

LEQ: From what continent were the first immigrants to North America?



This image shows the seven continents of the world. North America is on the left. This image is courtesy of pinterest.

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Asia



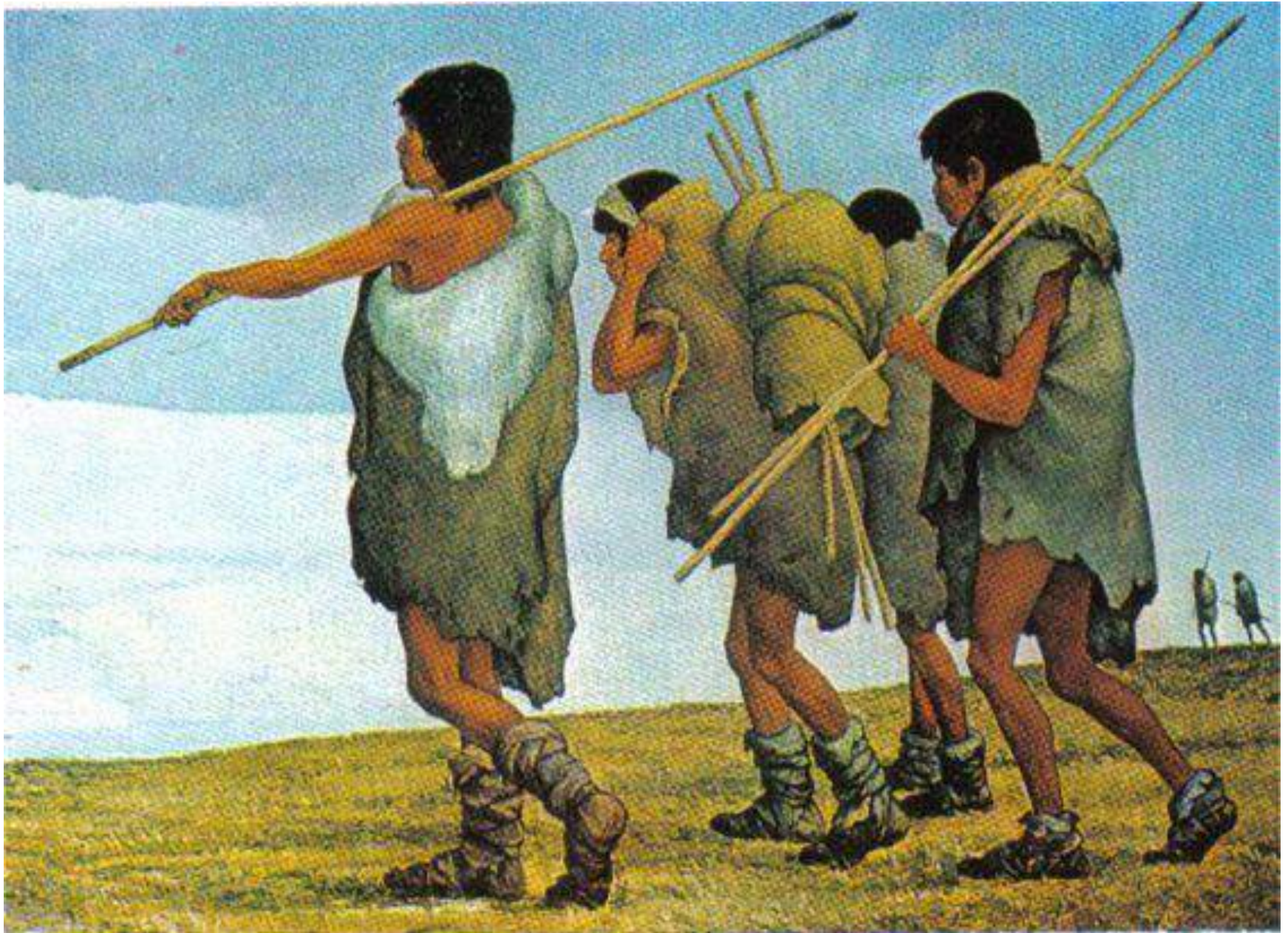
The continent of Asia is now colored red. This image shows the seven continents of the world. This image is courtesy of pinterest.

“New World” Beginnings



This is a surviving fragment of the Piri Reis World map showing the central America and South America shores. This map was created (circa 1467- circa 1554). This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Anywhere from 14,000-72,000 years ago, Asians came to the Americas.



