

TEN THINGS THAT (STILL) MAKE ME PROUD TO BE AMERICAN



Our Banner in the Sky
by Frederic Edwin Church
painted 1861 after the Confederate attack on Fort Sumter,
marking the beginning of the American Civil War

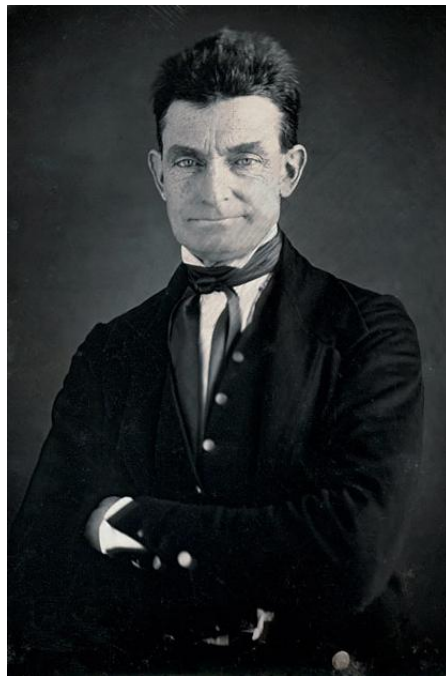
Dr. Jonathan "Jo" Melville
ARPA-E Fellow #33
Friday, March 21th, 2025

thing one:

John Brown

“This is a beautiful country.”

Last words (2 December 1859), as quoted in *John Brown and his Men* (1894)



I, John Brown, am now quite certain that **the crimes of this guilty land can never be purged away but with blood.** I had, as I now think, vainly flattered myself that without very much bloodshed, it might be done.

*October the Sixteenth by
Langston Hughes (1931)*

*Perhaps
You will remember
John Brown.*

*John Brown
Who took his gun,
Took twenty-one companions,
White and black,
Went to shoot your way to freedom
Where two rivers meet
And the hills of the
North
And the hills of the
South
Look slow at one another—
And died
For your sake.*

*Now that you are
Many years free,
And the echo of the Civil War
Has passed away,
And Brown himself
Has long been tried at law,
Hanged by the neck,
And buried in the ground—
Since Harpers Ferry
Is alive with ghosts today,
Immortal raiders
Come again to town,
Perhaps,*

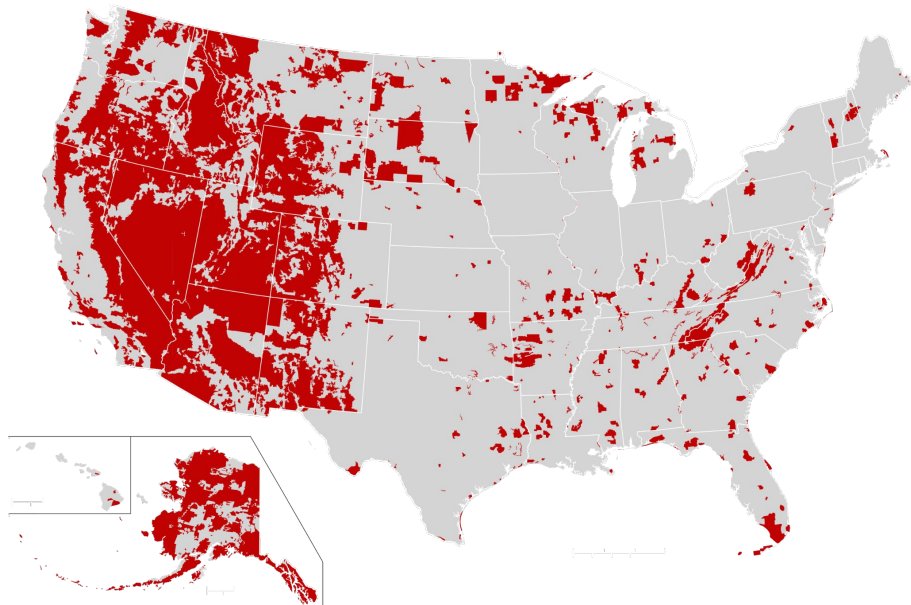
*You will recall
John Brown.*

thing two:

Federal lands

(and the American West)

28% of the total land area of the
United States is administered by
the Federal government.

