

Chapter 5
Growth of
the Western Democracies
(1815-1914)

In Britain, France, and the United States, reformers struggled for an extension of democratic rights and social change. Although many inequalities persisted, these efforts paved the way for great improvements in the quality of life.

Section 1- Britain Becomes More Democratic

In 1815, Britain had a monarch. It also had a **parliament** (a body of lawmakers) with two political parties. Still, Britain was not democratic. Parliament was made up of the House of Lords (nobles, wealthy industrialists, and high-ranking church leaders) and the House of Commons (men elected by the five percent of the population who could vote). The House of Lords could **veto**, or reject, any bill passed by the House of Commons.

Section 1- Britain Becomes More Democratic

Reformers wanted more democracy. In the 1820s, they ended laws that banned some religious groups from voting. Then they turned to another problem. The growth of cities had left some rural **boroughs**, or towns, with few voters, but these “rotten boroughs” had more than their fair share of seats in Parliament. The Reform Act of 1832 gave more seats to larger towns. It also gave the vote to men who owned a certain amount of property.

Section 1- Britain Becomes More Democratic

Queen Victoria ruled the British Empire from 1837 to 1901. The Victorian age was a time of manners, hard work, honesty, and reform. In the 1860s, political parties changed. Nobles and landowners of the Tory party joined the new Conservative party. The mostly middle-class Whig party grew into the Liberal party. Both parties wanted democracy.

Section 1- Britain Becomes More Democratic

A Conservative bill granted the vote to many working-class men. Later, Liberals won the vote for farm workers and most other men. Eventually, suffrage was extended to all male citizens, prompting women to seek the vote as well. This enlarged the **electorate** (the body of people allowed to vote). A key feature of voting was the **secret ballot** (the right to vote without having to announce it). A Liberal bill limited the veto of the House of Lords and gave more power to the House of Commons.

Section 2- A Century of Reform

From 1815 to 1914, British reformers called for change. New laws improved working conditions, allowed trade unions, and protected children. They also provided free elementary schools, reduced harsh punishments for crimes, and ended slavery. Trade reforms lowered then **repealed** (to cancel) **tariffs** (taxes on imported goods). Confident in its future, England supported **free trade** (trade between countries without financial restrictions).

Section 2- A Century of Reform

In 1900, the trade unions founded a new political party, the Labour party. By the 1920s, the Labour party was stronger than the Liberal party. It pushed through more laws to protect workers.

Section 2- A Century of Reform

British women called for the right to vote. They held huge rallies and marches. When peaceful demonstrations failed, some protesters smashed windows and burned buildings. A few went on hunger strikes. In 1918, Parliament gave the vote to women over age 30. Younger women won the right to vote in 1928.

Section 2- A Century of Reform

Throughout the 1800s, nationalists in Ireland fought British rule. They demanded change. No longer would the Irish pay high rents to British landlords. No longer would Irish Catholics turn over money to the Church of England. No longer would Irish crops go to England while Irish families starved. In the 1870s, Irish nationalists called for **home rule**, or local self-government. Finally, in 1914, Parliament passed a home rule bill. Counties in the South of Ireland became independent in 1921.

Section 3- Division and Democracy in France

After the French Revolution of 1848, Louis Napoleon was elected president of the Second Republic. He was nephew to Napoleon Bonaparte, and his famous name won votes. The working class liked his talk of social reform.



**Louis
Napoleon**

Section 3- Division and Democracy in France

In 1852, he declared himself Napoleon III, ruler of the Second Empire. He ruled like a dictator, censoring the press and choosing officials.

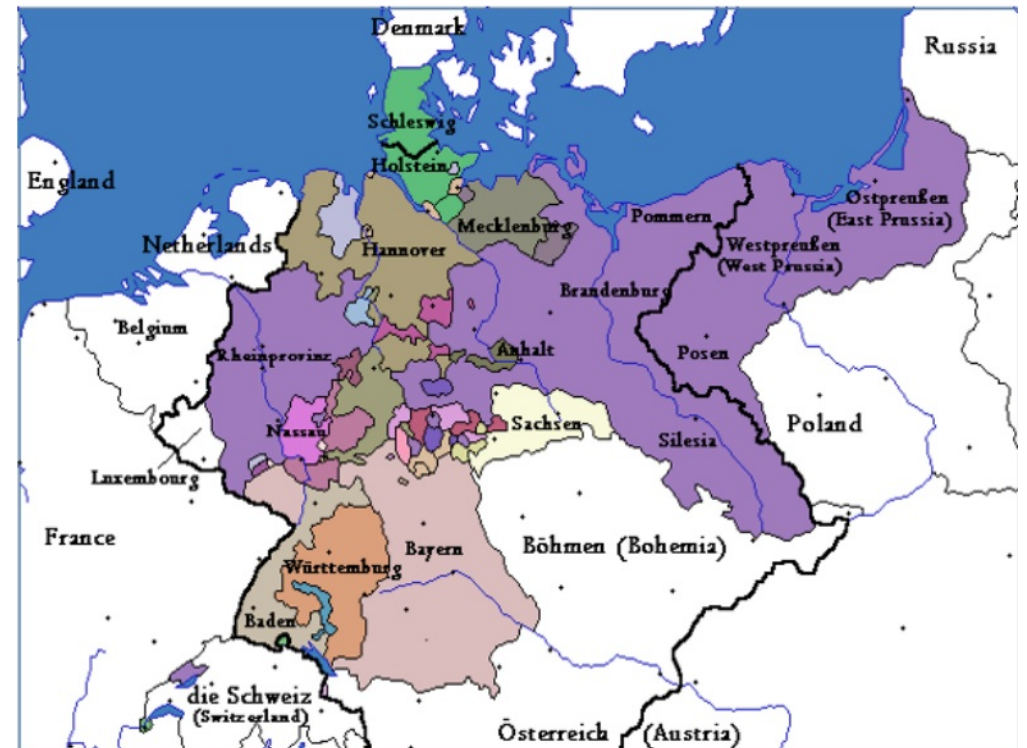
However, he did keep his word to workers. He allowed unions and set up free health care and worked to end poverty.



