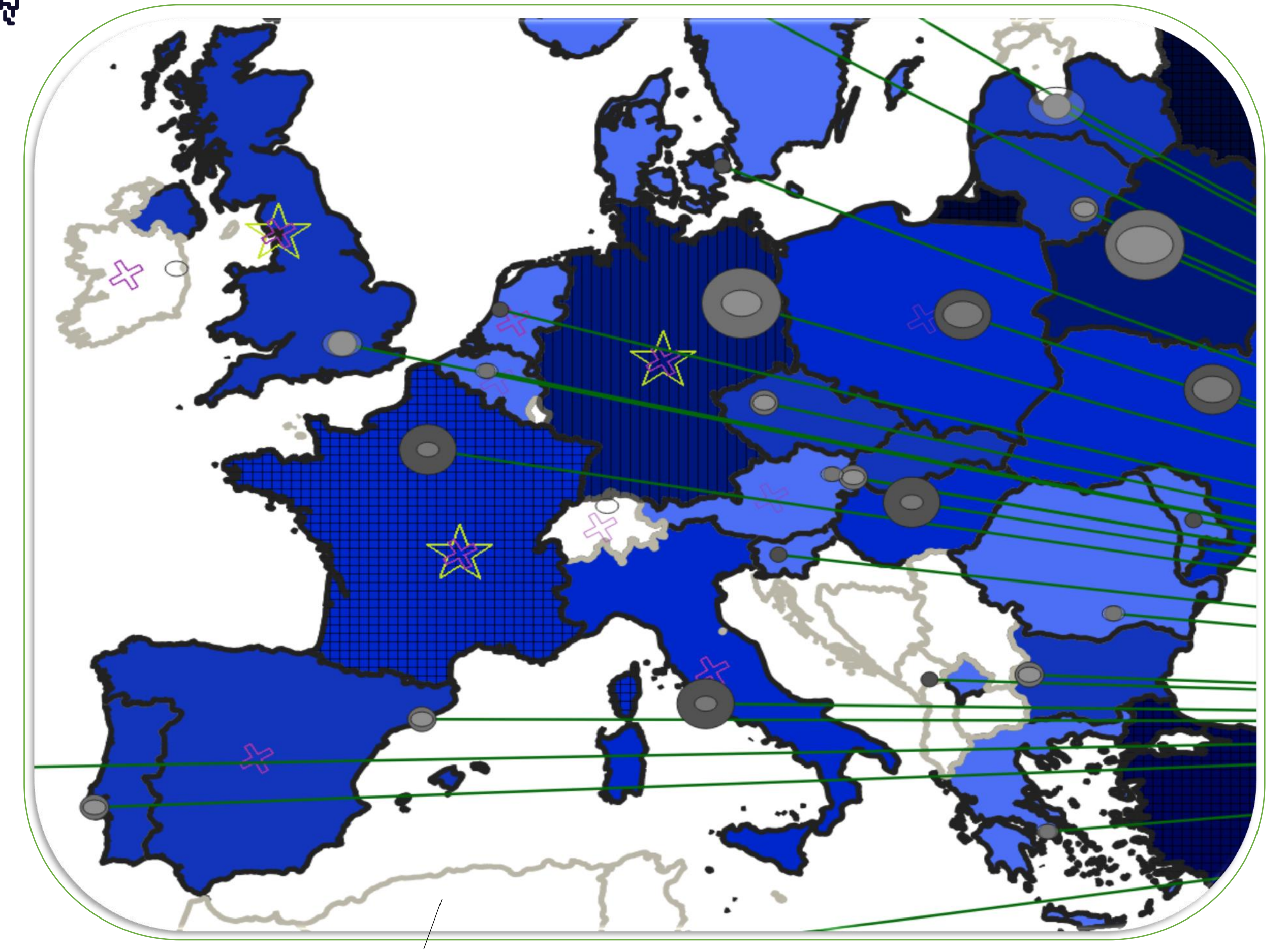
