An Introduction to

The Administrative Boundary Maps of China: 1949-2018

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China Data Institute

The Administrative Boundary Maps of China

- Exclusively distributed by the China Data Institute

- ❑ **Objective:** to provide reference maps for China studies instead of official maps
- ❑ **Administrative levels:**
  - ▪ Province and provincial level municipality
  - ▪ Prefecture & prefecture level city
  - ▪ County, county level city and district
- ❑ **Coverage:** 1949 to 2018 (**70 years**)
- ❑ **Number of maps: 210**
- ❑ **Language:** English and Chinese

The Map Sources

❑ **"The Historical Changes of Administrative Regions of China, 1949-1983" (three volumes)**
《中华人民共和国县级以上行政区沿革》（三册，**1949-1983**年）

❑ **"The Atlas of Changes of Administrative Regions of China"**
《中华人民共和国行政区划沿革地图集》

❑ **The yearly publications of "The Administrative Regions", 1985-2014**
每年的出版行政区划简册（**1985-2014**年）

❑ **The web site for administrative regions: www.xzqh.org**
行政区划网**www.xzqh.org**

CHINESE EMPIRE
AND JAPAN

The Changes in Administrative Units at County and Above Levels

1、Changes in the county name 县名更名
2、Merged counties 县界合并
3、Split counties 县界分割
4、Changes in the administrative structure of counties 县界省级归属变更
5、Changes from county to county level city 县改县级市
6、Changes from county level city to county 县级市改县
7、 Changes from county to district 县改区
8、Changes in the district names 区改名
9、Changes from district to county 区改县
10、 Merged districts 区合并
11、Split districts 区拆分
12、 Changes from county level city to prefecture city 县级市改地级市
13、 Changes in the municipalities under the central government 直辖市变更