**Louis
Napoleon**

Section 3- Division and Democracy in France

While Napoleon III made reforms at home, he made mistakes in foreign policy. He tried to take power in Mexico but failed. In 1870, a crushing defeat in the Franco-Prussian War and his capture ended the Second Empire.

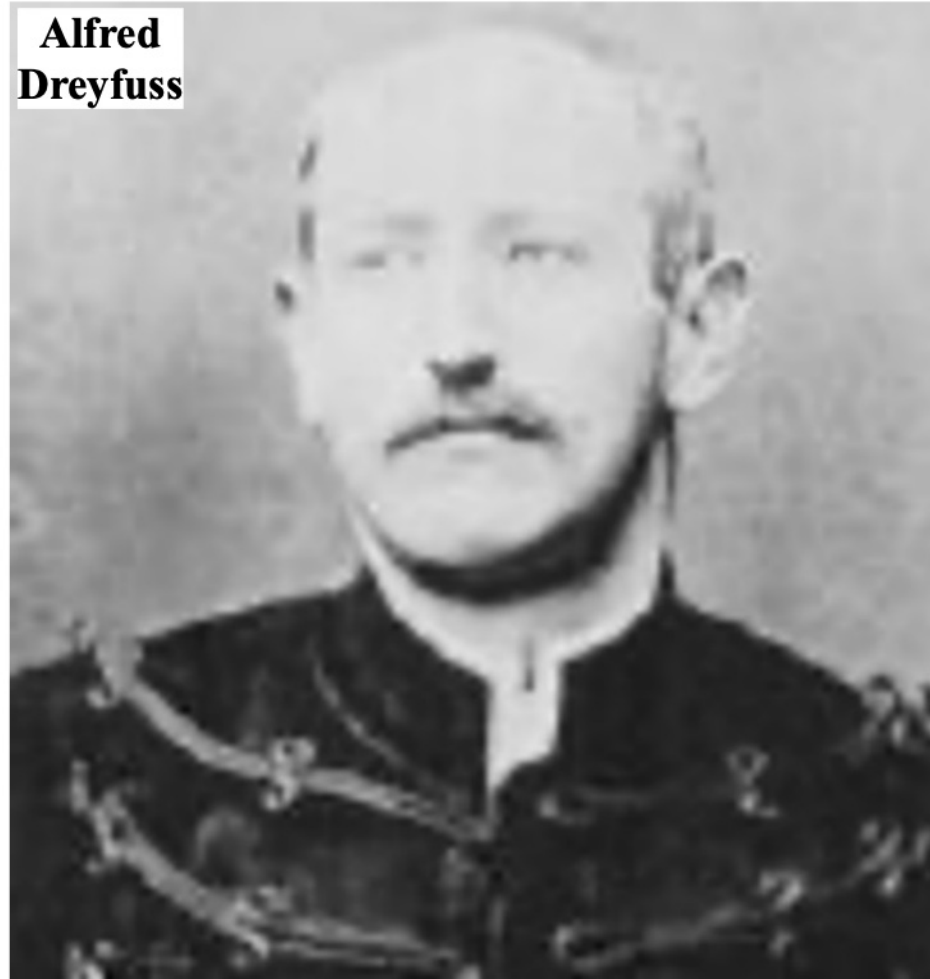


Section 3- Division and Democracy in France

The Third Republic arose. It had a more democratic two-house legislature. All men could vote for members of the lower house. The two houses elected a president, set up a **provisional** (temporary) government, and gave real power to the **premier**, or prime minister. A constitution separated church and state and guarded human rights.

Section 3- Division and Democracy in France

In 1894, a scandal shook the Third Republic. Captain Alfred Dreyfus was jailed for spying for the Germans. Some people thought the army blamed Dreyfus because he was a Jew. In the end, he was freed.



