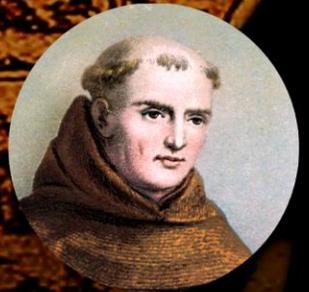
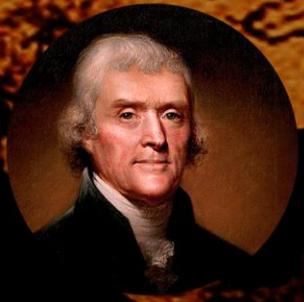


UNITED STATES HISTORY

A Traditional Catholic Perspective



FIRST EDITION

CHRIST THE KING BOOKS

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societies:

The sovereigns replied with the famous orders of March and December 1503, which legalized the forced labor of free Indians but attempted at the same time to protect them from uncontrolled exploitation. The natives must be made to work, if necessary, on buildings and farms and in the mines, but in moderation and for reasonable wages. At the same time, to ensure their being civilized, they must be gathered into villages, under the administration of a patron or protector, and provided with a school and a missionary priest. Each adult Indian was to have a house and land which he might not alienate. Inter-marriage of Spaniards and Indians was also to be encouraged. And in everything they were to be treated “as free persons, for such they are.”²³

Unfortunately, these goals were soon disregarded through the greed of those who came merely for riches and cheap labor. Some of Isabella’s subordinates turned out to be selfish and cruel. After Queen Isabella died, her grandson Charles I eventually took the throne, and he unfortunately permitted slavery; this did not help the situation. 1517 marked a change in legislation, through the work of the Dominican, Bartolome de Las Casas, who advocated on behalf of the Indians’ liberty. From then on, as long as they converted to Catholicism, the natives were governed by their own chiefs, called *caciques*, instead of being directly under the Spanish Protectorates. Though the *caciques* retained their titles of nobility, the *caciques* were still under the authority of the king of Spain.

As is overemphasized in many modern histories, there were some Spanish who did not respect the official policy of the monarchs against slavery. However, what is rarely mentioned is that this “slavery throughout the Caribbean islands was organized and mostly run by the Marranos [do you remember who the Marranos were?], and a number of them had come to Mexico after the Conquest, and did the same [organize slavery]. Much of the bad reputation the Spanish had among some of the Indians was because of the Marranos, not because of authentic Catholic Spanish.”²⁴

2. Conquistadores and Explorers

Columbus

The stories of the **Conquistadores**, as the Spanish Conquerors were called, were for the most part ones of great dedication to the Catholic Faith. These men were not conquerors of lands for the sake of power and fame, but first for the spread of Christianity to the natives. It seems proper to begin with the Conquistador that opened the way for all the rest, Christopher Columbus. Although he had his flaws in civil administration, Columbus was a fervent Third Order Franciscan. (You are certainly familiar with the Franciscans, the order started by the great Saint Francis of Assisi; the “Third Order” of certain orders in the Catholic Church is a branch of those orders for laywomen and laymen.) Columbus saw himself as opening the beauty of Christianity to myriads of people. He was born in Genoa, Italy in 1451. In his early twenties he went off to sea, traveling to the East Indies down around Africa. Recall that the East Indies are what we would today call East and Southeast Asia. During these navigations he began wondering if there was a faster way to get to these lands. For if there were, Christianity could be brought to them more easily.

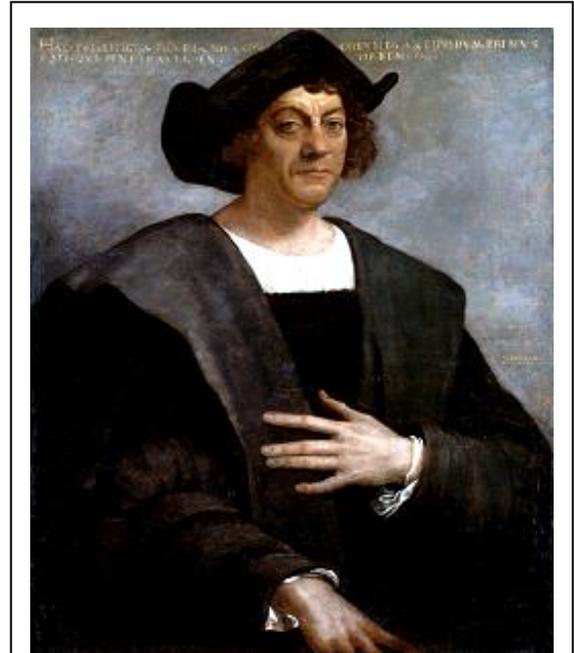


Figure 2. Christopher Columbus
Sebastiano del Piombo, Public Domain

²³ (Matthew Anger, Peter Chojnowski, Rev. Fr. Kenneth Novak, 1996, p. 36 Vol. 1) quoting H.C. Haring’s *The Spanish Empire in America*, pp. 39-40

²⁴ (Miller A. S., 2006, p. 157)

Columbus' plan: sail West to reach the East

He developed an idea of sailing due West around the globe, in order to reach the East.



