



TO JASW - WITH LOVE

Marvella M. Bair
Nancy Koenig - Omaha, NE
Gary Kerns Milwaukee, WI
John "Bear" Dek Angun
Helen Darlene Wilhite
Lutunah Mangum
George & Janis
Karen Alons
Jeanette Taborn
Mascha Schuey + Monica
Edris Taborn
Gary Schumler
Patty Culeter
Sharon L Davis
Yikki Shuey
Amanda Smith

Asma 3, 161 B.E.

To Jason,

Rick & Thana
June Thomas
Ellie Jacobi
Louise Jacobi
Curtis Russell
Bill Wier
-diver Thomas
Be happy

Ed Rice

Dawn Thomas

Dickie Abel

Tracy Ann Freeman

Fred Walker

Sten Toum

may you prosper & have a good life

LIZ BOHN

WARMEST LOVE ON THIS
JOURNEY TO OAHU

Robertson Min

Nashin Sindh Alieis

Happy B-day - life Breezie

With all my love & welcome. Jattaneh C.

^{Fountain City}
Margie Peterson Sherick - Ann Arbor ♡

Neil Kendall Cincinnati, OH

Heather Robin

Betty Alexander

Spencer Carlton

Jasmine Shahbazi

Allan Abou

Barbara Whitbeck

JAMES PEACOCK

Tracy Mann

Norma Avegnon

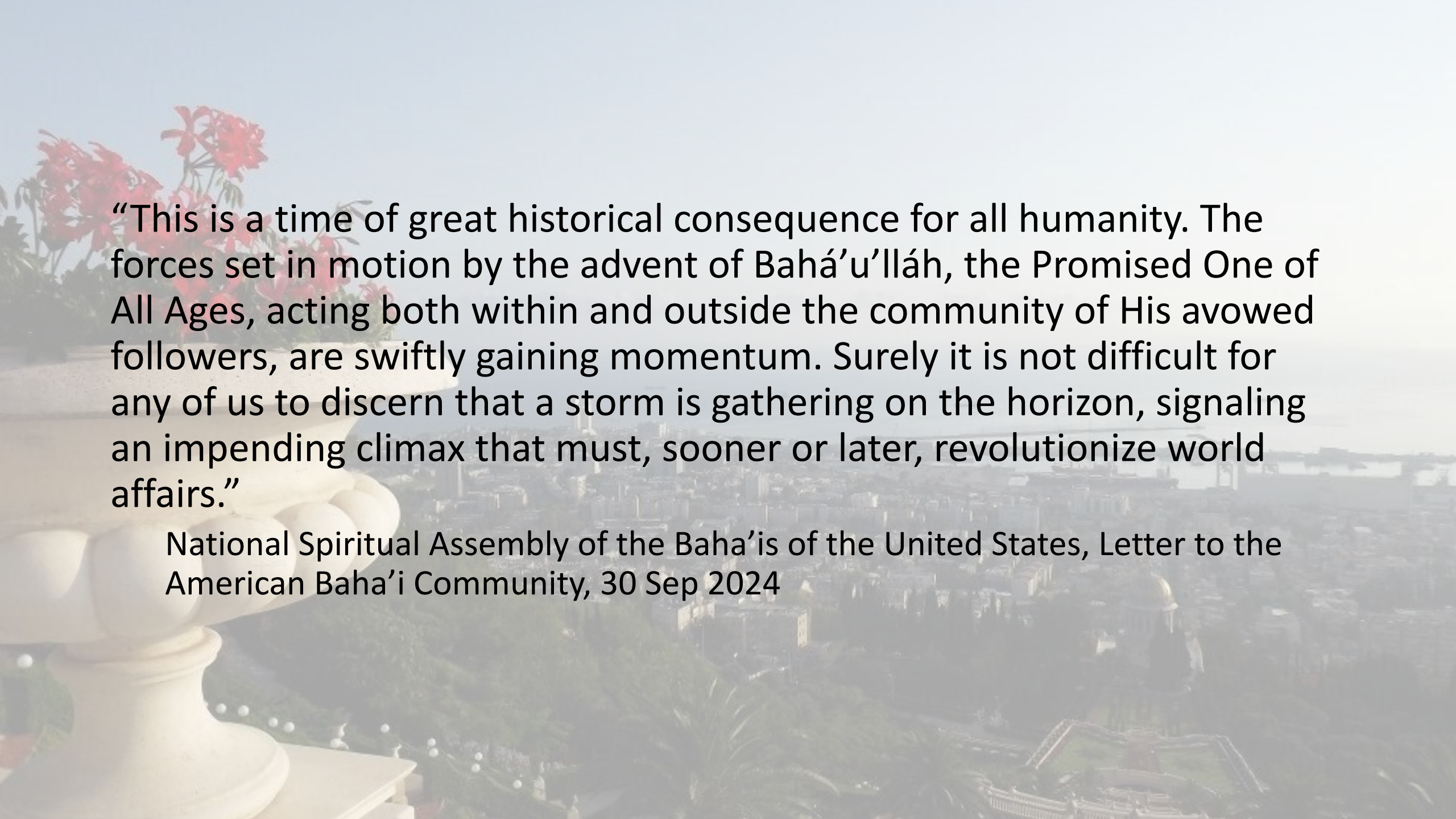
May you soar as an Eagle -
Celeste P. Smith

All my love, Laura

JOHN

JOHN

THE
PROMULGATION
OF
UNIVERSAL
PEACE



“This is a time of great historical consequence for all humanity. The forces set in motion by the advent of Bahá’u’lláh, the Promised One of All Ages, acting both within and outside the community of His avowed followers, are swiftly gaining momentum. Surely it is not difficult for any of us to discern that a storm is gathering on the horizon, signaling an impending climax that must, sooner or later, revolutionize world affairs.”

National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha’is of the United States, Letter to the American Baha’i Community, 30 Sep 2024

First, that the story of our country is grander and more glorious than anything than what is reflected in the many messages around us.



Second, that we must prepare ourselves for the storm on the horizon that we and our fellow countrymen must weather in order to reach our promised destination, by building havens of peace



A scenic view of a city, likely San Francisco, seen from a high vantage point. In the foreground on the left, there is a large, white, ornate planter filled with vibrant red flowers. The city below is densely packed with buildings, and a prominent domed structure is visible in the lower right. The background shows a hazy bay and distant hills under a clear sky.

A story grander and more glorious than any reflected in the messages around us





How to Wreck the Nation's Health, by the Numbers



National Urban League says Black America is in state of emergency

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How to Wreck the Nation's Health, by the Numbers

The Rapid Rise of Killings by Police in Rural America



**As the U.S. Alienates Old Friends, China Is
Ready to Reap the Benefits**

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**The Rapid Rise of Killings by Police in Rural
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America's wealthy have too much power. It's hurting democracy – and our economy. | Your Turn

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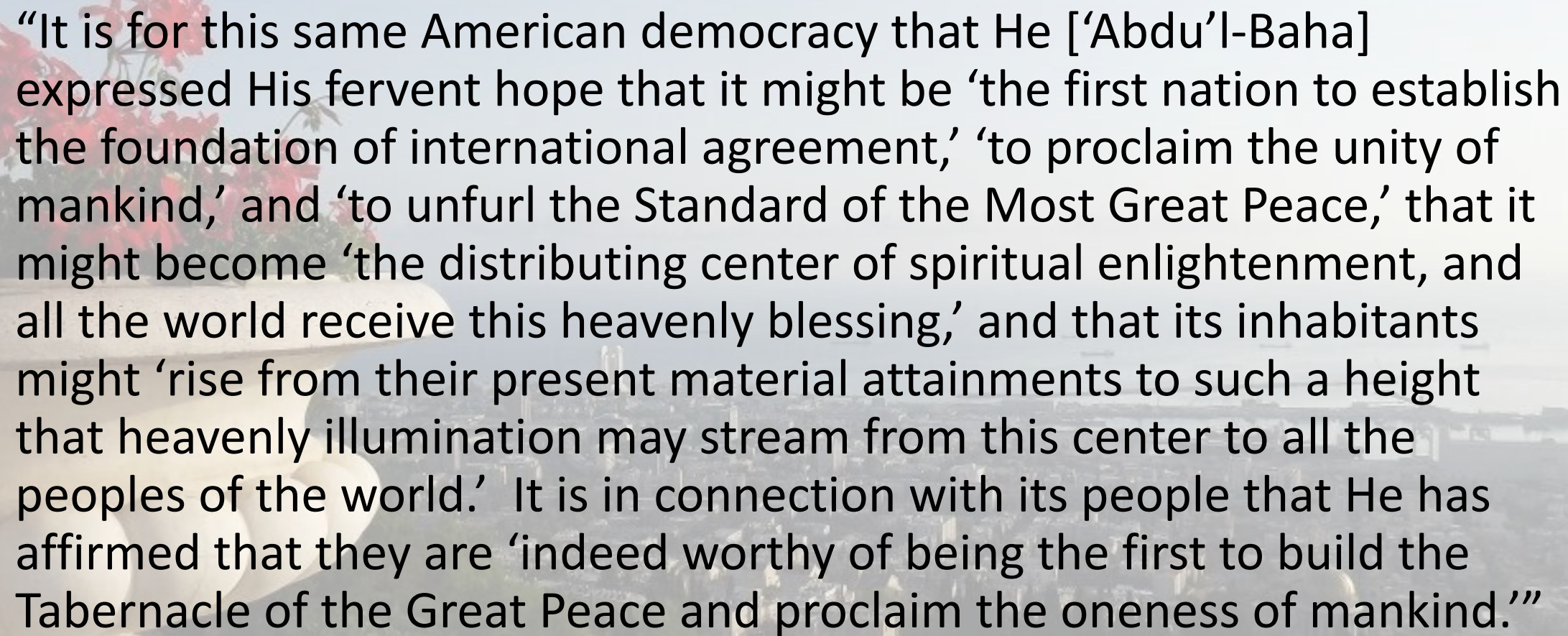
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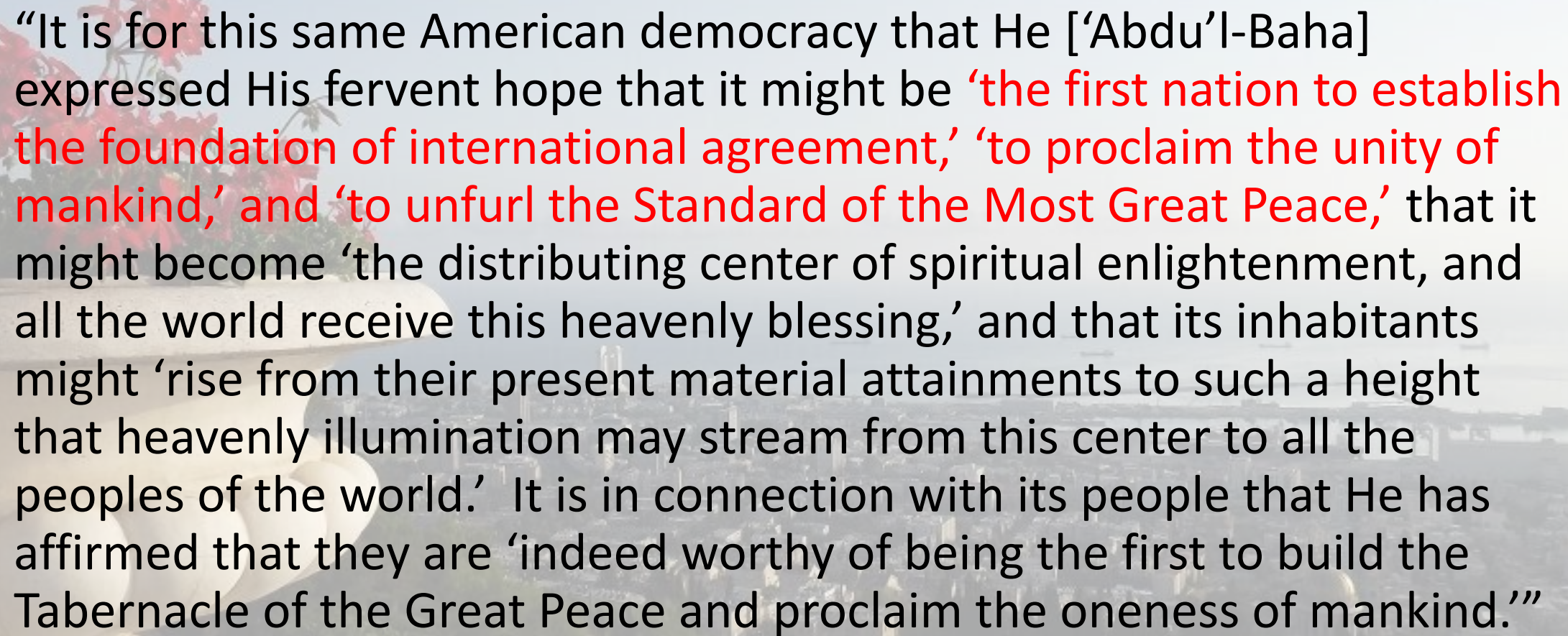


America's story through the eyes of
'Abdu'l-Baha



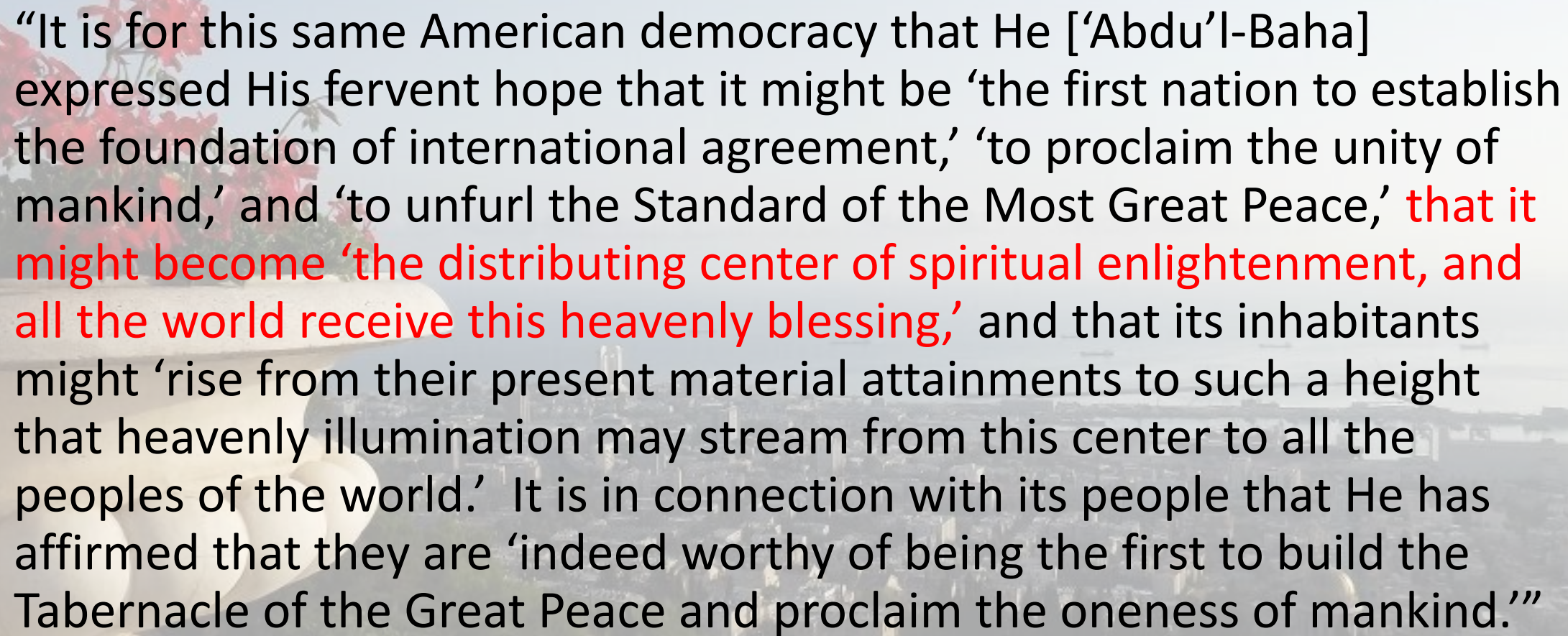
“It is for this same American democracy that He [‘Abdu’l-Baha] expressed His fervent hope that it might be ‘the first nation to establish the foundation of international agreement,’ ‘to proclaim the unity of mankind,’ and ‘to unfurl the Standard of the Most Great Peace,’ that it might become ‘the distributing center of spiritual enlightenment, and all the world receive this heavenly blessing,’ and that its inhabitants might ‘rise from their present material attainments to such a height that heavenly illumination may stream from this center to all the peoples of the world.’ It is in connection with its people that He has affirmed that they are ‘indeed worthy of being the first to build the Tabernacle of the Great Peace and proclaim the oneness of mankind.’”

Shoghi Effendi, *Citadel of Faith: Messages to America, 1947-1957*, p. 35

A background image of a garden with a large white pillar and red flowers. The text is overlaid on this image.

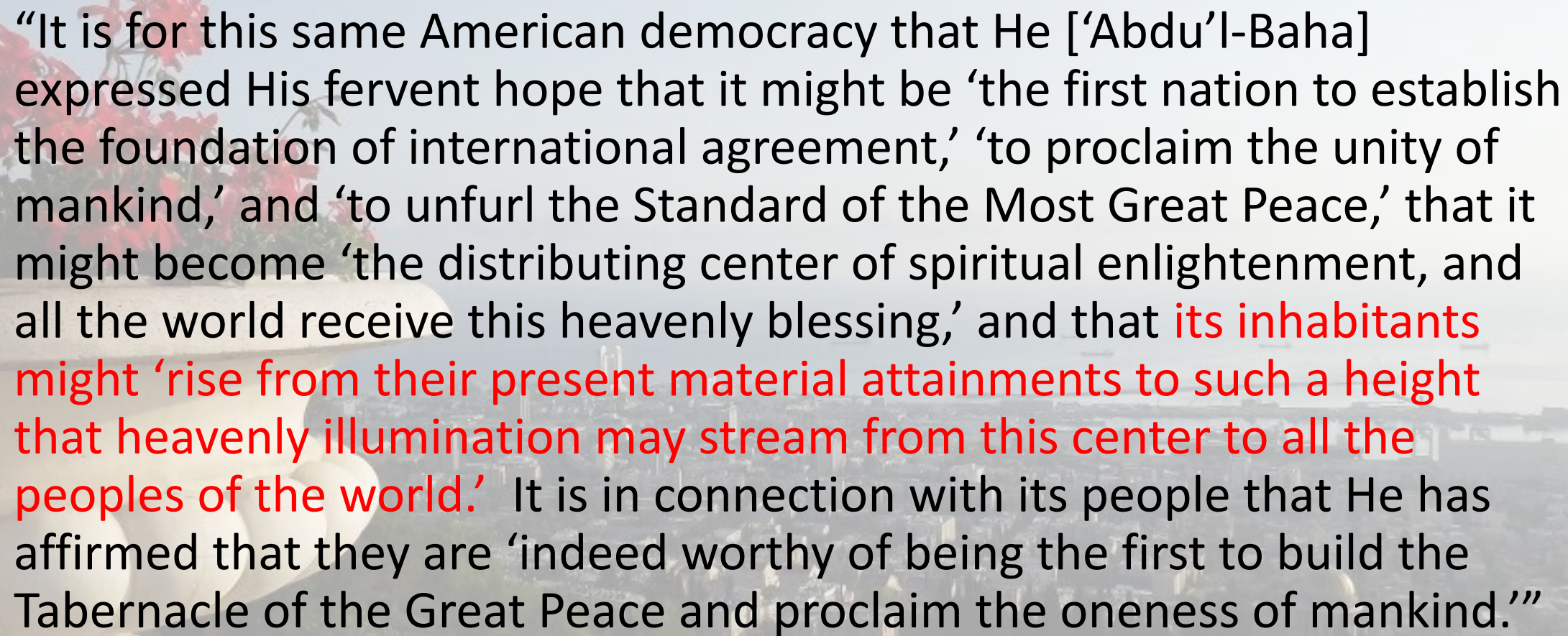
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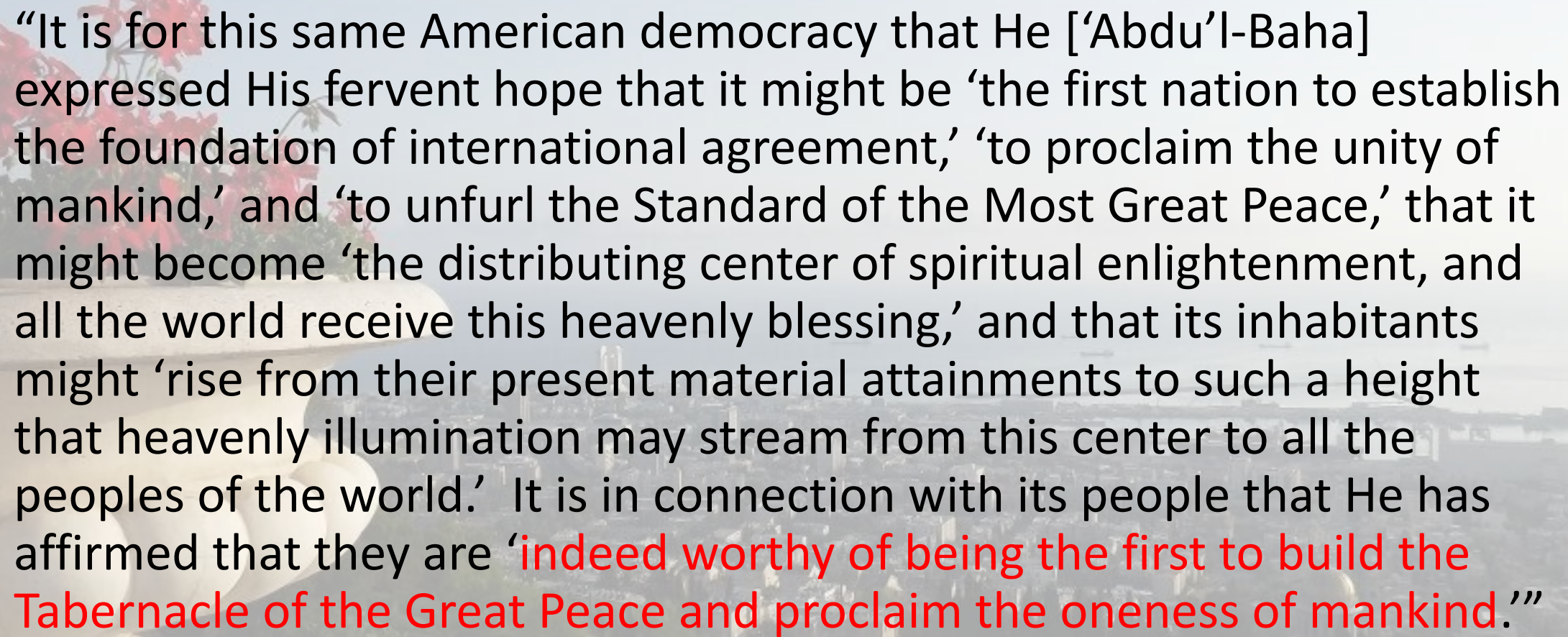
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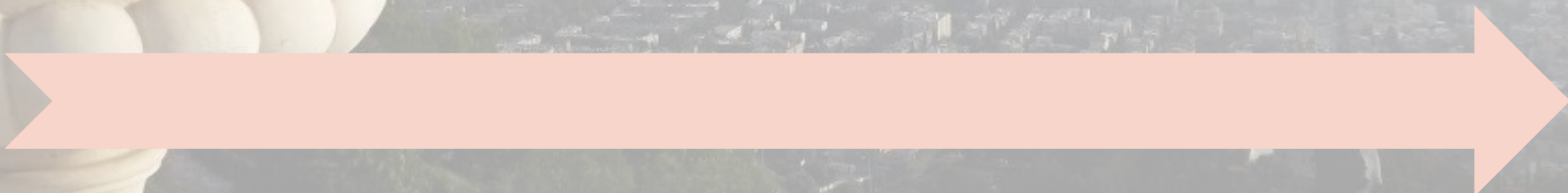
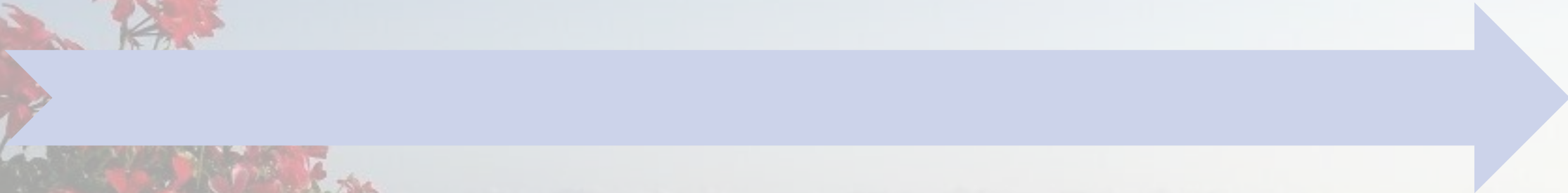

