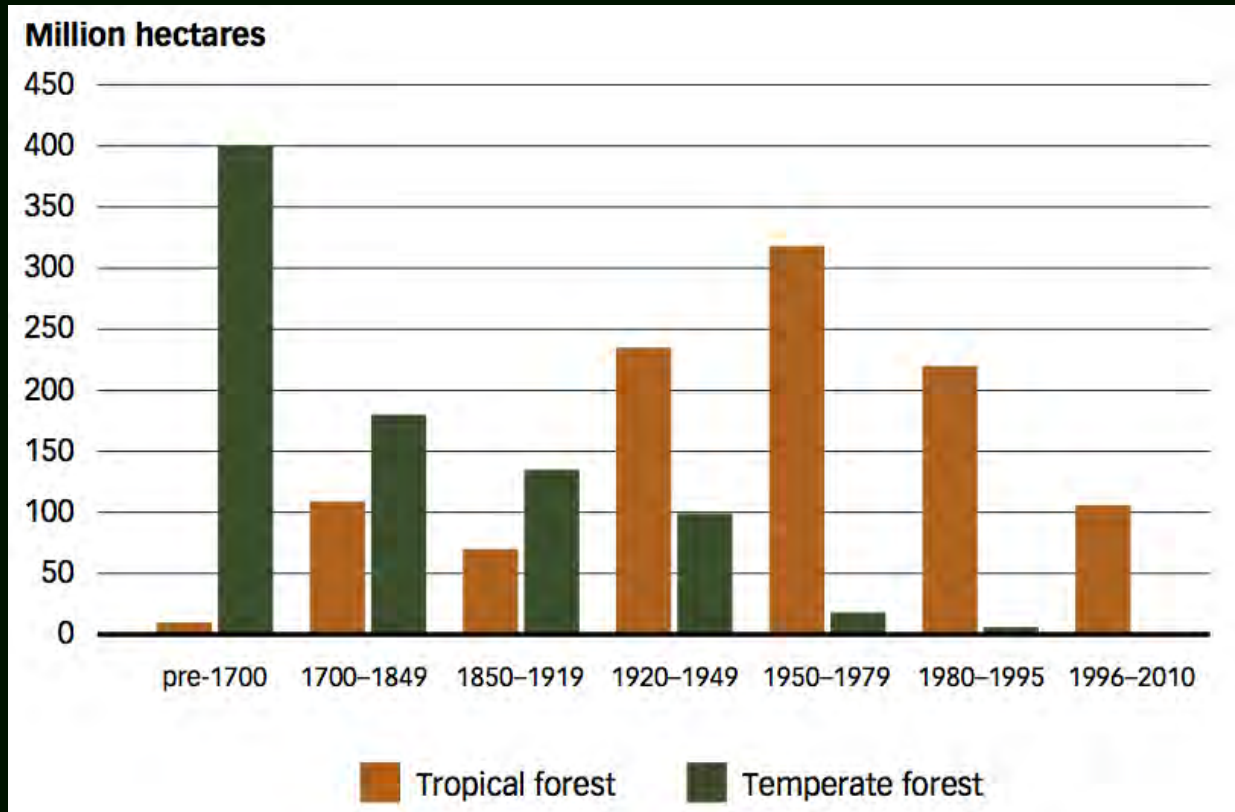
The Forest moves

The Forests that walked with the Cities

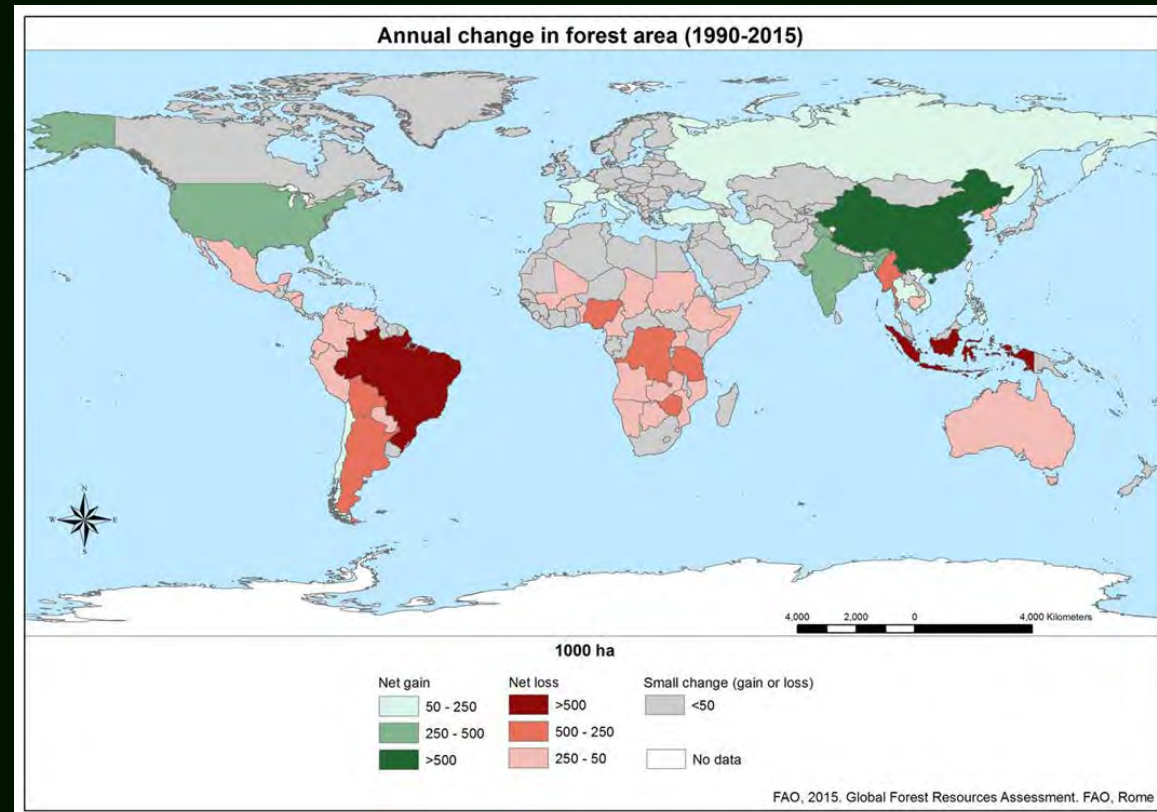


*“As I did stand my watch upon the hill,
I looked toward Birnam, and anon methought
The wood began to move.”
Macbeth_ Act 5, Scene 5,*

Who wins and who loses? We all lose



Estimated deforestation pre-1700-2000 (FAO 2012)



Global Forest Resources Assessments (FAO 2015)

Trees and cities along history

**Trees in street
and public and
private spaces**

*16th century
city walls of
Lucca, Italy*



**Landscaped forests:
Urban public/private
parks and gardens**

*Emirgan park
Istanbul,
Turkey*



**Old growth
urban forests**

*The forest of
Desio, Italy*



**Symbolic and
Monumental Trees**

*The Plane tree of
the Aristotele's
school, at Mieza,
Greece*



Trees and Forests as natural cultural capital are emerging properties of human communities (Levi Strauss "the Savage Mind")

The Forests that walked with the Cities

energy water food relax bioengineering
 medicines timber shade shelter

FOREST

And
 For
 In
 Of
 Versus

TREE

CITY

leisure filter landscape sport
 beautification luxury sound privacy oxygen
 architecture sound religion Simply nothing..



