

Growing Pains in the Americas

THE EUROPEAN MOMENT (1750 – 1900)



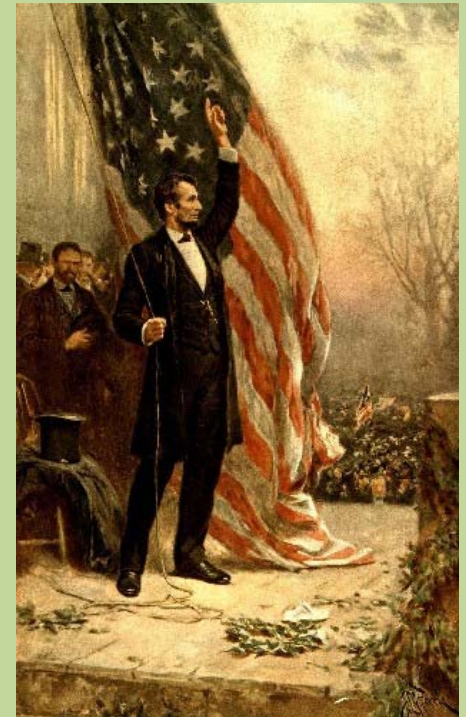
- Or we could call today's notes: **The history of the Western Hemisphere in the 19th century as they face problems keeping order and confront challenges involving their societies and economies while undergoing rapid change.**

PROBLEMS OF ORDER: The new independent nations of the Americas had difficulties governing on their own:

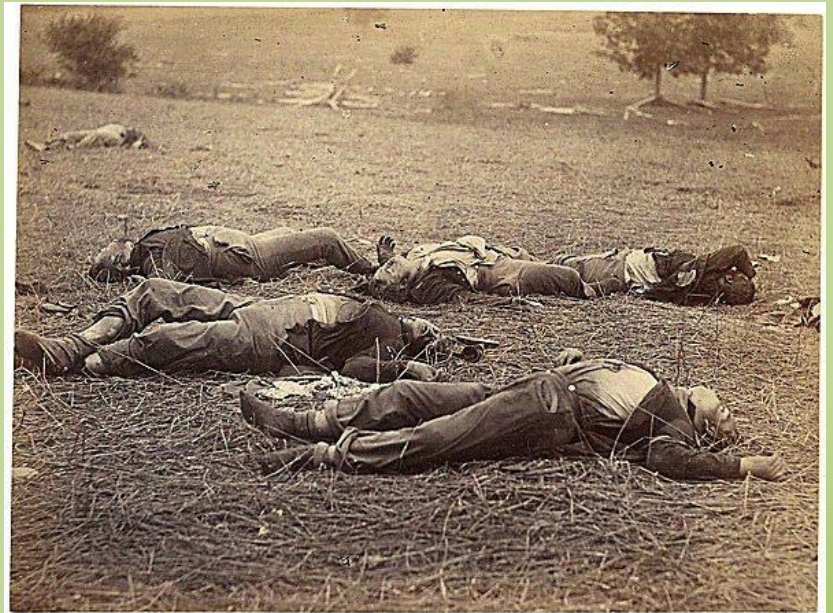
- Constitutions were often replaced (ex: [Articles of Confederation in the U.S.](#)), especially in L.A.
- Wars of independence in L.A. elevated the status of military generals, who were now reluctant to listen to civilian leaders.
- Regionalism caused internal conflict within nations.
- L.A. nations had difficulties defining the role of the Catholic Church, which played a large role in colonial society, but was now diminishing.
- Occasionally, war erupted with foreign governments testing their survival.
- Question of what to do about Native Americans.