Alfred
Dreyfuss

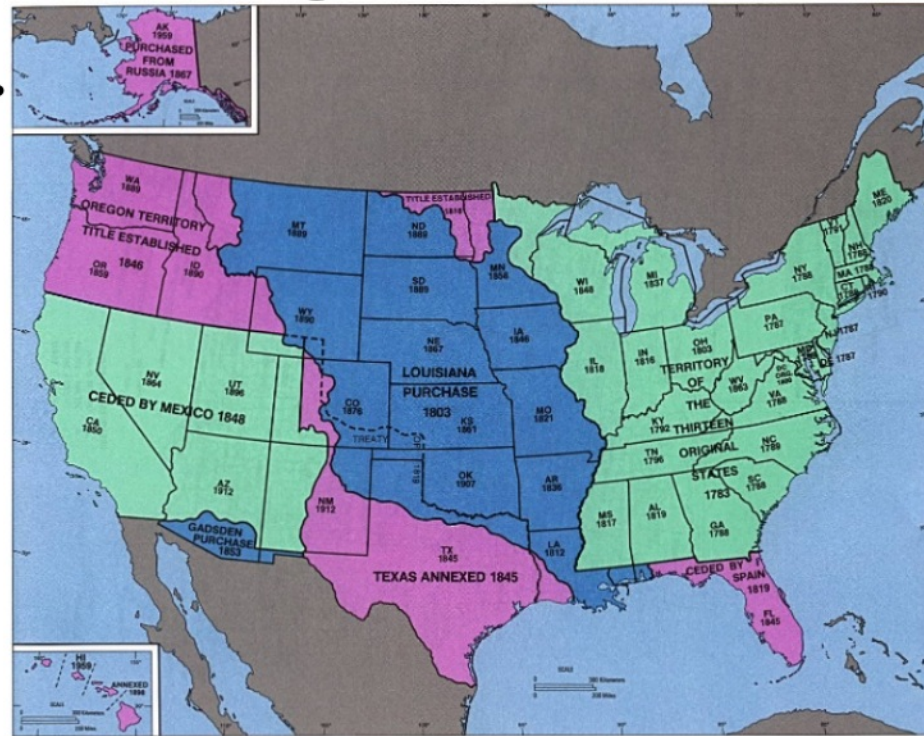
Section 3- Division and Democracy in France

The Dreyfus affair, along with **anti-Semitism** (prejudice against Jews) across Europe, worried Jewish leaders. Some began to call for a separate state where Jews would have the rights and freedoms denied to them in European countries.



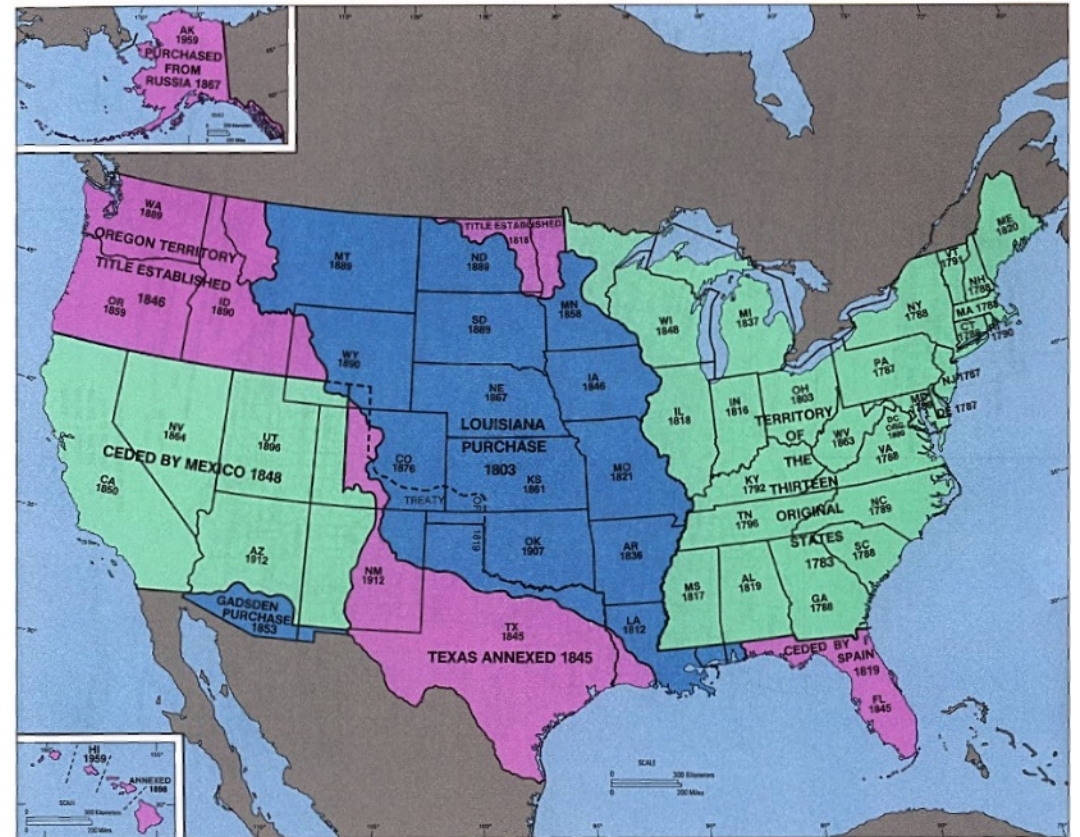
Section 4- Expansion of the United States

They moved west, taking lands from the Native Americans, who they then put on **reservations** (land controlled by the government). America's growth in industry, communication, and transportation coupled with the massive numbers of immigrants and the growth of its cities made America boom.



