

SUICIDE: A COMPLEX ISSUE

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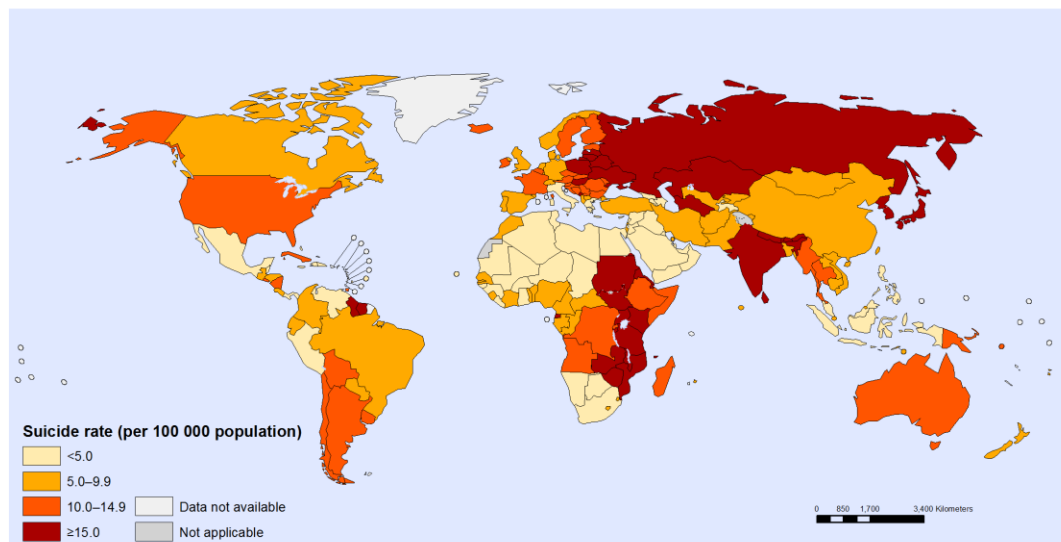
Simplified Suicide

