

In the 1840s, westward expansion led Americans to acquire all lands from the Atlantic to Pacific in a movement called Manifest Destiny



"Obvious"

"Future"

Americans flooded into the West for new economic opportunities

The U.S. gained Texas, Oregon, California, and other territories through treaty or war

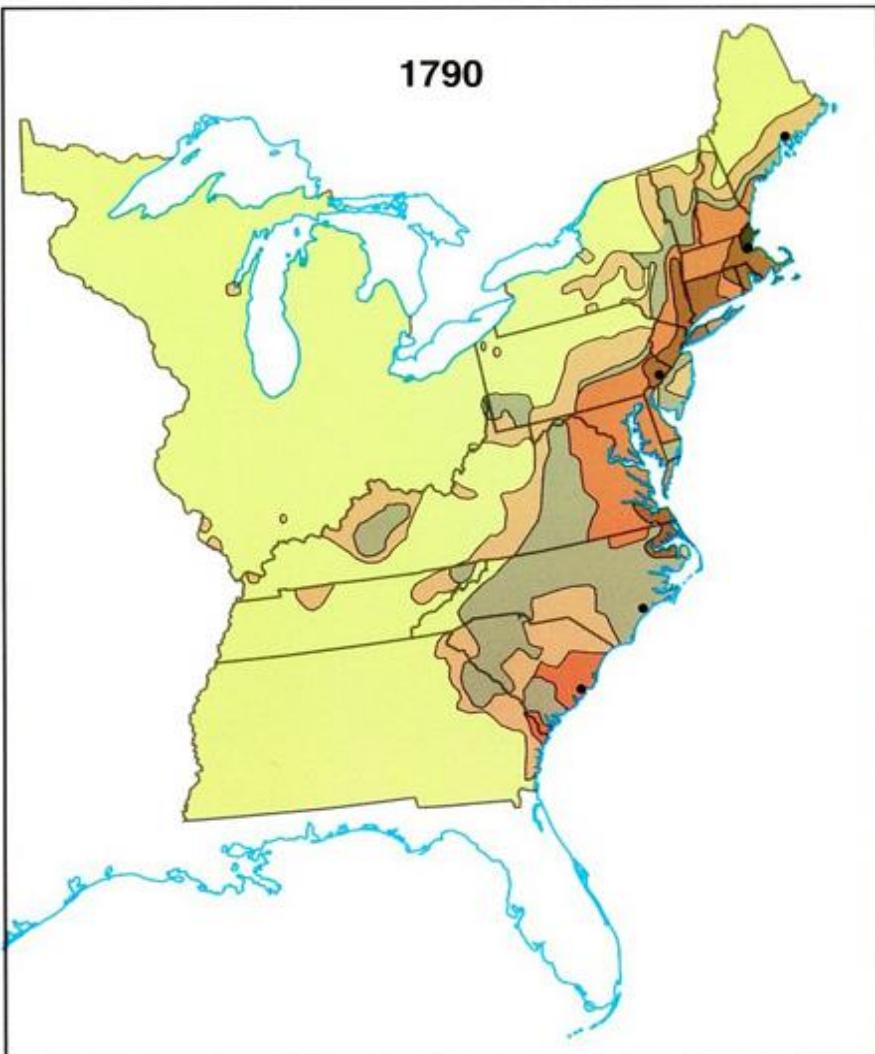
When Americans were colonists (1607-1783), the western border was the Appalachian Mountains



After the Revolutionary War, the western border of the U.S. was the Mississippi River

