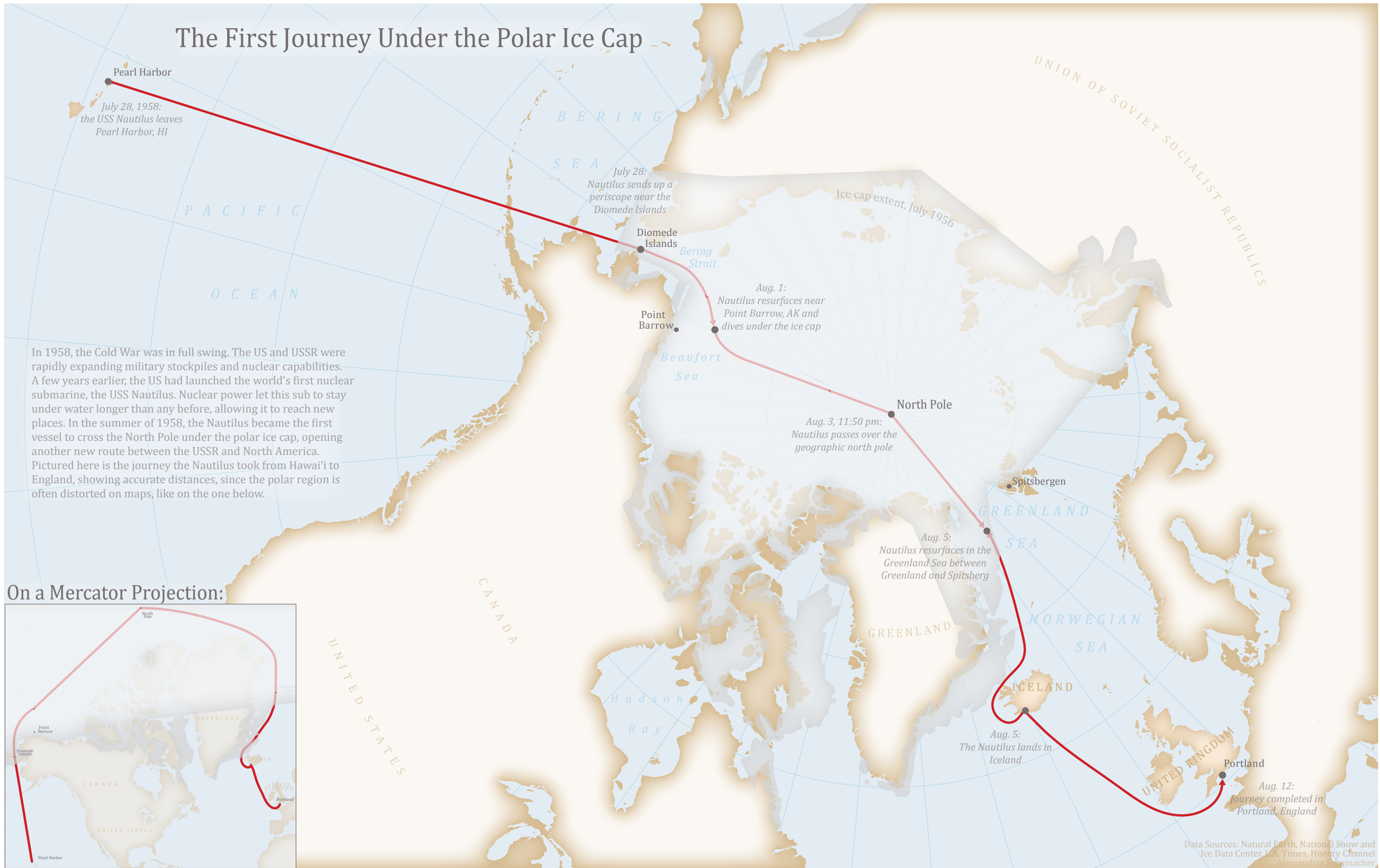


The First Journey Under the Polar Ice Cap



In 1958, the Cold War was in full swing. The US and USSR were rapidly expanding military stockpiles and nuclear capabilities. A few years earlier, the US had launched the world's first nuclear submarine, the USS Nautilus. Nuclear power let this sub to stay under water longer than any before, allowing it to reach new places. In the summer of 1958, the Nautilus became the first vessel to cross the North Pole under the polar ice cap, opening another new route between the USSR and North America. Pictured here is the journey the Nautilus took from Hawai'i to England, showing accurate distances, since the polar region is often distorted on maps, like on the one below.

On a Mercator Projection:



Data Sources: Natural Earth, National Snow and Ice Data Center, L.A. Times, History Channel, Alessandria Stenmacher