Figure 3 Actual world geography vs. what Columbus thought

Diagram By Mindriot - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons Red line is our addition.

You can see this idea in the map shown here, which shows Columbus' ideas of geography (shown in diagonal lines) on top of an accurate map. The red line represents Columbus's plan, by which he quite reasonably thought that in sailing southwest, he would arrive at the "East Indies": China, Japan, etc. – all those places which had many pagan souls to save! There were, however, two problems with his plan: (a) He did not realize that North and South America exist, and would thus prevent his getting to the Indies! (b) He did not realize how wide the Pacific Ocean (and the earth) really **are**. Notice that the red line goes directly through the Caribbean islands near Florida – just where he first landed, in fact.

To put this plan into action, he would need missionary priests, money, men, supplies, and the general support of a Catholic monarch. He therefore went to various European courts trying to solicit support. They all were distrustful of Columbus' calculations of the distance (turns out they were correct to doubt it), though they all knew that the earth was round. Only Isabella of Spain was interested in what the Italian had to offer. After some hesitation Isabella granted him the finances and ships necessary for the expedition, as well as making him Chief Admiral – a very important and powerful officer of the Spanish navy (which at the time, was perhaps the most powerful navy in the world). Columbus clearly states the purpose of his mission in his journal:

I had given [a report] to your Highnesses touching the lands of India, and respecting a Prince who is called Gran Can [Khan], which means in our language King of Kings ...how, many times, he and his predecessors had sent to Rome to ask for men learned in our Holy Faith in order that they might instruct him in it and how the Holy Father had never provided them; and thus so many peoples were lost, falling into idolatry and accepting false and harmful religions; and Your Highnesses, as Catholic Christians and Princes, lovers and promoters of the Holy Christian Faith, and enemies of the false doctrine of Mahomet [Mohammed – the "great prophet" of Islam] and of all idolatries and heresies, you thought of sending me, Christobal Colon, to the said regions of India... with a

view that they might be converted to our holy faith.²⁵

Columbus' little fleet of the Niña, Pinta, and Santa Maria sailed out on August 3, 1492. After about 35 days, the men were very irritated and impatient at having seen nothing. (Put yourself in *their shoes* – they were exploring hitherto unexplored territory, and there was no guarantee of ever seeing land!) Finally, on October 11, the Feast of Our Lady of the Pillar, Columbus sighted and visited a small island, which he named San Salvador, which is one of the many islands which are today called the Bahama Islands off the East coast of Florida. He then visited the island of “Hispaniola,” which today includes the nations Dominican Republic and Haiti. The natives he met appeared timid and harmless. However, they signaled to the Spanish that their northern neighbors were not so peaceful, and often took away captives, submitting them to cannibalism [the eating of human flesh]. It was during Columbus' second voyage that he encountered the other inhabitants of the Caribbean islands. Dr. Chanca, Columbus' doctor on the voyage, describes these “Caribs:”