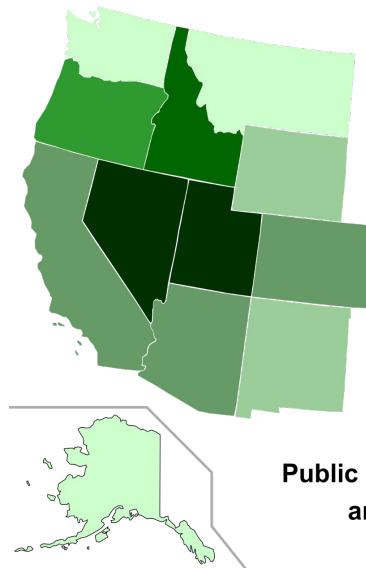


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Public Lands Held by the National Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management

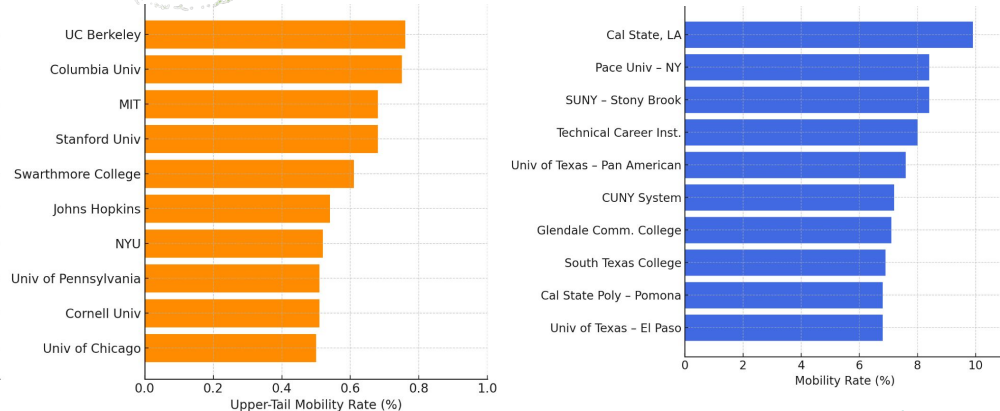
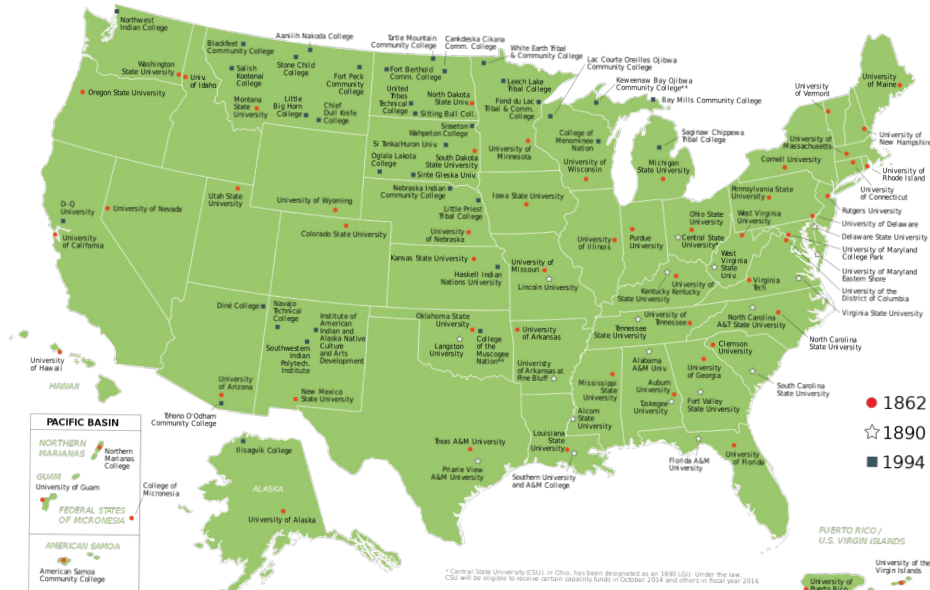


thing three:

Public Universities

UC Berkeley by itself admits about as many Pell Grant recipients as the entire Ivy League combined.