The field of "Year" in the attribute table of each map indicates the year of change.
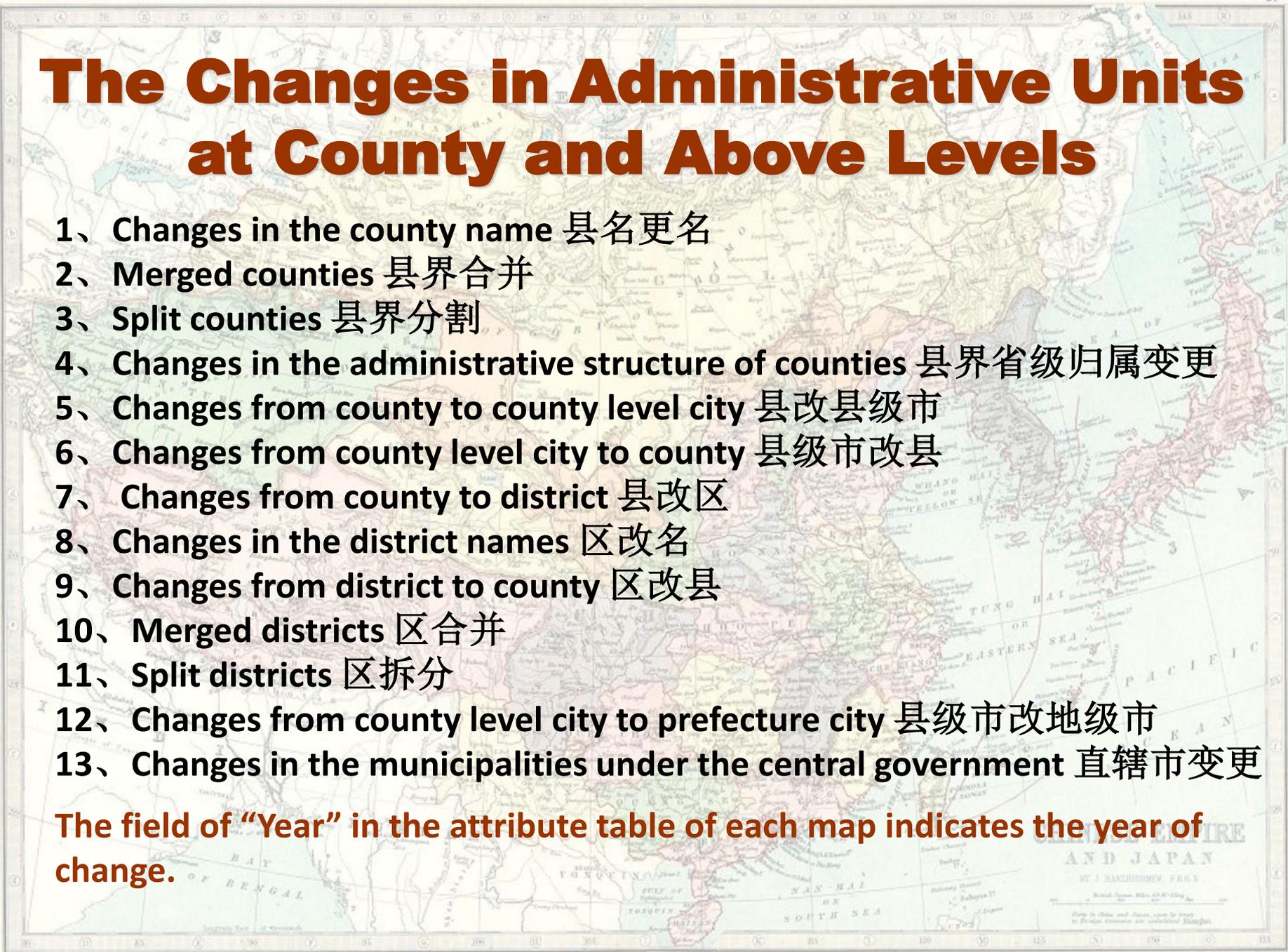
Sample Map: The Change of County in 2018
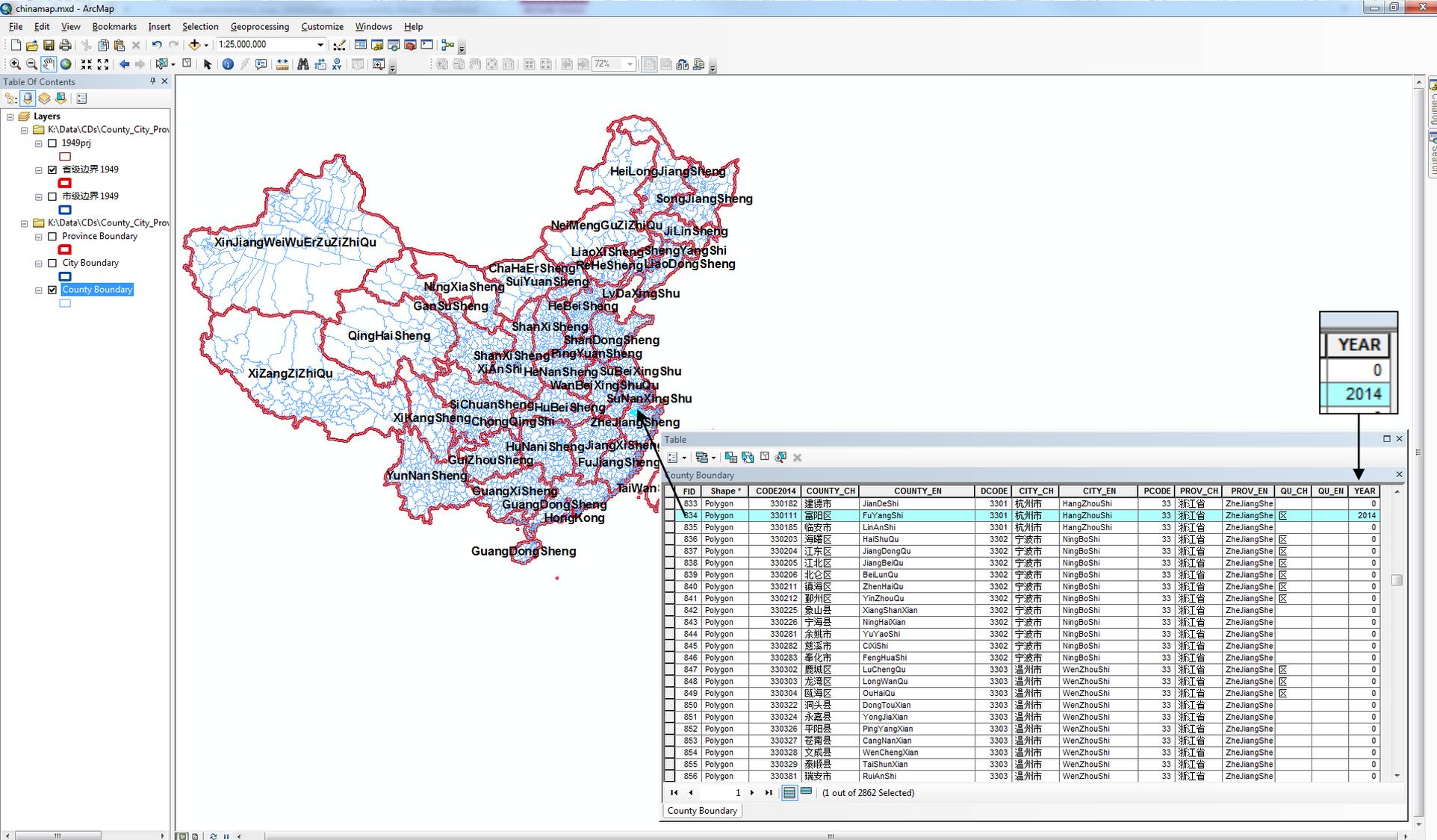
The Primary Changes in Administrative Units