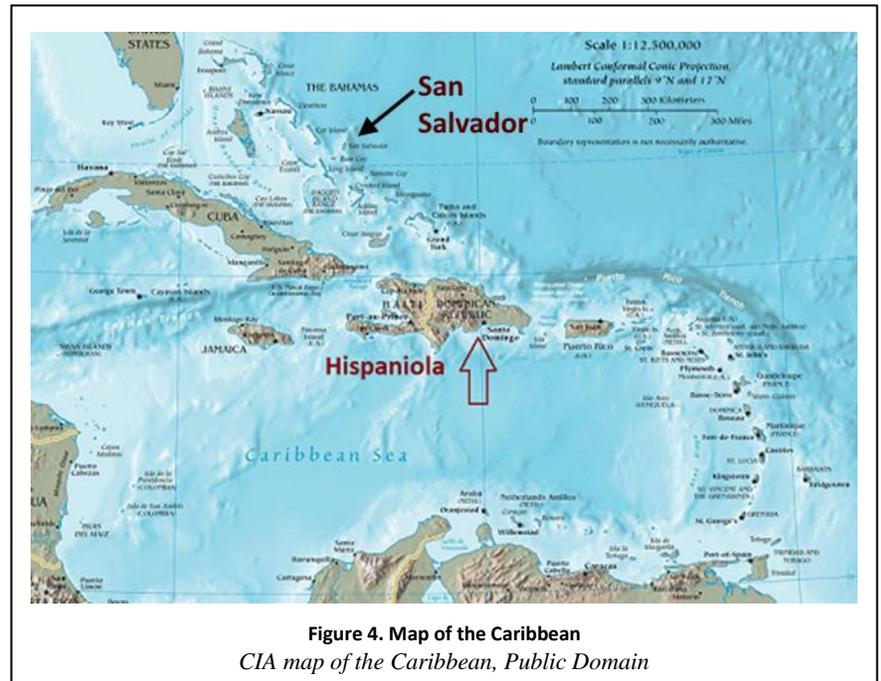


Figure 4. Map of the Caribbean
CIA map of the Caribbean, Public Domain

*These people raid the other islands and carry off all the women they can take, especially the young and beautiful, whom they keep as servants and concubines... The women say that they are treated with a cruelty that seems incredible. The Caribs eat the male children that they have by them, and only bring up the children by their own women; and as for the men they are able to capture, they bring those who are alive home to be slaughtered and eat those who are dead on the spot... In one house the neck of a man was found cooking in a pot. They ... use [the boys they capture] as servants until they are men. Then, when they want to make a feast, they kill and eat them...*²⁶

²⁵ (Bourne, 1906, pp. 89-90)

²⁶ (Columbus, 1969, p. 136)

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Lesson 3 : Spanish Civilization and Missionaries

1. Mexico

Conversions and new churches

So far, we have considered the first explorers of these new lands coming under Spanish rule. The culture and civilization in the Spanish colonies, or what we may now call New Spain, was the direct result of thousands of men and women of various religious orders. These missionaries gave up their relatively comfortable lives in Spain to toil among natives of the New World. They taught them the Spanish language, how to grow European vegetables, to build long lasting shelters, to sing, dance, and most of all, love our Lord Jesus Christ. In order to achieve such great success, it was essential that the generals and soldiers worked together with the friars and priests. The following letter written in 1603 by Father Ascensión, a Discalced Carmelite, manifests the spirit of these missionaries. In this letter to King Phillip II of Spain, he draws up a plan to extend missionary work to the lands along the western coast of North America, also known as “the Californias”:

To the general, captains, soldiers, and all who go on this expedition, must be given express order and command that they shall hold themselves in strict obedience and subjection to the religious who are in their company, and that without their order, counsel, and advice, war may not be made, or the heathen Indians be otherwise molested...by this means matters may be conducted with peace and Christianity, and with love and quiet, which is the method to be used in the pacification of that realm...And it would be well to bring Indian minstrels from [the already civilized areas of] New Spain, with their instruments and trumpets, that the divine services may be celebrated with solemnity and pomp, and to teach the Indians of the [Californias] to sing and play. Likewise, it would be well and proper to choose from among the Indians some of the brightest, selecting among the young men and boys such as appear the most docile, talented and capable; and they should be taught and instructed in the Christian doctrine and to read Spanish primers [that is, simple books on reading and grammar] ...drawing them to the settlements with love, suavity, and gentleness.⁴³

Outlined in this letter were the primary goals of the Spanish. For them, it was important that they preserve what they could of the native culture already there, and build further on it. To remedy the Indians’ love of bloody sacrifices, the religious taught them to act out religious dramas of Our Lord’s Passion. Old accounts demonstrate their great talents in acting them out.⁴⁴ With the help of the missionaries, the natives developed a culture built both on their previous one

⁴³ (Bolton, 1916, pp. 124, 128-129)

⁴⁴ C.f. Catholic Encyclopedia, Art. *Mexico*

and on the additional grandeur of Catholic Europe that the Spanish brought with them. The Mexican culture of today is one example of the mingling and intermarriage of these two peoples. The Indians worked side by side with the missionaries in building Churches that still stand today. The New York Metropolitan Museum has this to say about New World art:

In the seventeenth century, Mexicans began to formulate a national identity, and native elements of content and style became more prominent in the arts. A continuity with the pre-Columbian past was represented by the incorporation of indigenous motifs into architecture and the decorative arts. Decorative exuberance and elaborate patterning gave a distinctive character to buildings, furniture, ceramics, and metalwork in religious and domestic environments. The eighteenth-century baroque period witnessed the climax of the Mexican colonial style: a dense and flamboyant blending of European motifs joined to distinctive local traditions.⁴⁵

