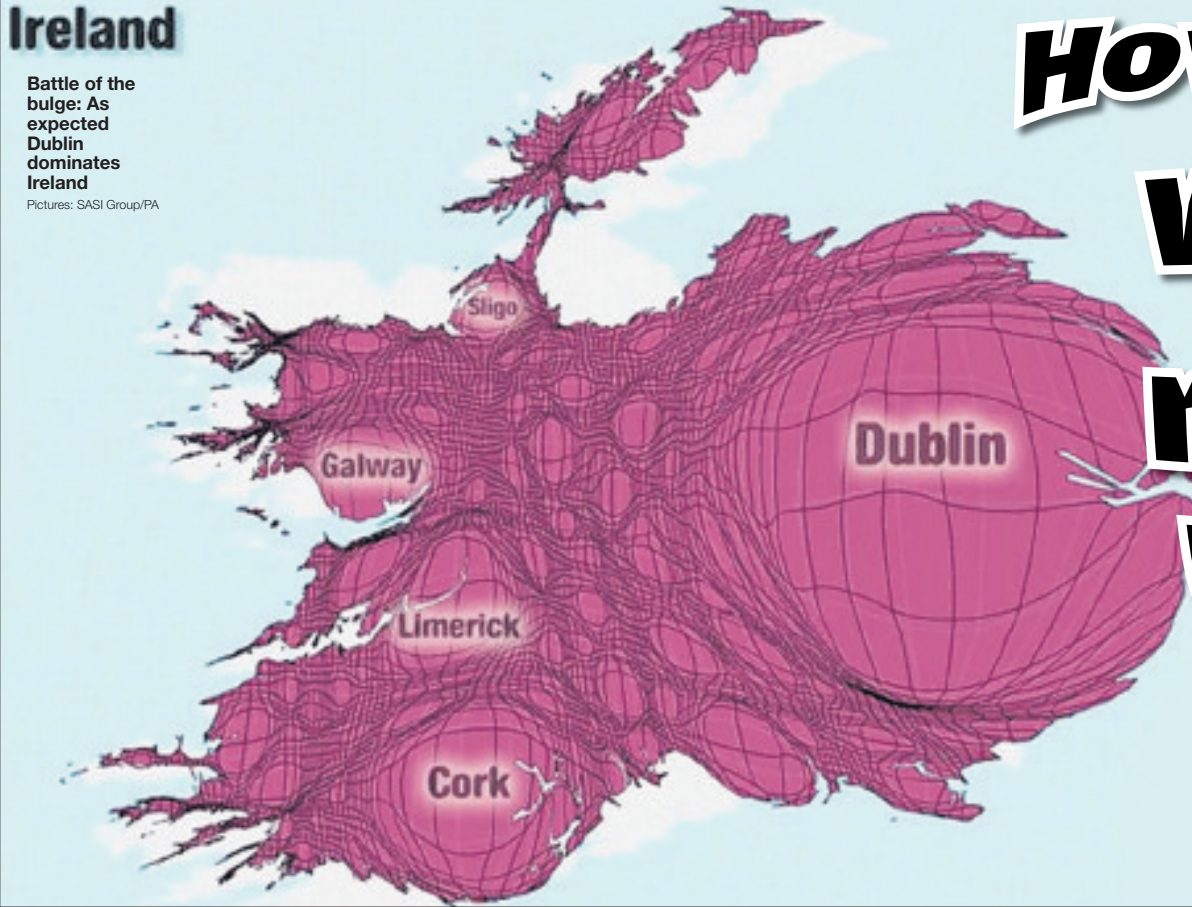


Globe's largest cities appear fit to burst on new population-based map

Ireland

Battle of the bulge: As expected Dublin dominates Ireland

Pictures: SASI Group/PA



How the world really looks

BY JO STEELE

IT'S the world as you've never seen it before. At first glance, they might seem like unusual butterfly wings but, in fact, this is how the world looks if its maps are based on population size rather than land mass.

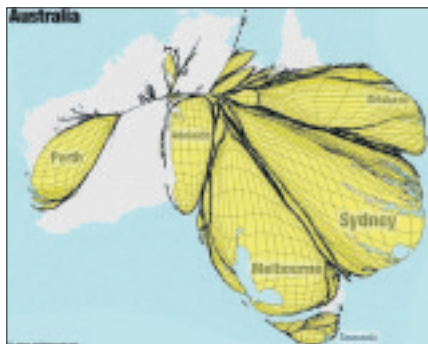
With 500 years of conventional cartography out of the window, the cities which tend to dominate come to the fore as large bulges. This is particularly noticeable for Dublin on the map of Ireland plus Sydney and Melbourne in Australia.

Benjamin Hennig, one of the postgraduate researchers at the University of Sheffield in England involved with the work to extend the Worldmapper project said the new projections gave an 'interesting insight into different countries'.

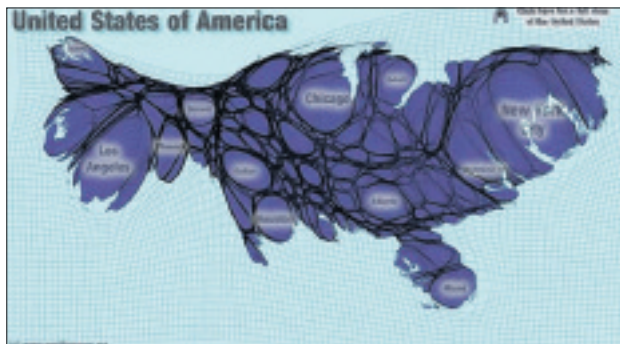
He added: 'The map of Afghanistan, for example, shows a country dominated by Kabul and a few other urban centres. The UK... is a tale of London and the other cities.'

'The United States, meanwhile, has much more variety to its human geography, while the new projection of China shows a sea of humanity bubbled up into a thousand cities in the Eastern part of the country.'

The individual maps can be viewed at: www.worldmapper.org/country-cartograms



Eastern bias: Sydney and Melbourne dominate the Australia map, while the US is more balanced in its population distribution



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