❑ **Changes in provincial boundaries: 1949-1954**

- In 1949: 39 provinces*, 12 direct municipalities
- In 1952: 32 provinces*, 3 direct municipalities
- In 2014: 30 provinces*, 4 direct municipalities
  * including Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau

❑ **In 1998: Hainan province was established.**

❑ **In 1997:**

- Chongqing was established as a direct municipality
- Hong Kong was established as a special administrative region

❑ **In 1999: Macau was established as a special administrative region**

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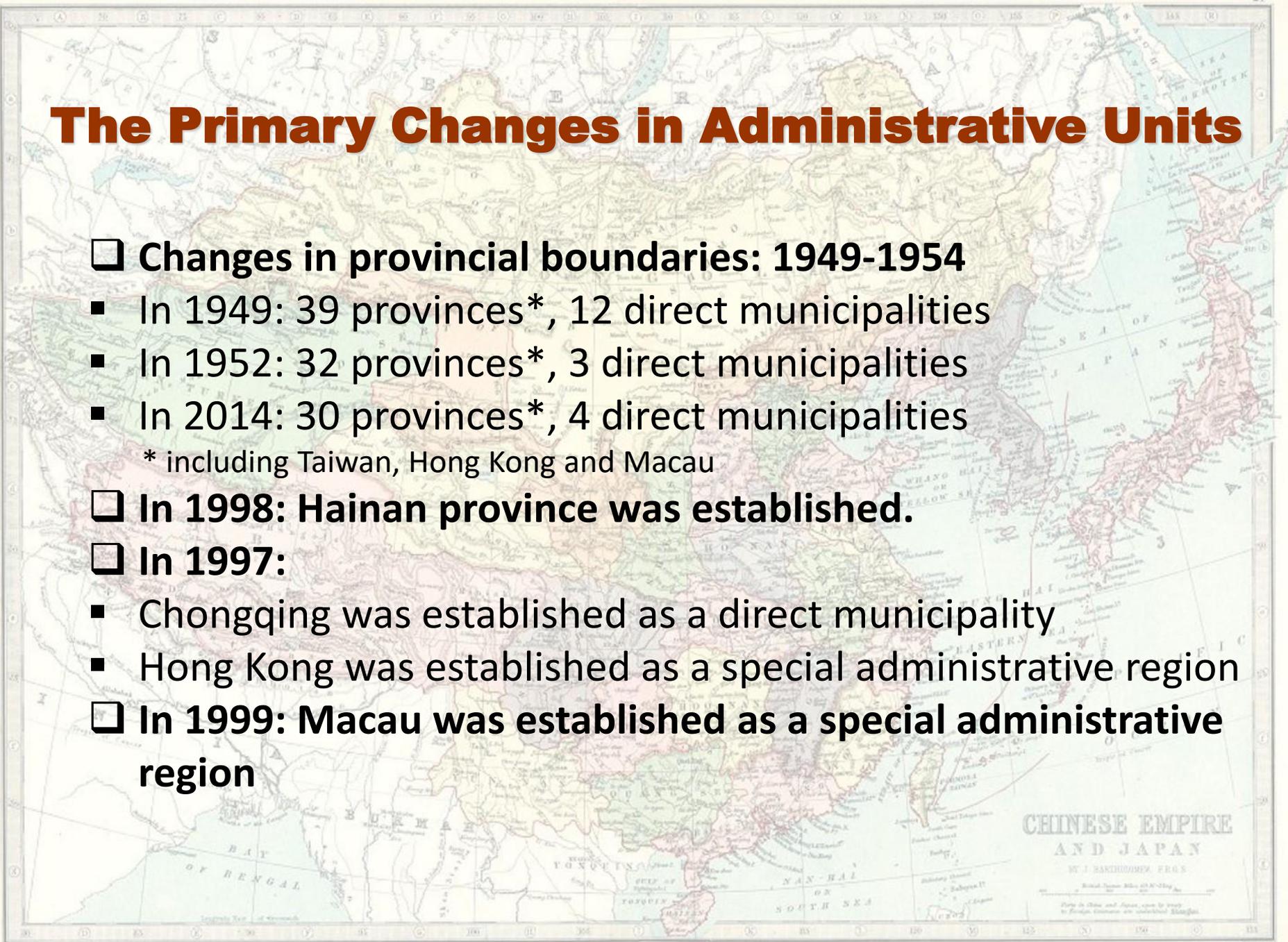
The Map Data Structure

Map scale: 1:1 million
Map projection: Albers Equal Area Conic
Format: GIS shape file, edited with ArcMap 10.2
Map Files:

- Three folders for each year: province, city and county
- Seven files for each map:

County Map:	City Map:	Province Map:
1950prj.dbf	1950prj_city.dhf	1950prj_prov.dbf
1950prj.prj	1950prj_city.prj	1950prj_prov.prj
1950prj.sbn	1950prj_city.sbn	1950prj_prov.sbn
1950prj.sbx	1950prj_city.sbx	1950prj_prov.sbx
1950prj.shp	1950prj_city.shp	1950prj_prov.shp
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1950prj.shx	1950prj_city.shx	1950prj_prov.shx
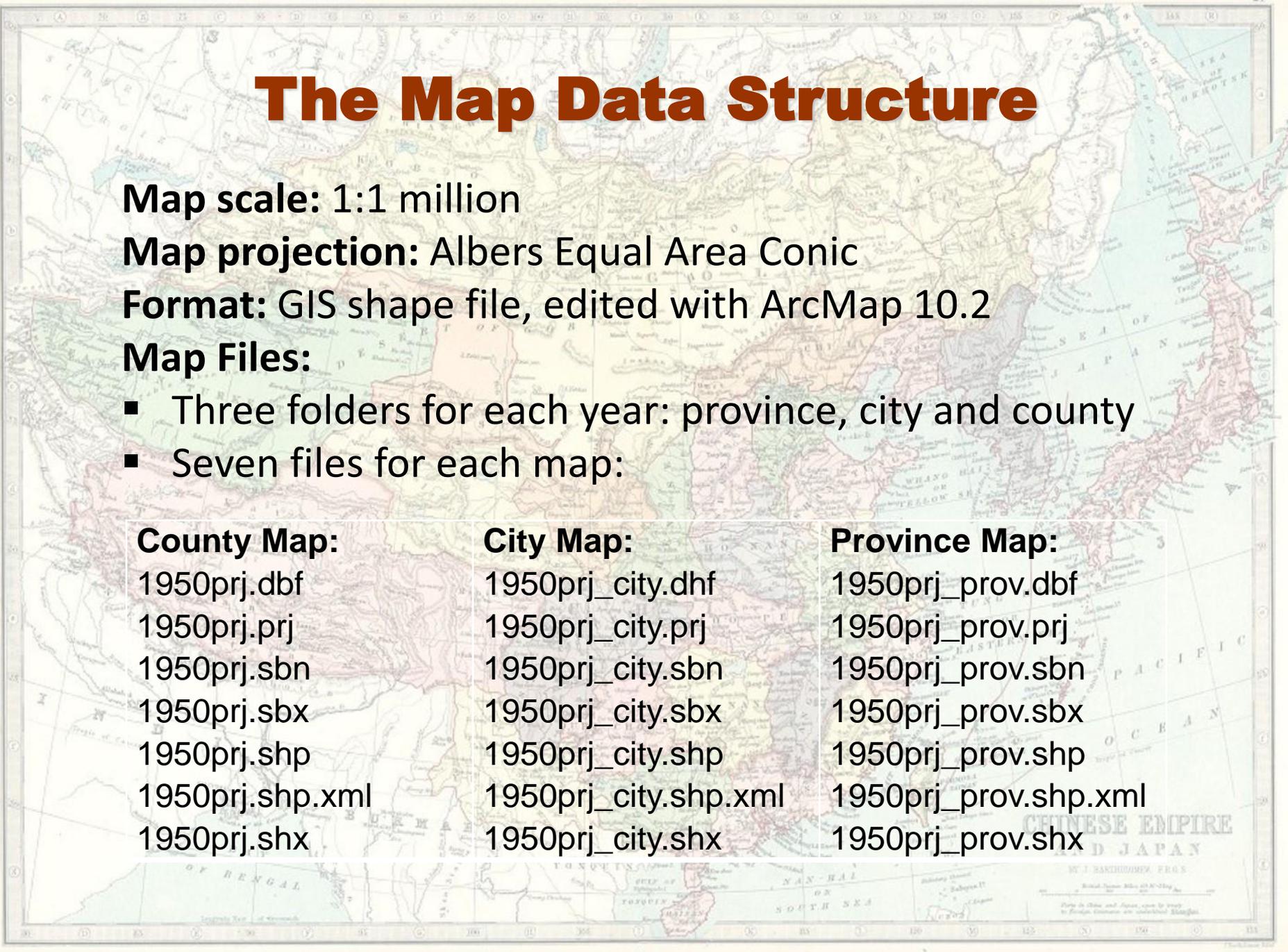
The Attribute Data Table

The attribute data structure of County map:

Field Name 字段名	Type 类型	Length 长度	Definition 含义	Note 备注
Code2014	Integer	6	County GB code	GB Code
County_ch	Char	60	County name in Chinese	
County_en	Char	100	County name in English	Pingying
dcode	Integer	4	City GB code	GB Code
City_ch	Char	60	City name in Chinese	
City_en	Char	48	City name in English	Pingying
Pcode	Integer	4	Province GB code	GB Code
Prov_ch	Char	60	Province name in Chinese	
Prov_ch	Char	30	Province name in English	Pingying
Qu_ch	Char	10	District in Chinese	District
Qu_en	Char	10	District in English	
Year	Integer	4	Year of change	

