

# US History, November 24

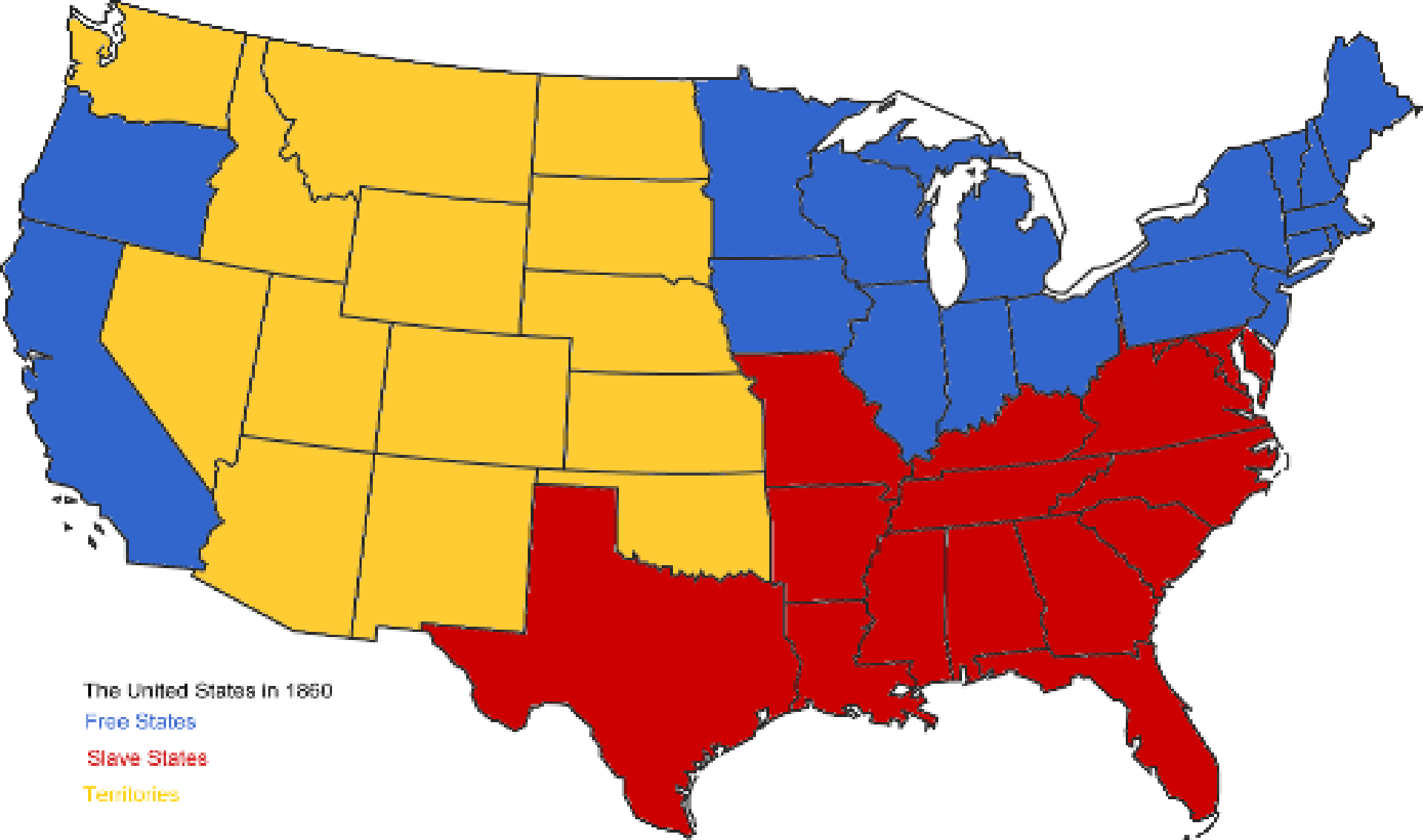
- ▶ **Entry Task:** Please grab a chrome book but do not open it yet.
- ▶ **Announcements:**
  - Jackson Essay – is yours turned in?
  - Today – Evaluate the CAUSES of the Mexican-American War and then go explore the interactive map (mostly focuses on the BATTLES)
  - **REVIEW: The ALAMO**

# Texas Independence

- ▶ The Lone Star Republic – 1836-1845
- ▶ Texas' population soared from 30,000 to 142,000 by 1845
- ▶ Why did Americans hesitate to annex Texas into the US?



- Northerners opposed annexation. They felt it was a Southern attempt to add more slave states to the Union.



The United States in 1860

Free States

Slave States

Territories

New Jersey

Pennsylvania

Georgia

Delaware

Original  
13 States

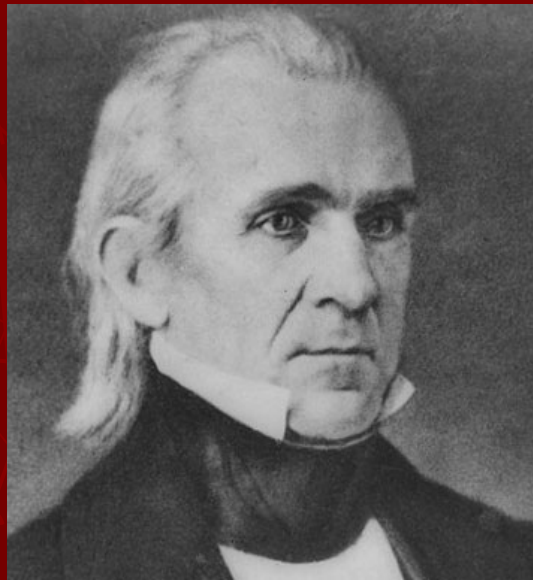
# James K. Polk

- ▶ Democrat, "Young Hickory", "Napoleon of the Stump", and the "hardest working man in America"
- ▶ 1844 – More people voted out of party loyalty and over the issue of slavery



# Election of 1844

- Presidential candidate James Polk believed strongly in Manifest Destiny, and he favored annexing Oregon and Texas.



*President James K. Polk*



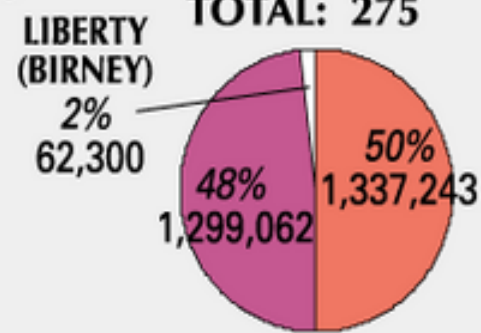
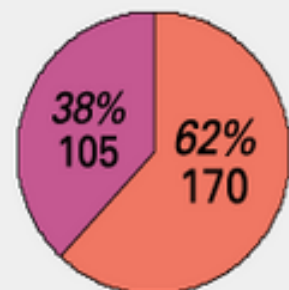
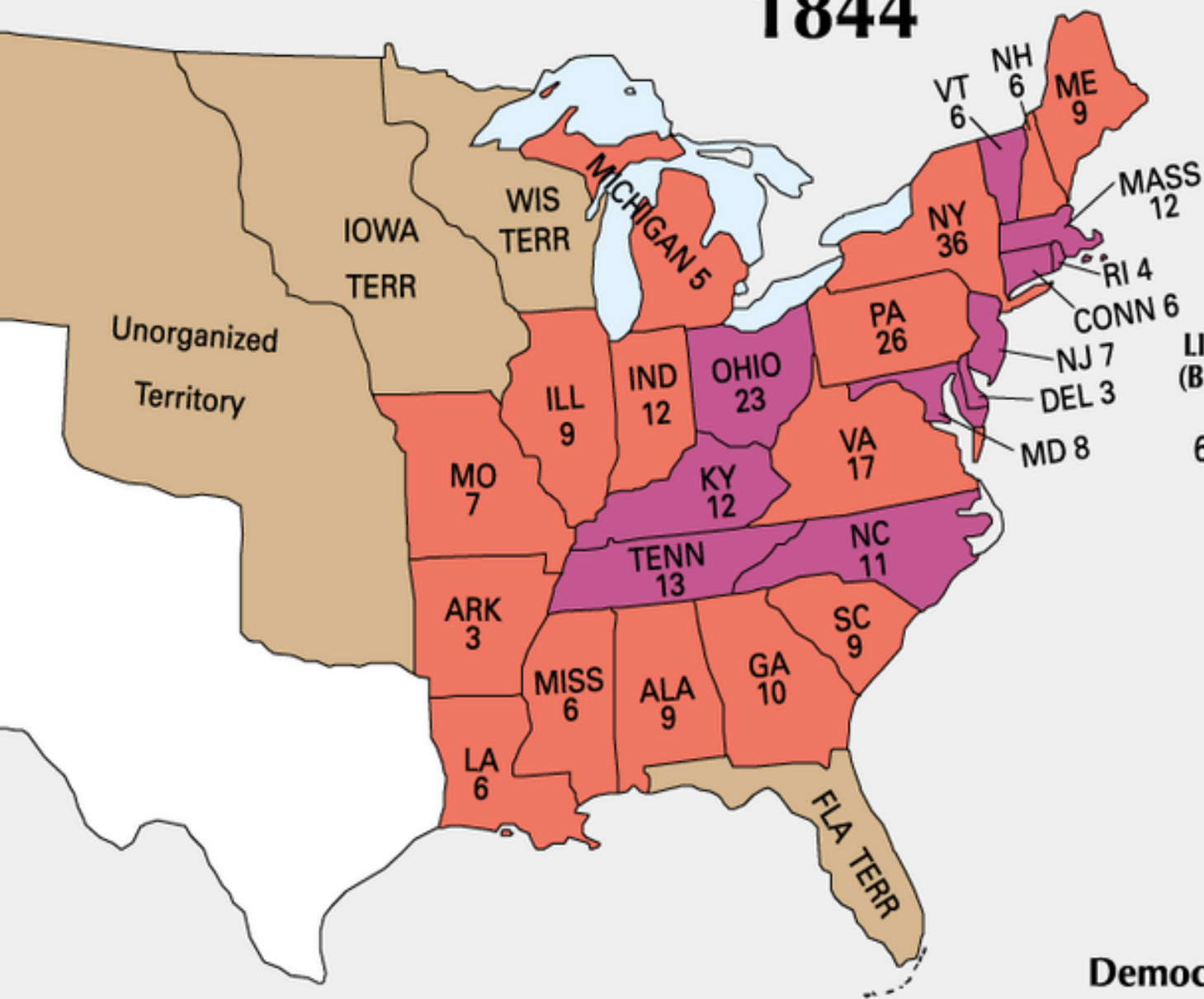
- His Presidential slogans were:  
“Fifty-Four Forty or Fight” and  
“All of Oregon or None”