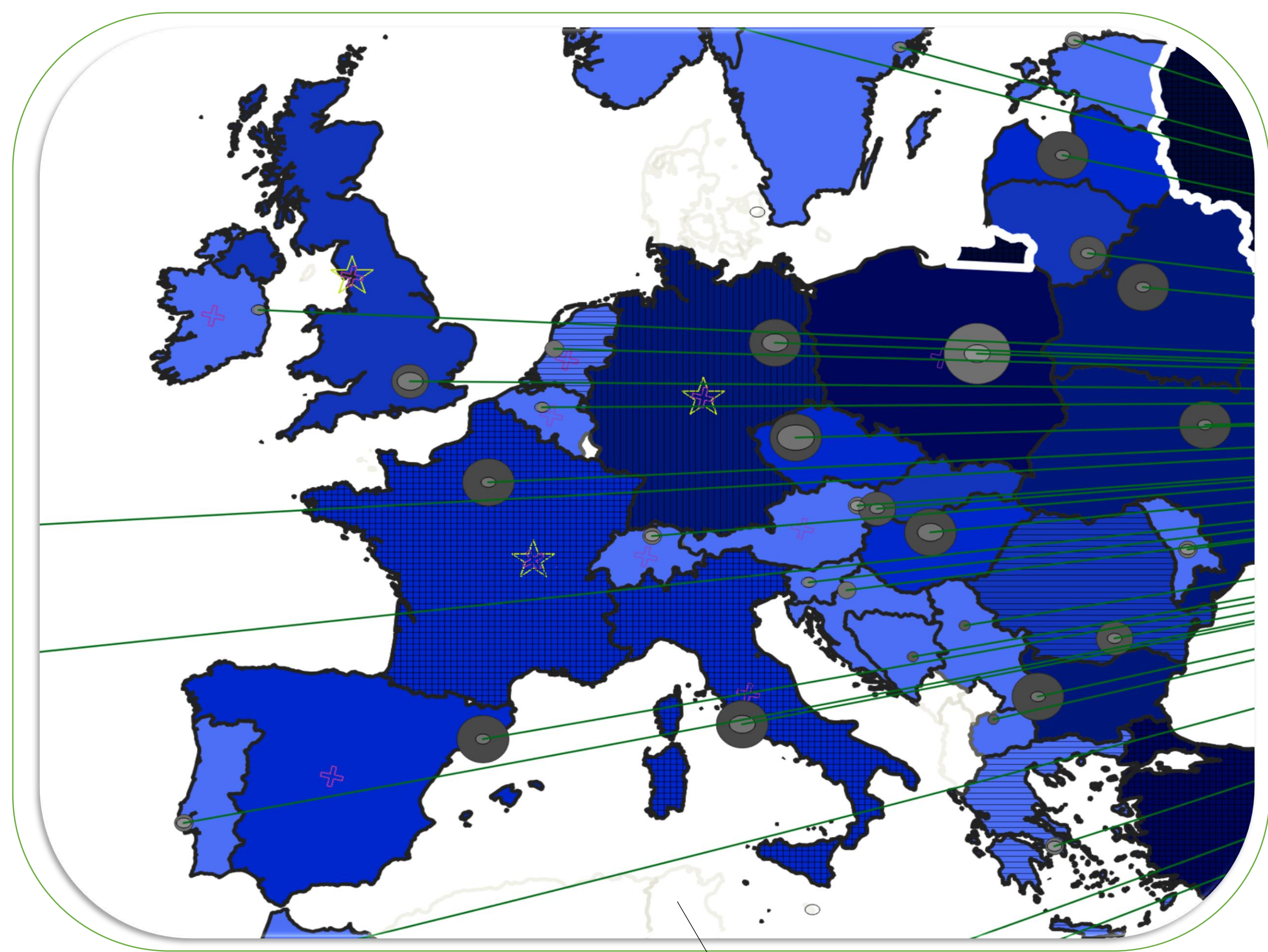