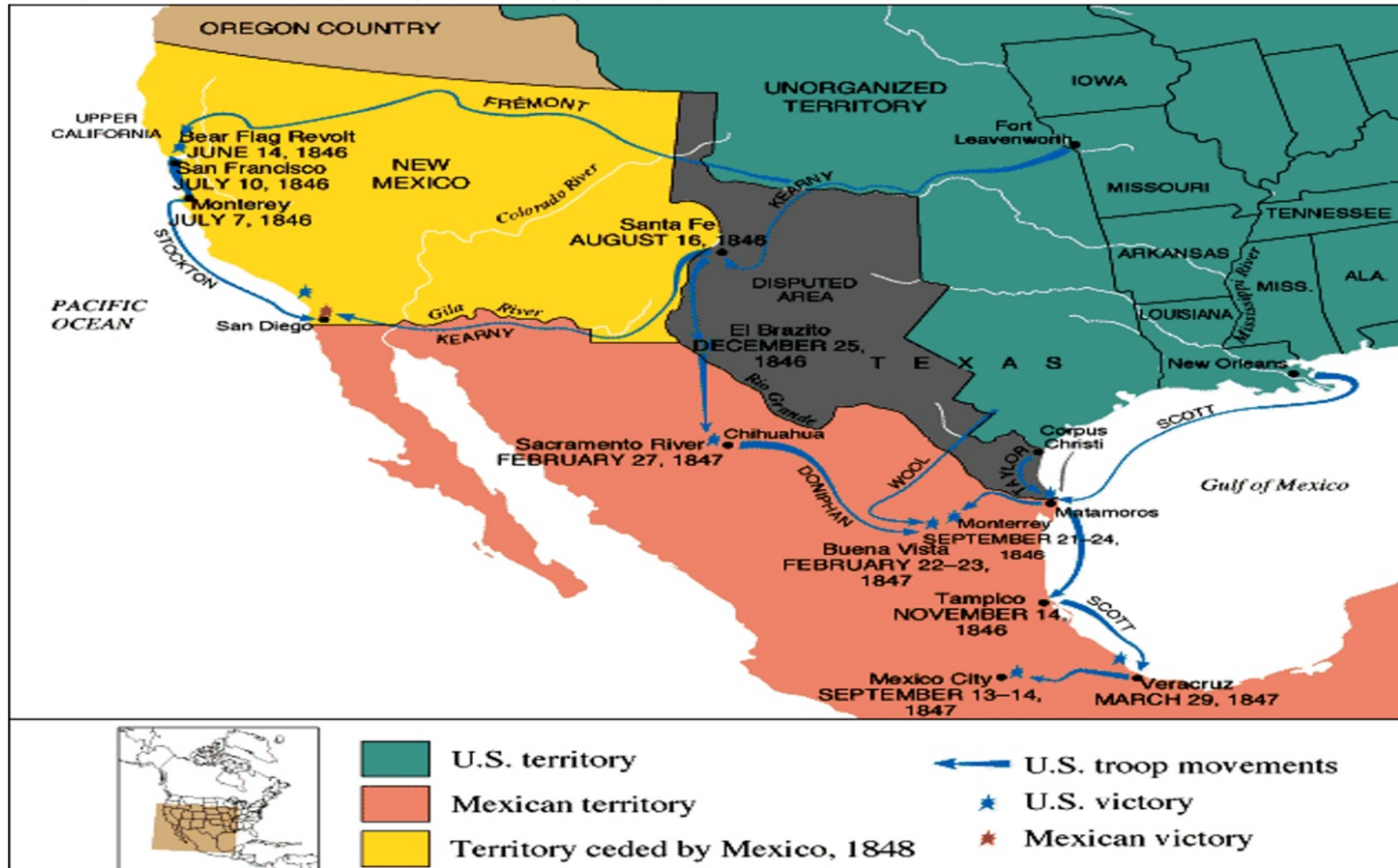
Section 4- Expansion of the United States

In 1803, President Jefferson bought land from France. His Louisiana Purchase almost doubled the size of the United States and moved the western boundary from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains.



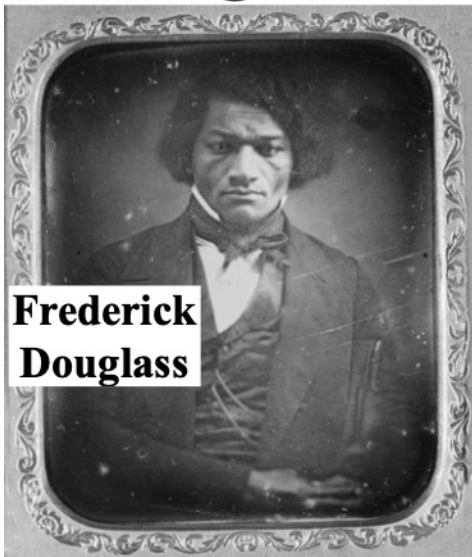
Section 4- Expansion of the United States

In 1848, Mexico was forced to give up California and much of the Southwest after losing the Mexican-American War.

