

The Human Language Journey

From Eurasia to the Americas

Russian, Chinese, Tibetan, and Native American Languages in Context
Union of Saints

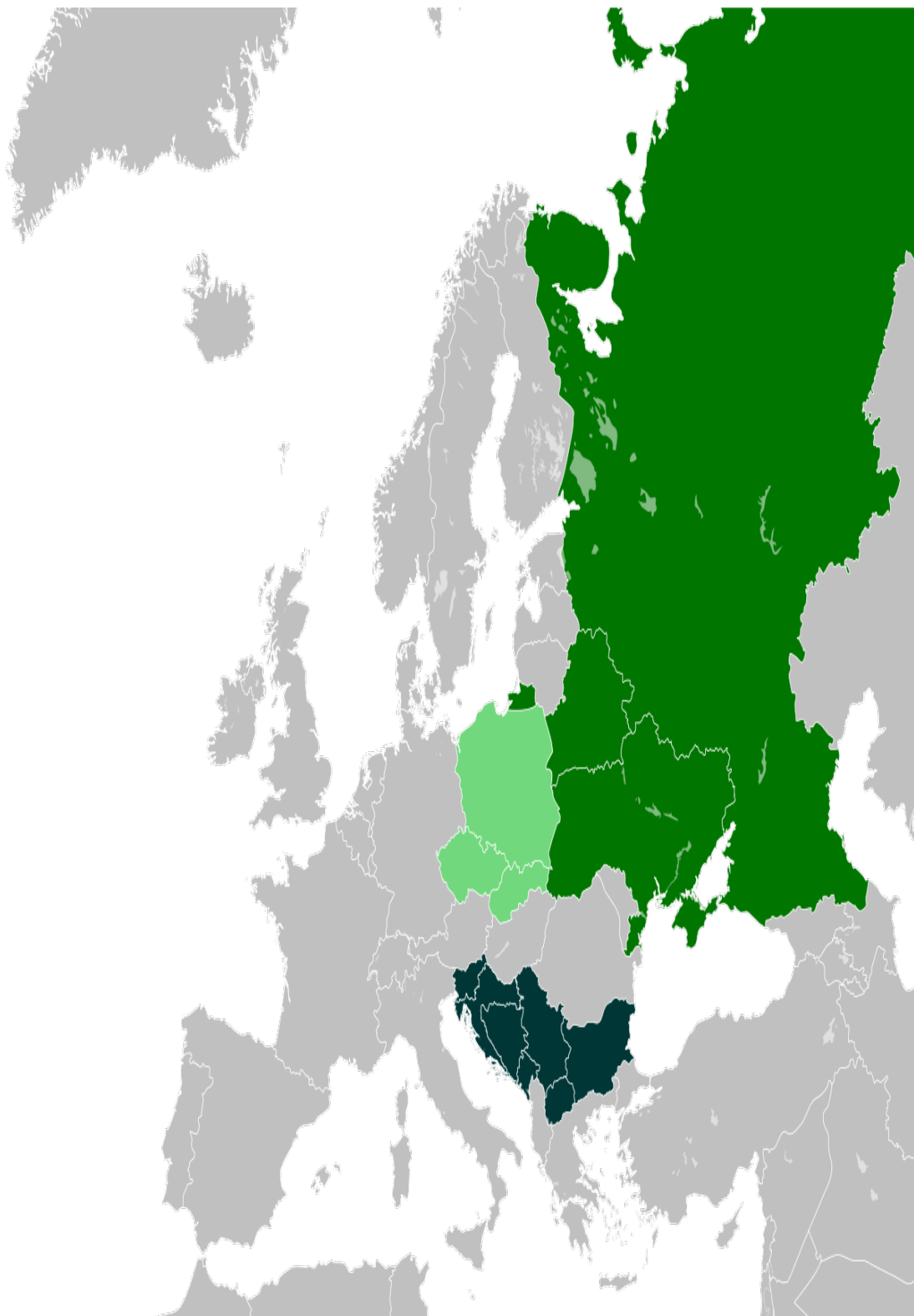
1. Introduction: Why Language Journeys Matter

Human languages are living records of **migration, culture, and time**. By studying how languages relate, or do not relate, we gain insight into **how people moved across continents**, how civilizations formed, and why languages today can sound radically different while still reflecting shared human origins.