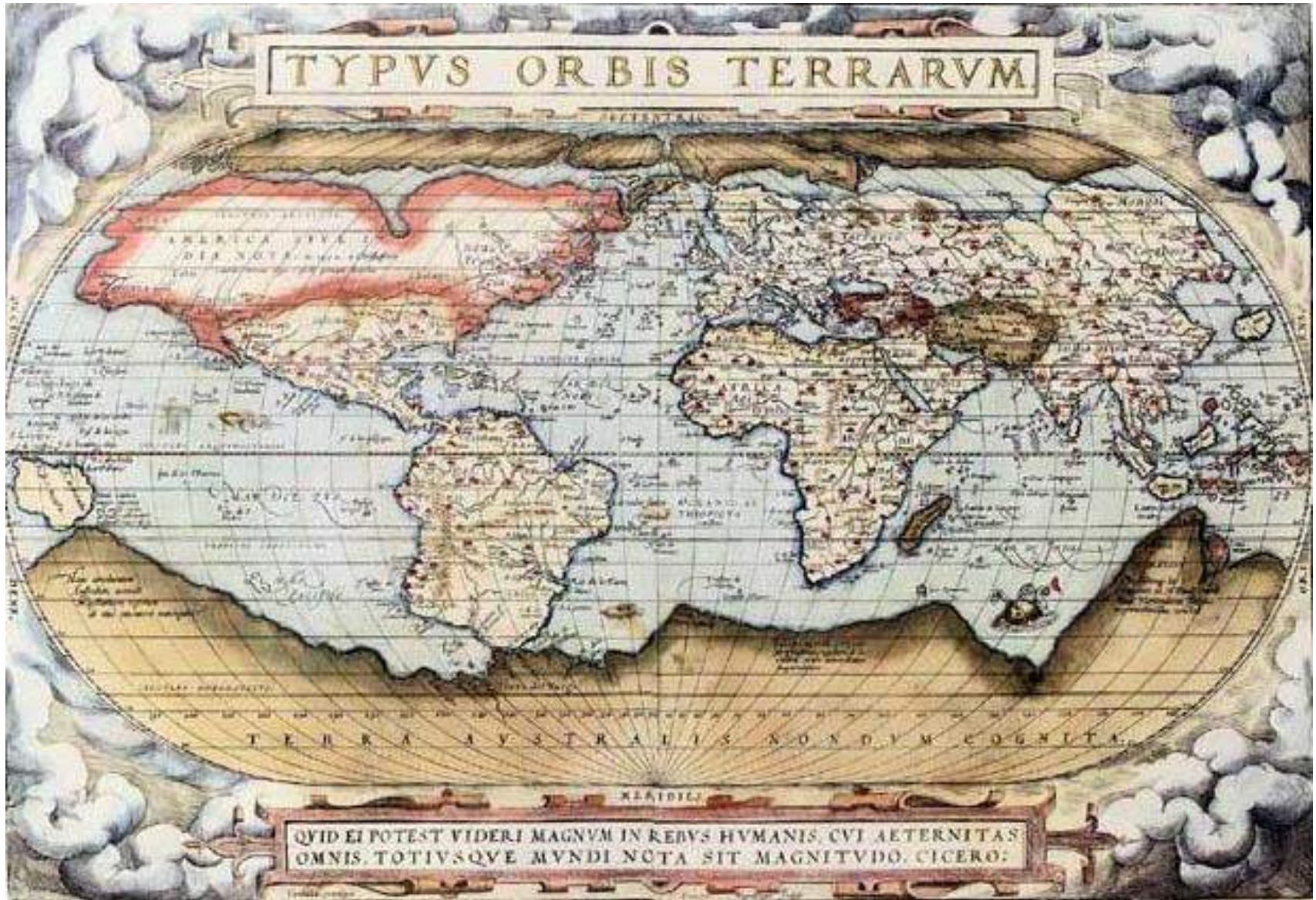
The early immigrants to America are known as the Clovis people. This image is courtesy historyofamerica.info

They probably traveled from Asia to North America in the area of the Bering Strait.



They traveled across a land bridge no longer exists between the two continents. This image is courtesy of the United States Geological Society.

There is evidence that as many as a dozen other visits between the Americas and other continents...



The first modern atlas, titled the "Theatre of the World" was created by Abraham Ortelius (1527-1598). This image shows his World Map of 1570. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

...occurred before Christopher Columbus arrived in 1492.



This painting is titled *Landing of Columbus*. It was created by John Vanderlyn (1775-1852) in 1846. This painting was placed in the rotunda of the United States Capitol in 1847. This image is courtesy of the Architect of the Capitol.

Some evidence for these visits/migrations to North America is stronger than others.



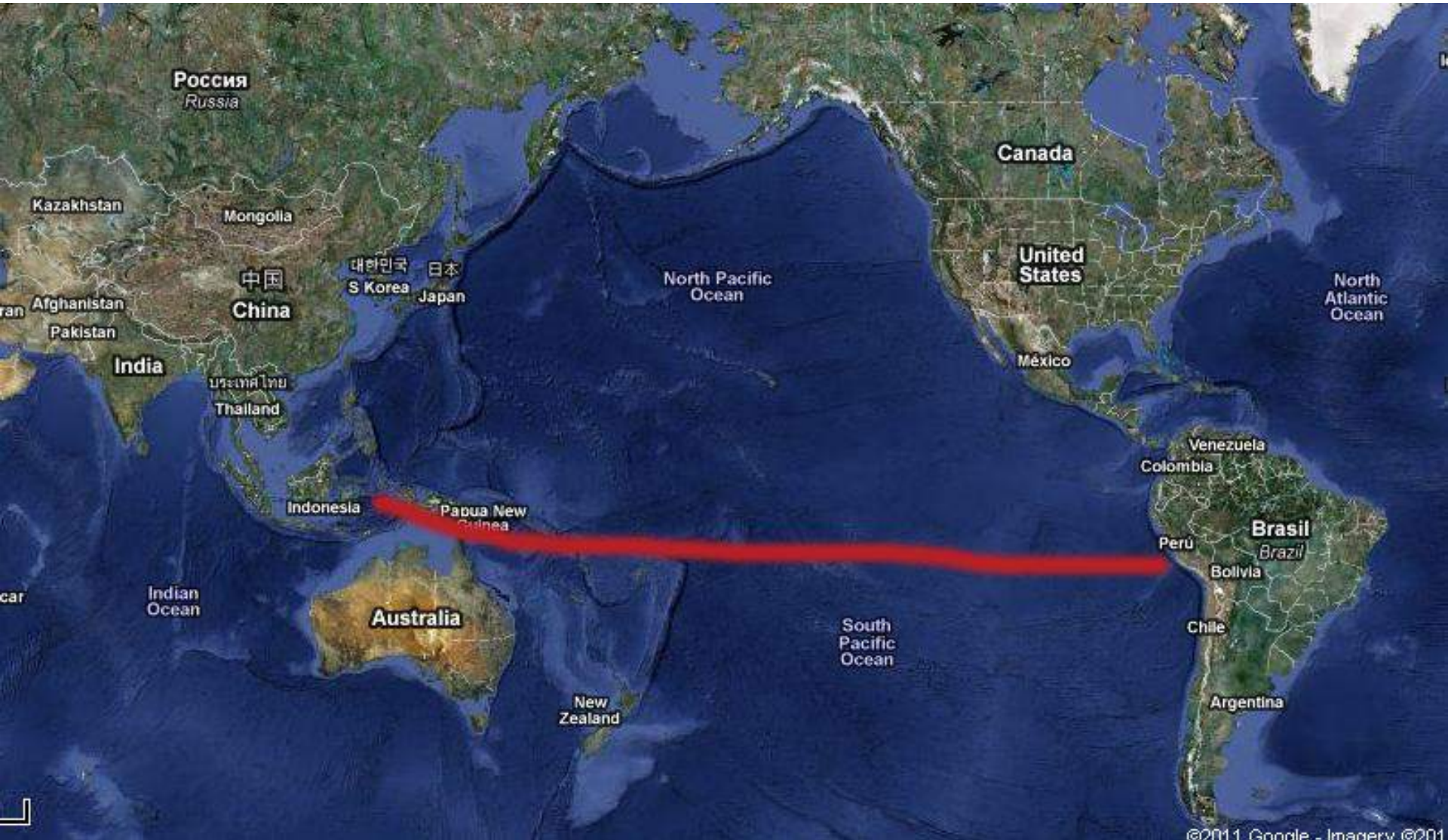
This image shows a Norwegian silver penny minted between 1065 and 1080 A.D./C.E. It was found in the State of Maine. This image is courtesy of the Maine State Museum.

