

# AIAA Houston Section Douglas Yazell: Diversity, Climate, History, and 3 Sister Sections: France, Ethiopia Peru; Saturday, 2/26/2022

Weekly Status, D. Yazell, AIAA

Views expressed in this document are opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect views of AIAA.

The Starry Night, 1889,  
Vincent van Gogh.  
Image credits:



This weekly document, my status report, is published here. The full link is:  
[www.aiaahouston.org/history\\_technical\\_committee/#news](http://www.aiaahouston.org/history_technical_committee/#news)

**Tesla**

## Black workers accused Tesla of racism for years. Now California is stepping in

The company has been hit with several discrimination lawsuits but this from a government agency may have wider implications

**The Guardian**  
For 200 years

**Kari Paul in San Francisco**

Sat 19 Feb 2022 01:00 EST

**Battery life Pollution**

## 'We are afraid': Erin Brockovich pollutant linked to global electric car boom

Exclusive: Investigation uncovers evidence of contaminated air and water from one of Indonesia's largest nickel mines

**Febriana Firdaus in Obi Island and Tom Levitt**

Sat 19 Feb 2022 02:00 EST

**ars TECHNICA**

BIZ & IT TECH SCIENCE POLICY CARS

SPACEX DOES NOT MARK THE SPOT —

## Astronomers now say the rocket about to strike the Moon is not a Falcon 9

It's probable that the impact object comes from a Chinese rocket launched in 2014.

ERIC BERGER - 2/12/2022, 8:10 PM

Slide 2-Diversity

Slide 3-Climate-"... net zero ... by 2050 requires the ultimate sense of urgency." [AIAA, April 2021]

Slide 4-AIAA Houston Section International Activities Committee (IAC)

Slide 5-AIAA Houston Section **France**-USA Sister Sections

Slide 6-AIAA Houston Section **Ethiopia**-USA Sister Sections

Slide 7-AIAA Houston Section **Peru**-USA Sister Sections

Slide 8-**Mexico**-AIAA Region IV is Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and New Mexico

Slide 9-Mexico-In AIAA Mexico is part of Region IV and paired with AIAA Houston Section

Slide 10-AIAA Houston Section **History** technical committee

TEDWomen 2017 • October 2017 | 8M views

## Get comfortable with being uncomfortable

Luvvie Ajayi Jones

Luvvie Ajayi Jones isn't afraid to speak her mind or to be the one dissenting voice in a crowd, and neither should you. "Your silence serves no one," says the writer, activist and self-proclaimed professional troublemaker. In this bright, uplifting talk, Ajayi Jones shares three questions to ask yourself if you're teetering on the edge of speaking up or quieting down -- and encourages all of us to get a little more comfortable with being uncomfortable.

This might have been a harmless and entirely unnoticed error until astronomers found that this object was about to strike the Moon. Suddenly, the potential for an errant Falcon 9 rocket—after all, Elon Musk is a global celebrity—was big news around the world.

It was engineer Jon Giorgini at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory who realized this object was not, in fact, the upper stage of a Falcon 9 rocket. He wrote to Gray on Saturday morning explaining that the DSCOVR spacecraft's trajectory did not go particularly close to the Moon. The second stage would, therefore, be extremely unlikely to strike the Moon. This prompted Gray to dig back into his data and identify other potential candidates.

He soon found one: the Chinese Chang'e 5-T1 mission launched in October 2014 on a Long March 3C rocket. This lunar mission sent a small spacecraft to the Moon as a precursor test for an eventual lunar-sample return mission. The launch time and lunar trajectory are almost an exact match for the orbit of the object that will hit the Moon in March.



## Goals and Objectives



GOAL 1: DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION ARE WIDELY RECOGNIZED WITHIN THE AIAA COMMUNITY AS ESSENTIAL TO THE MISSION AND VISION OF THE INSTITUTE.

OBJECTIVE 1:  
Increase awareness within the AIAA community of the importance of diversity and inclusion.