This document explains:

- Where **Russian** and **Chinese** come from
 - How **Tibetan** fits into Asian language history
 - How **Native American languages** developed
 - Where scholars see **possible connections**, and where they do not
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2. Russian Language Origins (Indo-European Path)



ОУСТАВЪ НИКЪРАСНА

траган. обрашанѣ же. нопитни мнихом.
новъ сѣмъ нномъ унмоу. нопрѣбѣ ва
ннихъ. нвѣцрѣвнхъ сѣде. оуставленъ
оубо не по писаннѣмъ манастирнѣ стѣ
днѣ стѣмъ. прѣбѣнѣмъ оцмъ на шимъ
не по вѣдѣннѣмъ. ѿ ѿдорѣмъ. бѣвѣ
шимъ въ нѣмъ нгоу мѣнѣмъ. прѣданѣ же
писаннѣмъ. ѿ алазѣ нѣ стѣгонѣ сѣленѣмъ
патрнарха. въ поставленѣмъ нмъ ма
настирнѣ. въ нмъ мѣ жѣтѣмъ нѣмъ трѣ. бѣвнмоу.

Иакоже оубо подобаше слоужбѣ. въ
жѣтѣмъ нѣхъ пѣннхъ оуставнѣнѣ.
въ прѣже прнѣтѣнѣхъ кннгахъ нн
чѣсѣ о жѣрѣ кохѣмъ. нѣко сѣуѣто оставнѣ
ше. нѣко сѣвѣствѣ нѣоуѣннѣ сѣушнмъ сѣ
творѣше. понеже нѣже оудохѣнѣмъ нѣде
ннѣ. снѣсѣво сѣлово сѣнѣнѣ пѣннѣ. нѣрн