Education was in no way dismissed in Mexico. In 1553 the University of Mexico was opened, 80 years before the Protestant University of Harvard in the English colonies, and by this time there were already several other Catholic colleges and academies:

The first printing machine was brought to the New World not through the personal interest or for the personal advantage of any individual, but through the paternal solicitude of Bishop Zumárraga and the Viceroy D. Antonio de Mendoza [who was responsible for much of the public education in Mexico]. Public instruction, good or bad, according to individual opinion, was on an equality with that of Spain, and to the universities founded in Mexico, which were of the same rank as those of Spain, many noted professors were sent.⁴⁶

During the 18th Century, Mexico boasted two Baroque⁴⁷ style composers of music, Manuel de Zumaya and Ignacio de Jerusalem. Spain would not have put so much time in the cultivation of such culture in the New World if all she wanted was gold.

We must mention in passing the *Reducciones* of Paraguay. The Jesuits established these communities at the beginning of the 17th century to protect the Indians from harsh treatment from some colonists. In these virtually self-supported states, the Indians learned agriculture and crafts, had a church and priests, and attended schools. What the *Reducciones* were for Paraguay, the Spanish Missions were for North America. From these communities sprang the wonderful fruits we mentioned above.

2. Spanish Work in the U.S.

What is a mission?

To begin, perhaps it would be well to say what a mission is. Like the *Reducciones*, a mission was at once a shelter, a refuge from attacks from other tribes, and most importantly a haven of the Catholic Faith. The priests and friars lived within the walls, offered Mass and the sacraments, and kept books for the Indians' instruction. The missions usually had ground laid aside for growing vegetables. In the case of assault from the neighboring tribes, the Indians would gather within the walls, which served as a type of fortress. Often, they became so popular that towns and cities would

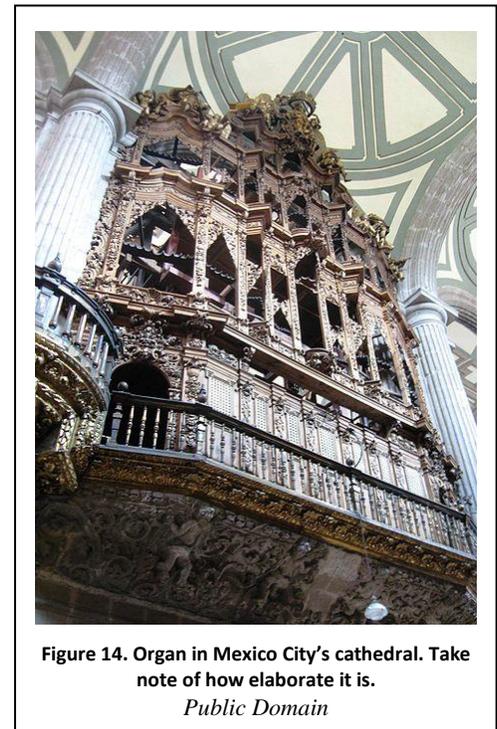


Figure 14. Organ in Mexico City's cathedral. Take note of how elaborate it is.
Public Domain

⁴⁵ Quoted from *Friends of the Arts of Mexico*, part of the N.Y. Metropolitan Museum of Art; <http://www.humanities-interactive.org/splendors/splenenglish.htm>.

⁴⁶ Catholic Encyclopedia, Art. *Mexico*

⁴⁷ Baroque music is in the style of Bach and Vivaldi.

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Princeton. Then, while the American troops were getting into their winter quarters, Howe retreated from New Jersey.

Failure of the British three-pronged plan

Although the British had many opportunities to crush the rebel forces, the officials in Britain thought they had to invent some complex military strategy to do so. Admittedly, it was true that Washington's generalship was starting to outshine the British generals. Since Massachusetts, and New England generally, was the heart of the rebellion, the British resolved on splitting the colonies into two, separating New England from the rest. General Johnny Burgoyne, who was still near Montreal after the American campaign against Canada, would march down to Albany. Coming up from the south, Howe would lead his troops up along the Hudson River. Colonel St. Leger, with a force of mostly Indians, would march east toward Albany. There was a good chance for success in this plan, especially since the British already held the major cities on the coast; however, it required that each general actually carry out his part.