The 2021-2023 AIAA Diversity Plan

TOC

Diversity

### Philadelphia

## Water in dozens of Philadelphia schools contaminated with lead, report finds

- Potentially tens of thousands of students exposed to toxins
- Report's authors say findings 'just the tip of the iceberg'

The Guardian  
For 200 years

Richard Luscombe

Twitter: @richlusc

Fri 18 Feb 2022 09:13 EST

### Daunte Wright

## Daunte Wright family 'cheated' by two-year sentence for officer who shot him dead

- Kim Potter convicted of manslaughter over Wright's death
- Judge says former officer made 'tragic, tragic mistake'

The Guardian  
For 200 years

Richard Luscombe

Twitter: @richlusc

Fri 18 Feb 2022 13:35 EST

The Guardian  
For 200 years

Sergio Olmos

Fri 18 Feb 2022 02:00 EST

### Republicans

## Republicans who opposed racial justice protests hope truckers 'clog up' US cities

Lawmakers including Rand Paul and Ron DeSantis say they would back disruption of a Canadian-style trucker convoy



## WHITE TEARS



White Tears

11,318 views • Feb 16, 2020

BY DEBBY IRVING

I recall the first time I heard the term "white tears" and more specifically "white women's tears." Over the years my understanding of the term has grown, and even connects to a memory I have of the day I got my driver's license. White tears have been a window into some of the most important personal work I've have to do as a white woman engaged in racial justice.



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NEWS | February 15, 2022

## Sea Level to Rise up to a Foot by 2050, Interagency Report Finds

By Jane Lee,  
NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory

## Arctic Sinkholes

In the Arctic, enormous releases of methane, a potent greenhouse gas, threaten the climate.

PREMIERED: 2/2/22 RUNTIME: 53:28 TOPIC: PLANET EARTH

**NOVA**

## [equity] "Reckoning With the Sierra Club's Complex History" By Ramón Cruz

July 22, 2020

"Reckoning With the Sierra Club's Complex History"

By Ramón Cruz  
President of Sierra Club



**SIERRA CLUB**  
GRAND CANYON

Dear Supporter,

In the face of this moment of mass uprisings against police brutality and systemic racism, millions of us are being challenged to recognize our individual and collective role in maintaining systems of inequality and discrimination.

The Sierra Club is a 128-year-old organization with a complex history, some of which has caused significant and immeasurable harm. As defenders of Black life pull down Confederate monuments across the country, we must also take this moment to reexamine our past and the fact that some of Sierra Club's early members played a substantial role in perpetuating systemic racism.

This conversation is not new, even within the Sierra Club. But the time of actively ignoring calls for justice is over. It is our responsibility to go deeper into our past and critically examine some of our own monuments, starting with some truth-telling about the history of the Sierra Club. **We've published the first in a series of posts** on the Sierra Club's history and our plans to rebuild the organization with a renewed focus on racial and social justice. It will be followed by posts about our history from the mid-20th century onward. In these posts, we will talk in depth about steps we're taking to make the Sierra Club an actively anti-racist organization, and to understand and help repair the harms we have caused.

Addressing the climate crisis requires dismantling systemic racism. As our director of strategic partnerships, Hop Hopkins, wrote, "You can't have climate change without sacrifice zones, and you can't have sacrifice zones without disposable people, and you can't have disposable people without racism." [1]

We are called to actively and thoughtfully dismantle racism in all of its forms and combat exclusion wherever it occurs—in our parks and wilderness areas, in our own communities, in the halls of power, and especially among our own staff, volunteers, and 3.8 million members and supporters. Although we see these posts as an important first step, we know that they aren't enough by themselves to ensure that we can build an inclusive and equitable Sierra Club for the 21st century. That's why we will also shift power and money within our organization to make sure we are working to address the root causes of the climate crisis and decades of environmental injustice.

In the coming weeks, we'll be creating a space for open and honest discussion of this work through a series of panel discussions and town halls for Sierra Club volunteers with members of our Board of Directors and chapter and volunteer leaders. We want to take the time to listen to your questions and thoughts as part of this process, and we encourage you to **submit those on this Sierra Club Community Ask Us Anything form**. In addition, please stay tuned for invitations to those events.

You are a valued part of our organization and a crucial part of our grassroots work to advance climate solutions, act for justice, get outdoors, and protect lands, water, air, and wildlife. Thank you for coming with us on this journey.

