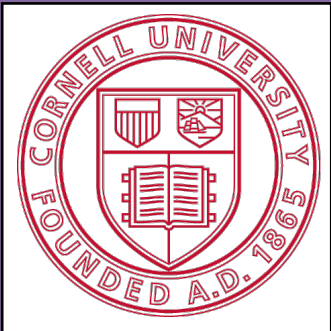


Indigenous and Decolonizing Perspectives on Social Justice from the American Indian and Indigenous Studies Program (AIISP)

Kurt A. Jordan, Anthropology & AIISP Director
Eric T. Cheyfitz, AIISP & English Graduate Field
Jolene K. Rickard, History of Art, Art, & AIISP



October 14, 2020



Emphasizing Indigenous Concerns in the Present Moment



This vision of American history, and the University, erases a legacy of violence and dispossession directed at Indigenous peoples.

President Pollack's messages this year stress the need to come to terms with Cornell's historical and current participation in systems of oppression.

John Gast, "American Progress" (1872), oil on canvas in the collections of the Autry Museum of the American West



Indigenous Dispossession and Violence Naturalized

Indigenous Studies scholars assert this is an aspect of *Settler Colonialism*.

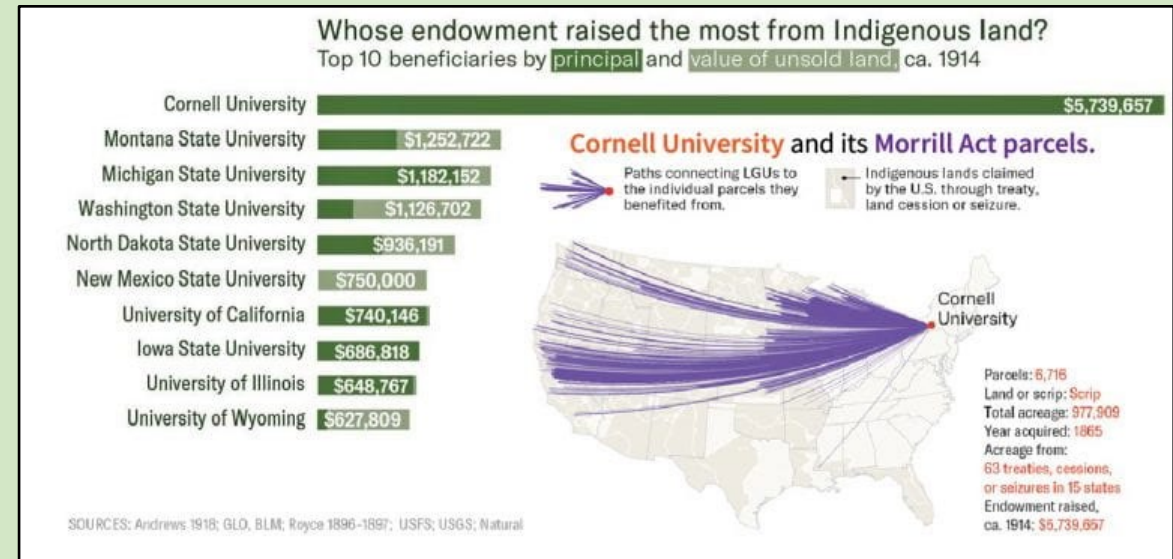
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LAND-GRAB UNIVERSITIES

BY ROBERT LEE AND TRISTAN AHTONE
Vol. 52 / April 2020 / No. 4 • hcn.org

- March 30, 2020 *High Country News* article by Tristan Ahtone and Robert Lee identifies roots of Land-Grant colleges in Indigenous dispossession.
- Cornell University is specifically mentioned as the largest recipient of Morrill Act lands, and also as the school that made (by far) the most money from these lands.