- **Old East Slavic** (Kievan Rus)
- **Modern Russian**

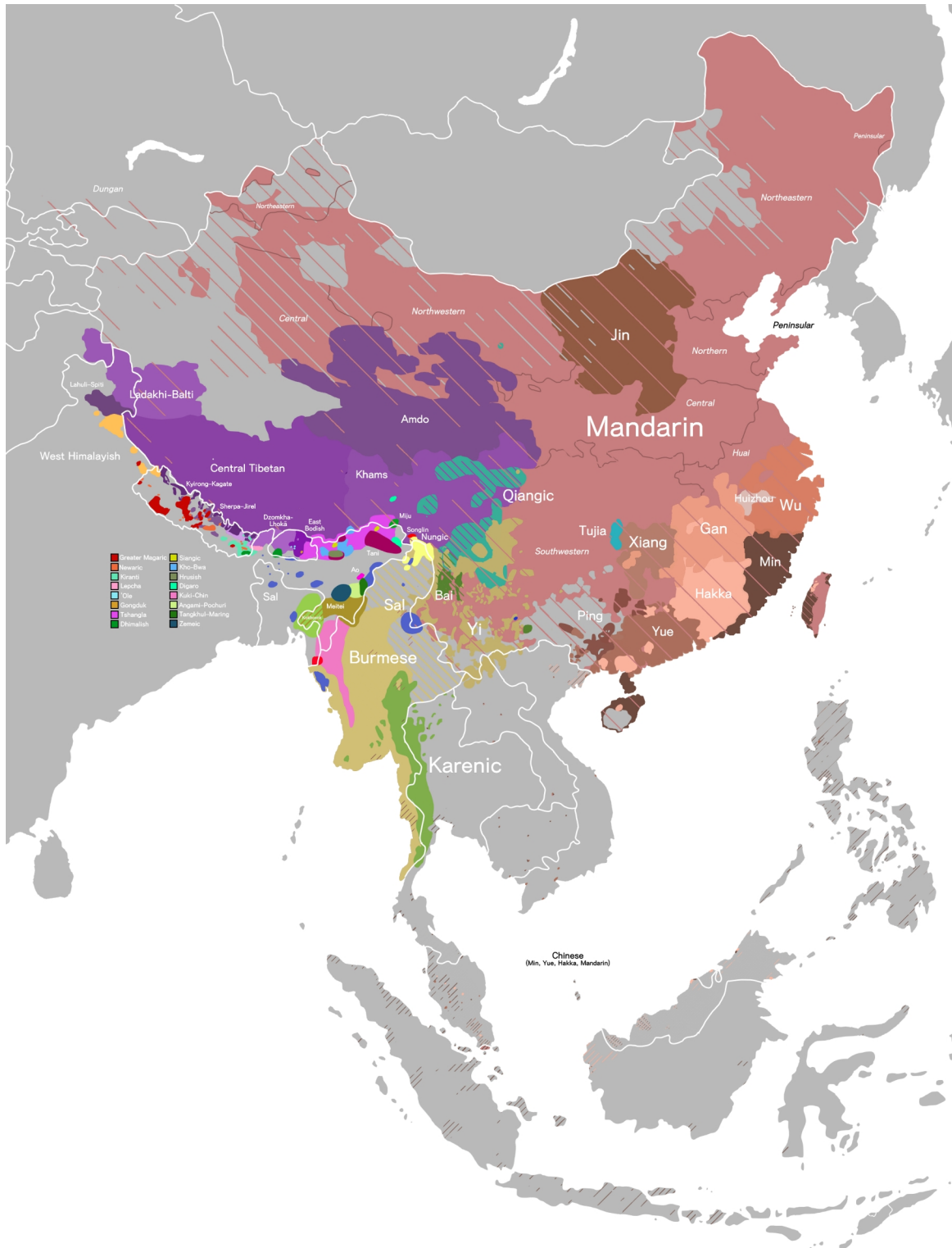
Characteristics

- Alphabetic writing system (Cyrillic)
- Inflected grammar (word endings change meaning)
- Cognates shared with English, Latin, Greek, Sanskrit

Key insight

Russian is part of a **western Eurasian linguistic tradition**, shared broadly across Europe and South Asia.

3. Chinese Language Origins (Sino-Tibetan Path)



王三十一
王五十四
王六十五
王七十六
王八十七
王八十八
王八十九
王九十

	horse	cart	fish	dust	see	
Oracle bone script 甲骨文 (jiǎ gǔ wén)						The Oracle bone script was used during the Shang or Yin Dynasty (c. 1400-1200 BC)
Bronze script 金文 (jīn wén)						The Bronze script was used during the Zhou Dynasty (c. 1100 - 256 BC)
Large Seal script 大篆 (dà zhuàn)						The Large Seal script was used during the Zhou Dynasty (c. 1100 - 256 BC)
Small Seal script 小篆 (xiǎo zhuàn)						The Small Seal script was used during the Qin Dynasty (221-207 BC)
Clerical script 隸書 (lì shū)						The Clerical and Standard scripts first appeared during the Han Dynasty (207 BC - 220 AD).
Standard script 楷書 (kǎi shū)						
Running script 行書 (xíng shū)						The Running script has been used for handwritten Chinese since the Han Dynasty.
Draft script 草書 (cǎo shū)						The Grass script is the Chinese equivalent of shorthand and has been used since the Han Dynasty.
Simplified script 简体字 (jiǎntǐ zì)						The Simplified script has been used in the P.R.C. since 1949. It is also used in Singapore.
hànyǔ pīnyīn 汉语拼音	mǎ	chē	yú	chén	jiàn	<i>Hanyu pinyin</i> has been used in the P.R.C. since 1958.
zhùyīn fúhào 注音符号	ㄇㄚˇ	ㄔㄜ	ㄩˊ	ㄔㄣˊ	ㄐㄧㄢˋ	<i>Zhuyin fuhao</i> was developed in China in 1913 and is still used in Taiwan.

Language family

Chinese languages belong to the **Sino-Tibetan** family.

Development path

- **Proto-Sino-Tibetan** (c. 4000–6000 years ago)
- **Old Chinese**
- **Middle Chinese**
- **Modern Chinese languages** (Mandarin, Cantonese, Wu, Min)

