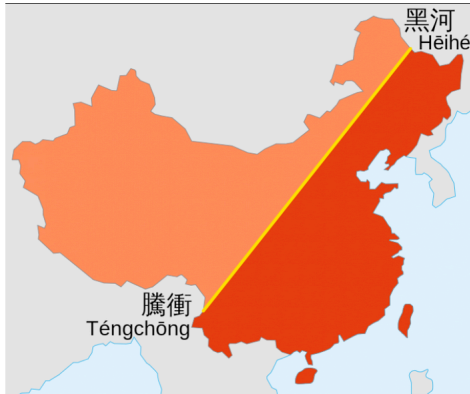
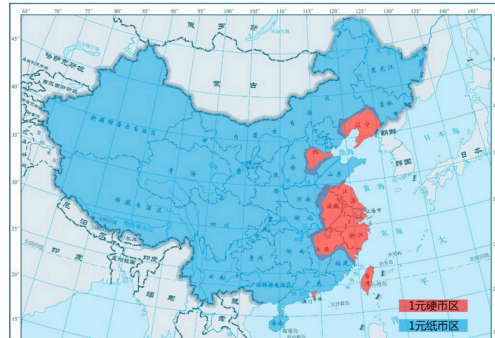


## CARTES DE CHINE

Population



Coins vs. Bills



In 1992, the central bank rolled out a new currency scheme: for denominations one yuan or lower, some regions (blue) would use bills, and others (red) would use coins. If you live in Shanghai and haven't spent much time outside of the city, then you can go months without seeing a battered, torn-to-crap, utterly useless 5-mao bill. But in other areas of the country, coins are unheard of (ok, that's a bit of an exaggeration, but they are rare).

## The China that wasn't



The Nationalists lost the Civil War - but it didn't have to be that way (sorry, historical determinists). Had they been able to pull off a victory, Chiang and Co. had plans for how the Mainland would be divided up. This 1951 "[Provincial Adjustment Draft Plan](#)," issued after the Civil War came to a close (but not before the Nationalists had properly given up plans to retake the Mainland) shows the ROC's plans for organizing the nation.

## Pollution and cancer



It turns out that breathing in coal emissions is like, really bad for you. This map, [released by Greenpeace in 2013](#), charts the premature deaths from air pollution-related illnesses. The darker red, the more deaths. In the year of Greenpeace's stats, the provinces of Shandong, Shanxi and Inner Mongolia alone burned more than the entire United States (which, when it comes to clean energy, isn't exactly nailing it either).