Some of the moderate to strong evidence for early immigration includes:



This map is titled "The Skalholt Map of Greenland." It was created by Biorn Jonsen in 1669. On the map he attempts to combine cartographic knowledge with stories conveyed in the Vinland Sagas. This image is courtesy of Det Kongelige Bibliotek.

Some historians believe that between 3500 and 8000 years ago, Indonesians and South Americans were familiar with each other.



This image shows a red line connecting Indonesia to the western coast of South America. This image was created circa 2011. This image is courtesy of Google.com.

Although Indonesia and South America are located very far from each other, there are similarities in their blow guns, paper making, and other crafts.



This photograph shows a man in Indonesia using a blow gun. This image was taken circa 1920. This image is courtesy of the Tropenmuseum of the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT).

Some historians believe that approximately 7000 years ago the Japanese visited Ecuador.



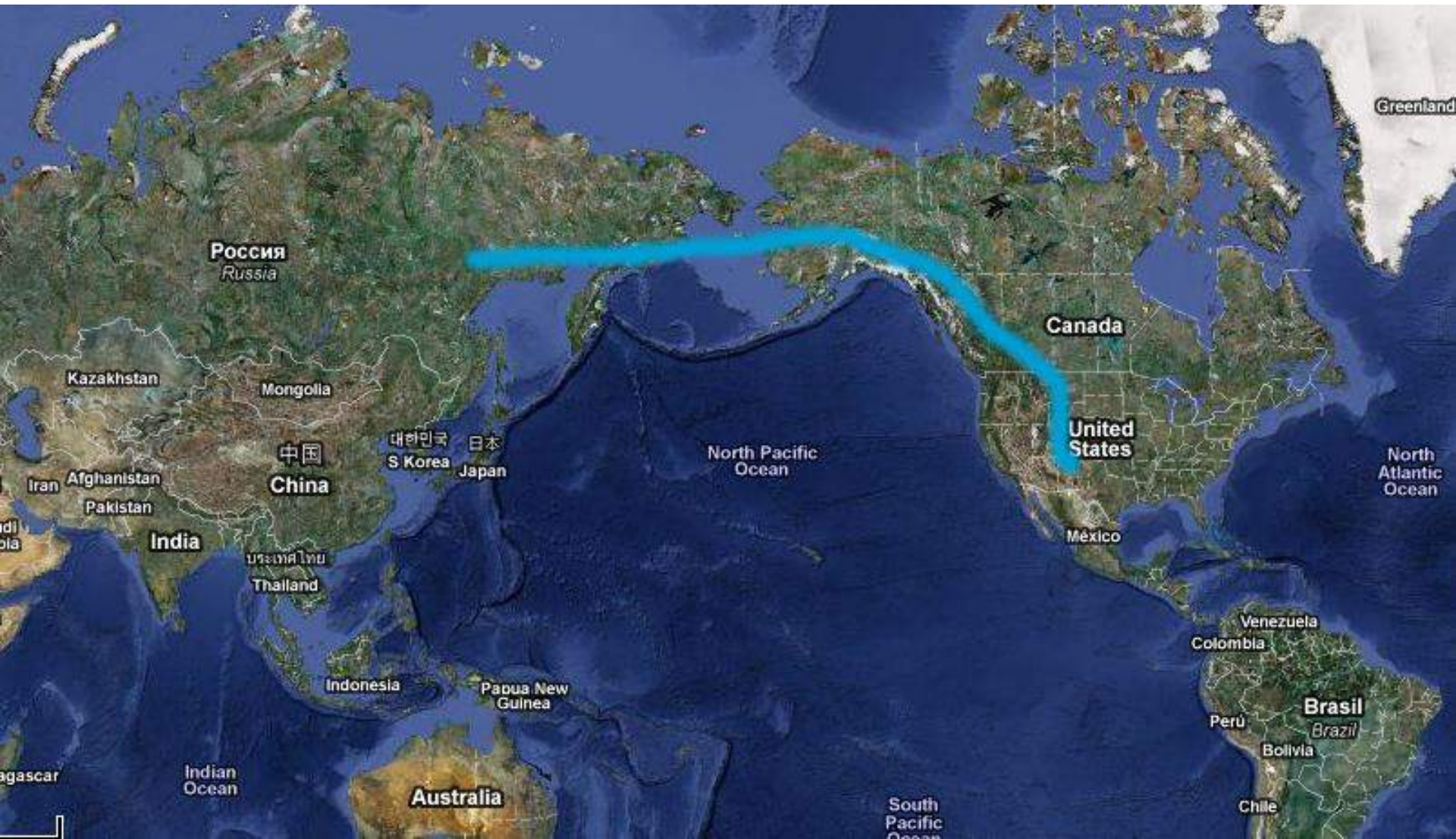
This image shows a yellow line connecting Japan to the eastern coast of Ecuador. This image was created circa 2011. This image is courtesy of Google.com.

Although Japan and Ecuador are located thousands of miles from each other, they have similar pottery and fishing styles.



This photograph shows Japanese pottery from the Jomon period (10,000 BC to 300 BC). Similar pottery has been found in the Valdivia culture of Ecuador. This image is courtesy of Suntory Museum.

Some historians believe that approximately 7000 years ago the
Crees from Siberia visited/migrated to New Mexico.



This image shows a blue line connecting Siberia to the current state of New Mexico. This image was created circa 2011. This image is courtesy of Google.com.

The historians believe this because the Navajos in New Mexico are genetically different from other Native American groups in the U.S. and culturally resemble the Crees.