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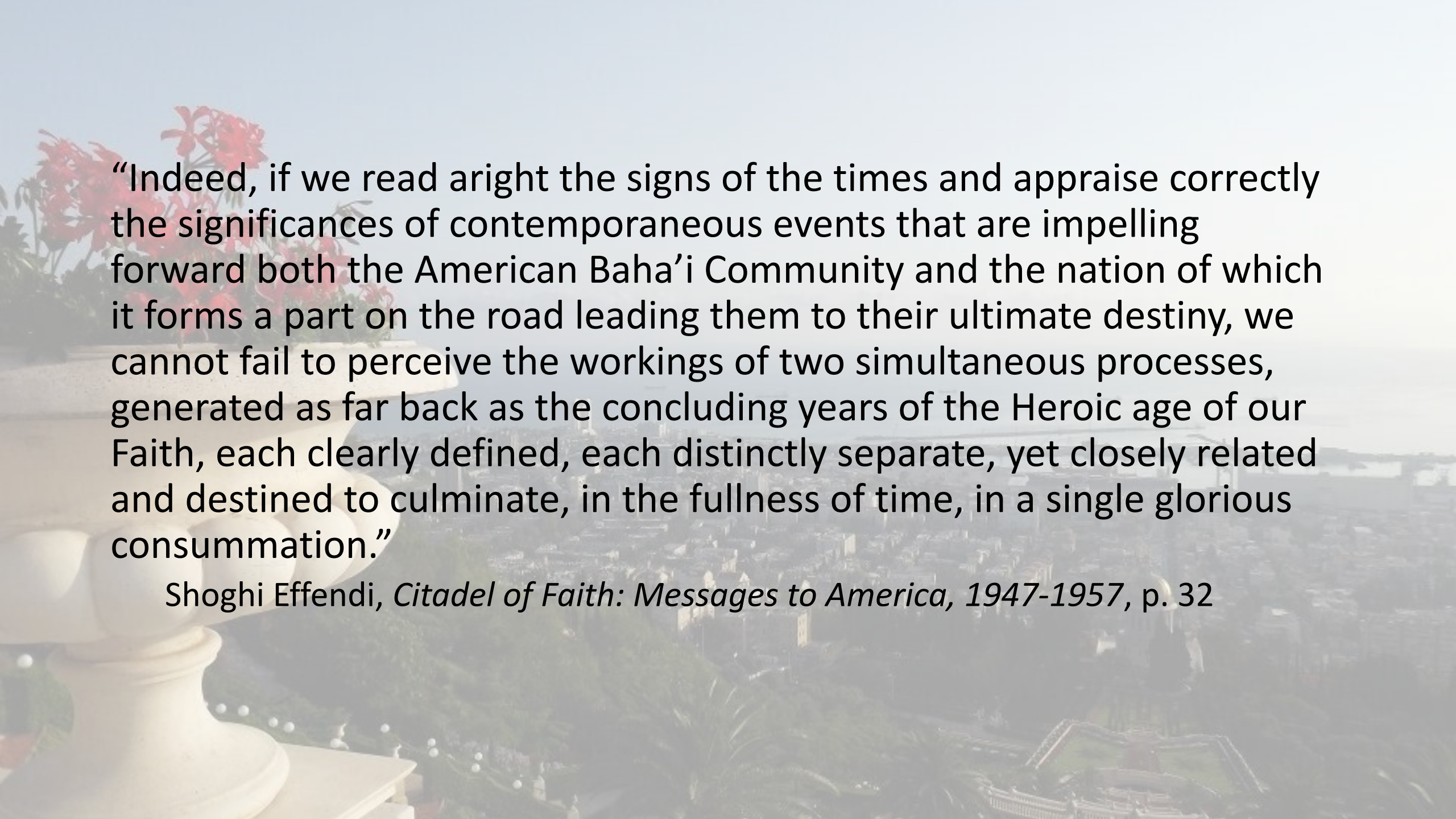
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A Tale of Two Simultaneous Processes, told
by Shoghi Effendi, Head of the Baha'i
Community after His Passing





“Indeed, if we read aright the signs of the times and appraise correctly the significances of contemporaneous events that are impelling forward both the American Baha’i Community and the nation of which it forms a part on the road leading them to their ultimate destiny, we cannot fail to perceive the workings of two simultaneous processes, generated as far back as the concluding years of the Heroic age of our Faith, each clearly defined, each distinctly separate, yet closely related and destined to culminate, in the fullness of time, in a single glorious consummation.”

Shoghi Effendi, *Citadel of Faith: Messages to America, 1947-1957*, p. 32

A large, ornate white stone urn filled with vibrant red flowers sits in the foreground on the left. The background is a panoramic view of a city, likely Haifa, with a prominent golden-domed building (the Shrine of the Báb) visible in the lower right. The city is situated on a hillside overlooking a bay with a bridge and several ships. The sky is a pale, hazy blue.

One Process Associated with the Baha'i
Community and Its Mission

1916-7 Tablets of
the Divine Plan



1917-1937 Period
of Abeyance



1937-1944 1st stage
in Western
Hemisphere
concludes

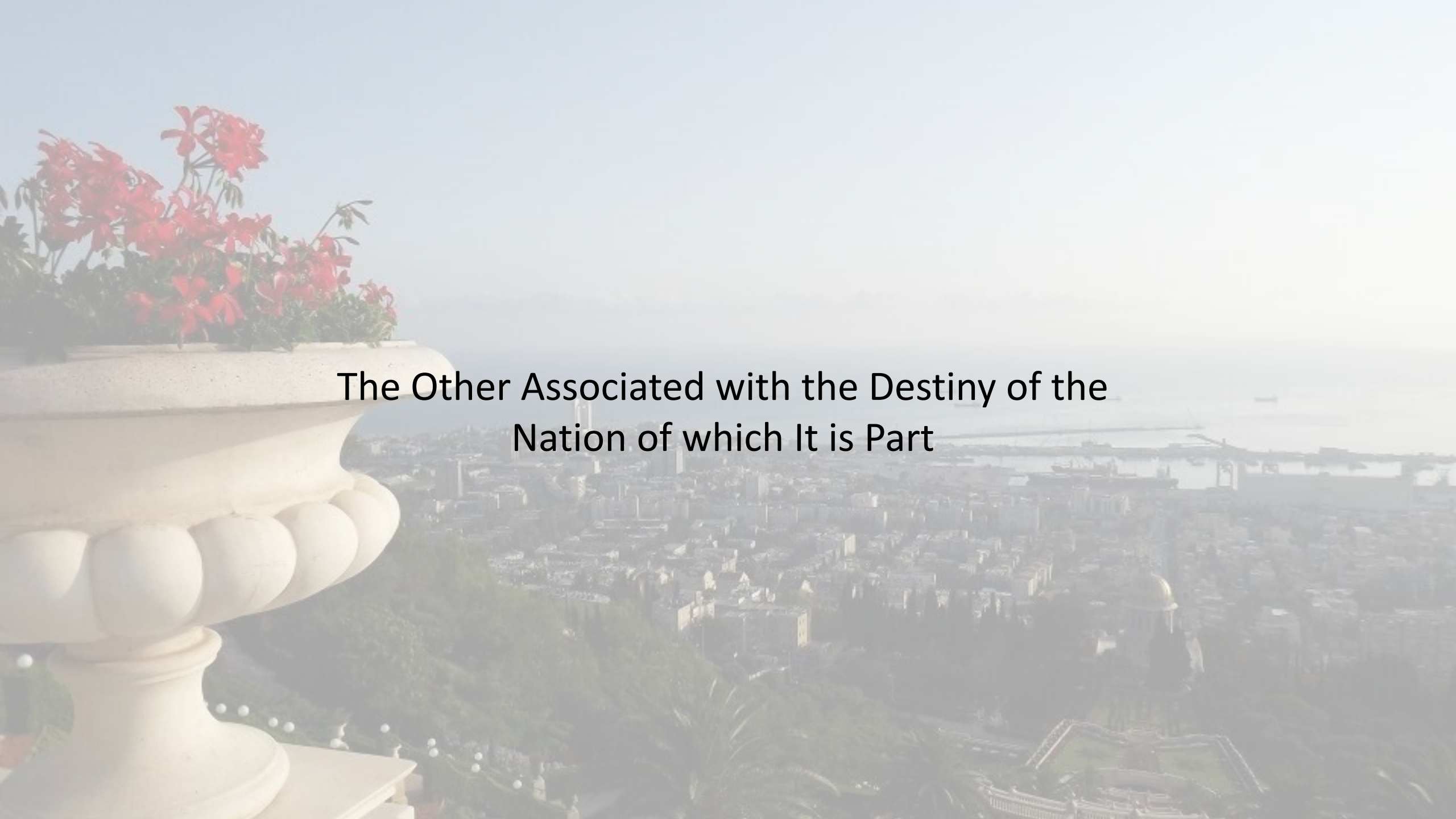


1946-1953 2nd
stage with teaching
campaign in
Europe

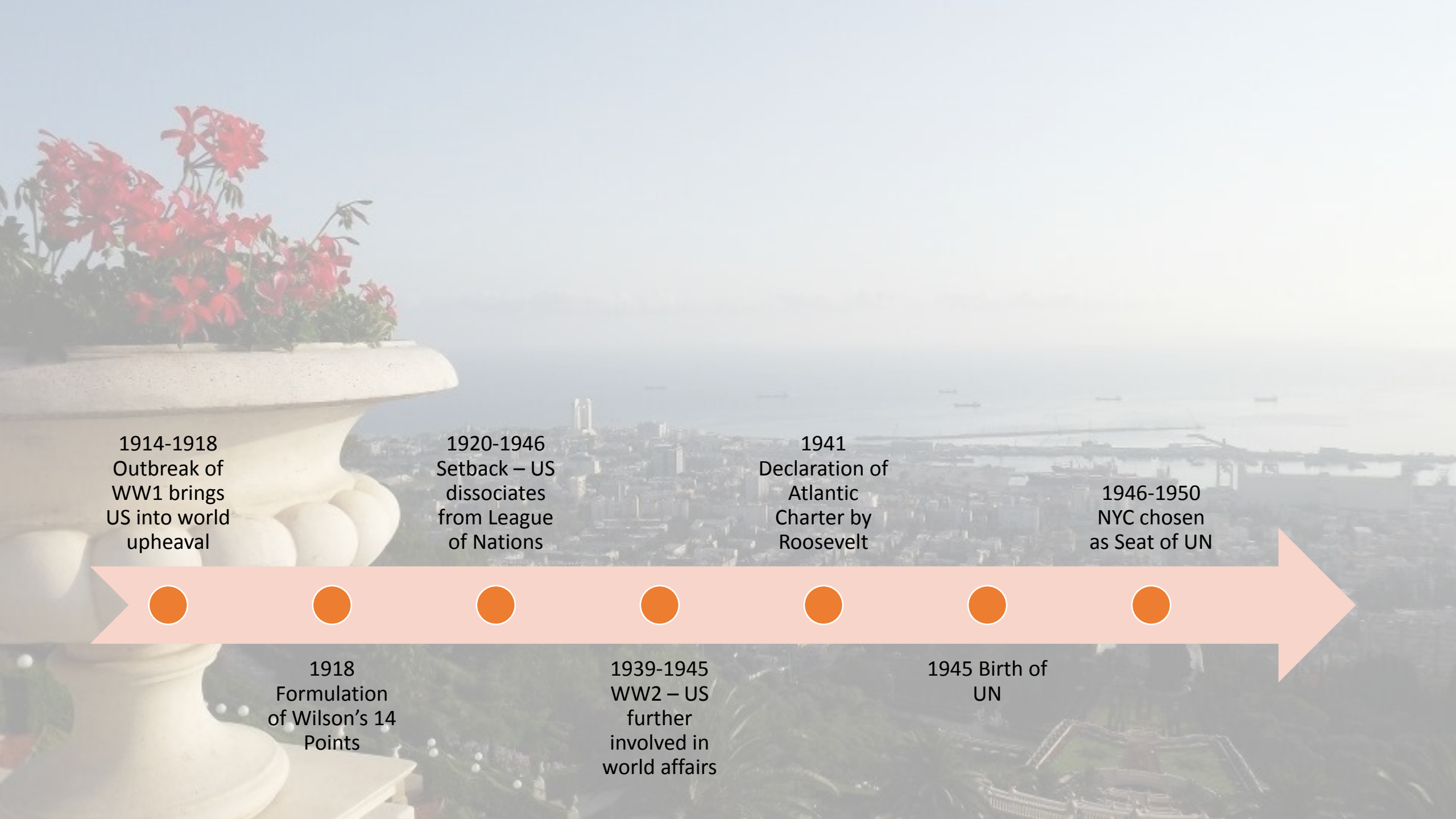


1953-1963 3rd
stage 10 Year
Crusade

FIRST EPOCH OF THE DIVINE PLAN



The Other Associated with the Destiny of the
Nation of which It is Part



1914-1918
Outbreak of
WW1 brings
US into world
upheaval

1920-1946
Setback – US
dissociates
from League
of Nations

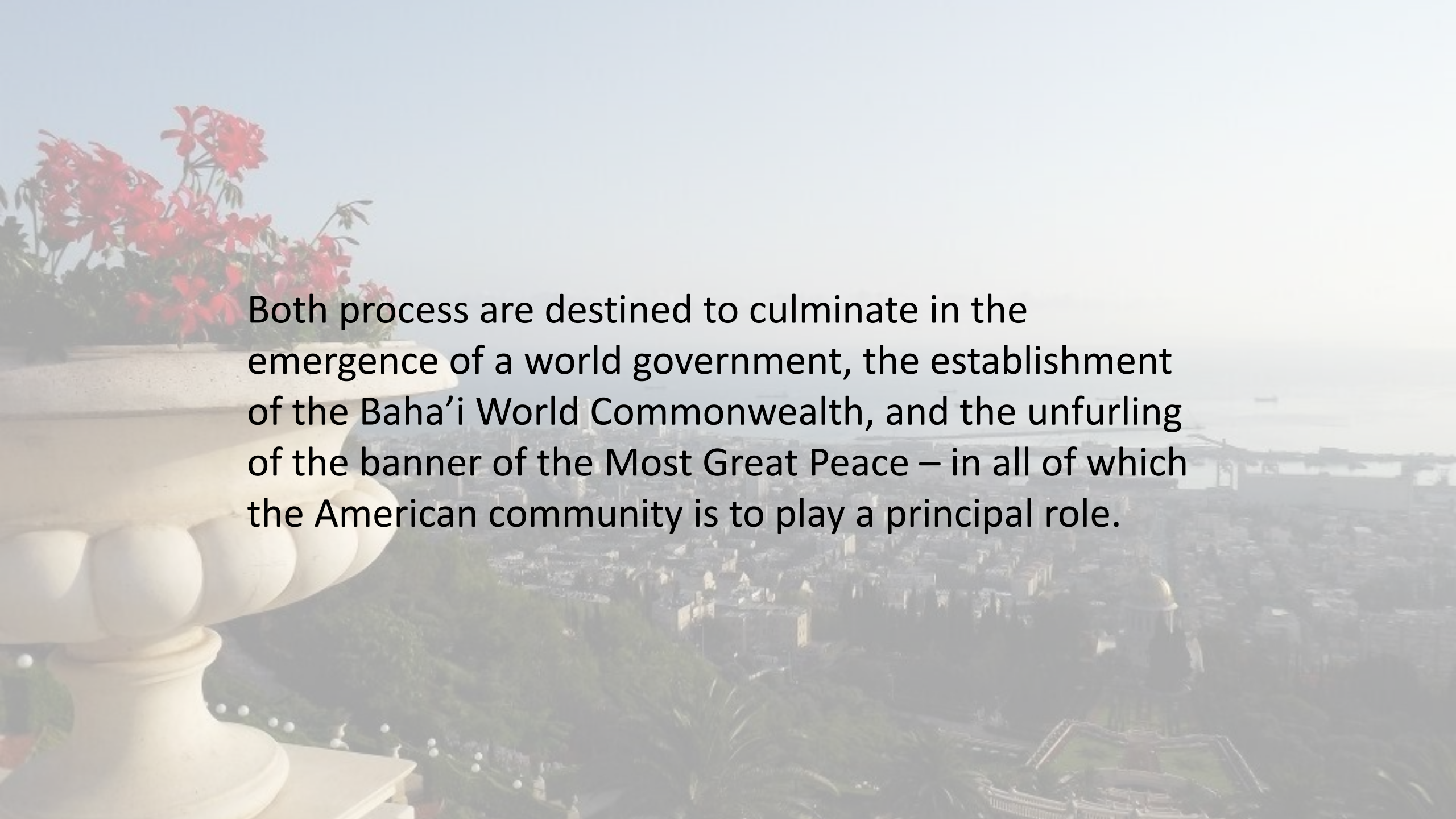
1941
Declaration of
Atlantic
Charter by
Roosevelt

1946-1950
NYC chosen
as Seat of UN

1918
Formulation
of Wilson's 14
Points

1939-1945
WW2 – US
further
involved in
world affairs

1945 Birth of
UN

A scenic view of a city, likely Haifa, Israel, with a large white stone planter in the foreground containing red flowers. The city is visible in the background, featuring a prominent golden-domed building and a body of water in the distance.

Both process are destined to culminate in the emergence of a world government, the establishment of the Baha'i World Commonwealth, and the unfurling of the banner of the Most Great Peace – in all of which the American community is to play a principal role.