□ Suicide

- Always wrong
- Always to be prevented



Age-standardized suicide rates (per 100 000 population), both sexes, 2012



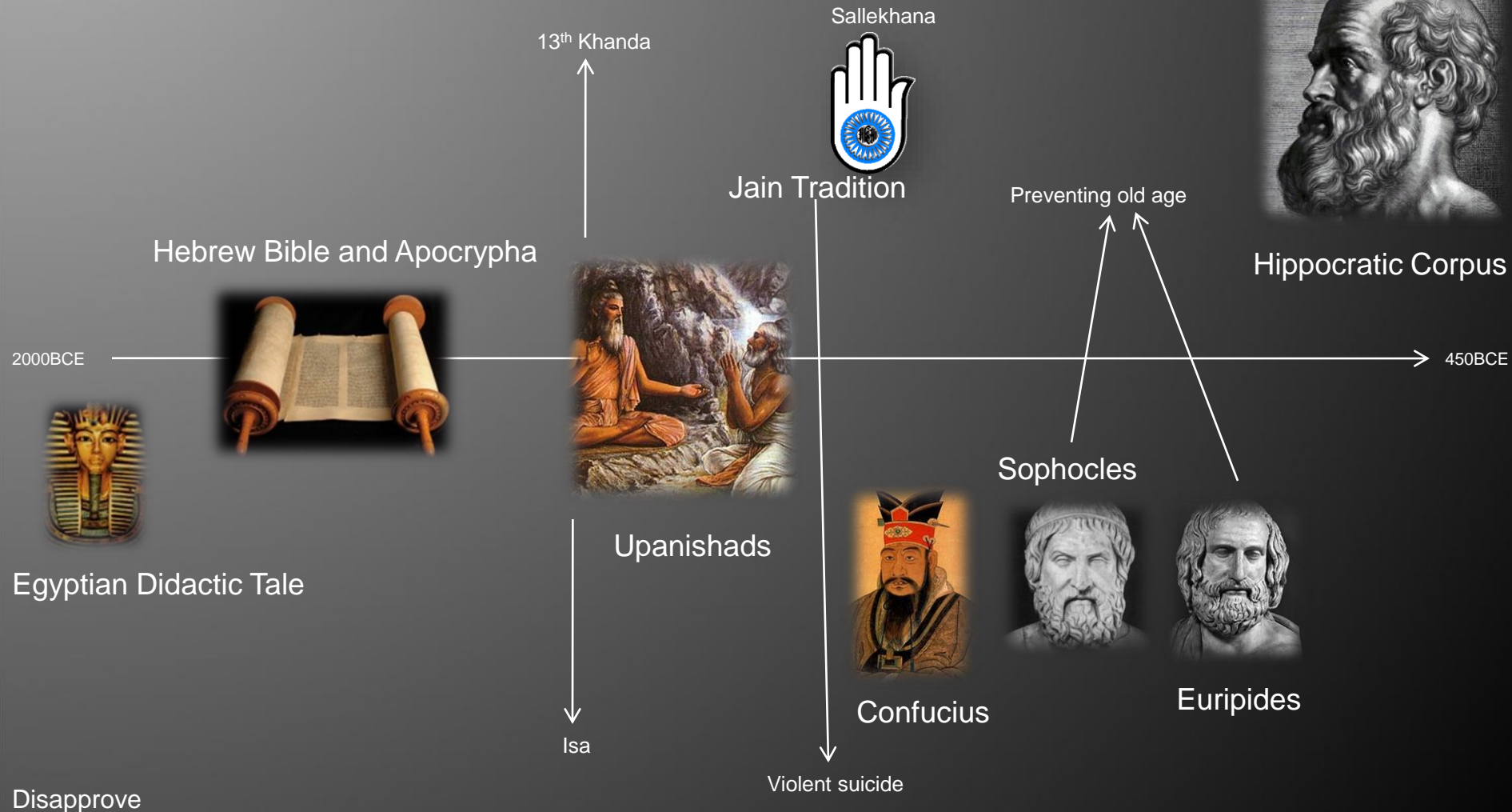
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Data Source: World Health Organization
Map Production: Health Statistics and
Information Systems (HSI)
World Health Organization

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Timeline: 2000 BCE – 450 BCE

Approve



Trends

- ▣ Situational
 - Self sacrifice
 - Old age
 - Impassioned action vs. Contemplative movement to the next life (Jain)



VS.



Hippocratic Corpus

▣ The Hippocratic Oath:

"...I will not give a lethal drug to anyone if I am asked, nor will I advise such a plan..."