# Manifest Destiny . . .



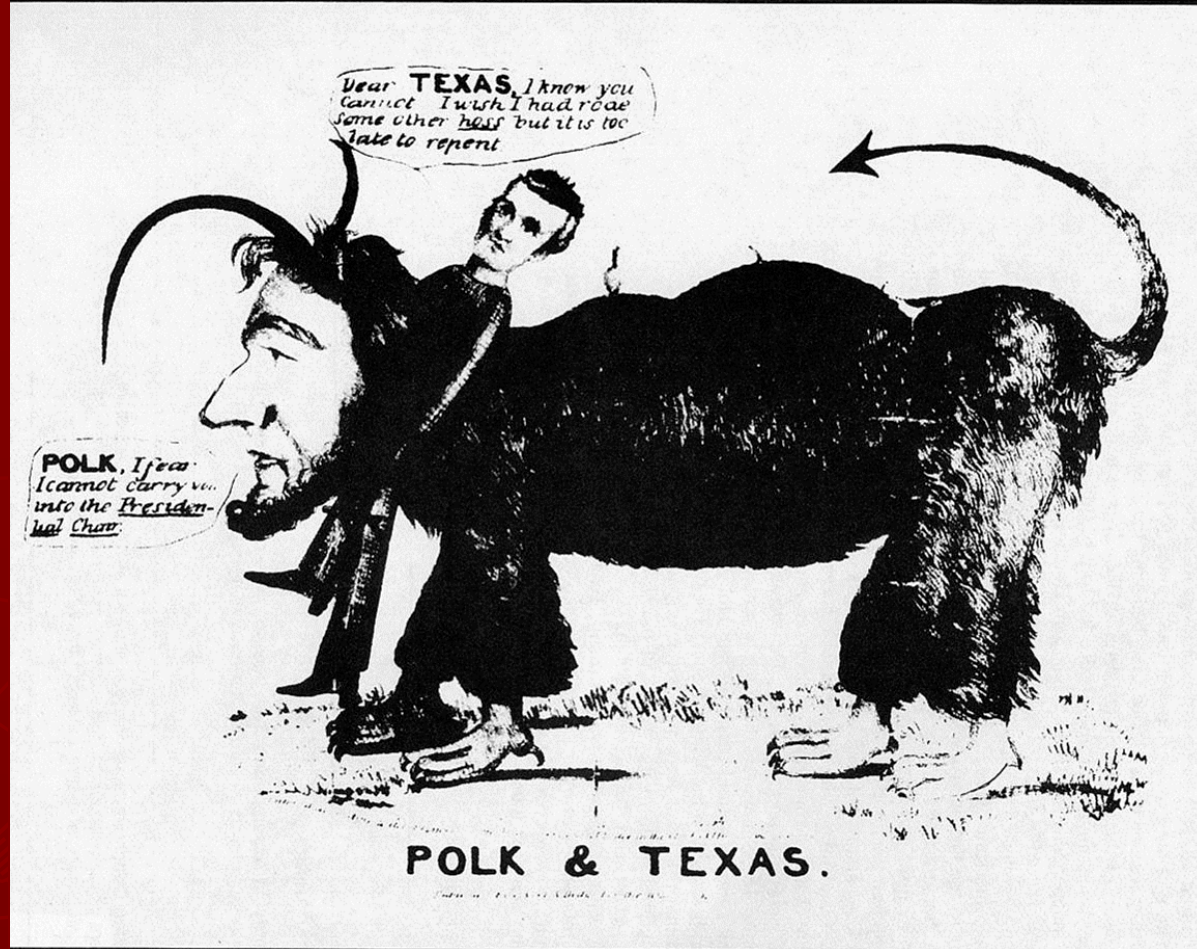
JOHN GAST'S - "AMERICAN PROGRESS," (1872)

# 1844



Territories

Democratic (Polk)   
Whig (Clay) 



**Texas (the beast):** I fear I cannot carry you into the Presidential Chair.

**Polk:** Dear Texas, I knew you cannot—I wish I had rode some other horse but it is too late to repent.





*Keefe's Bookings*

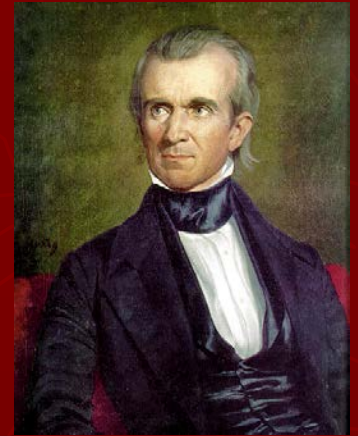
After McKinley  
Celebration of the  
President. MEMO. From  
Harrison, Ohio.

**A WAR  
PRESIDENT.**

**PROGRESSIVE DEMOCRACY.**

# 4 Factors leading to U.S./Mexican War

- ▶ Mexican anger over annexation of Texas
- ▶ Dispute over Texas/Mexican border
  - Nueces River or Rio Grande
- ▶ Instability of Mexican government
  - 19 governments in 25 years
- ▶ Polk Administration's drive to expand U.S.
  - Polk saw his mandate as creating a coast-to-coast nation





**Rio Grande boundary**

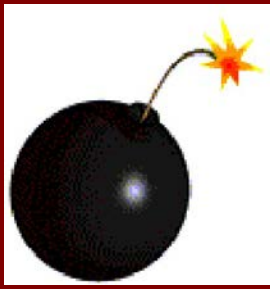
**Nueces River boundary**

# The Slidell Mission: Nov., 1845



- Mexican recognition of the Rio Grande River as the TX-US border.
- US would forgive American citizens' claims against the Mexican govt.
- US would purchase the New Mexico area for \$5,000,000.
- US would buy California at any price.
- Mexican officials **REFUSE** to meet with Slidell...

**John Slidell**



# Thornton Affair



Captain Thornton's Skirmish with the Mexicans.

- ▶ June 1845: Polk sends General Zachary Taylor & troops to the Nueces River border
- ▶ April 1846: US patrols sent into contested area – CLASH with Mexican army (11 dead)

# Steps to War

- ▶ May 11, 1846 – Polk addressed Congress that Mexico “had invaded U.S. territory and that American blood had been shed on American soil.”
- ▶ Two days later Congress declared war on Mexico

# Representative Abraham Lincoln:

- ▶ "Spot Resolutions" in 1846-7– asked Polk to show the spot where American blood had been shed on American soil
- ▶ "Allow the President to invade a neighboring nation whenever he shall deem it necessary to repel an invasion, and you allow him to do so whenever he may choose to say he deems it necessary for such purpose, and you allow him to make war at pleasure."

One senator declared that the affair had been "as much an act of aggression on our part as is a man's pointing a pistol at another's breast"



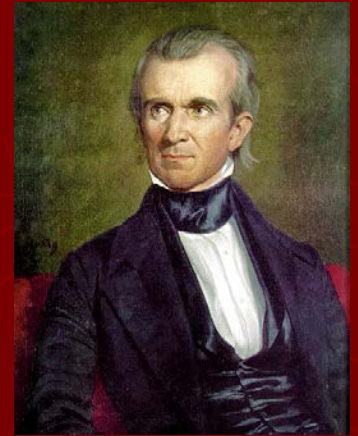
**Rio Grande boundary**

**Nueces River boundary**

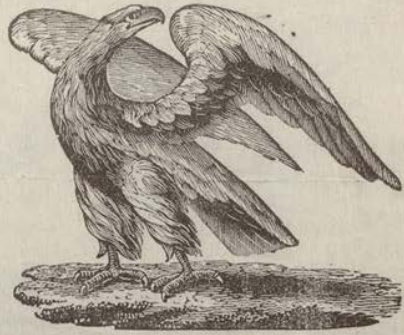


# 4 Factors leading to U.S./Mexican War

- ▶ Mexican anger over annexation of Texas
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# To Arms! To Arms!



## 100 Men for the United States Army!

TO THE PATRIOTIC CITIZENS OF HOLMES COUNTY, WHO ARE WILLING TO FIGHT FOR THEIR COUNTRY; AND PARTICULARLY TO THE MEMBERS OF THE "HOLMES COUNTY VOLUNTEER" COMPANY, WHO PLEDGED THEMSELVES TO BE IN READINESS TO MARCH WHEN THE COMPANY WOULD BE ACCEPTED:

FELLOW-CITIZENS AND SOLDIERS:

We are extremely gratified to be able to announce to you, that we have obtained permission from the President of the United States, to organize our company, and also his assurance that when it is reported to him filled and fully organized, that we will be "Promptly ordered on to the seat of war without the possible intervention of any authority."

So that you see that justice, although sometimes slow is nevertheless sure. Now then, let there be a general rally, to the standard of our beloved country; heed not the insidious whisperings and prophecies of the enemies of Liberty. Let every good, brave and patriotic Citizen, assist in this work; and the ark of American rights will move gloriously forward.

## A Recruiting

Rendezvous, has been opened, according to instructions, at the Law Office, of Messrs. Tatney-hill & Given, in the town of Millersburg; where any able-bodied citizen of good character, can enrol his name, and "Go where glory awaits him."

## Let there be a Grand

Rally of the strong arms and stout hearts at this Depot, on SATURDAY next, the 6th inst., at 10 o'clock A. M. when the conditions of the enlistment will be made known.

February 1, 1847.