Ramón Cruz  
Sierra Club President

[1] Hop Hopkins, "**Racism Is Killing the Planet**," in *Sierra* magazine.

GLOBAL TEMPERATURE

↑ 1.18 °C since 1880

1/15/2022

## Racism Is Killing the Planet

The ideology of white supremacy leads the way toward disposable people and a disposable natural world

By Hop Hopkins | Jun 8 2020

TOC

Climate

"... the first in a series of posts ..."

## Pulling Down Our Monuments

By [Michael Brune](#) July 22, 2020



**SIERRA CLUB**

**Sierra**

THE MAGAZINE OF THE SIERRA CLUB



GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE  
Vital Signs of the Planet

CARBON DIOXIDE

↑ 418 parts per million (current)

GLOBAL TEMPERATURE

↑ 1.01 °C since 1880

ARCTIC SEA ICE EXTENT

↓ 13.0 percent per decade since 1979

ICE SHEETS

↓ 427 billion metric tons per year

SEA LEVEL

↑ 3.4 millimeters per year

OCEAN HEAT ADDED

↑ 337 zettajoules since 1955

GLOBAL TEMPERATURE

↑ 1.01 °C since 1880 0.85 - (-0.16) 1/20/2022<sup>3</sup>

[Downloaded Friday, February 20, 2022]



# AIAA Houston Section Douglas Yazell: Diversity, Climate, History, and 3 Sister Sections: France, Ethiopia Peru; Saturday, 2/26/2022

France

Ethiopia

Peru

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## AIAA Houston Section sister sections

France-USA: [www.3af-mp.fr](http://www.3af-mp.fr)

France: Francis Guimera, preceded by Alain Chevalier

Houston: Douglas Yazell

AIAA Houston Section International Activities Committee (IAC)

Chair: Douglas Yazell, [douglas.yazell@me.com](mailto:douglas.yazell@me.com)

Ethiopia-USA:

Ethiopia: Tulu Besha Bedada, PhD and Berhan Gessesse, PhD

Houston: Thomas Haregot

Peru-USA:

Houston: Jackelynne Silva-Martinez

Peru: Julio Valdivia, Saul Perez

[alain.chevalier31@yahoo.fr](mailto:alain.chevalier31@yahoo.fr)

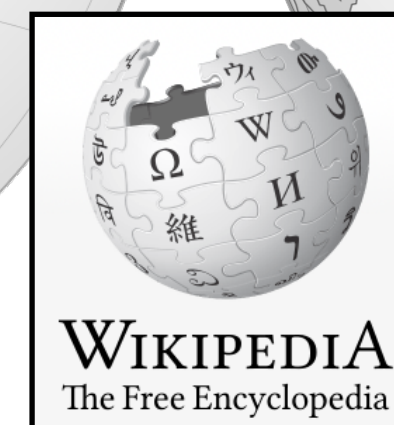
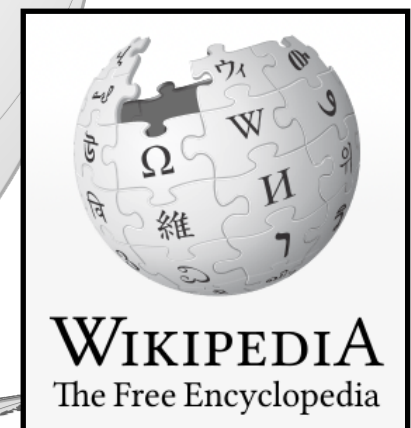
[francis.guimera@orange.fr](mailto:francis.guimera@orange.fr)

[douglas.yazell@me.com](mailto:douglas.yazell@me.com)

[tulubesha@yahoo.com](mailto:tulubesha@yahoo.com)

[tharegot@gmail.com](mailto:tharegot@gmail.com)

[jackysumac@yahoo.com](mailto:jackysumac@yahoo.com)





France maintains a tradition of secularism and has not officially collected data on religious affiliation since the 1872 national census, which complicates assessments of France's religious composition; an 1872 law prohibiting state authorities from collecting data on individuals' ethnicity or religious beliefs was reaffirmed by a **1978 law emphasizing the prohibition of the collection or exploitation of personal data revealing an individual's race, ethnicity, or political, philosophical, or religious opinions** (2015 est.)

