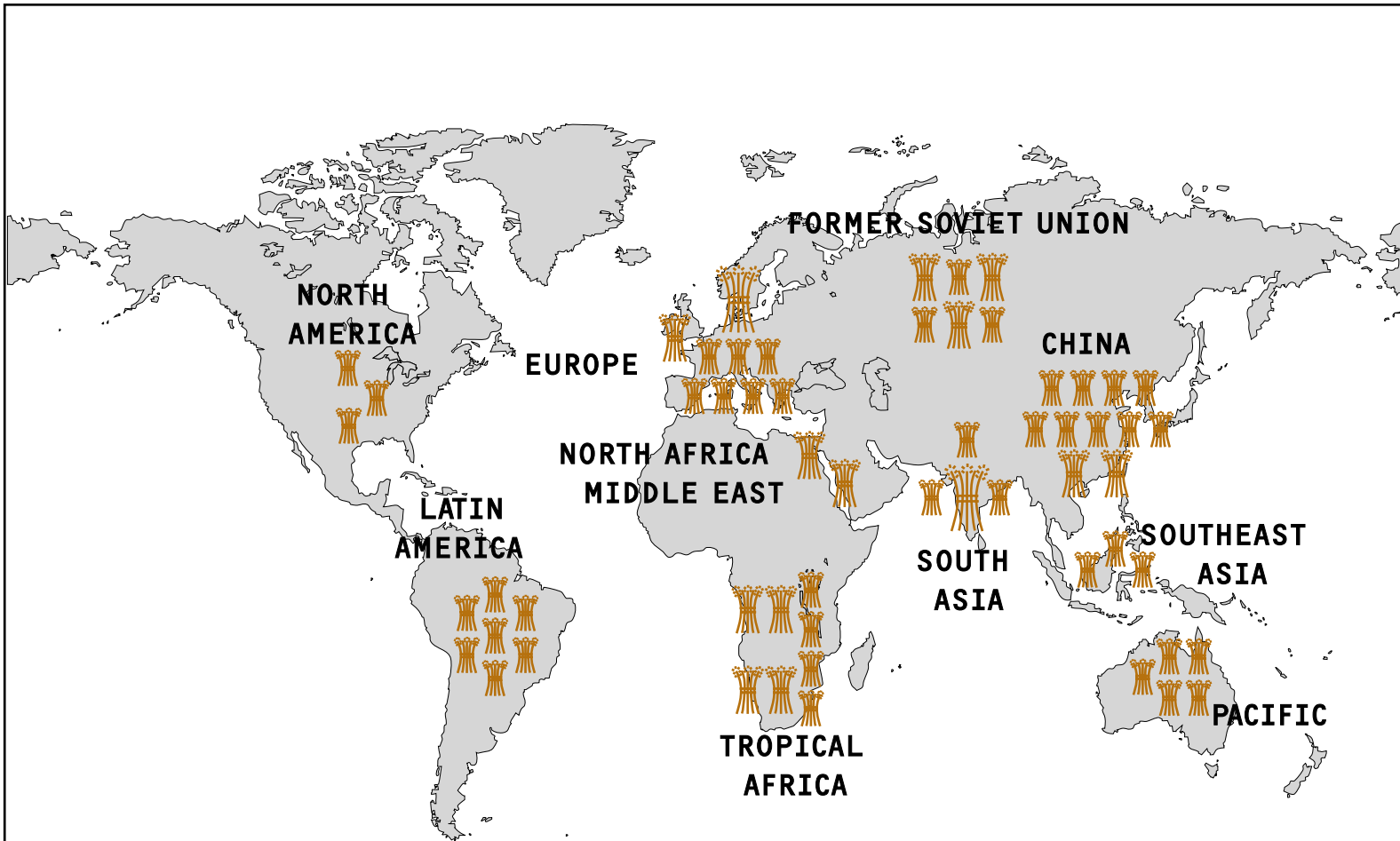


URBANIZATION AND AGRICULTURE

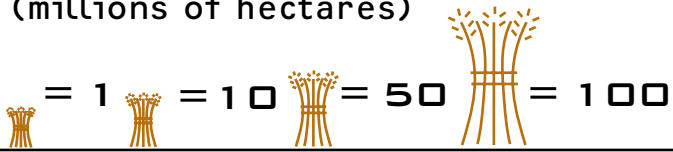
Before people learned to farm, they were all hunter-gatherers, living off the animal and plant species that occurred naturally within their local ecosystems. But around 10,000 years ago, as glaciers were retreating and the climate warmed favorably, humans in different parts of the world began independently to cultivate grains. As agriculture evolved and more plant and animal species were domesticated, humans gained control over their own food supplies. No longer limited by their environment's natural productivity, they could settle permanently in a single area. This led to the rise of villages, towns, and — eventually — cities.