1916-7 Tablets of the Divine Plan



1937-1944 1st stage in Western Hemisphere concludes

1953-1963 3rd stage begins with third 10 Year Crusade

1917-1937 Period of Abeyance

1946-1953 2nd phase with teaching campaign in Europe

1914-1918 Outbreak of WW1 brings US into world upheaval

1920-1946 Setback – US dissociates from League of Nations

1941 Declaration of Atlantic Charter by Roosevelt

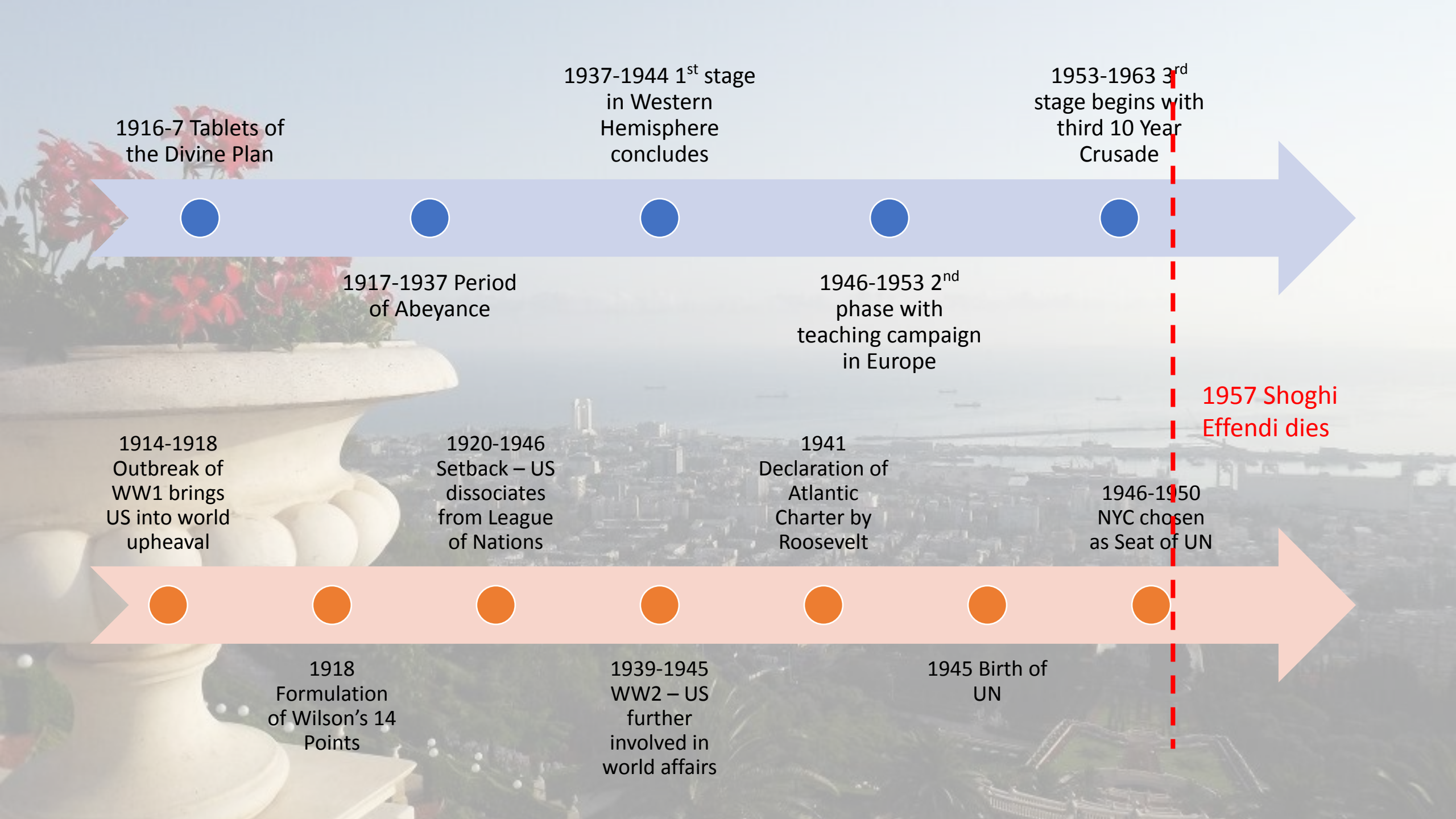
1946-1950 NYC chosen as Seat of UN



1918 Formulation of Wilson's 14 Points

1939-1945 WW2 – US further involved in world affairs

1945 Birth of UN



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1957 Shoghi Effendi dies

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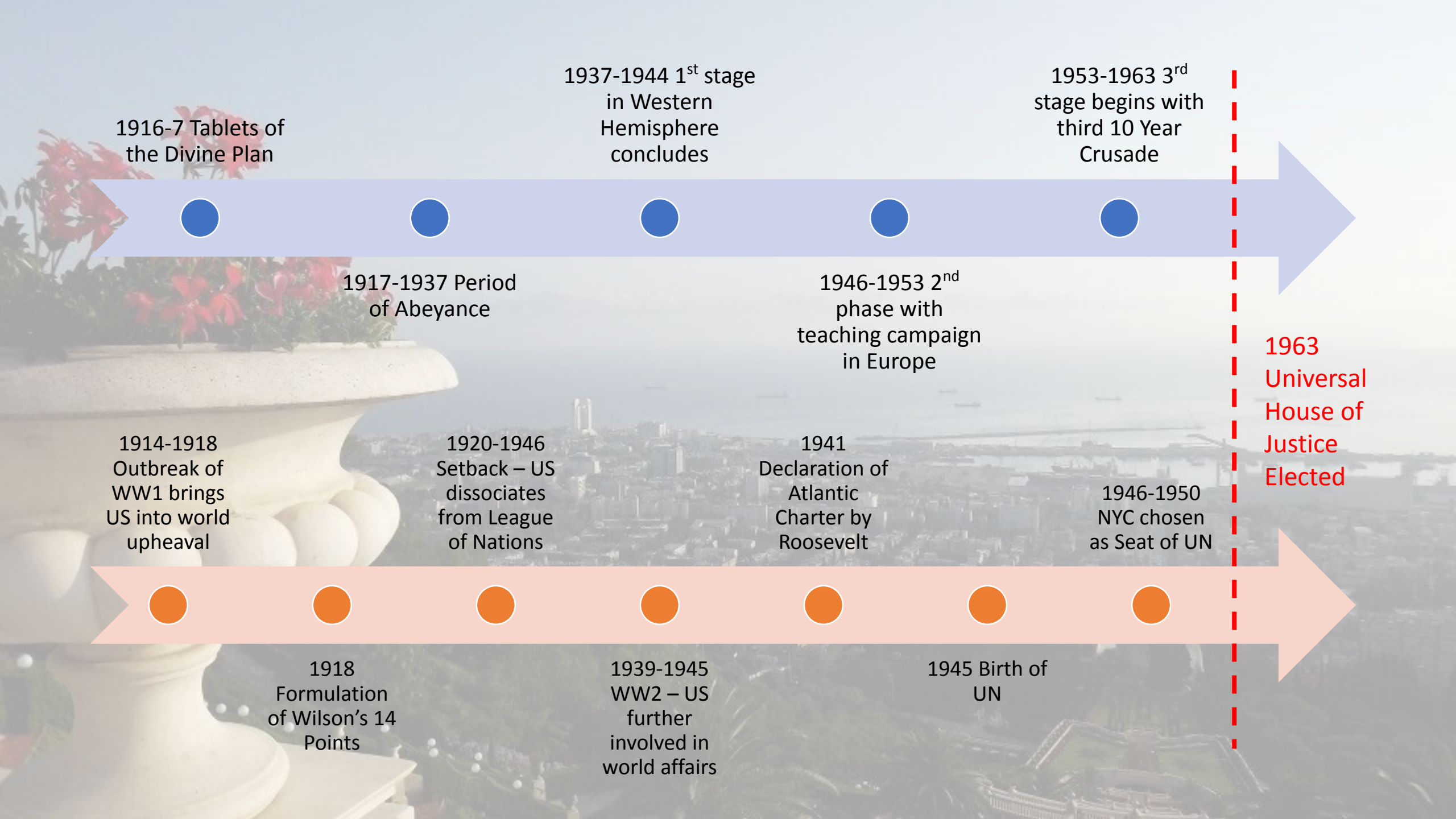
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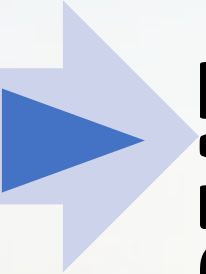
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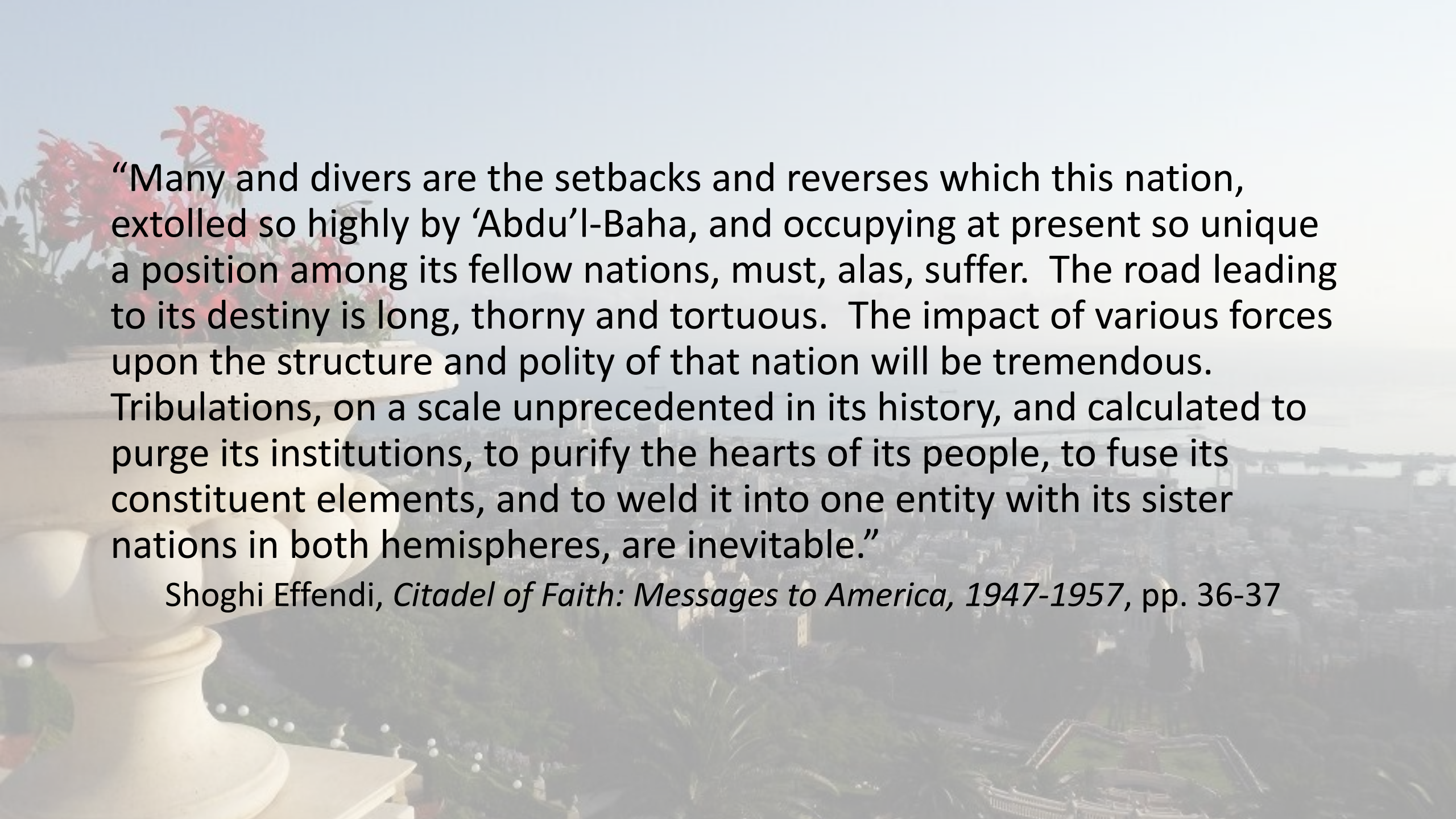
1945 Birth of UN

THE MOST GREAT

PEACE

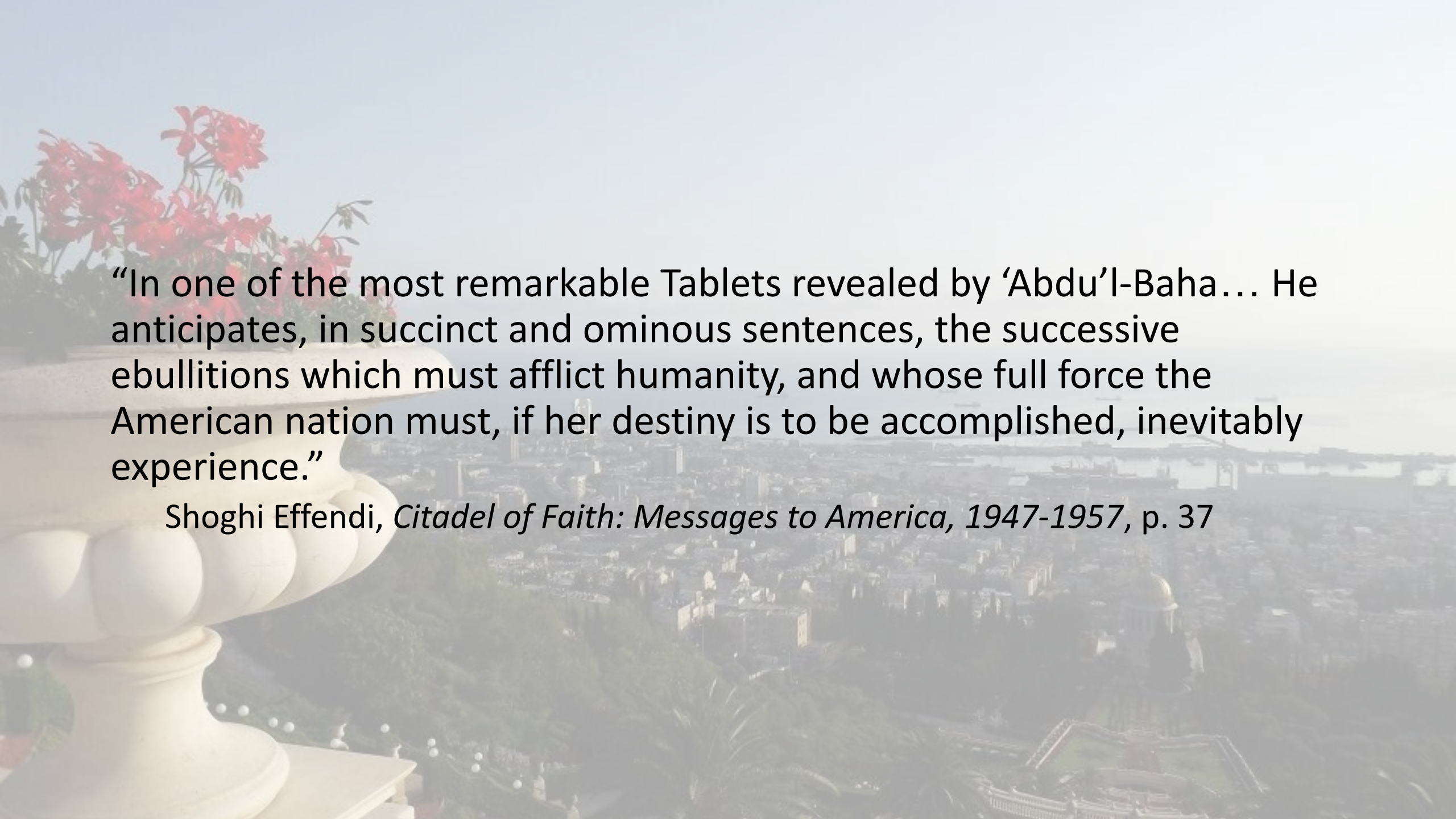
A high-angle, panoramic view of a city, likely San Francisco, with a large white, ornate planter in the foreground on the left. The planter is filled with vibrant red flowers. The city below is densely packed with buildings, and a prominent domed structure is visible in the lower right. The background shows a hazy bay and distant hills under a clear sky.

A storm is coming for which we must prepare



“Many and divers are the setbacks and reverses which this nation, extolled so highly by ‘Abdu’l-Baha, and occupying at present so unique a position among its fellow nations, must, alas, suffer. The road leading to its destiny is long, thorny and tortuous. The impact of various forces upon the structure and polity of that nation will be tremendous. Tribulations, on a scale unprecedented in its history, and calculated to purge its institutions, to purify the hearts of its people, to fuse its constituent elements, and to weld it into one entity with its sister nations in both hemispheres, are inevitable.”

Shoghi Effendi, *Citadel of Faith: Messages to America, 1947-1957*, pp. 36-37



“In one of the most remarkable Tablets revealed by ‘Abdu’l-Baha... He anticipates, in succinct and ominous sentences, the successive ebullitions which must afflict humanity, and whose full force the American nation must, if her destiny is to be accomplished, inevitably experience.”

Shoghi Effendi, *Citadel of Faith: Messages to America, 1947-1957*, p. 37

Dialectic of Crisis and Victory



“As the spiritual energies released by earnest pursuit of the Plan surge, they meet resistance from the **countervailing forces that hold humanity back** from attaining full maturity...”

Universal House of Justice, Letter to the Conference of the Continental Boards of Counsellors, 30 Dec 2021

Challenges We as a Community Face Today




- To help previously antagonistic groups find unity through pursuit of a common goal
- To learn to put aside inherited customs and attitudes that belong to humanity's period of adolescence, and to overcome prejudices of all kinds
- To guard against any tendency to view matters with cynicism or an eye for faults, and instead sustain an eager and constructive outlook
- To put the equality of women and men into practice
- To cast off inertia and apathy through the exercise of individual initiative


Challenges We as a Community Face Today



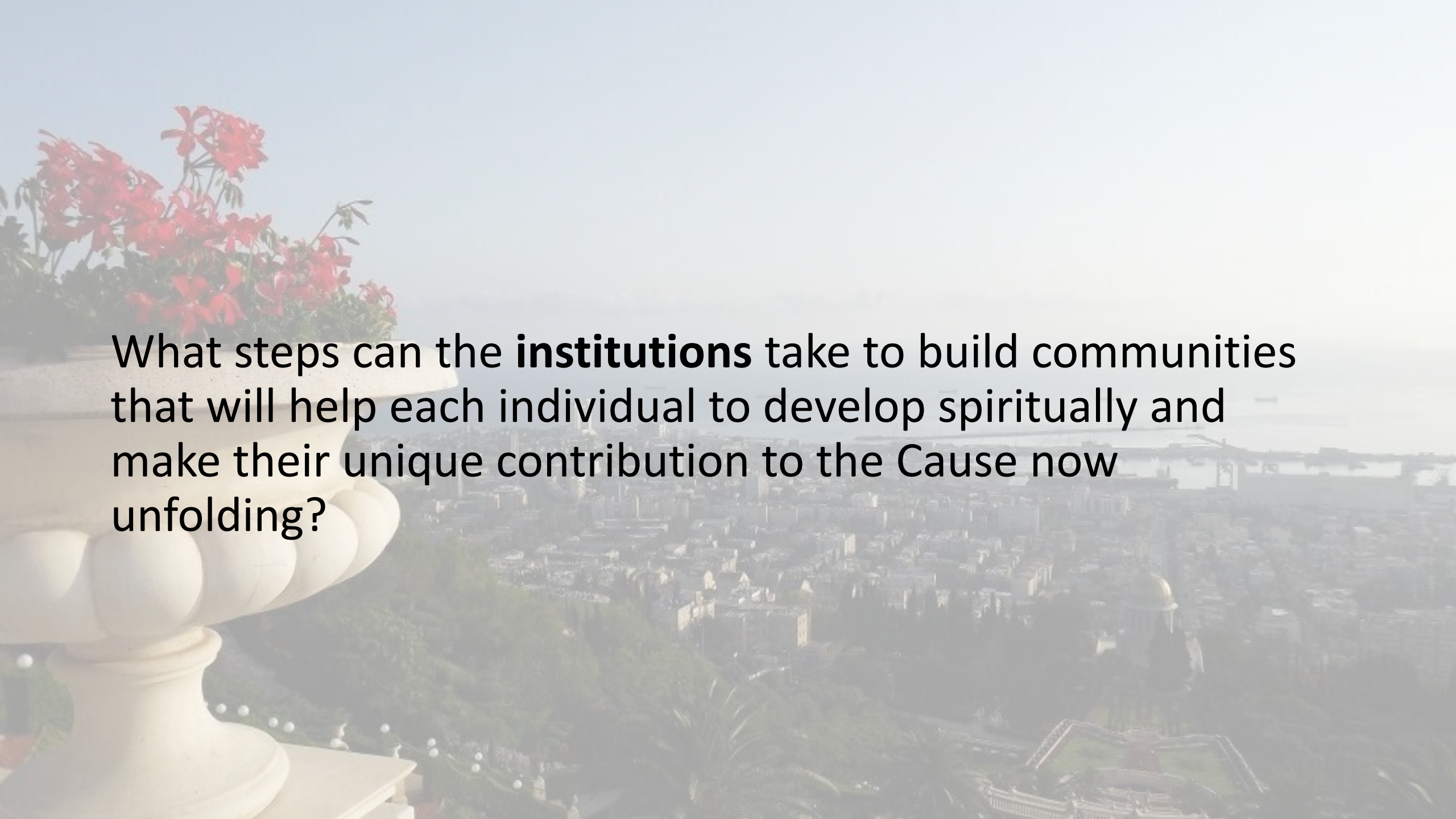
- To put one's support of plans for collective action before feelings of personal preference
- To harness the power of modern technologies without succumbing to their potentially enervating effects
- To prize the sweetness of teaching the Faith and the joy of serving humankind above worldly interests
- To reject the opiate of consumerism
- To turn away from materialist ideologies and the worldviews they aggressively promote, and fix one's gaze upon the bright beacon that is the laws and principles of God

A white stone planter with red flowers in the foreground, overlooking a cityscape with a large domed building.

How do we develop the qualities necessary for us as **individuals** to meet and overcome these challenges?

A scenic view of a city from a high vantage point, with a white stone planter containing red flowers in the foreground on the left. The city below is densely packed with buildings, and a large domed structure is visible in the distance. The sky is clear and blue.

How do we build **communities** that can serve as environments that support us and our friends, neighbors, coworkers, family members, and everyone else who is so inclined in doing so?



What steps can the **institutions** take to build communities that will help each individual to develop spiritually and make their unique contribution to the Cause now unfolding?

Challenges We as a Community Face Today

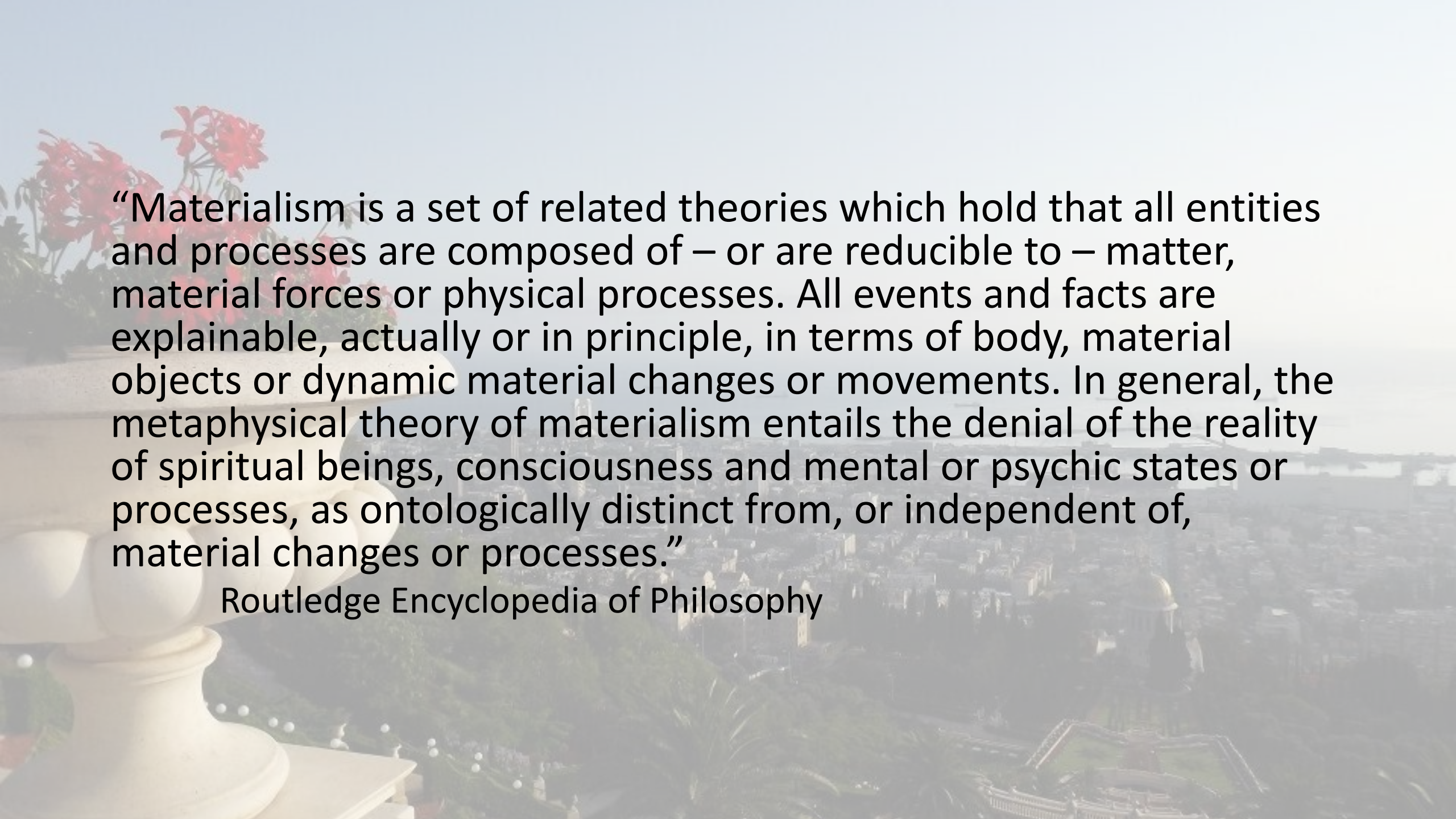


- To put one's support of plans for collective action before feelings of personal preference
- To harness the power of modern technologies without succumbing to their potentially enervating effects
- To prize the sweetness of teaching the Faith and the joy of serving humankind above worldly interests
- To reject the opiate of consumerism
- To turn away from materialist ideologies and the worldviews they aggressively promote, and fix one's gaze upon the bright beacon that is the laws and principles of God

Challenges We as a Community Face Today



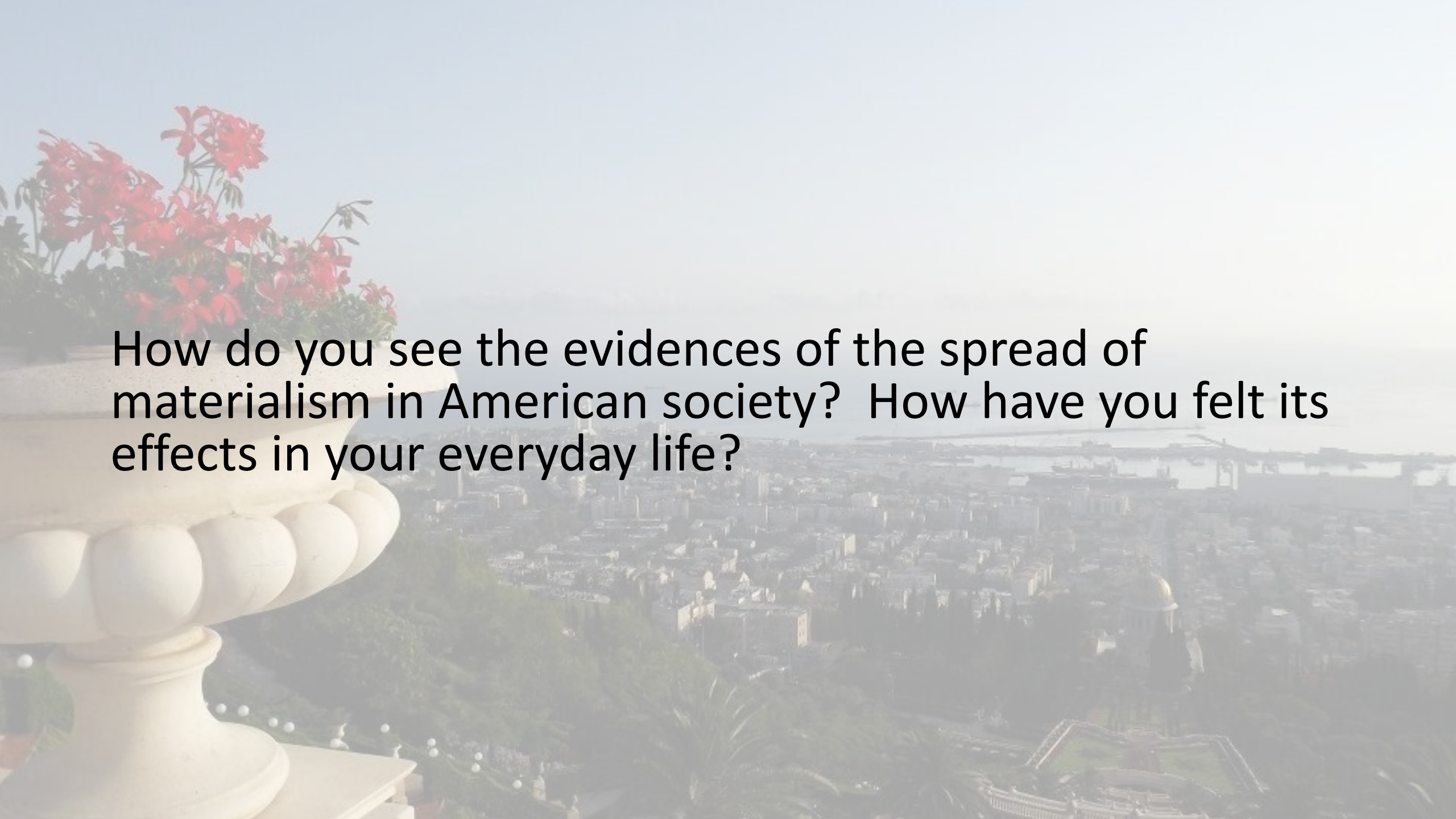
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“Materialism is a set of related theories which hold that all entities and processes are composed of – or are reducible to – matter, material forces or physical processes. All events and facts are explainable, actually or in principle, in terms of body, material objects or dynamic material changes or movements. In general, the metaphysical theory of materialism entails the denial of the reality of spiritual beings, consciousness and mental or psychic states or processes, as ontologically distinct from, or independent of, material changes or processes.”

Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy



A blurred background image of a cityscape, likely San Francisco, with a large white classical urn in the foreground containing red flowers. The text is overlaid on the image.

How do you see the evidences of the spread of materialism in American society? How have you felt its effects in your everyday life?

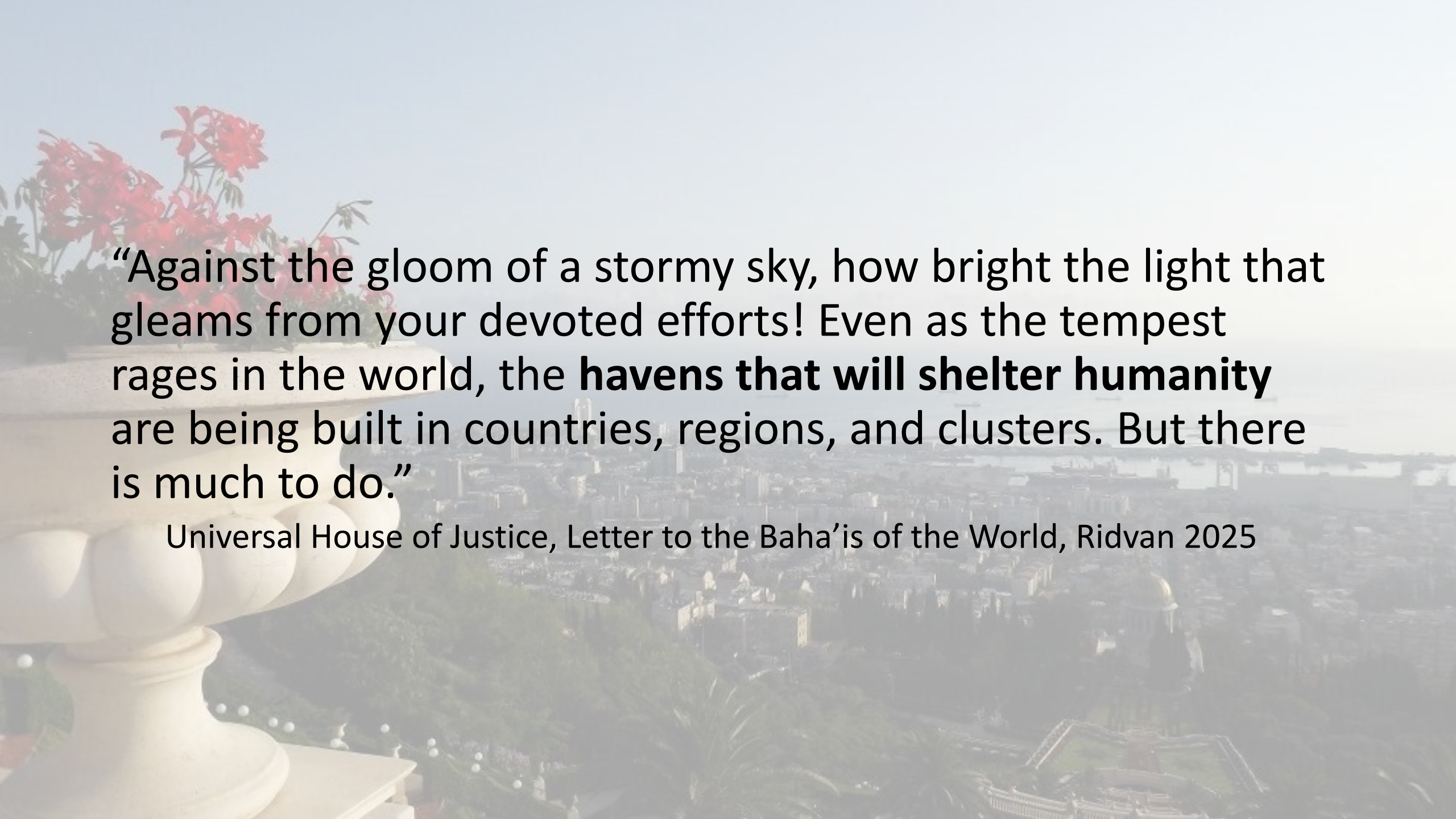
A scenic view of a city, likely San Francisco, seen from a high vantage point. In the foreground on the left, there is a large, white, ornate planter filled with vibrant red flowers. The city below is densely packed with buildings, and a prominent domed structure is visible in the lower right. The background shows a hazy bay with a bridge and distant hills under a clear sky.

We have been called to build a pattern of community life that can provide a haven to all.



“... havens of peace, places where a harried and conflict-scarred humanity may find shelter”

Universal House of Justice, Letter to the Conference of the Continental Boards of Counsellors, 30 Dec 2021



“Against the gloom of a stormy sky, how bright the light that gleams from your devoted efforts! Even as the tempest rages in the world, the **havens that will shelter humanity** are being built in countries, regions, and clusters. But there is much to do.”

Universal House of Justice, Letter to the Baha'is of the World, Ridvan 2025

Movement of Clusters as the Process of Building These Havens

Milestone 1

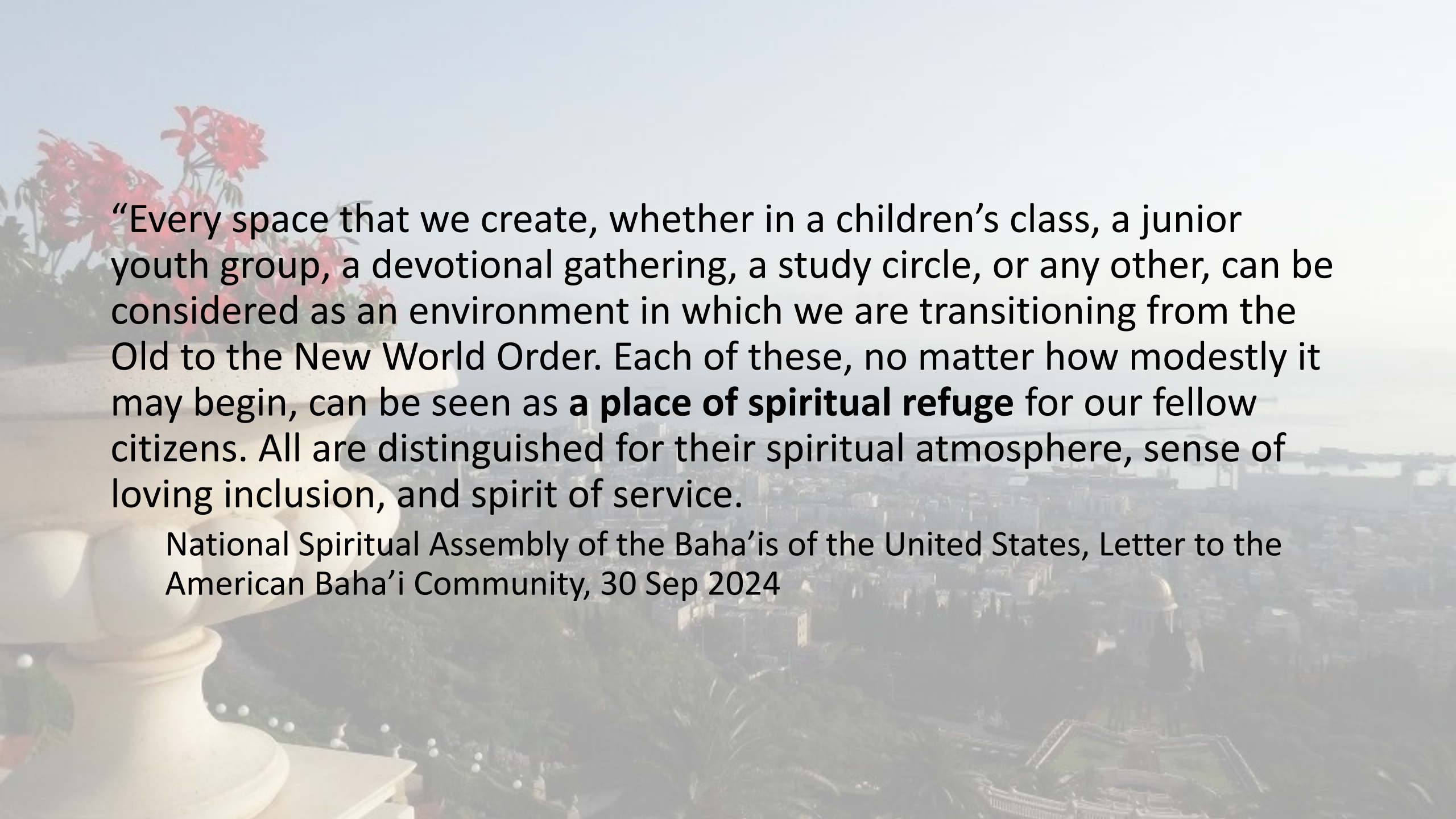
Program of Growth

Milestone 2

Intensive Program of Growth

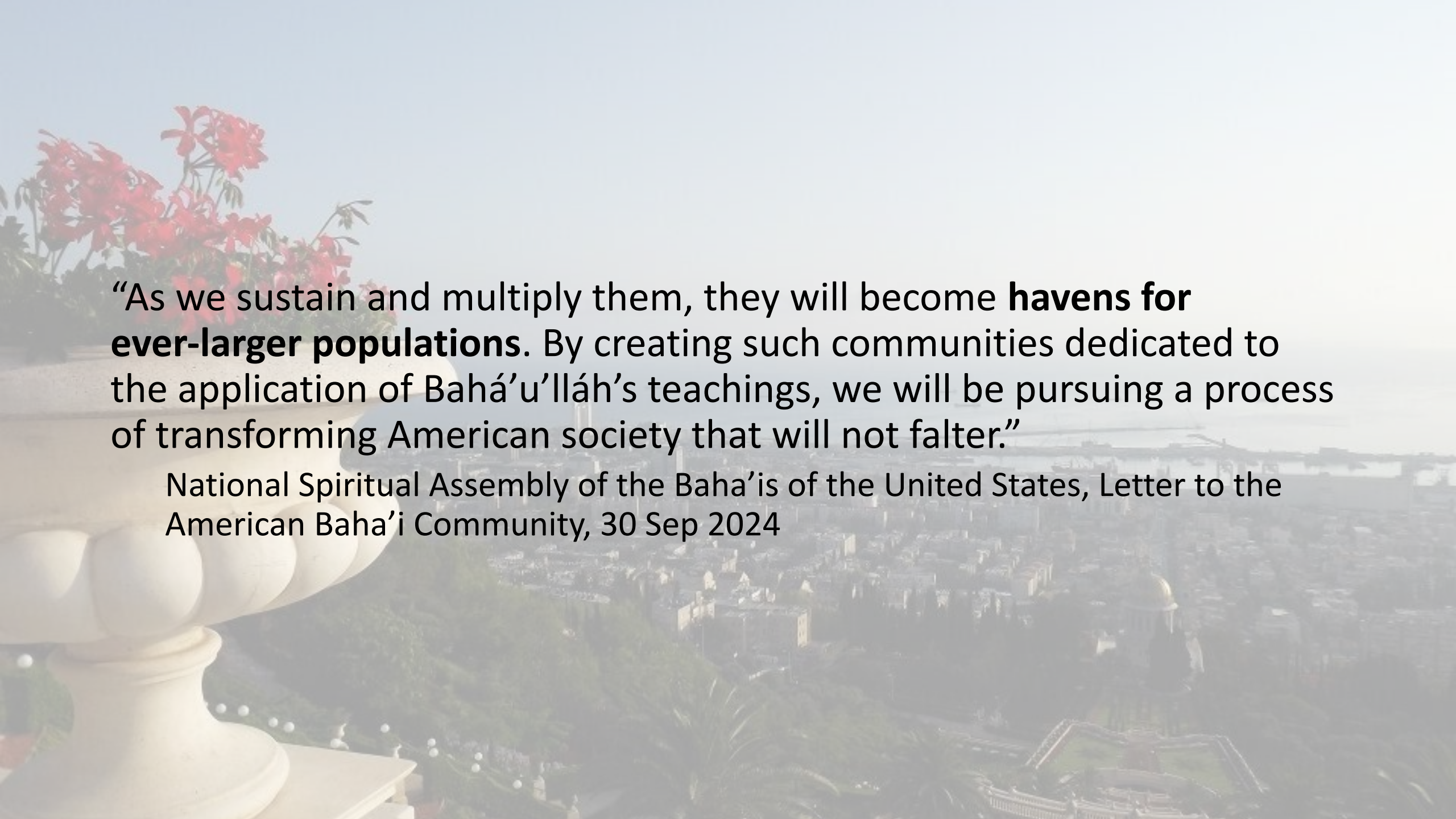
Milestone 3

Embracing Large Numbers and Managing Complexity



“Every space that we create, whether in a children’s class, a junior youth group, a devotional gathering, a study circle, or any other, can be considered as an environment in which we are transitioning from the Old to the New World Order. Each of these, no matter how modestly it may begin, can be seen as **a place of spiritual refuge** for our fellow citizens. All are distinguished for their spiritual atmosphere, sense of loving inclusion, and spirit of service.

National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha’is of the United States, Letter to the American Baha’i Community, 30 Sep 2024



“As we sustain and multiply them, they will become **havens for ever-larger populations**. By creating such communities dedicated to the application of Bahá’u’lláh’s teachings, we will be pursuing a process of transforming American society that will not falter.”

National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha’is of the United States, Letter to the American Baha’i Community, 30 Sep 2024

Movement of Clusters as the Process of Building These Havens

Milestone 1

Program of Growth

Milestone 2

Intensive Program of Growth

Milestone 3

Embracing Large Numbers and Managing Complexity

Movement of Clusters as the Process of Building These Havens



Addressing the Problems of Society

FIRST MILESTONE

THIRD MILESTONE



Addressing the Problems of Society

FIRST MILESTONE



THIRD MILESTONE



Addressing the Problems of Society

FIRST MILESTONE

THIRD MILESTONE

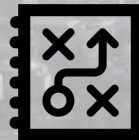
“a handful of individuals...”



Addressing the Problems of Society

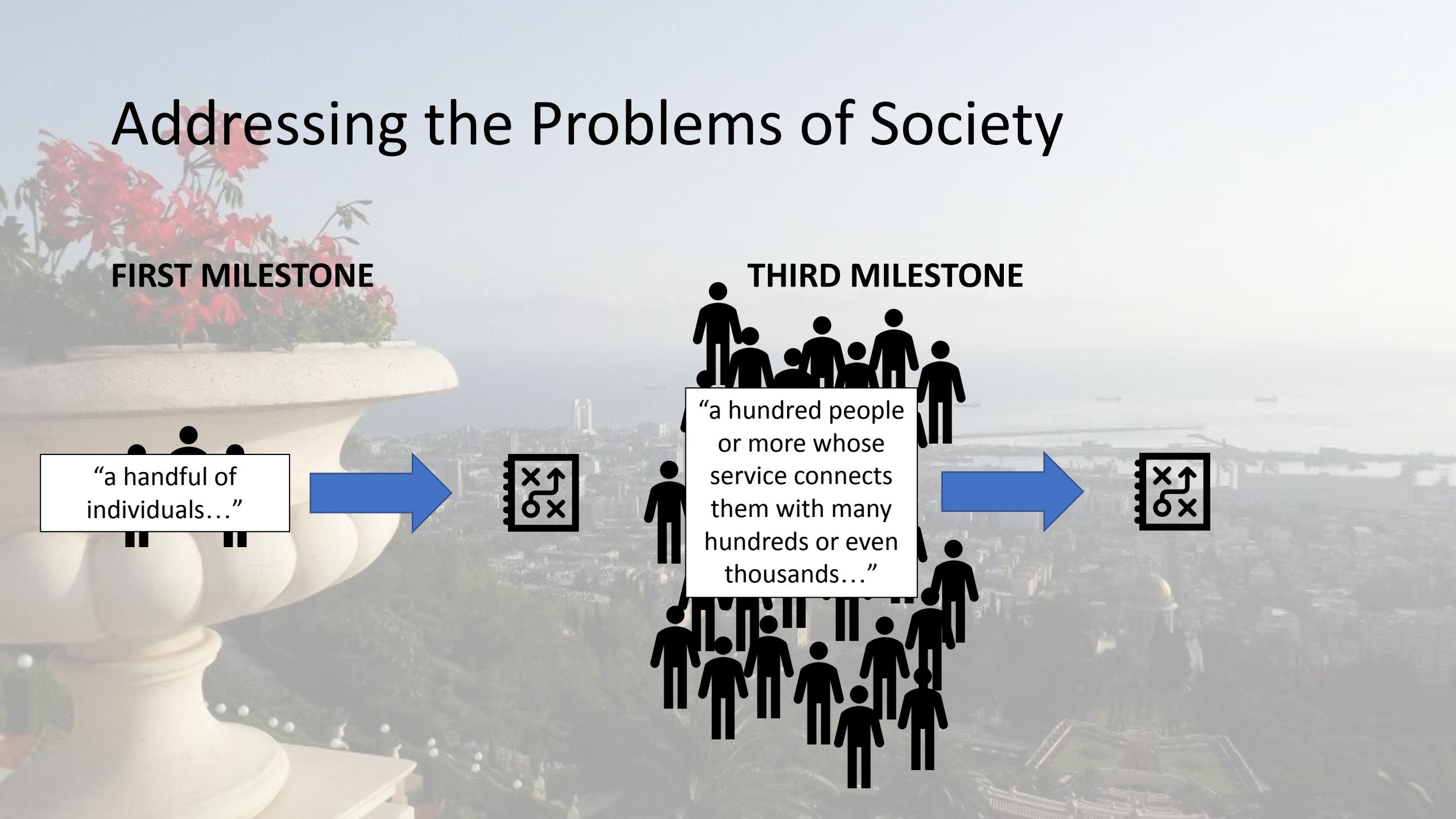
FIRST MILESTONE

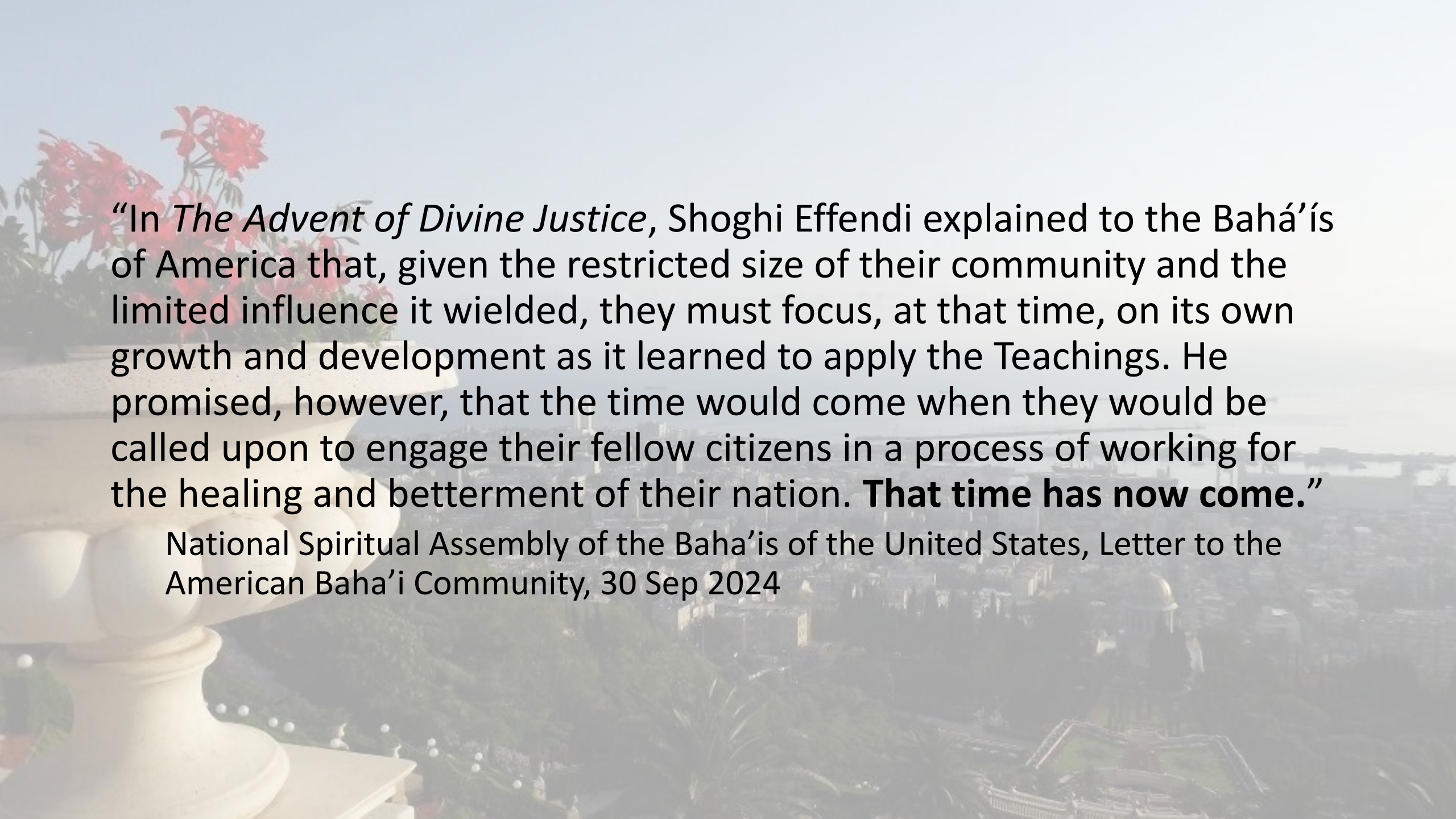
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THIRD MILESTONE

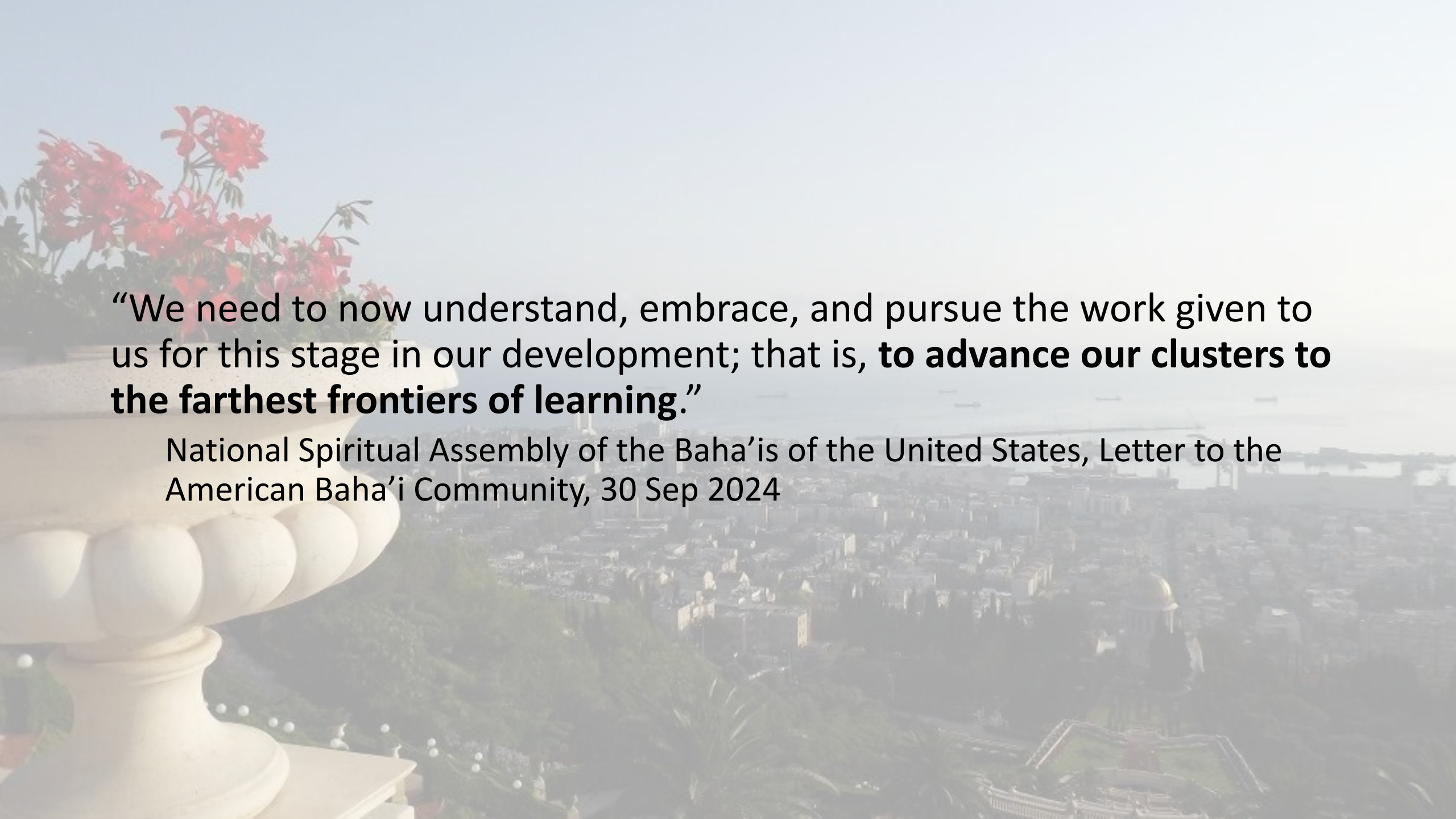
“a hundred people or more whose service connects them with many hundreds or even thousands...”