AND



FOR

Towards a grammar of relationships

A history of goods and services, tangible and intangible



OF



IN



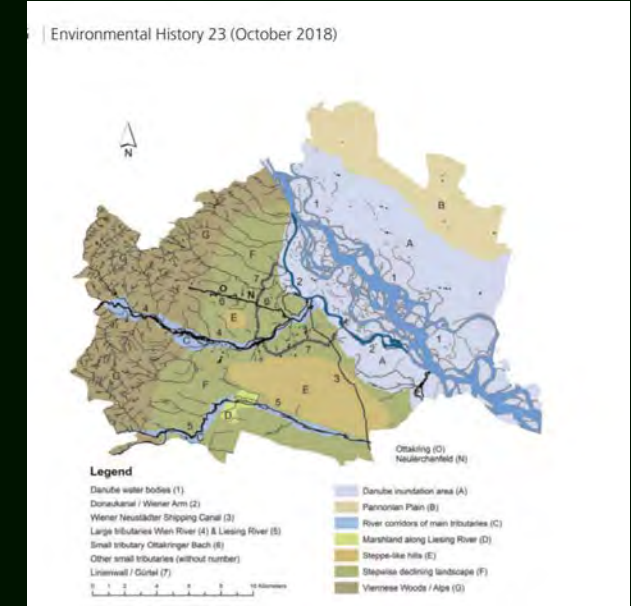
VERSUS

Benefits from urban forest: old story or new age?



10 tons of fuelwood each day heating the Baths of Caracalla in ancient Rome

Wienerwald – The Forest of Vienna



Ferdinand Georg Waldmüller (1793–1865)

The highlands of the Vienna Forest formed a defining part of the urban environment and constrained urban growth.

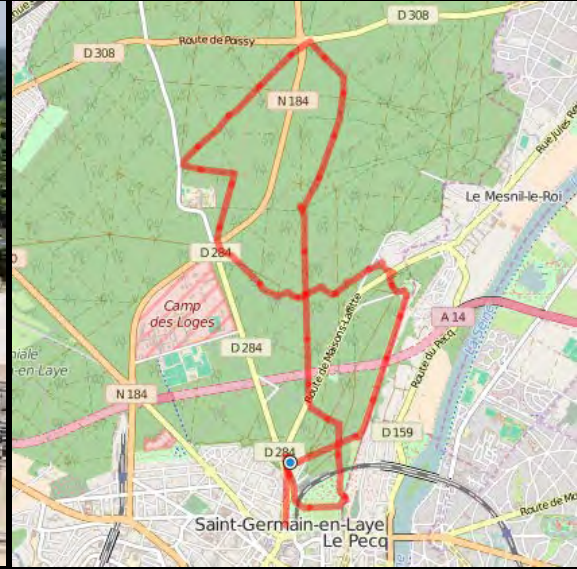
The city's development depended not only on the Danube but also on the small streams that originated in the Vienna Woods.

They could be used for hydropower and as drinking and industrial water

The Forests that walked with the Cities



The Forest of Saint Germain en-Laye



Trees and Symbolism

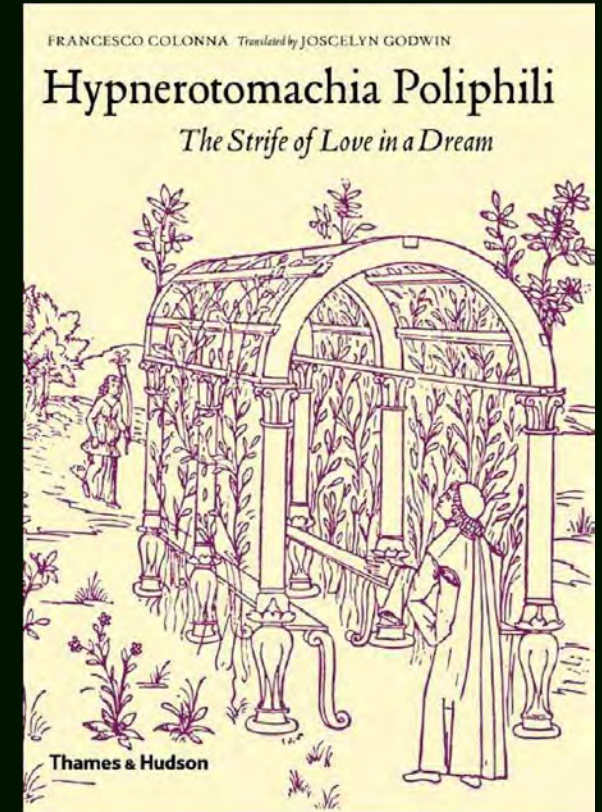
*Palm tree
motifs nahala*



The symbolism of trees is very rooted in prehistoric and paleo historic human societies of the Mediterranean (Salbitano (ed.), 1988)