The Sample Table of County Map

Table

1949prj

FID	Shape	OBJECTID	CODE1949	COUNTY_CH	COUNTY_EN	DCODE	CITY_CH	CITY_EN	PCODE	PROV_CH	PROV_EN	QU_CH	QU_EN	YEAR	OID_	SHAPE_LENG	SHAPE_AREA
0	Polygon	1	110102	第一区	DiYiQu	1101	北京市	BeiJingShi	11	北京市	BeiJinShi	☒		0	1	21237.620391	26137931.8233
1	Polygon	2	110105	第四区	DiSiQu	1101	北京市	BeiJingShi	11	北京市	BeiJinShi	☒		0	2	23985.754015	30370719.2507
2	Polygon	3	110111	第十区	DiShiQu	1101	北京市	BeiJingShi	11	北京市	BeiJinShi	☒		0	5	96278.846296	460747131.6
3	Polygon	4	110113	第十二区	DiShiErQu	1101	北京市	BeiJingShi	11	北京市	BeiJinShi	☒		0	6	88612.406088	291050181.894
4	Polygon	6	110114	第十三区	DiShiSanQu	1101	北京市	BeiJingShi	11	北京市	BeiJinShi	☒		0	8	95761.756298	432991183.866
5	Polygon	7	132527	宛平县	WanPingXian	1325	通县专区	TongXianZhuanQu	13	河北省	HeBeiSheng			0	9	181974.364243	1360250034.47
6	Polygon	8	132529	房山县	FangShanXian	1325	通县专区	TongXianZhuanQu	13	河北省	HeBeiSheng			0	10	236343.523707	2026381742.71
7	Polygon	9	132521	通县	TongXian	1325	通县专区	TongXianZhuanQu	13	河北省	HeBeiSheng			0	0	155607.595434	988902617.576
8	Polygon	10	132522	顺义县	ShunYiXian	1325	通县专区	TongXianZhuanQu	13	河北省	HeBeiSheng			0	0	126918.036791	1029658408.36
9	Polygon	11	132525	昌平县	ChangPingXian	1325	通县专区	TongXianZhuanQu	13	河北省	HeBeiSheng			0	0	165108.708957	1400989636.08
10	Polygon	13	132524	怀柔县	HuaiRouXian	1325	通县专区	TongXianZhuanQu	13	河北省	HeBeiSheng			0	16	280247.360622	2083703375.71
11	Polygon	14	132533	平谷县	PingGuXian	1325	通县专区	TongXianZhuanQu	13	河北省	HeBeiSheng			0	15	118128.666303	884534662.353
12	Polygon	15	132523	密云县	MiYunXian	1325	通县专区	TongXianZhuanQu	13	河北省	HeBeiSheng			0	17	225846.104651	2127501441.76
13	Polygon	16	162229	延庆县	YanQingXian	1622	察南专区	ChaNanZhuanQu	16	察哈尔省	ChaHaErSheng			0	18	216771.864077	1985024303.27
14	Polygon	28	132826	安次县	AnCiXian	1328	天津专区	TianJinZhuanQu	13	河北省	HeBeiSheng			0	0	182760.408181	1415247600.16
15	Polygon	29	132823	宝坻县	BaoDiXian	1328	天津专区	TianJinZhuanQu	13	河北省	HeBeiSheng			0	36	175198.922474	1408649596.72
16	Polygon	31	132825	静海县	JingHaiXian	1328	天津专区	TianJinZhuanQu	13	河北省	HeBeiSheng			0	35	165910.196981	1535818249.21
17	Polygon	33	130403	第二区	DiErQu	1304	石家庄市	ShiJiaZhuangShi	13	河北省	HeBeiSheng	☒		0	41	31168.194462	23196652.8685
18	Polygon	42	300128	龙华区	LongHuaQu	3001	上海市	ShangHaiShi	30	上海市	ShangHaiShi	☒		0	808	12522.144248	9708820.00365
19	Polygon	53	130211	第十区	DiShiQu	1302	唐山市	TangShanShi	13	河北省	HeBeiSheng	☒		0	51	51156.096966	146673108.115
20	Polygon	58	132922	丰润县	FengRuXian	1329	唐山专区	TangShanZhuanQu	13	河北省	HeBeiSheng			0	55	187598.083488	1293025329.57
21	Polygon	59	132933	滦县	LuanXian	1329	唐山专区	TangShanZhuanQu	13	河北省	HeBeiSheng			0	57	184291.852214	978407217.306
22	Polygon	60	132924	滦南县	LuanNanXian	1329	唐山专区	TangShanZhuanQu	13	河北省	HeBeiSheng			0	59	158111.065556	1297778995.38
23	Polygon	62	132932	玉田县	YuTianXian	1329	唐山专区	TangShanZhuanQu	13	河北省	HeBeiSheng			0	62	145741.672103	1166754001.92
24	Polygon	63	132931	遵化县	ZunHuaXian	1329	唐山专区	TangShanZhuanQu	13	河北省	HeBeiSheng			0	0	159425.322111	1480602616.65
25	Polygon	64	132930	迁西县	QianXiXian	1329	唐山专区	TangShanZhuanQu	13	河北省	HeBeiSheng			0	0	145883.610348	1259099112.1
26	Polygon	66	179030	青龙县	QingLongXian	1790	省直辖行	ShengZhiXiaXingZhengDanWei	17	热河省	ReHeSheng			0	69	249198.58049	3503776311.38
