George Edwards: It’s Really the Selectoral and Ejectoral College & Needs to Go

Reading Questions

1) According to Edwards, what is the major reason why the Electoral College is a dangerous system?

2) Based on the below map and your knowledge of the Electoral College, explain Edwards’ reasoning when he writes in the “Vote Values Vary” section: “When states with unequal populations receive similar numbers of electoral votes, states with smaller populations gain a mathematical advantage.” [Hint, you need the following variables: 1) the number of EC votes in a state, and 2) the population of that state]

3) In the section “Consensus Winners,” Edwards states: “Except in a superficial fashion, the candidates of both parties virtually ignore large sections of the country”. Give what you feel to be the best example that proves his point. Explain why this example is strong.

4) At the top of pg. 4, Edwards states: “... but (George W. Bush’s) vote simply did not represent winning concurrent majorities across the major strata of American society.”
   a. Rephrase this quote in your own words.
   b. Explain why what is mentioned here is a major problem in a democratic-republic nation.

5) The first sentence of “States’ Interests” states: “Some argue that the Electoral College balances local and national interests, protecting small states from majoritarian politics”. How does Edwards respond to this comment? Do you agree with him? Explain.