UC Berkeley endowment: \$3.1 billion
Combined Ivy League endowment: \$192.6 billion



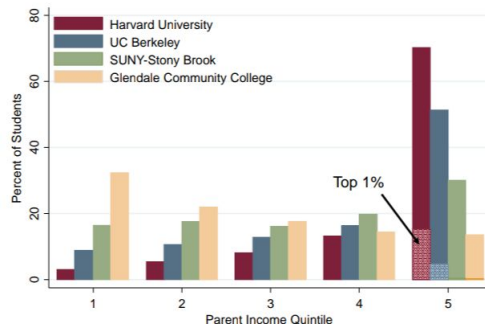
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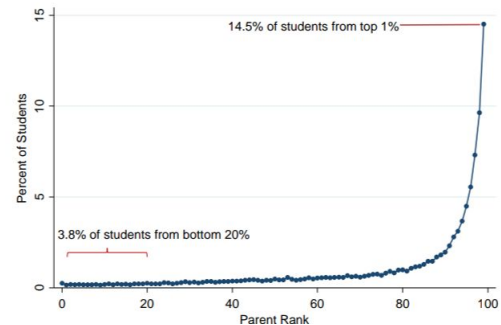
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A. Parental Income Distribution at Selected Colleges



B. Parental Income Distribution at Ivy-Plus Colleges

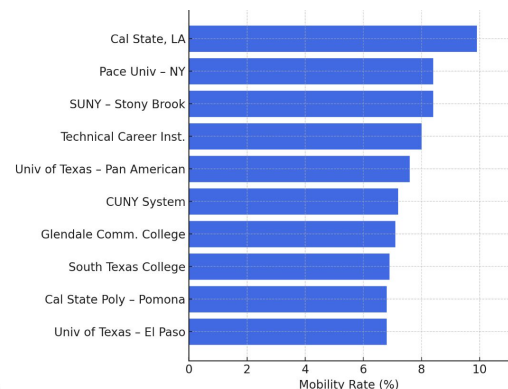
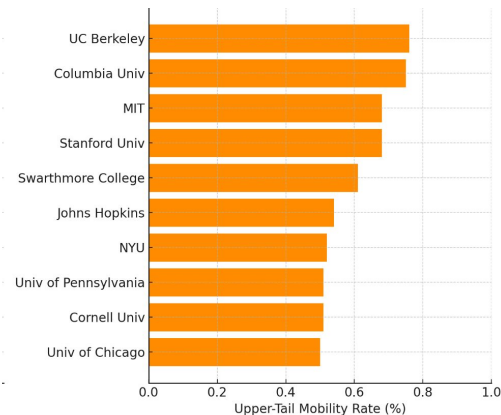


B. Top 10 Colleges by Upper-Tail Mobility Rate (Bottom 20% to Top 1%)

Rank	Name	Upper-Tail Mobility Rate	Access	Upper-Tail Success Rate
1	University of California – Berkeley	0.76%	8.8%	8.6%
2	Columbia University	0.75%	5.0%	14.9%
3	MIT	0.68%	5.1%	13.4%
4	Stanford University	0.66%	3.6%	18.5%
5	Swarthmore College	0.61%	4.7%	13.0%
6	Johns Hopkins University	0.54%	3.7%	14.7%
7	New York University	0.52%	6.9%	7.5%
8	University of Pennsylvania	0.51%	3.5%	14.5%
9	Cornell University	0.51%	4.9%	10.4%
10	University of Chicago	0.50%	4.3%	11.5%

A. Top 10 Colleges by Bottom-to-Top-Quintile Mobility Rate (Bottom 20% to Top 20%)

Rank	Name	Mobility Rate	Access	Success Rate
1	Cal State, LA	9.9%	33.1%	29.9%
2	Pace University – New York	8.4%	15.2%	55.6%
3	SUNY – Stony Brook	8.4%	16.4%	51.2%
4	Technical Career Institutes	8.0%	40.3%	19.8%
5	University of Texas – Pan American	7.6%	38.7%	19.8%
6	CUNY System	7.2%	28.7%	25.2%
7	Glendale Community College	7.1%	32.4%	21.9%
8	South Texas College	6.9%	52.4%	13.2%
9	Cal State Polytechnic – Pomona	6.8%	14.9%	45.8%
10	University of Texas – El Paso	6.8%	28.0%	24.4%



thing four:

New Mexican cuisine

New Mexico is the only state with an
official State Question: “Red or Green?”

