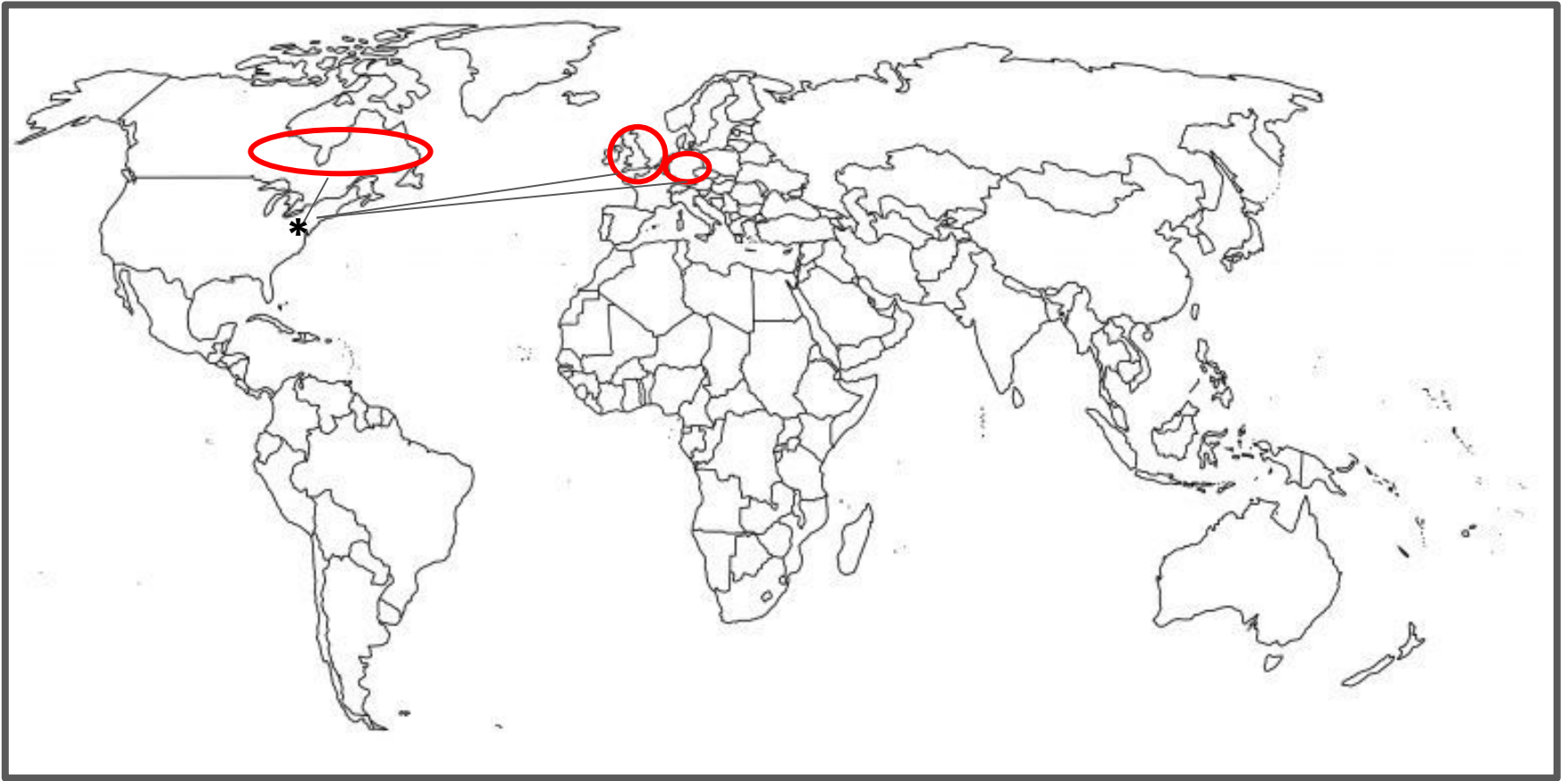


Group #1: 1845 - Ireland



Historical Context: The original settlers in Lawrence were native New Englanders and Irish immigrants. As they arrived in Boston harbor, the Irish were recruited by the Essex Company to build a new city on the Merrimack. The population of Lawrence jumped from 104 to 3,500 between 1845 and 1847. As soon as the mills were up and running young New England and Irish women were recruited to run the textile machinery. (Courtesy of exhibit at Lawrence Heritage State Park)