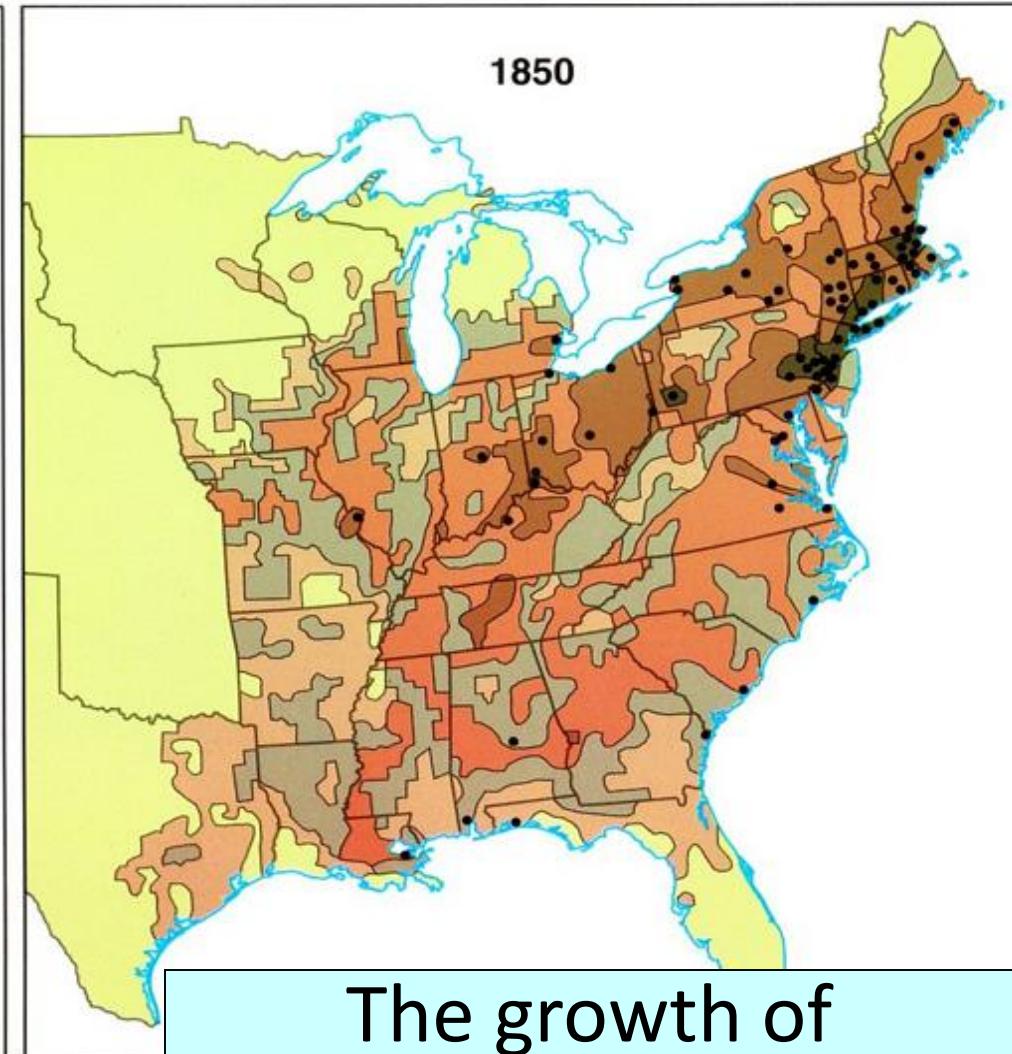






Rural population density  
per square mile

- Under 2.0
- 2.0 to 5.9
- 6.0 to 17.9

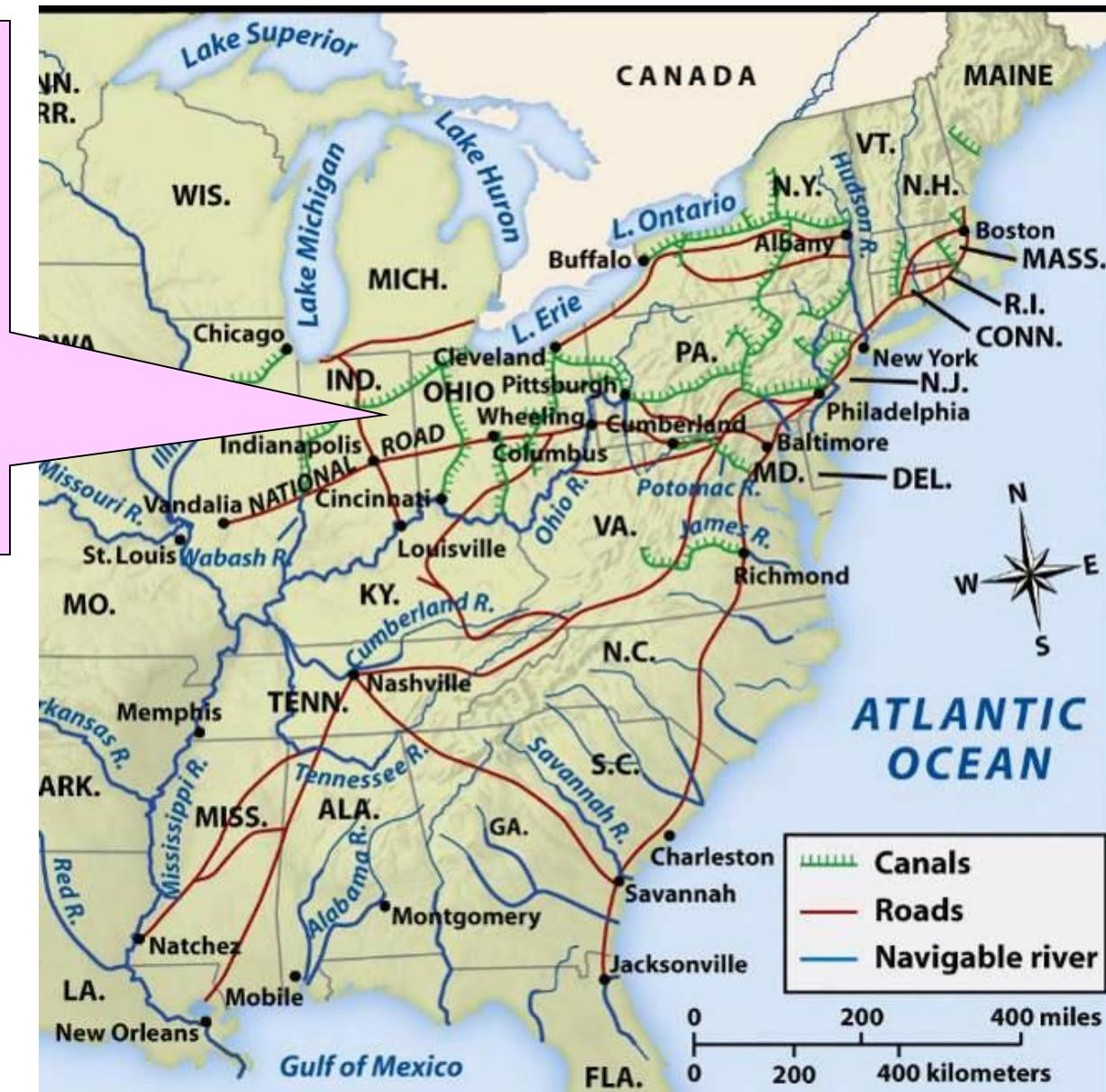


- 18.0 to 24.9
- 24.9 to 45.0
- 45.0 to 90.0 and above

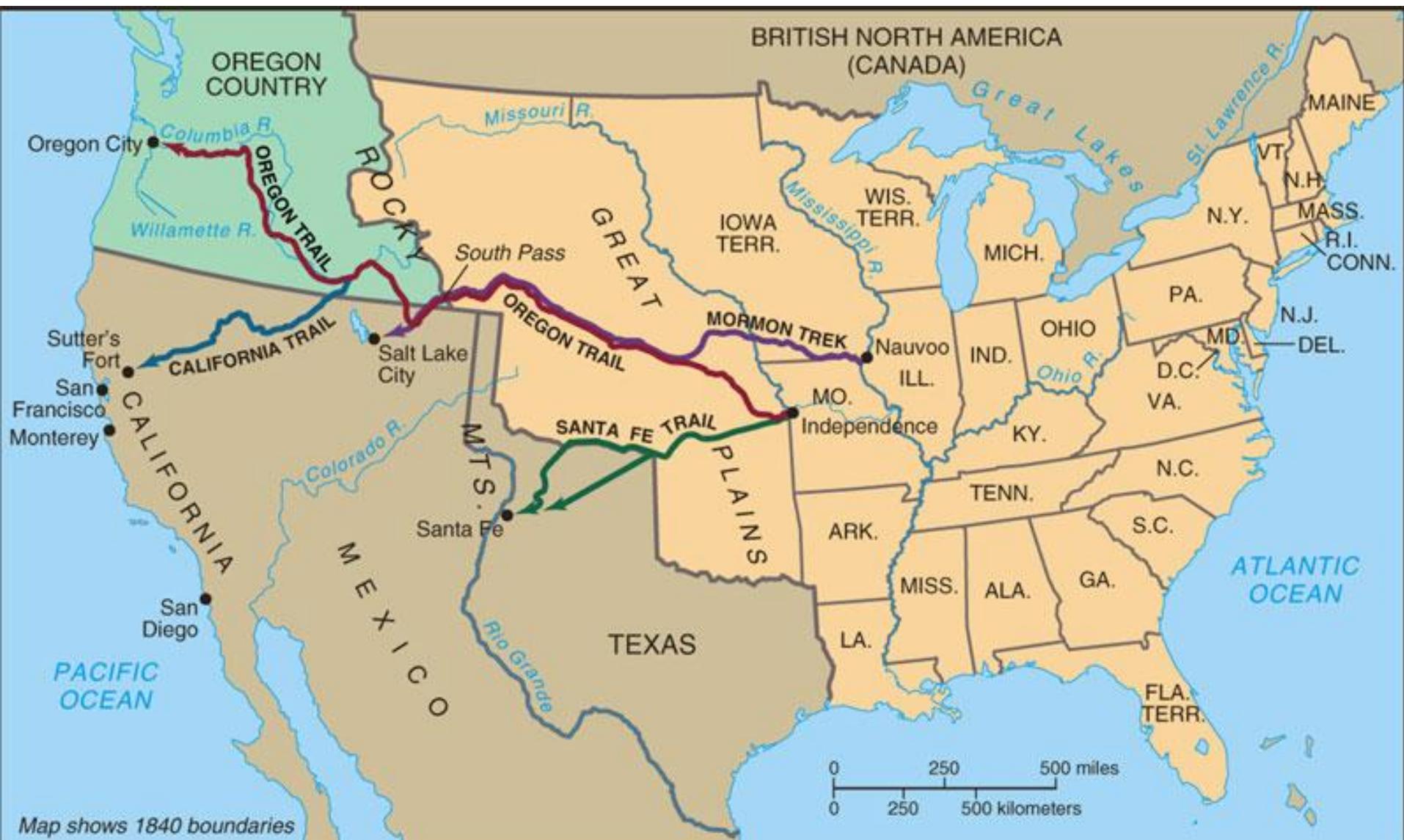
The growth of  
“King Cotton” and  
commercial farming  
led to a desire for  
more western lands

# Changes in the early Antebellum era (1800-1840), encouraged westward expansion in the 1840s

Improved transportation such as canals, steamboats, & railroads increased speed & profitability



# The journey West was dangerous and unpredictable, yet thousands of Americans traveled along the Oregon, Santa Fe, and Mormon Trails





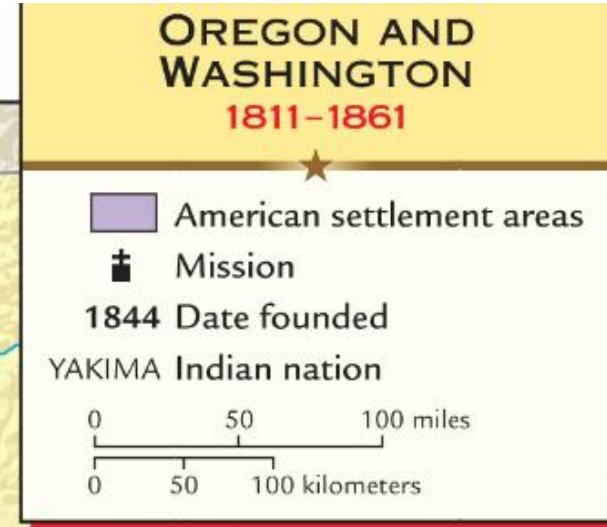
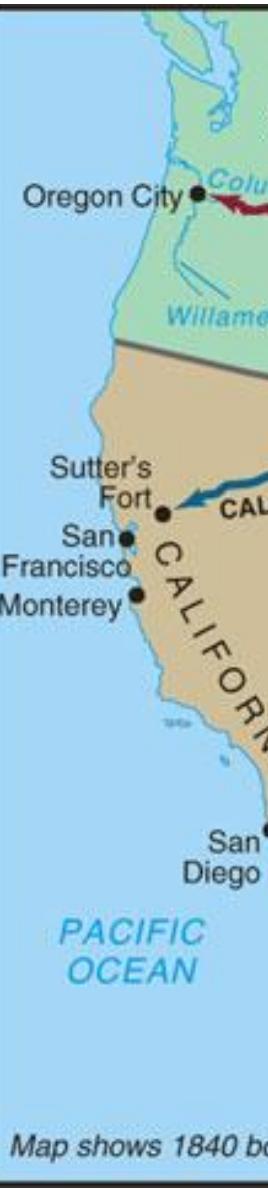
*“Westward the Course of Empire Takes Its Way”*  
Emanuel Leutze, 1862

