

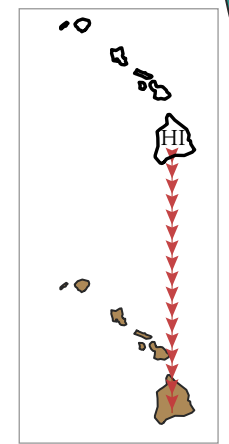
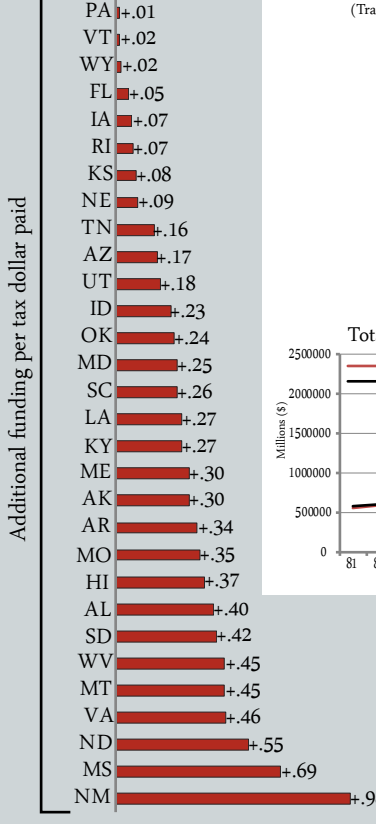
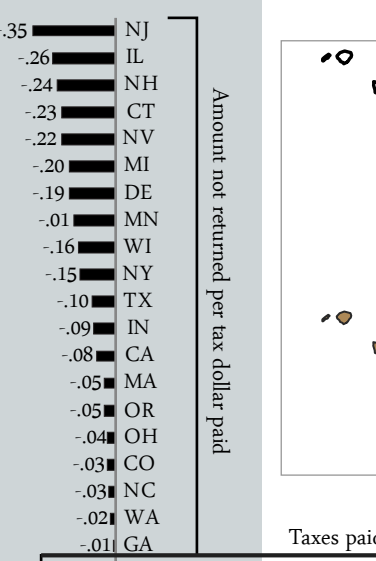
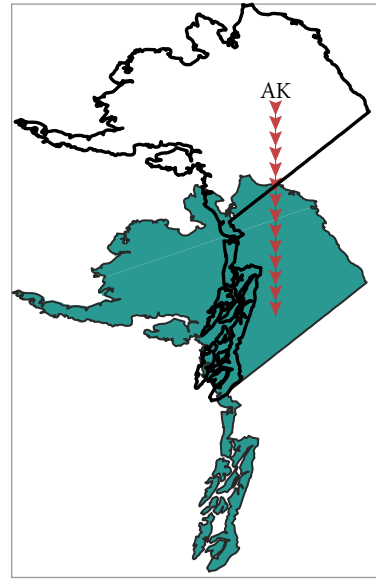
Federal Taxes Paid vs Funding Received