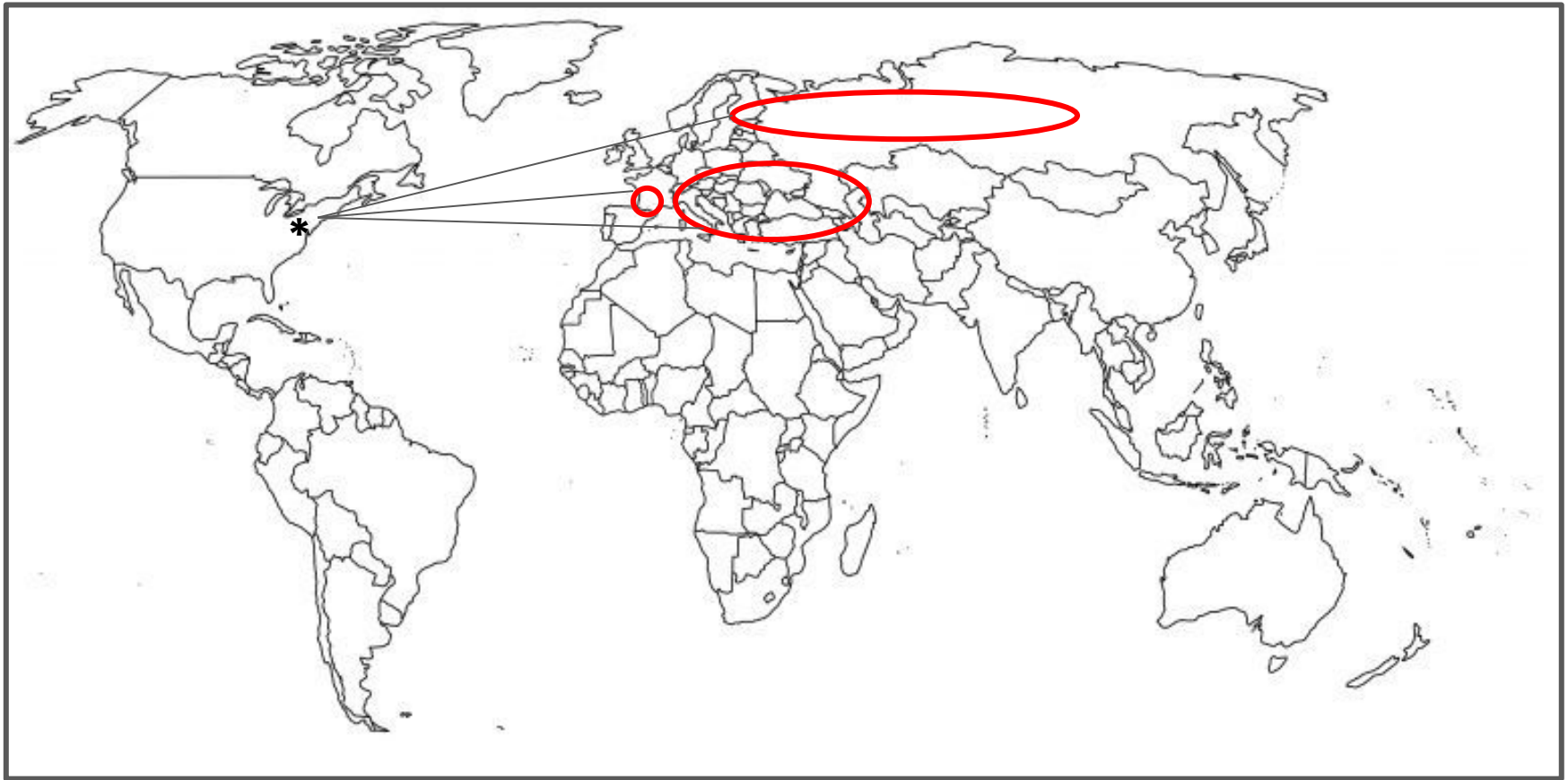
Group #2: 1855- England, Scotland, Germany & Canada



Historical Context: By 1855 people from England, Scotland, Germany, and Canada had found their way to the city to work in the mills. Many were skilled workers with experience in the European textile industry. These people were often recruited in Europe by agents of the Lawrence mill owners seeking trained operatives. Others arrived because of economic hardships in their homeland, or because they had heard about jobs in Lawrence from relatives and fellow countrymen. African Americans and Chinese immigrants also made their way to Lawrence. Unlike the groups mentioned above, they came from other parts of the United States and arrived in small numbers. African Americans came from the South, before the Civil War, as part of the 'Underground Railroad'. The Chinese gradually made their way east from California, arriving in Lawrence in the 1850s and 1860s.

(Courtesy of exhibit at Lawrence Heritage State Park)

Group #3: 1895- France, Russia, Eastern Europe, & Mediterranean Countries



Historical Context - The largest influx of immigrants to Lawrence occurred between 1895 and 1920. Driven from their homelands by political repression, war, religious persecution, and economic hardship, thousands of people arrived in the United States seeking refuge and a new beginning. They came from many countries including France, Italy, Syria, Belgium, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, and Greece. Many were drawn to New England mill towns by the promise of work. Lawrence, with its giant textile mills, drew 42,106 new residents to its doorstep in a twenty-five year period. By 1920, 94,270 people lived in the city from numerous ethnic backgrounds.

Group #4: Today- Southwest Asia and Latin America Countries



Historical Context: Most recently people from Southeast Asian and Latin American countries have made Lawrence their home. People from over 40 countries have settled here, often for similar reasons: to escape difficult circumstances in their homelands and to seek a better life for themselves and their families. Today, the influence of many cultures is evident in Lawrence. Ethnic groceries and restaurants, numerous religious denominations, festivals, parades, and vigorous political campaigns are aspects of Lawrence's rich cultural heritage.

(Courtesy of exhibit at Lawrence Heritage State Park)