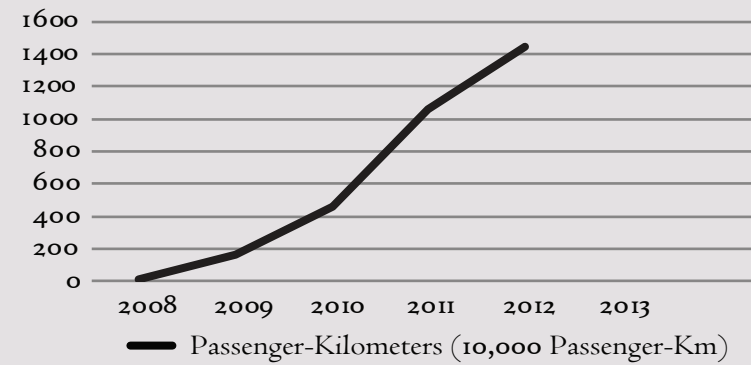


High Speed Rail: A Good Investment

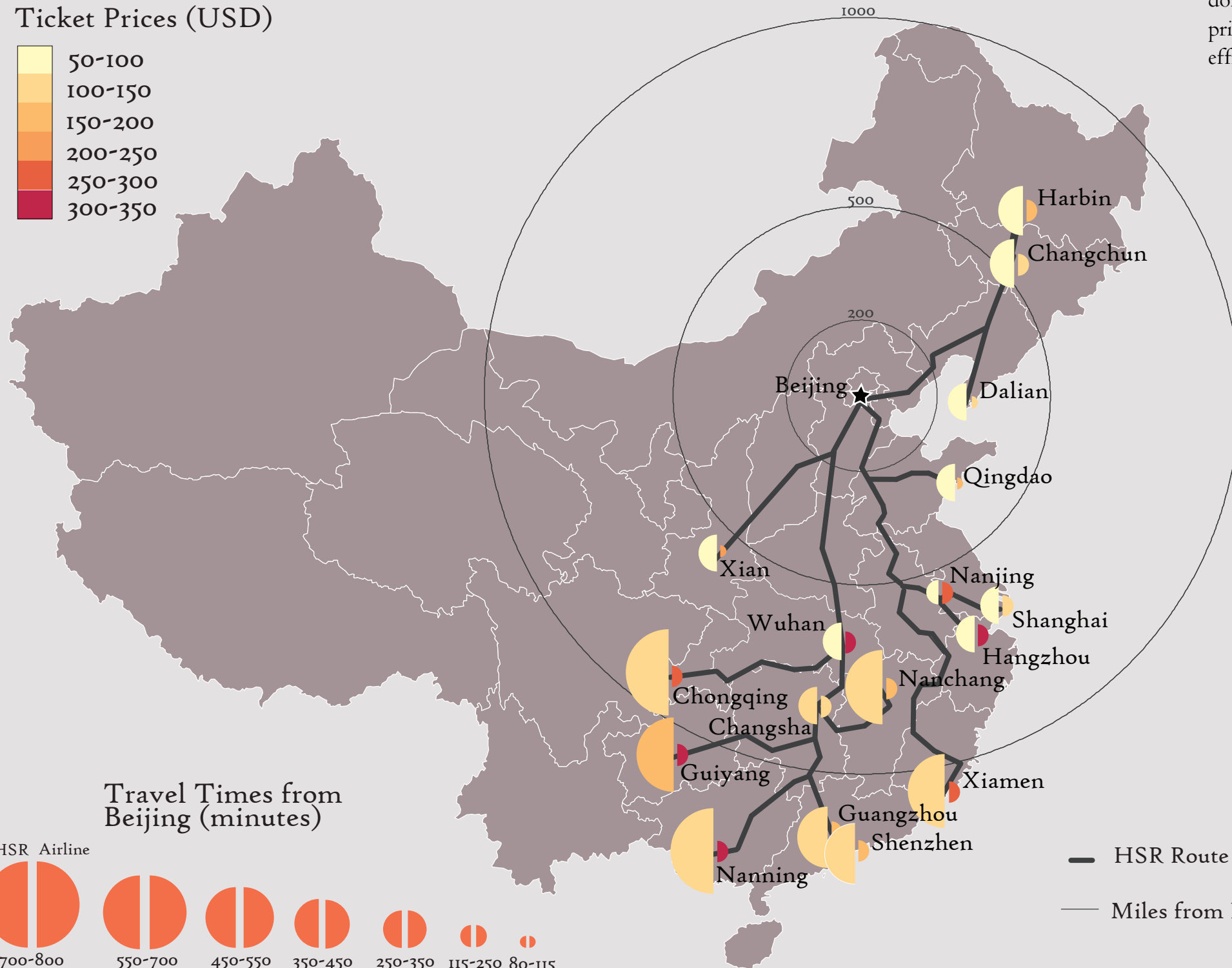
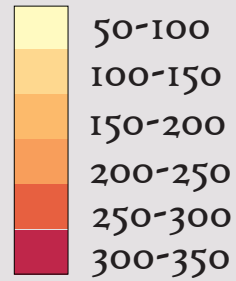
High Speed Rails (HSR) in China

Construction of the first high speed railway in China began in 1999. Not even two decades later, the bullet train has become a major transportation method between China's major cities. Passenger volume increased by over 50% between 2010 and 2012 and is continuing to grow. China's success in this new industry is a sign that the U.S. should begin to invest more in high speed rails.