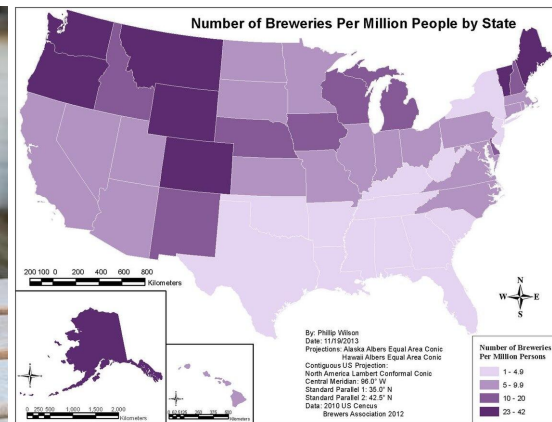
The official State Answer: “Christmas.”



thing five:

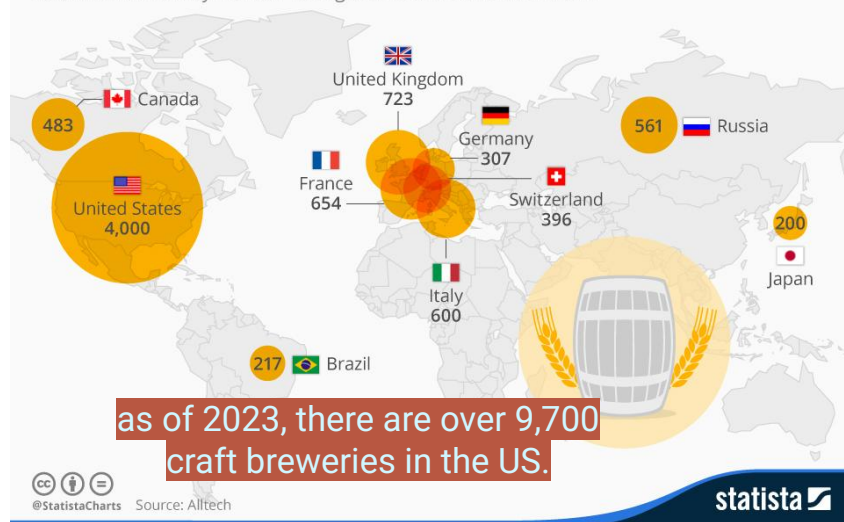
Craft beer

67% of all craft breweries in the world are in the United States.



The Countries With The Most Craft Breweries

Countries ranked by number of regional craft breweries in 2015



thing six:

“Ope!”

“No Yeah” = Yes

“Yeah no” = No

“Yeah no for sure” = Definitely

“Yeah no yeah” = I’m sorry, the answer is yes

“No yeah no” = yeah, nothing to worry about

“Ope!” = shorthand apology

OPE!

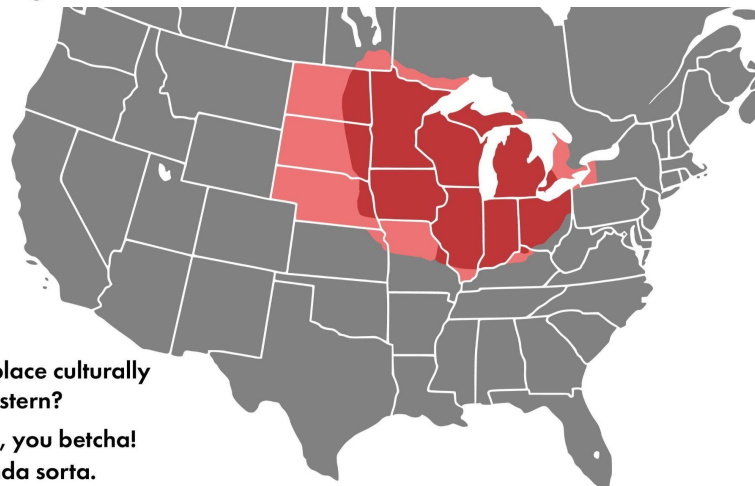
exclamation

1. kind of an ‘oh’ plus ‘oops’; used often with another word or phrase.

pronunciation: |ōp|

like OH! with a P on the end

- when you’re in the way: “Ope, sorry.”
- when it’s suddenly your turn: “Ope, okay.”
- when you get it: “Ope, got it.”
- when you forget something: “Ope, we didn’t bring the Ranch!”



Is this place culturally
Midwestern?

- Oh, you betcha!
- Kinda sorta.
- Yeah, no.

thing seven:

The Stonewall riots

"You never completely have your rights, one person, until you all have your rights."

—Marsha P. Johnson



A BRIEF HISTORY OF

THE STONE WALL RIOTS



1960's (USA)

During the 1960's, homosexuality was illegal in every US state except Illinois. But LGBT people often went to secret gay bars and clubs, especially in New York. These clubs were frequently owned by the Mafia, who paid police officers to turn a blind eye to what was going on behind closed doors. LGBT people needed a place where they could be safe and free, without fearing the outside world.

