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

New world view: China and India are the big players in the population-based map

Battle of the bulge: London and Dublin dominate their respective countries

Pictures: SASI Group/PA

How the world really looks

IT’S the world as you’ve never seen it before. At first glance, it 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 our news come to the fore as large bulges.

This is particularly noticeable for London and Dublin on the maps of Britain and Ireland respectively, plus Sydney and Melbourne in Australia.

‘On this new global projection, the UK is a tale of London and the other cities,’ said Benjamin Hennig, one of the post-graduate researchers at the University of Sheffield involved with the work to extend the Worldmapper project.

‘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

By Jo Steele

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

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