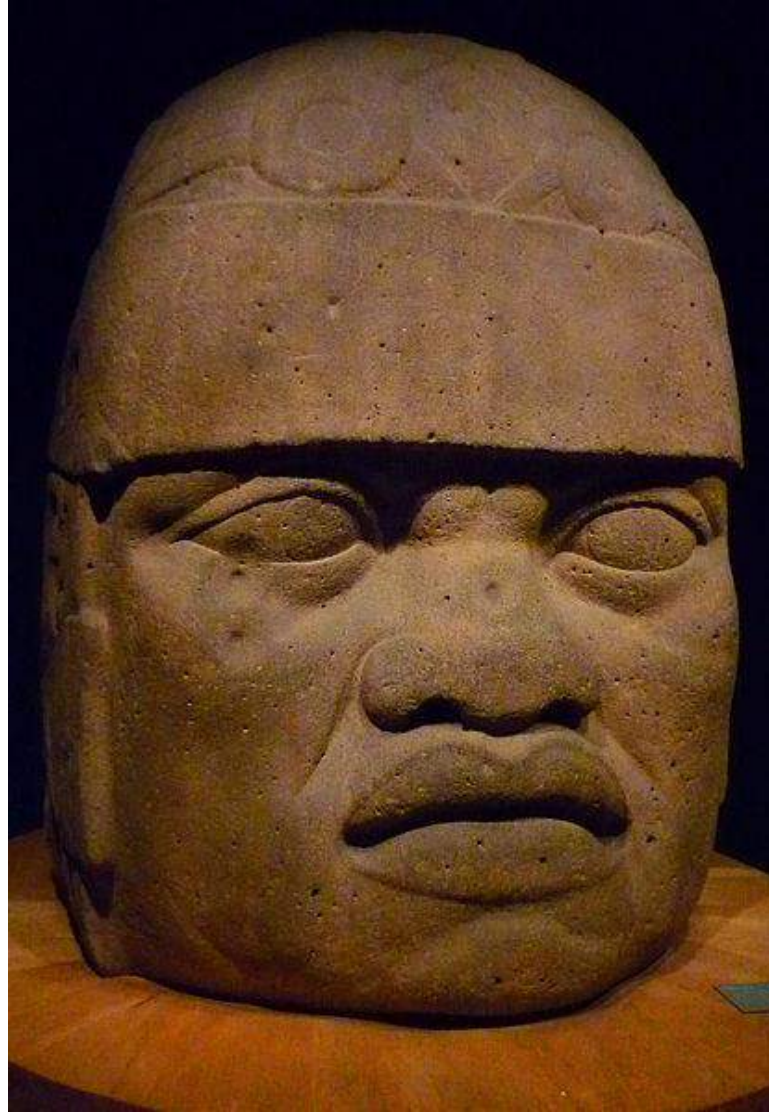
This photograph shows a Cree Camp in Alberta Canada circa 1871. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

A very small number of historians believe that approximately 2600 years ago, Phoenicians from North Africa visited Central America.



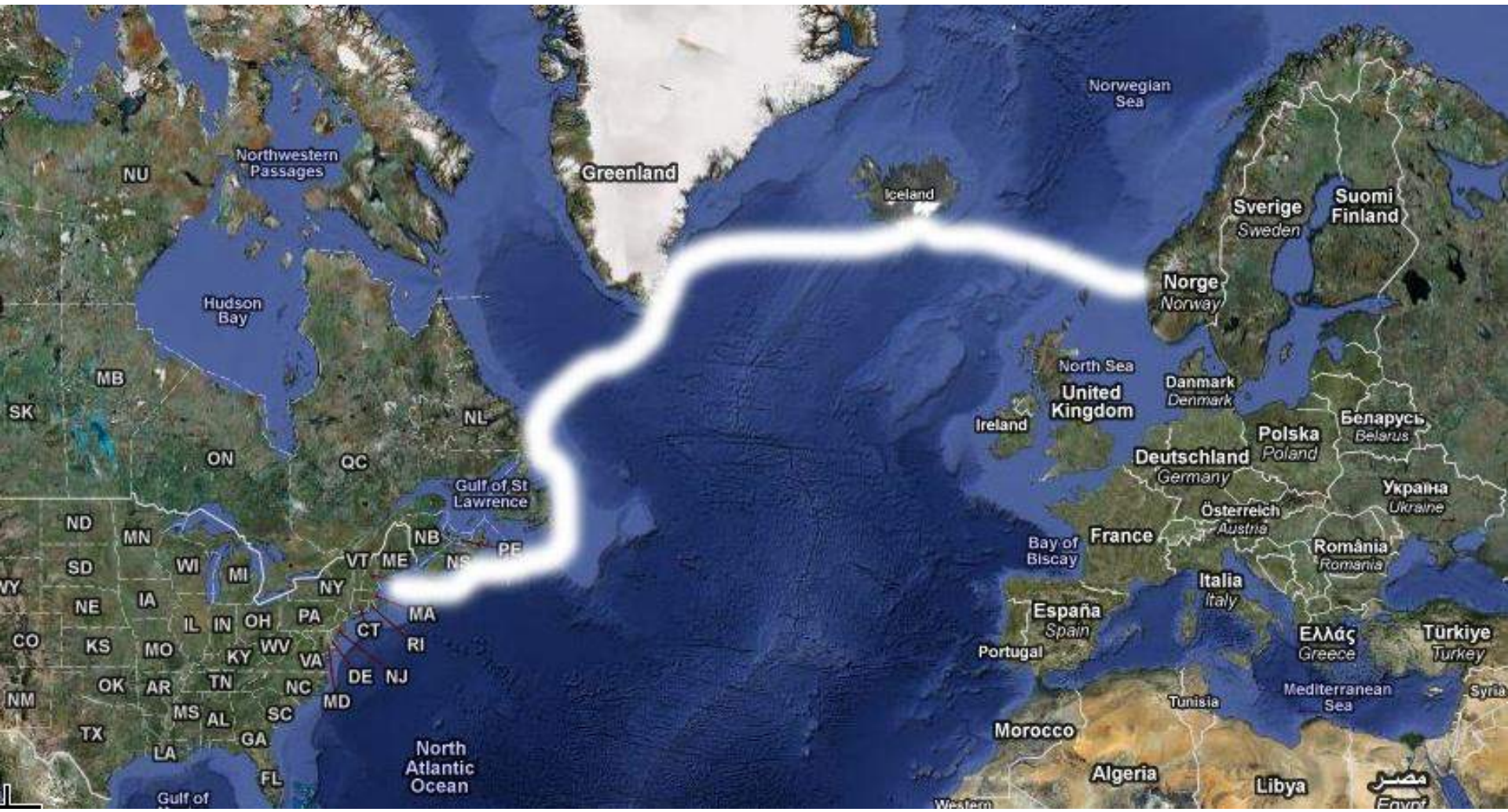
This image shows a white line connecting Phoenicia on the right to Central America on the left. This image was created circa 2011. This image is courtesy of Google.com.