Symbolism and Narratives

The Forests that walked with the Cities



The Forests that walked with the Cities

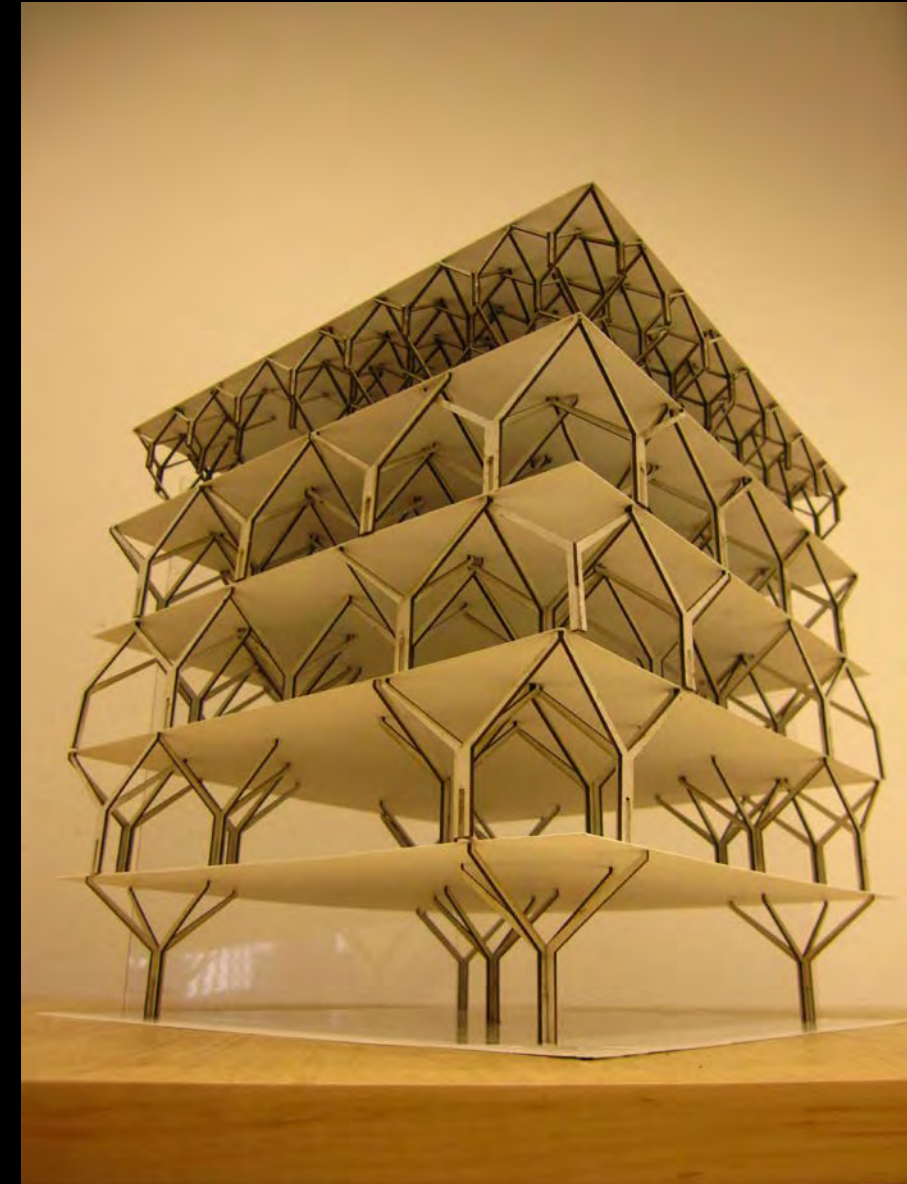
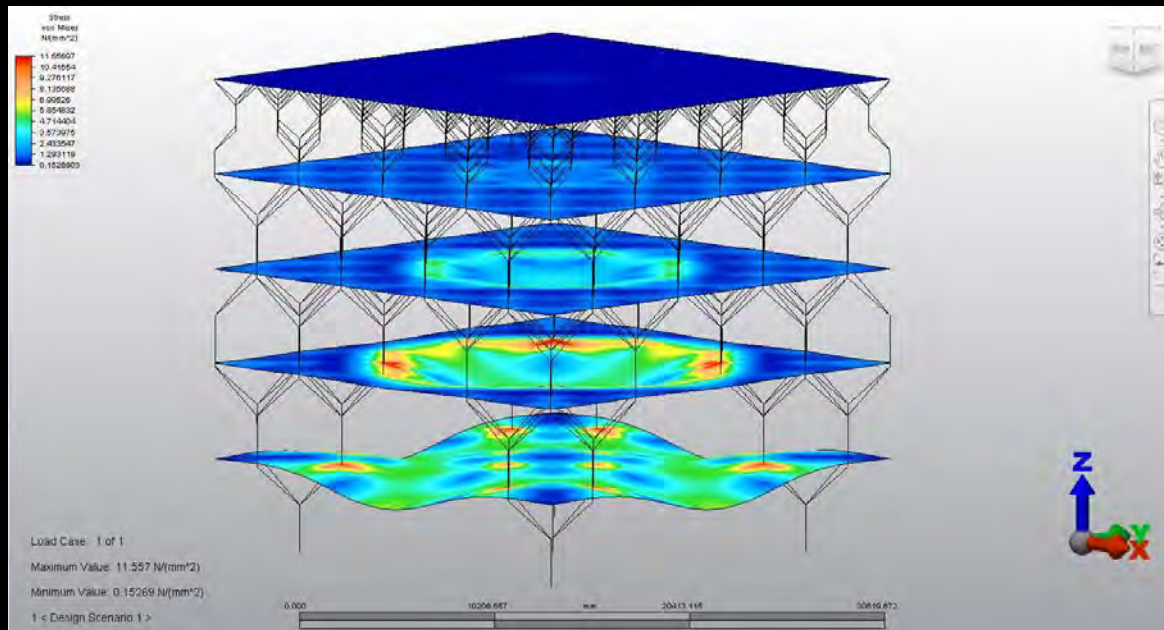
Symbolisms and architecture Trees and forests inspiring the cities