It began with great success. Burgoyne pushed steadily through a difficult terrain of forests and brush. When he reached Lake Champlain, he defeated the small forces settled on the lake one by one. Fort Ticonderoga surrendered without a fight. As they continued marching, the terrain became more challenging, and he lost more troops in the increasing skirmishes with the colonists. Finally, near Saratoga, New York, Burgoyne's weakened army of 8,000 met with the colonists in an open battle. The colonists had the advantage, as most of the backwoodsmen around the region swelled their ranks to about 20,000. Their position looked the more attractive, as the British were now employing Indians on their side. Horatio Gates and Benedict Arnold led the colonists in a fierce attack which the British could not withstand. Burgoyne surrendered his whole army to Gates, another decisive victory for the American side. This victory not only greatly galvanized the spirits of the faltering rebels, but also drew attention from other world powers, especially France. However, one colonist was not pleased: Benedict Arnold. This was because Gates claimed the victory for himself and deprived Arnold of his glory.



Washington's bold move to cross the Delaware and attack in the middle of the night, here imagined by an artist, in what has become an iconic painting.
Emmanuel Leutz, Public Domain

Meanwhile, Colonel St. Leger, with a force of British, Indians, and Canadians was descending from Canada through the wilderness of New York. Accompanying him were Sir John Johnson's Scots-Irish and their chaplain Fr. McKenna. After about a month of marching west along the St. Lawrence River, they reached Fort Stanwix, which they laid siege to on August 3rd. The Americans, however, had been alerted about the advancing British column, and gathered a small force to relieve the Fort. On their march to the Fort, Johnson's Yorkers and the Indians ambushed them, throwing them into confusion. About half the rebels were killed, while a thunderstorm intervened, which allowed the remaining Americans to take refuge in the Fort. Later, they gained enough courage for an undercover raid on the Indians' camp. One of the Indians spotted them, and he hastily warned his fellows. The Indians then abandoned the field to protect their possessions, and the other Loyalists followed them. Eventually, they all withdrew back to Canada leaving the Americans with an easy victory.

What was Howe, the third prong of the three-part invasion, doing all this time in New York? As usual, he was surprising everybody anew. Instead of doing his part to march up to Albany, he thought it would be an easier victory to capture Philadelphia, the seat of the colonists' government. In fact, he defeated Washington in battles of Brandywine, while Washington suffered more than 1,000 casualties. The British took control of Philadelphia, and settled comfortably there. But that didn't mean Congress was broken up. Its members simply moved to York, Pennsylvania. Howe apparently didn't realize that capturing the Americans' constantly shifting capital did not mean necessary defeat as it would have in Europe, for example. When the Parliament decided not to send him more troops, Howe decided to resign his generalship, and joined the Whig faction of Parliament back home. Perhaps he could bring the king down more easily right at home, rather than merely giving the appearance of fighting for him on the battlefield?

While the British in Philadelphia were enjoying warm relief indoors from the frigid winter, Washington and his men were freezing in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. After their defeat at Philadelphia, they had stumbled into a windblown valley 20 miles northwest of the city. At first, they had only one axe with which to hew trees and build huts. Only one in three men had shoes to wear, and some left bloodstains on the snow as they marched into the valley. For a month some of the men had no shelter at all. Food was also sparse: there was little meat and some had to subsist on a tasteless mixture of flour and water. Washington said he was “now convinced, beyond a doubt that unless some great and capital change suddenly takes place in that line, this Army must inevitably be reduced to one or other of these three things: starve, dissolve, or disperse.”²⁰⁷ In part, his fear was realized: by the time the spring came, over 2,500 soldiers had died. Conditions improved when Congress started furnishing the army with supplies, and when a Prussian drill master, Baron Friedrich von Steuben, arrived. He took a rag-tag* army and, after a month, left it with discipline and form.

An ally for the colonists

On May 6th, as the weather was warming up, great news reached the Americans in Valley Forge. King Louis XVI of France had formally recognized the independence of the new country by signing a treaty of friendship with it. The entire army shouted “Long live France! Long live the friendly powers! Long live the American States!”²⁰⁸ Ben Franklin’s untiring work of soliciting France’s support (chiefly through Freemasonry) had finally paid off.²⁰⁹ In fact, France had been secretly supporting the Americans all along. The *Rodrigue Hortalez et Compagnie* had been set up to supply them ammunition; the Americans fought the battle of Saratoga with primarily French arms. That open field victory over the British showed France that the United States was really a country in its own right. Thus, King Louis saw an alliance with the States as an effective means of taking revenge on the British for the numerous conflicts Britain brought on them, and for reducing the power of her perpetual enemy.