12AM JUNE 28TH 1969

The Stonewall Inn was a hugely popular LGBT bar in New York. But during the cold morning hours of June 28th police raided The Stonewall Inn. They began loading people into police vans and particularly singled out drag queens for "dressing up as someone of the opposite sex" which was also illegal at the time.

3 AM JUNE 28TH

It is widely believed that drag queen Marsha P. Johnson was one of the first people to resist arrest, among others such as Stormé DeLarverie and Sylvia Rivera. Following their lead, riots quickly began.

4AM JUNE 28TH

The Stonewall Inn reopened the following night, with supporters and protesters continuing to arrive, march and show support throughout the night and day. Officers continue to beat and tear gas the crowd.

6 AM JUNE 28TH

The Stonewall Inn becomes a meeting point for LGBT protesters and activists. By this point, the rioting has calmed down significantly and things are starting to look up. But the violence against protesters suddenly continues.

JUNE 28-JUNE 29

The police barricade themselves into The Stonewall Inn as rioters and protesters rapidly grow in numbers. The riots begin to spiral out of control, with rioters using home made firebombs and other methods against the police force.

JUNE 29-JULY 1

The violence and rioting begins to calm down. Amazingly, no one is killed.

JULY 2

Activists and protesters respond to derogatory articles in the newspapers. Some of the horrible headlines included "Homo nest raided. Queen bees are stinging mad" and "The forces of faggotry." Shortly after, the protests come to an end.

1970

One year later, on the first anniversary of the riots, the first Pride march is held in New York City.

LIVE WITH pride

PRESENT DAY

The effect of The Stonewall Riots is felt globally, and is said to be the event that started the LGBT revolution. Today, there is still work to be done, but thanks to the people who protested at Stonewall, the LGBT Movement has come a very long way.

LGBT LAWYERS

PROUDLY SUPPORTING LGBT HISTORY MONTH

thing eight:

The United States Postal Service

99% of American residents live within 10 miles of a Post Office.



Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the United States Constitution, known as the Postal Clause or the Postal Power, empowers Congress "To establish Post Offices and post Roads."

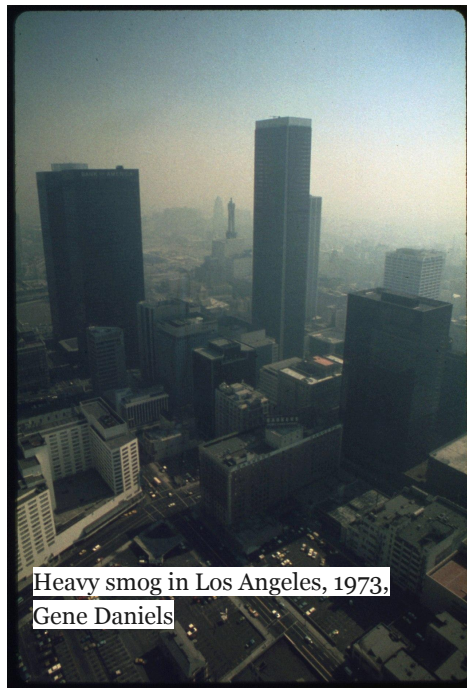
The USPS serves 167 million unique addresses, more than any other postal system, anywhere in the world.



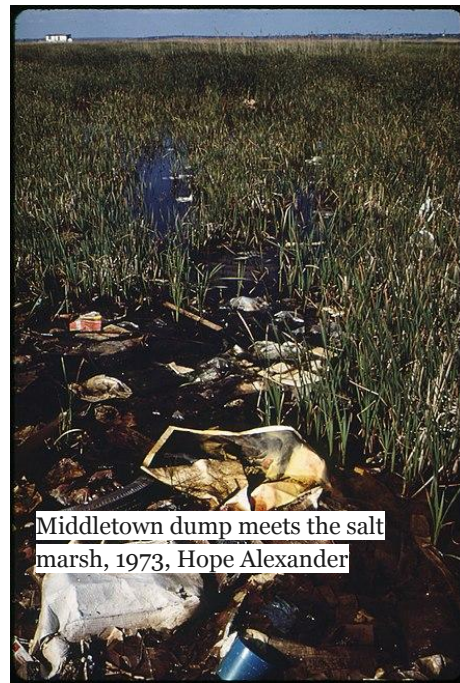
thing nine:

DOCU- MERICA

From 1972-7, the EPA contracted freelance photographers across the US to “photographically document subjects of environmental concern”.