Characteristics

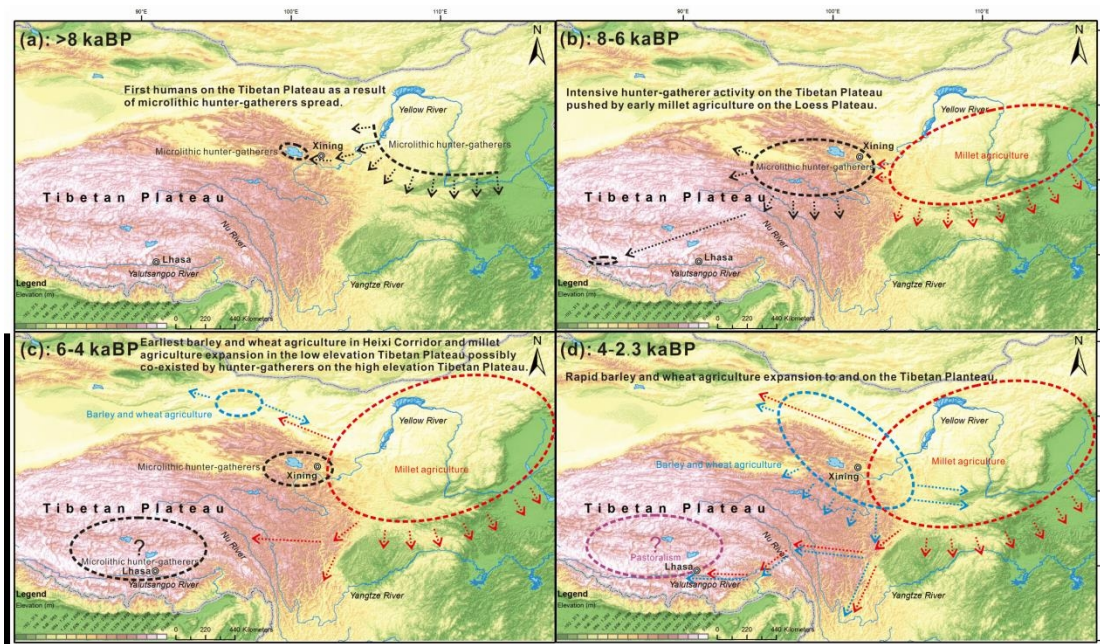
- Tonal pronunciation

- Analytic grammar (word order matters more than endings)
- Logographic writing system (characters represent meaning)

Key insight

Chinese languages evolved **independently** from Indo-European languages and reflect a **continuous East Asian civilization**.