T. L. HART, Recruiting Officer.

MEANS, PRINTER, MILLERSBURG

## Mexican War – The Beginning

- The U.S. declared war on Mexico on May 13, 1846.

America's military is twice as large and has far superior weapons/artillery



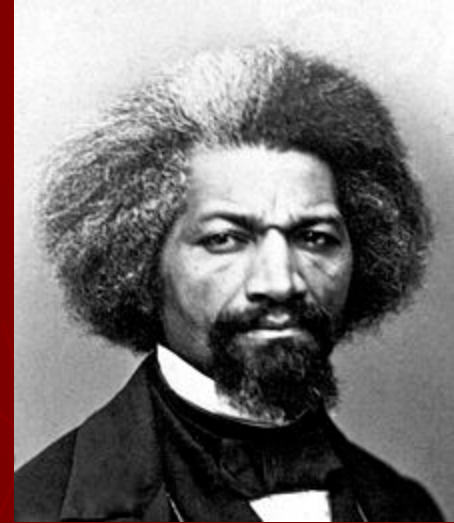
# Who opposed the war?

- ▶ Whig Party (Lincoln, JQ Adams)
- ▶ Northern Abolitionists
- ▶ Transcendentalists (Thoreau)
- ▶ Representative John Giddings, "an aggressive, unholy, and unjust war...In the murder of Mexicans upon their own soil, or in robbing them of their country, I can take no part either now or here-after. The guilt of these crimes must rest on others. I will not participate in them. "

# The Whig journal, The American Review (January 1847)

- ▶ An article described Polk's statements on the Mexican War as "so well calculated to mislead the popular mind, and to imbue it with false impressions."
- ▶ The war "was brought on originally by his own fault."

# Frederick Douglass



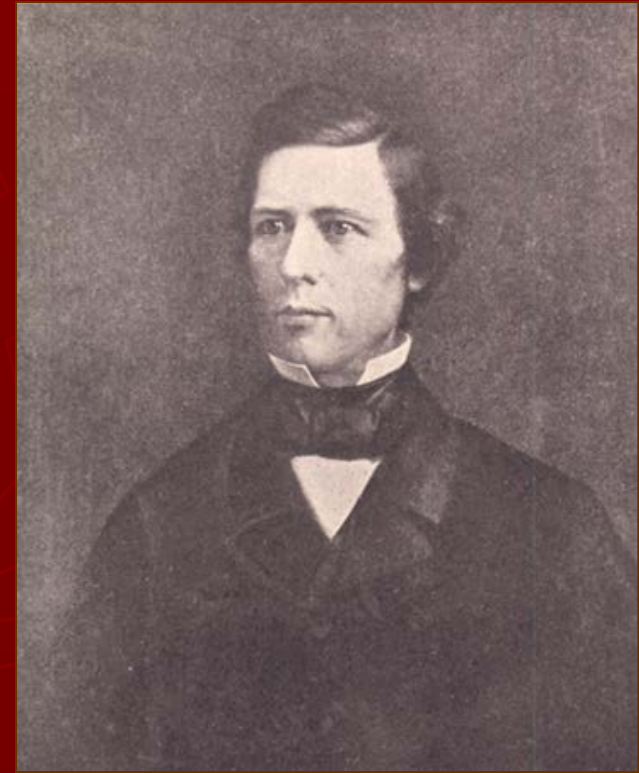
▶ Texas, Slavery, and American Prosperity:  
An Address Delivered in Belfast, Ireland,  
on January 2, 1846

▶ “The man who goes into your ship on the high seas, puts out the captain, takes down the ensign and declares himself the owner—is no greater robber than the people of the United States. And what are their excuses, their apologies, their reasons—for they always give reasons for what they do? One of them is, that Mexico is unable to defend her territory, and that therefore they have a right to take it! What do you think of a great heavy-fisted fellow pouncing on every little man he meets, and giving as his reason that the little man is unable to take care of himself? (Cheers.) ...Mexico, nevertheless, is a sister republic, which has taken that of the United States for a model. But Mexico is a weak government, and that is the reason America falls on her...”

# Wilmot Proviso, 1846

“Provided, territory from ... the acquisition of any the Republic of Mexico by the United States,...neither slavery nor involuntary servitude shall ever exist in any part of said territory, except for crime, whereof the party shall first be duly convicted.”

- DID NOT pass (in Senate) until 16 years later (1862), however, it is important = changed the political landscape, slavery now dominates Congress (Northerners v. Southerners)



Congr. David Wilmot  
(D-PA)



U.S. territory

Mexican territory

Territory ceded by Mexico, 1848

← U.S. troop movements

★ U.S. victory

★ Mexican victory

# Significance of the War for the US

- ▶ 1<sup>st</sup> war almost entirely on foreign territory
- ▶ Cost: \$100 million
- ▶ Daily newspapers informed public about war news
- ▶ Telegraph – new communication
- ▶ Yellow fever, malaria, smallpox, dysentery – large percentage of US Army killed by diseases – 13,000 casualties (only 2,000 died in battle)
- ▶ Fought by volunteers
- ▶ Important Leaders emerge: Capt. Robert E. Lee, Capt. US Grant, "Stonewall" Jackson, George Meade, George McClellan, Jefferson Davis
- ▶ Further Sectionalism (North vs. South)





Richard Caton Woodville, News From the Mexican War 1848

# The Mexican Cession



# Bitter Controversy

- ▶ The war with Mexico intensified the bitter controversy already simmering in the United States over slavery.
- ▶ Ralph Waldo Emerson had predicted that "the United States will conquer Mexico, but it will be as the man swallows the arsenic, which brings him down in turn. Mexico will poison us."

# US History, November 25

- ▶ **Entry Task:** What are GOOD reasons to go to war? Make a list with your table.
- ▶ **Announcements:**
  - **Today –Finish up Mexican-American War & Compromise of 1850**



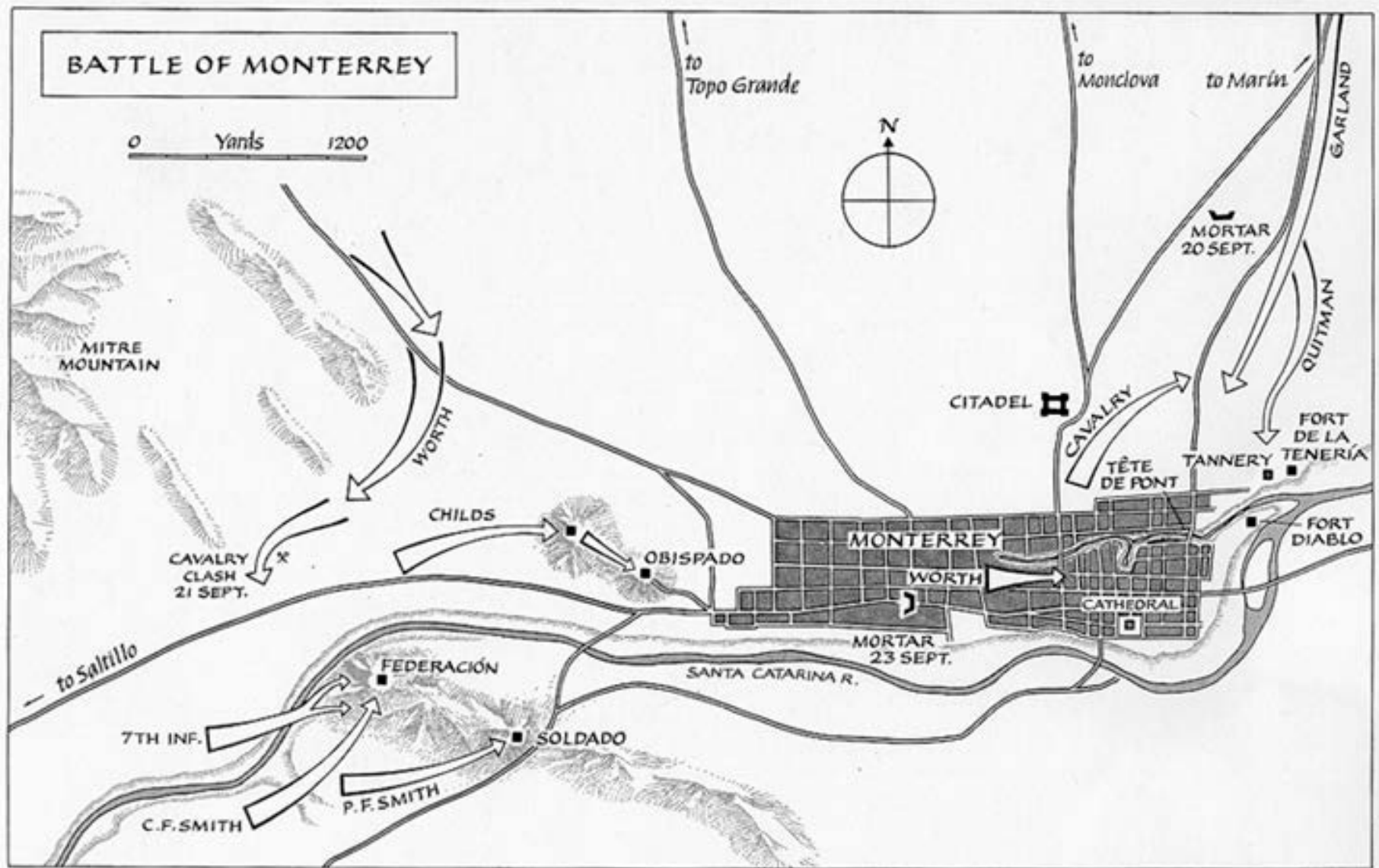
# General Zachary Taylor at Palo Alto



- ▶ May 8, 1846
- ▶ Mexican losses were double American losses

“Old Rough and Ready”

# Battle of Monterrey –Sept 21-24, 1846 – urban warfare, house-to-house





U.S. territory

Mexican territory

Territory ceded by Mexico, 1848

← U.S. troop movements

★ U.S. victory

★ Mexican victory





The American flag was raised over California on July 9, 1846

# Bear Flag Republic

- ▶ June 14, 1846, John Fremont & settlers stage a revolt in Sonoma, CA:  
Independent republic

