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Olympic Success: Built, Born, or Bought?

Jacob Ney

College of Saint Benedict/Saint John's University, JNEY001@CSBSJU.EDU

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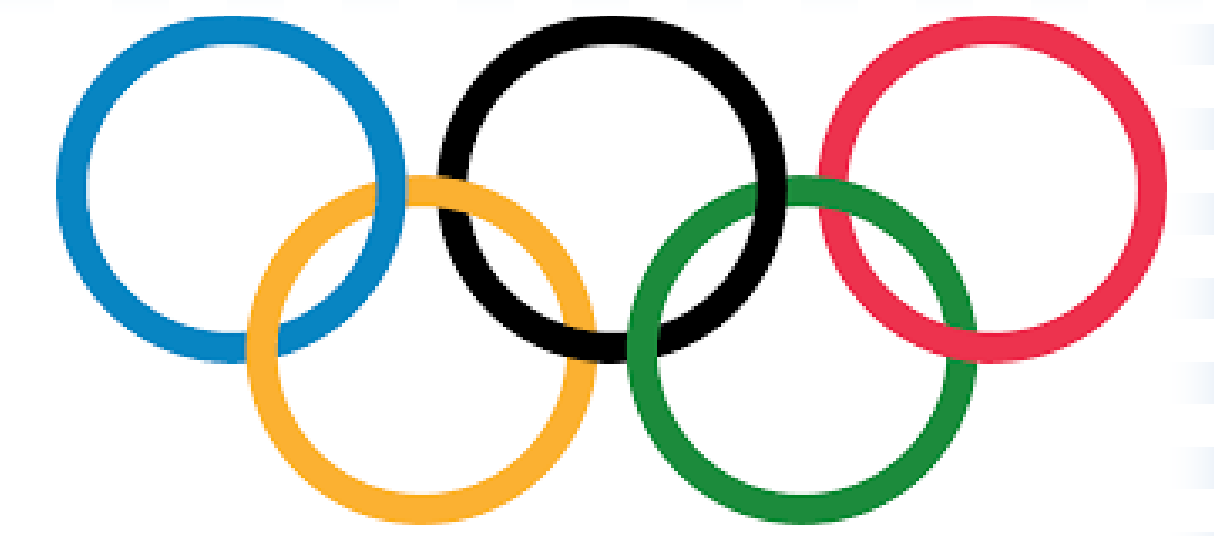
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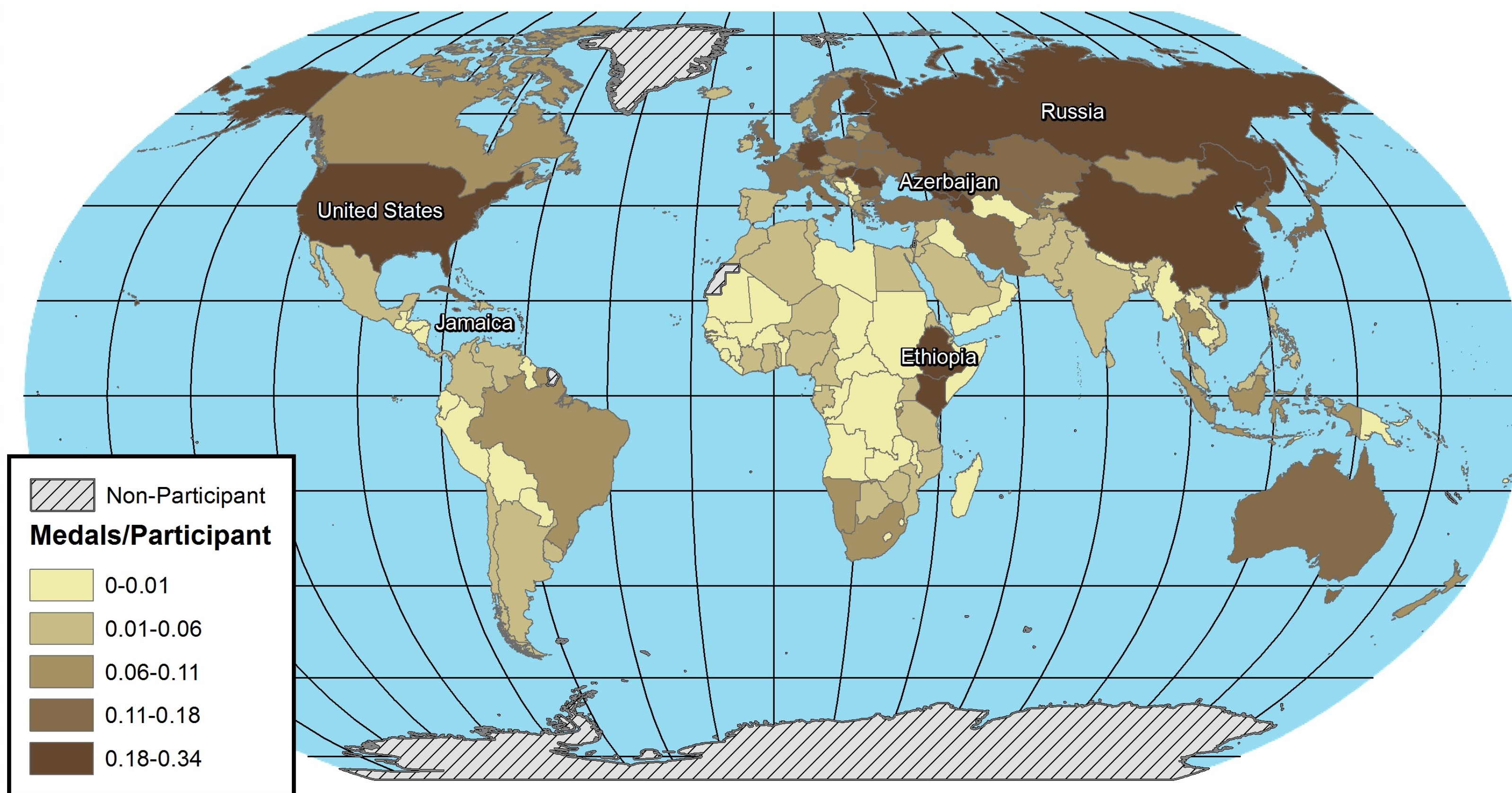
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Olympic Success: Built, Born, or Bought?