The Forests that walked with the Cities



Trees and forests inspiring the cities even more



The Forests that walked with the Cities

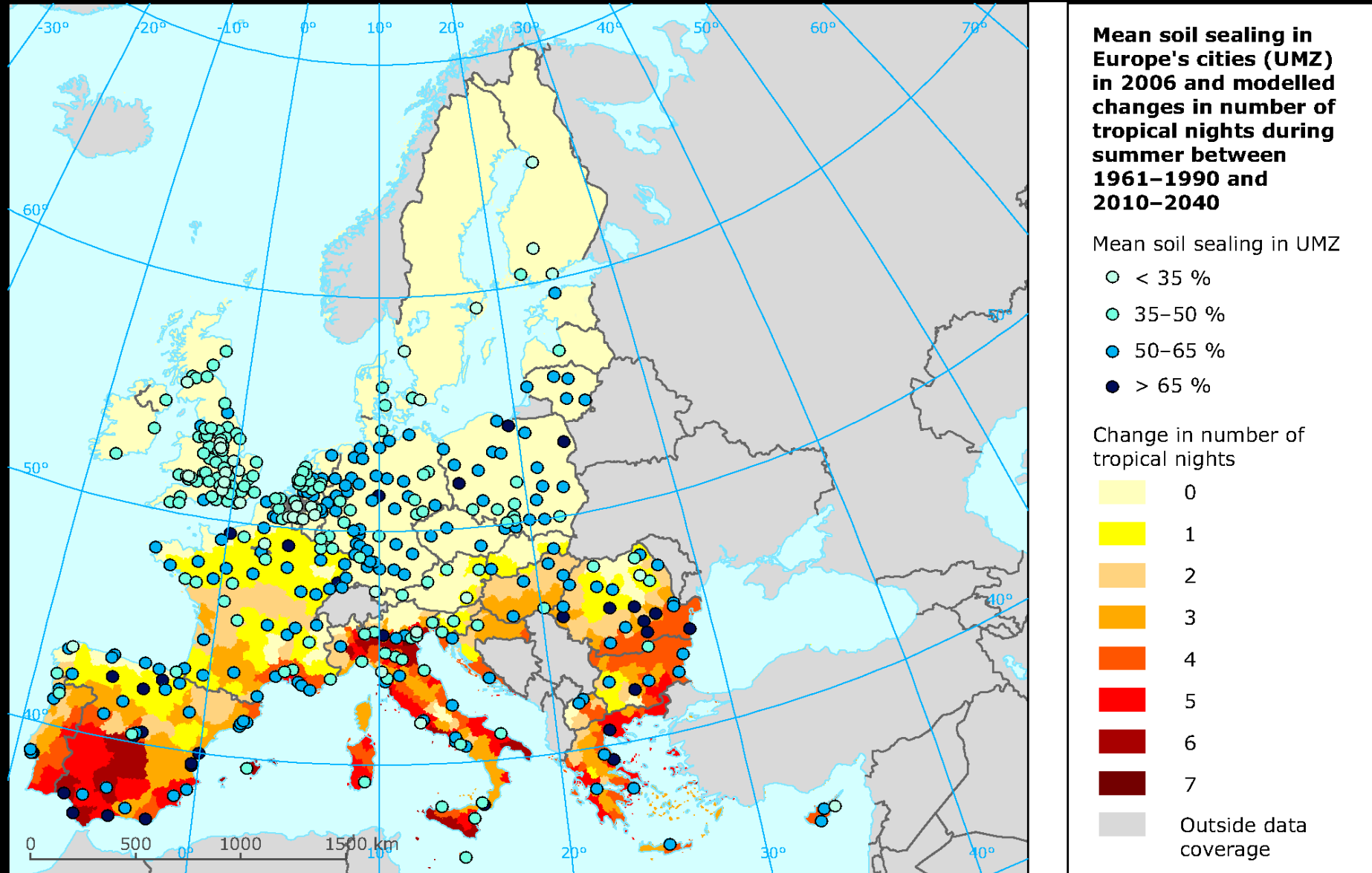


Without (Vs.)

Rapid
urbanisation
and
deforestation
around
Freetown -
Sierra Leone
© Oli Brown:
UNEP: 2011