- ▶ Commodore John Sloat joins Fremont and enter San Francisco, LOS ANGELES in August 1846 – a nearly bloodless conquest (at first)
- ▶ Steven Kearny & forces reach California in December 1846



OREGON COUNTRY

UNORGANIZED TERRITORY

TEXAS

Disputed Area

Bear Flag Revolt  
June 14, 1846

San Francisco  
occupied July 10, 1846

Monterey  
occupied July 7, 1846

San Gabriel  
Jan. 8, 1847

San Pasqual  
Dec. 6, 1846

Santa Fe  
occupied Aug. 16, 1846

El Brazito  
Dec. 25, 1846

Sacramento River  
Feb. 27, 1847

Chihuahua

Buena Vista  
Feb. 22-23, 1847

Monterrey  
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Palo Alto  
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Matamoros

Tampico  
occupied Nov. 14, 1846

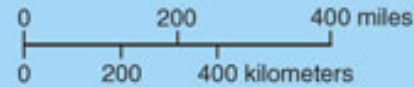
Cerro Gordo  
April 17-18, 1847

Mexico City  
(detail map)

Veracruz  
occupied Mar. 29, 1847





PACIFIC OCEAN

Gulf of Mexico



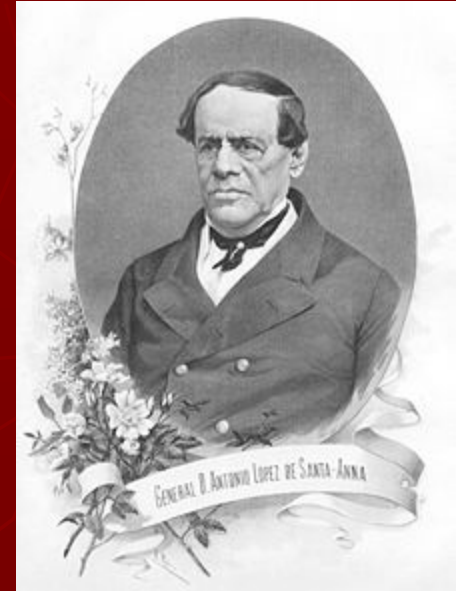
Detail Map



-  U.S. troop movements
-  U.S. victories
-  Mexican victories
-  Boundary of territory ceded by Mexico, 1848

# Santa Anna returns

- ▶ Negotiated with Mexican President – he offered help militarily (only)
- ▶ Negotiated with the US – he would sell land (and end war)
- ▶ **WHAT HE DID: Named himself President of Mexico and tried (unsuccessfully) to fight off the US invasion!**





# Feb 22, 1847 – Buena Vista



*The Buena Vista battlefield showing a U.S. battery firing on the right, while other units attack the Mexican flanking column.*

- ▶ Santa Anna marched north with 20,000 men vs. Taylor's 4,600 men

American victory – 3400 Mexican casualties  
vs. America's 650 casualties



OREGON COUNTRY

UNORGANIZED TERRITORY

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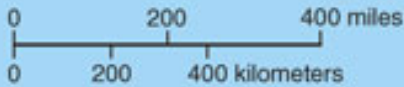
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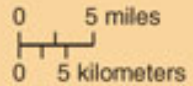
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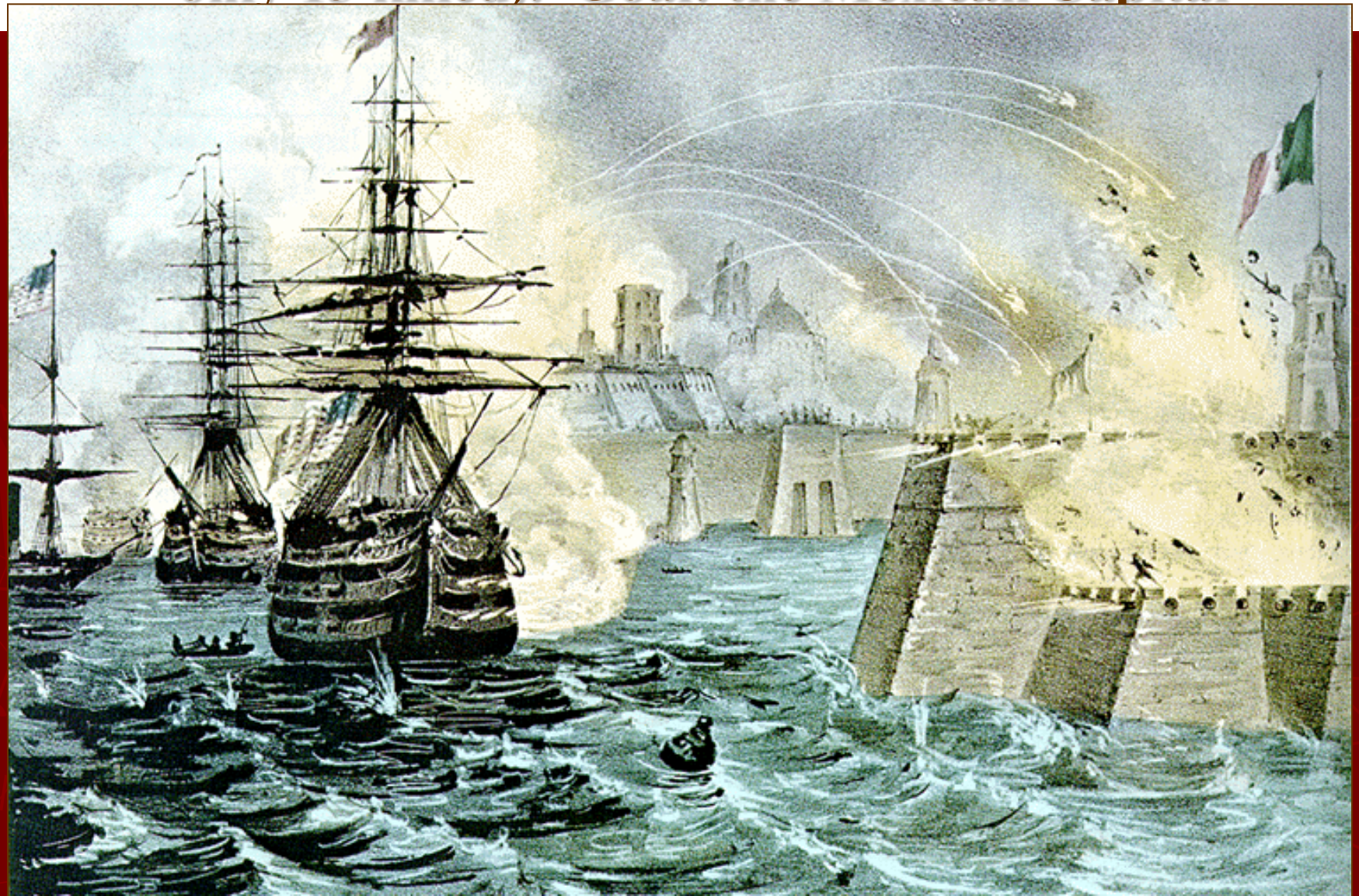
**Detail Map**



-  U.S. troop movements
-  U.S. victories
-  Mexican victories
-  Boundary of territory ceded by Mexico, 1848



# The Bombardment of Vera Cruz, March 1847— largest amphibious landing in history (to that point in time — only 13 killed). Goal: the Mexican Capital



# Santa Anna's Leg

- ▶ **STOLEN!** By Illinois volunteers at Cerro Gordo in Mexico
- ▶ Today, located in Springfield, IL





# General Scott Enters Mexico City



“Old Fuss and Feathers”