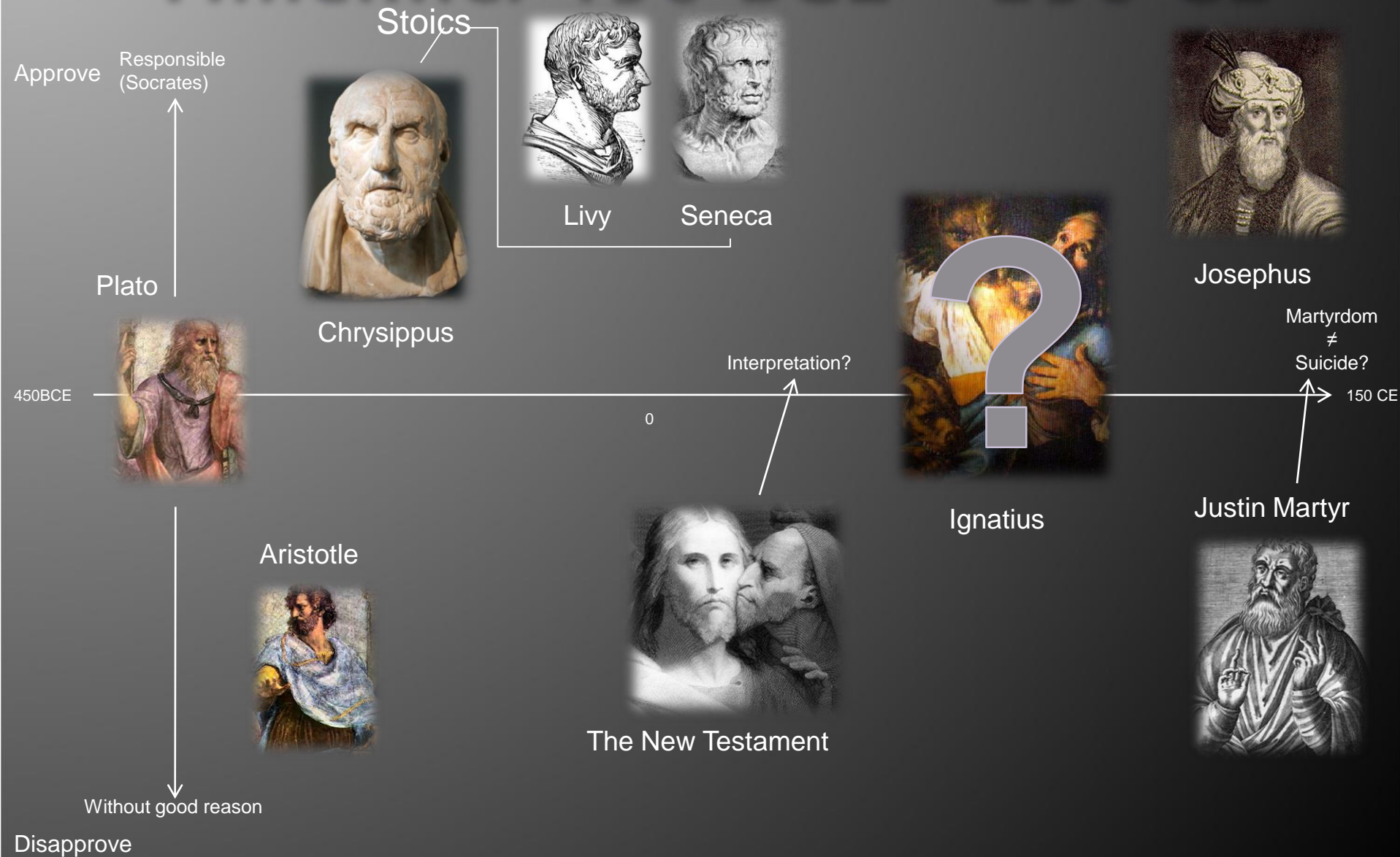
Hippocratic Corpus

▣ The Hippocratic Oath also prohibits:

- surgery, even on sufferers from stone
- abortive remedies
- sex with patients or family members
- taking fees for teaching medicine
- only permits teaching male students



Timeline: 450 BCE – 150 CE



Trends

- ▣ All over the place

Stoics



- ▣ Chrysippus's 5 reasons
 - Commanded to do so by a higher authority
 - To avoid being forced to do shameful things
 - Serious illness
 - Poverty
 - Dementedness
- ▣ Seneca:
 - Wise man's decision