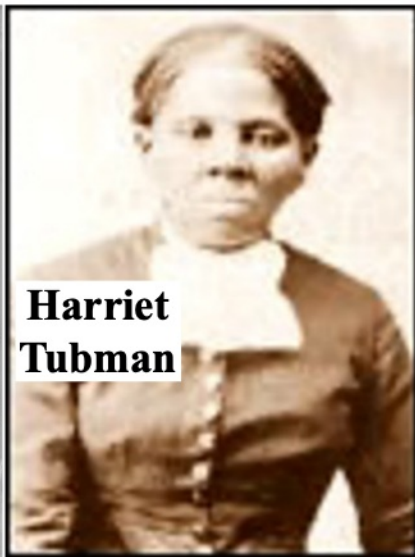


Section 4- Expansion of the United States

During the 1800s, two movements brought greater democracy. **Abolitionists** worked to end slavery. Women who worked in the abolitionist movement began to organize a women's rights movement. They called for equality under the law, at work, and in schools, and eventually won the right to vote under the **19th Amendment**.



**Frederick
Douglass**



**Harriet
Tubman**



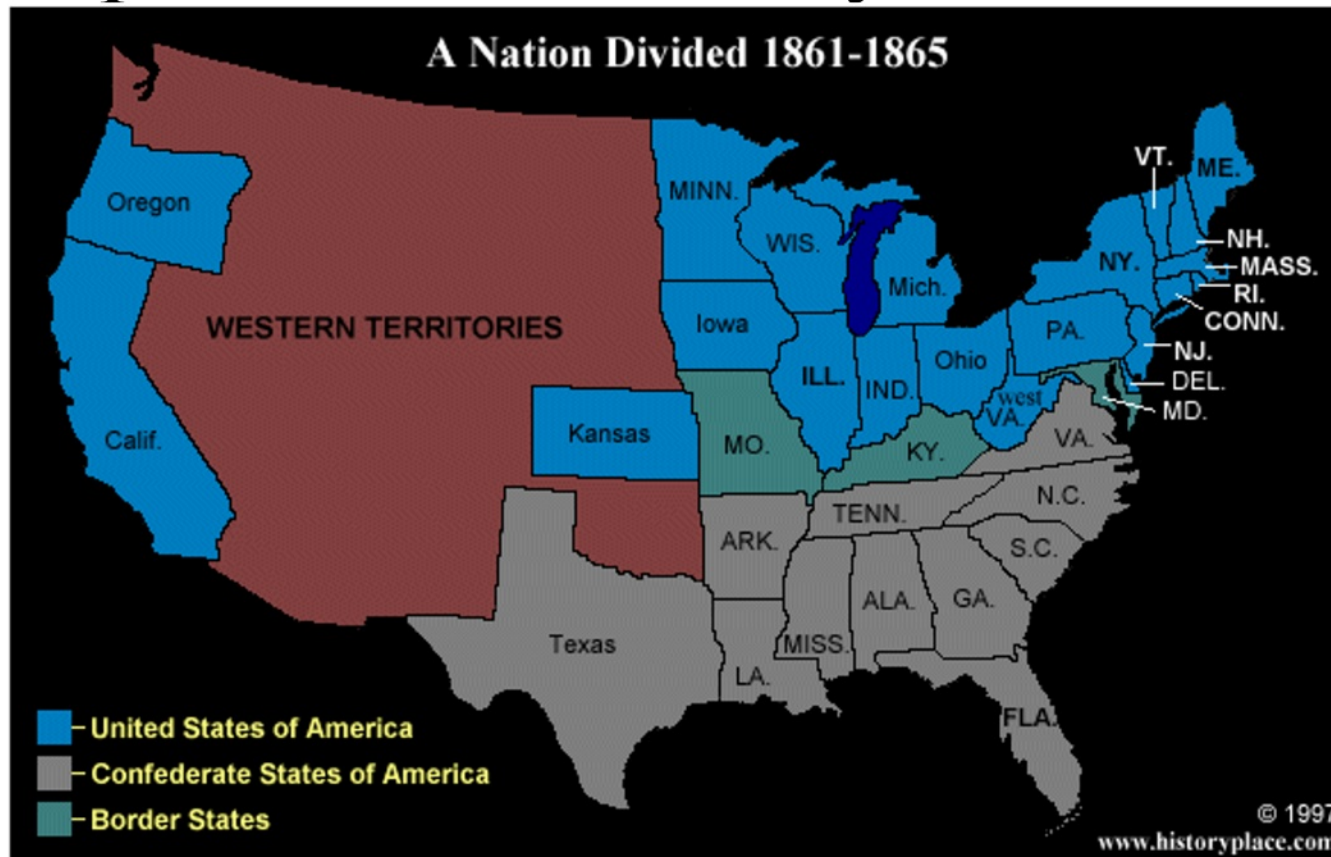
**Elijah
Lovejoy**



Section 4- Expansion of the United States

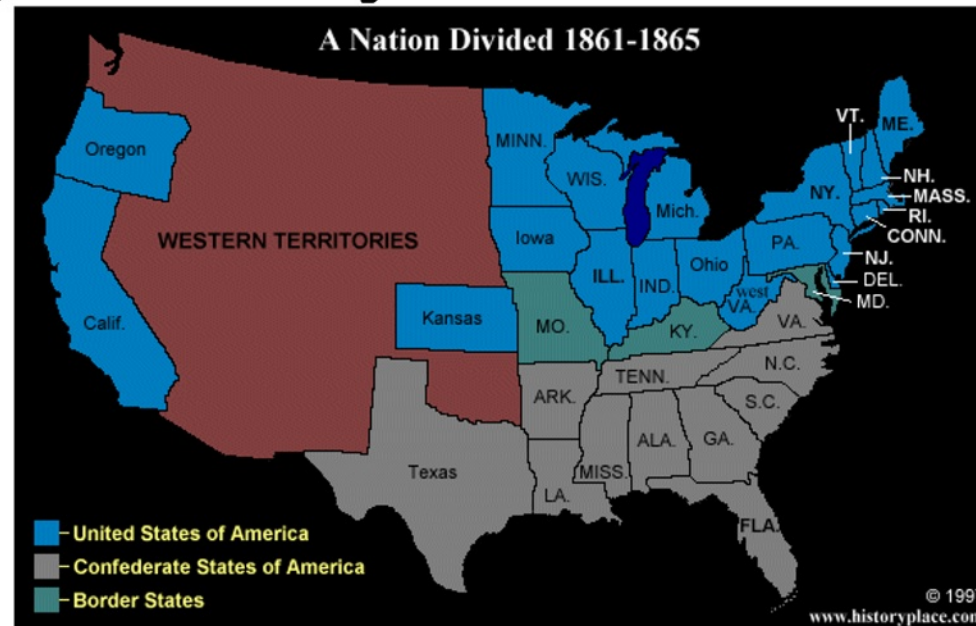
