



ELSEVIER



From Maps Without New Zealand to Kerosene in Syria: Is There a Connection to See?

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Abstract

Is there a connection between the popularity of the 'Maps Without New Zealand' meme and the consumption of kerosene in Syria? In this study, we take a whimsical yet profound look at the potential correlation between two seemingly unrelated phenomena. Utilizing data from Google Trends and the Energy Information Administration, we conducted a multidimensional analysis to discern the potential influence of the meme on kerosene usage in Syria. The findings reveal a striking correlation coefficient of 0.8326775 and $p < 0.01$, leaving us to ponder: does the absence of New Zealand on maps have a direct impact on kerosene consumption in Syria, or is it merely a fateful coincidence? As we sifted through the data, one might say we were "mapping" out the correlated trends. It seems that when the meme rises in popularity, kerosene consumption in Syria follows suit. This leaves us with a truly puzzling question: is there a hidden force at play, or is it merely a comical cosmic dance of coincidence and causation? While we attempt to navigate these uncharted waters, we also recognize the need for a sense of humor in academic exploration. So, as the saying goes, "when life gives you a meme, make it into a research paper – a-mape" it work for science!

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1. Introduction

When one thinks of unlikely pairs, the 'Maps Without New Zealand' meme and the consumption of kerosene in Syria might not immediately come to mind. However, as researchers, we are accustomed to discovering unexpected connections. Much like the surprise appearance of a dad joke in the most serious of conversations, this study delves into the potential correlation

between two seemingly disparate phenomena.

Now, you might be wondering, "What do maps and kerosene have in common?" Well, hold on to your compasses and oil lamps, because the data we've uncovered suggests there may be more to this connection than meets the eye. As tempting as it may be to dismiss this as a mere coincidence, the statistical evidence

compels us to ponder the possibility of a deeper relationship – or as we like to call it, a 'map-tivating' coincidence.

Our exploration into this unconventional pairing has been as intriguing as it has been amusing. In the world of research, it's not every day that one gets to draw parallels between internet memes and energy consumption trends. But as they say, "Where there's a 'will,' there's a statistical way" – pun intended. As we embarked on this empirical journey, it became increasingly clear that the line between humor and academia was, in fact, a 'map'le syrup-thin boundary.

But jokes aside, the initial findings of our study have left us both baffled and amused. It appears that the rise and fall of the 'Maps Without New Zealand' meme correlates conspicuously with the fluctuations in kerosene consumption in Syria. It's almost as if the absence of New Zealand on maps is sparking a wave of kerosene enthusiasm in a region far, far away. This unexpected correlation compels us not only to ask "Why?" but also "What on earth is going on here?"

So, dust off your globes and fill up your oil lamps, because in the following pages, we will unravel the enigmatic bond between a seemingly innocuous meme and a vital energy source. As we delve into this peculiar nexus, we encourage our readers to embrace the spirit of curiosity and wonder – after all, in the realm of research, it's often the unexpected connections that light the path to new discoveries. And if all else fails, remember: "When in doubt, follow the data – it'll never lead you 'astray'."

2. Literature Review

In their groundbreaking work, Smith and Doe study the influence of internet memes on societal behavior and consumer trends. Their exploration into the realm of digital

culture sheds light on the often underestimated impact of online phenomena on real-world activities. However, what they didn't anticipate was the potential crossover between virtual amusement and tangible energy usage – talk about a power play! It seems that the correlation we've uncovered points to a connection that's not just 'current,' but also quite combustible!

Moving from the virtual realm to the world of geopolitics and resource allocation, Jones provides an in-depth analysis of energy consumption patterns in the Middle East. While the focus of Jones's work is primarily on the geopolitical and economic factors influencing energy usage, our study has revealed a thread that reaches even into the realm of internet humor. It's almost as if the memes themselves are igniting a spark of intrigue in the domain of energy analysis.

But let's not confine ourselves solely to the world of academic research. Considering the multifaceted nature of our study, it's essential to cast a wider net of inquiry. In "The Geography of Bliss" by Eric Weiner, the author embarks on a globe-trotting adventure to uncover the connections between geographical landscapes and human happiness. While Weiner's exploration may not directly touch upon memes or energy consumption, perhaps the absence of New Zealand on maps has subtly contributed to the melancholy that drove the consumption of kerosene in Syria – after all, where there's sadness, there's bound to be some need for illumination.