By: Jacob Ney

1: Olympic Success Rate

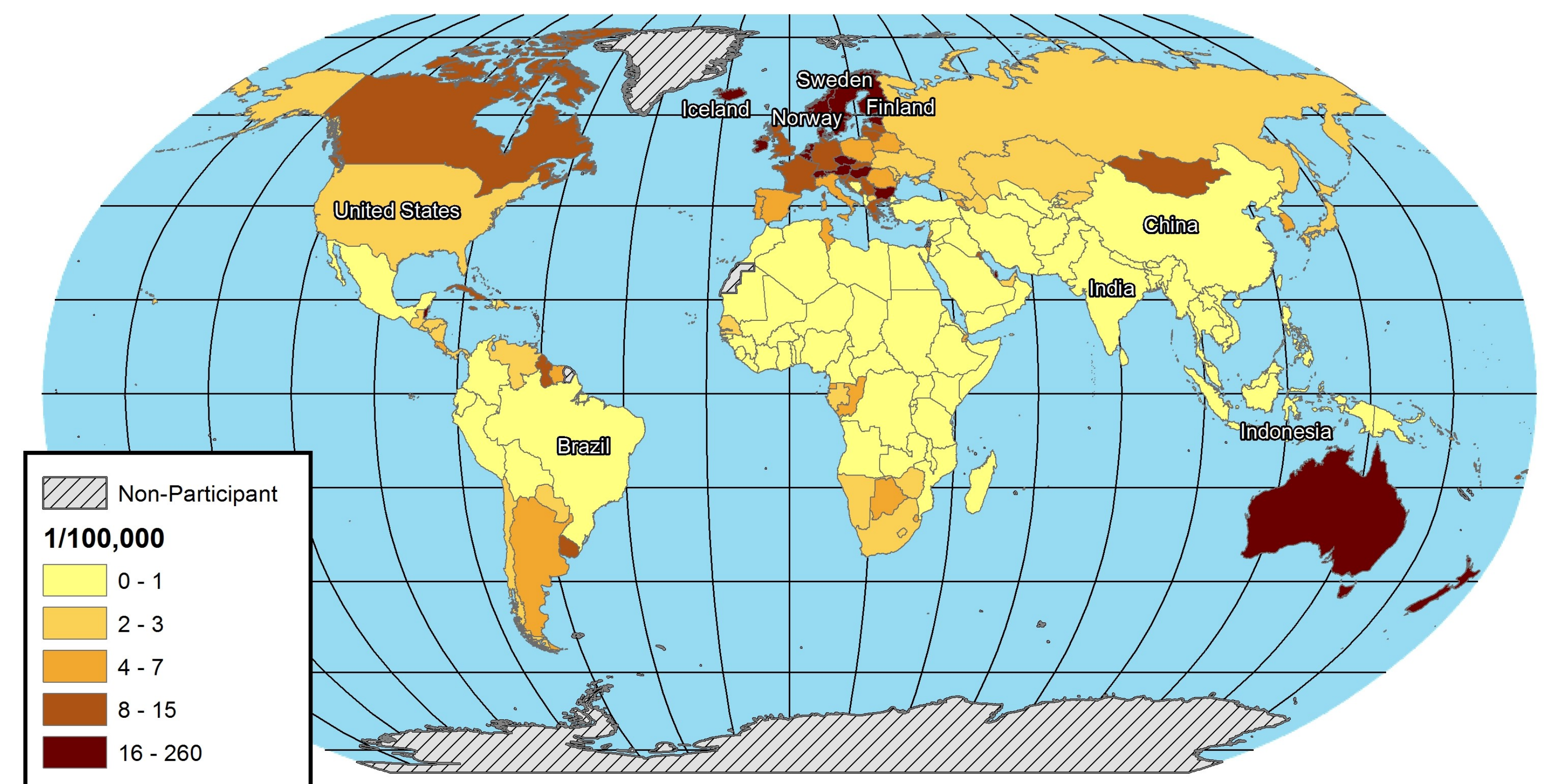


1: How successful are participants from each country? This maps success rate—how many medals are earned by country per Olympic participant.