Ignatius of Antioch

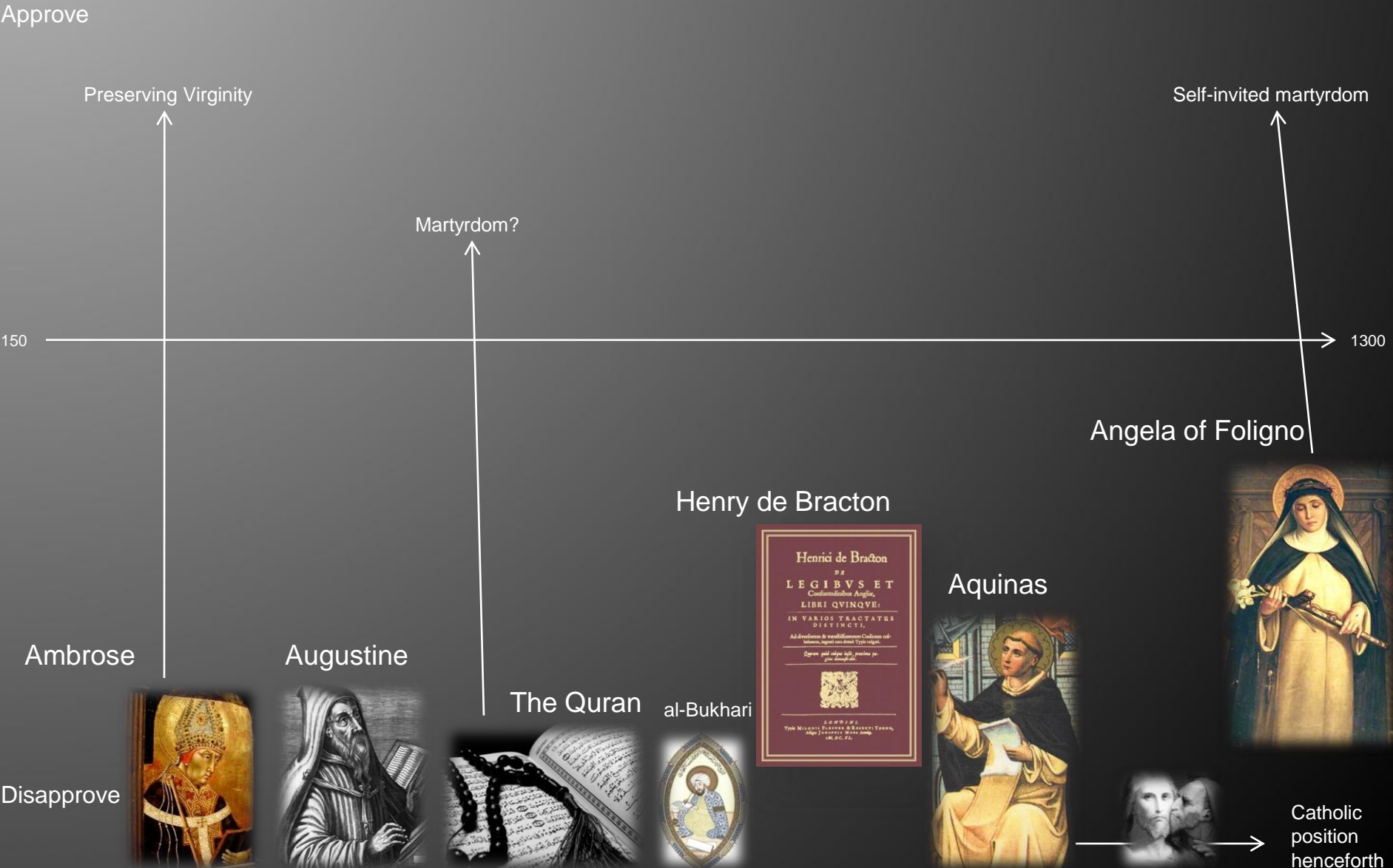


"... I shall willingly die for God... I am the wheat of God, and let me be ground by the teeth of the wild beasts... Then I shall truly be a disciple of Christ..."

"... May I enjoy the wild beasts that are prepared for me; and I pray they may be found eager to rush upon me... and not deal with me as with some, whom, out of fear, they have not touched. But if they be unwilling to assail me, I will compel them to do so."



Timeline: 150 – 1300



Trends

- ▣ Christians become increasingly negative
- ▣ Exceptions
- ▣ Martyrdom: Suicide or something else?