4. Tibetan Language in the Asian Context



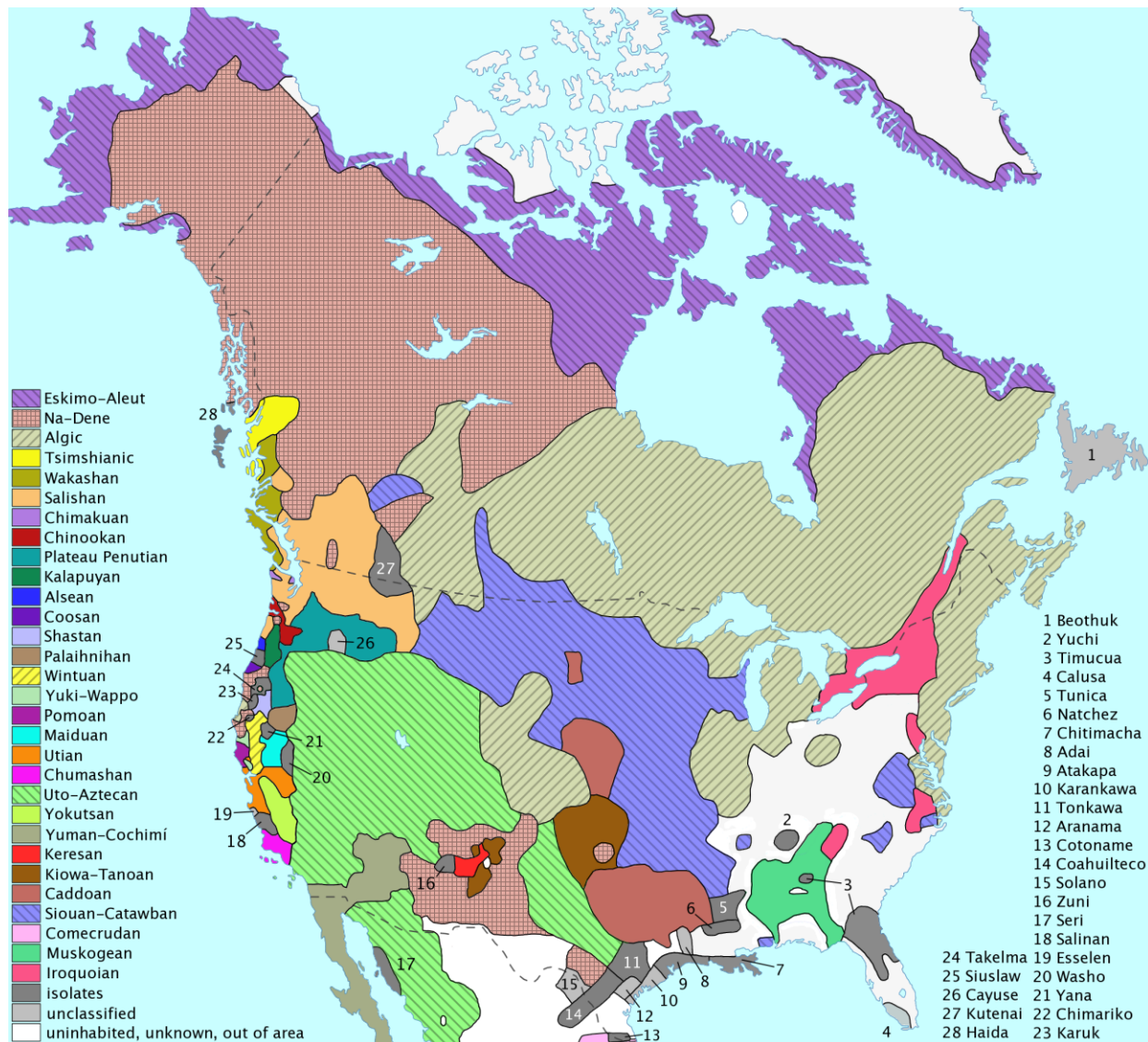
Features

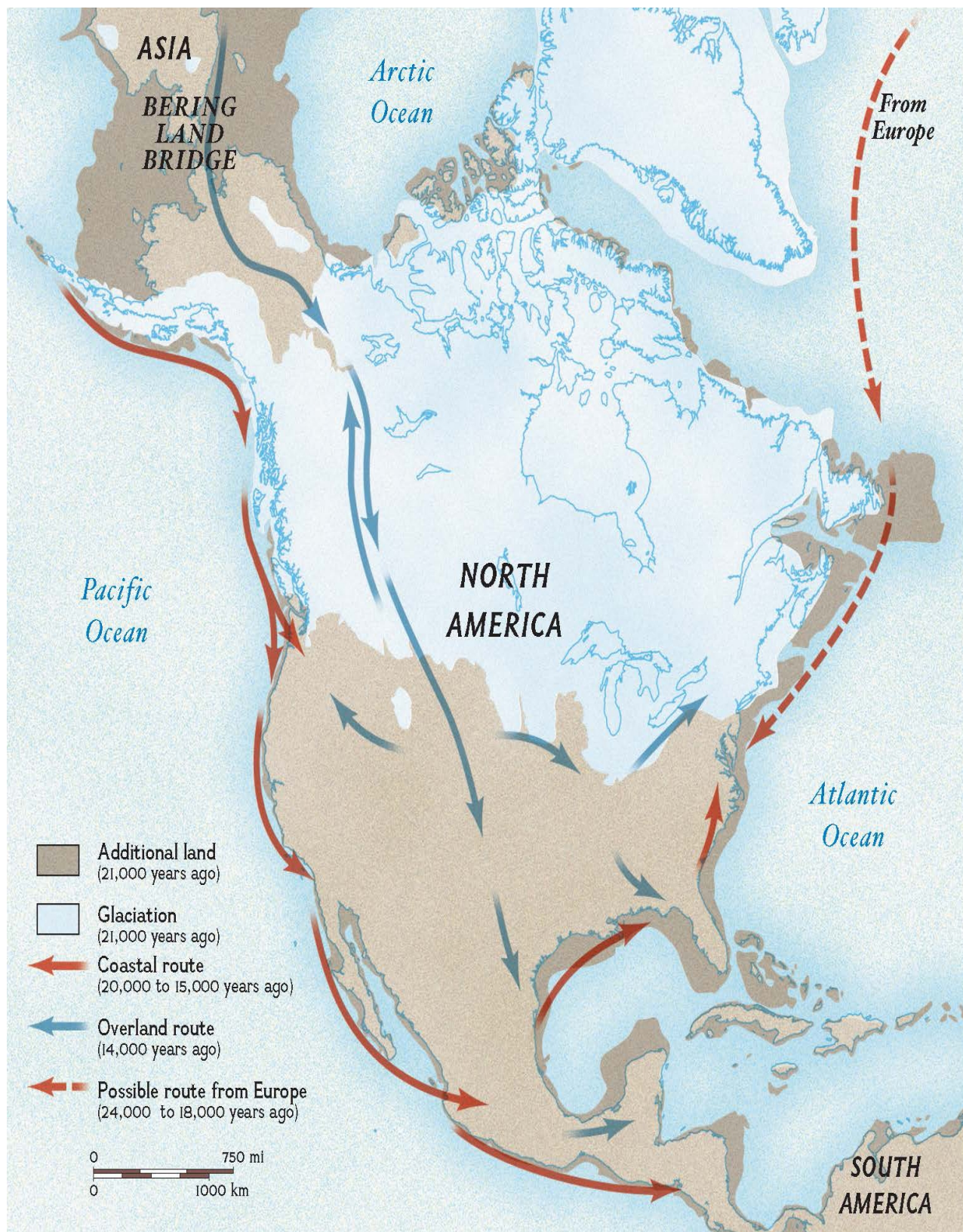
- Alphabetic script adapted from Indic writing
- Complex grammar compared to Chinese
- Preserves older Sino-Tibetan structures