27	Polygon	67	132921	昌黎县	ChangLiXian	1329	唐山专区	TangShanZhuanQu	13	河北省	HeBeiSheng			0	70	170391.397712	1164378044.93
28	Polygon	102	130111	第五区	DiWuQu	1301	保定市	BaoDingShi	13	河北省	HeBeiSheng	☒		0	84	64913.527323	306177616.371
29	Polygon	126	162221	宣化县	XuanHuaXian	1622	察南专区	ChaNanZhuanQu	16	察哈尔省	ChaHaErSheng			0	94	304639.030361	2186086734.74
30	Polygon	140	179021	承德县	ChengDeXian	1790	省直辖行	ShengZhiXiaXingZhengDanWei	17	热河省	ReHeSheng			0	99	433178.557169	3892210218.19
31	Polygon	141	179036	兴隆县	XingLongXian	1790	省直辖行	ShengZhiXiaXingZhengDanWei	17	热河省	ReHeSheng			0	197	337821.97056	3253311160.68
32	Polygon	142	179025	平泉县	PingQuanXian	1790	省直辖行	ShengZhiXiaXingZhengDanWei	17	热河省	ReHeSheng			0	198	306863.221217	3159030530.35
33	Polygon	143	179035	滦平县	LuanPingXian	1790	省直辖行	ShengZhiXiaXingZhengDanWei	17	热河省	ReHeSheng			0	199	310787.344676	3207427130.69
34	Polygon	144	179031	隆化县	LongHuaXian	1790	省直辖行	ShengZhiXiaXingZhengDanWei	17	热河省	ReHeSheng			0	201	393107.557406	5421845653.76
35	Polygon	145	179034	丰宁县	FengNingXian	1790	省直辖行	ShengZhiXiaXingZhengDanWei	17	热河省	ReHeSheng			0	200	442040.039519	8743144187.26
36	Polygon	147	179029	围场县	WeiChangXian	1790	省直辖行	ShengZhiXiaXingZhengDanWei	17	热河省	ReHeSheng			0	0	483584.022967	8739506927.99
37	Polygon	149	133021	沧县	CangXian	1330	沧县专区	CangXianZhuanQu	13	河北省	HeBeiSheng			0	104	243763.728517	1513971381.32
38	Polygon	153	372625	严南县	YanNanXian	3726	沧南专区	CangNanZhuanQu	37	山东省	ShanDongSheng			0	213	125072.638947	707824355.503
39	Polygon	156	133228	景县	JingXian	1332	衡水专区	HengShuiZhuanQu	13	河北省	HeBeiSheng			0	210	104685.44195	600395114.284
40	Polygon	157	133024	献县	XianXian	1330	沧县专区	CangXianZhuanQu	13	河北省	HeBeiSheng			0	209	151520.256763	1190074729.43
41	Polygon	160	133028	任丘县	RenQiuXian	1330	沧县专区	CangXianZhuanQu	13	河北省	HeBeiSheng			0	205	134220.130313	992875629.765
42	Polygon	161	133026	黄骅县	HuangHuaXian	1330	沧县专区	CangXianZhuanQu	13	河北省	HeBeiSheng			0	206	204316.854294	2118764055.5
43	Polygon	162	133022	河间县	HeJianXian	1330	沧县专区	CangXianZhuanQu	13	河北省	HeBeiSheng			0	207	171973.459124	1331239540.68
44	Polygon	170	132827	永清县	YongQingXian	1328	天津专区	TianJinZhuanQu	13	河北省	HeBeiSheng			0	228	144956.383359	783070214.545
45	Polygon	183	140108	第七区	DiQiQu	1401	太原市	TaiYuanShi	14	山西省	ShanXiSheng	☒		0	0	101056.054721	296798691.066
46	Polygon	184	140103	第二区	DiErQu	1401	太原市	TaiYuanShi	14	山西省	ShanXiSheng	☒		0	0	60034.898123	113692756.024
47	Polygon	185	140104	第三区	DiSanQu	1401	太原市	TaiYuanShi	14	山西省	ShanXiSheng	☒		0	0	57536.5552	150178853.082
48	Polygon	186	140107	第六区	DiLiuQu	1401	太原市	TaiYuanShi	14	山西省	ShanXiSheng	☒		0	0	72104.552979	280411516.745
49	Polygon	187	142725	晋源县	JinYuanXian	1427	汾阳专区	FenYangZhuanQu	14	山西省	ShanXiSheng			0	0	115027.111138	639448411.022
50	Polygon	188	142726	徐沟县	XuGouXian	1427	汾阳专区	FenYangZhuanQu	14	山西省	ShanXiSheng			0	237	126918.147002	591992545.228
51	Polygon	189	142229	阳曲县	YangQuXian	1422	忻县专区	XinXianZhuanQu	14	山西省	ShanXiSheng			0	238	264053.438396	2098826345.3

The GB Code of Administrative Units

Established in 1955, GB Code is a code system with an unique code for each administrative unit, which is similar to FIPS code in the US.