Is a ranked medal count a fair representation of Olympic Success? To balance how this success is measured, factors such as a country's participation, population, and GDP should be considered. Using data from the all time summer Olympics, these maps attempt to normalize the playing field.

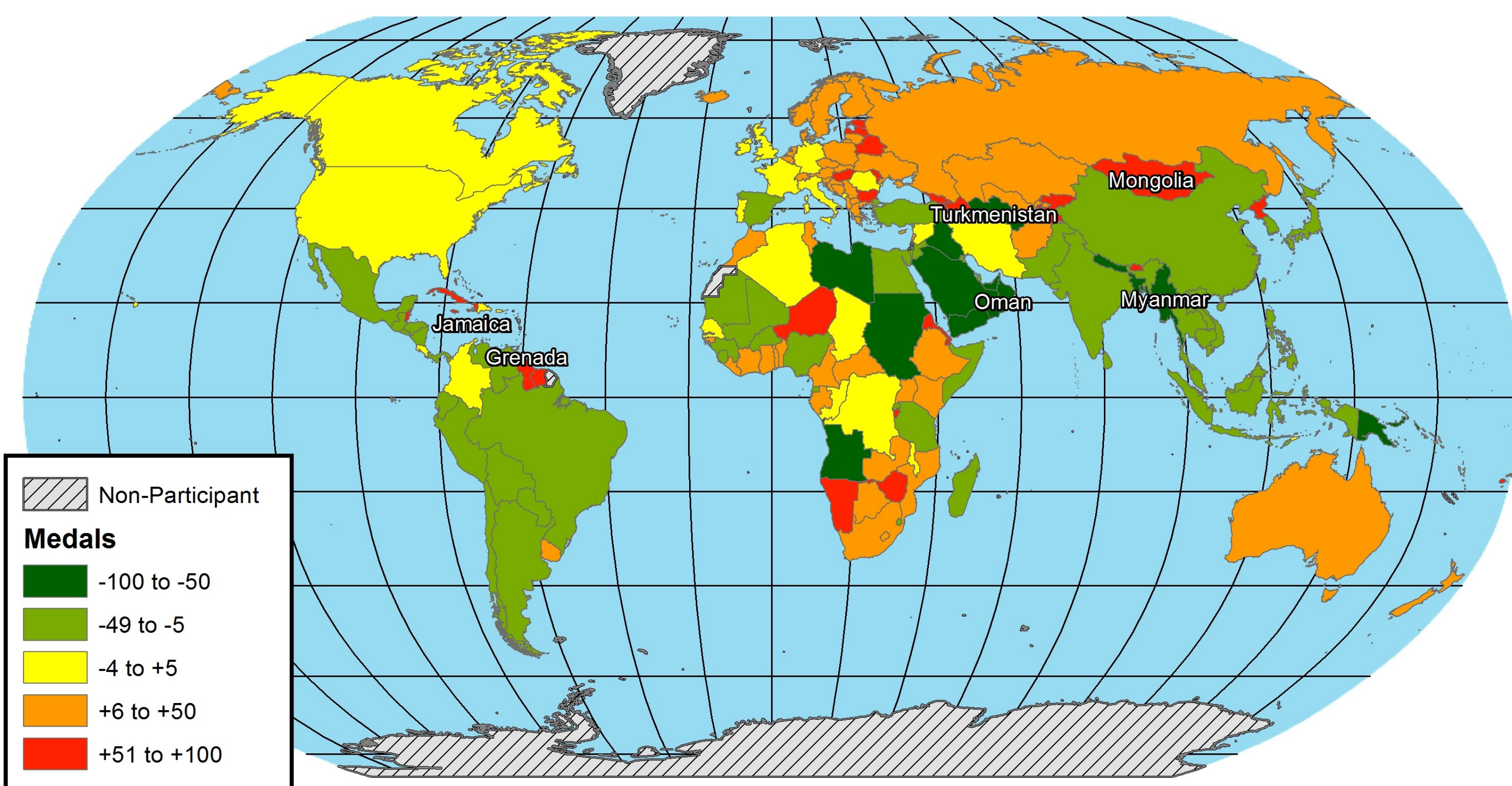
2: How many people, as a proportion of the larger population, do countries choose to send? If each country had a population of 100,000 people, this is how many participants each has sent to the Olympics.

2: Population Percentage



Results indicate that countries with large populations typically send less participants proportionally—only their very best athletes. Countries with high GDPs spend more on athletics to earn more medals, while others perform with more variance comparatively. Looking at Olympic success rate is a fairer measure of performance, but GDP and population should also be considered when measuring how a country fares.

3: GDP and Medals



3: How does the overall GDP of a country affect their medal count? This map compares how many medals a country has earned to how many would be expected based on their GDP.