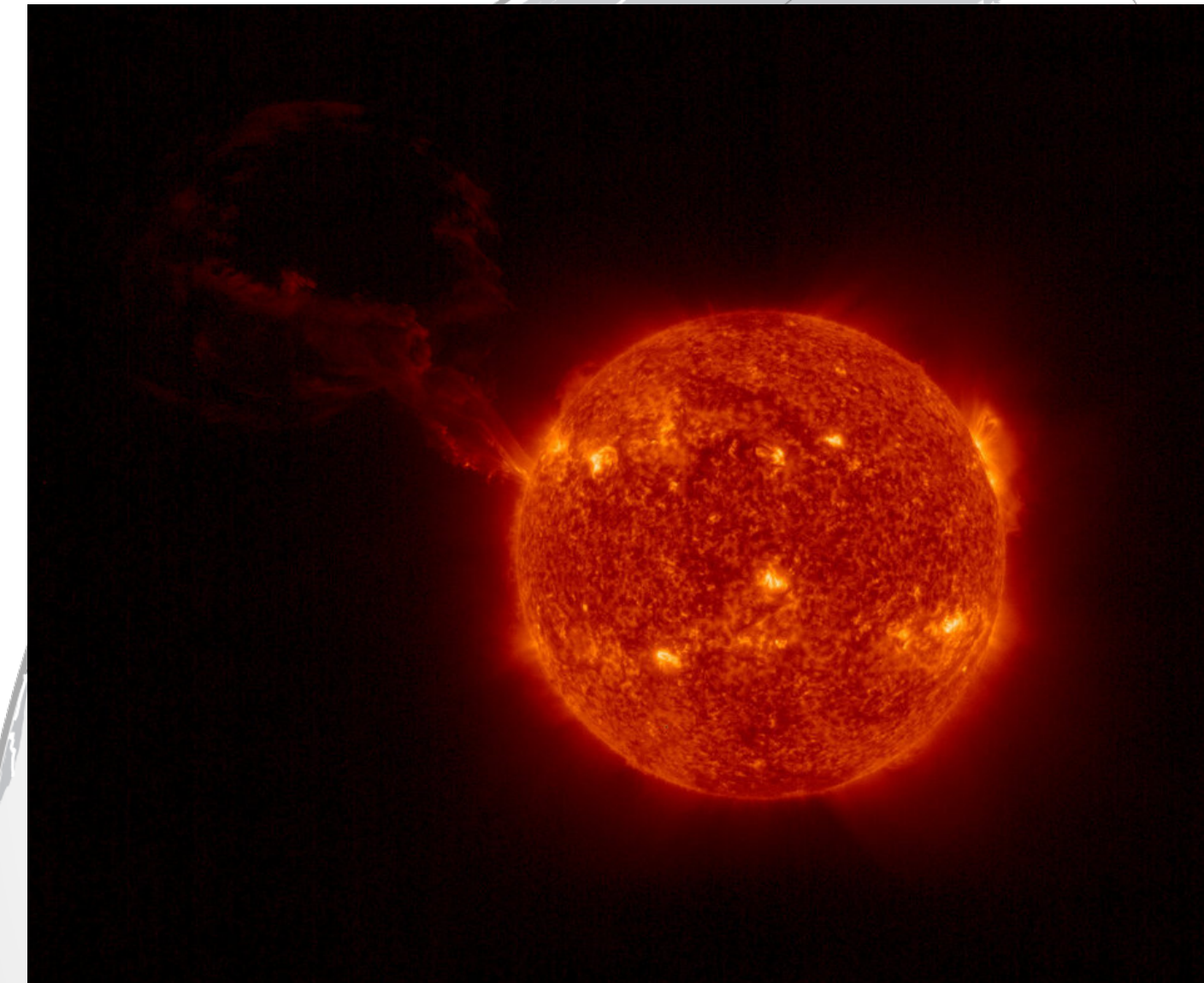


#### Ethnic groups

**Most** French people are of Celtic-Gallic origin, with a significant admixture of Italic (Romans) and Germanic (Franks) groups reflecting centuries of respective migration and settlement. Through the course of the Middle Ages, **France incorporated various neighbouring ethnic and linguistic groups**, as evidenced by Breton elements in the west, Aquitanian in the southwest, Scandinavian in the northwest, Alemannic in the northeast, and Ligurian in the southeast.