Key insight

Tibetan acts as a **linguistic bridge** within Asia, preserving ancient features lost in some Chinese languages.

5. Native American Languages: Diversity and Depth





Overview

Native American languages are **not a single family**. They include **hundreds of distinct languages** across many families, such as:

- Algic
- Iroquoian
- Uto-Aztecan
- Mayan
- Quechuan
- Tupian
- Na-Dené

Key insight

Most Native American languages **do not relate** to Russian, Chinese, or Tibetan in any demonstrable way.

6. The Na-Dené Exception and the Asian Connection







The Na-Dené family

Includes:

- Athabaskan languages (Navajo, Apache)
- Tlingit
- Eyak (extinct)

The Dene–Yeniseian hypothesis

Some linguists propose a deep connection between:

- **Na-Dené languages** (North America)
- **Yeniseian languages** (Central Siberia)

Because Yeniseian may be distantly related to Sino-Tibetan, this creates a **possible indirect link** to Tibetan.

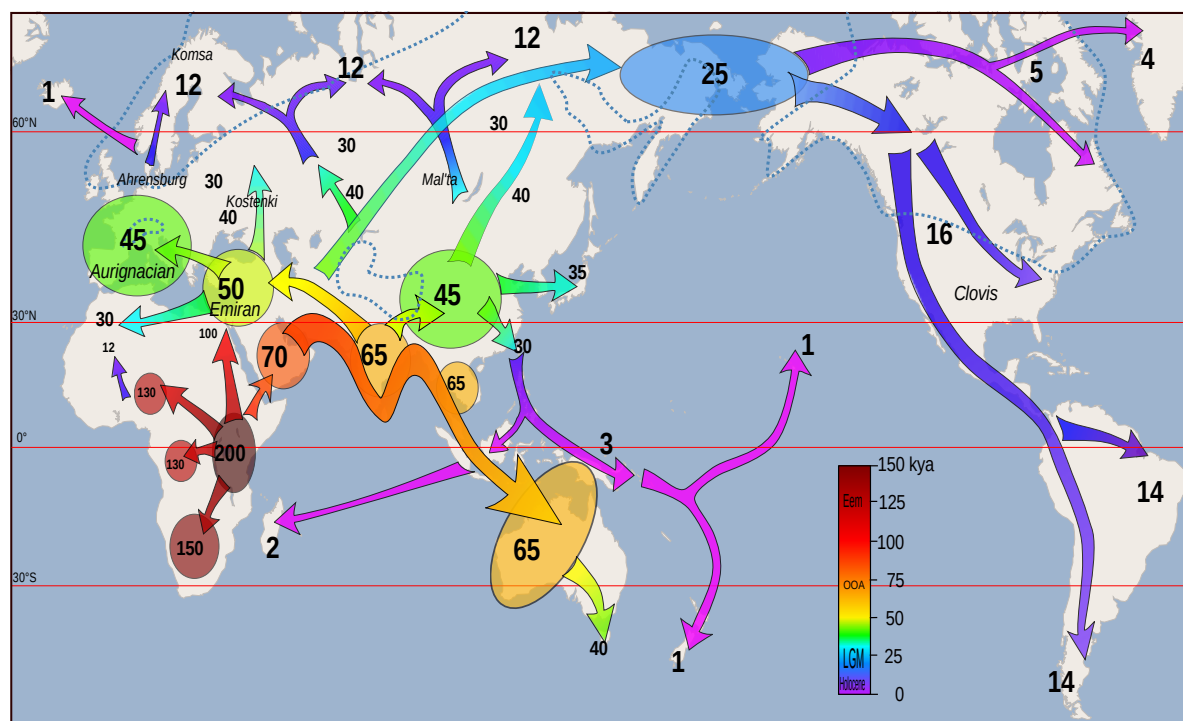
Evidence type

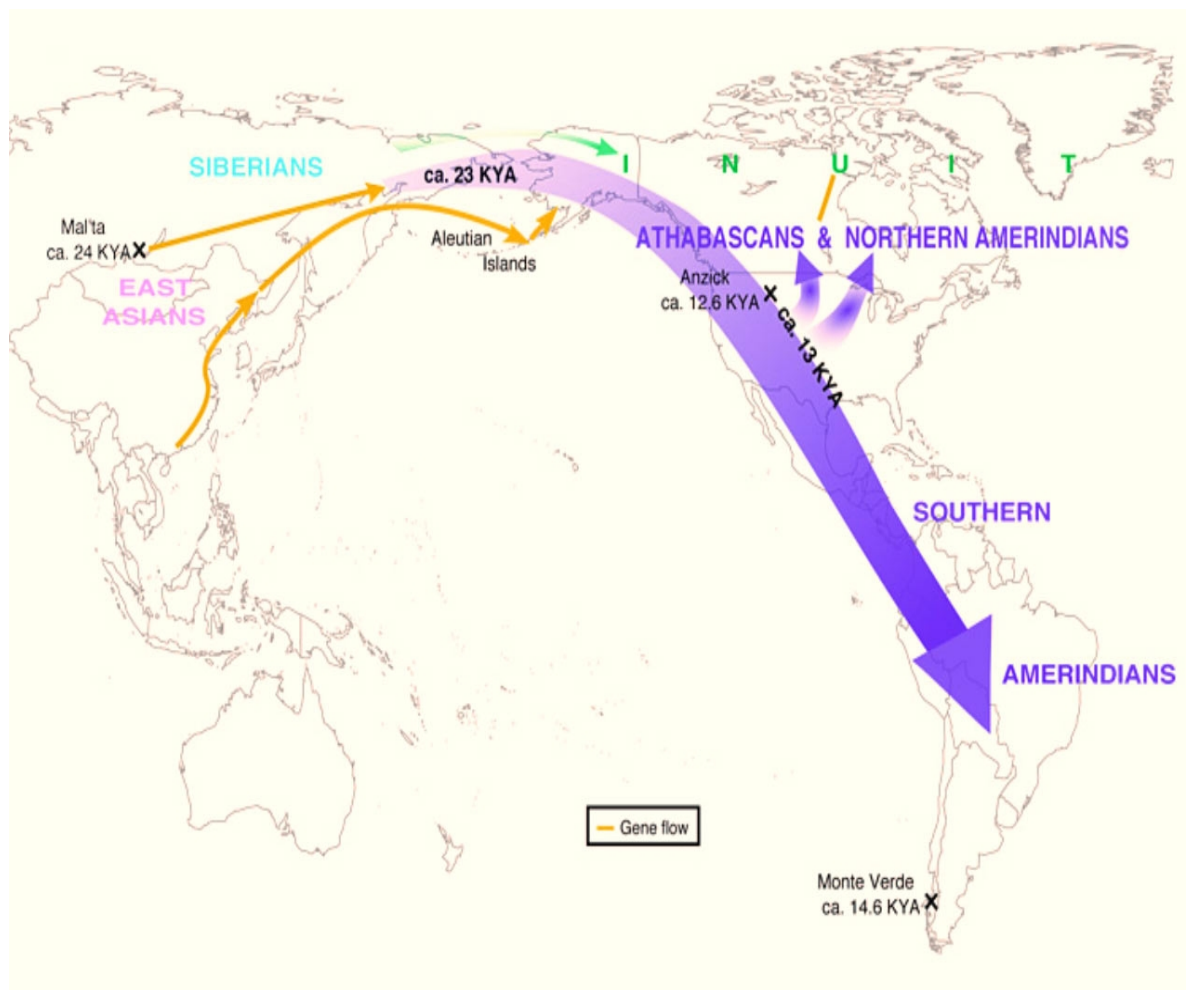
- Grammatical structure
- Verb morphology
- Prefix systems
(not shared vocabulary)