The earliest pioneers were fur traders, land speculators, and poor farmers looking for cheap land

Soon, farmers, miners, ranchers, and religious groups flooded West

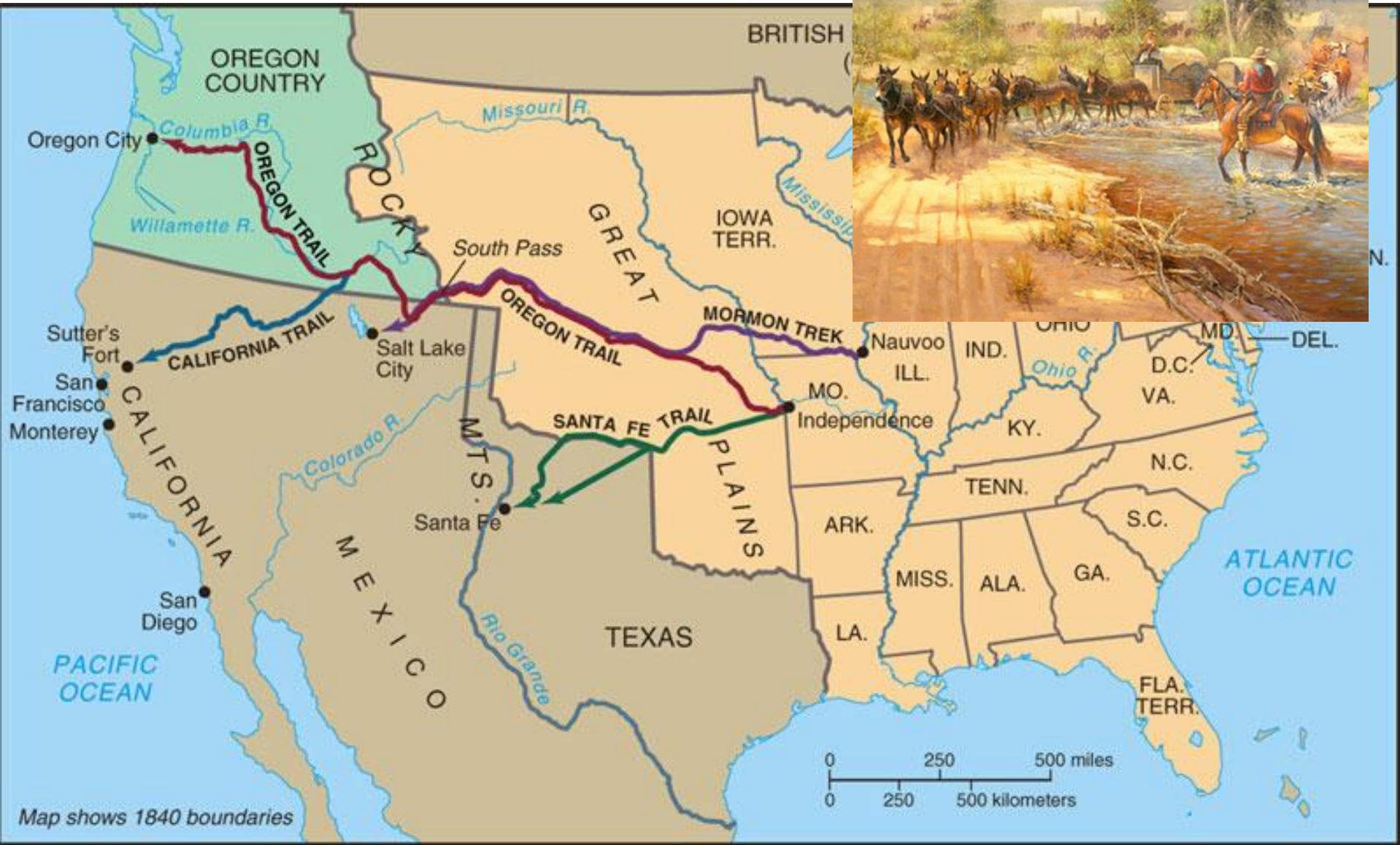


# The Oregon Trail led thousands of farmers to the fertile lands of Oregon in the 1840s

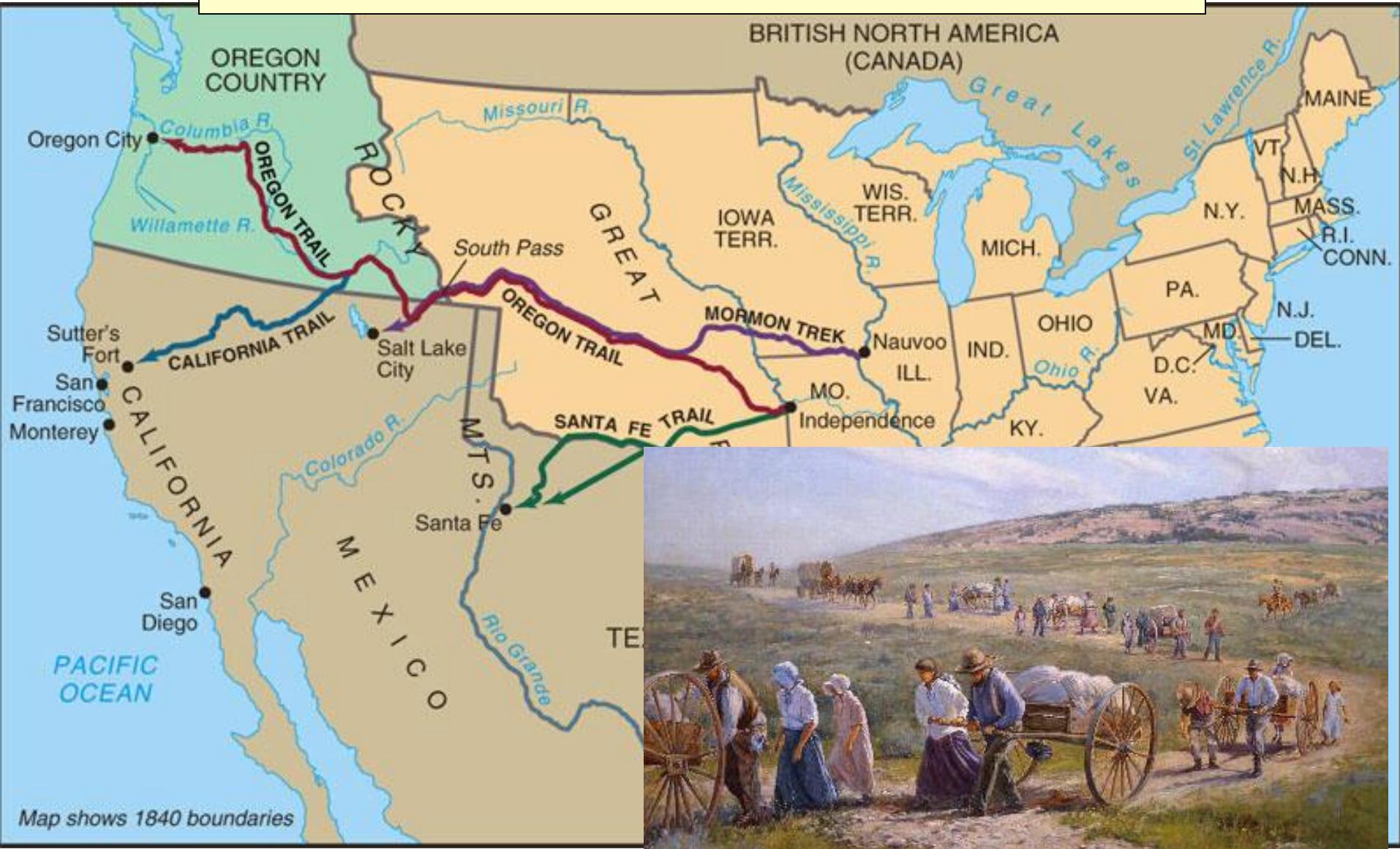


Map C

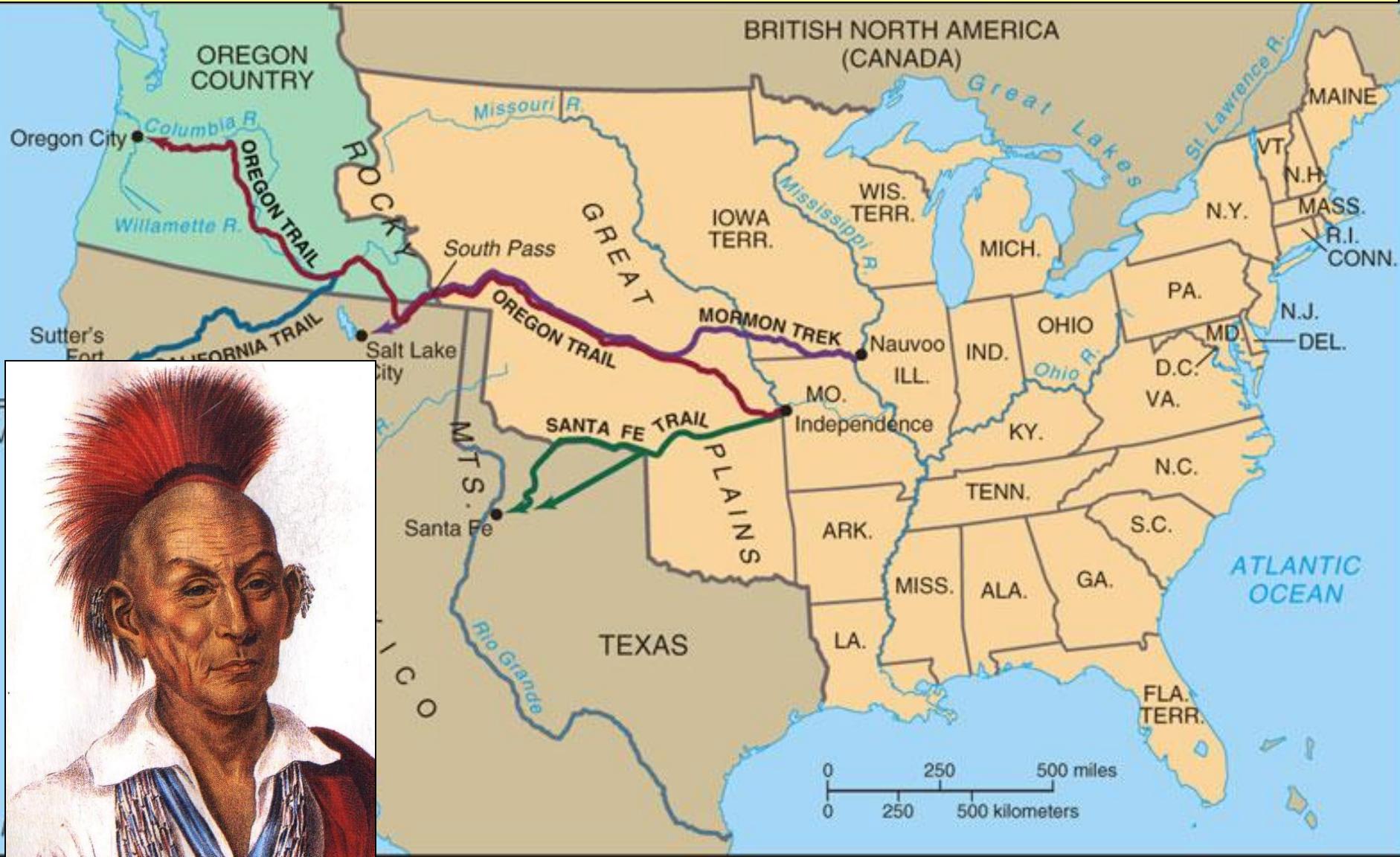