As population grew and technologies advanced over the centuries, urbanization spread, and agriculture intensified and became institutionalized. Species were disturbed and natural ecosystems converted at escalating rates. Today's commercial agriculture, with its heavy machinery, chemical pesticides, and extensive clearing of land, is one of the major threats to the earth's biodiversity.

GLOBAL LAND USE OVER TIME



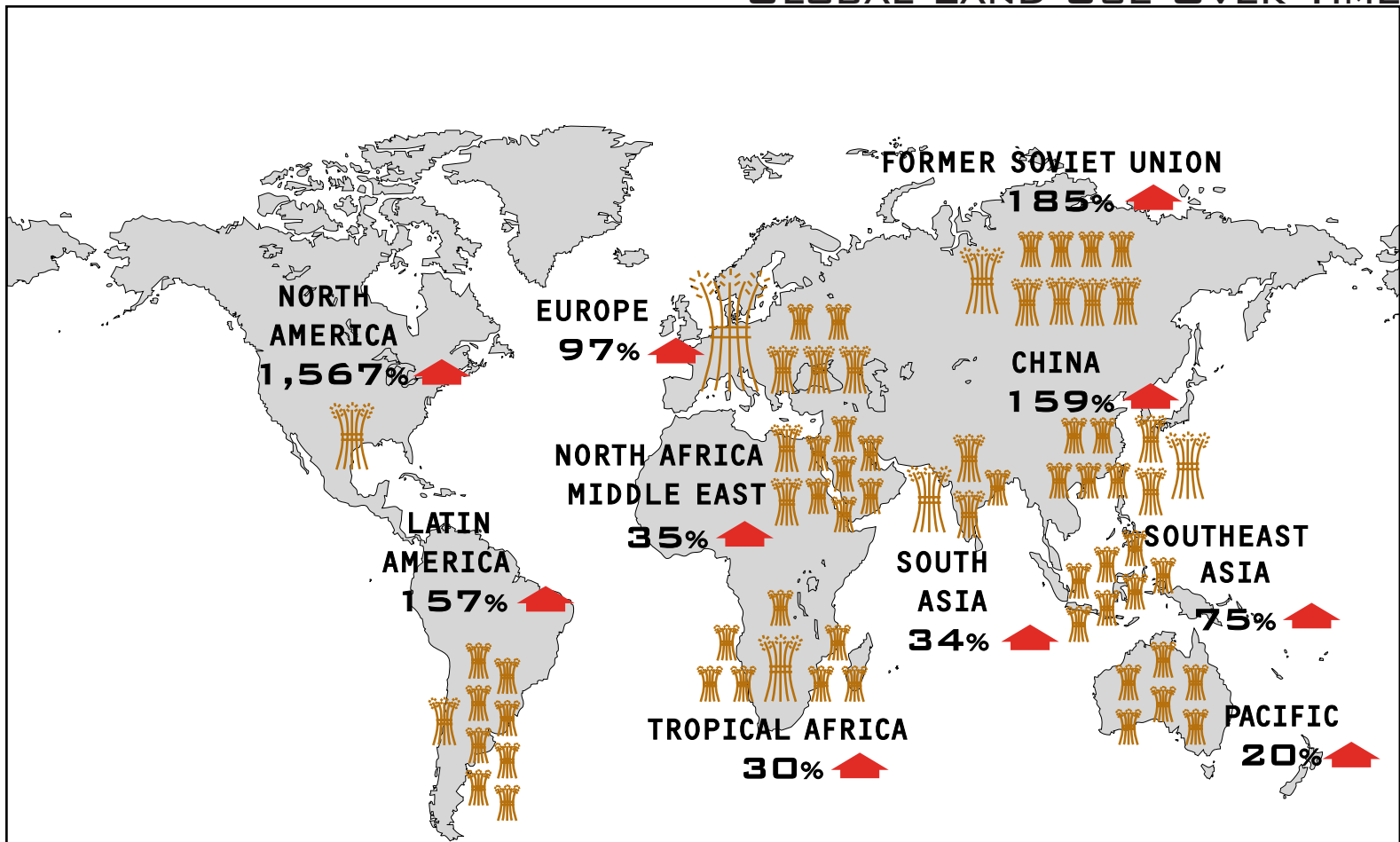
AMOUNT OF LAND IN CROPS
(millions of hectares)



WORLDWIDE, 5 CITIES HAD A POPULATION
OF MORE THAN 500,000.