Administrative Codes of Provinces in 1949

PCODE	PROV_CH	PROV_EN
11	北京市	BeiJinShi
12	天津市	TianJinShi
13	河北省	HeBeiSheng
14	山西省	ShanXiSheng
15	内蒙古自治区	NeiMengGuZiZhiQu
16	察哈尔省	ChaHaErSheng
17	热河省	ReHeSheng
18	绥远省	SuiYuanSheng
19	平原省	PingYuanSheng
20	辽西省	LiaoXiSheng
21	辽东省	LiaoDongSheng
22	吉林省	JiLinSheng
23	黑龙江省	HeiLongJiangSheng
24	松江省	SongJiangSheng
25	旅大行署	LvDaXingShu
30	上海市	ShangHaiShi
31	苏北行署	SuBeiXingShu
32	苏南行署	SuNanXingShu
33	浙江省	ZheJiangSheng
35	福建省	FuJiangSheng
36	江西省	JiangXiSheng
37	山东省	ShanDongSheng
38	皖北行署区	WanBeiXingShuQu
39	皖南行署区	WanNanXingShuQu
41	河南省	HeNanSheng
42	湖北省	HuBeiSheng

PCODE	PROV_CH	PROV_EN
43	湖南省	HuNaniSheng
44	广东省	GuangDongSheng
45	广西省	GuangXiSheng
51	四川省	SiChuanSheng
52	贵州省	GuiZhouSheng
53	云南省	YunNanSheng
54	西藏自治区	XiZangZiZhiQu
55	西康省	XiKangSheng
61	陕西省	ShanXiSheng
62	甘肃省	GanSuSheng
63	青海省	QingHaiSheng
64	宁夏省	NingXiaSheng
65	新疆维吾尔自治区	XinJiangWeiWuErZuZiZhiQu
71	台湾省	TaiWanSheng
81	香港	HongKong
82	澳门	Macao
90	沈阳市	ShengYangShi
91	鞍山市	AnShanShi
92	抚顺市	FuShunShi
93	本溪市	BenXiShi
94	南京市	NanJingShi
95	武汉市	WuHanShi
96	广州市	GuangZhouShi
97	重庆市	ChongQingShi
98	西安市	XiAnShi

