

Sulphur Dioxide



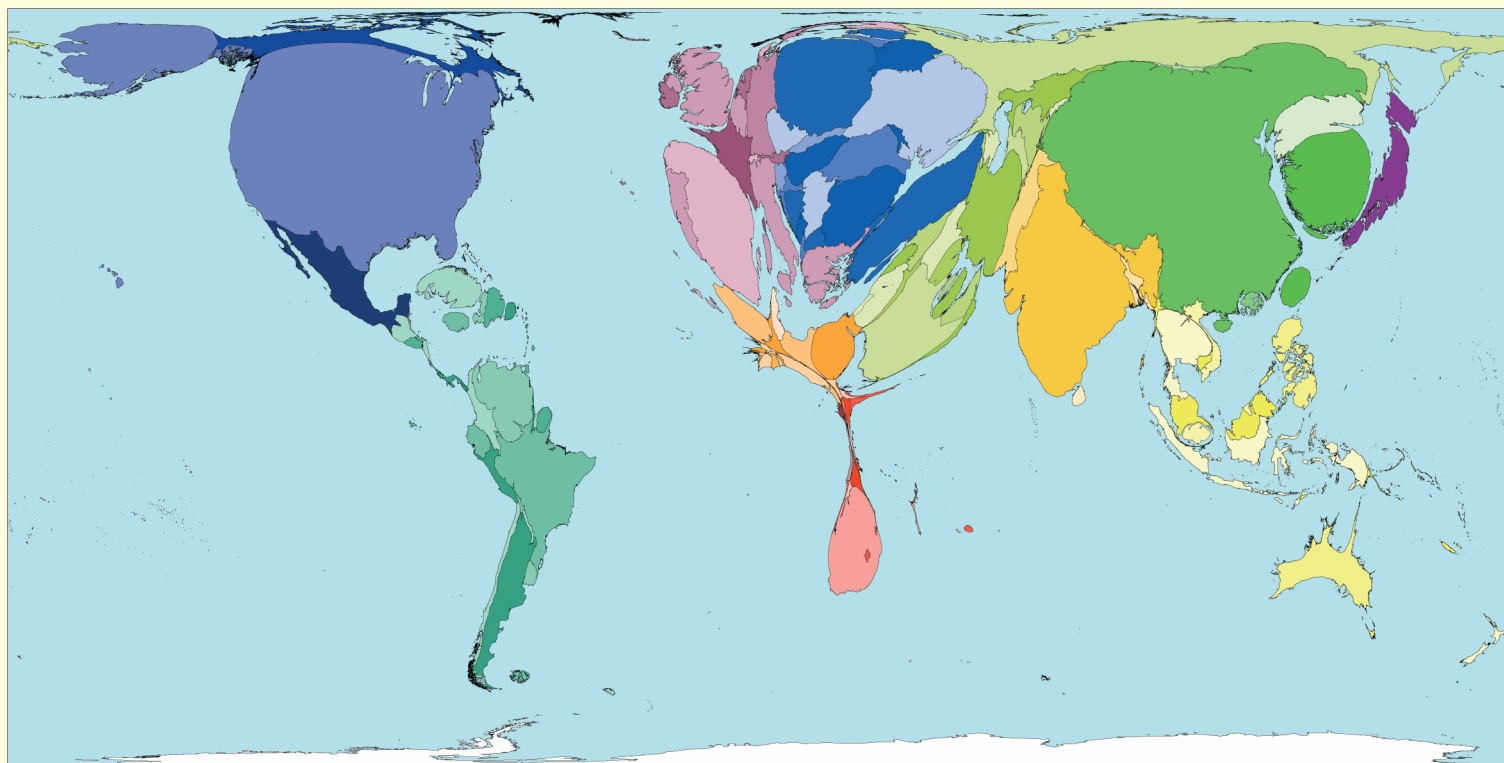
The University of Sheffield



The Leverhulme Trust



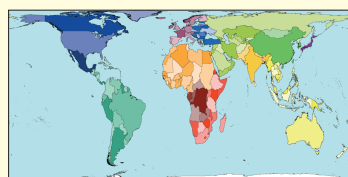
Produced by the SASI group (Sheffield) and Mark Newman (Michigan)



Sulphur dioxide is released when fossil fuels containing sulphur are burned, the amount released is shown here. It is also emitted by volcanoes and forest fires. Sulphur dioxide is harmful to plants, animals and buildings. Sulphurous smog from coal fires can be fatal. When dissolved in atmospheric water sulphur dioxide becomes sulphuric acid, causing acid rain. Acid rain can damage forest and water-based ecosystems.

In 2002, 97 million tonnes of sulphur dioxide were emitted by burning fuel worldwide. The highest emissions when expressed per person were in Bulgaria, the lowest were in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Territory size shows the proportion of all sulphur dioxide emitted from the burning of coal, lignite and petroleum products there.



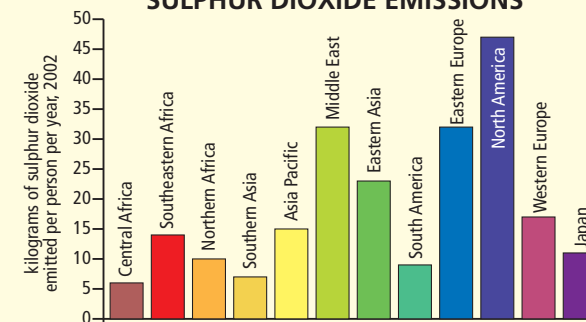
Land area

HIGH AND LOW SULPHUR DIOXIDE EMISSIONS FROM FUEL USE

Rank	Territory	Value	Rank	Territory	Value
1	Bulgaria	121	148	Monaco	1.3
9	Estonia	72	149	Bolivia	1.2
12	Malta	65	156	Georgia	1.0
17	Israel	49	164	Comoros	0.6
20	Spain	47	167	Costa Rica	0.5
21	Antigua & Barbuda	45	167	Tajikistan	0.5
22	Greece	45	172	Honduras	0.4
24	United States	43	190	Yemen	0.2
26	Jamaica	40	190	Ethiopia	0.2
27	Cuba	39	200	Democratic Republic of Congo	0.0

kilograms of sulphur dioxide released per person living in that territory in 2002*

SULPHUR DIOXIDE EMISSIONS



Technical notes

- The data were sourced from the United Nations Statistics Division in 2005.
- *Note territories with rates estimated from secondary sources are not included in the table. These are mainly in Eastern Europe.
- See website for further information.

“A bluish haze hangs over the Indian capital ... vehicles crawl bumper to bumper in rush hour, emitting diesel fumes, lead, sulphur dioxide and carbon monoxide”

Sanjoy Hazarika, 1994