Soil sealing related to Urban Metropolitan Zones



The Forests that walked with the Cities



Changing needs, changing mind and behaviours

The Forests that walked with the Cities





The Forests that walked with the Cities

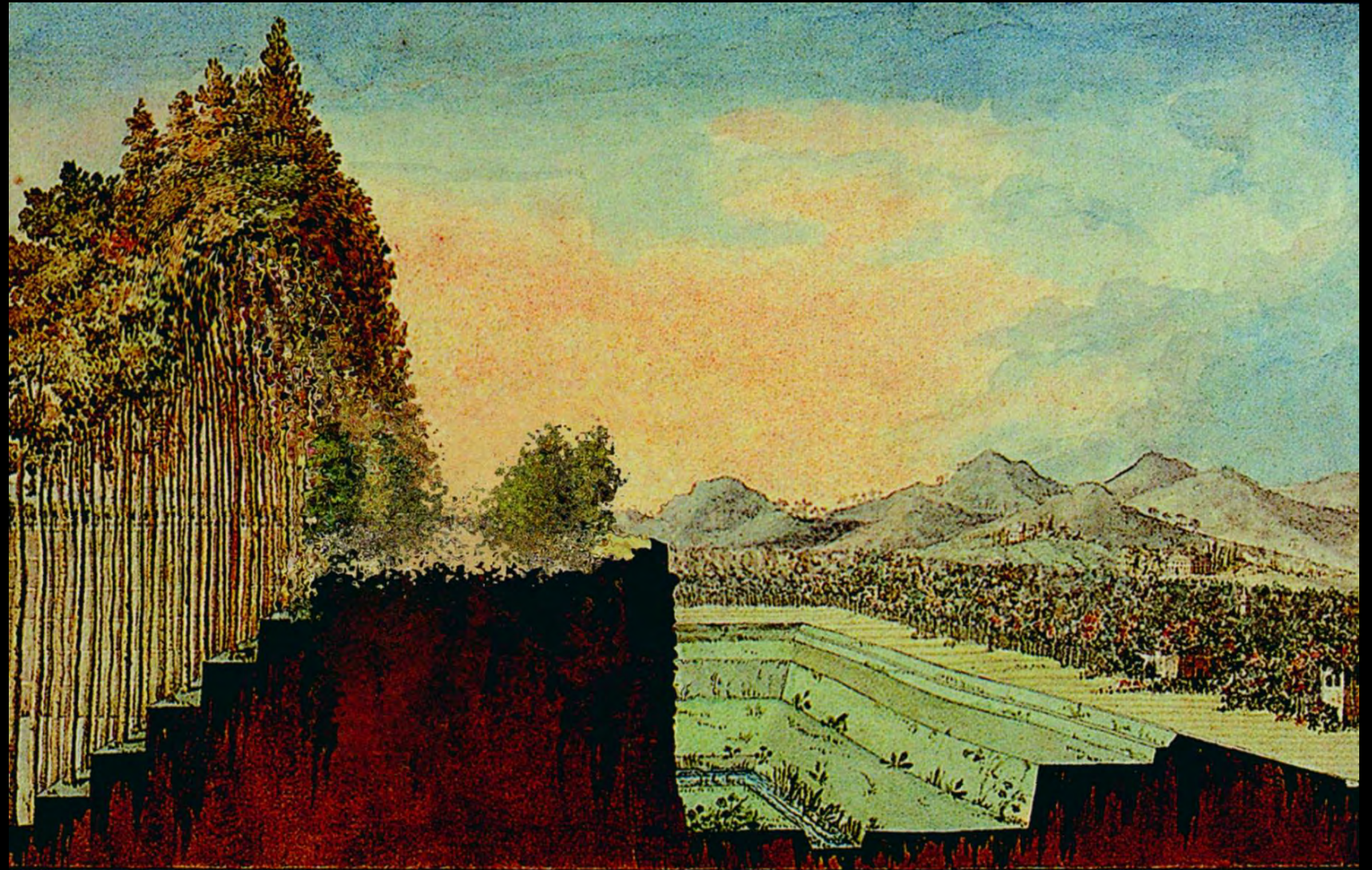


Lucca, The Walls, 16th century

© Alessia Catelli



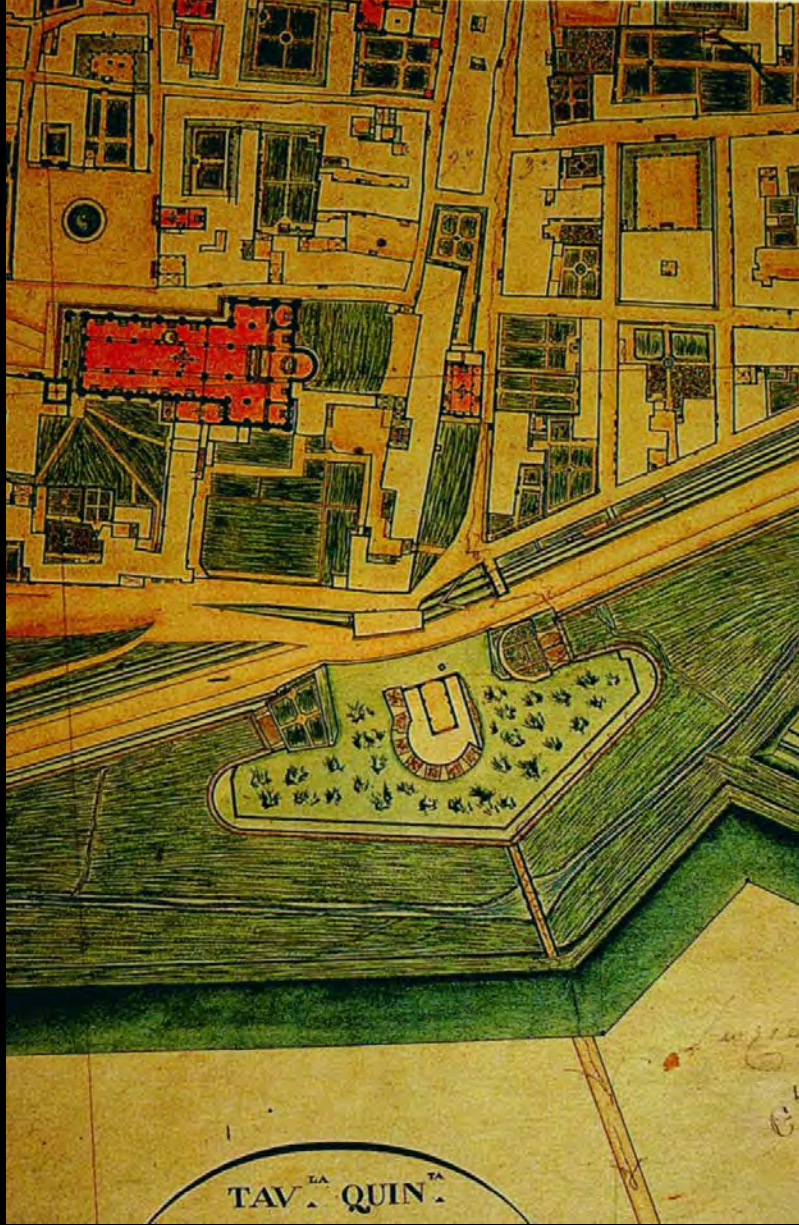
Proto-Nature- Based Solutions?



*Dimostrazione della nuova passeggiata a farsi sulle Mura di Lucca dalla scesa di Porta
S. Donato fino all'altra di Porta S. Pietro*



The Forests that walked with the Cities



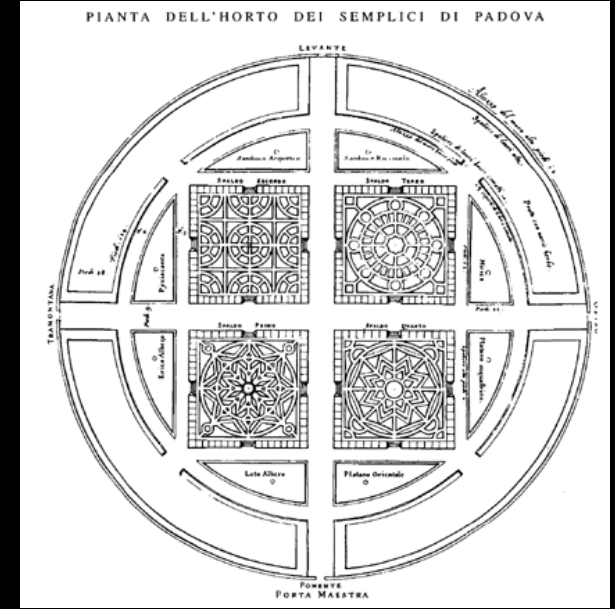
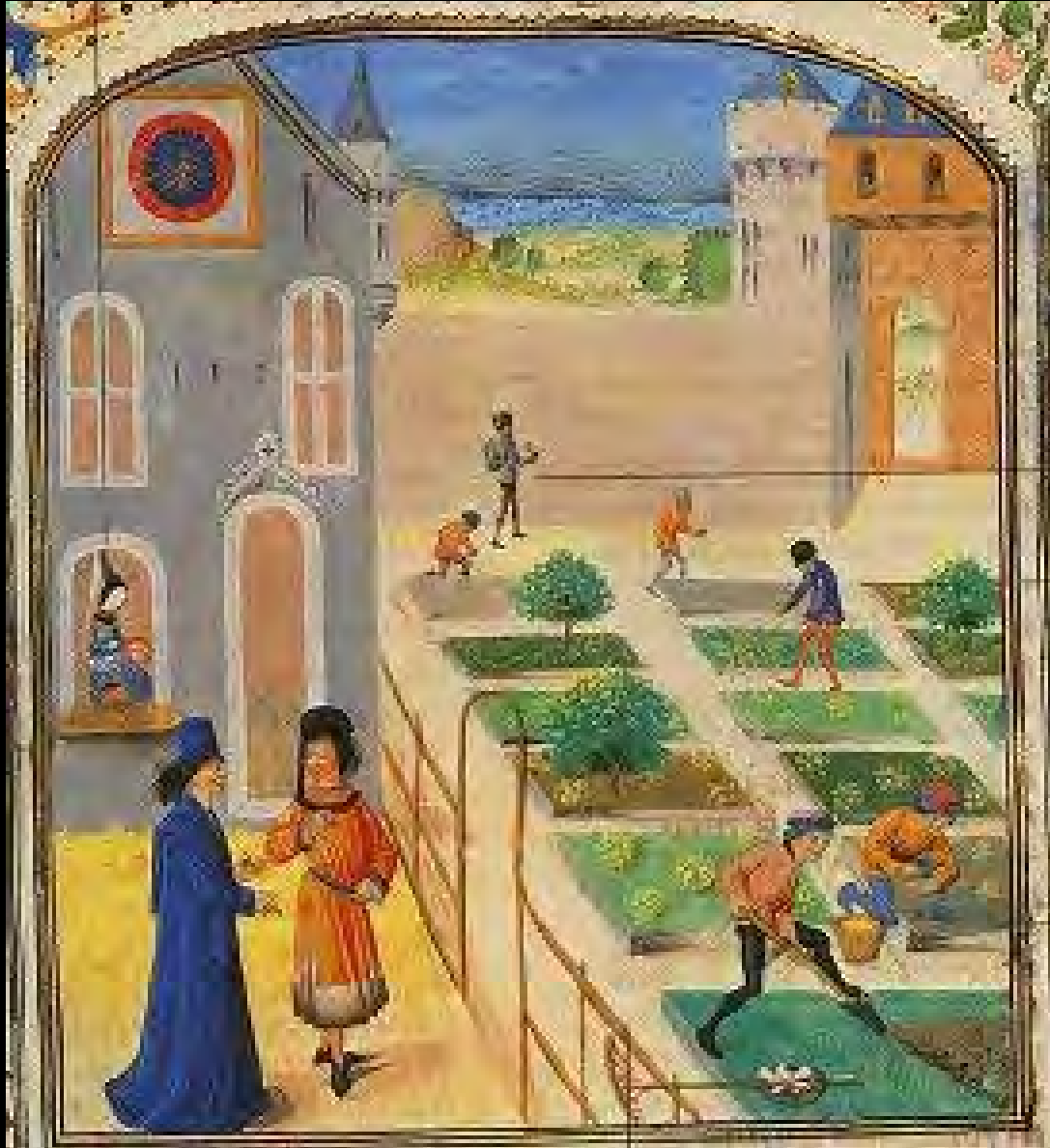
Beliefs and interpretations

From the perspective of a medieval city dweller it would have seem absurd that someone would want to plant a tree in front of a house along the street instead of in a garden behind the house.