By 1860, economic conflicts split the nation. The South relied on farming. The North was more industrialized. The regions also disagreed on the issues of power in government and slavery.

Southern plantations felt they needed slave labor.



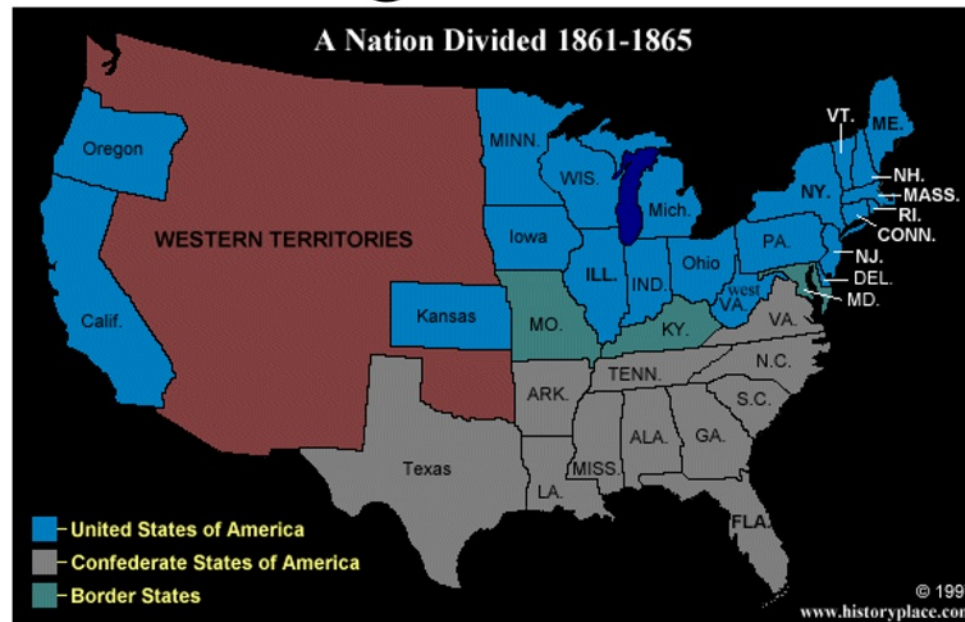
Section 4- Expansion of the United States

Ultimately, more laws made in Washington benefitted the North than the South, and the South began to believe that their way of life was being threatened by those in Washington D.C. In 1860 and 1861, eleven southern states **seceded**, or separated, from the **Union** (the country). The Civil War began shortly after.



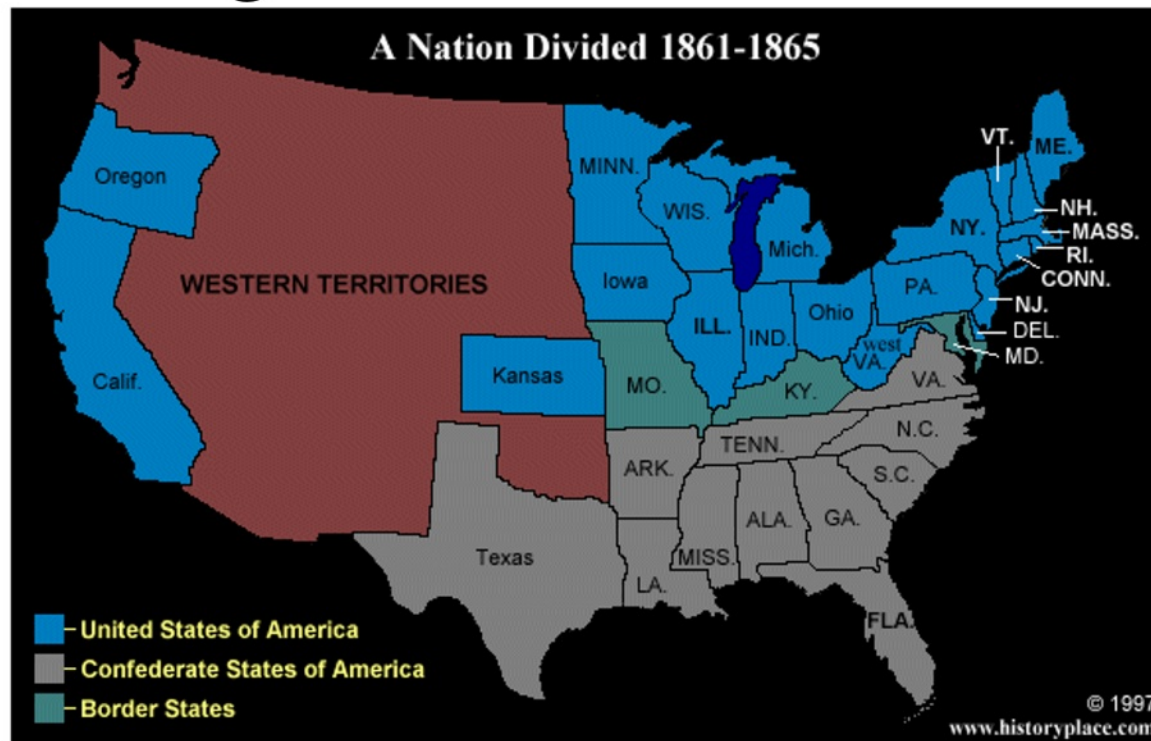
Section 4- Expansion of the United States