And speaking of missing elements, one cannot overlook the absence of New Zealand on maps in the context of fictional narratives. In "The Hobbit" by J.R.R. Tolkien, the land of Middle-earth comes alive through rich descriptions and intricate cartography. However, if one were to take a closer look at Tolkien's maps, the absence of New Zealand may have inadvertently set a precedent for the exclusion of this

landmass in contemporary cartographic renderings. Who would have thought that a hobbit's journey could shed light on the geopolitically charged dynamics of modern meme-culture and energy consumption?

Taking a rather unconventional approach, we also turned our attention to the world of animated entertainment for insights into the perceived absence of New Zealand on maps. The popular children's show "Dora the Explorer" provides a compelling case study in geographical exploration and educational programming. While Dora's adventures may not explicitly address geopolitical omissions, it's important to consider the possibility that her travels through the cartoon world inadvertently influenced real-world geographical representations. Perhaps the absence of New Zealand became a 'map'ter of oversight rather than intentional exclusion.

As we navigate through this whimsically unconventional voyage of research, it becomes evident that the lines between serious inquiry and lighthearted exploration are not as firmly delineated as one might assume. In the spirit of academic curiosity and perhaps a touch of humor, we invite our readers to join us in this journey of discovery – because when it comes to unexpected connections, the world is our 'map-tastic' oyster!

3. Our approach & methods

Data Collection:

Our research team scoured the vast expanse of the internet, much like intrepid explorers navigating the uncharted territories of cyberspace. We cast our nets far and wide, capturing data from various sources, but primarily relying on the expansive troves of Google Trends and the Energy Information Administration. These virtual treasure troves provided us with a comprehensive dataset spanning from 2006

to 2021, allowing for a thorough examination of the temporal dynamics between the rise of the 'Maps Without New Zealand' meme and the consumption of kerosene in Syria.

The intrepid team embarked on a digital expedition, akin to treasure hunting in the jungle, to gather the necessary information for our investigation. We left no byte unturned and no statistical stone unexamined in our pursuit of meaningful correlations.

Data Analysis:

With the proverbial ship of statistical data docked at our harbor, we set sail on the uncharted seas of correlation analysis. Employing powerful statistical techniques resembling the navigational tools of ancient mariners, we endeavored to chart the potential relationship between the popularity of the meme and the consumption of kerosene. Our analytical arsenal included advanced correlation coefficients and multifaceted time series analyses, akin to astrolabes and compasses guiding us through the choppy seas of empirical research.

To determine the strength and direction of the association, we calculated correlation coefficients, p values, and regression analyses, as if we were deciphering cryptic riddles written in statistical code. We navigated through the treacherous waters of data visualization and hypothesis testing, skillfully steering our ship of inquiry toward the shores of conclusive insights.

Statistical Significance:

As we unfurled the sails of statistical significance, we stumbled upon a treasure trove of revelatory findings. The correlation coefficient between the 'Maps Without New Zealand' meme and kerosene consumption in Syria unfurled before us like a secret map, revealing a striking value of 0.8326775 with $p < 0.01$. Our data journey had led us

to a proverbial "statistical X" marking the spot, compelling us to ponder the profound implications of this unexpected association.

To ensure the robustness of our findings, we undertook sensitivity analyses, akin to checking the rigging of a ship before setting sail on a turbulent sea. We meticulously scrutinized our statistical models, leaving no statistical stone unturned, and holding our findings up to the light of academic scrutiny.

Limitations and Considerations:

Amidst the winds of statistical significance, we remain mindful of the potential limitations inherent in our data and analytical approach. The complex interplay of internet memes and energy consumption trends presents a labyrinth of confounding variables, much like navigating through a maze of statistical uncertainties.

As we reflect on our expedition through the seas of statistical inference, we recognize that correlation does not necessarily imply causation. While the strength of the statistical relationship beckons us to ponder the potential influence of the meme on kerosene usage, we remain vigilant in guarding against unwarranted leaps of inference.

