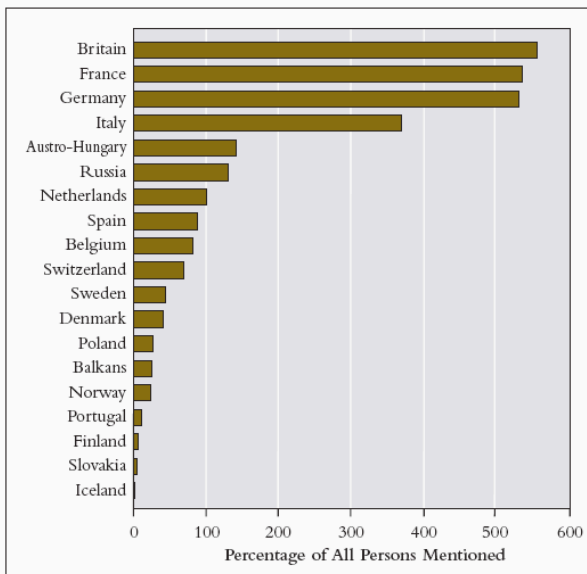




Human accomplishment

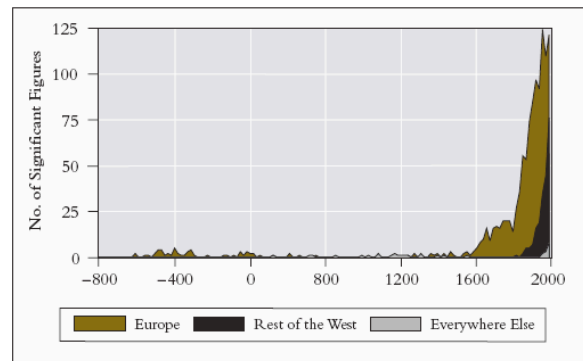
The concentration of European accomplishment from 1400–1950 is easy enough to sum up if you don't worry about complications: the numbers of significant figures from Britain, France, and Germany dwarf those from everywhere else except Italy. The chart below shows the distribution.

The big four, and everybody else



The big four alone account for 72 percent of all the significant figures from 1400–1950. Add in Russia and the Netherlands, and 80 percent of all significant figures are accounted for. But countries are bulky and their borders change. Saying that a certain number of significant figures came from Italy obscures the reality that most of them came from specific parts of Italy surrounding Florence and Venice. For that matter, Italy did not even exist as a unified nation-state until 19C. Neither did Germany. Britain encompasses four distinctive linguistic and cultural entities. During the period when

Significant figures in the scientific inventories across time and place



Whether measured in people or events, 97 percent of accomplishment in the scientific inventories occurred in Europe and North America