The Marquis de Lafayette had already been fighting under American colors, but now France dispatched a fleet under the French Admiral Comte d’Estaing to North America. The British hearing of this new development, decided to withdraw their army and fleet from the Philadelphia region, back up to New York. On the way, the Americans attacked the British from the rear on a blistering hot day, and inflicted many casualties. Some collapsed simply from the heat. As the army escaped into New York, Washington followed it from behind and took his position north of the city.

Comte d’Estaing had now arrived with his fleet on America’s coast. Being warned about the British in New York, he sailed up to the British held Newport, Rhode Island, which seemed an easier capture than New York. The British followed them into open sea and an indecisive sea battle began. At the same time, an American force on land was besieging the town, which made the British seek out reinforcements for the city. Thus, France’s first entrance into the war ended indecisively.

Fighting on the frontier

Out on the western frontiers Rebels and Loyalists vied passionately and bloodily with each other. Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and the rest, having become a part of Canada during the Quebec Act, were now under the command of Colonel Henry Hamilton of Detroit. Hamilton had an agreement with the Indians such that he would offer them money in return for the Indians bringing him the scalps of rebels.²¹⁰ As these white-led Indians ravaged Kentucky lands, a 25-year-old Kentuckian, George Clark, resolved to restore peace to his land. With about 150 men he cruised down the Ohio River to the town of Kaskaskia, on the Missouri-Illinois border. Under cover of night, they occupied the city without a shot. Clark went on to secure the surrounding region, including Vincennes (in Indiana). Meanwhile, Colonel Hamilton had heard about the capture of Vincennes and had swept down from Detroit to take it back. Clark, seizing his opportunity to crush British power in this region, rushed over from about 200 miles away to meet Hamilton. Though without food for two days, he led a surprise attack against the city and forced it to surrender. This victory lent encouragement for further expansion into Kentucky. The settlement of Louisville was established at this time.

²⁰⁷ (Library of Congress, 2015)

* disorganized and unsuitable

²⁰⁸ (Freedman, 2008, p. 62)

²⁰⁹ (Fisher, 1994, p. 37)

²¹⁰ Hence his being called “hairbuyer” (scalps have hair on them)

Down South

The British, not finding luck on their side while fighting in the northern colonies, decided to shift the fighting arena further south. This seemed promising as the southern colonies were a rallying point for loyalists. In December of 1778, the British took Savannah, as well as Augusta in the next month. Next, Charles Cornwallis and Henry Clinton led a force 14,000 strong into South Carolina and demanded the surrender of Charleston. After a siege of about a month, General Benjamin Lincoln surrendered the city with its 5,000 troops, a great blow to the American cause.

Although the outlook was bleak for the Americans, there seemed to be new hope when Spain signed an alliance with France, thus making joint cause with them against the British. Bernardo de Gálvez, the Spanish governor of Louisiana, captured several forts in the Mississippi Valley, and in the Siege of Pensacola he defeated the British troops. This gave the Spanish control of West Florida. A Spanish fleet was also dispatched to the southern American coast, while the Spanish were at the same time laying siege to the British stronghold of Gibraltar (between Spain and Africa). This gave the American fleet an opportunity to descend on Savannah, Georgia. In September of 1779, Comte d'Estaing and General Lincoln arrived in Savannah with 2,000 French and American troops. However, despite their cannonading, British-sided Scotsmen within Savannah sniped at the besiegers. On October 9th the French-American force withdrew with about 800 casualties, compared with Britain's 100.

In the next year, 1780, Washington responded to these assaults by commissioning De Kalb to lead the Americans down to reinforce Camden, South Carolina. In North Carolina he was disappointed to find out that Horatio Gates was now to lead the army instead of him. Gates had no knowledge of the terrain, nor of the strong loyalist sympathies in the Carolinas, so that the army was half starved when it reached Camden. Back in Charleston, British general Cornwallis had been warned about Gates' arrival and moved out with 2,000 men to meet him near Camden. Early in the morning the two armies met. In the first engagement, most of the exhausted Americans fled without firing, the North Carolina militia being the only one to hold its ground. Eventually they, too, were surrounded by the British, giving Cornwallis a resounding victory. Full of confidence, the British attempted an invasion of North Carolina. One of the militia units was ambushed and surrounded by Nathanael Greene in the battle of King's Mountain, the British suffering many casualties. This gave more courage to the rebels and forced Cornwallis to retreat back into South Carolina. Greene pursued them and although he lost most of the encounters with Cornwallis, succeeded in tiring Cornwallis' army out so much that they retreated to his base in Wilmington.²¹¹ Green then took back all the British possessions in the South so that only Charleston, Wilmington, and Savannah were still British held.