The North's advantages during the war were 1) a white population over 19 million, the **Confederacy** (the South) only 5.5 million, 2) better transportation (railroads and roads), 3) better industry, and 4) it could raise money because it had a central government vs. the South's weak central government.



Section 4- Expansion of the United States

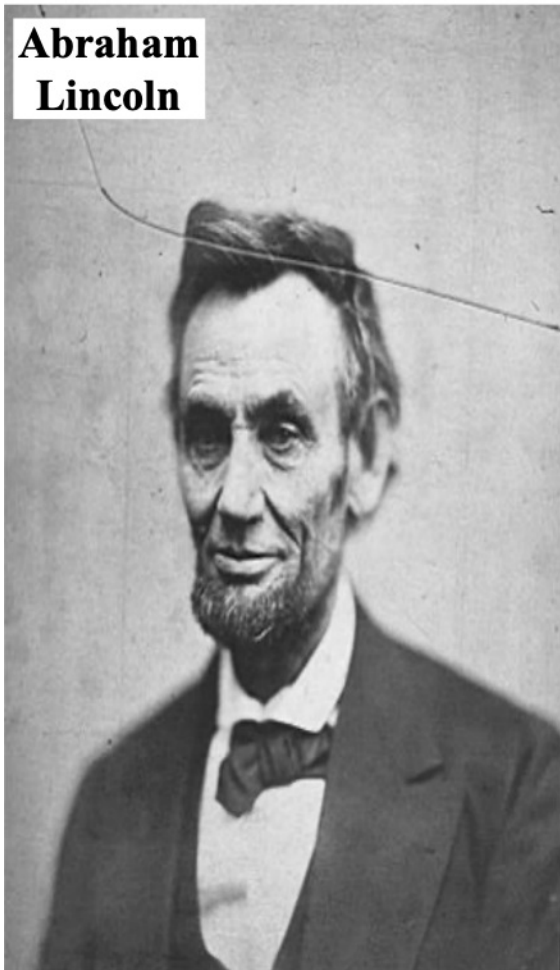
The South's advantages were 1) they only had to hold out until the North got tired of fighting to win, 2) most of the battles were fought in the South, so they not only knew the land better but were fighting for their land, and 3) they had better military training and officers at first.



Section 4- Expansion of the United States

The North won the war in 1865, mainly because the North surrounded and suffocated the South on land with troops and on sea with warships (called the **Anaconda Plan**).

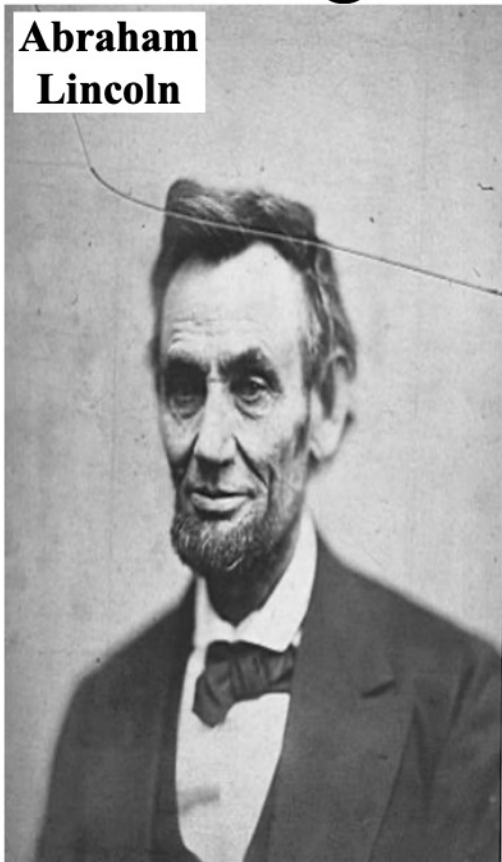
Abraham
Lincoln



Section 4- Expansion of the United States

The nation was reunited, and slavery was outlawed. It had been the bloodiest war in United States history, a war that President Lincoln continued to fight until the country was one single nation again.