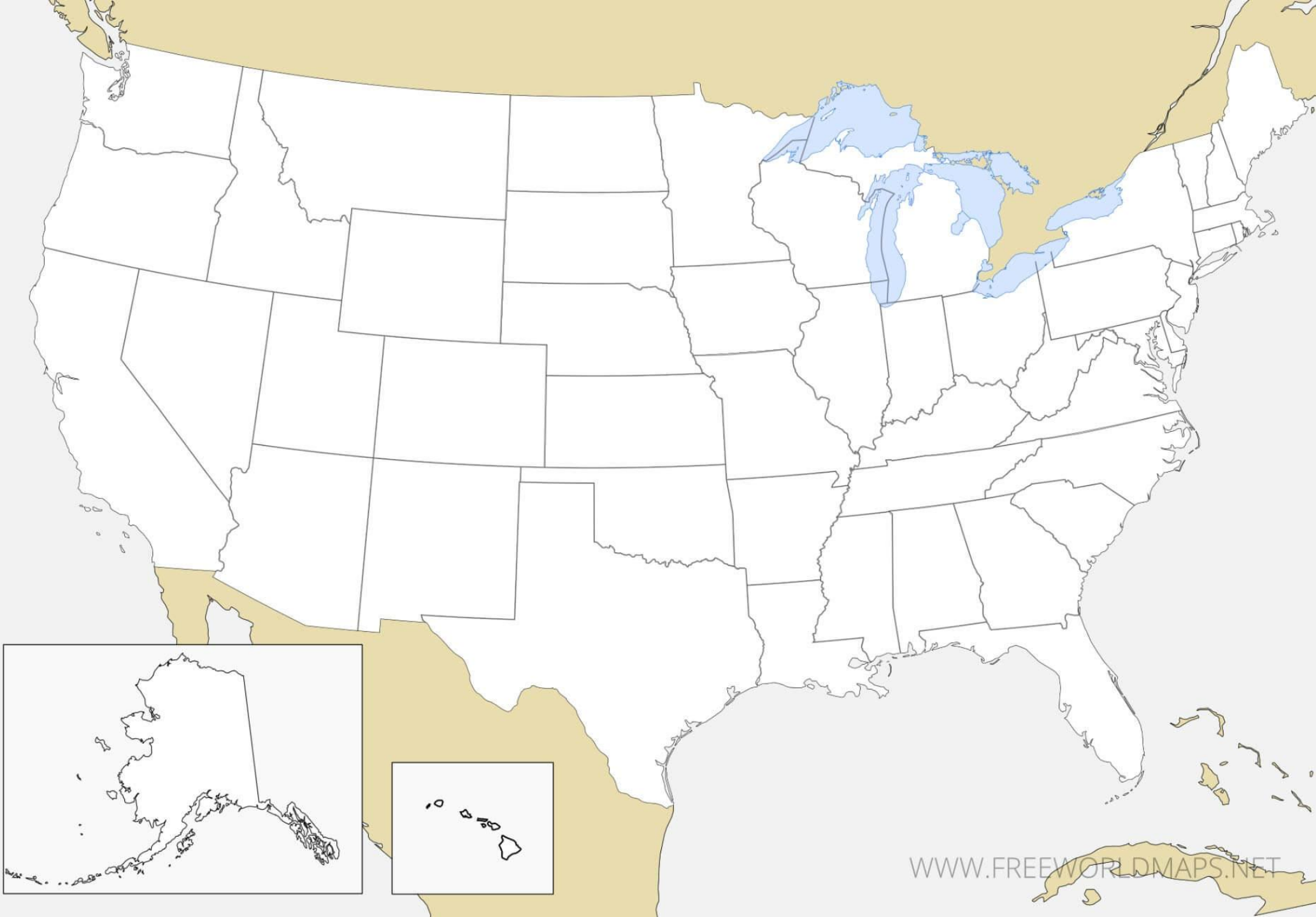
“In *The Advent of Divine Justice*, Shoghi Effendi explained to the Bahá’ís of America that, given the restricted size of their community and the limited influence it wielded, they must focus, at that time, on its own growth and development as it learned to apply the Teachings. He promised, however, that the time would come when they would be called upon to engage their fellow citizens in a process of working for the healing and betterment of their nation. **That time has now come.**”

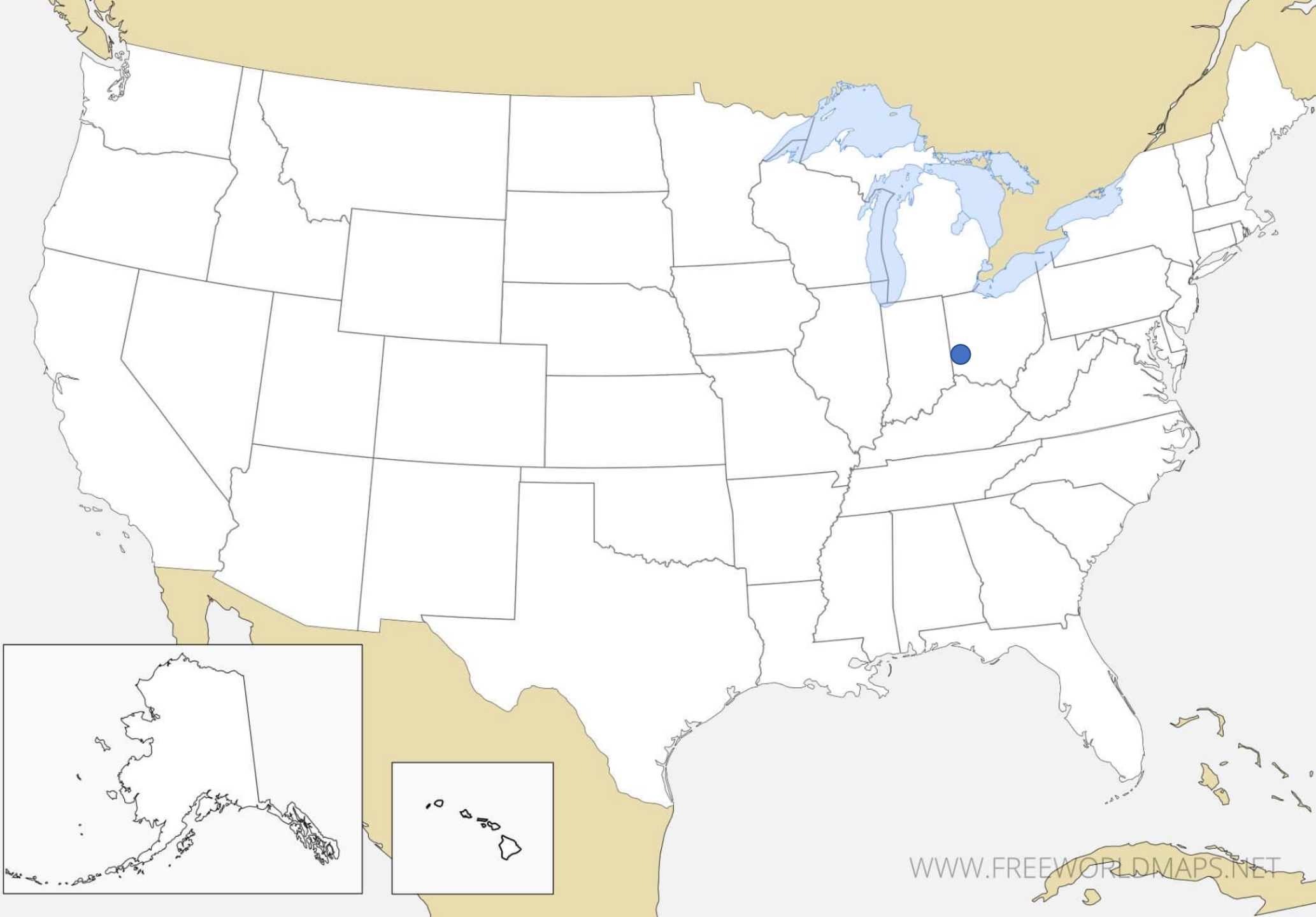
National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha’is of the United States, Letter to the American Baha’i Community, 30 Sep 2024

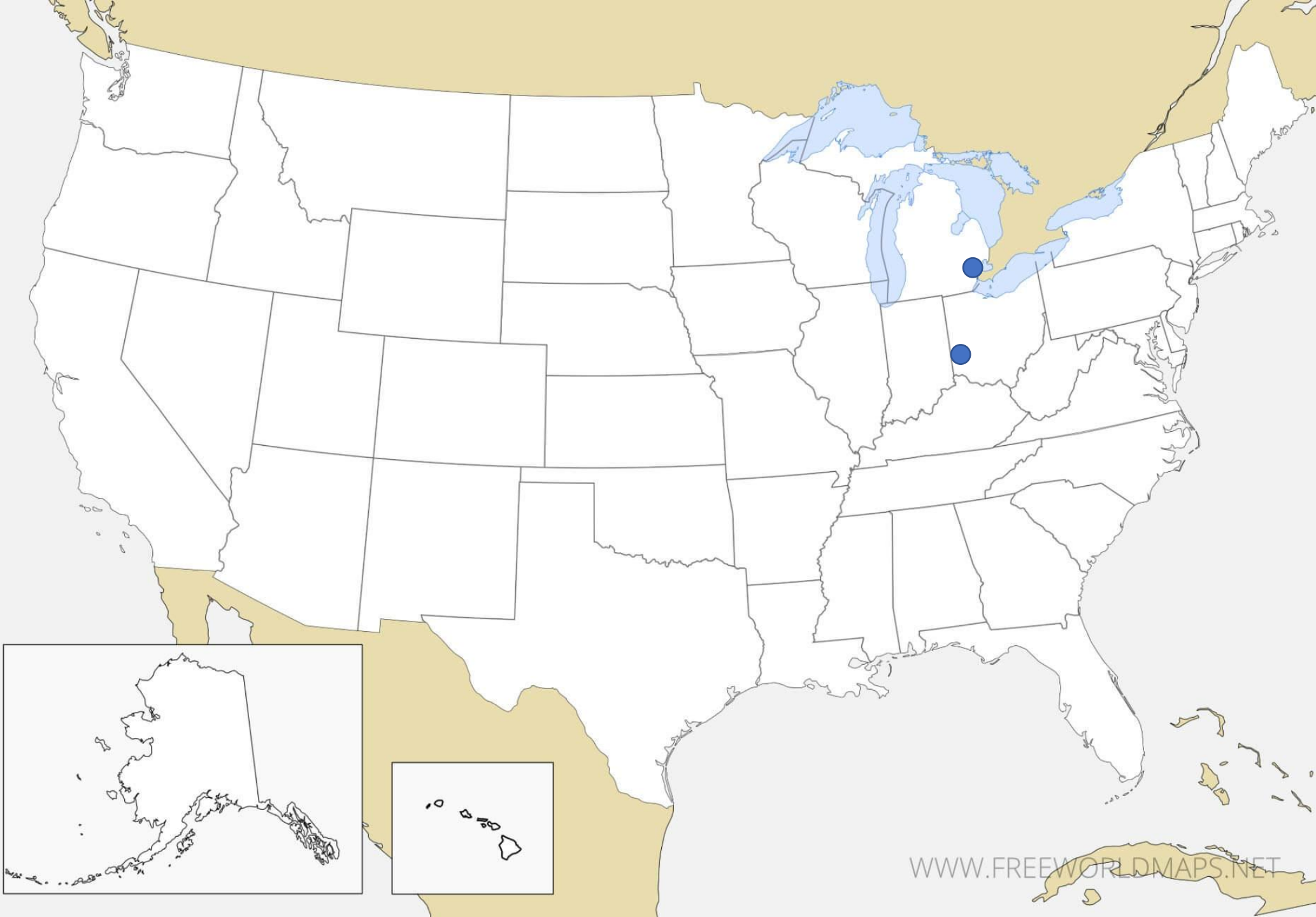


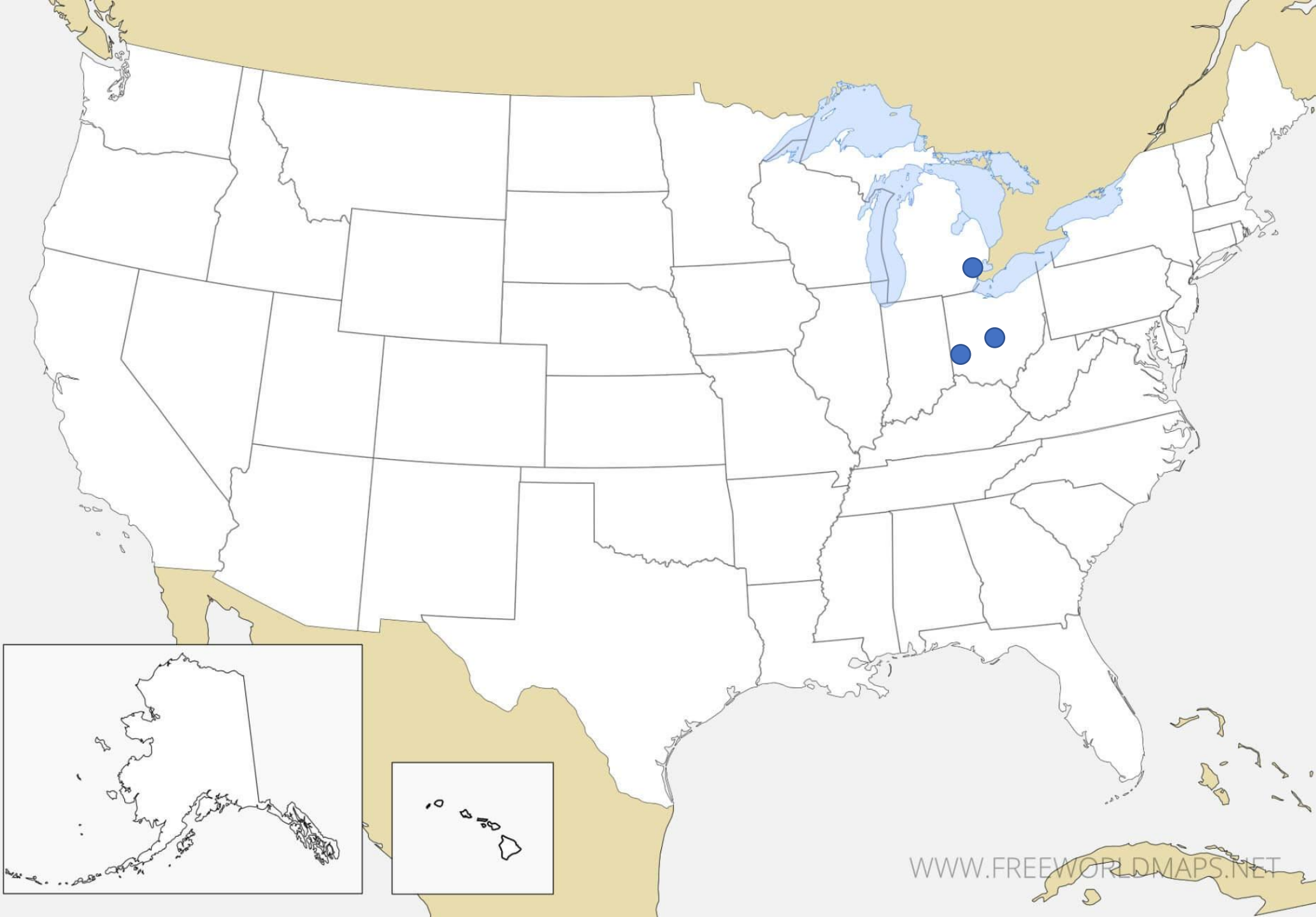
“We need to now understand, embrace, and pursue the work given to us for this stage in our development; that is, **to advance our clusters to the farthest frontiers of learning.**”

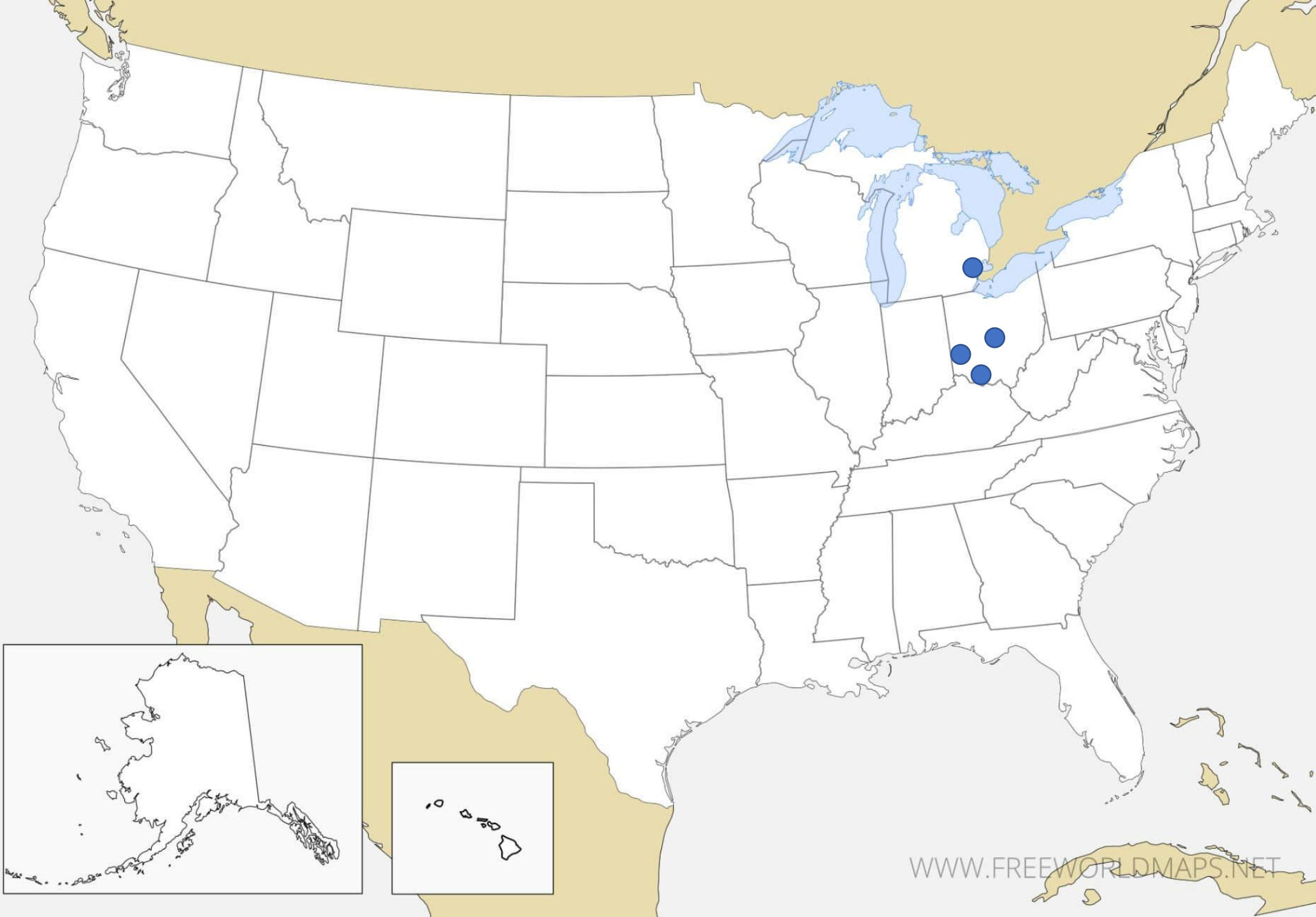
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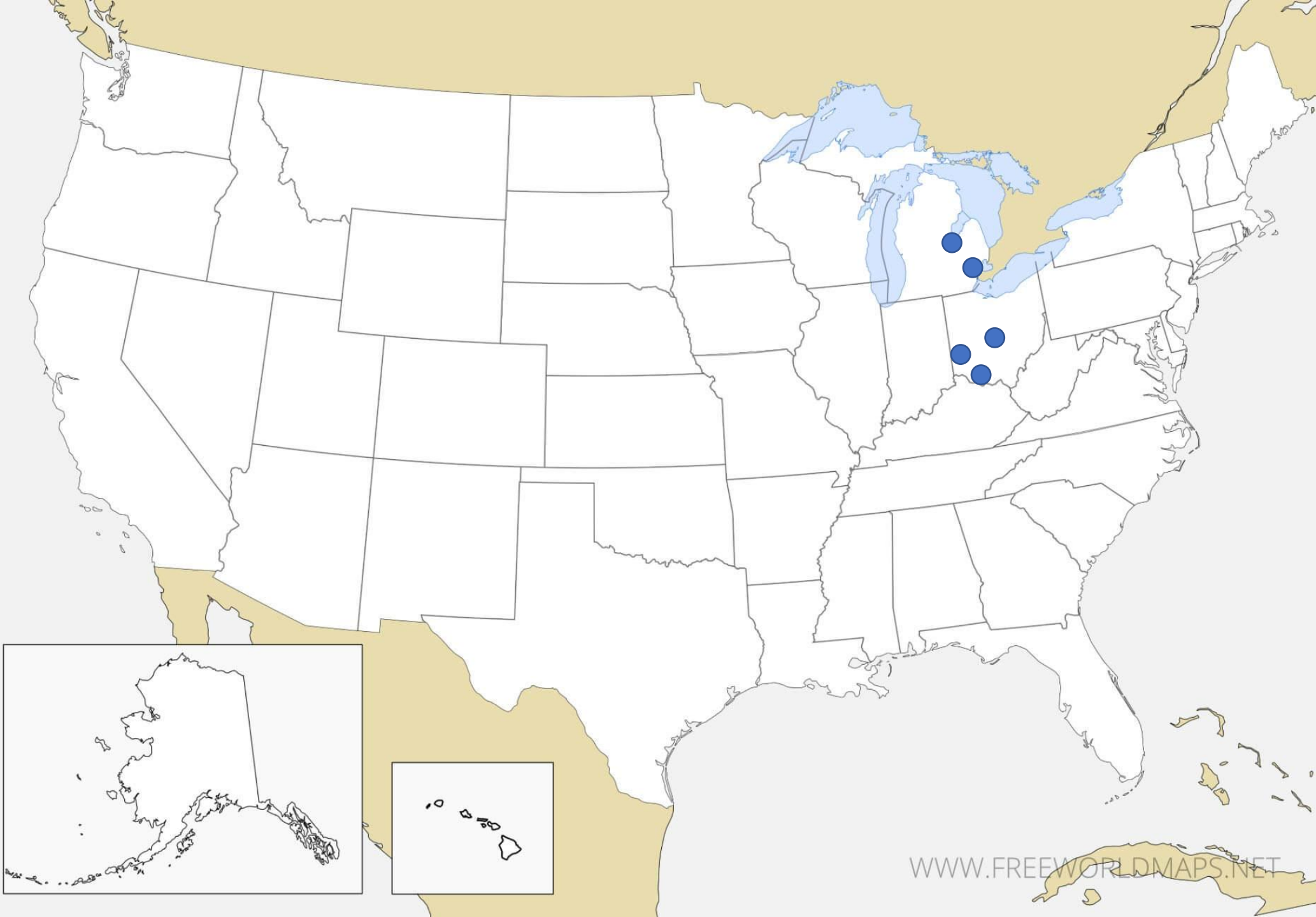