Unfortunately for the Americans, their boosted morale was shaken when news reached them of the treason committed by Benedict Arnold. Arnold was still ruffled by Horatio Gates' stealing from him the glory of the Saratoga victory, and now he turned his anger against the American position generally. He plotted with the British to sell out the key stronghold of West Point, which commanded the Hudson River, for £6,300 and an officer's commission. By the sheerest accident, the plot was detected in the nick of time, and Arnold fled to the British. "Whom can we trust now?" cried General Washington in anguish.²¹²

Victory at last

Arnold rallied the Loyalists in North Carolina and then clashed with the Americans. Cornwallis followed up his success by leading his men up into Virginia to join Arnold. They plundered the countryside, with very little to stop them. Up north, Washington, who was near New York, finally decided to put an end to the war. It was also high time the French did something useful in the war. Hence, Washington moved his army south; the French commander Rochambeau led his troops southward, and the French Admiral De Grasse sailed toward Chesapeake Bay. To avoid an encounter with Washington, Cornwallis set up a fort in Yorktown, Virginia. But it was too late. The two armies besieged Cornwallis by land, while De Grasse bombarded the fort by sea. American artillery smashed through the wooden fortresses of the British. With the defenses broken and help from the British fleet prevented by De Grasse, Cornwallis saw the situation as hopeless. He surrendered his entire army on October 19th, 1781. The Americans celebrated the victory with festivals and drinking.

²¹¹ On the coast of North Carolina.

²¹² (David M. Kennedy, Lizabeth Cohen, and Thomas A. Bailey)

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popular pressure, the rebels were granted amnesty.²¹⁵ Perhaps the government was forced to grant amnesty. After all, using the principles of the revolution, Shay could argue that his rebellion was necessary for a “*people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God entitle them.*” [Do you recognize that sentence? Which document is it from?]

Elsewhere, other war veterans rose to protest Congressional neglect. Two of them, John Sevier and James Wilkinson, made overtures of an alliance with Spain, with whom they hoped to find relief from their distress. The latter, who had moved into Kentucky County, Virginia even swore allegiance to King Charles III of Spain. He met with Spanish Governor Esteban Rodríguez Miró to work out a plan in which he could have a trading monopoly on the Mississippi River in return for advancing Spain’s interests. However, the plan did not get much under way, as Spain was wary about creating tensions with the country they had just helped to form.

To remedy this lack of union and prevent further threats of rebellion, a government different from that under the Articles of Confederation was necessary. Those Americans who desired a change that favored a strong centralized government were called *Federalists*. They were to have authority not over just the state governments, but also over the individual people in each state. One of their outspoken members was Alexander Hamilton, who helped persuade Congress to call a convention of the states in order to modify the Articles of Confederation. Two smaller conventions, the Mount Vernon Conference and Annapolis Conference, had previously attempted to settle some disputes regarding fishing on the Potomac River, but this would not solve the bigger difficulties.

The delegates meet

On May 14th, 1787, the first delegates from Virginia and Pennsylvania arrived in Philadelphia’s Independence Hall. It was not until May 25th that all of them arrived. Among them were Hamilton from New York, Madison from Virginia, the 80-year-old Franklin from Pennsylvania, Washington from Virginia, and William Patterson from New Jersey. Washington was unanimously elected as chairman, which meant he couldn’t contribute to the discussions, but could use the respect in which everyone held him to moderate and control the discussions.

Though the initial intent of the delegates was to revise the Articles of Confederation, this idea was soon abandoned by Federalist pressure. Edmund Randolph and James Madison first proposed the *Virginia Plan*, creating the three parts of the Federal Government. We now have: the legislative, executive, and judicial branches. Further, as Hamilton argued, the law-making arm in a republic is the one most susceptible to tyranny. To remedy this, they arranged that the legislative branch, or Congress, would be divided into two parts: the Senate and House of Representatives. The people of each state would directly elect these, the number of which would be proportional to the number of people in each State.

This proposal was met with much disapproval, especially by the delegates of the smaller states. These were the “Anti-Federalists” or “Democrats” (not to be confused with modern-day “Democrat Party”). They favored a weak central government that respected the sovereignty of individual states. They came out with the *New Jersey Plan*, which proposed keeping the Articles and simply giving Congress the simple powers of taxing and creating a Supreme Court, and that each state should get one vote in Congress regardless of its size.