Timeline: 1400 – 1750

Approve



Thomas More



Daidoji Yuzan
(Samurai, Busido)



Chikamatsu
Monzaemon



David Hume

1400

1750

Glory of God
(Christ)



John Donne



Martin Luther



Cotton Mather



Cato



Immanuel Kant



Disapprove

Trends

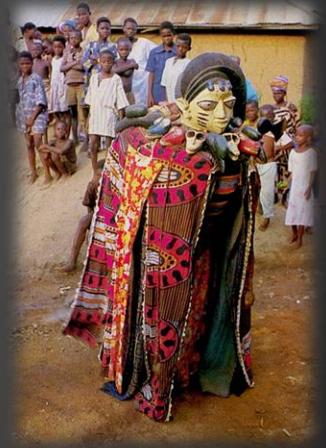
- ▣ Wide swings back and forth

Oral Cultures

- ▣ Central/South America
 - ▣ Aztec, Inca, Maya
- ▣ North America
 - ▣ Iroquois, Natchez, Crow, Gros-Ventre, Navajo, Hopi, Mohave
- ▣ Arctic
 - ▣ St. Lawrence, Iglulik, Hudson Bay Inuit
- ▣ Sub-Saharan Africa
 - ▣ Ashanti, Fante, Yoruba, Igbo, Dinka
- ▣ Oceania
 - ▣ Fiji, New Guinea, Mangareva, Maori

Oral Cultures

Many varied views that change over time



Timeline: 1750 – 1900

On the Influence of Passions

Approve



Madame de Stael



John Stuart Mill



Hara Kiri



Nietzsche

Hindu Widow



1750

1900



Olaudah Equiano



Rammohun Roy

Disapprove

Reflections on Suicide



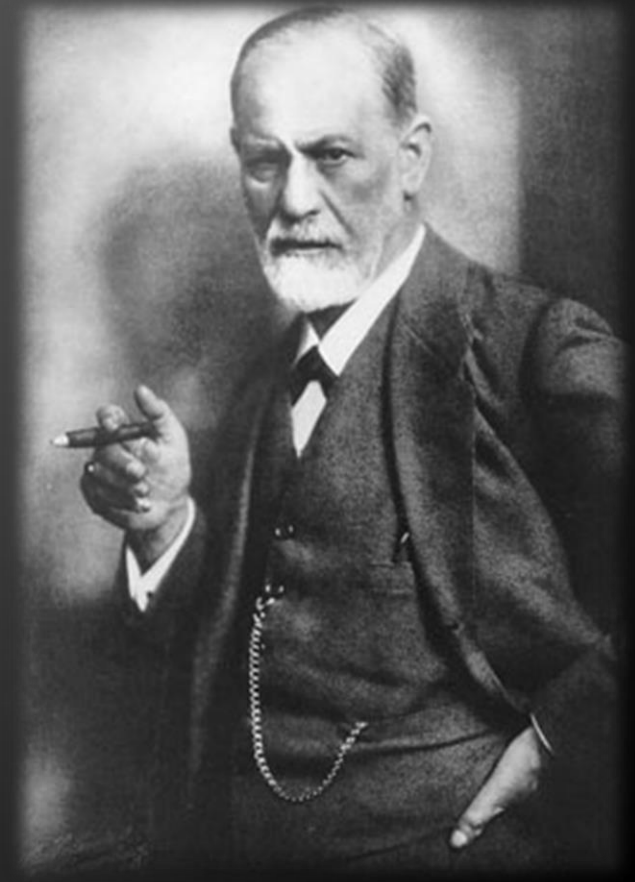


- ▣ Suicide as a function of societal organization

Early 20th
Century:

Emil
Durkheim
and
Sigmund
Freud

- ▣ Suicide as a function of psychopathology



Suicide as an Ethical Issue Reemerges

- ▣ Many widely disagreeing opinions

Tactical Suicide

- ▣ Kamikaze
- ▣ Jihad



Suicide of Social Protest

- ▣ Szmul Zygielbojm protesting the extermination of Polish Jews
- ▣ Buddhist monks and nuns protesting Vietnamese War