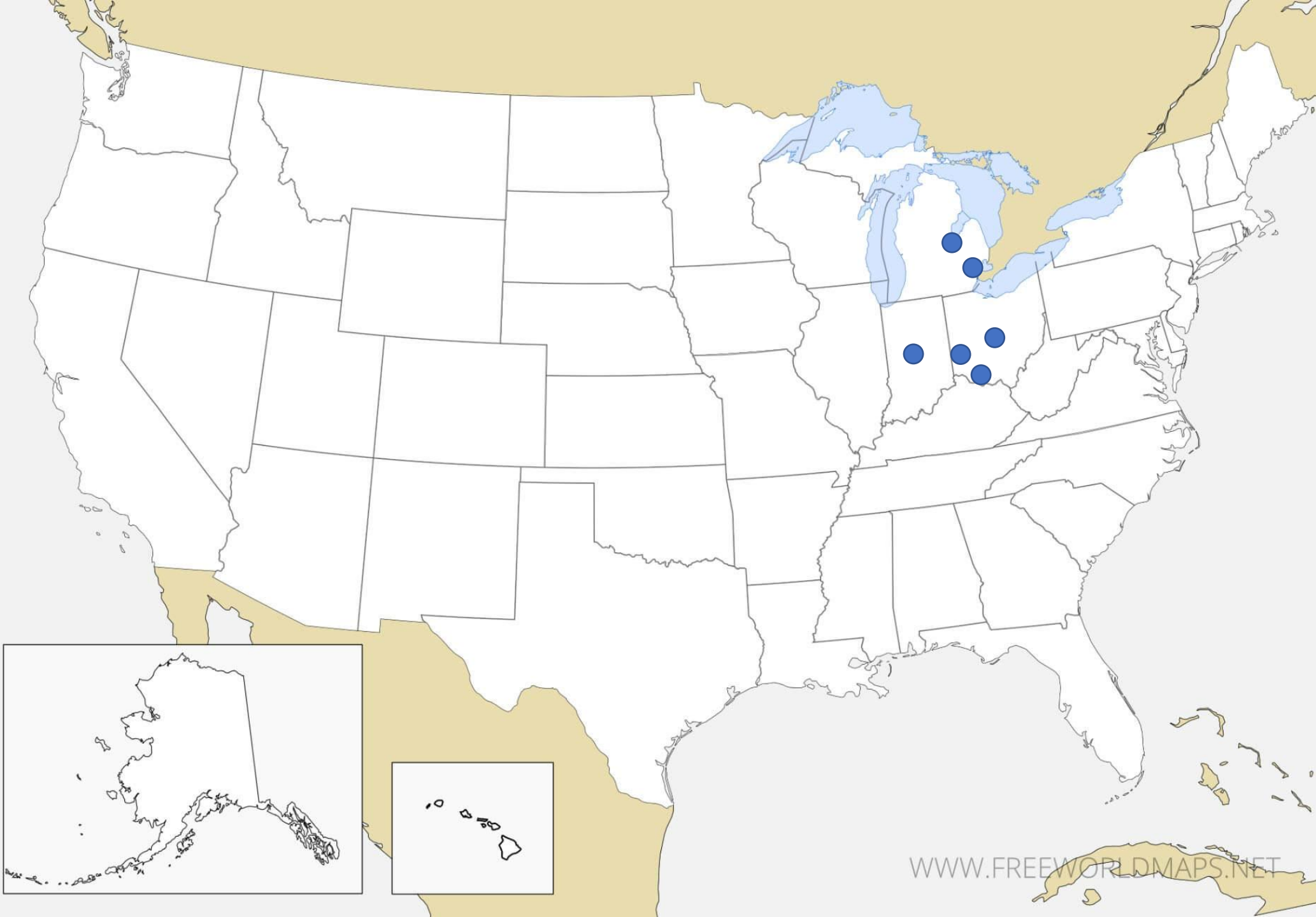


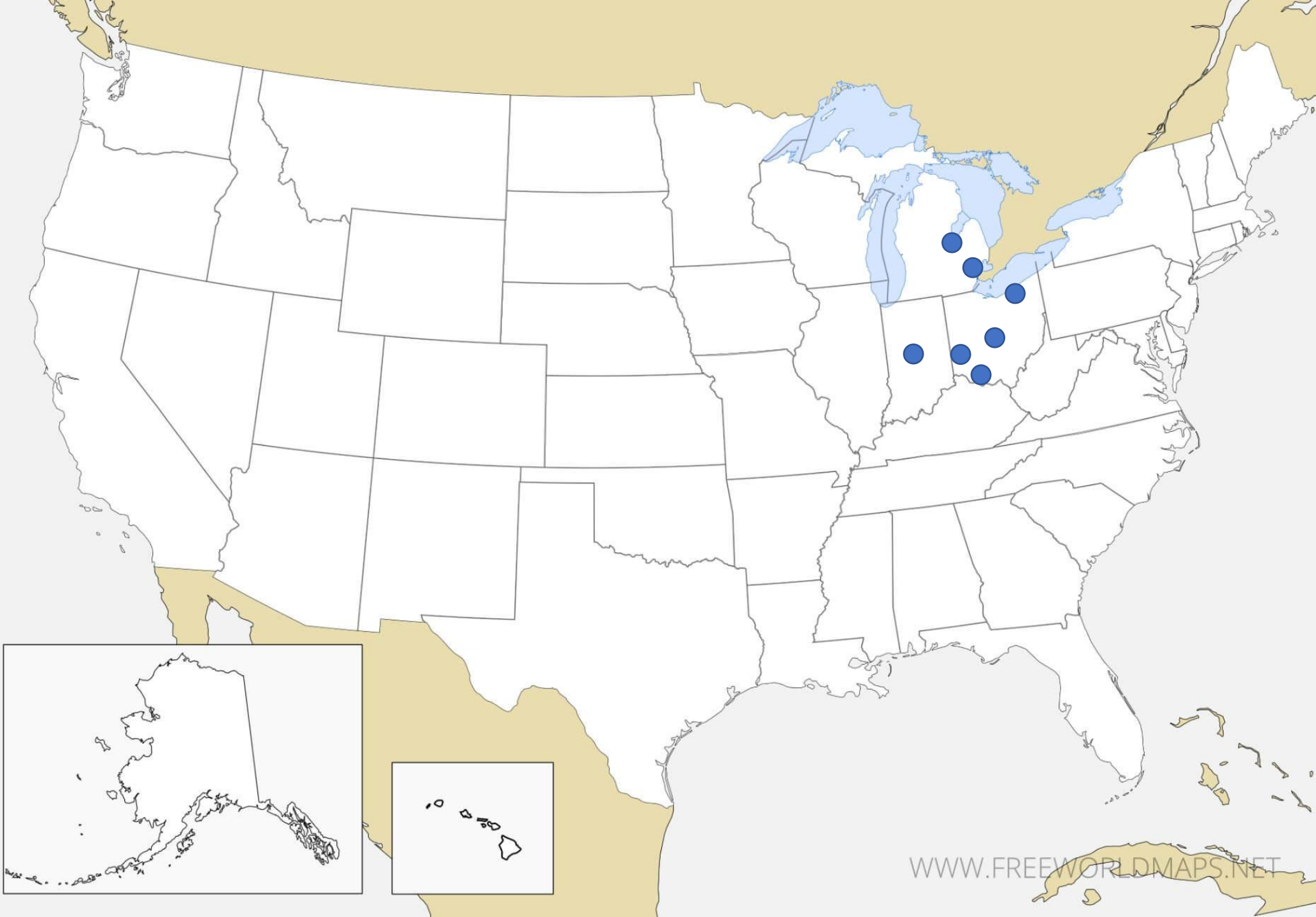


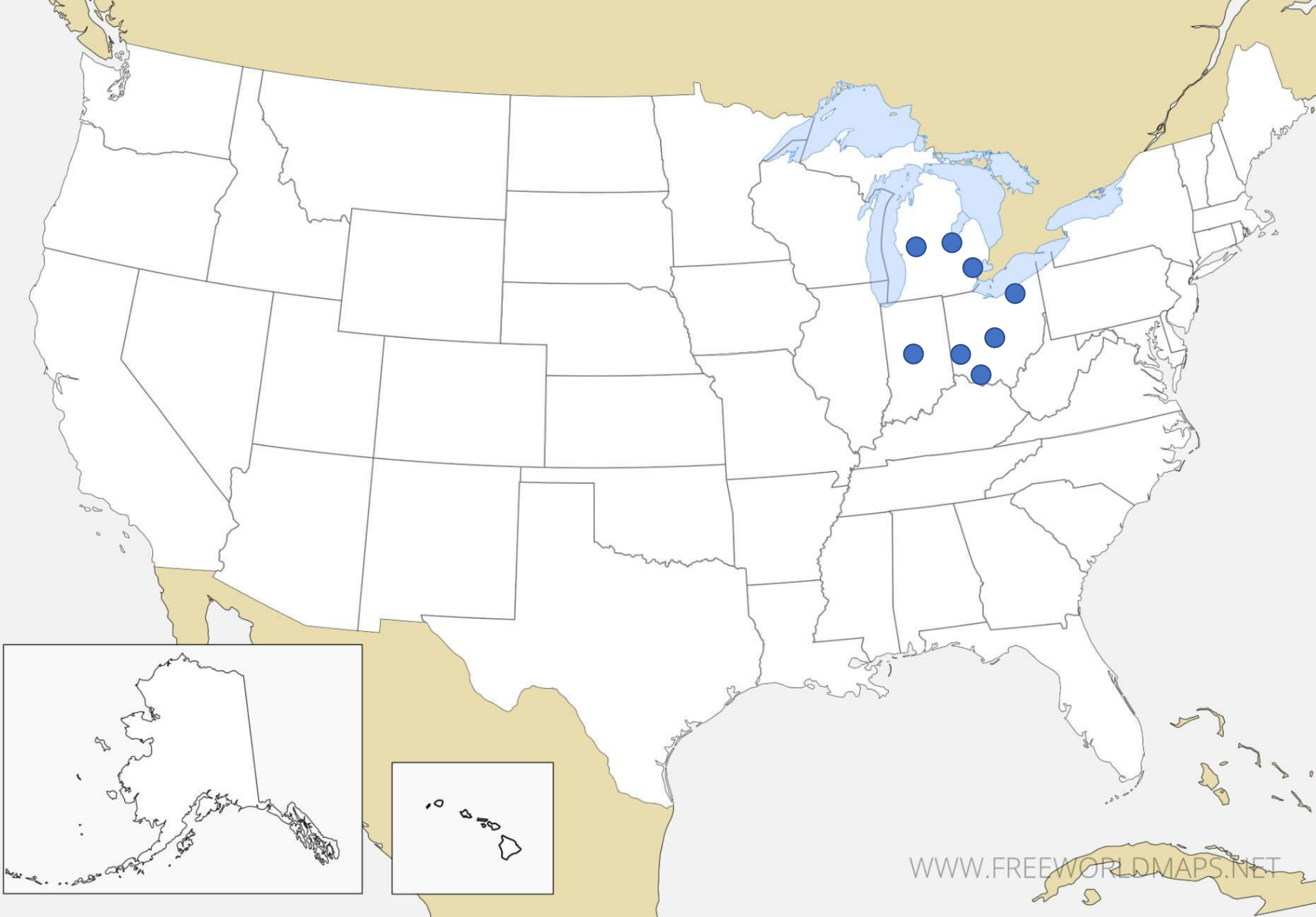


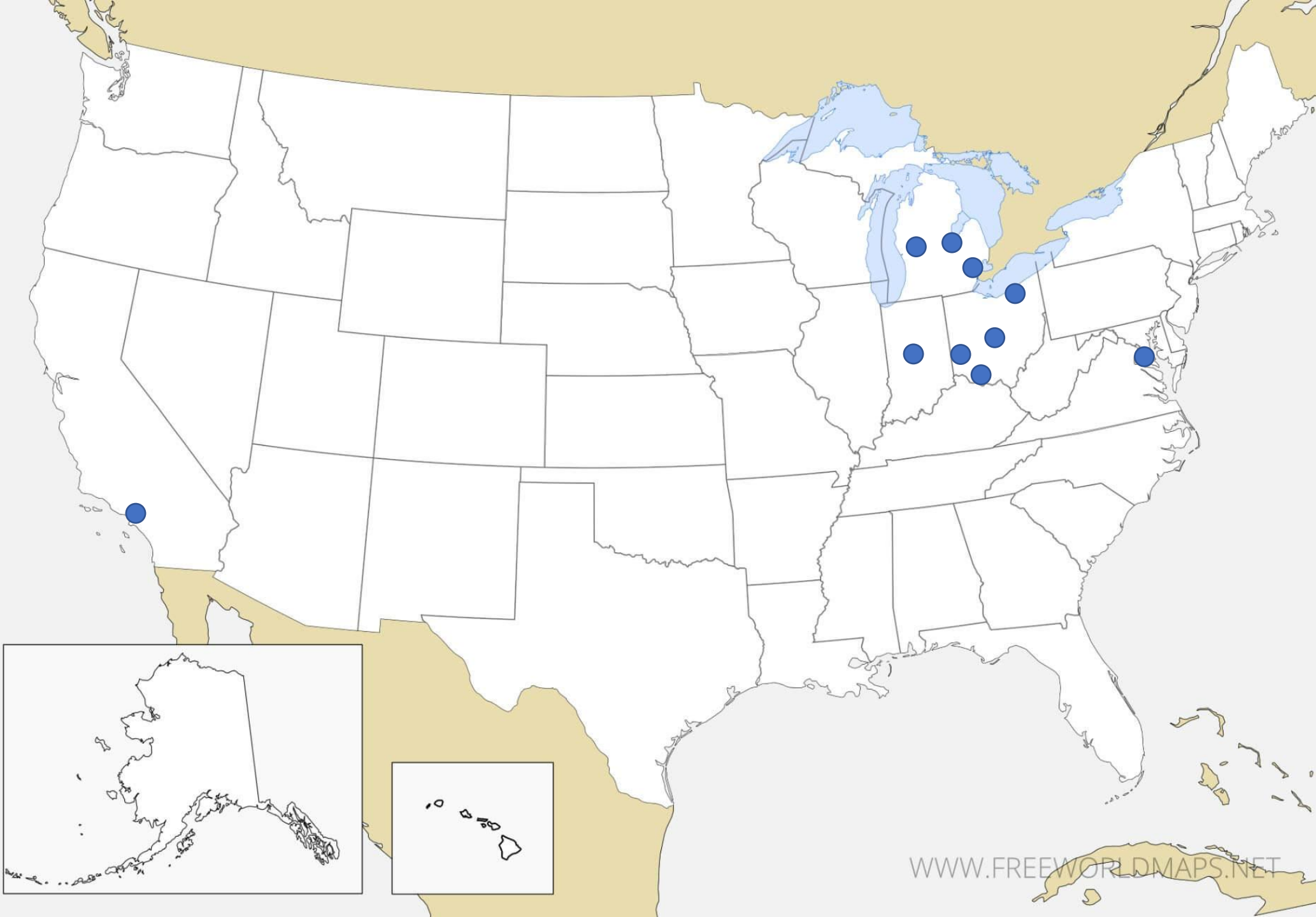


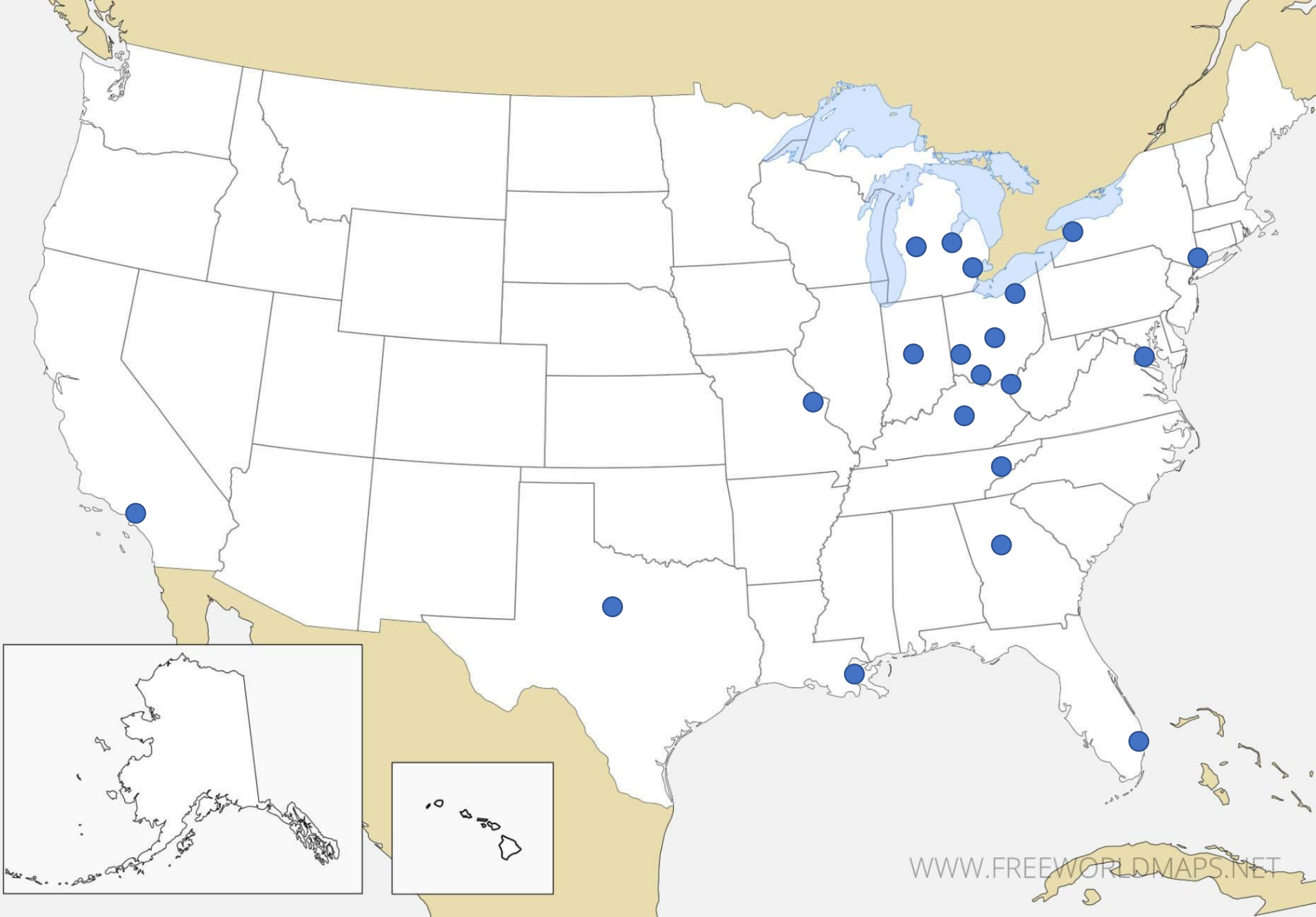


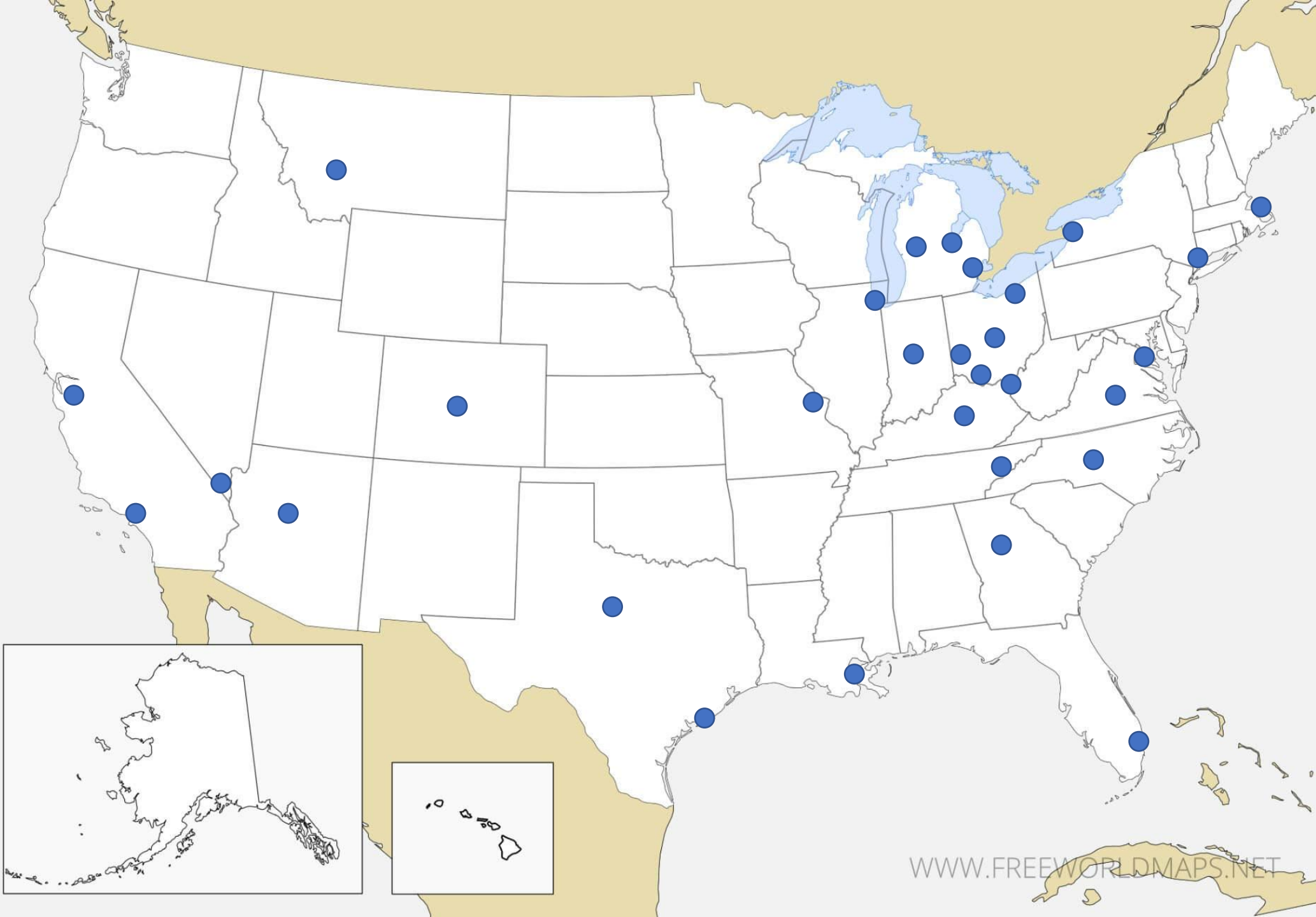


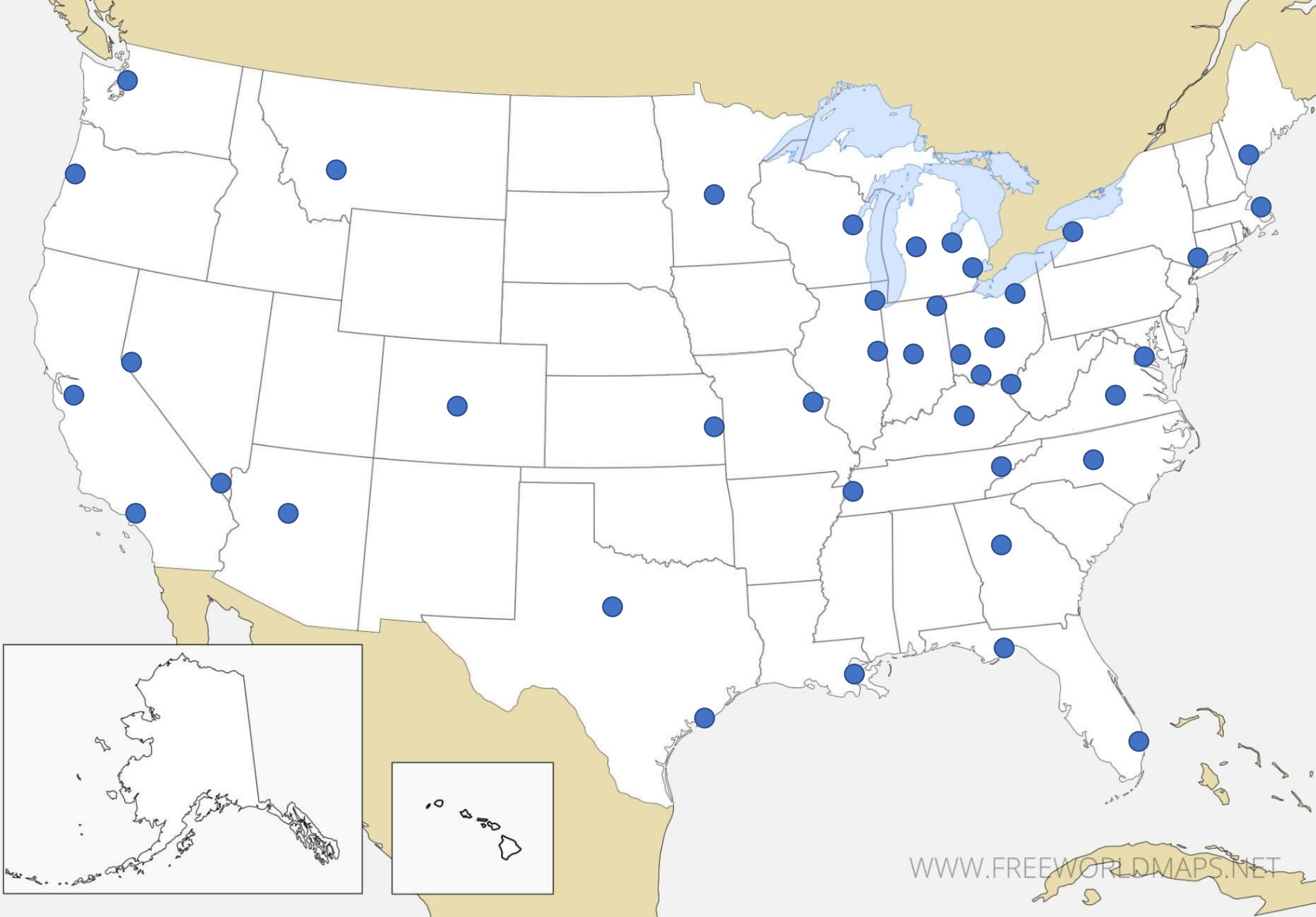


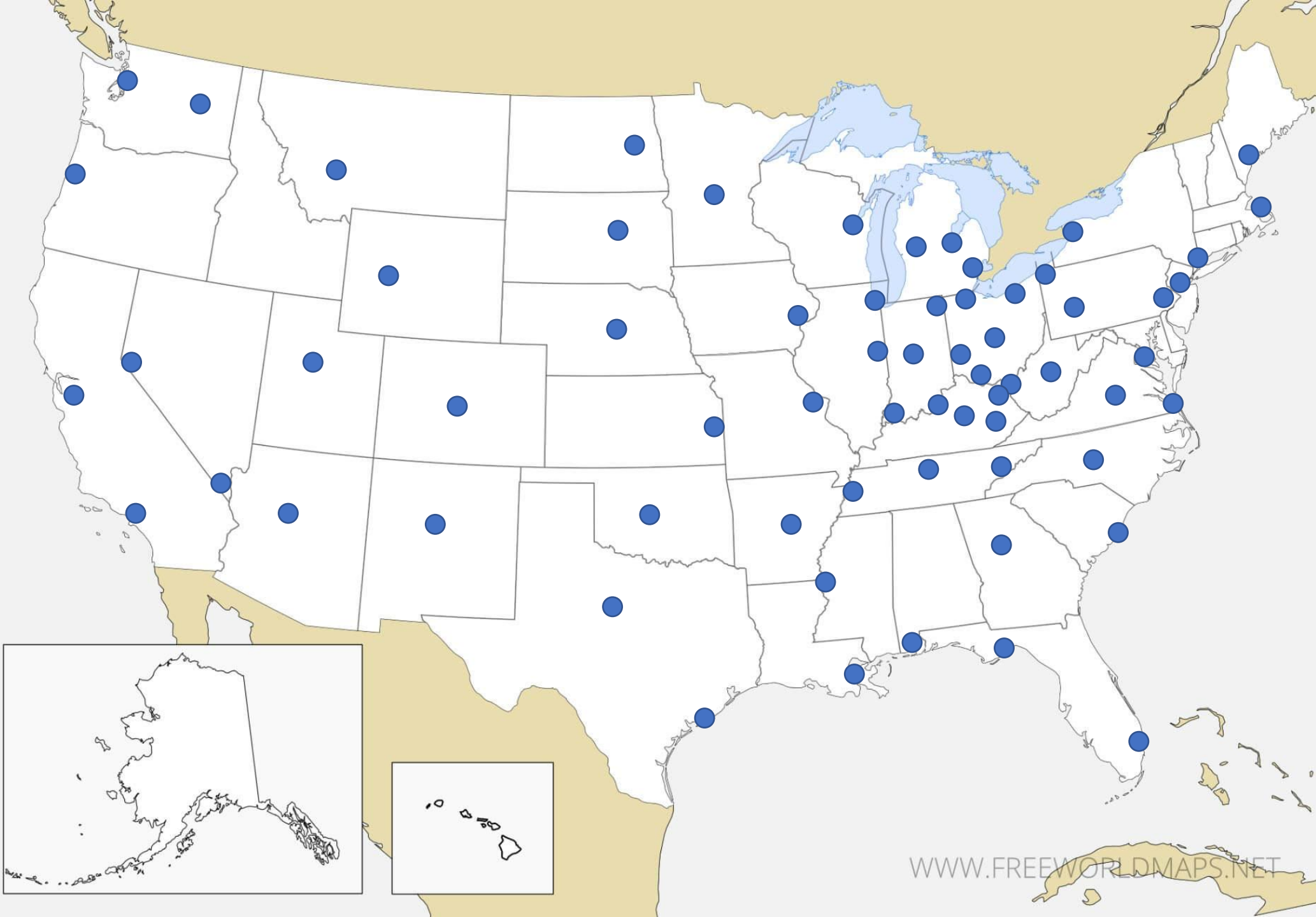


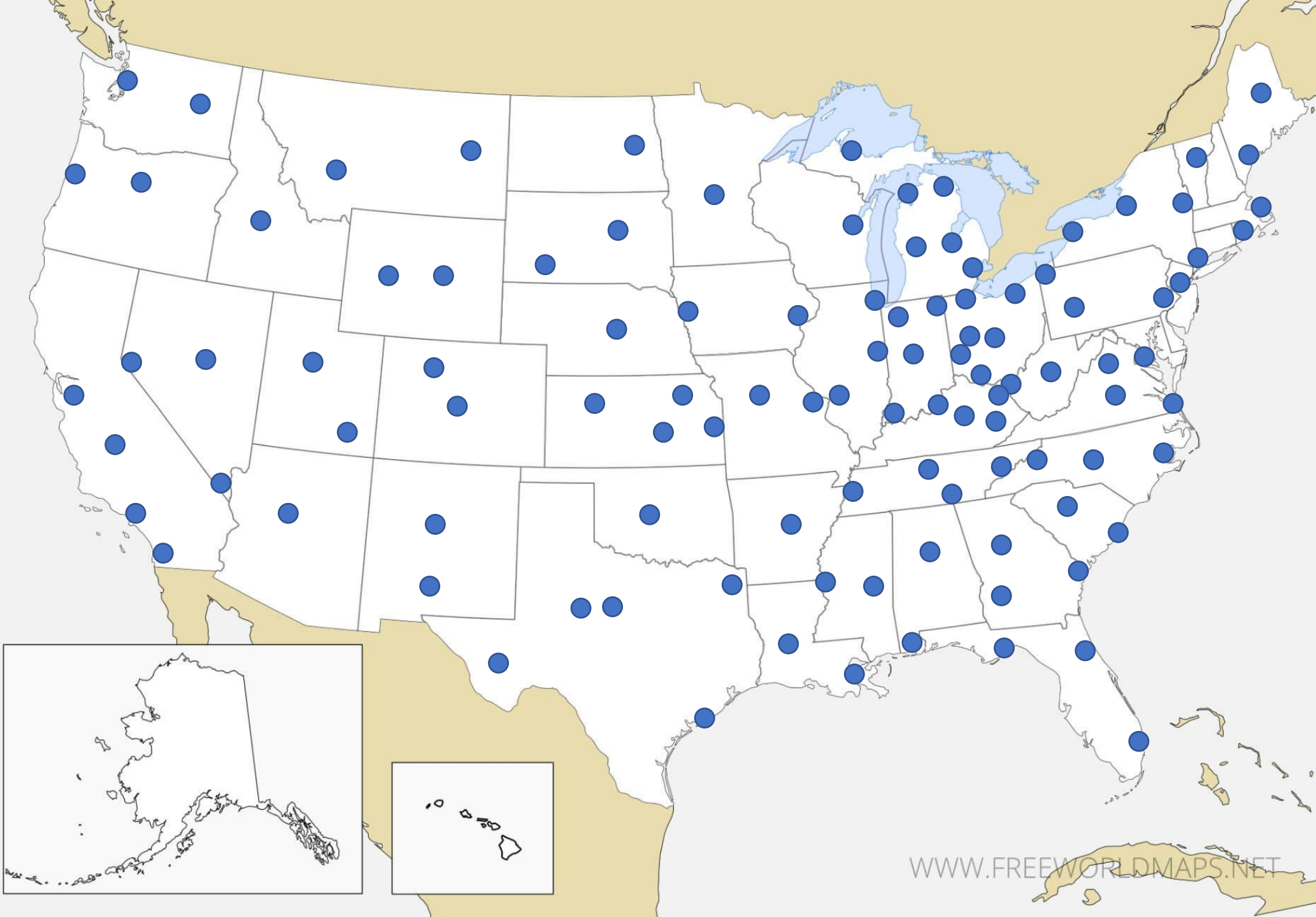


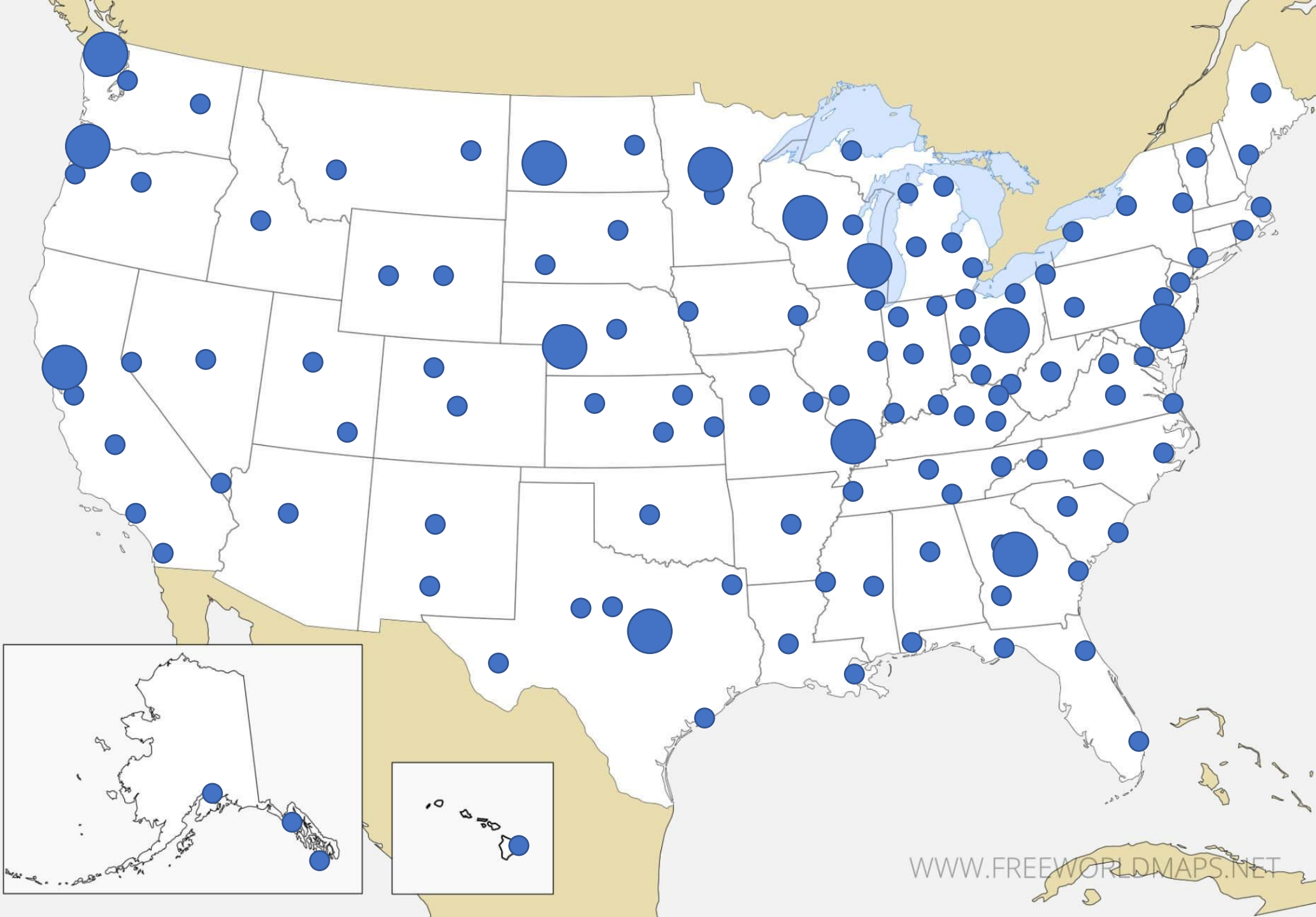


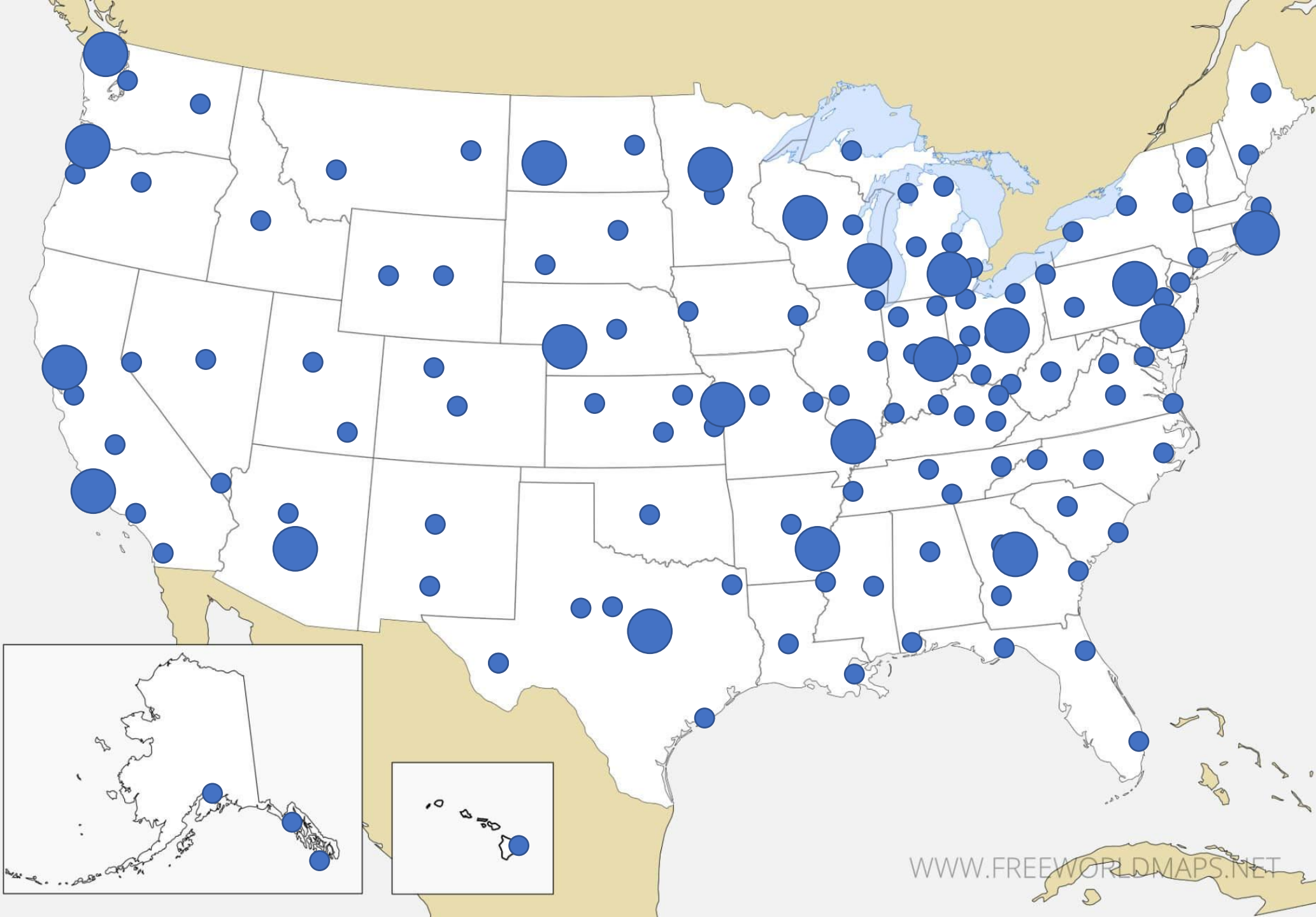


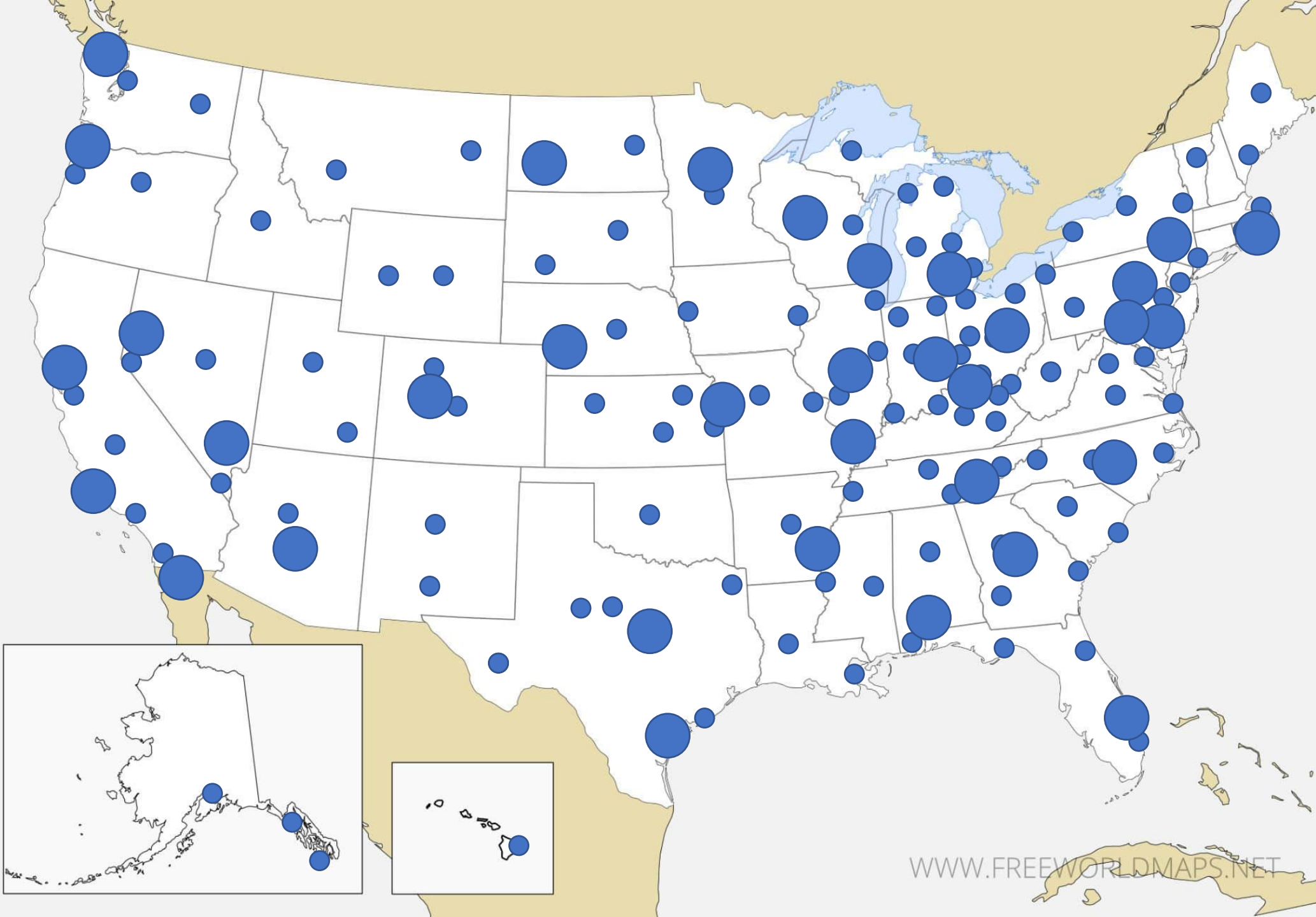


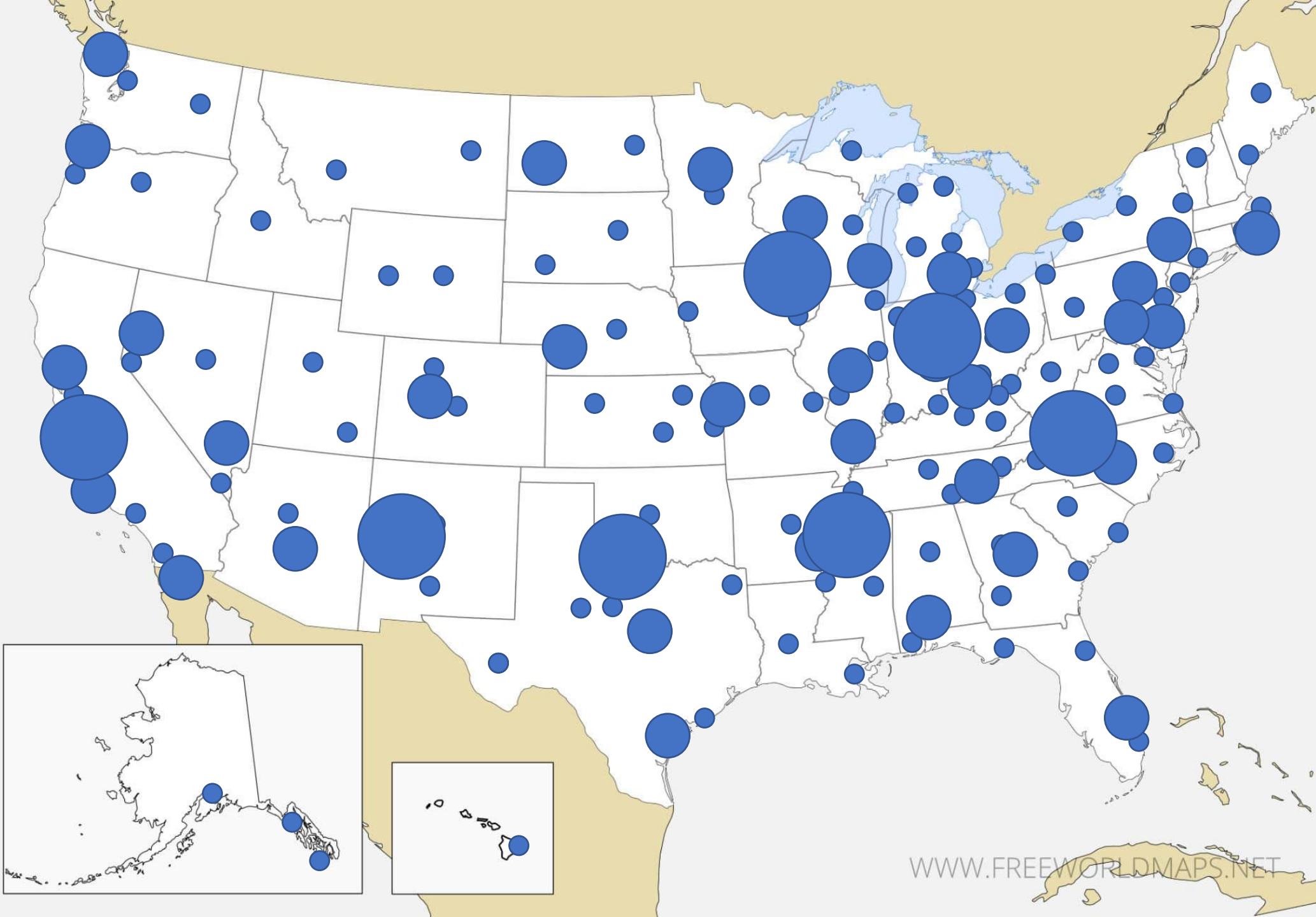


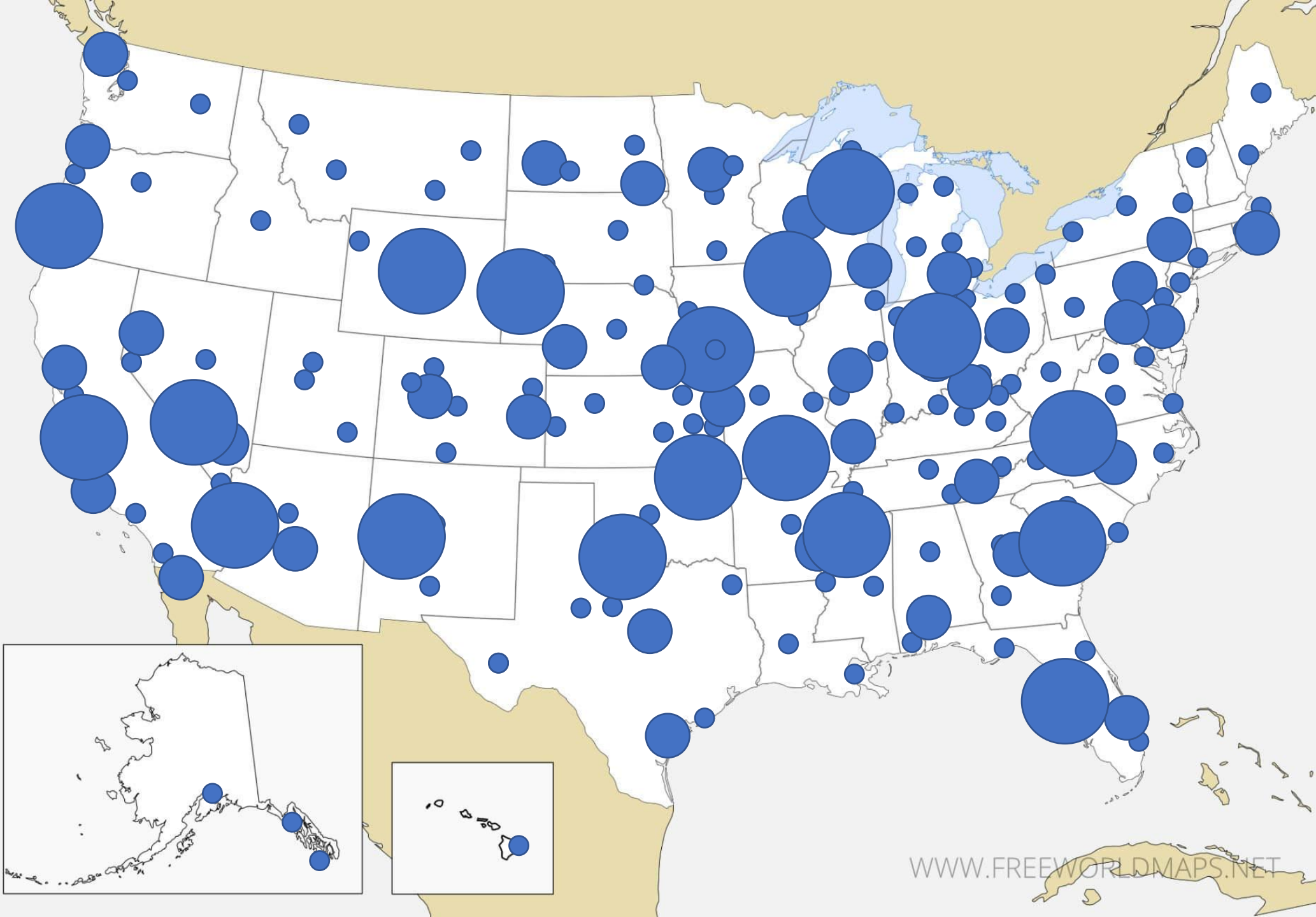


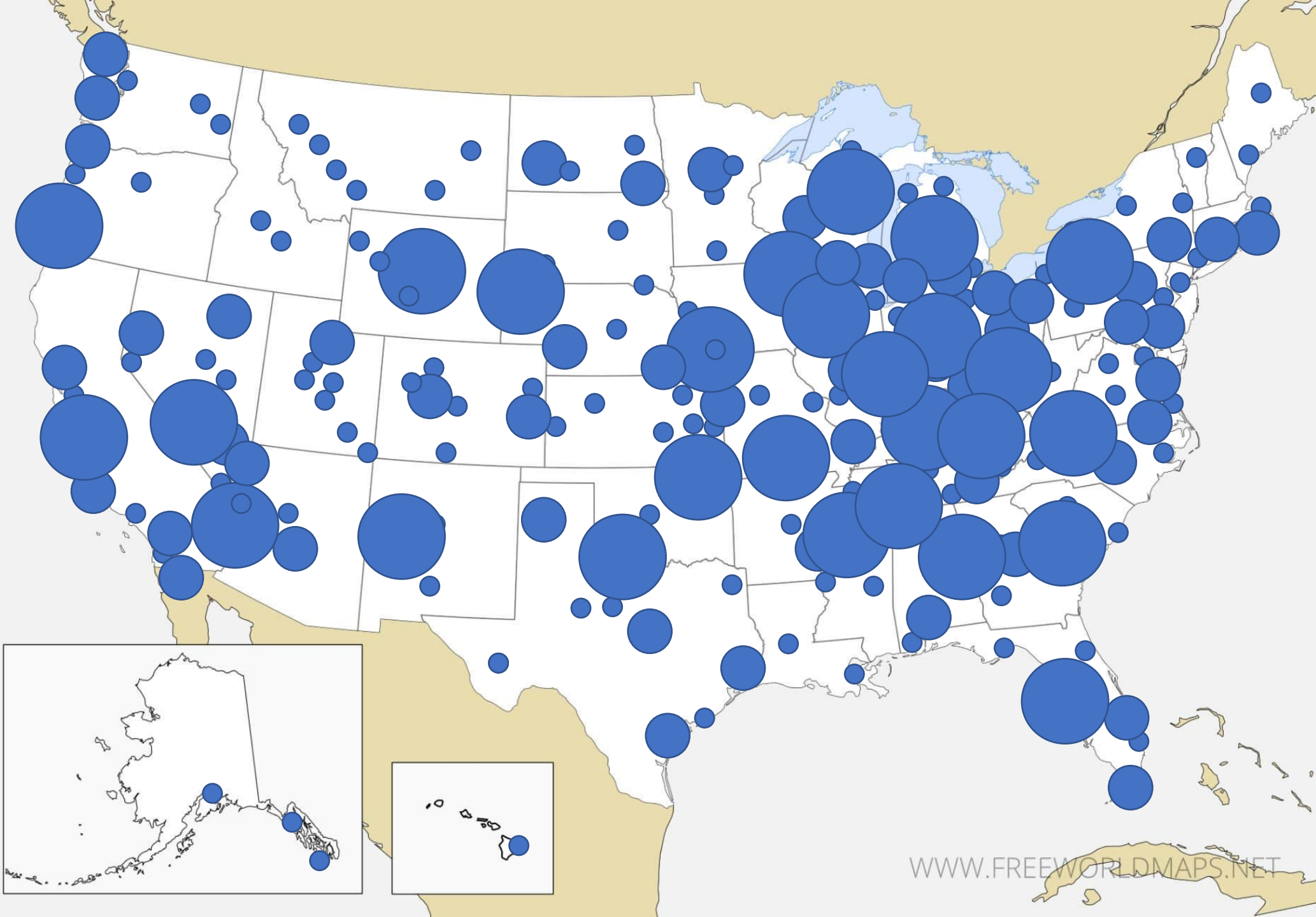


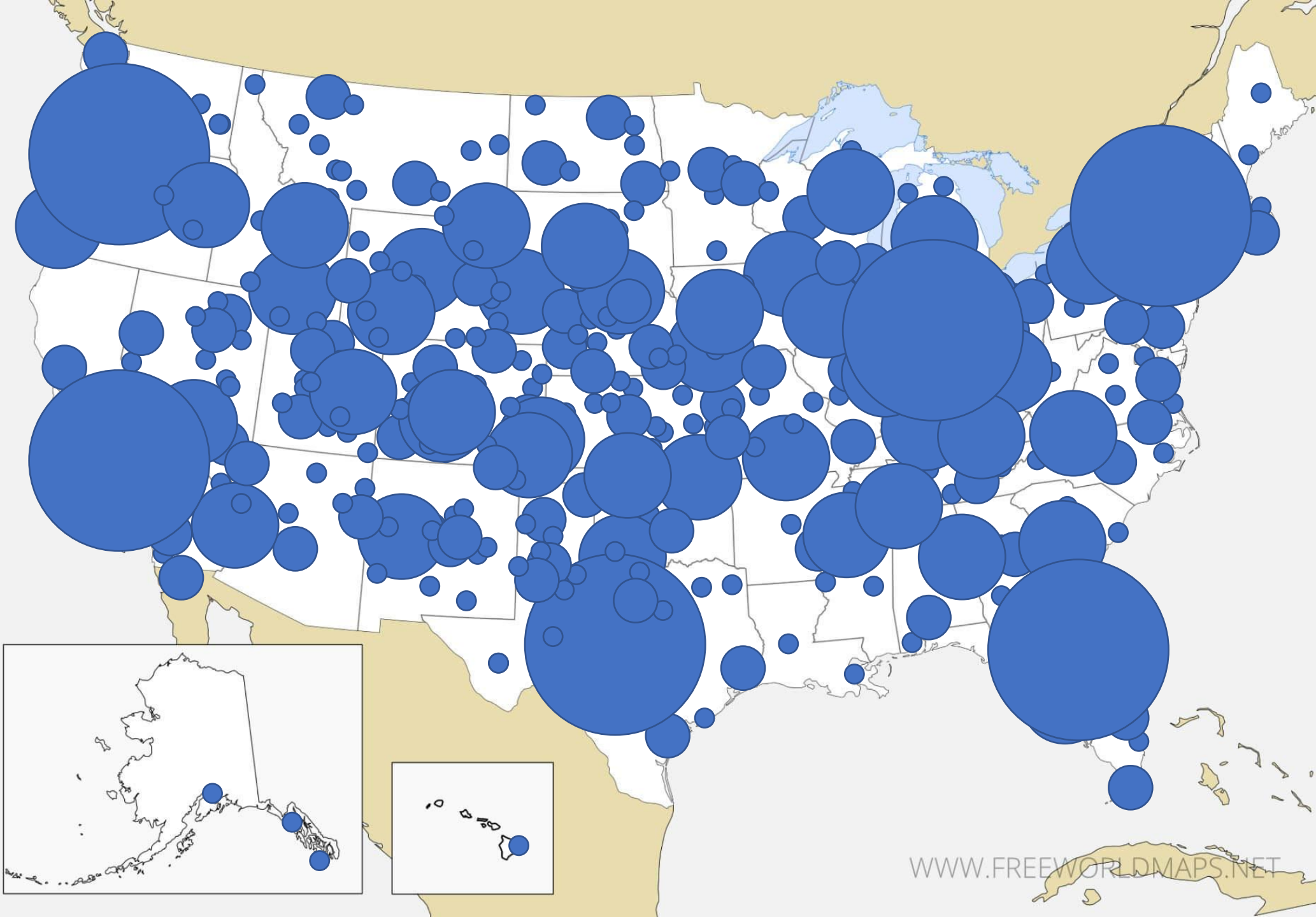


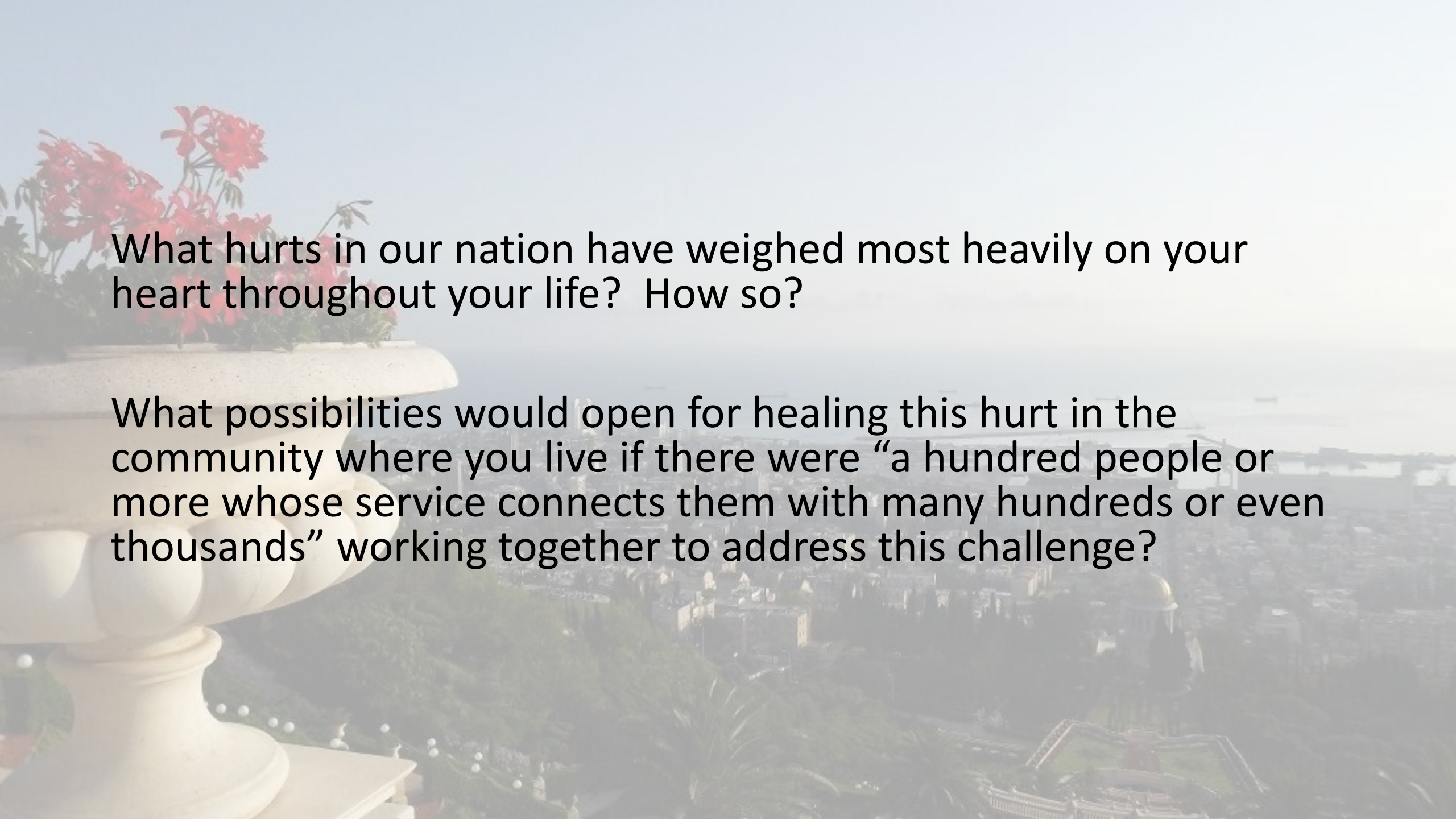












What hurts in our nation have weighed most heavily on your heart throughout your life? How so?