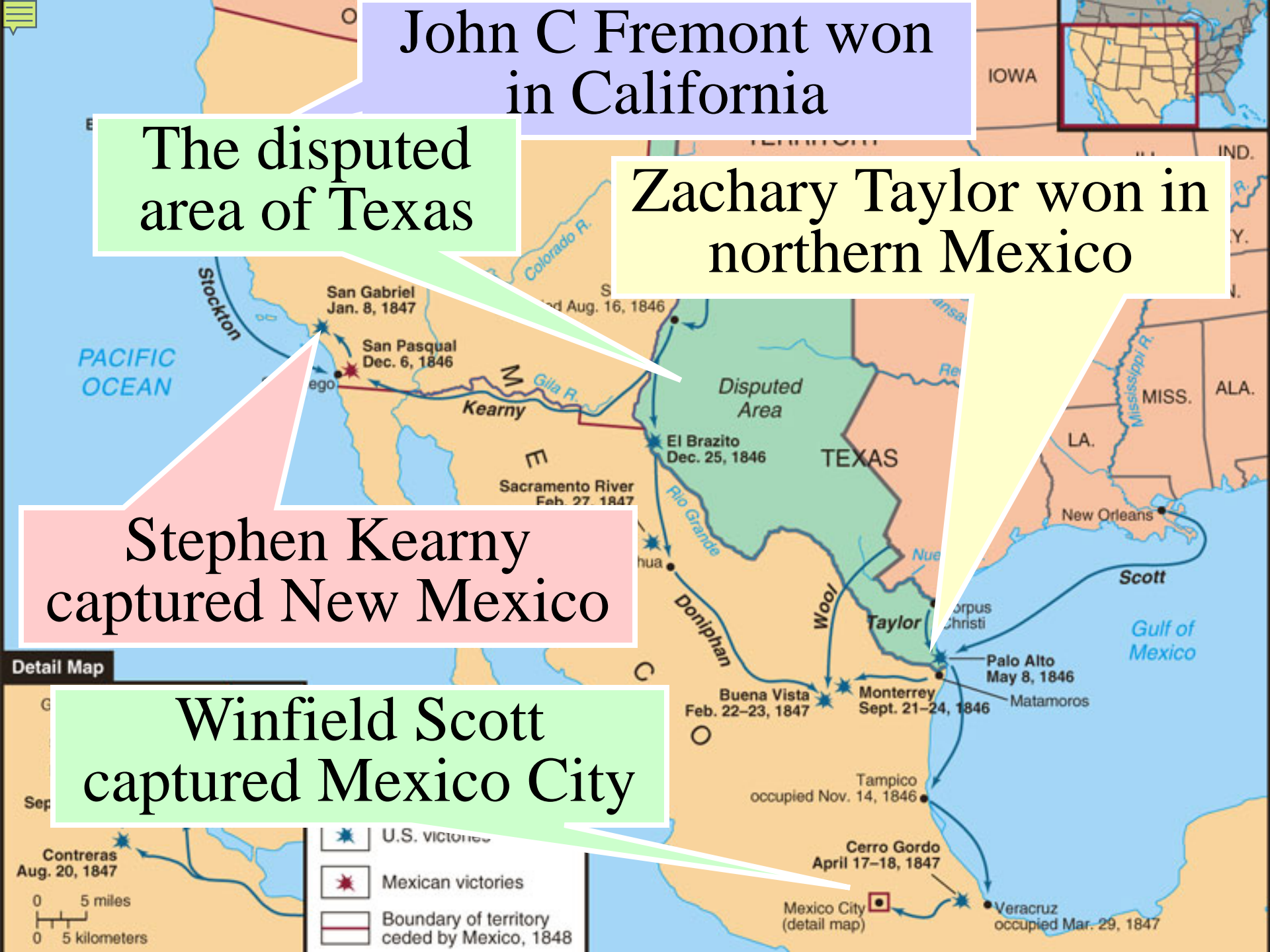
John C Fremont won  
in California

The disputed  
area of Texas

Zachary Taylor won in  
northern Mexico

Stephen Kearny  
captured New Mexico

Winfield Scott  
captured Mexico City



► In  
Tr

The  
Mexico  
CA,

Added the Gadsden Purchase  
in 1853 (\$10 million) to build a  
southern transcontinental RR

, ne



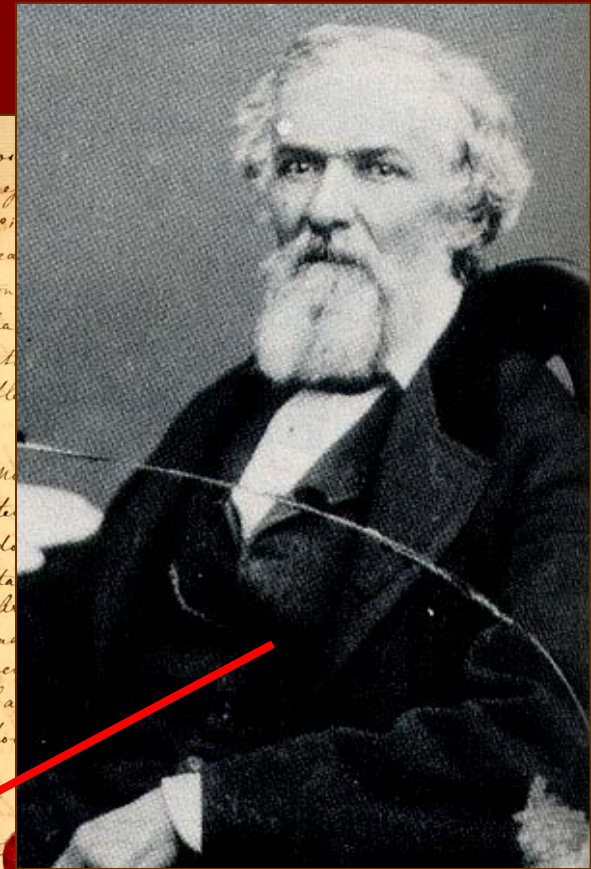
The Rio Grande  
became the recognized  
U.S. southern border

300 kilometers

# Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo, 1848

-US Pays \$15 million for the Mexican Cession, a Mexican loss of 55% of their land, 2/3 if Texas is included

► 1848 irony: Mexicans hear of Gold Rush in California and Treaty on same day



**Nicholas Trist,  
American Negotiator**

# Aftermath of Battle

- ▶ A war of “defense” became a war of Conquest – Mexicans call this “the American Intervention”
- ▶ If it was U.S. manifest destiny to conquer land, were they also to conquer people?
- ▶ Three barriers to the “All Mexico” plan
  - Northern liberals hated conquest
  - Slavery question
  - Racism – could the U.S. really incorporate all the 8 million Mexican and Indians?



THE MEXICAN EAGLE BEFORE THE WAR!



THE MEXICAN EAGLE AFTER THE WAR!

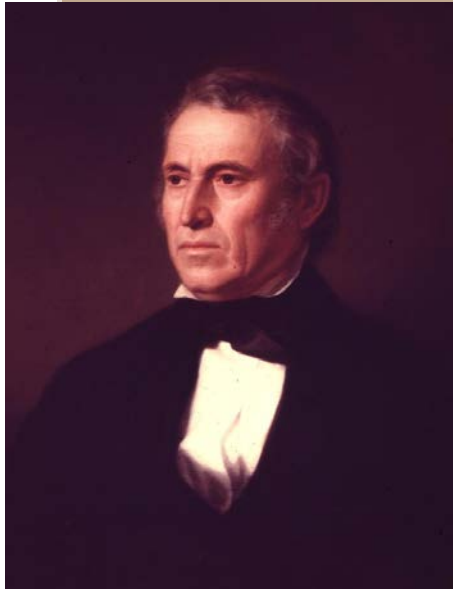
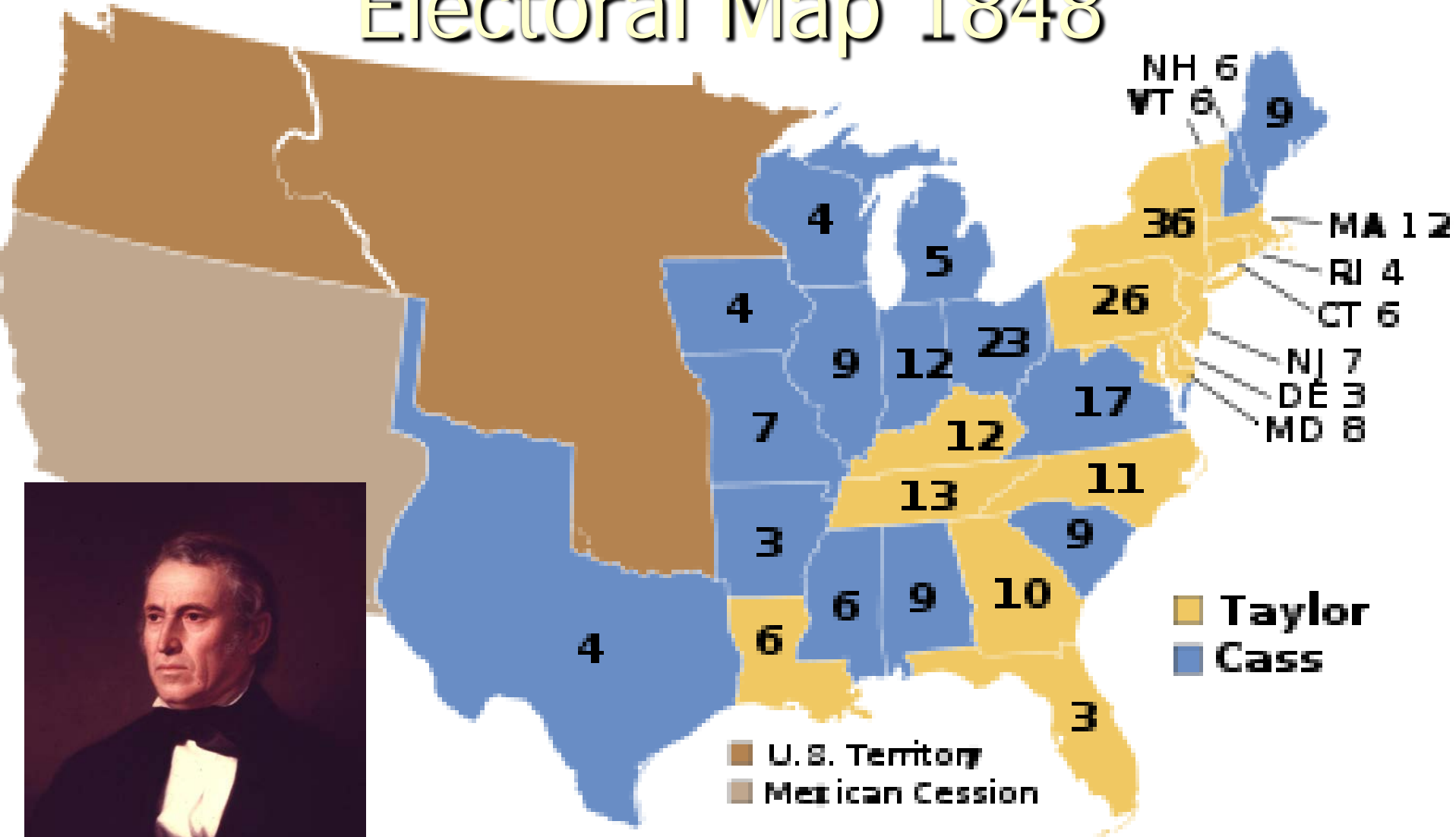
PLUCKED :

- ▶ 1848 Election: Zachary Taylor or Winfield Scott – leading contenders for Whig Party Candidate
- ▶ Taylor wins against Martin Van Buren (Free Soil) and Lewis Cass (Democratic)