That small number of historians believe in the Phoenicia to Central America migration because there are Negroid and Caucasoid likenesses in sculpture and ceramics in Central America, and some Arab history in Central America writings.



However, claims of pre-Columbian contacts with Africa are rejected by the vast majority of archeologists and other Mesoamerican scholars. This image shows one of the Colossal Heads of Olmec found in south-central Mexico. This one might have African features. The sculpture was made approximately 2500 years ago. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Most historians believe that approximately 800 years ago, Vikings or Norsemen from Scandinavia explored what is now Canada and possibly New England.



This image shows a white line connecting Norway on the right to North America on the left. This image was created circa 2011. This image is courtesy of Google.com.

The Vikings' explorations would take them to Iceland, Greenland, Canada, and possibly to New England.



This painting is titled "Leif Ericson Discovering America." It was created by Christian Krogh (1852-1925) in 1893. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Over time the Vikings' settlements were abandoned and their North American discoveries were forgotten.



This photograph shows a recreated Norse Log House at L'Anse aux Meadows, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada. This photograph was taken by D. Gordon E. Robertson and is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

We have word of the Vikings' visits passed down in oral stories, and songs. We also have archaeological evidence.



This photograph shows a copper alloy ring headed pin of Norse design. Found at L'Anse aux Meadows. It has been greatly magnified. Pins such as these were used to close the outer garments of both men and women. This image is courtesy of the University of Pittsburgh.

A few historians believe that approximately 650 years ago, Polynesians visited Chile.



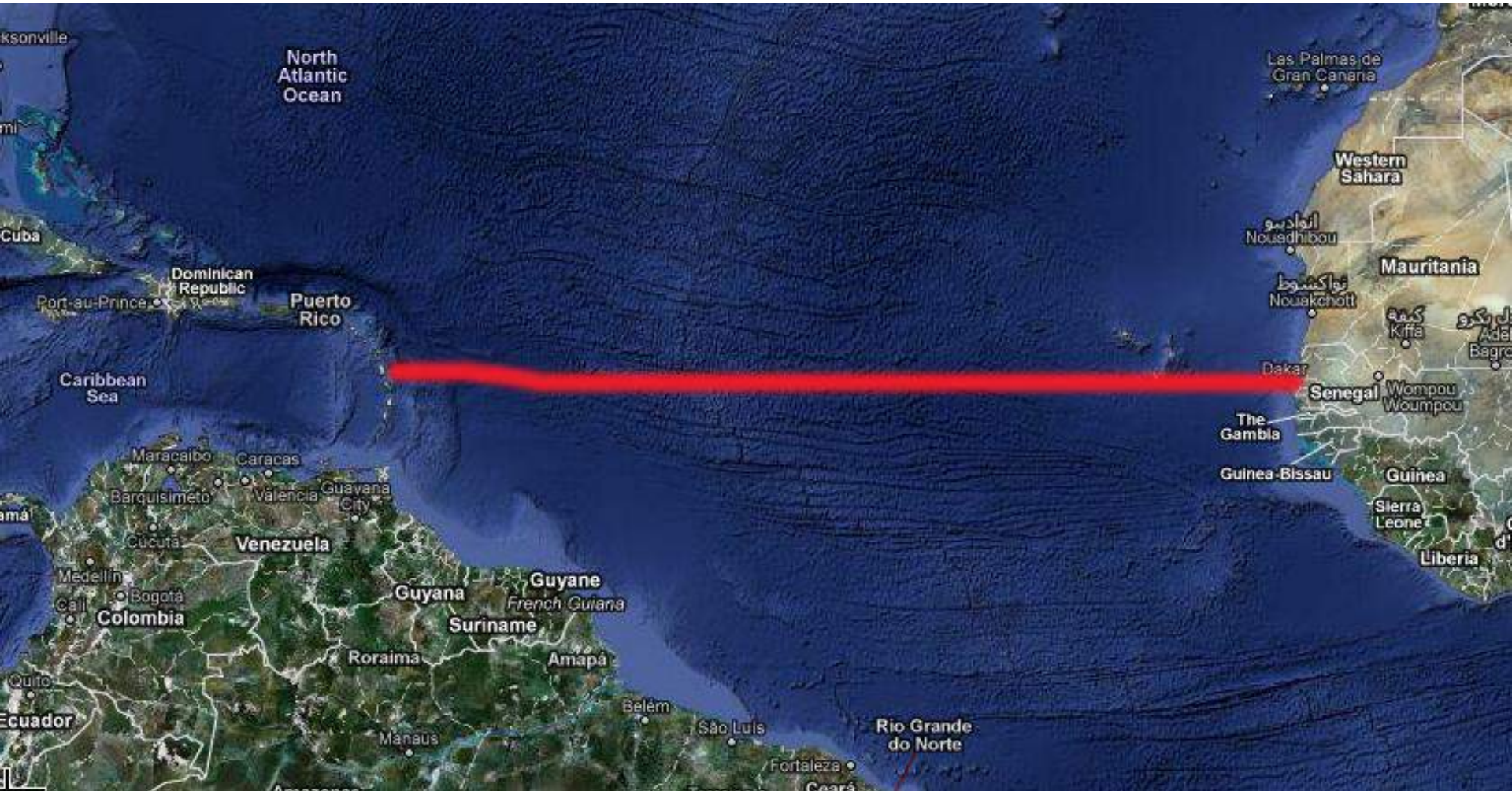
This image shows a red line connecting the small islands of Polynesia on the left to Chile on the right. This image was created circa 2011. This image is courtesy of Google.com.

Those historians believe in the Polynesian visit to Chile because there are chicken bones with the DNA of Polynesian chickens before the Spanish arrived and both cultures have similar fishhooks.



This photograph shows a chicken bone discovered in Chile with DNA matching Polynesian chickens. This image is courtesy of the Archaeological Institute of America.

Some historians believe that 700 years ago West Africans visited Central America, South America, and the Caribbean.



This image shows a red line connecting West Africa on the right to Caribbean islands on the left. This image was created circa 2011. This image is courtesy of Google.com.