# The Santa Fe Trail allowed the U.S. to sell goods to Mexico



# After Joseph Smith's murder in Illinois, Brigham Young led the Mormons to create a new settlement in Utah

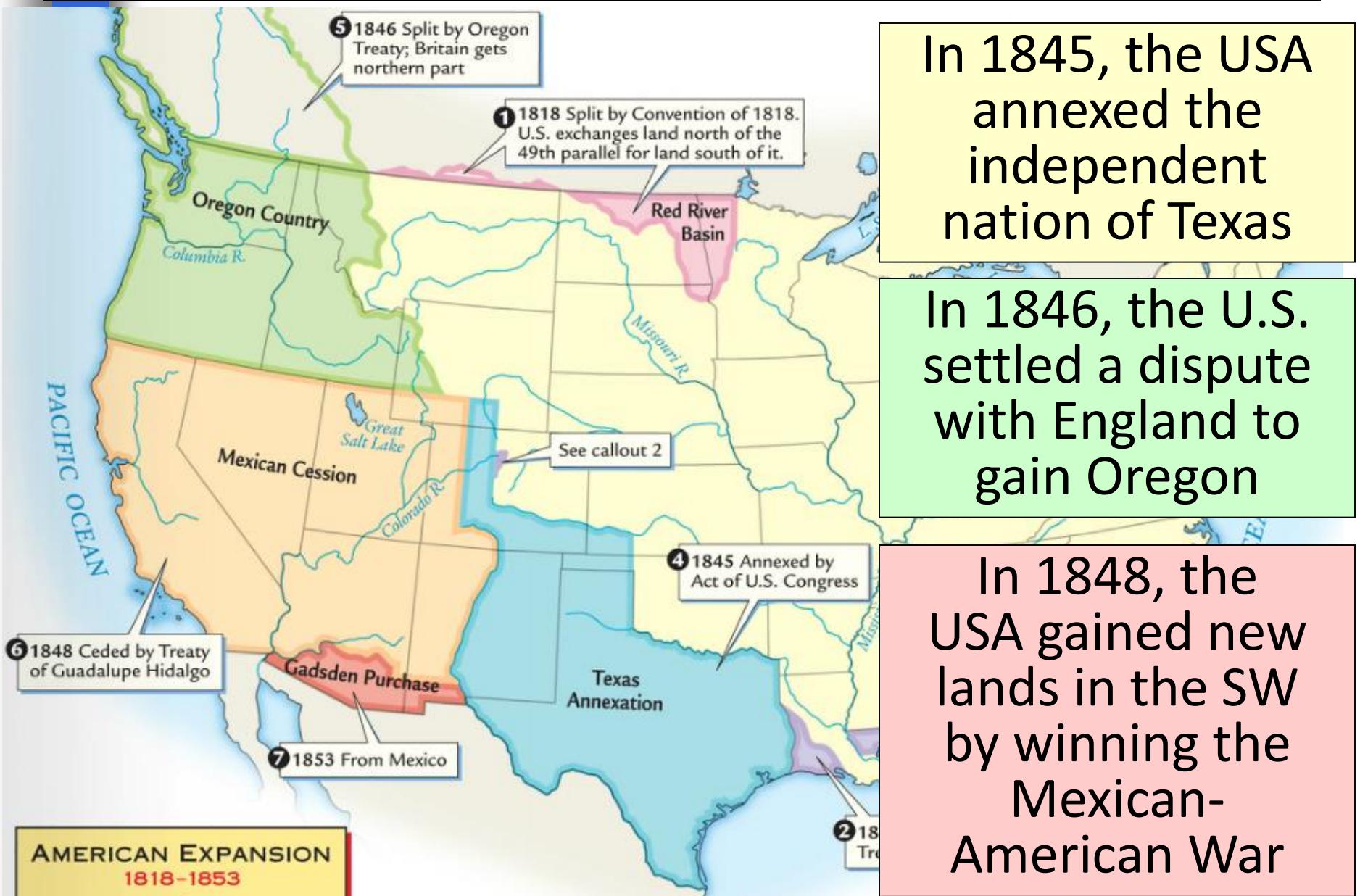


Westward expansion brought conflict with Indians, such as the Black Hawk War, as trails disrupted hunting grounds and violated previous treaties





In the 1840s, America realized its “manifest destiny” by acquiring all lands to the Pacific Ocean