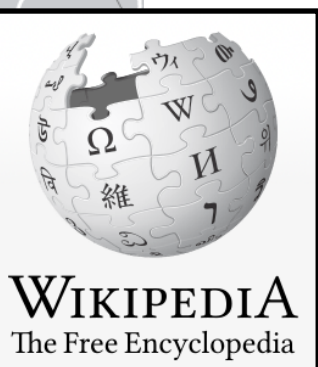
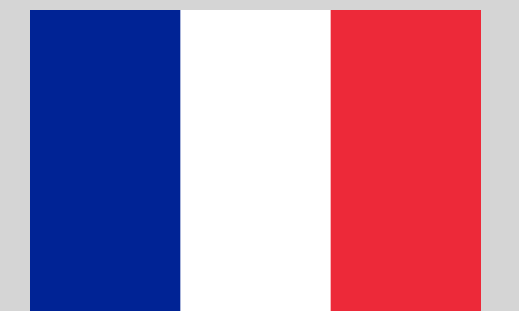
Large-scale immigration over the last century and a half has led to a more multicultural society; beginning with the French Revolution, and further codified in the French Constitution of 1958, **the government is prohibited from collecting data on ethnicity and ancestry**; most demographic information is drawn from private sector organisations or academic institutions. In 2004, the Institut Montaigne estimated that **within Metropolitan France, 51 million people were White (85% of the population), 6 million were Northwest African (10%), 2 million were Black (3.3%), and 1 million were Asian (1.7%).**

A 2008 poll conducted jointly by INED and the French National Institute of Statistics estimated that the **largest ancestry groups** were Italian (5 million), followed by Northwest African (3-6 million), Sub-Saharan African (2.5 million), Armenian (500,000), and Turkish (200,000). There are also sizeable minorities of other European ethnic groups, namely Spanish, Portuguese, Polish, and Greek. France has a significant Gitan (Romani) population, numbering between 20,000 and 400,000; many foreign Roma are expelled back to Bulgaria and Romania frequently.



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France



→ THE EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY



## Giant solar eruption seen by Solar Orbiter

18/02/2022 37019 VIEWS 129 LIKES

ESA / Science & Exploration / Space Science / Solar Orbiter





Current events: [Current events: https://www.theguardian.com/world/ethiopia](https://www.theguardian.com/world/ethiopia)



Current events: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/ethiopia>



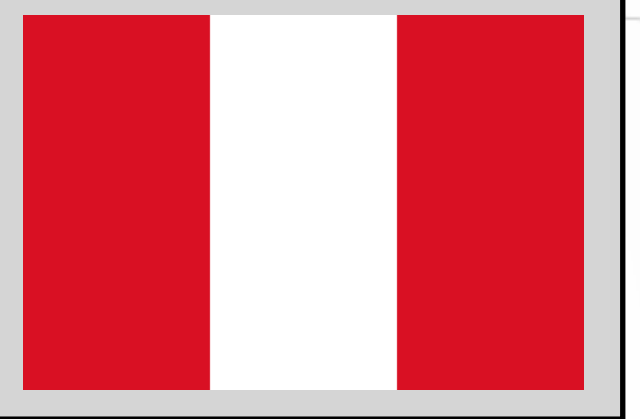
## Peru's chief of staff stashed \$20,000 in palace bathroom

🕒 24 November 2021



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[Peru](#)