Those historians believe in the West African migration to the Americas because of Portuguese sources in West Africa, stories from natives in Haiti to Columbus, and stories from natives in Panama to the Spanish explorer Balboa.



This painting shows Christopher Columbus arriving in the New World. His ships, the Santa Maria, the Nina, and the Pinta are in the background. This image is courtesy of landofthebrave.info.

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“Modern” American history begins approximately 500 hundred years ago, when the American continents were “discovered” by Columbus.



This portrait of Christopher Columbus (1450-1506) was painted Sebastiano del Piombo (circa 1485-1547) in 1519. This image is courtesy of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and of Wikimedia Commons.

Increased European literacy and the printing press allowed news of Columbus' journey to spread much faster than those who came to the Americas before him.



At left in the foreground, a printer removes a printed page from the press. The printer at right is inking the plate. In the background, compositors are using cast type. This image was produced by Jose Amman (1539-1591) in 1568. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Therefore, in some people's minds, Columbus receives the credit for "discovering" the Americas which were already populated.



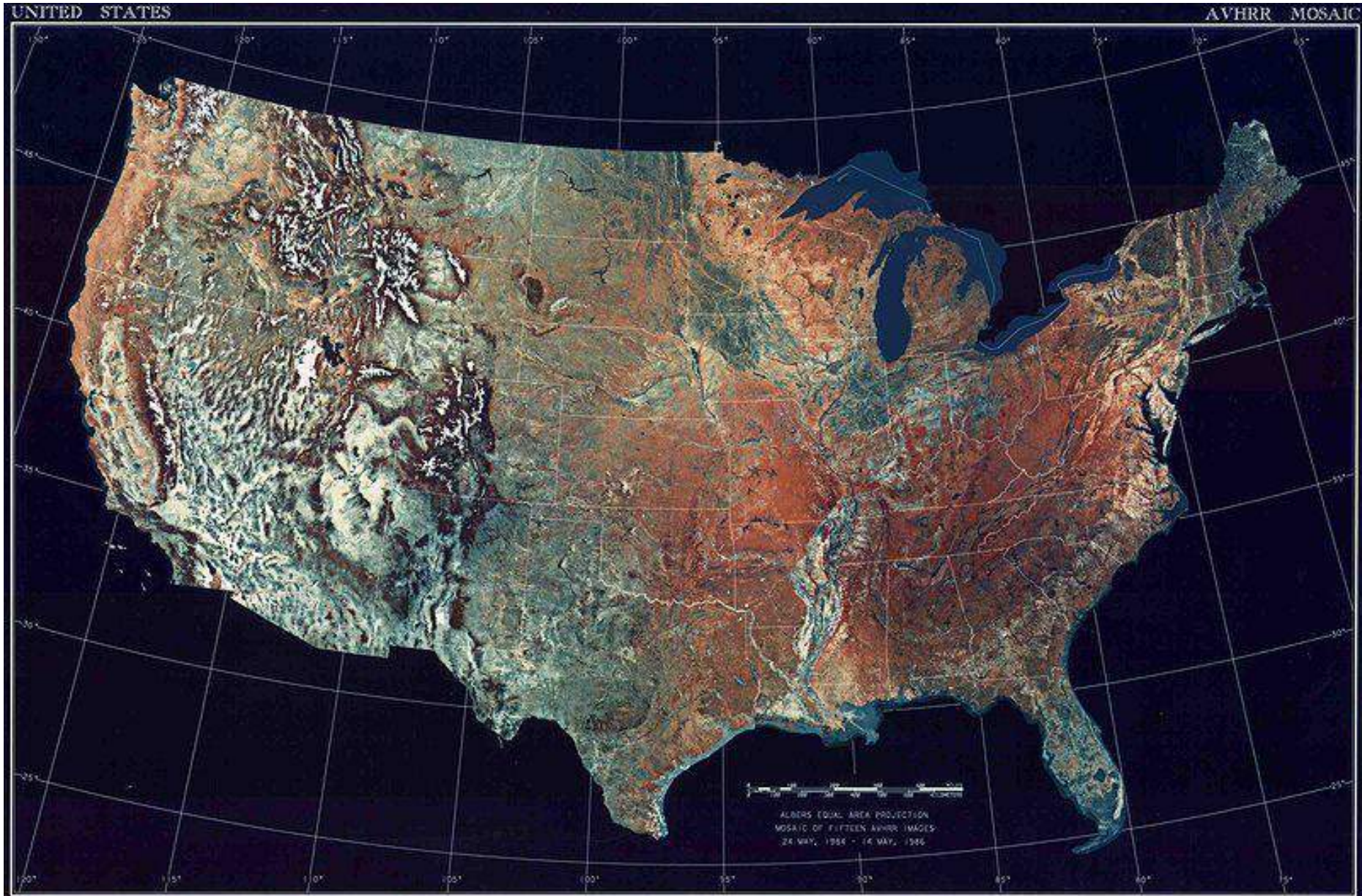
This image shows Christopher Columbus with Native Americans, whom he called Indians because he thought he had landed in India. This image was created by D. K. Bonatti (active 1720-1780) and Giulio Ferrario (1767-1847) circa 1827 for "Il Costume Antico e Moderno..." This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

North and South America eventually were the home of many countries.



This is a political map of the countries in North America and South America. This image was created by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

The most influential country in the Americas was the United States.



This is a satellite image of the 48 contiguous states of the United States. This image was taken on February 5, 2008. This image is courtesy of the National Climactic Data Center/NOAA Satellite and Information Service.