Abraham
Lincoln

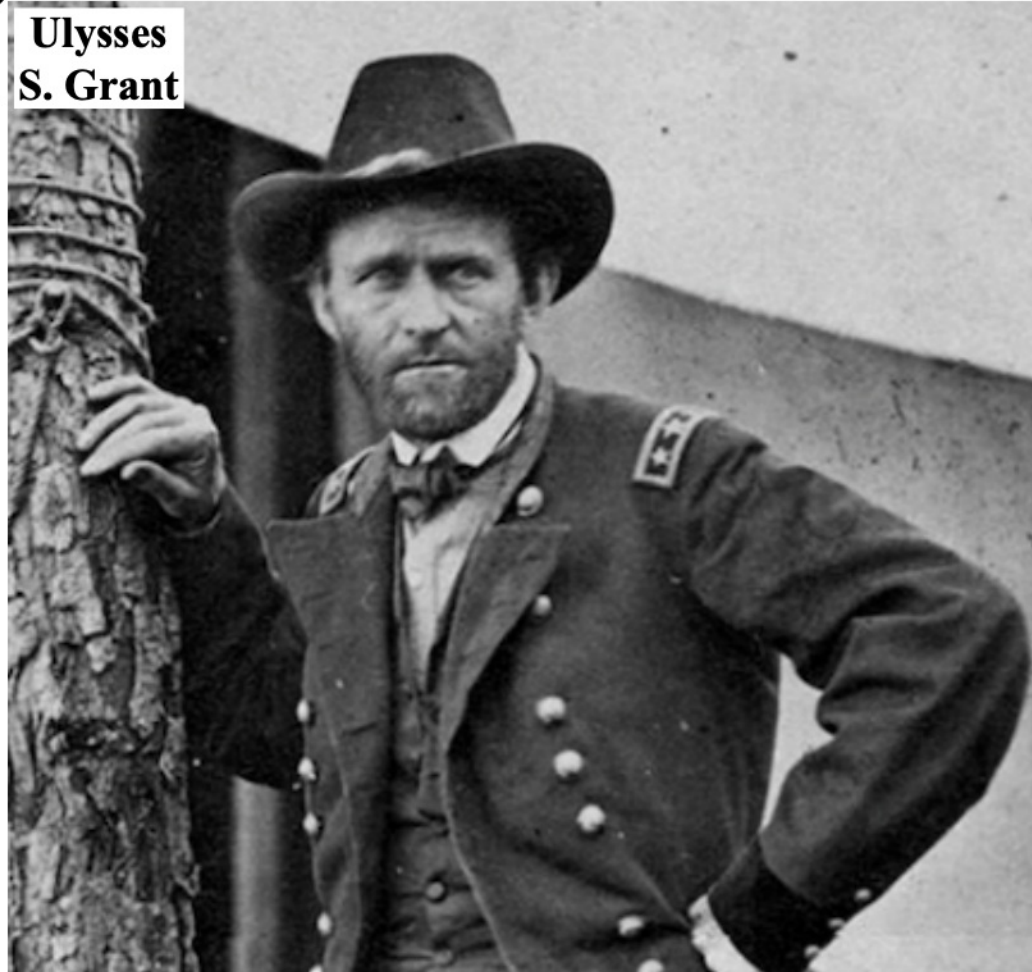


Section 4- Expansion of the United States

During and after the war, the U.S. passed **Homestead Acts** (laws that sold land very cheaply) to encourage Americans to move west. At the same time, there were those in Congress that wanted to make the South suffer for the war and also give African-Americans the same rights as white people had. These **Radical Republicans** in Congress worked to pass the **13th Amendment** (the outlawing of slavery), the **14th Amendment** (making African-Americans U.S. citizens with rights), and the **15th Amendment** (giving African-American men the right to vote).

Section 4- Expansion of the United States

The time after the Civil War (1865-1876), when the North and South began to work together again as one country, was called **Radical Reconstruction**. Ulysses S. Grant was President for most of that time.



Ulysses
S. Grant

Section 4- Expansion of the United States

However, **segregation** (the separation of people by race) continued after the war, and in the South, **Jim Crow laws** (laws specifically targeting African-Americans) were created to keep African-Americans from gaining power and rights. The **Ku Klux Klan** also rose up at that time in the South and began its open discrimination of African-Americans.

Section 4- Expansion of the United States

Still, American began to move towards greater equality. The term **carpetbagger** refers to Northerners who moved to the South after the Civil War, during Reconstruction. Many carpetbaggers moved south for their own financial and political gains. **Scalawags** were white Southerners who cooperated politically with black freedmen and Northern newcomers. After Radical Reconstruction ended in 1876, to protect itself from the outside world, America became more isolated (limited involvement) with the rest of the world.

Section 4- Expansion of the United States

In 1867, the United States bought Alaska from Russia.



Section 4- Expansion of the United States

In 1898, it took Hawaii. War with Spain in 1898 during the **Spanish-American War** gave the United States control of Puerto Rico, the Philippines, and Guam.



Section 4- Expansion of the United States

By 1900, the United States had become the world's leading industrial giant, a global power, and a magnet for immigrants seeking freedom and opportunity.