In 1845, the USA annexed the independent nation of Texas

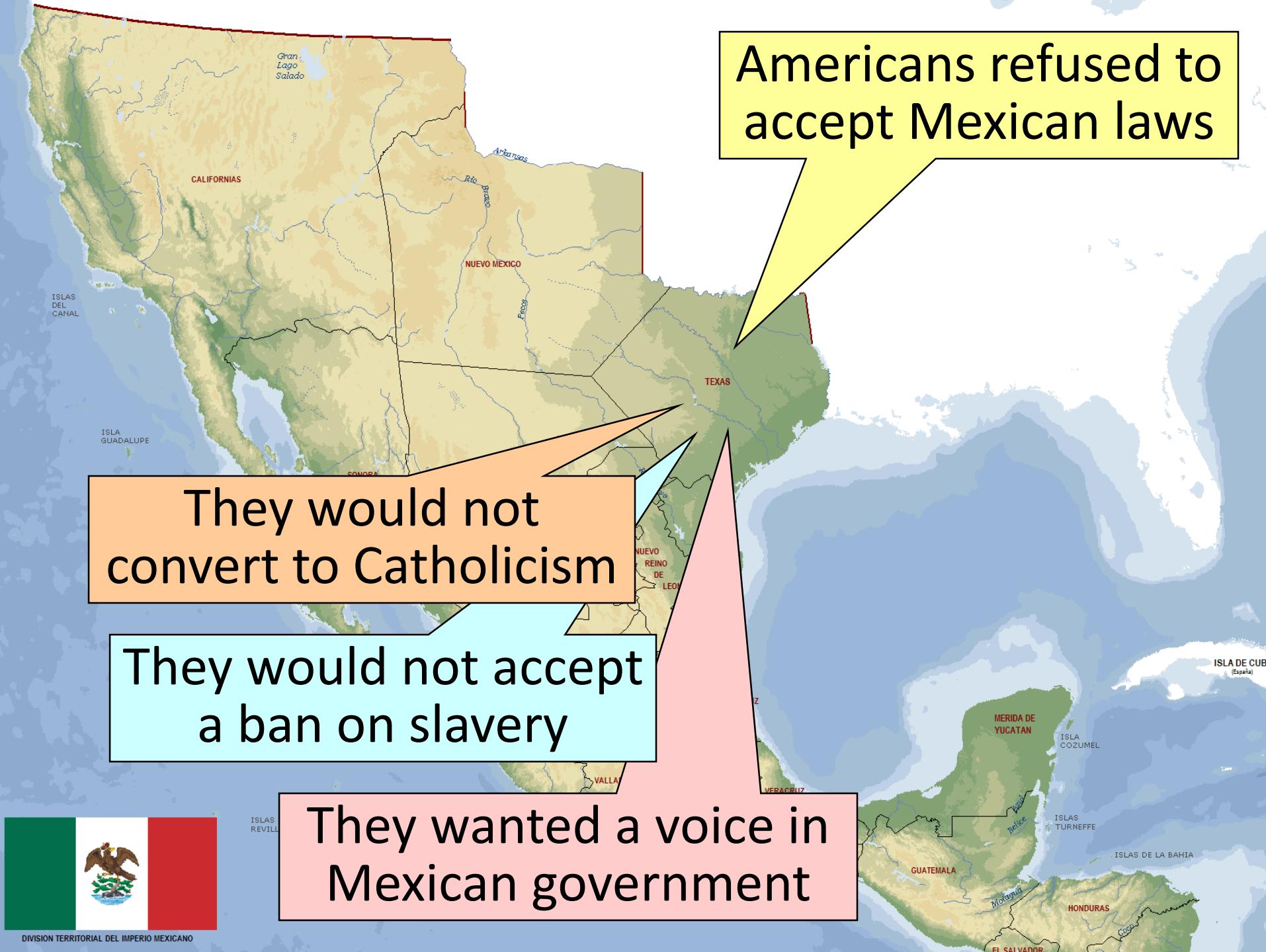
In 1846, the U.S. settled a dispute with England to gain Oregon

In 1848, the USA gained new lands in the SW by winning the Mexican-American War

In 1821,  
Mexico won  
independence  
from Spain  
and the  
new Mexican  
gov't welcomed  
Americans into  
Texas by offering  
cheap land

Stephen F Austin became  
one of the wealthiest  
“Anglos” in Texas





Americans refused to  
accept Mexican laws

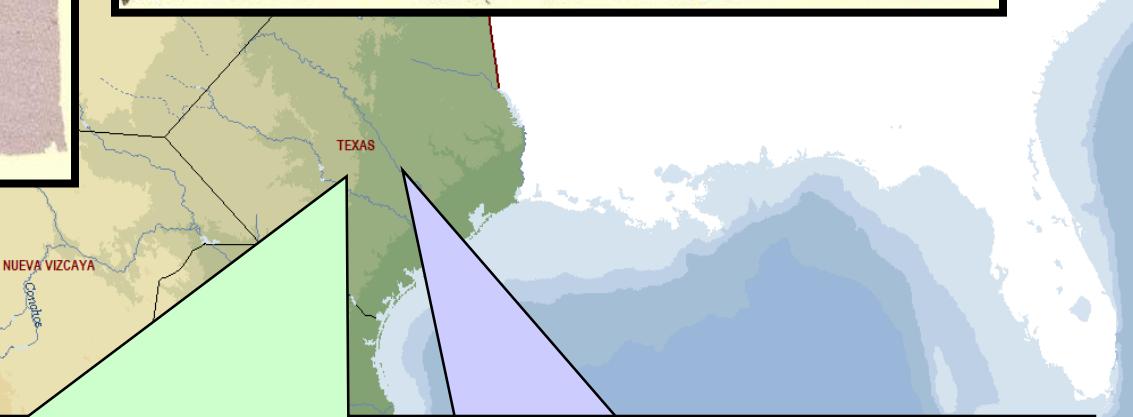
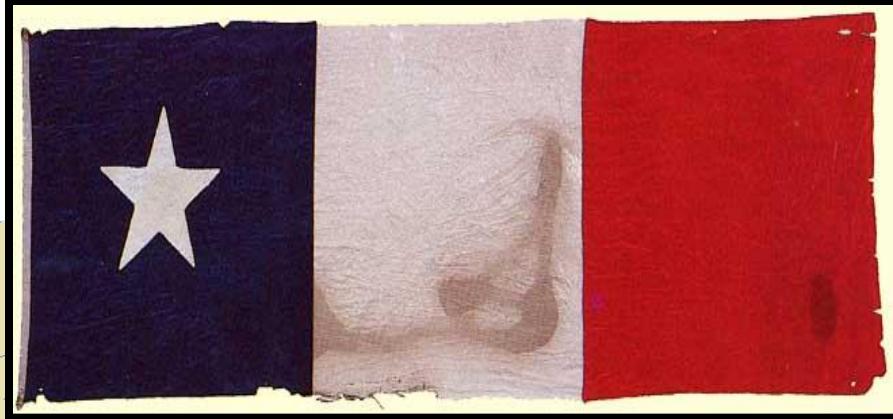
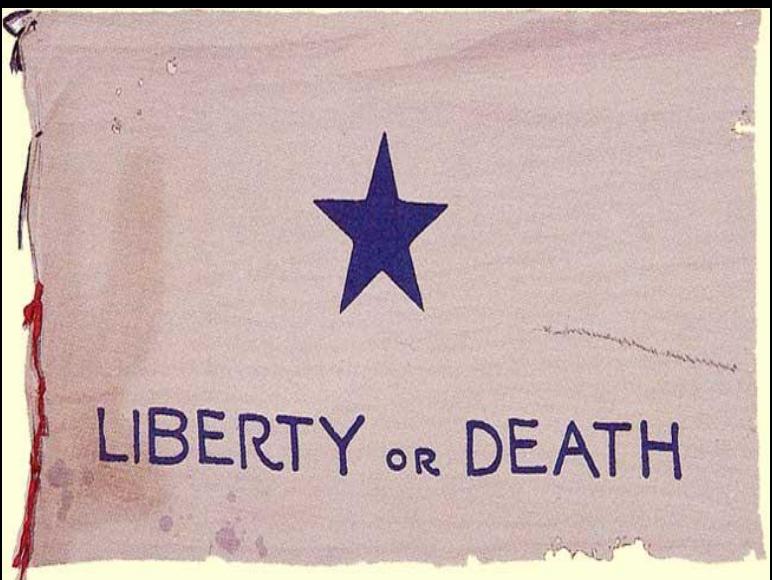
They would not  
convert to Catholicism

They would not accept  
a ban on slavery

They wanted a voice in  
Mexican government



DIVISION TERRITORIAL DEL IMPERIO MEXICANO



By 1834, Mexican president Santa Anna began to view Anglos as a threat and had Austin arrested