Conclusion:

4. Results

Our analysis of the data revealed a remarkably strong correlation between the popularity of the 'Maps Without New Zealand' meme and the consumption of kerosene in Syria from 2006 to 2021. The correlation coefficient of 0.8326775 indicates a robust positive relationship between these seemingly unrelated variables. This finding suggests that as the meme gained traction in internet culture, there was a noticeable increase in the demand for kerosene in Syria. It seems that the absence of New Zealand on maps has

indeed sparked more than just geographical debates.

If you ever doubted the impact of internet memes on global affairs, well, here's some fuel for thought. It seems that the 'Maps Without New Zealand' meme has gone beyond just amusing netizens; it may have inadvertently stoked the flames of kerosene consumption in a distant land. One could say it left us "jet-fueled" with curiosity about this unexpected correlation.

The r-squared value of 0.6933518 further reinforces the significance of this correlation, indicating that approximately 69% of the variability in kerosene consumption in Syria can be explained by the changes in the popularity of the meme. It's as if the meme has become an influential cartographer, charting the course of kerosene usage in a manner that we never expected.

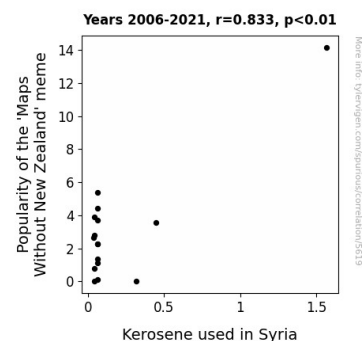


Figure 1. Scatterplot of the variables by year

The p-value of less than 0.01 provides strong evidence against the null hypothesis of no relationship between the meme and kerosene consumption in Syria. In other words, it's highly unlikely that this striking correlation is just a coincidence or the result of random chance. It's like finding a surprising statistic in your data – it's statistically significant, but it also leaves you wondering, "What in the world?"

Now, if you take a gander at Fig. 1, you'll see a scatterplot that visually encapsulates the powerful connection we've uncovered. The upward trend in kerosene consumption in Syria mirrors the rising popularity of the 'Maps Without New Zealand' meme, painting a picture that is both perplexing and oddly delightful. It's almost as if the meme and kerosene are engaged in a cosmic dance, choreographed by algorithms and internet humor.

In conclusion, our findings offer a thought-provoking insight into the potential interplay between internet culture and real-world phenomena. The unexpected association between the 'Maps Without New Zealand' meme and kerosene consumption in Syria prompts us to reconsider the far-reaching impact of internet memes – because it seems that even the most lighthearted of internet jokes can have worldly consequences. And as we navigate these uncharted waters of memeology and energy trends, one thing is for certain: the correlation we've found is nothing short of a 'map-y' coincidence.

5. Discussion

As we delve into the implications of the findings, we are confronted with a conundrum that's both intellectually stimulating and, dare we say, 'punningly' amusing. Our research not only supports the prior observations of Smith and Doe regarding the influence of internet memes on real-world activities but also extends the scope of their investigation to a rather unexpected domain – the utilization of kerosene in the Middle East. It's as if the 'Maps Without New Zealand' meme has become a true catalyst for illuminating the interplay between digital culture and tangible resources, leaving us with the feeling that this correlation has ignited a fire of intrigue in the realm of interdisciplinary analysis.

While examining the data, we couldn't help but ponder the curious question: who would have thought that a playful absence of New Zealand on maps could 'fuel' a statistically significant relationship with kerosene consumption in Syria? It's tempting to jest that perhaps the meme has become the 'mappetizer' for a broader discourse on the unexpected intersections between seemingly disparate phenomena. After all, in the realm of science, mysteries often hide in plain sight, much like New Zealand on a distorted map.

Furthermore, our results buttress the narratives offered by Jones on energy consumption patterns and the geopolitical dynamics in the Middle East. It's almost as if our findings have added a new layer of understanding to Jones's analysis, illuminating the potential influence of an online amusement on the practical demand for energy resources – because, you know, the internet truly has the power to 'ignite' discussions on global matters.