Cornell Morrill Act Details (from HCN)

Total Acreage By State of Cornell University's Morrill Act Land Parcels	
State	Total Acres
Wisconsin	511,458
California	273,570
Minnesota	52,647
Michigan	49,409
Nebraska	27,403
Colorado	17,625
Iowa	15,505
Kansas	12,128
Washington	8,992
Montana	2,759
Oregon	1,909
South Dakota	1,753
Utah	1,644
Missouri	794
Mississippi	311
Total	977,909

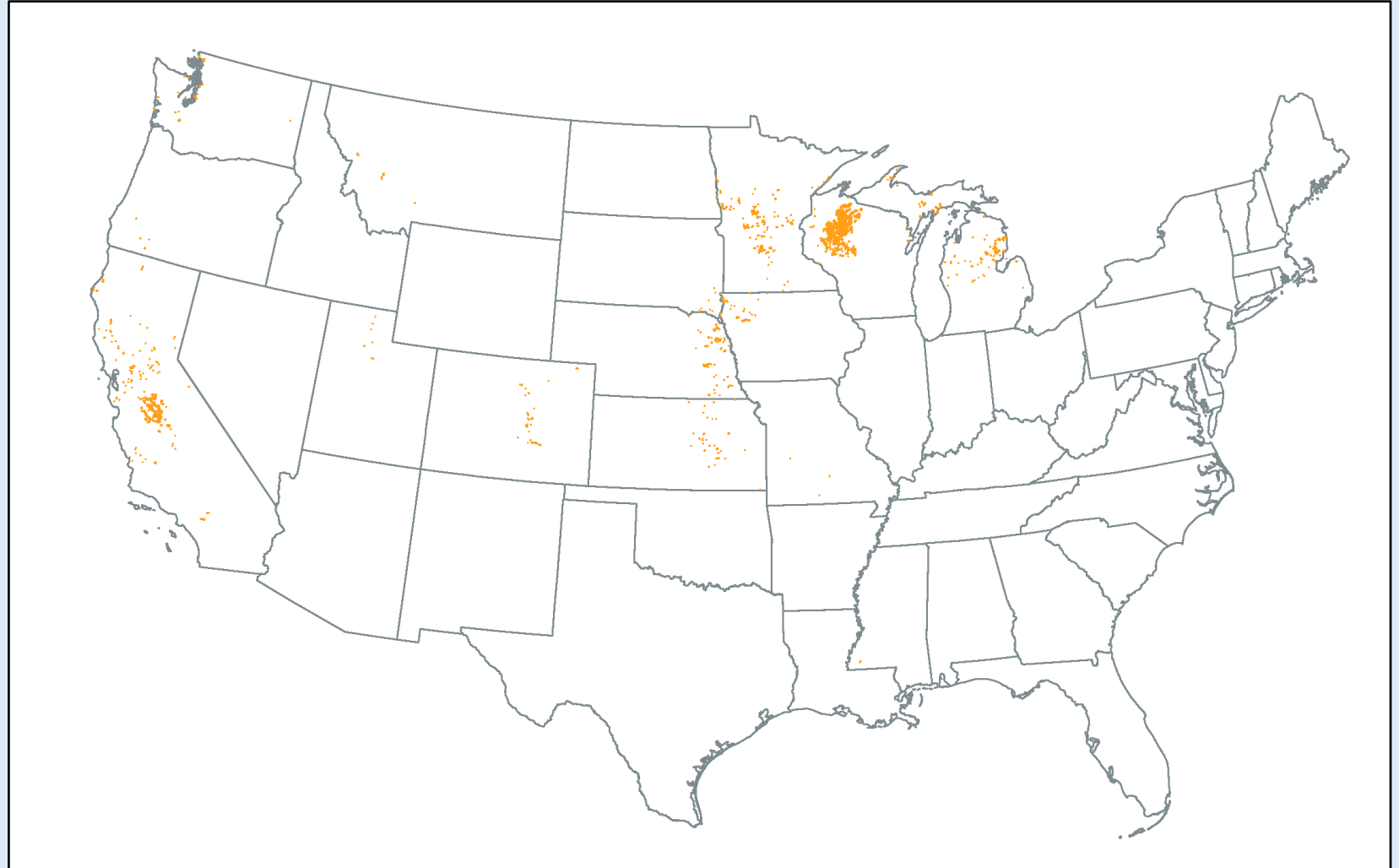
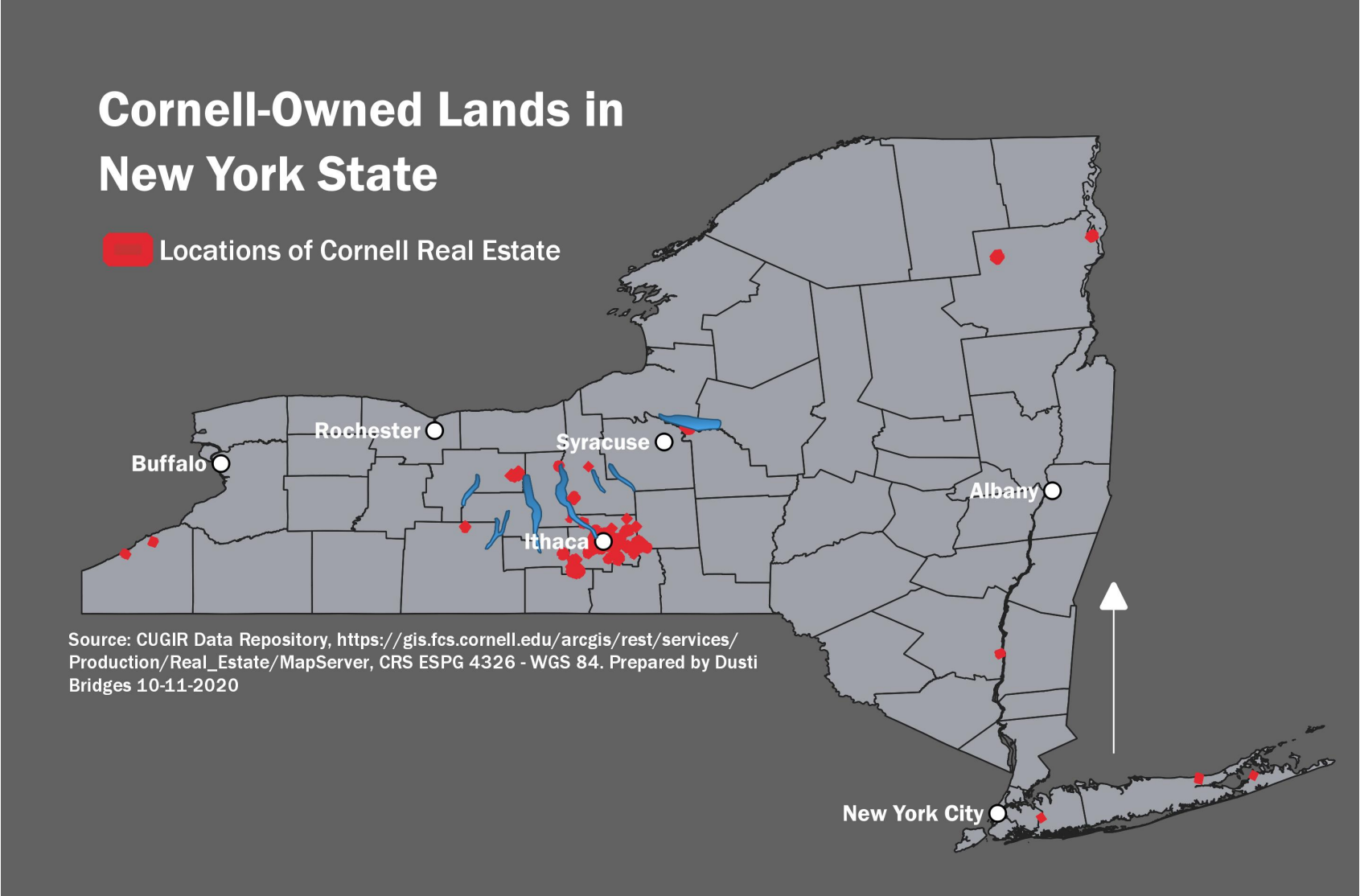


Table and Map prepared by Cornell Alum Dr. David Strip based on data provided by HCN.

Not Just the Morrill Act: Cornell's New York State Lands



Remedies?

- AIISP is committed to determining remedies in consultation with affected communities
- This is likely to be a long process
- Other land grant universities also are thinking about and acting on this issue
- Some possibilities (adapted from Prof. Beth Rose Middleton's September presentation at Berkeley):
 - Invest in Indigenous Students (Scholarships, Financial Aid, Tuition Waivers)
 - Invest in Indigenous Studies Education and Research (Faculty, Major, Department)
 - Land Transfer
 - Financial Transfer
 - Co-management Agreements or Easements
 - Monuments
 - Building Community Engagements and Collaborations