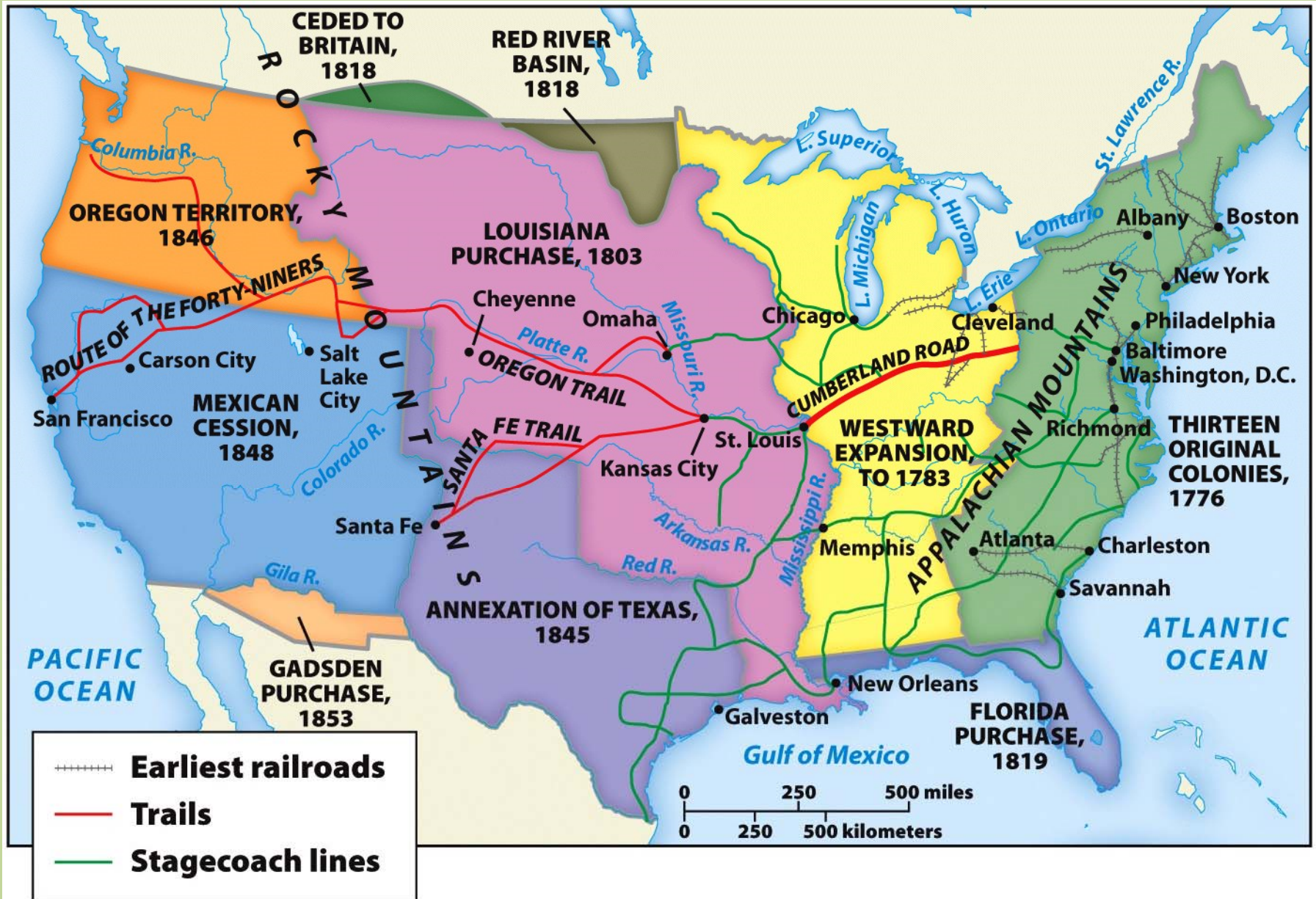
- A military reputation often provided a foundation for personal political power the way coming from a royal family had done back in Europe (Ex: In L.A. Napoleon was their model, not George Washington who gave up political power after two terms. The exception in the U.S. was General Andrew Jackson who as president tested the boundaries of Constitutional power).
- Caudillo: a personalist leader who gained and held political power without constitutional sanction.
- Things went more smoothly in the U.S. because there was a tradition of democracy (ex: colonial assemblies), but in L.A. colonies there was no history of democracy; therefore elections were occasionally overturned.

- However, regionalism was a concern in the U.S. Northern states and Southern states for decades quarreled on the proper role of the central government and over the issue of slavery.
- As the country expanded ([Louisiana Purchase](#), [Mexican American War](#), etc.) Americans debated on where slavery should be expanded.
- The election of Abraham Lincoln angered Southern states leading to their succession and the formation of the Confederate States of America.