Heavy smog in Los Angeles, 1973,
Gene Daniels



Middletown dump meets the salt
marsh, 1973, Hope Alexander

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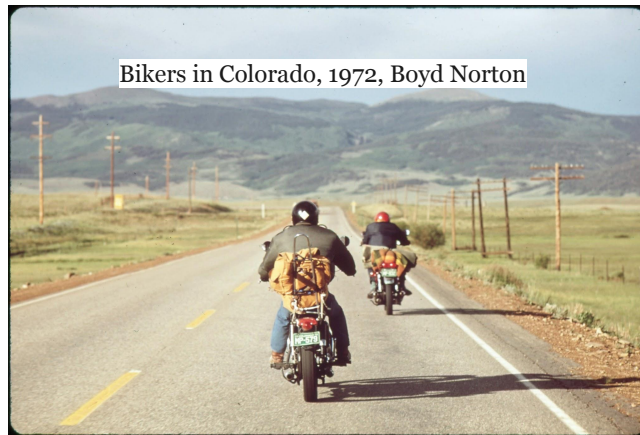
An oil slick surrounds Liberty Island in New York Harbor, 1971,
Charles Higgins.

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Bikers in Colorado, 1972, Boyd Norton



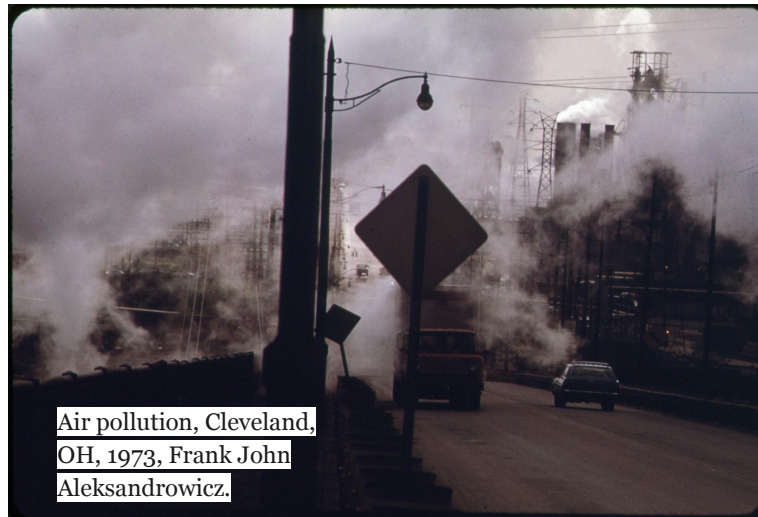
Women smoking pot, Texas, 1973, Marc St. Gil



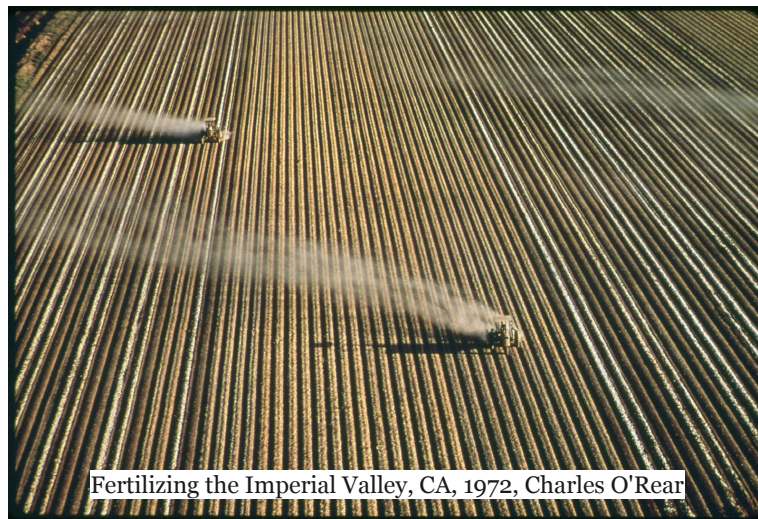
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Air pollution, Cleveland,
OH, 1973, Frank John
Aleksandrowicz.



Fertilizing the Imperial Valley, CA, 1972, Charles O'Rear

thing ten:
**Queens,
New
York**

Queens holds the Guinness World Record for “most ethnically diverse urban area on the planet”. At least 138 languages are spoken throughout the borough.