The Paradoxe

“a garden in a street is not less absurd than a street in a garden”
(Critical observations on buildings and improvements in London, 1771)

But does a tree is less a urban tree if it is planted in a backyard instead of on a streetwalk?







Simplification

Trees from Temple to Gardens, to square and streets
from Private to Public.

Trees have been used in the public landscape of cities in
two many settings:

1. Spaces for public activities that trees can enhance (e.g. parade routes, areas for recreation, promenades for pedestrians)
2. Trees as extension of private gardens



Cities, gardens,
fruit and shade in
ancient Egypt

19 tree species in the
representation of Ineni
Garden, the architect of
Pharaoh Thutmose I
(1504-1492 B.C.)





Święta Lipa, the Sacred Linden



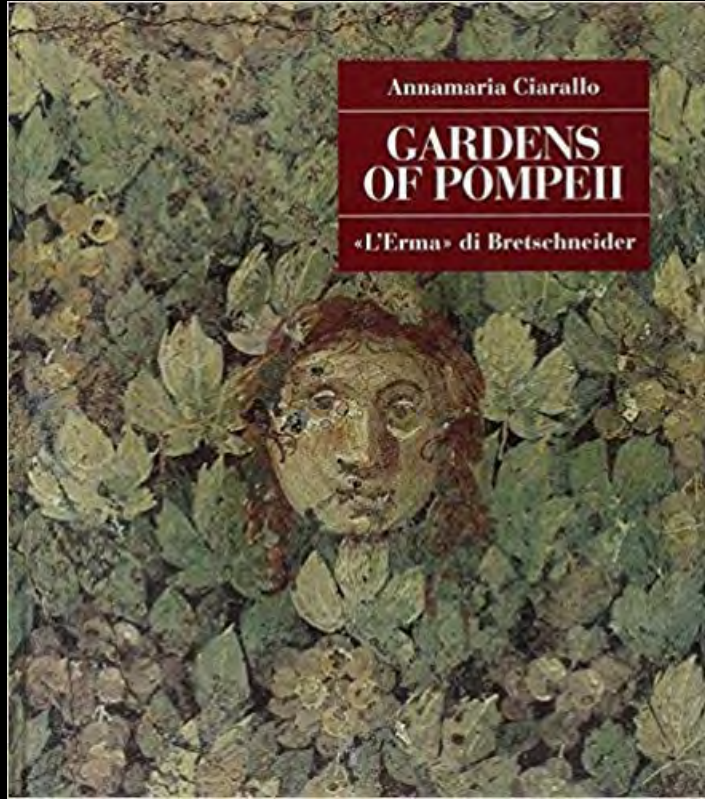
In old Slavic mythology, the lime tree, *Tilia* ssp. was considered a sacred tree. Under the linden tree the town council met, ceremonies were celebrated, judgments were issued. To present, the tree is a national emblem of the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia.

It is also the root for the German city of Leipzig, taken from the Sorbian name lipsk.



The Forests that walked with the Cities

Some Stories in History



The Forests that walked with the Cities

Some Stories in History



Paintings, frescos, narrative records, archeological evidences



The Forests that walked with the Cities

Some Stories in History



Reconstructions on the basis of archeobotany, wood anatomy, anthracology. dendroecology

Vida cotidiana

La sociedad maya estaba muy jerarquizada. Los aristócratas, militares y sacerdotes en la cúpula. Por debajo de ellos estaban los funcionarios y mercaderes. En el último escalafón, campesinos y esclavos que realizaban todo tipo de labores y pagaban un tercio de sus ganancias a la nobleza.

Mercado
El mercado era una zona muy concurrida y tenía su espacio aparte en las ciudades. En él se vendían y cambiaban todo tipo de objetos, cerámicas, utensilios de cocina, ropa o comida. También animales y esclavos. La moneda era el cacao y el jade.

Comida
Además del maíz molido y amasado en forma de tortillas, comían frijoles, pavo y pescado. Los sacerdotes ingerían venado o faisán en las ceremonias.

Hábiles artesanos
La cerámica y tejidos mayas eran de gran belleza. Moldeaban la arcilla con las manos y la ayuda del *kabal*, un trozo de madera cuadrado al que hacían girar con los pies. Luego la secaban en hornos. El algodón, planta textil que cultivaban, les permitía confeccionar tejidos que coloreaban con plantas y resinas. También hacían prendas de lana.

Eternos compañeros
Los perros les ayudaban a cazar. Al morir sus dueños eran enterrados con ellos.

El cultivo de la tierra
Cultivaban en terrenos robados a la selva y en los que talaban previamente todos los árboles. Para abrir surcos utilizaban una vara de madera con el extremo endurecido al fuego. Entre otras cosas plantaban maíz, calabaza, frijoles, chile, tomates y diversos tubérculos.

Juego de la pelota
A medias entre el fútbol y el baloncesto, era un juego ritual que consistía en hacer pasar una pesada pelota de caucho por un círculo de piedra fijado a una pared del terreno. Los jugadores podían golpear el esférico con las caderas y los codos, pero no con las manos ni con los pies. A veces se sacrificaba al capitán del equipo perdedor.

Carta astral
Los recién nacidos eran llevados a un sacerdote que levantaba una astral, basándose en el día del nacimiento, para predecir su destino. Así explicaba a los padres cómo protegerle de las desgracias y qué oficio podría desempeñar. También daba al niño su primer nombre que cambiaría al crecer.