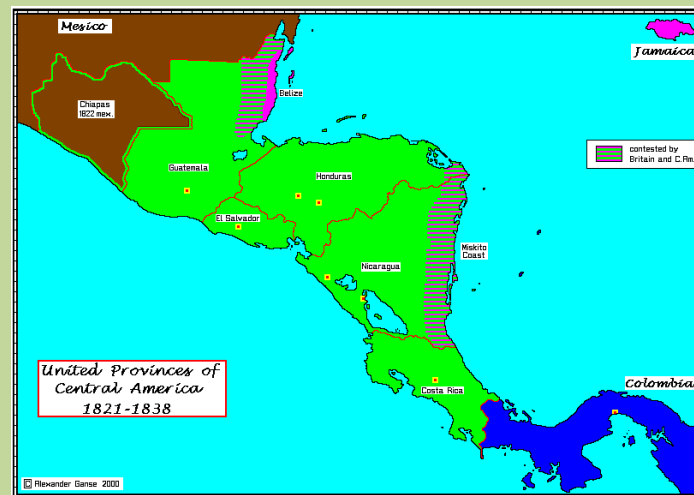
- Between 1861-1865 the American Civil War took place (over 600,000 people died). Slavery was eventually abolished.
- The fact that the North was more populated and had an industrial complex allowed it to beat the South's efforts to break free.





Map 17-1
 Ways of the World, First Edition
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- Regionalism was also a concern in Latin America:
 - Gran Colombia was not achieved because of local nationalism.
 - In Argentina, a civil war broke out over the role of the Catholic Church (some wanted secularism, others in the interior of the country did not). The war resulted with a caudillo ruling the country for decades.
 - In Mexico, Central America broke away and formed five separate independent nations in the 1820s & 30s.



- New nations were also tested in foreign wars.
 - During the War of 1812 with Britain the U.S. was invaded and the White House was burned down.
 - Mexico was invaded by Spain in 1829, and the French in 1838 & 1862. The '62 invasion caused the Mexican president Benito Juarez to flee the capital. The French put a Hapsburg ruler in his place, but Juarez raised an army and drove the French out.
 - Mexico & the U.S. fought one another (border dispute) allowing the U.S. to expand in size.
 - Argentina & Brazil fought over control of Uruguay, the war ended with Uruguay becoming independent.
 - The War of the Triple Alliance / Paraguayan War in South America (Argentina, Uruguay, & Brazil fought Paraguay – who lost).

- Under colonial governments, settlers were often forbidden to move to the frontier lands where Amerindians lived. However, new independent countries rarely forbid settlement thus natives were forced to sign treaties or wage war with these new governments.
- In the United States Native Americans were continuously pushed further west in the name of “Manifest Destiny.”



What about Canada?

- British Canada was divided into separate colonies and territories each with a distinct government. In the 1840s, limited self-rule was allowed in each of the provinces.
- As time passed the provinces began to work more closely together (ex: industrializing) and eventually with the Confederation of 1867 “Canada” was created with the capital at Ottawa.



- **Challenges of Social and Economic Change:**
 - Abolition of slavery
 - Immigration
 - Diversity
 - Women's rights
 - Development & underdevelopment (Those who industrialized and those who did not)
 - Environmental changes

- Despite revolutions in the Western Hemisphere that were founded on the idea of liberty and the end of the African slave trade in 1808, slavery continued to be widespread because it was an integral part of American, Cuban, and Brazilian economies (Many Spanish republics had abolished slavery during the independence movements).



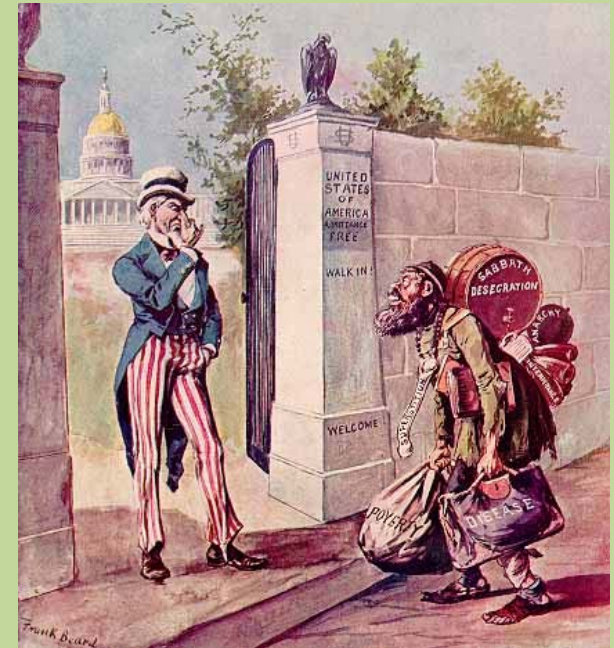
- Abolition:
 - In the U.S. free blacks and women played important roles in the abolitionist movement, but it wasn't until after the Civil War and a constitutional amendment that it ended (1865).
 - Brazil was the last country to abolish slavery (1888).
The Emperor Pedro II and liberals worked to bring about abolition.
 - In the Caribbean, plantation owners feared independence from colonialism would lead to slave revolts, therefore many islands remained colonies and abolition was done by their European mothers.
- (The British abolished slavery within their empire in 1833 / 1838).