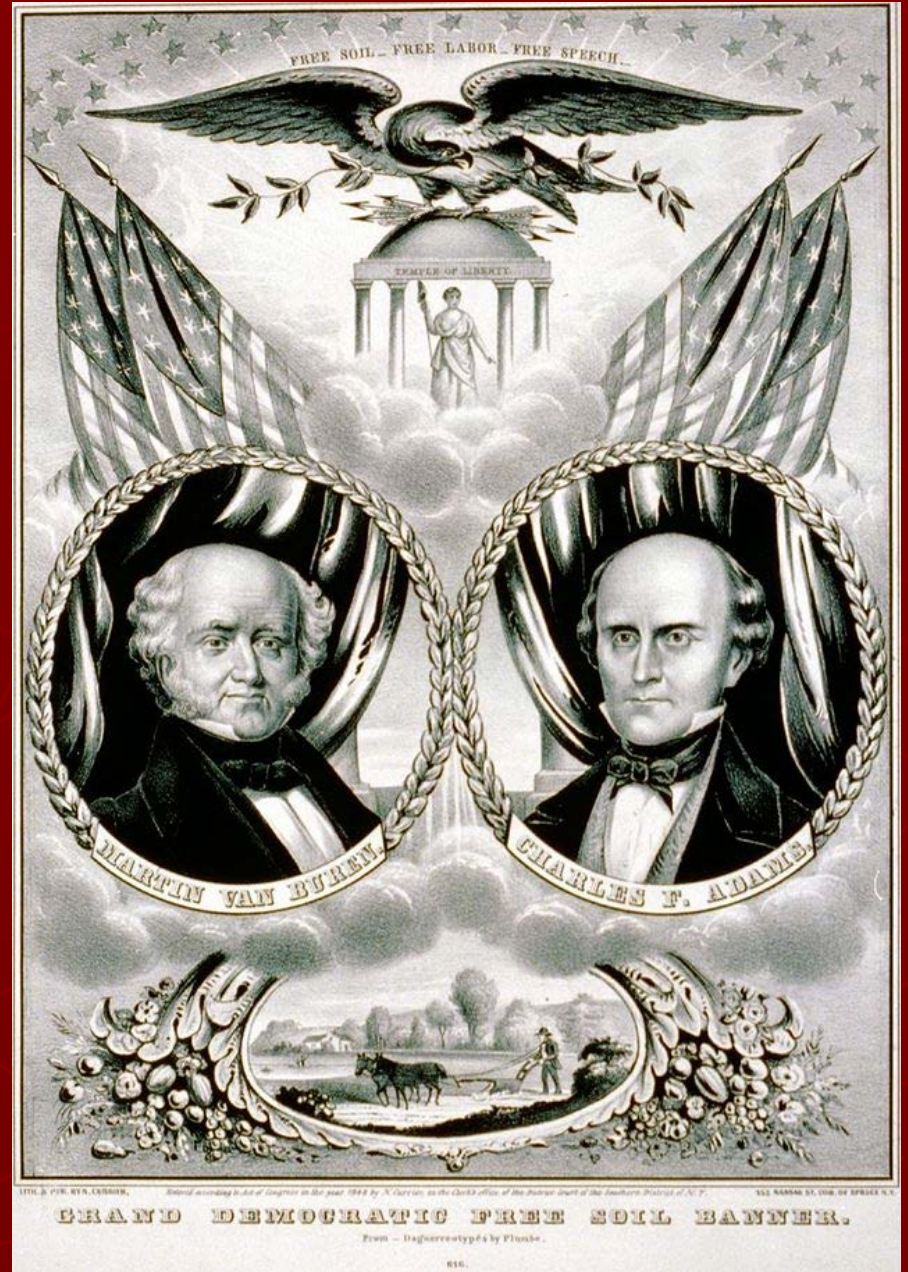
AN AVAILABLE CANDIDATE.  
THE ONE QUALIFICATION FOR A WHIG PRESIDENT.

# Electoral Map 1848





► Free Soil Party



# Significance of the War for the US

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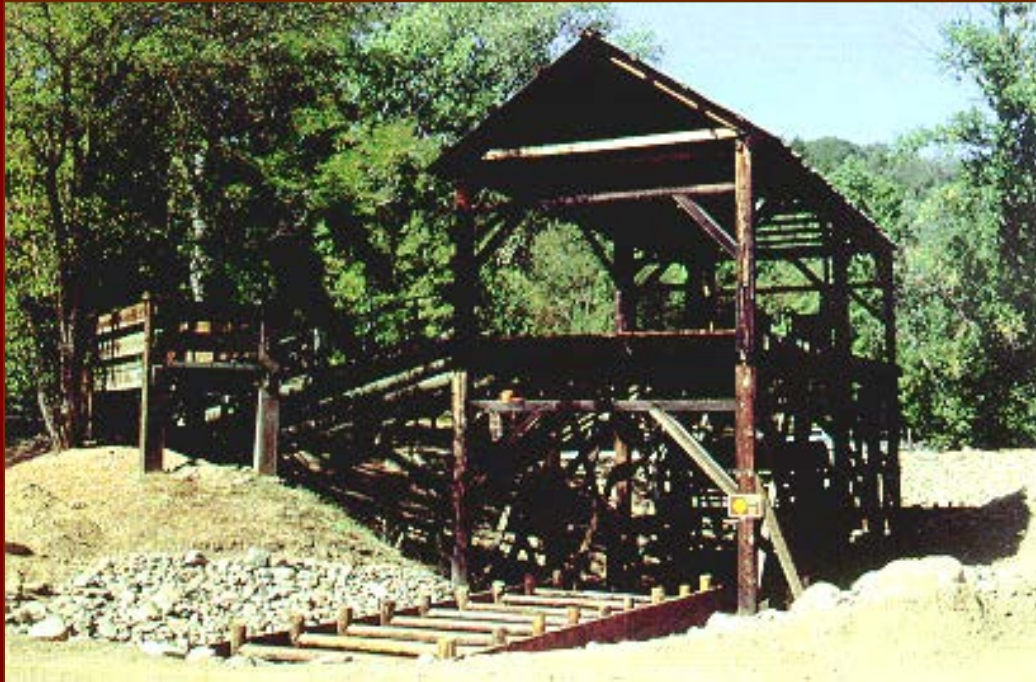