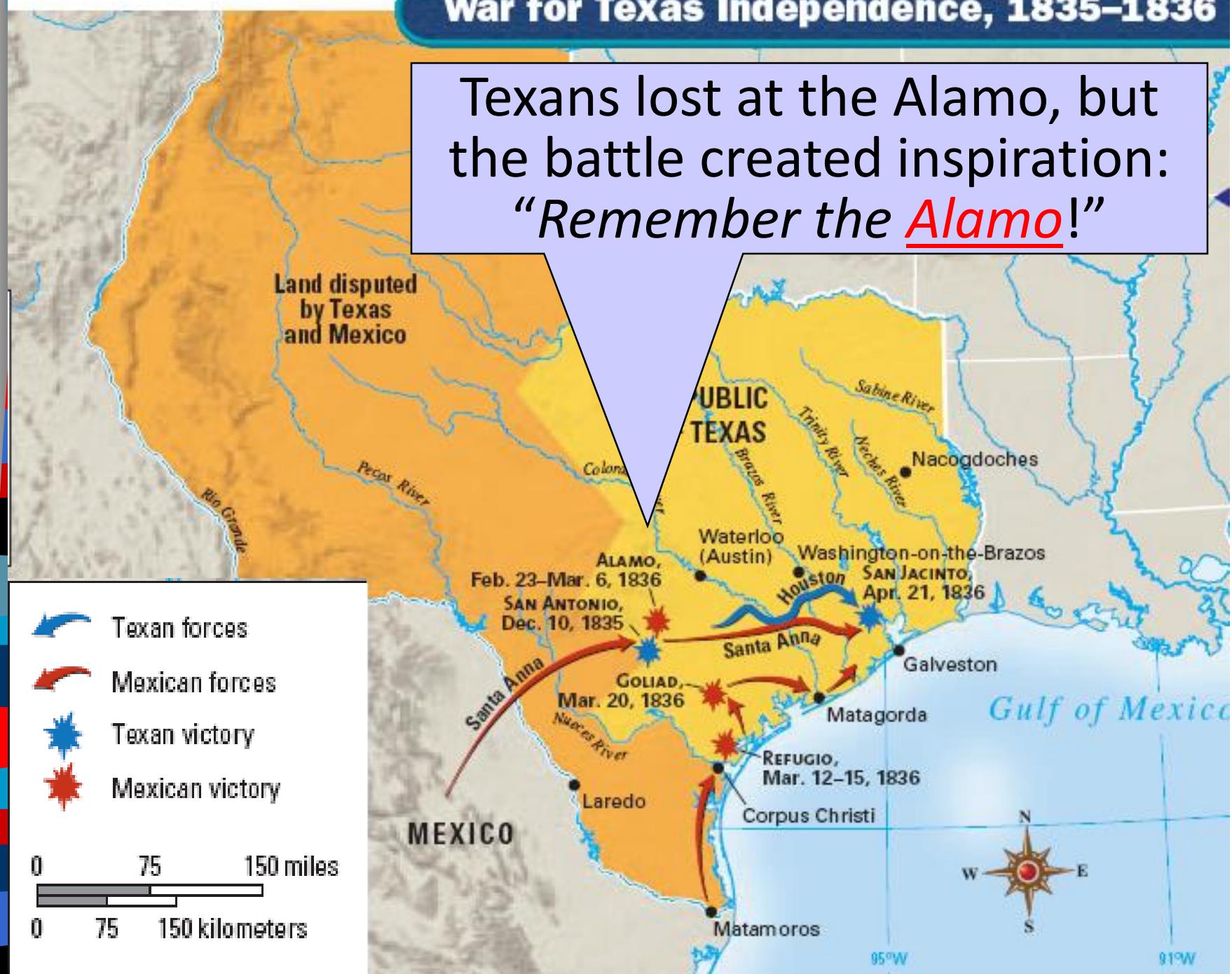
In 1835, Texans were in open rebellion against the Mexican government



DIVISION TERRITORIAL DEL IMPERIO MEXICANO

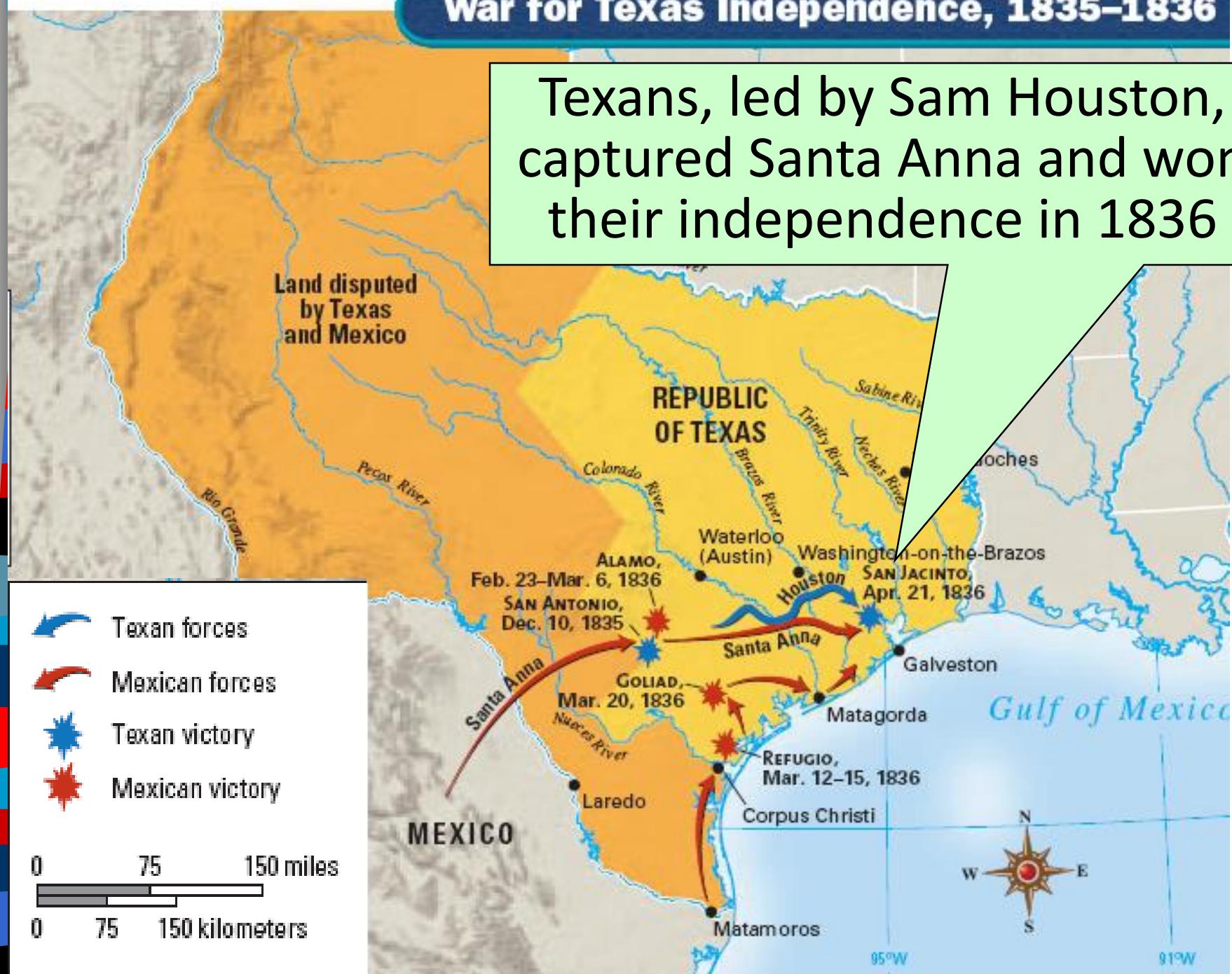
# War for Texas Independence, 1835–1836

Texans lost at the Alamo, but the battle created inspiration:  
*“Remember the Alamo!”*