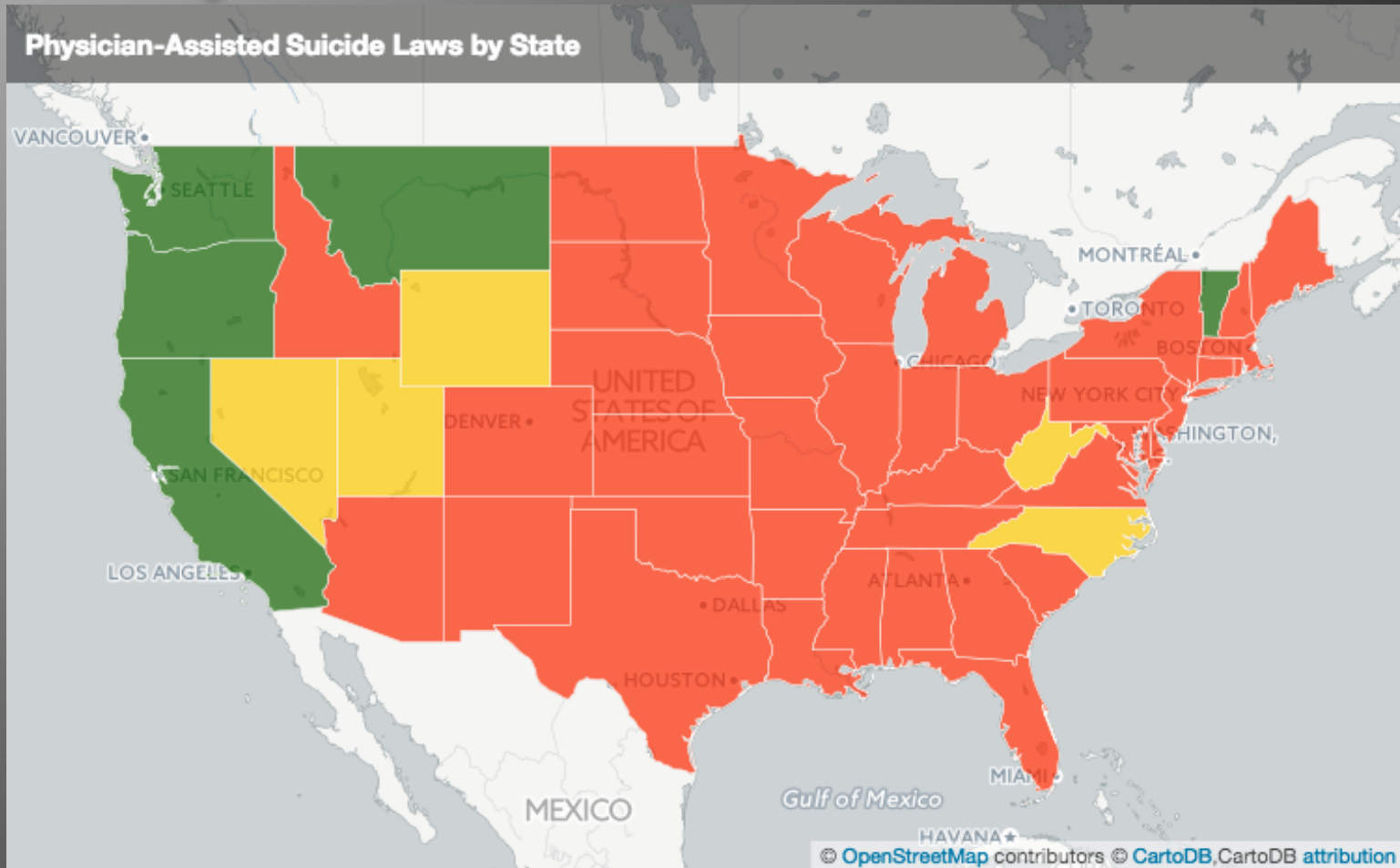


Physician-assisted suicide Death with Dignity; aid-in-dying



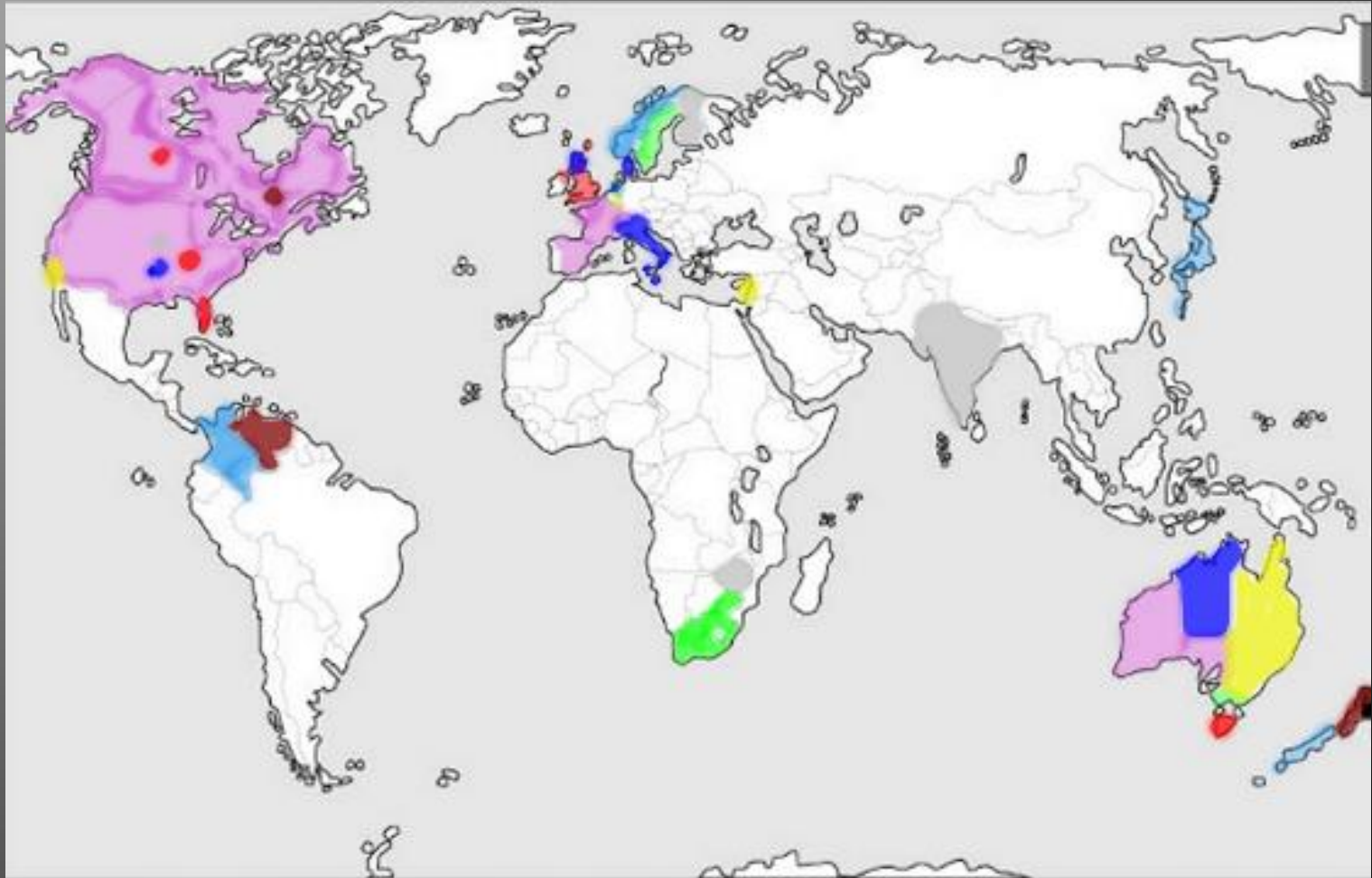
Brittany Maynard

Physician Assisted Suicide



- STATES WITH MEASURES/RULINGS AUTHORIZING PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE
- STATES WHERE PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE IS ILLEGAL
- STATES WHERE PRACTICE IS NOT LEGAL, BUT THAT LACK STATUTES EXPLICITLY BANNING IT

Countries with right-to-die advocacy organizations



World Federation of Right-to-Die Societies