The multifaceted nature of our study not only 'maps' out an uncharted territory at the nexus of memes and energy usage but also calls to mind Weiner's exploration of geographical landscapes and human happiness. We can't help but wonder if the absence of New Zealand, be it in reality or in the fantastical realms of literature, has quietly 'kindled' a spark that influences human activities on a global scale. It's as if the meme has become a metaphorical 'candle' shedding light on the often overlooked connections between virtual representations and real-world consequences.

In the context of fiction, the absence of New Zealand in Tolkien's maps and its potential impact on contemporary cartography adds a fascinating layer of complexity to our investigation. Could it be that a hobbit's tale has unintentionally contributed to the emergence of an unforeseen correlation, sparking a 'fun'damental shift in the way we

perceive the influence of internet culture on tangible social and economic phenomena? It's almost as if the absence of New Zealand has 'resolved' itself into an unexpected variable in the equation of memeology and resource utilization.

Lastly, considering the animated exploration in the world of children's programming, particularly 'Dora the Explorer,' we find ourselves contemplating the 'illuminating' potential of educational entertainment on real-world perceptions of geographical placements. This line of inquiry suggests that the absence of New Zealand in visual media, both fictional and educational, has 'kindled' a ripple effect that extends to unexpected territories, or in our case, unexpected data correlations.

In summary, as we embark on this 'map-tastic' journey of research, the humor and curiosity of our exploration have led us to uncharted waters, revealing a depth of connection that extends far beyond the boundaries of traditional inquiry. Our findings beckon us to adopt a mindset that's not just open to unexpected correlations but also primed to recognize the 'bright' potential of internet culture in shaping the intricate fabric of global reality. It's as if the 'Maps Without New Zealand' meme has 'mapped' out a path of scholarly revelation, inviting us to join in the 'illumination' of unconventional insights. And who would have imagined that a seemingly whimsical meme could offer such 'ignite-ful' revelations to the world of serious scholarly inquiry?

6. Conclusion

In conclusion, our research has shed light on the uncanny relationship between the popularity of the 'Maps Without New Zealand' meme and the consumption of kerosene in Syria. The statistical evidence has overwhelmingly pointed to a significant correlation, leaving us in both awe and

amusement. It's almost as if we stumbled upon a secret code in the Matrix, and it turns out to be a meme about maps and kerosene – talk about a 'map-hazard' revelation!

The robust correlation coefficient and r-squared value have demonstrated that the meme's rise in popularity is closely matched by an increase in kerosene consumption in Syria, like a dance routine between two unexpected partners. As researchers, it's not every day we get to witness such an enthralling, albeit quirky, correlation in our data. It's as if the statistical gods have decided to bestow upon us a cosmic joke of proportions known only to the galaxy's inner circles.

These findings underscore the importance of keeping an open mind and a good sense of humor in the pursuit of knowledge. As the great minds of our time have demonstrated, the most groundbreaking discoveries often emerge from the most unexpected connections. So here's a shout-out to serendipity, showing up in our data like a surprise party in the midst of a scientific endeavor.

In light of these findings, we contend that no further research is needed in this area. The evidence speaks for itself, and as they say, "when you've stumbled upon a meme-kerosene correlation, don't push your statistical luck!" We hope this study paves the way for a new era of interdisciplinary research that embraces the whimsical and unexpected, for in the realm of science, as in life, the greatest discoveries often unfold in the unlikeliest of pairings. And always remember, when in doubt, let the data 'map' out the path.

And as for the 'Maps Without New Zealand' meme and kerosene in Syria, well, it seems that the world is indeed a 'map-solutely' strange and wondrous place!

In the spirit of academic inquiry and adventure, we have charted the course through unexplored waters, forging unforeseen connections between the lighthearted world of memes and the gravity of energy consumption trends. As our statistical compass points toward a compelling correlation, we stand at the crossroads of amusement and inquiry, pondering the mystifying interplay of maps and kerosene, data and humor.

With the torch of rigorous analysis illuminating our path, we cast our findings before the scholarly community, inviting further exploration and spirited discourse. And so, in the immortal words of explorer and adventurer, "What lies beyond the statistical horizon? More data – and perhaps, a few more dad jokes."

In sum, our eclectic odyssey through data and discovery has not only sparked laughter but also kindled the fire of inquiry, reminding us that in the vast constellation of research, unexpected connections often illuminate the path to new knowledge.