The United States has influenced other parts of the world with its:



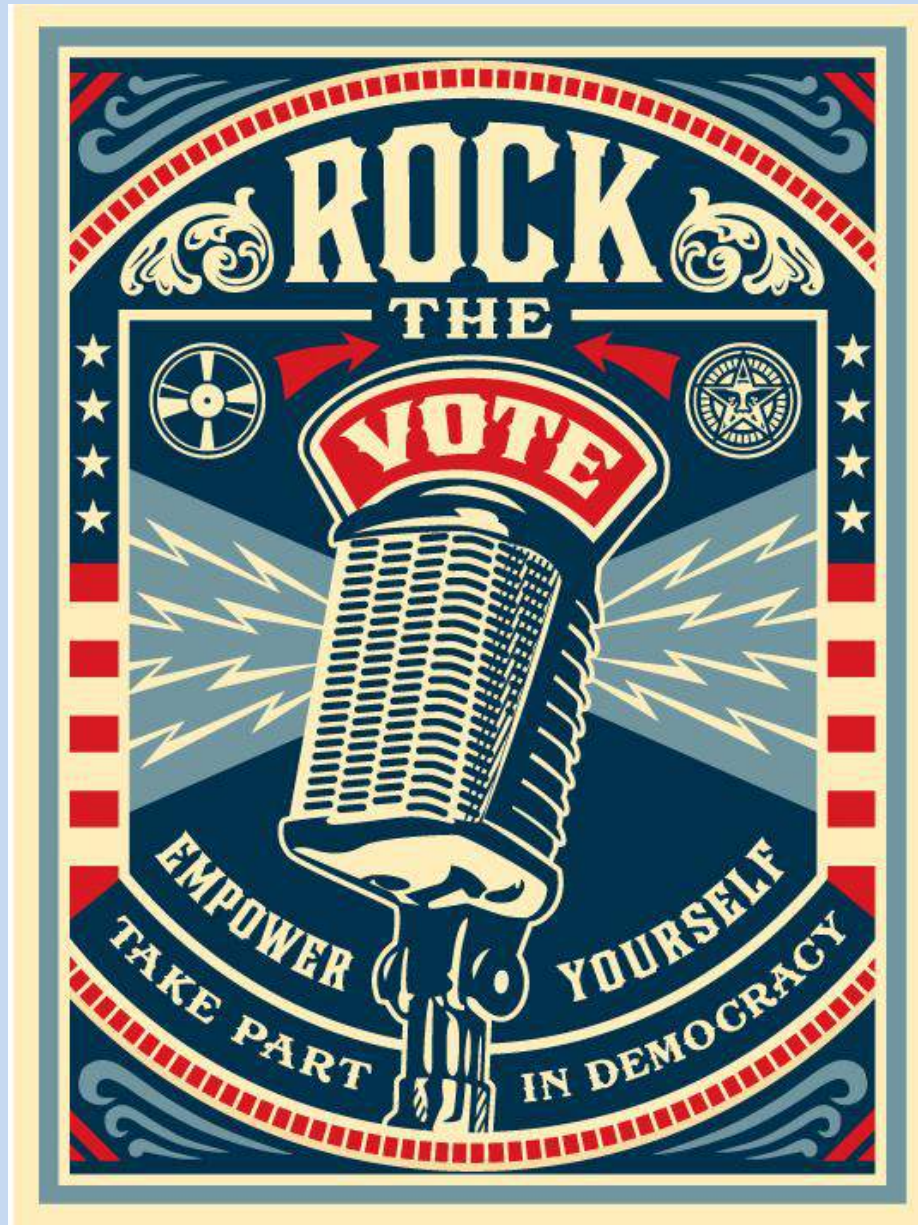
This satellite image shows the United States and North America. This image is courtesy of maps.google.com.

...Humanitarian goals...



This image shows one of the most familiar symbols of the United States, the Liberty Bell, located in Independence National Historic Park in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This image was taken by Robert Housch on July 30, 2009.

...democratic ideas...



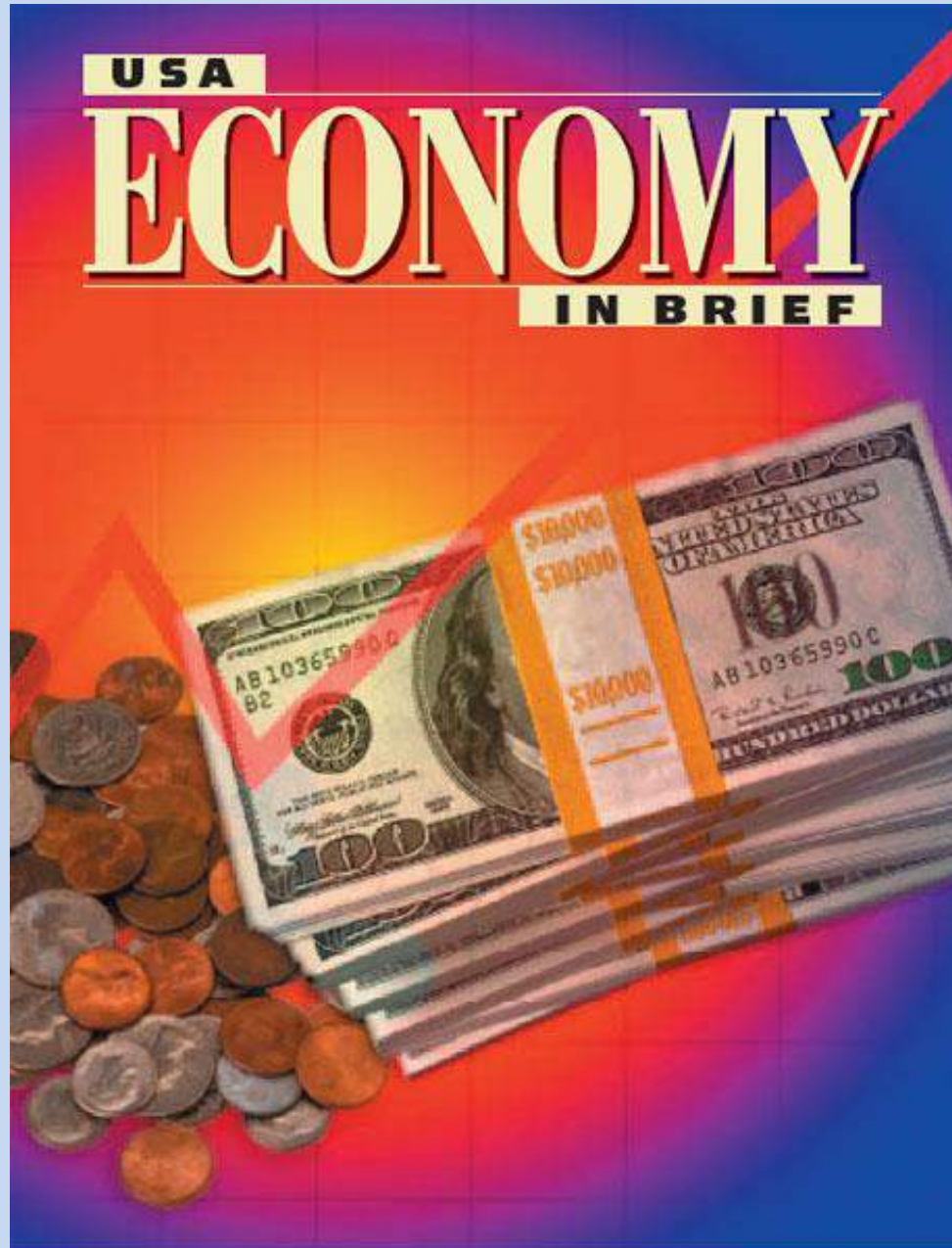
“Rock the Vote” is a non-profit organization whose stated mission is to “engage and build the political power of young people.” This image is courtesy of rockthevote.com.