Note on the Prefecture City Boundaries

There were significant changes in the administrative boundaries of prefecture cities or prefecture regions during 1949-1954 without detailed map sources. Those prefecture boundaries during 1949-1954 are approximate ones.
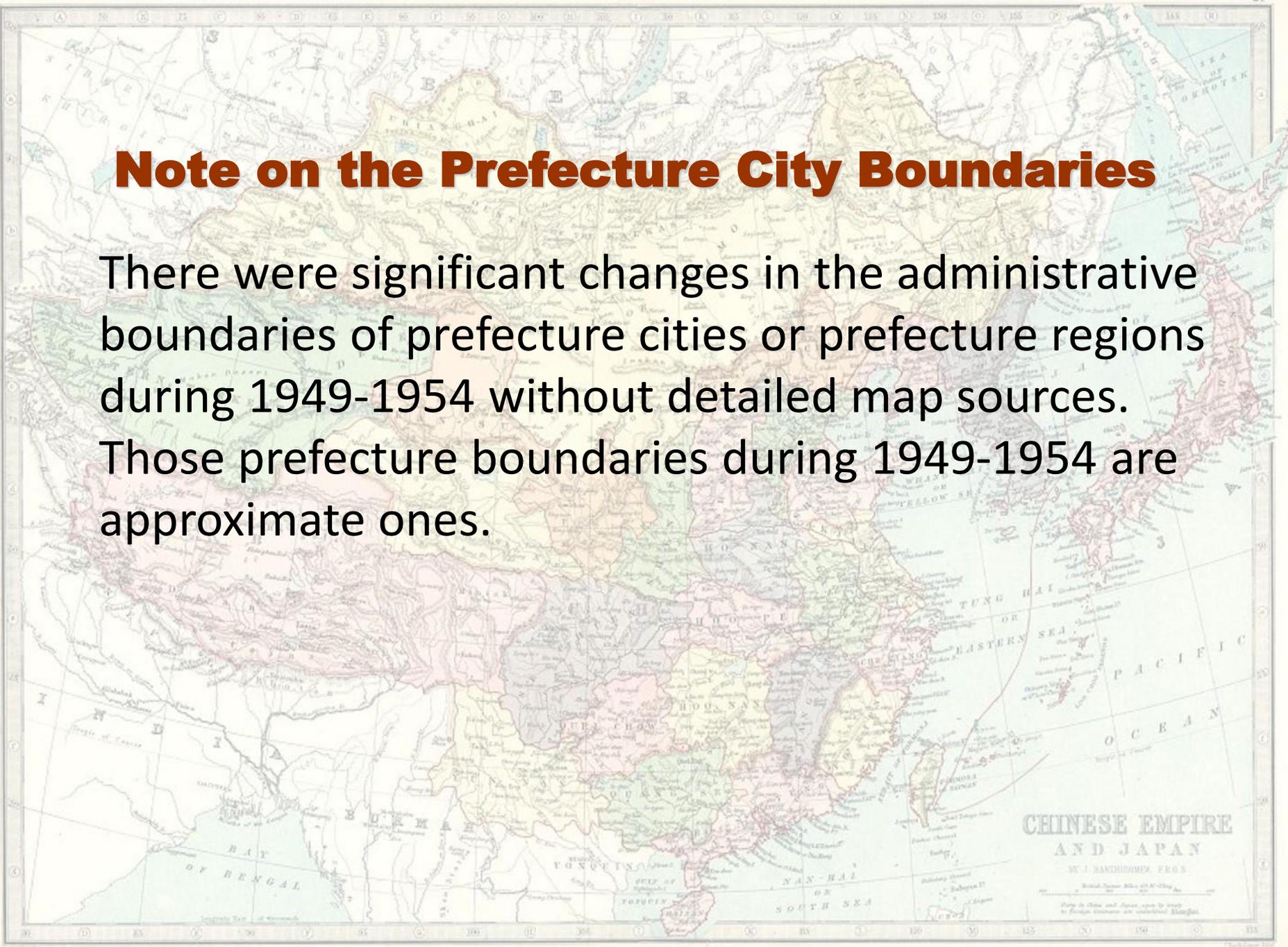
The Administrative Boundary Maps of China

Province   City   County
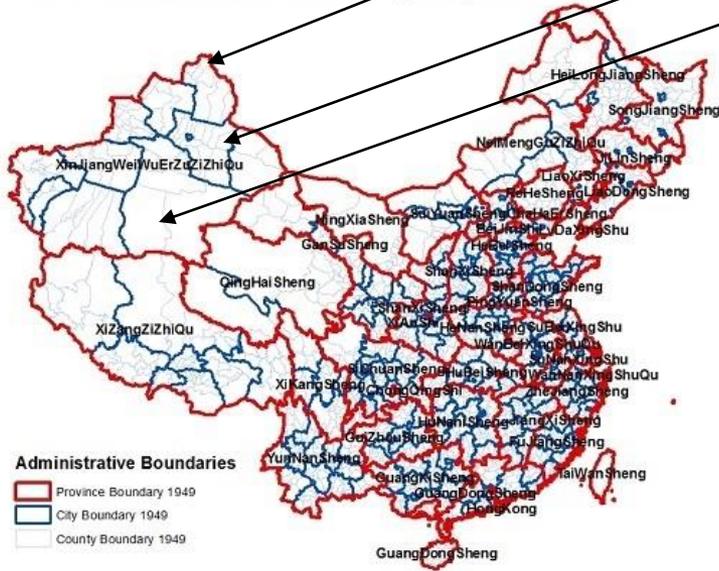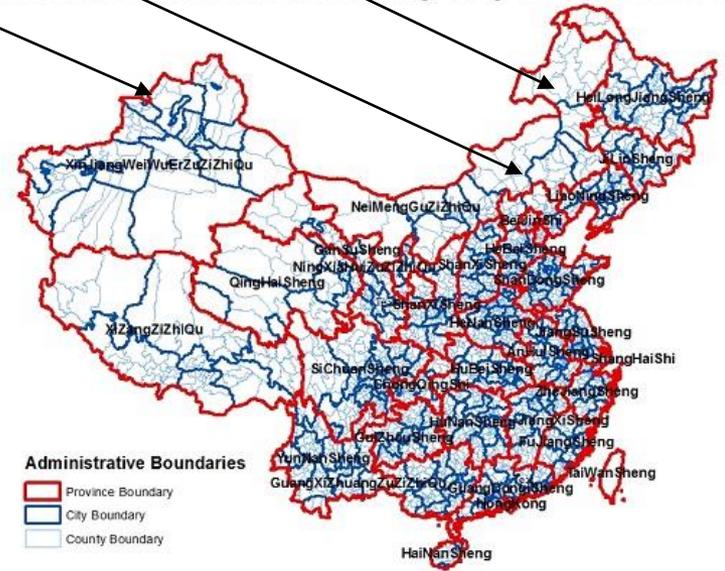
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