- How to incorporate “new” citizens into their nations was a major social problem not just because of abolition, but also an influx of immigrants.
- Throughout the 1800s, European immigration to the Americas consistently grew:
 - In the 1830s 600,000 Europeans came to the U.S., in the 1860s 2.5 million, and in the 1890s 5.2 million immigrants arrived.
 - Argentina and Brazil saw a combined total of 130,000 in the 1860s, and then 1.7 million in the 1890s.

- Although most immigrants were coming from Europe, many were also coming from Asia.
 - The Chinese were headed to the American West coast, Canada, Peru, and Cuba.
 - Indians were going to the Caribbean.
- Opposition to the wave of immigration brought “Nativism” and discrimination to these new people from Asia and Europe.
 - The Chinese were targets in the U.S., Peru, and even Canada.

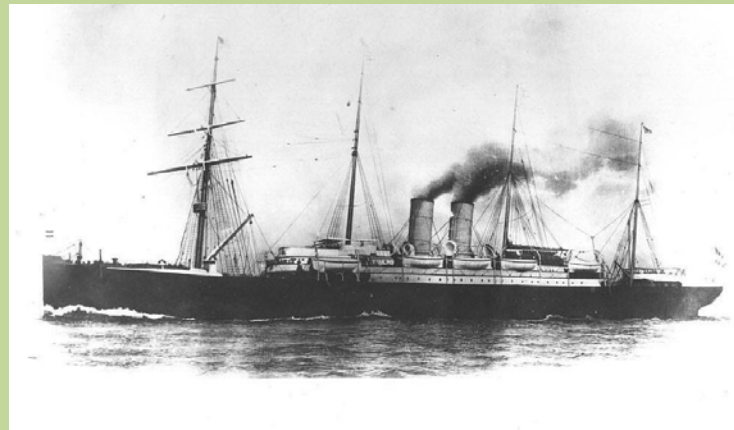


- In general, countries in the Americas widely discriminated against immigrants and attempted to “save” their national heritage by forcing assimilation.
- Some immigrants confronted nativism by forming their own ethnic neighborhoods (ex: China Towns).
- Nevertheless, cultural blending did take place and new words, technologies, and customs added to the melting pot (Most visibly in the U.S.).



- As a whole, minorities (immigrants, women, blacks, etc.) were not seen as equals in American societies despite playing important roles in national economies.
 - Women were now working outside the home more than ever (ex: textile mills)
 - Immigrants filled factory positions and built railroads
 - Blacks although now free continued to work in agriculture (ex: sharecroppers in the U.S.)
- Reform movements to improve social & political equality were slow throughout the 1800s (although there were movements: Seneca Falls).

- The Industrial Revolution, population growth, and an increasingly integrated world market stimulated economic expansion.
- Steamships shortened transatlantic voyages, telegraph lines sped up communication, and railroads made it cheaper to transport goods and materials across land. All of which put the Americas within the larger global economy.



- Even if the U.S. was the only country in the Western Hemisphere to seriously “industrialize” most others were still exporters of raw materials and new items such as meats, wools, & nonprecious metals (in addition to the traditional sugar, silver, cotton, & coffee).
- As a result of a disparity in industrialization & political stability there was a clear division of prosperity between the United States (developed) and Latin America (underdeveloped). (Only Argentina came close to reaching the levels of prosperity of the U.S. & Canada).



- By 1900, U.S. steel production & railroad mileage surpassed all nations in Europe.
- However, unchecked economic growth also led to powerful monopolies (ex: Standard Oil Company), political corruption, and environmental degradation.



- The 19th century in the Americas was a time of challenges due to social & economic changes as well as a problem of maintaining order as “new” countries, however it was a time of dramatic consequences for the environment too:
 - Massive population growth brought urbanization (New York, Chicago, Rio de Janeiro, Buenos Aires, and Mexico City were among the world’s fastest growing cities)
 - Industrialization (mining, factories, etc.) brought pollution
 - Deforestation, expansion of cattle grazing, & the expansion of railroads changed the rural landscape
 - The continued introduction of new plants and animals had a an impact on native ecosystems

- For the first time, in the late 1800s governments began to steps to protect the environment (ex: National parks and nature reserves were created).