What possibilities would open for healing this hurt in the community where you live if there were “a hundred people or more whose service connects them with many hundreds or even thousands” working together to address this challenge?

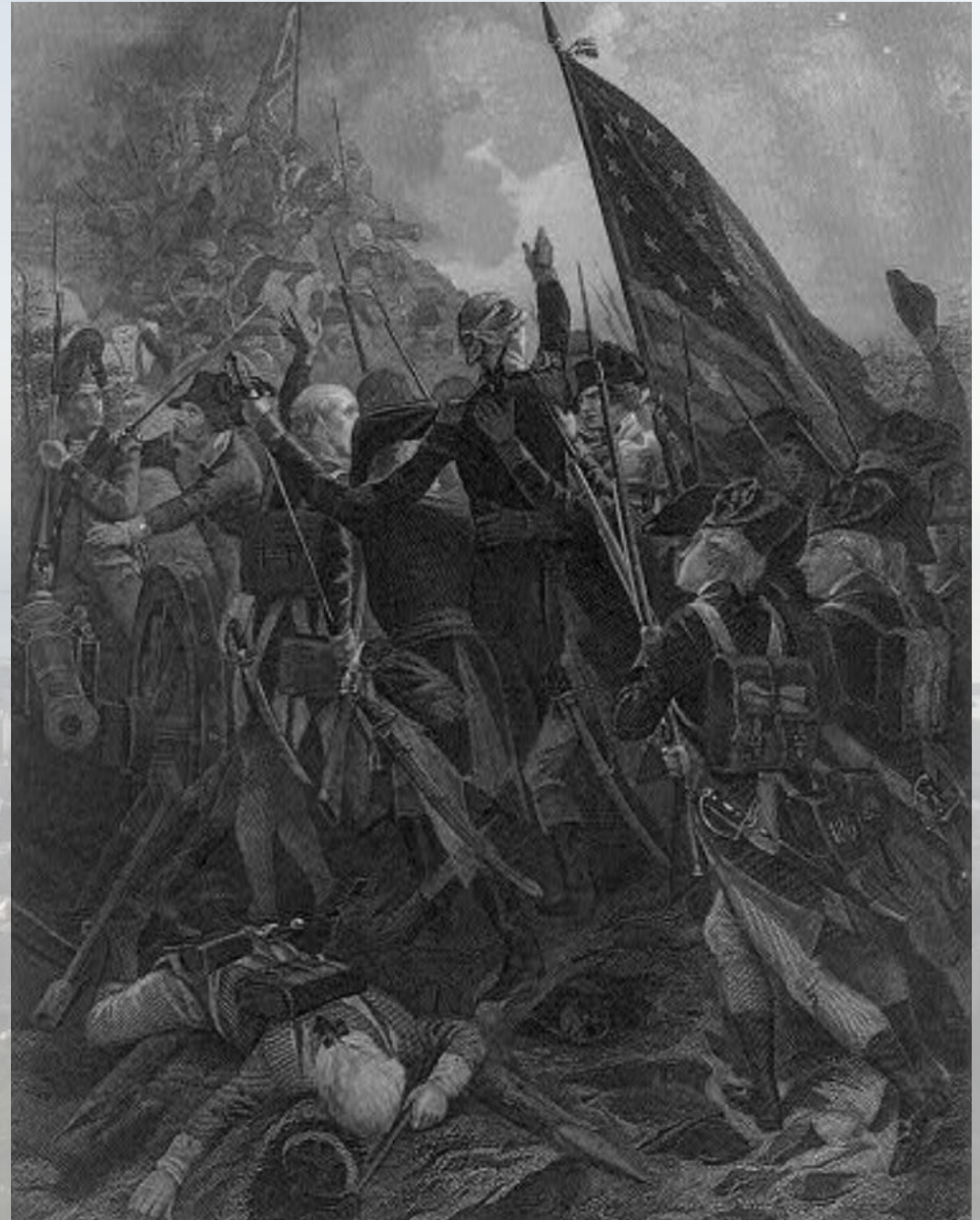
Key Points

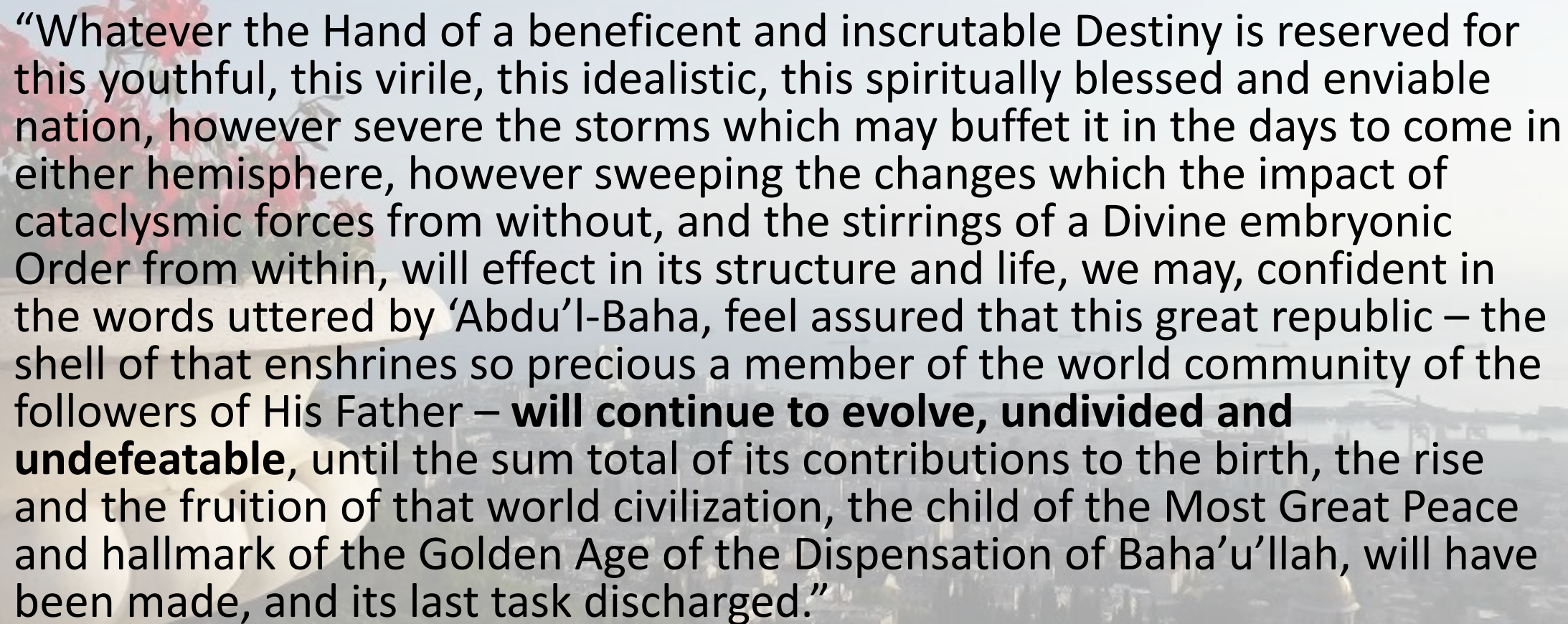
- A storm is coming, for which we must prepare now
- America will emerge and be at the forefront of the community of nations when the banner of the Most Great Peace is unfurled



Forlorn Hope

- A band of soldiers or other combatants chosen to take the vanguard in a military operation
- Often a perilous duty for which there is a low chance of survival
- Necessary for the main force to achieve ultimate victory





“Whatever the Hand of a beneficent and inscrutable Destiny is reserved for this youthful, this virile, this idealistic, this spiritually blessed and enviable nation, however severe the storms which may buffet it in the days to come in either hemisphere, however sweeping the changes which the impact of cataclysmic forces from without, and the stirrings of a Divine embryonic Order from within, will effect in its structure and life, we may, confident in the words uttered by ‘Abdu’l-Baha, feel assured that this great republic – the shell of that enshrines so precious a member of the world community of the followers of His Father – **will continue to evolve, undivided and undefeatable**, until the sum total of its contributions to the birth, the rise and the fruition of that world civilization, the child of the Most Great Peace and hallmark of the Golden Age of the Dispensation of Baha’u’llah, will have been made, and its last task discharged.”

Shoghi Effendi, *Citadel of Faith: Messages to America, 1947-1957* , pp. 37-38