

# cartographic perspectives

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## cartographic perspectives on the news

### DRAWING THE LINE

One of the original—and most persistent—motivations for map making is the desire to delineate and revise boundaries. Boundary disputes are a source both of steady business and endless frustration for map makers, keepers, and users. The *New York Times* recently reported on two North American boundary disputes that bring to light some of the political ramifications of lines drawn on maps.

### THIS OCEAN IS MY OCEAN

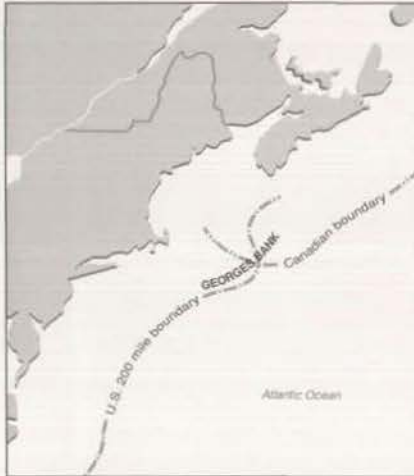
In "New Negotiations in Fishing Dispute" (8/7/89), the *Times* reported that "New confrontations between American fisherman and Canadian patrols on the Georges Bank, one of the world's richest fishing grounds, have brought the two nations back to the conference table . . . Last month, the Canadian authorities chased an American scalloper across 100 miles of sea for 18 hours . . ." turning back ". . . only when the fishing boat, based in New Bedford, Mass., reached United States territorial waters 12 miles off the coast of Nantucket.

"The incident was the latest of at least 10 in the past two years. In



October, a .50-caliber machine gun was fired across the bow of an American vessel whose skipper refused requests by Canadian agents to board.

"Trouble arose after the two countries extended their offshore boundaries in 1977 to 200 miles.



The line overlapped in an area that included the Georges Bank, 1,200 square miles of ocean rich in scallops, flounder, haddock and cod, 80 miles off the coast of Cape Cod at its closest point. Both countries laid claim to the area, which had been fished jointly for generations.

"In 1984, the World Court divided the area, giving the United States five-sixths of the Georges Bank, but allotting to Canada what most fishermen consider the most fertile fishing waters. American fisherman said the grounds they lost had been harvested by this country 100 years before the Canadians fished there.

"The two sides met in December but failed to settle the dispute.

"American fishermen say they run when challenged because they fear the Canadian fines, which can be as high as \$500,000. If the fishermen are convicted instead in the United States, they face a \$10,000 civil penalty under the Federal Lacey Act, which prohibits transportation of fish or animals across international lines."

**THE SOUTH WILL RISE AGAIN**  
In "Parties Draw Up Plans for Redistricting Battle" (8/9/89), the *Times* cites Democratic and Republican party specialists who predict that "battles over how to draw the political map for the 1990's . . . will be more complicated, more litigious and more partisan than ever" after the 1990 census.

"Drawing the lines of political maps is an important but arcane art in which either party can take the same voting population and produce radically different results." As Jeffrey Wice, counsel to the Democratic State Legislative Leaders Association, explains, "Taking the politics out of reapportionment is an oxymoron in the sense that reapportionment is politics. No matter what kind of criteria you have, you're going to have politicians finding loopholes for them."

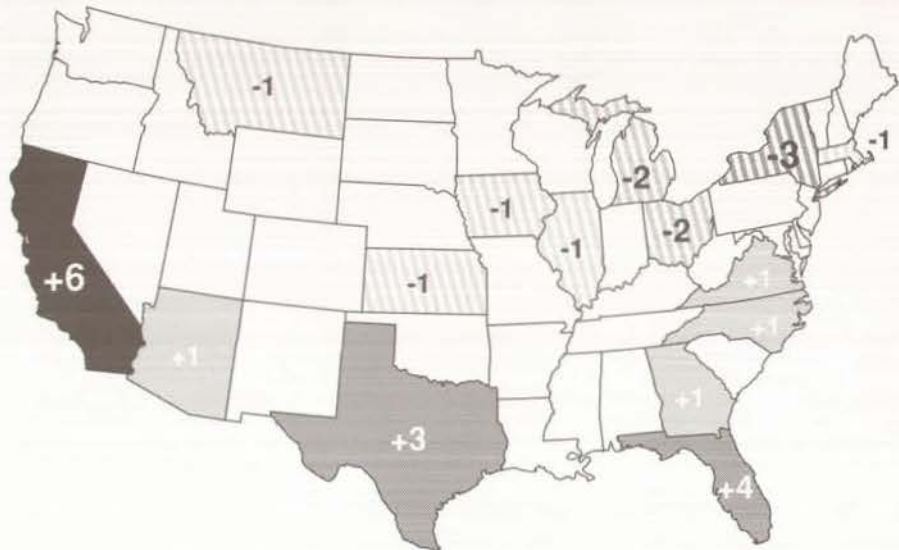
"In 1980, the Democrats controlled the line-drawing process in many of the largest states, notably

in California, where an artfully drawn set of lines helped them gain up to six seats.

"The crucial states in the reapportionment battles will be those that gain or lose seats in the United States House of Representatives as a result of the population shifts shown in the 1990 census. At this point, the Democrats control the governorship and both legislative house in 14 states, and Republicans in four.

"Election Data Services, a Washington, D.C. consulting firm, says its latest projections indicate that California stands to gain six or seven seats, Florida possibly four, Texas three, and Arizona, Georgia, Virginia and possibly North Carolina a seat each.

"Among the states expected to lose seats will be New York, projected to lose three house seats, Michigan and Ohio, two seats each, and Illinois which could lose one or two seats. Iowa, Kansas, Massachusetts and Montana are projected to lose one seat each."



*States projected to gain or lose seats in the U.S. House of Representatives as a result of reapportionment following the 1990 Census (no change projected for Alaska and Hawaii)*