WIKIPEDIA  
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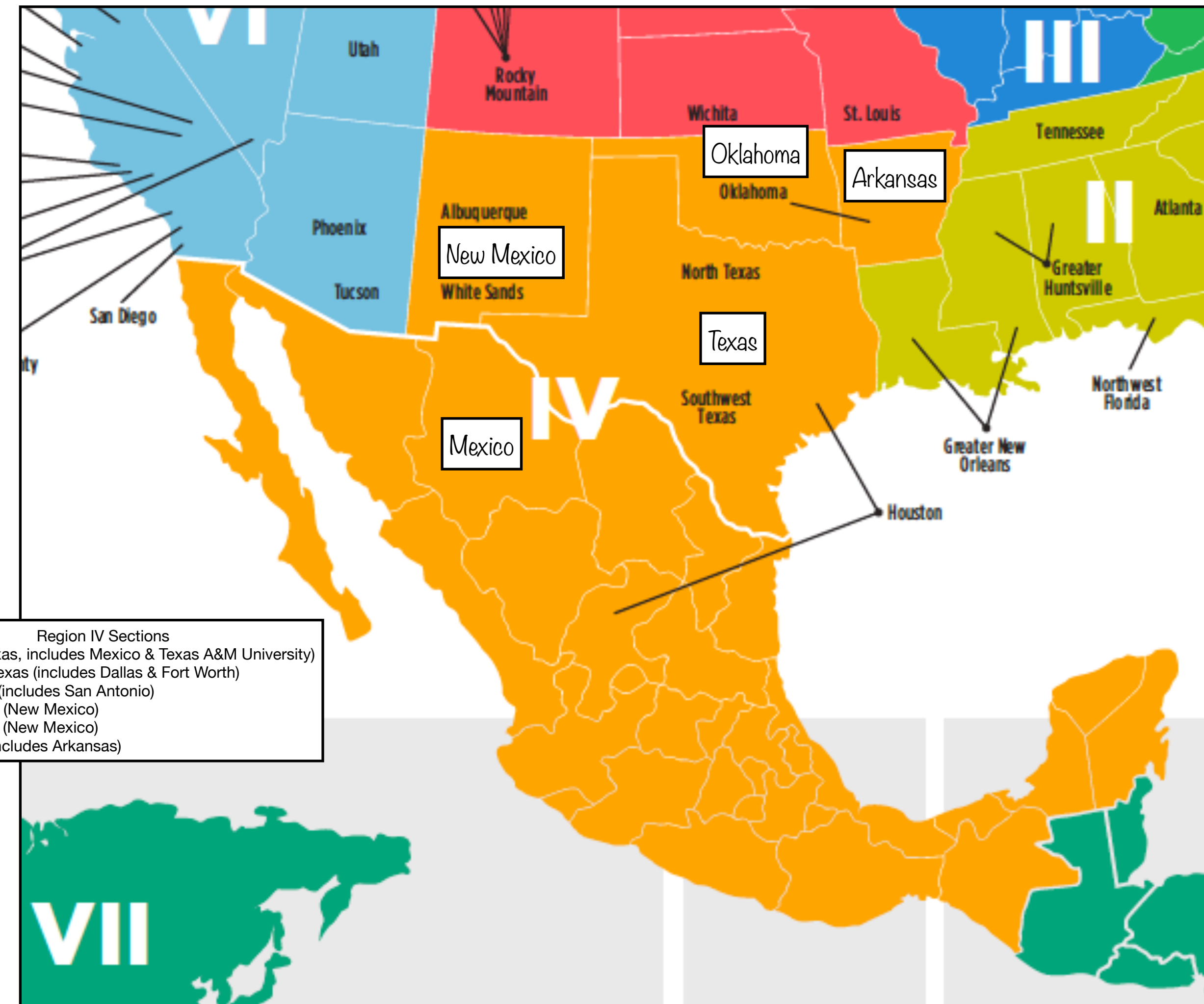
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[Mexico](#)



AIAA Houston Section: Mexico and the Section's territory in Texas

AIAA Region VII (International) and Region IV (Mexico and four states of the USA)



- Region IV Sections
1. Houston (Texas, includes Mexico & Texas A&M University)
  2. Southwest Texas (includes Dallas & Fort Worth)
  3. North Texas (includes San Antonio)
  4. Albuquerque (New Mexico)
  5. White Sands (New Mexico)
  6. Oklahoma (includes Arkansas)