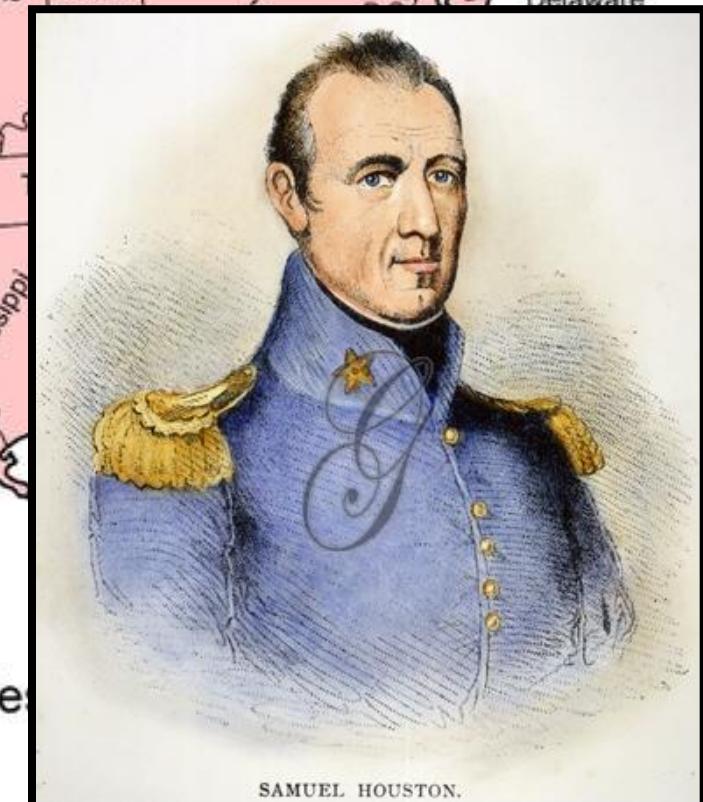
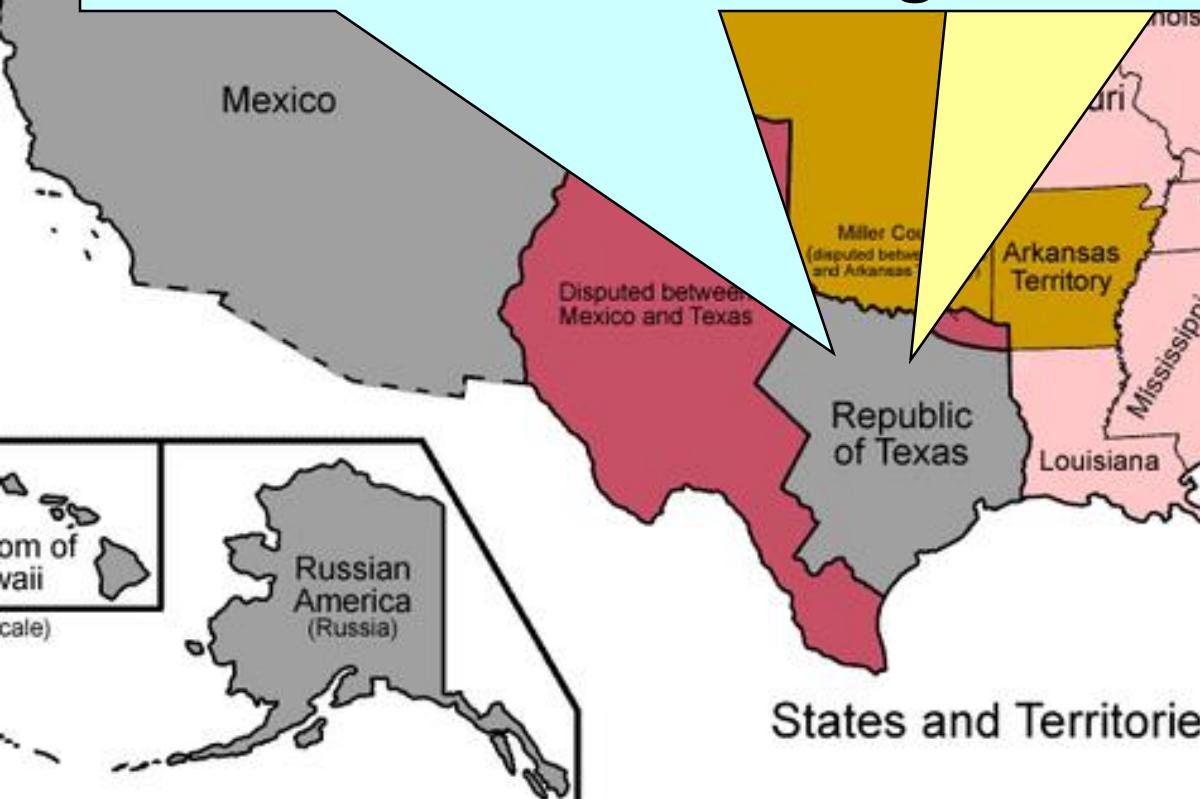
## War for Texas Independence, 1835–1836

Texans, led by Sam Houston, captured Santa Anna and won their independence in 1836



From 1836 to 1845, Texas was an independent nation; Sam Houston was the first president of the Republic of Texas

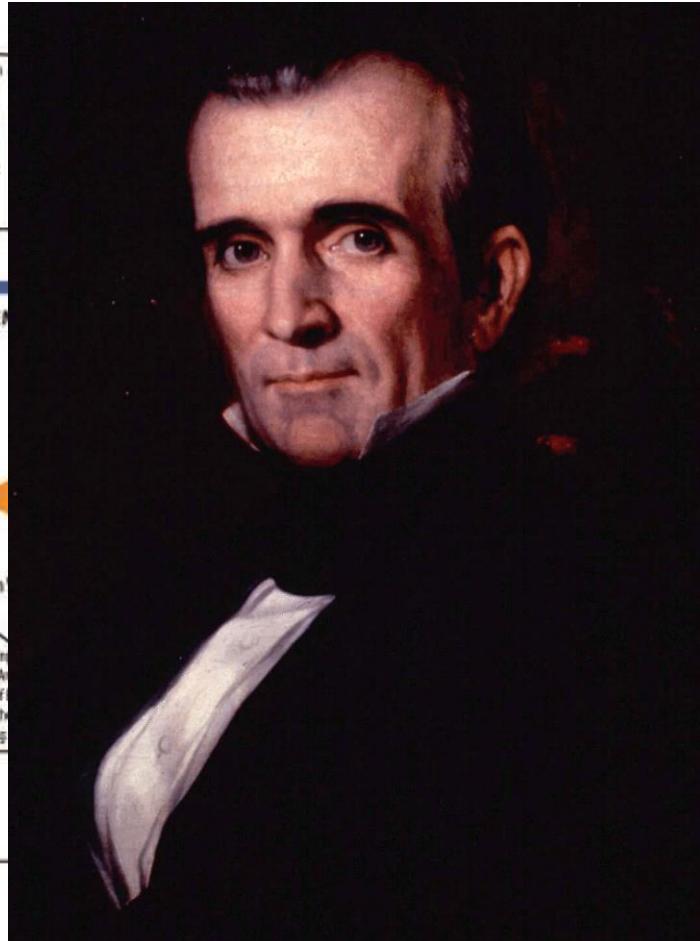
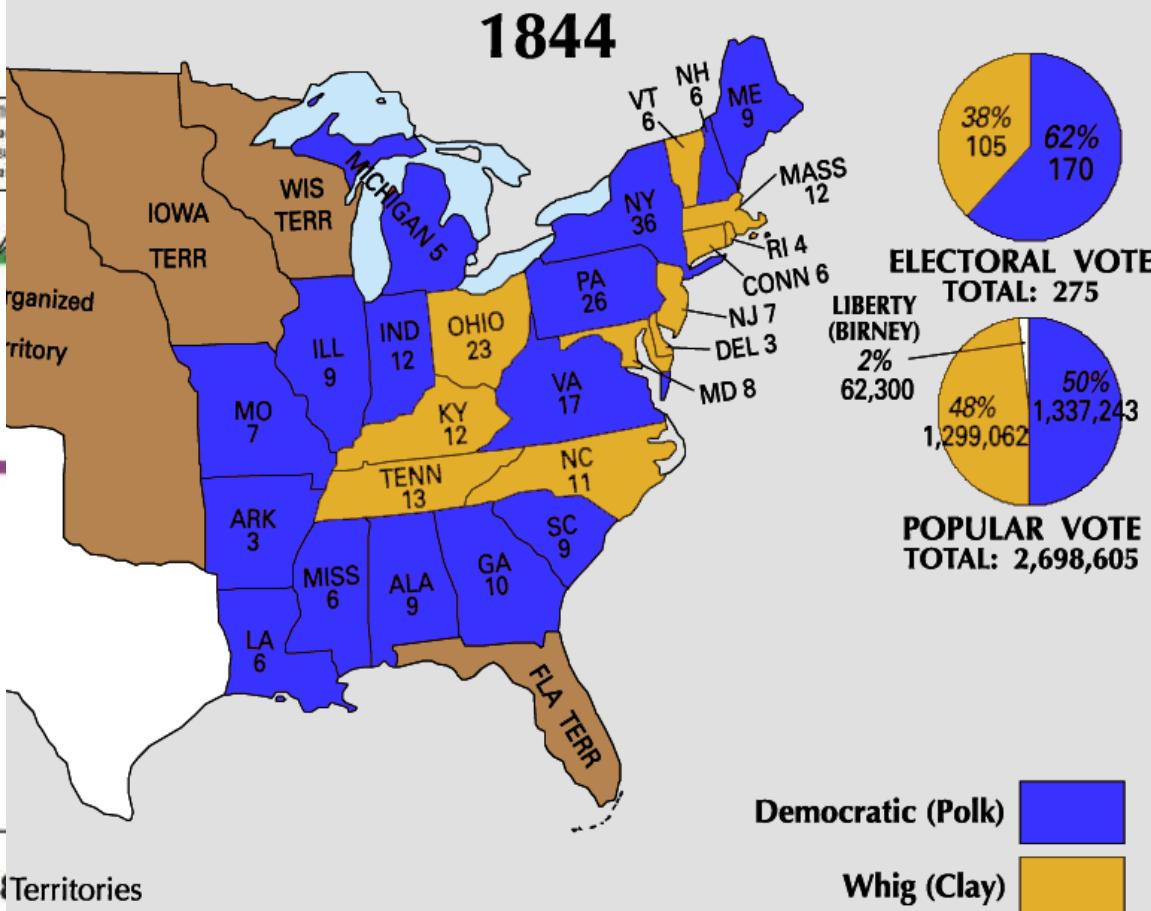
In 1838, Houston invited the USA to annex Texas, but the debate over slavery kept America from adding Texas as a state



# Democrat James K. Polk won the election of 1844 and became the “Manifest Destiny” president

He urged Congress to make Texas the 28<sup>th</sup> U.S. state in 1845

He wanted to end British claims to Oregon



When Texas was admitted into the Union in 1845, it came in as a slave state

To make Northerners happy, President Polk wanted to add Oregon as a free state, but...