Representación de los dioses jugando a la pelota

Templo principal

Pista del juego de pelota

Palacios y templos

Plaza

Viviendas

Mercado



Representations

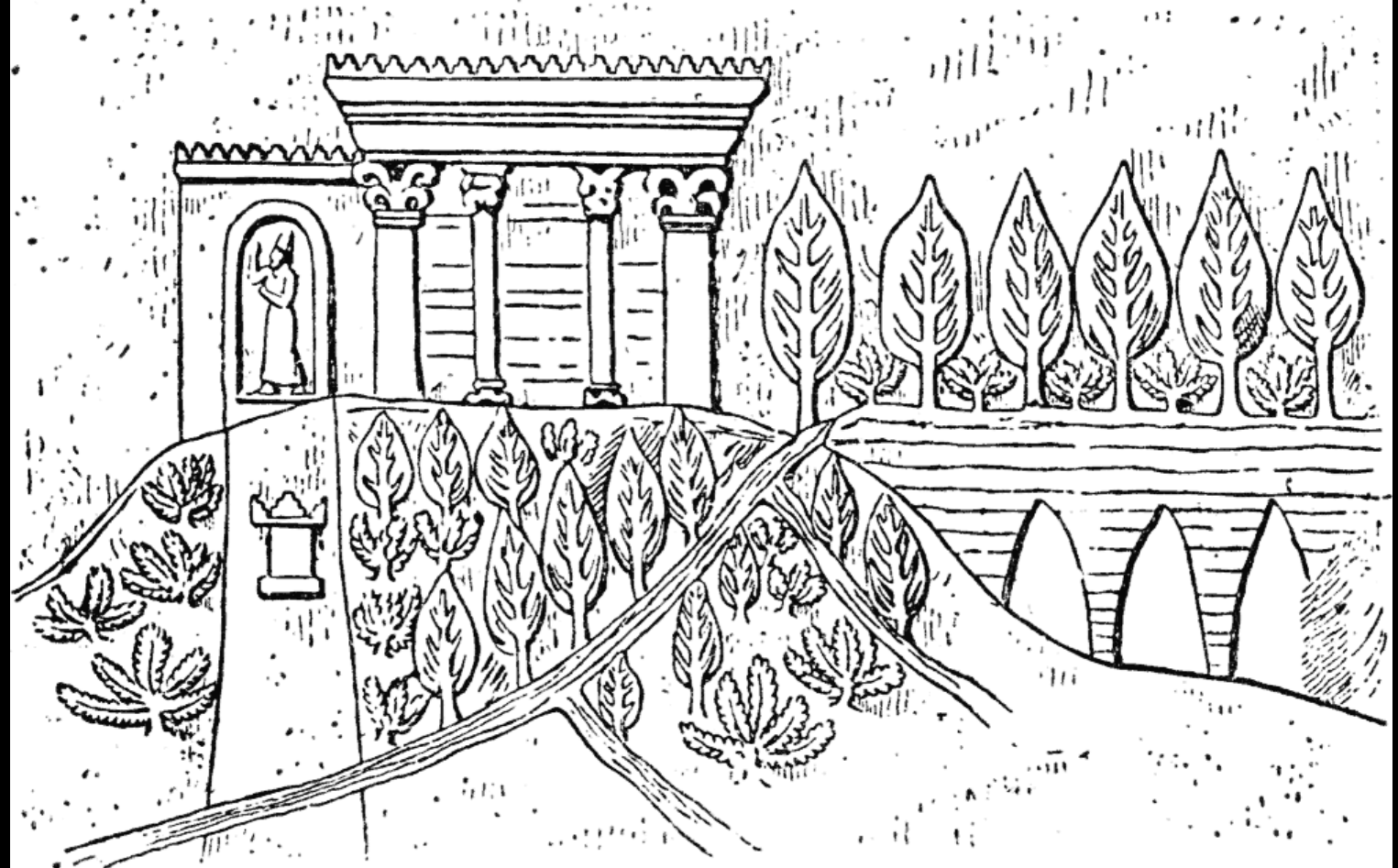
The Gardens of
Babylon:

Myth or reality?



Hanging gardens
or vertical
forests?





This copy of a bas relief from the North Palace of Ashurbanipal (669–631 BC) at Nineveh shows a luxurious garden watered by an aqueduct.



The Forests that walked with the Cities



Pinturicchio, Annunciation,
Baglioni Chapel, Spello 1500-
1501





Alameda desde
un globo 1855
José Maria
Velasco





Georges Seurat, *A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte*, 1884-1886.



Camille Pissarro

Boulevard des
Italiens,
Morning,
Sunlight, 1897





Leon Kroll's "Scene in Central Park" gives viewers the park as he saw it in 1922. It must be winter, or close to it: the landscape is all orange and brown and green amid bare trees.





Leonid Afremov, Night Rainbow



The Forests that walked with the Cities



"City in the Forest"
Atlanta skyline acrylic
painting by E.Lang



Wanlin Kang - Forest Kingdom of East Elf



Tree species diversity



The Forests that walked with the Cities

Cities as cultural landscapes



Nowhere else like in cities Nature meets Culture

History alive: the inheritance beyond the heritage



Public Park of Aleppo a 17 hectares urban park in Aleppo, Syria.

A tale of two cities in Aleppo – The Washington Post, 19 March 2016



People spend time in Aleppo Public Park on the government-held side of the city, left, and the remains of a market in the rebel-held old city of Aleppo. (Photos by Lorenzo Tugnoli/For The Washington Post)



UNESCO Cultural World Heritage sites, cities, trees, forests, green

The Forests that walked with the Cities



18th-Century Royal Palace at Caserta with the Park, Italy



UNESCO WHS_ Royal Palace of Caserta



Criterion (i): The 18th century estate of Caserta is a unique creation of the spirit of the Enlightenment which was able to build buildings of great architectural value, **well set in a natural landscape, according to a broad scale development plan.**

Criterion (ii): The 18th century Royal Palace of Caserta with the park, the Aqueduct Carolino, and the complex of San Leucio are all **important evidence of the interchange of human values, thanks to the broad scale of its original project for an ambitious new town, consisting of imposing buildings, gardens, streets and surrounding natural landscape according to an innovative concept of planning.**



UNESCO WHS Alhambra, Generalife and Albayzín, Granada

The Forests that walked with the Cities



UNESCO WHS Granada

The Forests that walked with the Cities



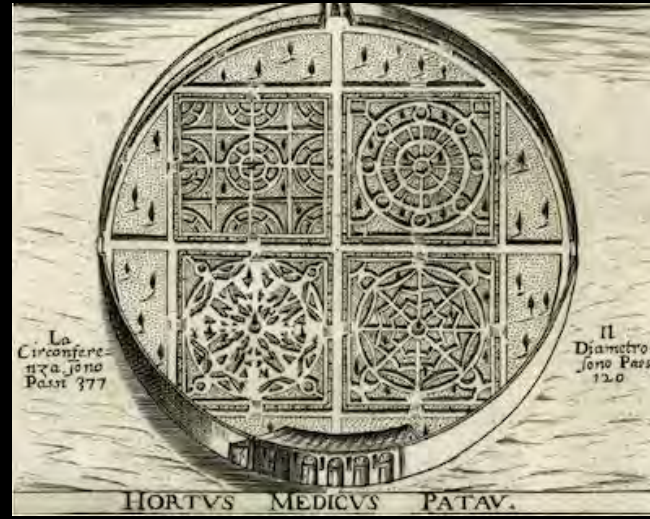
The Committee expressed the wish that, as indicated by the Spanish authorities, a large protection zone will ensure that the visual environment of this property will not be harmed by modern constructions

UNESCO WHS Botanical Garden, Padova

The Forests that walked with the Cities



UNESCO WHS Botanical Garden, Padova



Criterion (ii): The Botanical Garden of Padua has represented a **source of inspiration for many other gardens in Italy and around Europe** and has influenced both their architectural and functional designs and their didactic and scientific approaches in medicinal plants studies and related disciplines.