Richard Caton Woodville, News From the Mexican War 1848

# The Mexican Cession



# **GOLD!** At Sutter's Mill, 1848

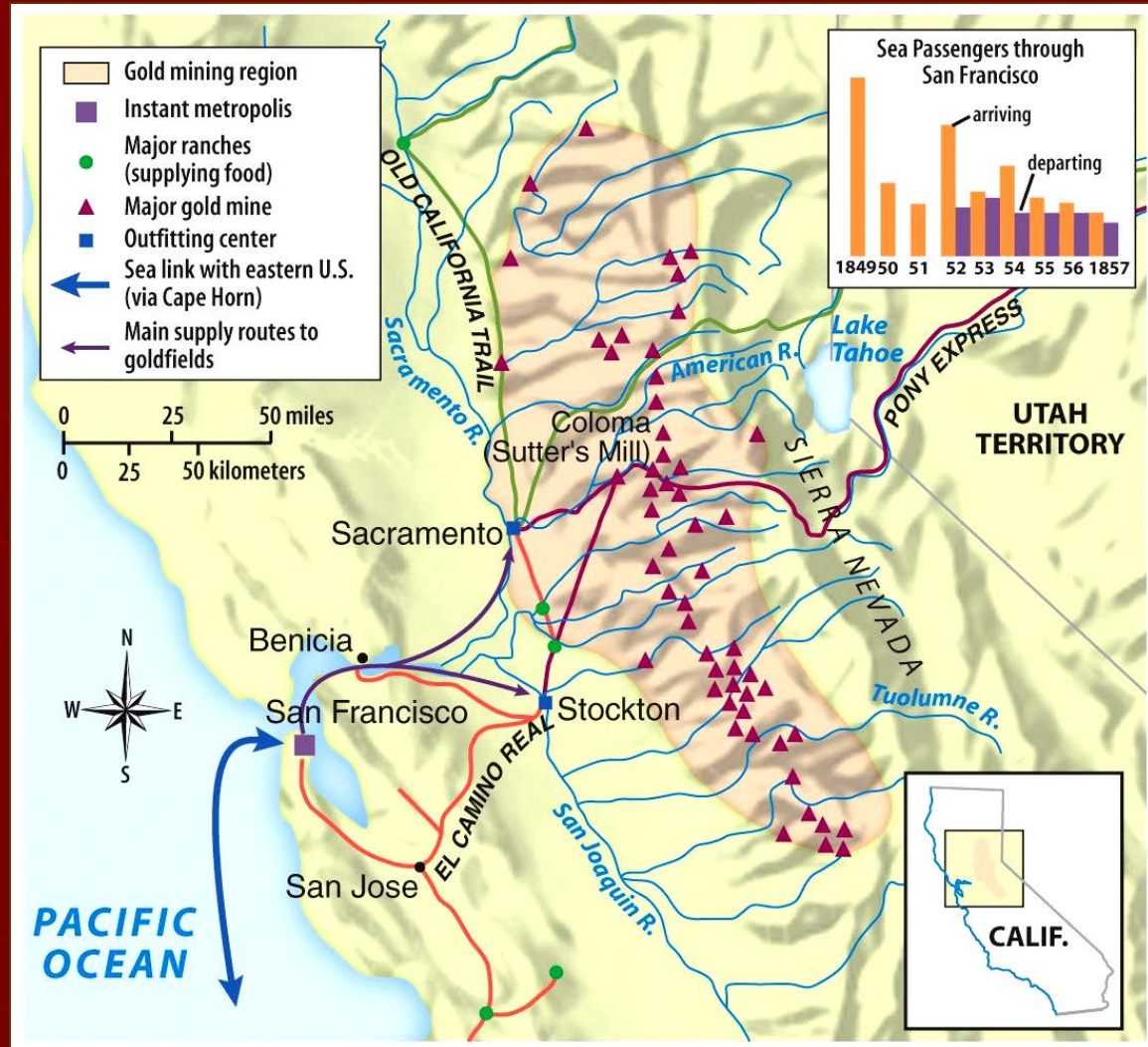


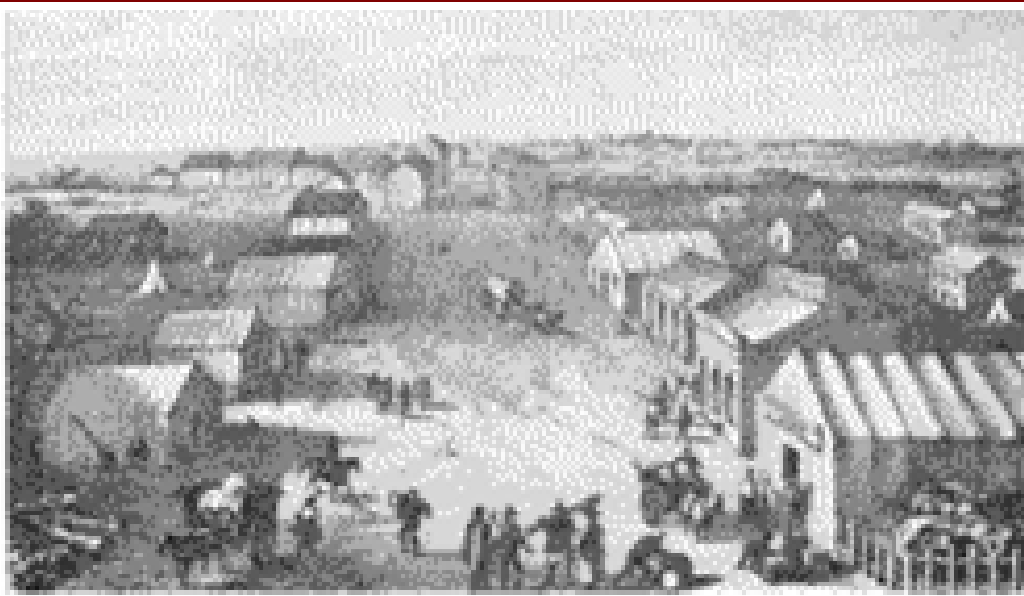
**John A. Sutter**

# California Gold Rush, 1849

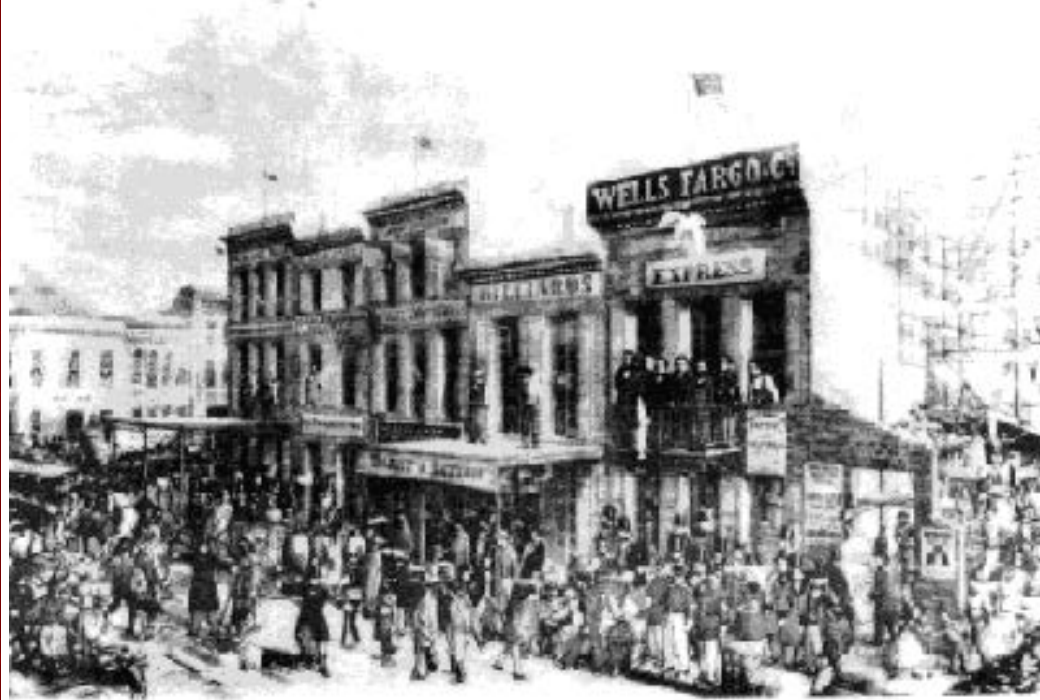


49er's





► San Francisco before the gold rush



► San Francisco after the gold rush

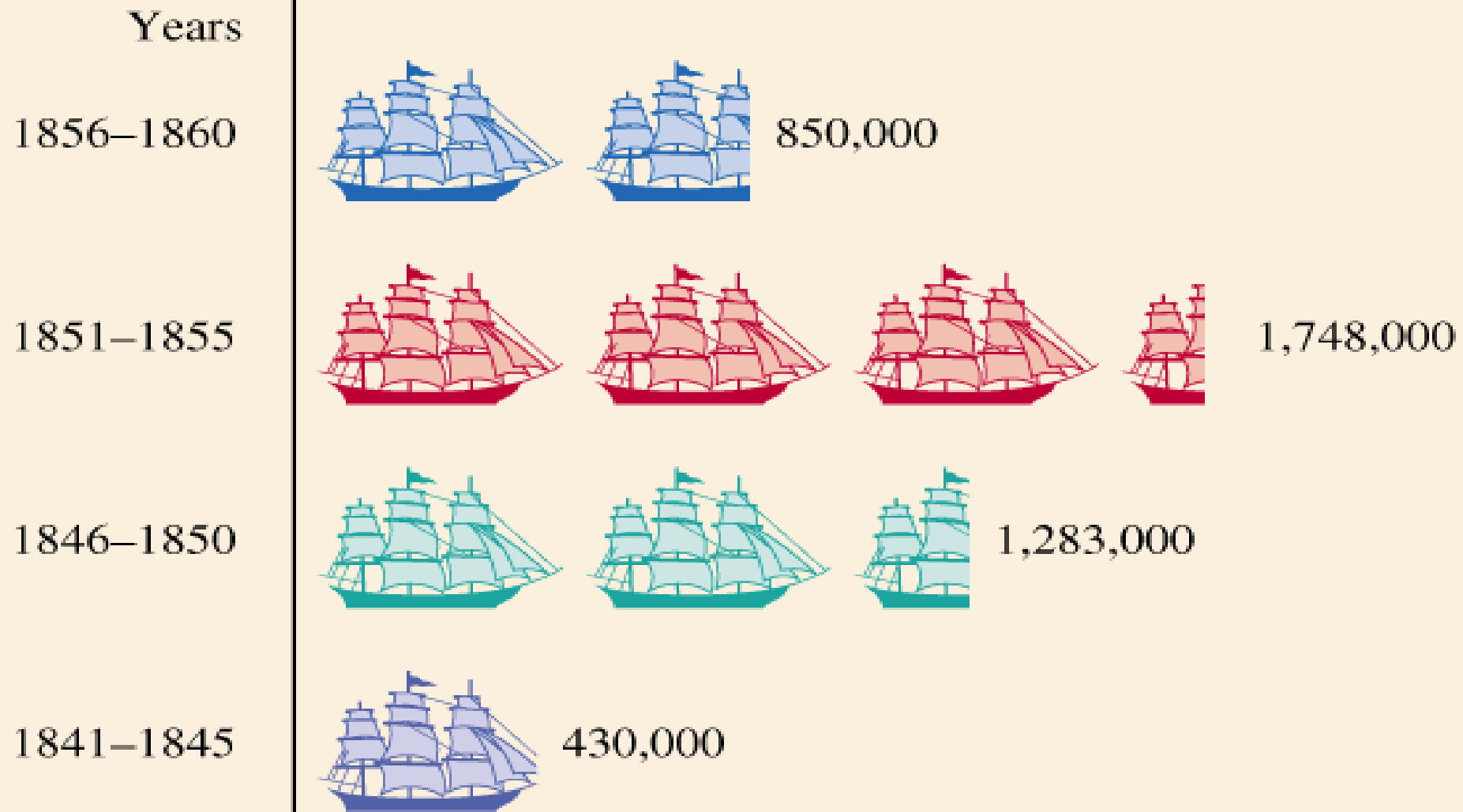
U. MONTGOMERY STREET IN 1854