Status

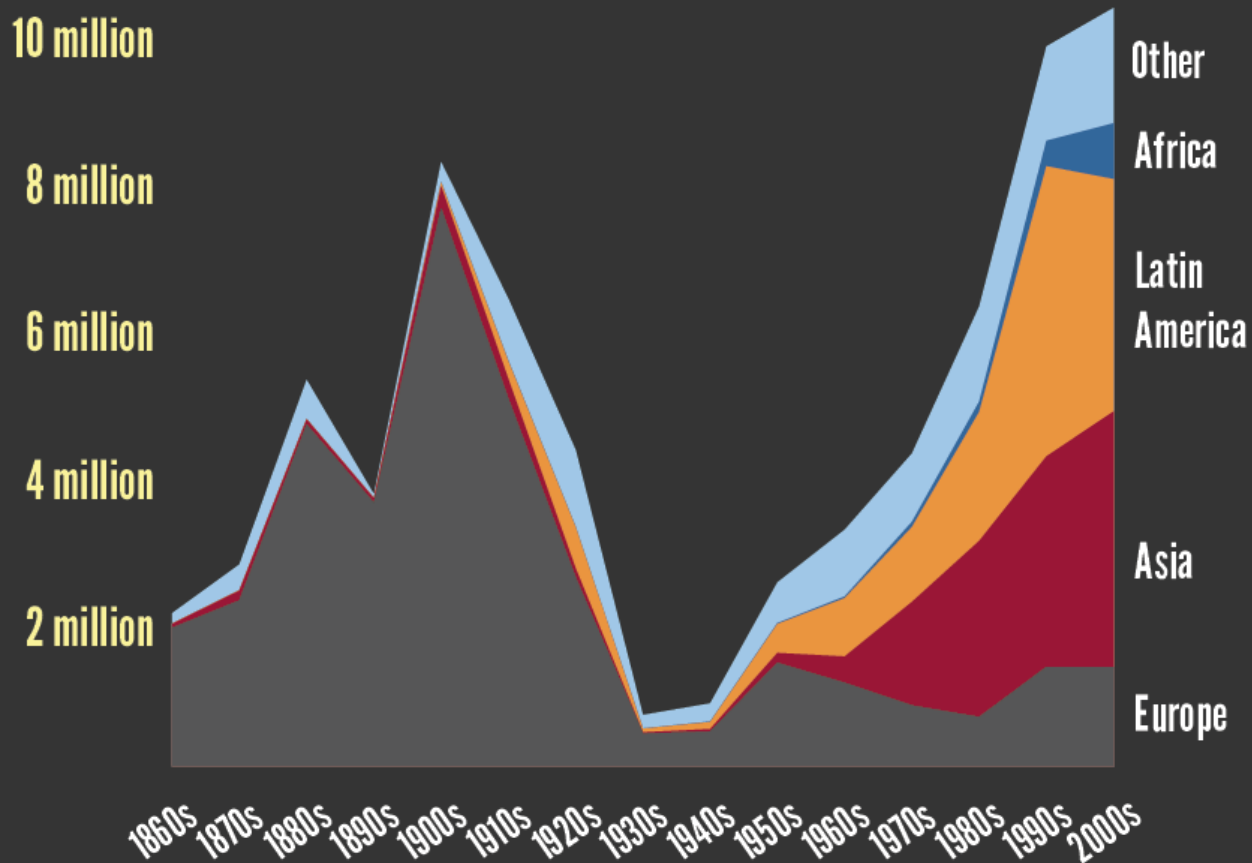
- Actively researched
- Not universally accepted
- Time depth exceeds 10,000 years

7. Migration and Language Spread





The 1965 Immigration Law Dramatically Changed The National Origin Mix of Immigrants



A A P I
D A T A

Source: USCIS Statistical Yearbook 2013

Human movement

- Humans migrated from **East Asia** → **Siberia** → **Beringia** → **Americas**
- Multiple migration waves occurred
- Na-Dené speakers likely arrived in **later waves**

Language implication

Language structures can survive migration even when:

- Vocabulary changes
- Cultures diverge

- DNA mixes
-

8. What Is Connected—and What Is Not

Area	Relationship
Russian ↔ Chinese	Unrelated
Chinese ↔ Tibetan	Directly related
Native American ↔ Tibetan	Mostly unrelated
Na-Dené ↔ Asian languages	Possibly (deep time)
Writing systems	Independently developed

9. Final Summary

- **Russian** comes from the Indo-European tradition of western Eurasia
 - **Chinese and Tibetan** come from the Sino-Tibetan tradition of East Asia
 - **Most Native American languages** developed independently in the Americas
 - **Na-Dené languages** may preserve traces of ancient Siberian linguistic ancestry
 - These relationships reflect **human migration**
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