1700

GLOBAL LAND USE OVER TIME

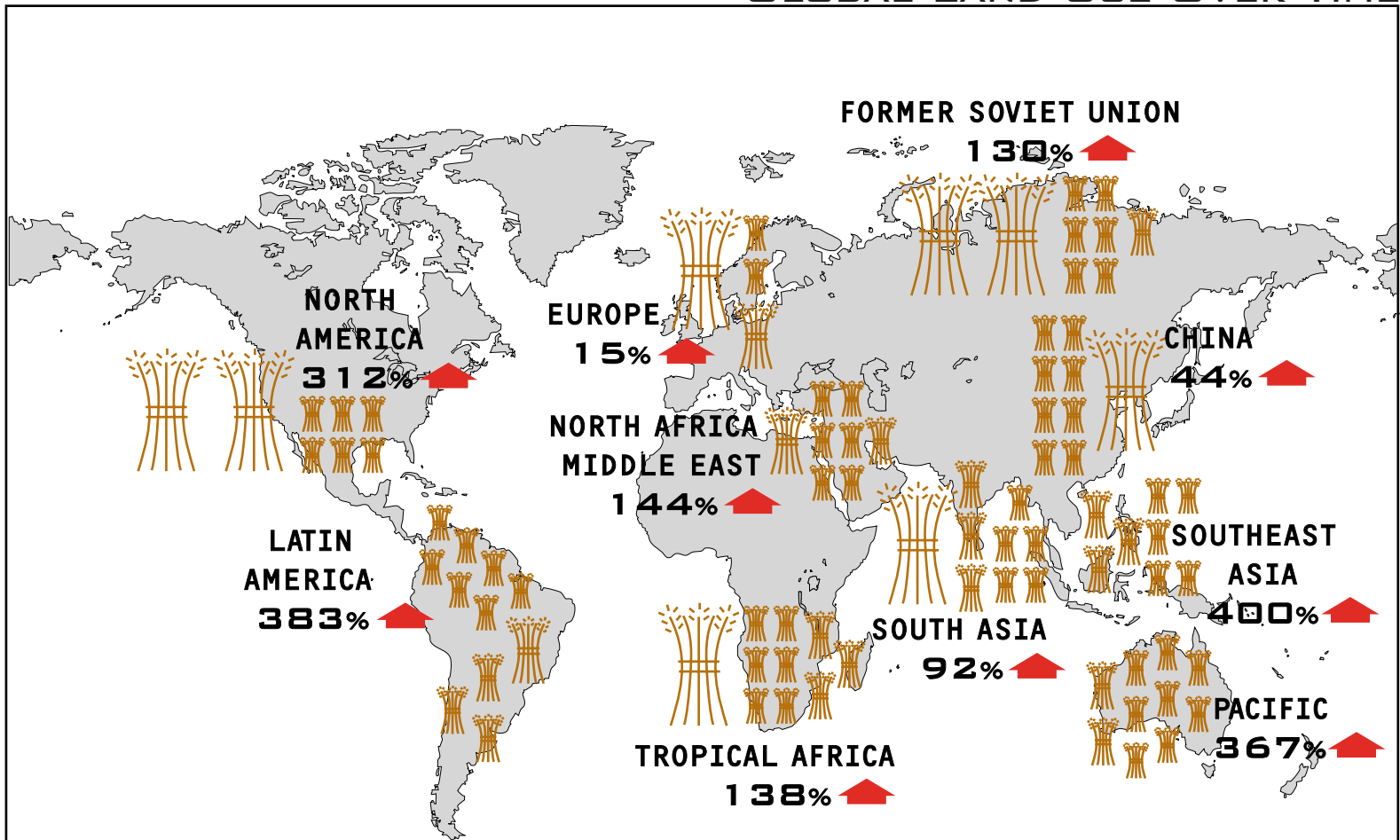


PERCENT OF CHANGE
BETWEEN 1700 AND 1850

11 CITIES HAD OVER 500,000 PEOPLE ;
3 OF THESE HAD OVER 1 MILLION.

1850

GLOBAL LAND USE OVER TIME

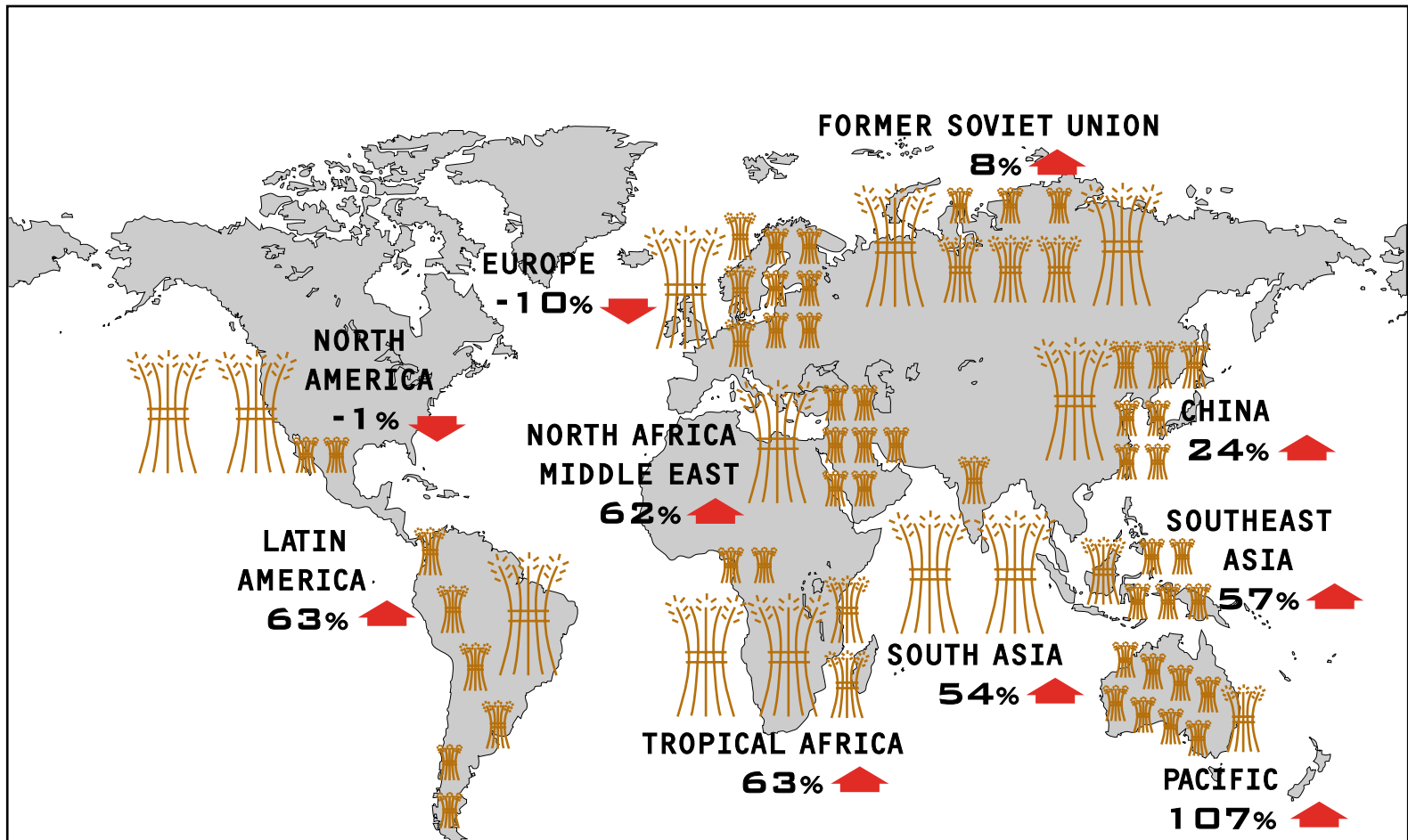


PERCENT OF CHANGE
BETWEEN 1850 AND 1980

179 CITIES HAD OVER 500,000 PEOPLE;
76 OF THESE HAD OVER 1 MILLION.

1950

GLOBAL LAND USE OVER TIME



PERCENT OF CHANGE
BETWEEN 1950 AND 1980

480 CITIES HAD OVER 500,000 PEOPLE;
222 OF THESE HAD OVER 1 MILLION.

1980