# Territorial Growth to 1853





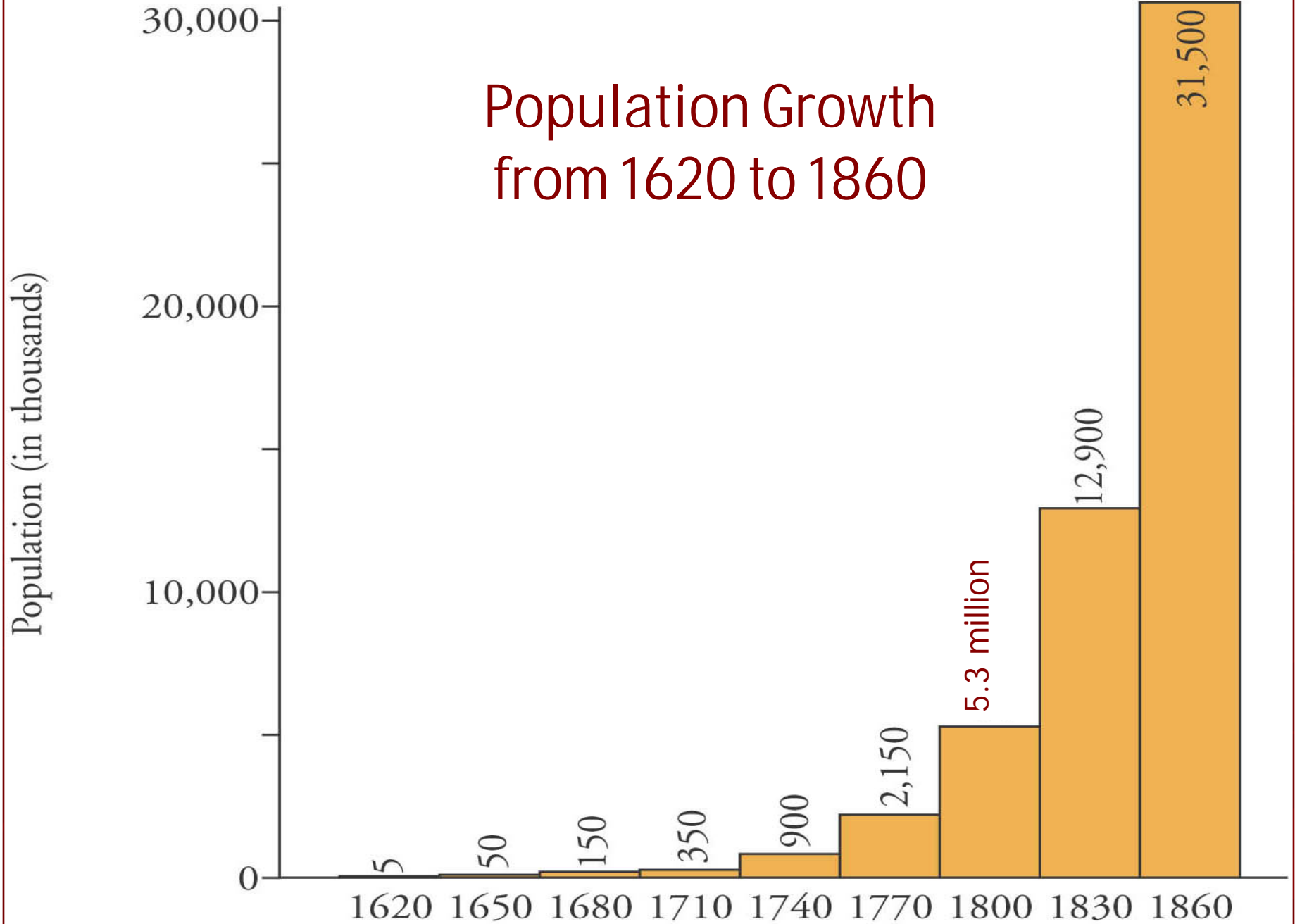
# IMMIGRATION



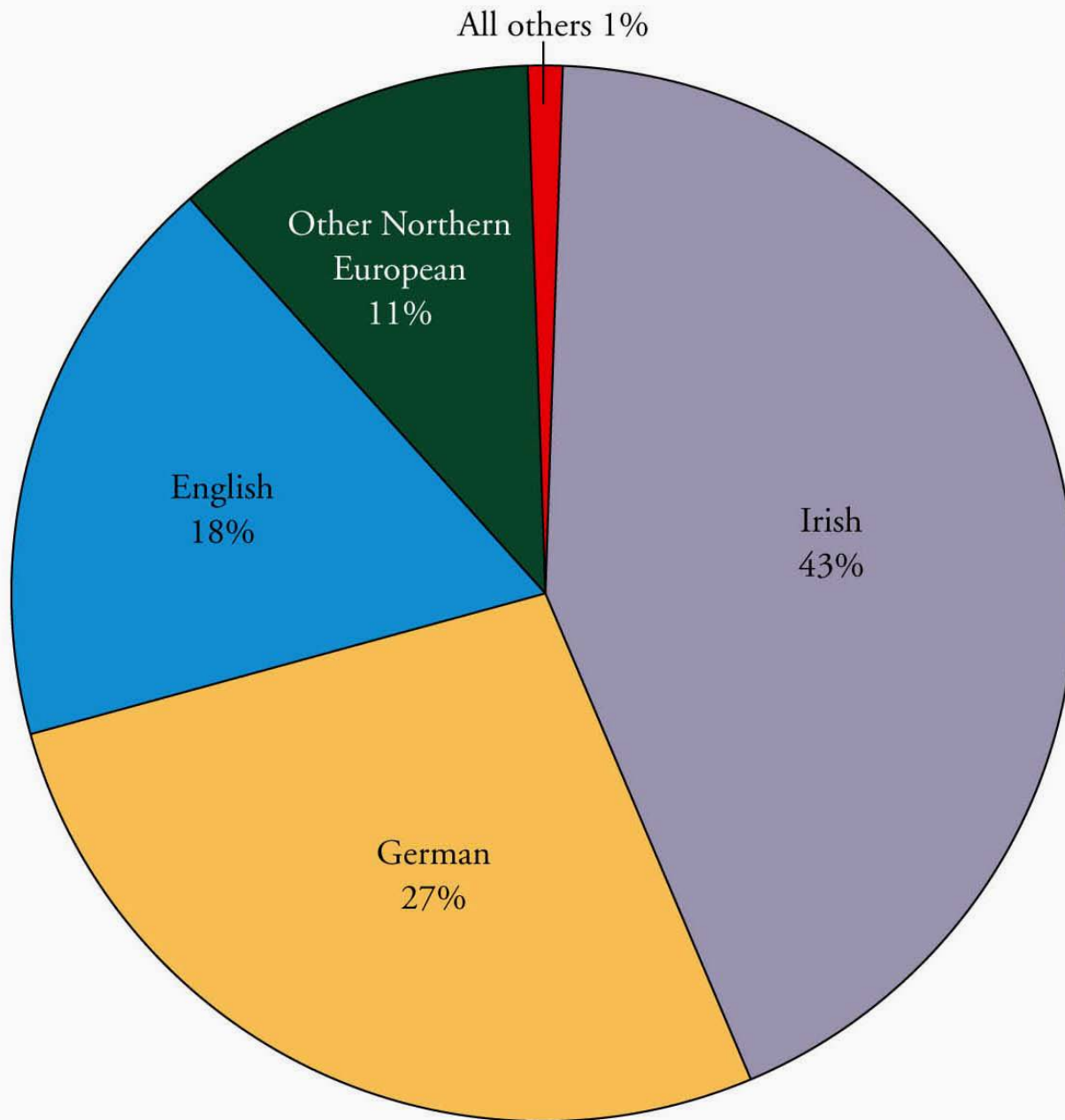
**Figure 12.1 ° ° Total Immigration, 1841–1860**

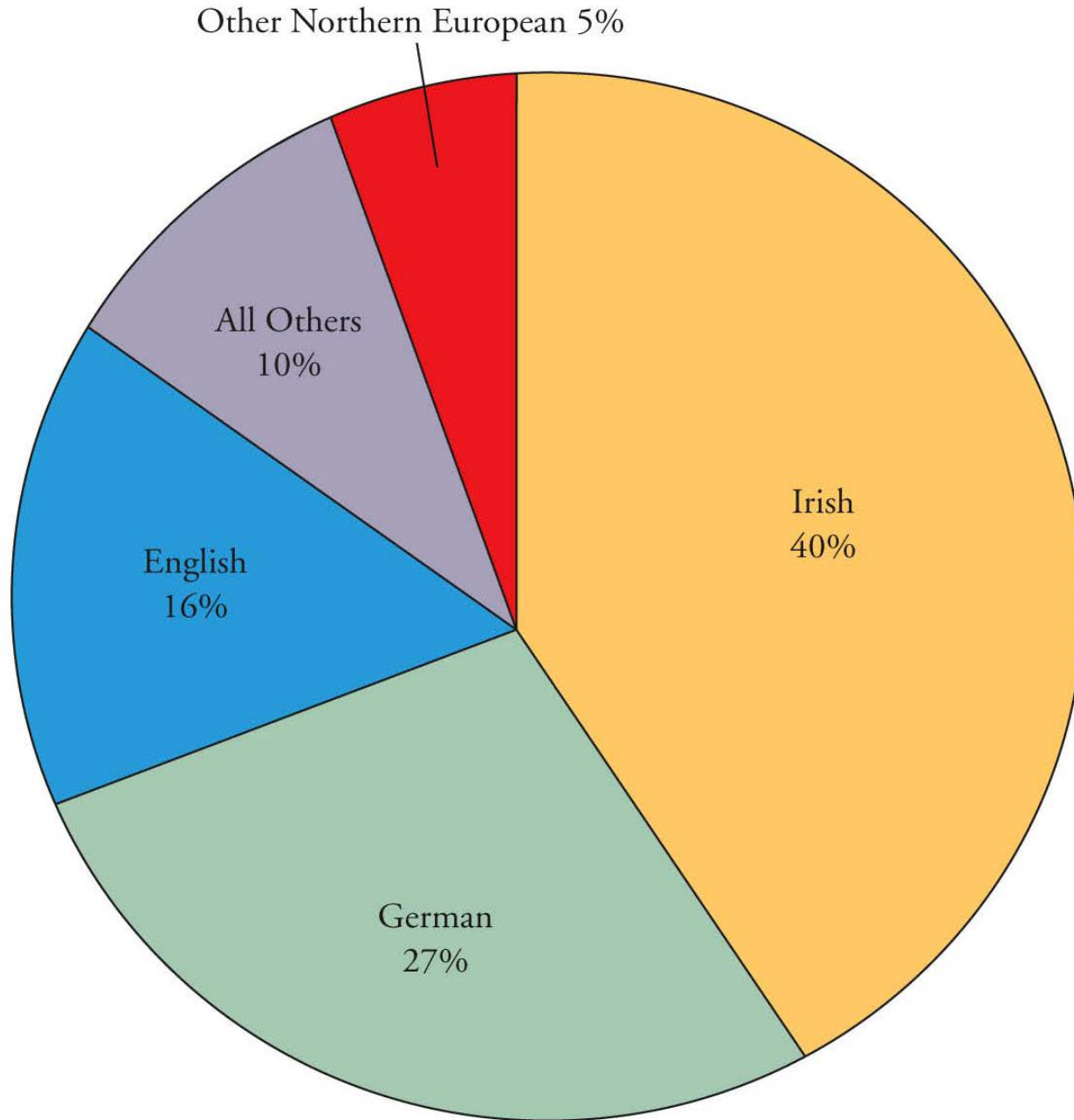
# The March of the Millions

- ▶ High birthrate accounted for population growth
  - Population doubling every 25 years
- ▶ Near 1850s, millions of Irish, German came
- ▶ Beginning in 1830, immigration in the US soared



## Sources of Immigration, 1820-40





## Sources of Immigration, 1840-60