Even though Mexico is a very ethnically diverse country, research about ethnicity has largely been a forgotten field, in consequence of the post-revolutionary efforts of Mexico's government to unify all non-indigenous Mexicans under a single ethnic identity (that of the "Mestizo"). As a result, since 1930 the only explicit ethnic classification that has been included in Mexican censuses has been that of "Indigenous peoples". Even then, across the years the government has used different criteria to count Indigenous peoples, with each of them returning considerably different numbers ranging from 6.1% to 23% of the country's population. It is not until very recently that the Mexican government began conducting surveys that consider other ethnic groups that live in the country such as Afro-Mexicans who amount to 2% of Mexico's population or White Mexicans who amount to 47% of Mexico's population (with the criteria being based on appearance rather than on self-declared ancestry). Less numerous groups in Mexico such as Asians and Middle Easterners are also accounted for, with numbers of around 1% each.

As of 2017, it is estimated that 1.2 million **foreigners** have settled in the country, up from nearly 1 million in 2010. The vast majority of migrants come from the United States (900,000), making Mexico the top destination for U.S. citizens abroad. The second largest group comes from neighboring Guatemala (54,500), followed by Spain (27,600). Other major sources of migration are fellow Latin American countries, which include Colombia (20,600), Argentina (19,200) and Cuba (18,100). Historically, the Lebanese diaspora and the German-born Mennonite migration have left a notorious impact in the country's culture, particularly in its cuisine and traditional music. At the turn of the 21st century, several trends have increased the number of foreigners residing in the country such as the 2008–2014 Spanish financial crisis, increasing gang-related violence in the Northern Triangle of Central America, the ongoing political and economic crisis in Venezuela, and the automotive industry boom led by Japanese and South Korean investment.



Left: Maya glyphs at the National Museum of Anthropology (Mexico).

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Mexico



# LIDAR Technology Helps Uncover a Maya Metropolis

Light Detection and Ranging, LIDAR, sees through the jungle to reveal what lies beneath.

PUBLISH DATE: 2/7/23 TOPIC: ANCIENT WORLDS



NOVA



## WHAT RECONSTRUCTION AND THE NEW DEAL CAN TEACH US ABOUT WHAT COMES AFTER THE PANDEMIC PRESIDENCY

Yale professors and Pulitzer Prize winners David Blight and Greg Grandin are this week's guests.



The Intercept

Yale historian David Blight: "We don't know what is coming in the fall, in the summer, and next winter, but what we do know is we've been revealed to ourselves and frankly to the world."

## Censorship Books bans and 'gag orders': the US schools crackdown no one asked for

Few parents are demanding censorship but rightwing politicians are passing restrictive laws nevertheless

The Guardian  
For 200 years

Adam Gabbatt in New York

@adamgabbatt

Mon 21 Feb 2022 03.00 EST

"Today these terms are understood by most people to be offensive."

"Because race is a sociopolitical construct, it is ever-changing. Systems of power are not fixed and eternal; they are constantly being challenged and adapting to those challenges. Language is also sociopolitical and constantly evolving. The language we employ conveys ideas and images that shape how we see and respond to others, and as our awareness becomes sharper, so does our language. As marginalized groups gain visibility, they determine for themselves how they identify and how others should identify them. **When I was growing up, it was acceptable in the white mainstream to use such terms as 'Negro' and 'Oriental.'** Today these terms are understood by most people to be offensive. Binary categories such as male and female have been deconstructed, and pronouns should no longer be assumed. As culture shifts and orthodoxy is challenged in an ongoing process, we must make an effort to keep up. It should not be on those who are marginalized to adapt to language we find more familiar and comfortable — **it is on us to evolve.**" [Robin DiAngelo, from her 2021 book, Nice Racism, How Progressive White People Perpetuate Racial Harm]

"Finally, the American political discourse is still significantly shaped by the paradigm of white innocence. ... whatever animates white people's extremism, it must not be racism, and they cannot be blamed for their actions."

The Guardian  
For 200 years

Opinion US politics

Thomas Zimmer

Tue 22 Feb 2022 06.12 EST

February 21, 2022 · 4:46 AM CST  
Last Updated a day ago

Aerospace & Defense

## China denies rocket set for moon crash was from 2014 Chinese mission

Reuters

2 minute read