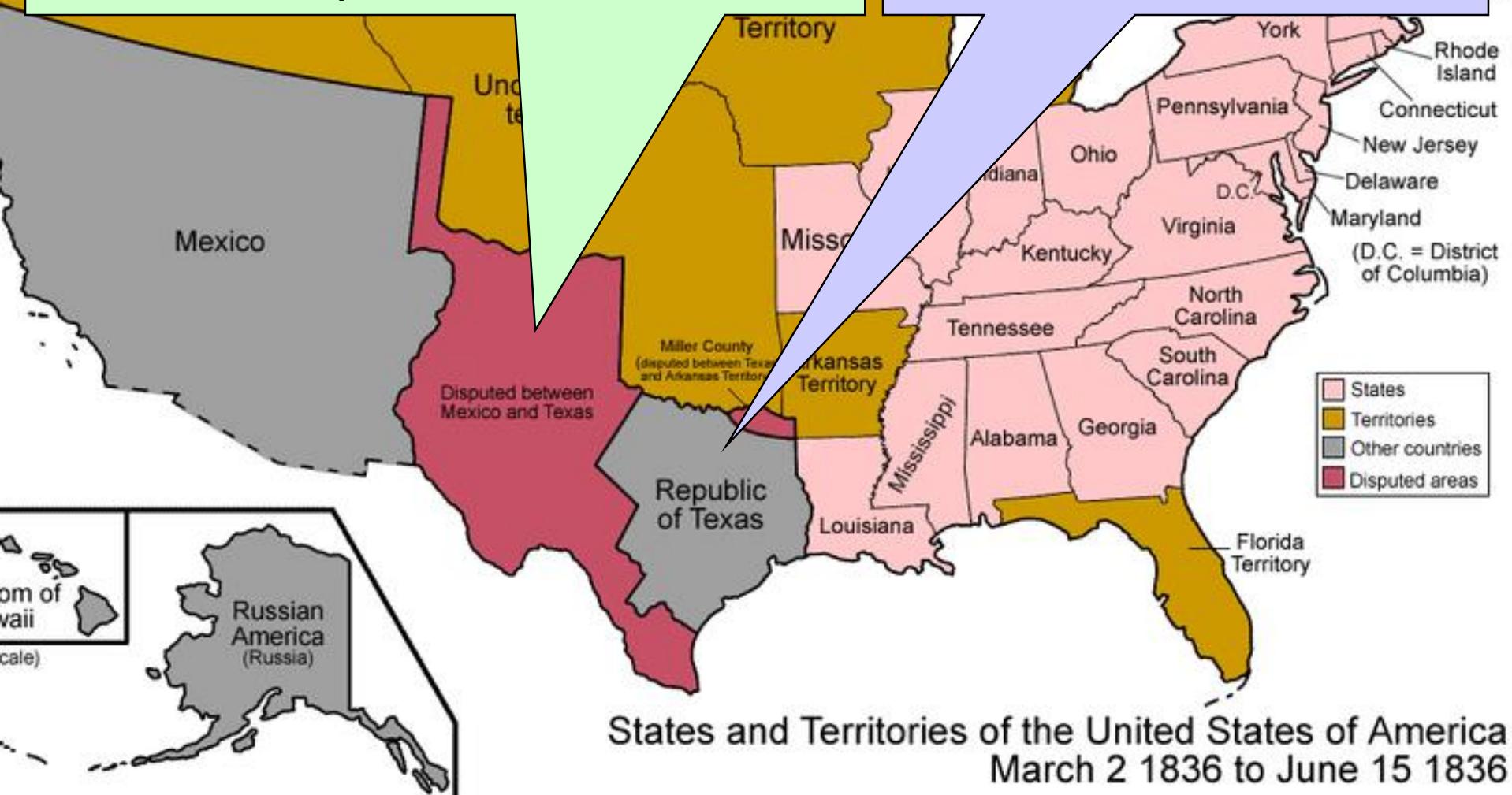
But, the U.S. and Britain compromised, divided Oregon along  $49^{\circ}$  parallel, and Oregon became a free territory in 1846

by the USA & Britain

Oregon residents & President Polk demanded the entire Oregon territory:  
“ $54^{\circ}40'$  or fight!”

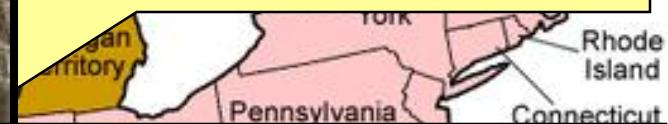
When Texas won its independence from Mexico in 1836, the 2 sides disagreed over the territorial borders of the Republic of Texas

When the U.S. annexed Texas 9 years later, this land claim was not settled



(1846–1848)

Dispute led to the Mexican-American War from 1846 to 1848



In 1846, President Polk sent General Zachary Taylor across the Rio Grande River which provoked Mexico into war



States and Territories of the United States of America  
March 2 1836 to June 15 1836

# The U.S. in the Mexican-American War

June 14,



ed



# The Mexican-American War ended with the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo in 1848

The USA gained all of Texas to the Rio Grande River

Mexico gave up (ceded) territory in the Southwest, called the Mexican Cession

5 years later, the U.S. bought the Gadsden Purchase for \$10 million to build a southern railroad





PLUCKED :

THE MEXICAN EAGLE BEFORE THE WAR!



THE MEXICAN EAGLE AFTER THE WAR!

# Manifest Destiny in the 1840s



In the 1830s, Mexico offered cheap land to American ranchers & farmers to move to California



When the Mexican War broke out in 1846, Californians revolted from Mexican rule and created an independent nation

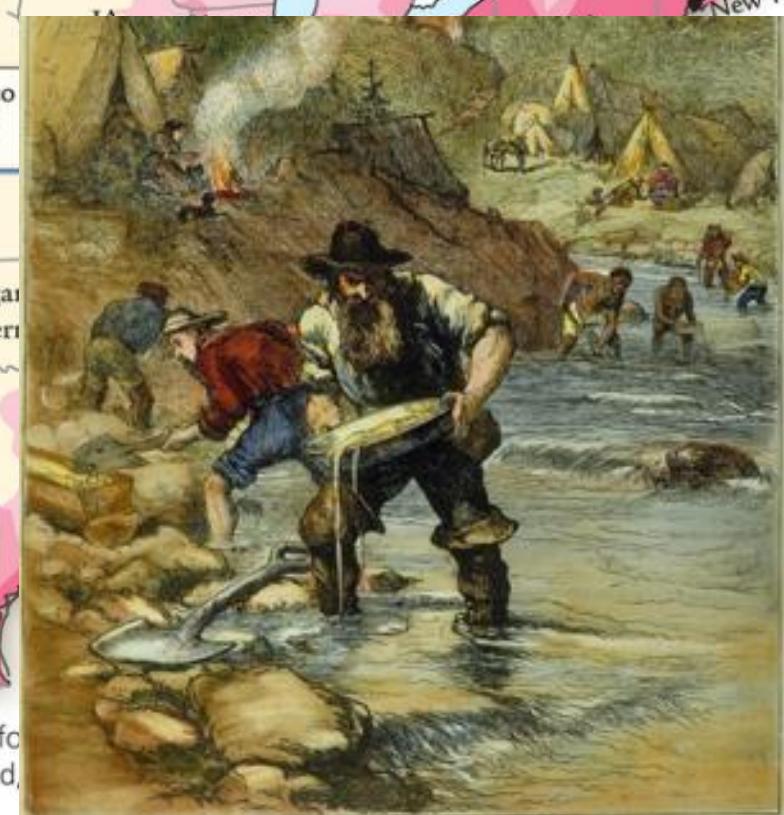
The California Republic was annexed by the USA as part of the Mexican Cession in 1848

CALIFORNIA REPUBLIC

# The discovery of gold in San Francisco led to a flood of Americans to California in 1849



“Forty-Niners” hoping to strike it rich came from the East, Latin America, Europe, & Asia



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Despite exploration beyond the Rockies, Americans were largely discouraged from settling too far west of the Mississippi River before Great Plains, the sheer distance involved,

# The California gold rush led to a population boom in the West

- (supplying food)
- ▲ Major gold mine
- Outfitting center
- ← Sea link with eastern U.S.  
(via Cape Horn)
- ← Main supply routes to  
goldfields

0 25 50 miles  
0 25 50 kilometers