1980 - 2005

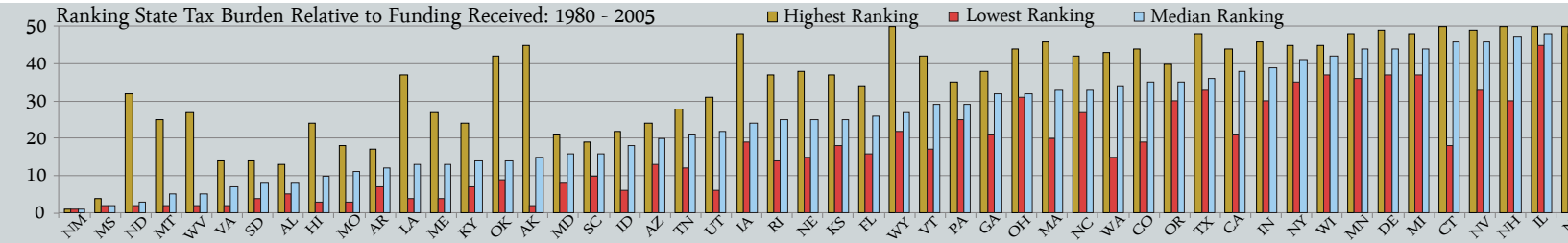
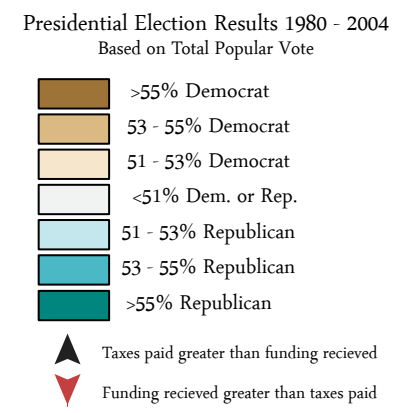
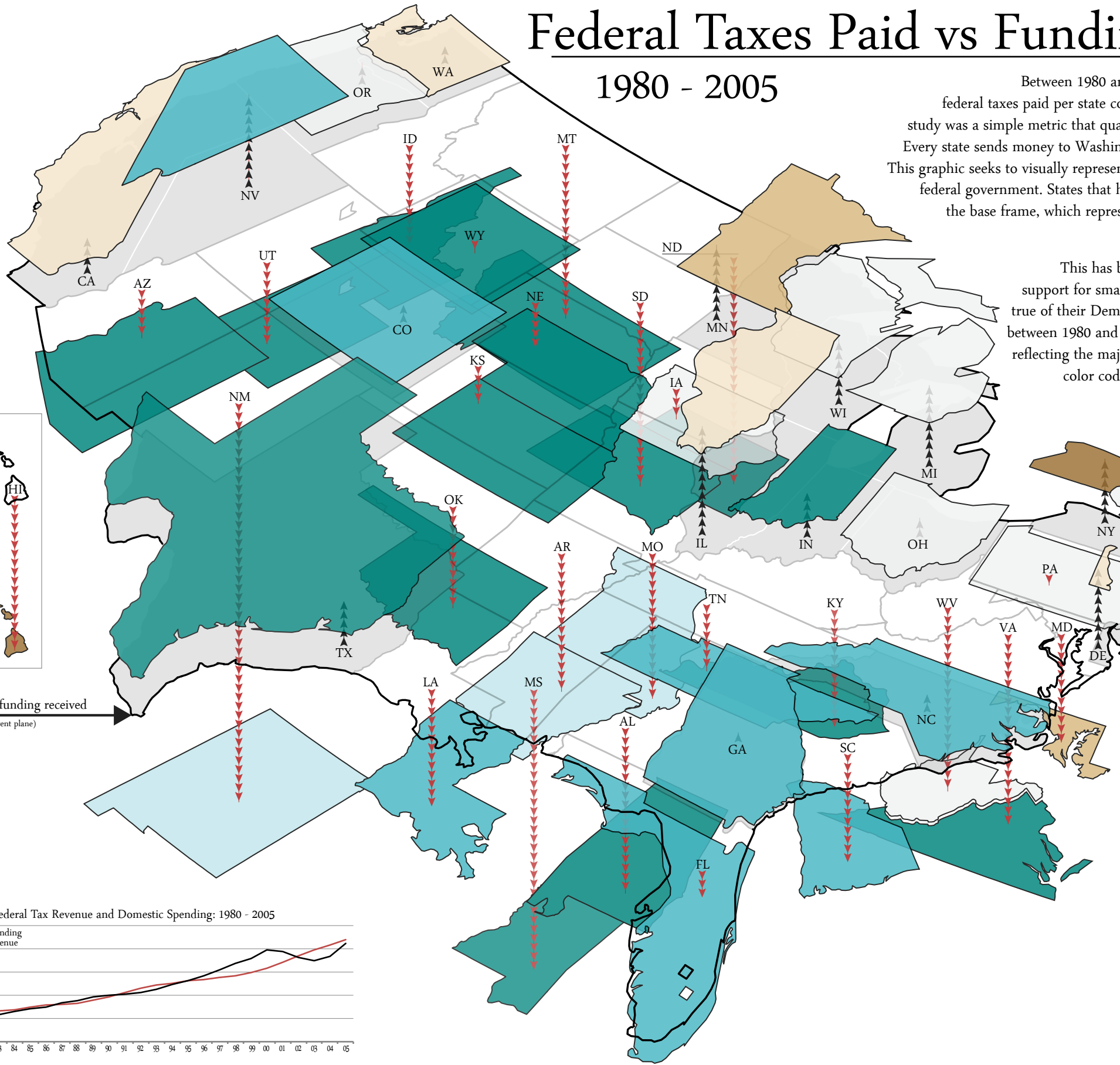
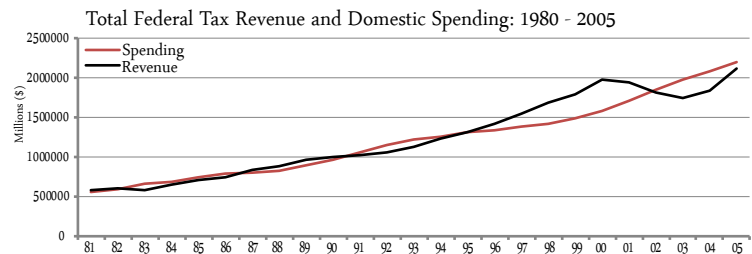
Between 1980 and 2005, researchers at the TaxFoundation.org performed a study measuring annual federal taxes paid per state compared to the amount of money returned as federal funding. The end result of the study was a simple metric that quantified the amount of funding each state received for each dollar they paid in taxes. Every state sends money to Washington DC in the form of taxes, but some benefit more from this system than others. This graphic seeks to visually represent that data by extruding those states that have consistently contributed more to the federal government. States that have received more funding than they have paid in taxes have been depressed below the base frame, which represents an equal return for each dollar paid. The level of extrusion or depression from the base frame is based on their distance away from even distribution.

This has become a subject of political discourse. Republican candidates often emphasize their support for smaller government, lower taxes, and fiscal responsibility while claiming the opposite is true of their Democrat colleagues. To examine this claim, popular votes cast for presidential elections between 1980 and 2004 have been tabulated for each state. States were given an associated color reflecting the majority of votes cast for either party. States with no clear majority have been neutrally color coded. The inset choropleth map examines the majority political affiliation of House of Representative members during the same time period.

Sources:
Taxfoundation.org - Tax and Spending Data
Federal Election Commission - Election Results
Natural Earth Dataset - Map boundaries



Taxes paid = funding received
(Transparent plane)



The graph to the left measures the highest and lowest annual ranking of each state's tax burden and funding levels. States on the far left have consistently shouldered the least amount of tax burden but benefited from the most federal funding. States on the far right have consistently paid more federal taxes than they have received in federal funding.