Criterion (iii): For more than five centuries, the Botanical Garden of Padua has represented **an exceptional testimony of scientific and cultural significance.**

SOFO 2018

Assessing the role of UFT in World Heritage Cultural Sites of UNESCO

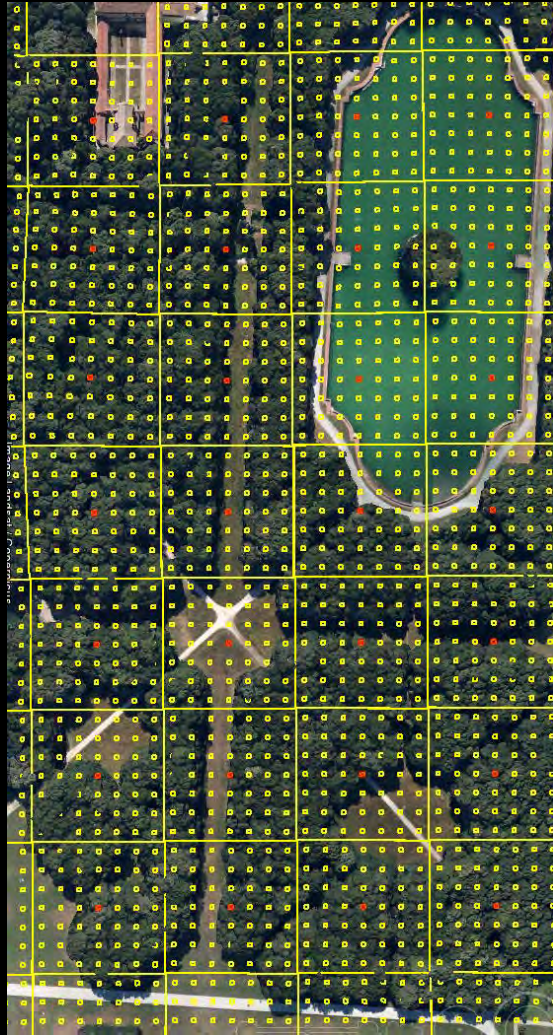


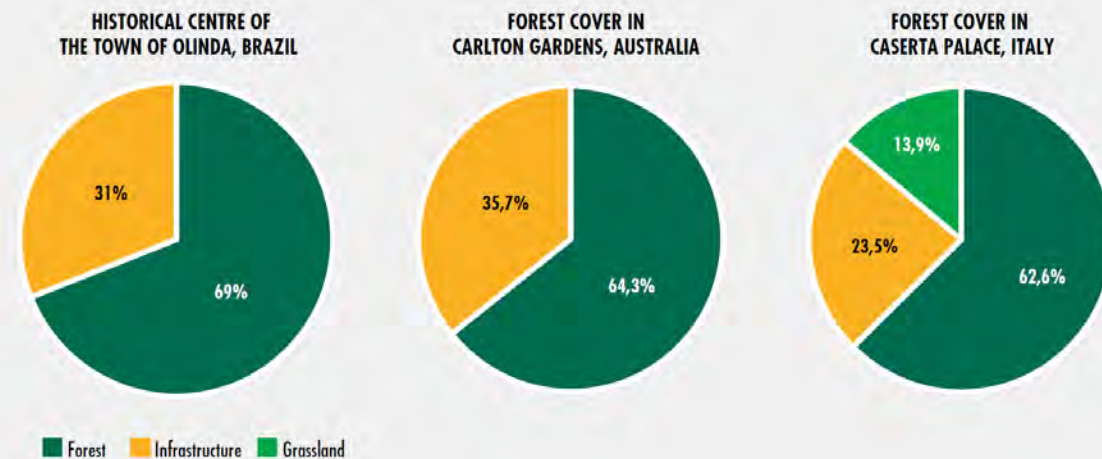
TABLE 4
PERCENTAGE OF URBAN WORLD HERITAGE SITES (WHS) THAT INCLUDE NATURAL ELEMENTS AS A KEY COMPONENT

	a	b	Total urban WHS
Africa (sub-Saharan)	12	18	15
Asia Pacific	12	16	54
Europe	11	13	224
Latin America and the Caribbean	8	11	54
North America	0	0	6
Near East & North Africa	13	13	31
World	11	13	384

a. Frequency (%) of urban WHS with the key words "trees, forest, gardens, park, man-nature" in the selection criteria.

b. Frequency (%) of urban WHS with the key words "trees, forest, gardens, park, man-nature" in the Description or Management sections of Statements of Outstanding Universal Value.

SOURCE: UNESCO, 2017.



Or, again, simply telling a story



Le Consulat et l'Empire

1. Contexte
Après la chute de la monarchie absolue de Louis XVI, le général Bonaparte profite d'une querelle entre les membres du Directoire, qui dirige alors la France, pour faire un coup d'État (le «18 Brumaire»). Il se fait nommer «Premier consul» et instaure une dictature personnelle qui est tout de même, car les Français sont fatigués des défordres de la Révolution.

2. Une nouvelle monarchie
L'Empereur a plus de pouvoirs qu'aucun roi de France. Il donne des honneurs à tous les postes. Les élections ne sont pas libres.

3. L'Empire
Pour garantir la France, le Premier consul fait la paix avec les catholiques interdits sous la Révolution. Pour cela, il négocie avec le pape un traité qui restitue à l'Église française une certaine liberté et permet à Napoléon de la contrôler. Il remet de l'ordre dans les lois grâce au Code civil, crée la fonction de préfet et les lycées, lance une nouvelle monnaie en argent, le franc.

4. Le règne
Pour faire oublier les crises (de nouvelles populations depuis les effets de la Révolution), Napoléon veut créer une nouvelle dynastie. Il se fait sacrer empereur des Français à Paris le 2 décembre 1804. Il donne des royaumes ou duchés à ses frères et sœurs. Fait de nombreux collaborateurs et généraux une nouvelle noblesse.

Dans le cadre de l'opération "200 ARBRES POUR RETROUVER NOS RACINES" L'Association A.R.B.R.E.S. a attribué, en l'an 2003, le label

"ARBRE REMARQUABLE DE FRANCE"

pour le travail accompli par la municipalité du PORGE, afin d'entretenir, préserver et sauvegarder.

LE PLATANE de L'Eglise du Porge

ARBRE REMARQUABLE DE FRANCE

Nom latin: *PLATANUS X ACERIFOLIA WILLD*
Age estimé: environ 130 ans
Dimensions: circonférence de 4m75

"LES ARBRES REMARQUABLES FONT PARTIE DU PATRIMOINE COLLECTIF ET DOIVENT ETRE PRESERVES EN TANT QUE TELS"

ASSOCIATION A.R.B.R.E.S. (ARBRES REMARQUABLES DE FRANCE)



e.g. a story of a «serial planter» in Europe

... but that's another history



Thanks for your attention