...aid for the mistreated and for the poor of other lands...



This image shows Germans in West Berlin watching an American C-54 cargo plane bringing food and other supplies land at Berlin Tempelhof Airport, 1948. The Soviet Union had attempted to cut off West Berlin from German areas controlled by France, Great Britain, and the United States. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

... its economic might...



The United States is one of the wealthiest countries in the world. This image is courtesy of usa-economy.

...and its military strength.



This photograph shows the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower and other members of its carrier group sail in formation during training on March 5, 2006. This U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 2nd Class Angel Contreras is courtesy of the United States Navy.

Before the Europeans arrived, the Americas were vast lands...



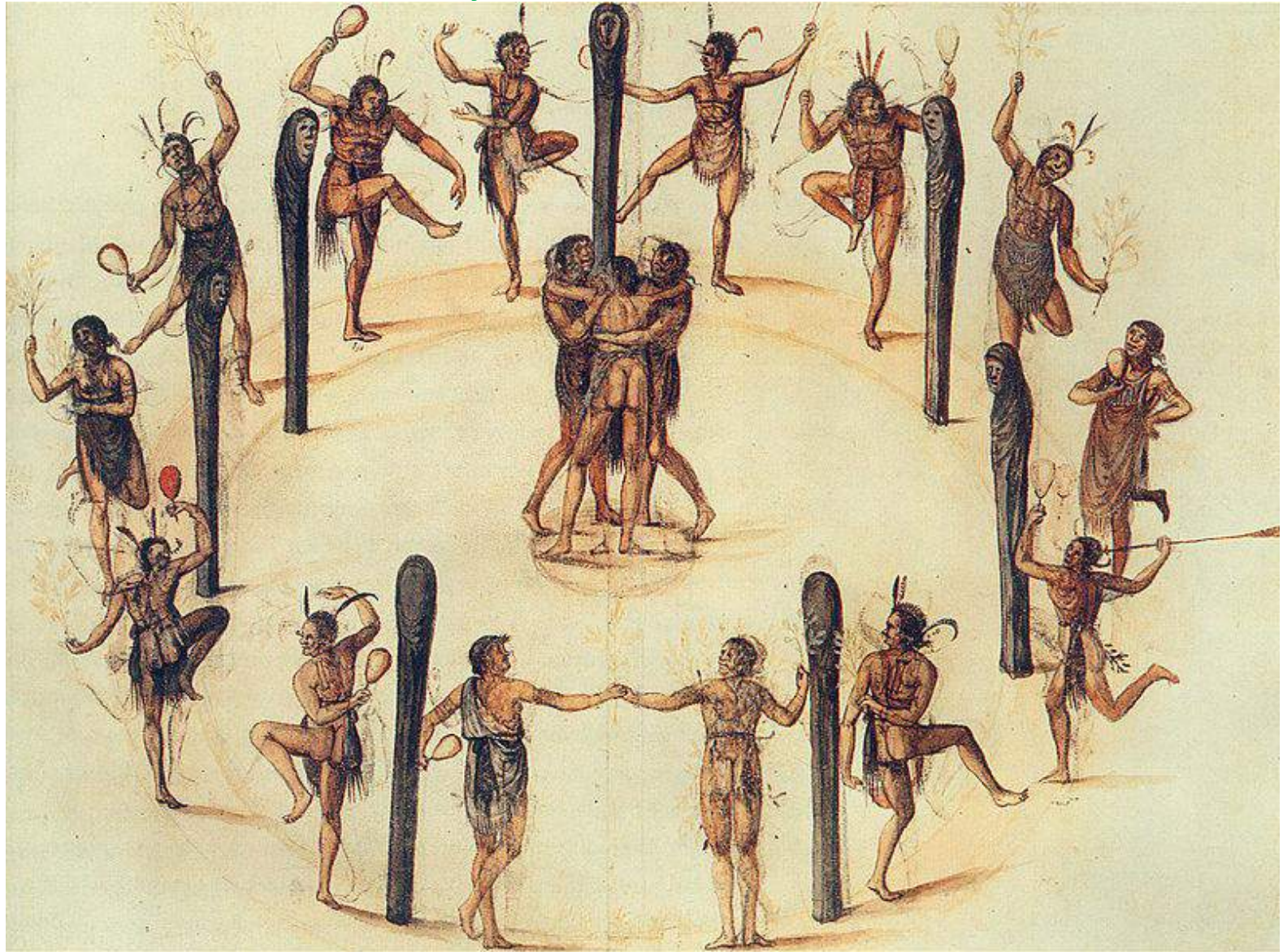
This photograph of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park was taken at 7:50 PM EST on April 7, 2007 at the Cliff Tops on Mount Le Conte. It is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

...with untapped resources.



This photograph shows the forest canopy at Newfound Gap in the Great Smoky Mountains. The trees in the foreground are deciduous trees or hardwoods and their leaves are changing colors in the fall. The trees in the higher elevation are conifers (Red Spruce and Fraser Fir) which can grow better than the hardwoods in colder climates. This image is courtesy of the National Park Service.

The native inhabitants, although numbering in the millions,
thinly covered the land.



This image shows dancing Secotan Indians in North Carolina. This was water color was painted by John White in 1584. It is courtesy of the British Museum, London, England.

The country that would become the United States of America...



This map shows the territorial acquisitions of the United States. This image is from the *National Atlas of the United States*, and was produced by the United States Federal Government.

...was first and foremost a product of Europe.



This is a political map of Europe circa 1600. This image is courtesy of Ancestry.com.

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