Degrees of Engagement: Foreign Policy Goals and the Internationalization of Education in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan

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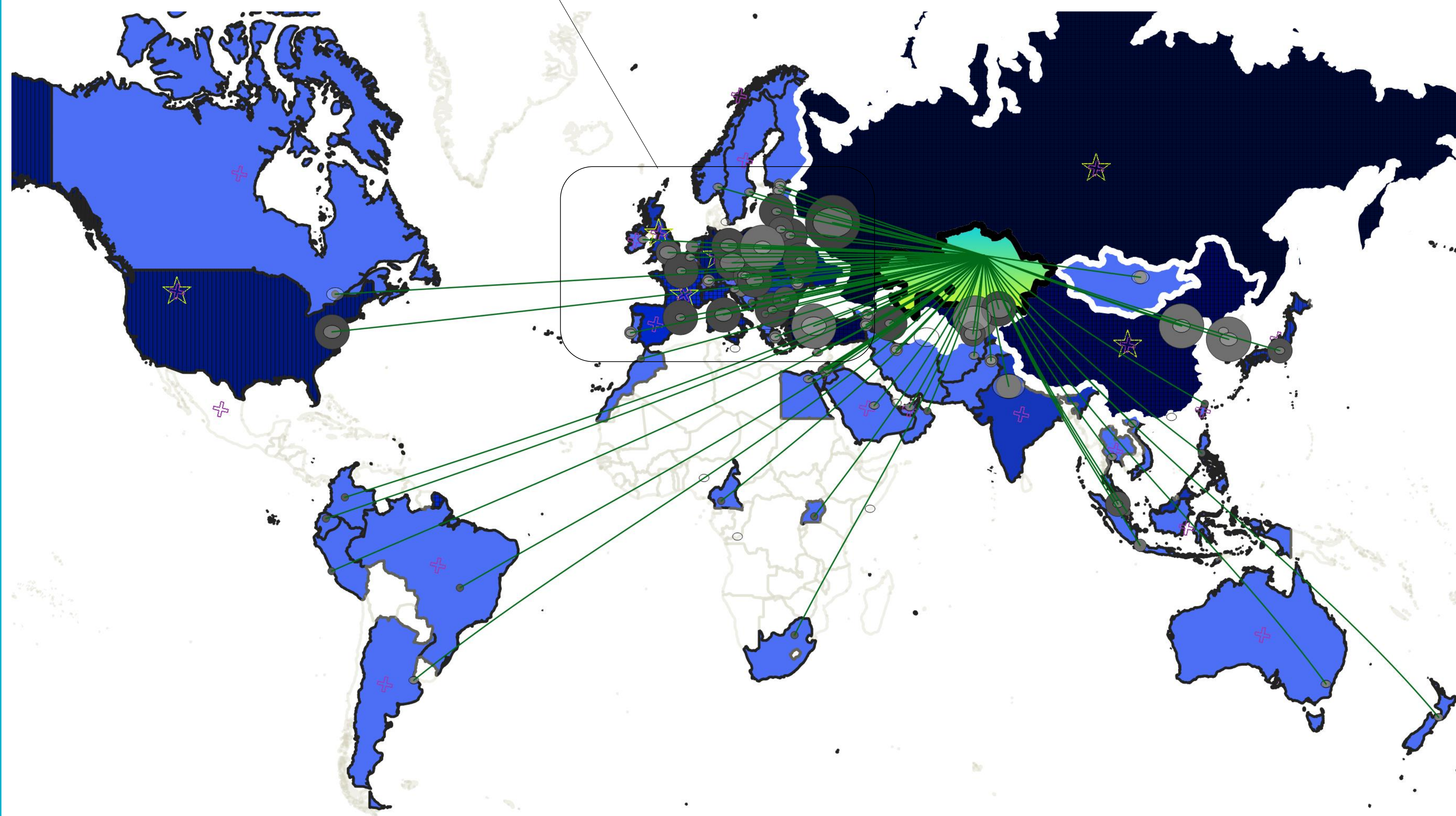


INTRODUCTION:

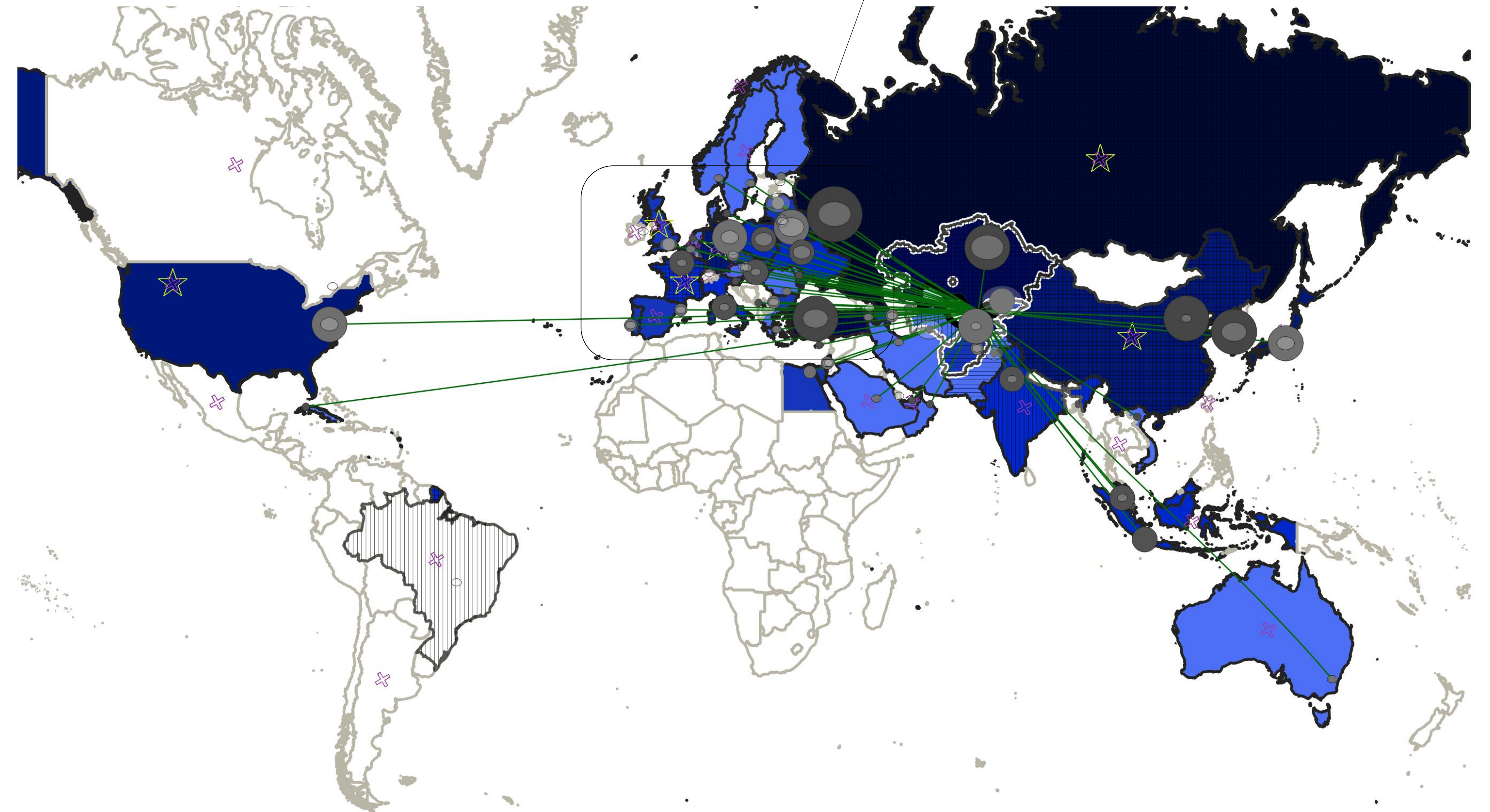
- Higher Education as overlooked in International Relations scholarship
- The challenge of being a small power; navigating international structures
- Foreign policy (FP) analysis in understanding policy decisions

THEORY/HYPOTHESIS:

- Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan as Central Asian neighbors and regional rivals
- Both countries are structurally disadvantaged authoritarian countries
 - Landlocked with minimal military capacity and economic clout
- Difference in official Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan FP document wording
 - Uzbekistan seeks partnerships with “leading states,” although this term is difficult to define conceptually
- In a highly centralized policymaking space, FP goals should influence the internationalization of higher education
- Hypothesis: Kazakhstan should have a more extensive and diverse international academic partnership network than Uzbekistan



Kazakhstan's Academic Partnership Network



Uzbekistan's Academic Partnership Network

DATA & METHODS:

- Descriptive network analysis of external partner institutions of Top-25 HEIs in each country
 - Manually compiled a dataset of partnership lists for 24 KAZ higher education institutions (HEIs) and 20 UZB HEIs
 - Complemented the HEI dataset with the most recent UNESCO tertiary student mobility data
- Mapping of partnership and mobility networks using QGIS
- Linear regression in R to complement the qualitative analysis

Maps Legend

UNSC Member	Partner Institutions	Top-10 Import Partner
Top-30 Economy	Student Destinations	Top-10 Export Partner
# of Partners (Low to High)		Academic Partnerships
		1:157537310 scale

FINDINGS:

- Descriptive statistics indicate support for the hypothesis:
 - Uzbekistan has far fewer partners (2688 to 1210) in far fewer countries (76 to 55)
- Linear regression seems to bear out the claim:
 - UZB partnerships with a leading state coefficient: 13.9 (0.04 p-value)
 - Kazakhstan partnerships with a leading state: 14.2 (0.14 p-value)
- Caveat: Depends how you classify “middle powers”
 - Further work on the project in progress

Fun fact: this digital humanities project was completed using only open access data and open-source software.