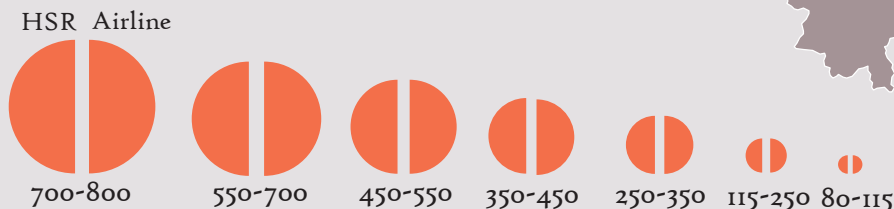
Passenger Volume on China's HSR



Ticket Prices (USD)



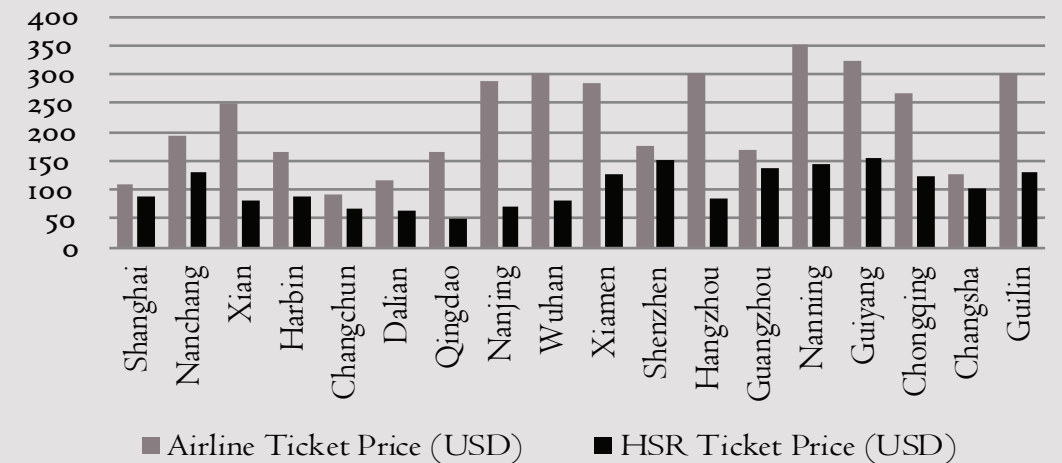
Travel Times from Beijing (minutes)



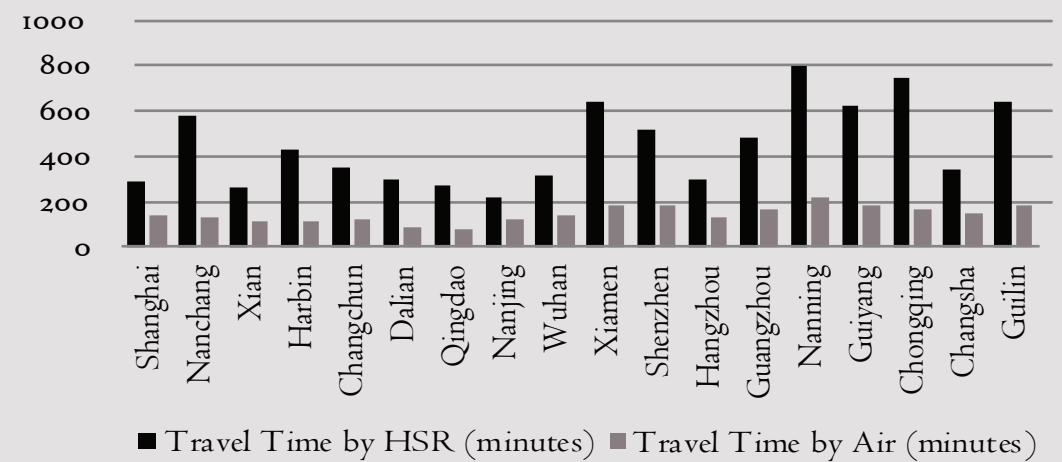
Why should the U.S. invest in high speed rails?

Nearly every wealthy country in the world has invested in the construction of high speed railways. These nations have seen economic benefits, including job creation, due to this investment, while the airline industry continues to flourish. Bullet trains are powered by electricity and thus are more sustainable than other transportation methods. Traveling across country on high speed rails would be faster, less costly, and more convenient than travel by air or car. The three hour wait in hard, cold airport seats, or the long, cramped car trip would be replaced by a short wait. Why drive through Chicago traffic when you could travel from Madison to Chicago in only half an hour? HSR prices could save travelers hundreds of dollars as well. High speed rails are ideal for traveling shorter distances - although ticket prices are less expensive than airline tickets, traveling very long distances by HSR is less time efficient due to the greater number of stops.

HSR v.s. Airline Ticket Prices



HSR v.s. Airline Travel Times



Geography 370 Final Project
 Abby Gleason
 Projection: Azimuthal Equidistant
 Latitude of Origin: 35
 Central Meridian: 105
 Sources: The National Memo, Diva-GIS,
 TravelChinaGuide, China Statistical Yearbook 2014,
 Businesspictor.com