Debate raged strongly over this issue of representation, until a compromise was finally reached: each state would have an equal number of Senators, but a proportionate number of representatives. The result was something akin to the House of Lords and House of Commons in Britain’s Parliament. The document we now call *The United Constitution* was being formed.

Another issue that split the Convention was slavery. If slaves were not counted as part of the population to be taxed, the states with more slaves would pay lower taxes than those with fewer. If on the other hand, they were considered part of the population, they would get a larger representation in the House of Representatives, although the slaves themselves would not vote. The delegates then fashioned a rather artificial compromise: five slaves would represent three free men – so the states would be taxed and represented accordingly. This was called the *Three-fifths Compromise*.

²¹⁵ An official pardon.

The Constitution also provided for a Supreme Court in which the members would serve for life. The chief executive – the president – would serve for four years and also be the commander-in-chief of the army. He also possessed the power of veto over those bills which Congress proposed to be made into law. Notice how the president is *not* part of the legislative branch, *unlike* a monarchy.

The northern states also pushed for the abolition of the slave trade, perhaps to be consistent with their claim that “all men are created equal”, enshrined in the Declaration of Independence. But because the economic success of South Carolina and Georgia depended on the slave trade, a compromise was reached: those states were allowed to continue the trade up to the year 1808. Most of the other state constitutions forbade the slave trade. It must not be thought, however, that those states were opposed to the slave trade based on moral principle. Many of the famous politicians, Charles Carroll included, owned slaves long after the Constitutional decision.

The Federalist position

The Constitution also provided a list of powers to which the federal Congress was limited to, to the joy of the anti-federalists. However, to the approval of staunch Federalists like Madison, it ended with the ambiguous concession “to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers and all other Powers vested by this Constitution.” For the Federalists, this wording gave the national government any power Congress saw fit.

James Madison was a Federalist. He states the position like this:

*The powers delegated to the Federal Government are few and defined. Those which are to remain in the state governments are numerous and indefinite. The former will be exercised principally on external objects, [such] as war, peace, negotiation, and foreign commerce. The powers reserved to the several states will extend to all the objects which, in the ordinary course of affairs, concern the lives, liberties, and properties of the people.*²¹⁶

Alexander Hamilton was the most ardent spokesmen for the Federalist position. In the following he argues for its expediency:

*There is an idea, which is not without its advocates, that a vigorous Executive is inconsistent with the genius of republican government...[But] Energy in the Executive is a leading character in the definition of good government. It is essential to the protection of the community against foreign attacks; it is not less essential to the steady administration of the laws; to the protection of property against those irregular and high-handed combinations which sometimes interrupt the ordinary course of justice; to the security of liberty against the enterprises and assaults of ambition, of faction, and of anarchy...A feeble Executive implies a feeble execution of the government. A feeble execution is but another phrase for a bad execution; and a government ill executed, whatever it may be in theory, must be, in practice, a bad government.*²¹⁷

Underlying this position is a principle more or less shared by the Federalists:

*All communities divide themselves into the few and the many. The first are the rich and wellborn, the other the mass of the people...The people are turbulent and changing; they seldom judge or determine right. Give therefore to the first class a distinct, permanent share in the government. They will check the unsteadiness of the second, and as they cannot receive any advantage by change, they therefore will ever maintain good government.*²¹⁸

Such a claim is consistent with Pope Pius VI’s address to the French National Convention²¹⁹ during the French Revolution. In this address, he warns about giving too much power to the ignorant and erring masses of simple citizens. Instead, he argues that it is better to keep a governmental structure more in line with that which St. Thomas argues for

²¹⁶ (Hamilton, 2000, p. 298)

²¹⁷ (Hamilton, 2000, pp. 447-448)

²¹⁸ http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp_textbook.cfm?smtID=11&psid=3799

²¹⁹ The French National Assembly was the interim government during the French Revolution

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*covered themselves in blasphemous uproar with the ornaments of our altars – and have gotten drunk from our sacred chalices.*³¹⁴

Such texts made impressions on many Catholic soldiers and showed them that to fight for the U.S. was to fight for the anti-Catholic revolutionaries. So many Catholics, in particular the Irish, deserted to the Mexicans and formed the San Patricio Battalion. Their leader was John Riley of County Galway, Ireland. Their flag had on the one side a picture of St. Patrick and on the other the Mexican coat of arms. By March of 1847, there were over 1,000 desertions.

All the same, Taylor determined to push on with his army of 4,600 men and win as much fame as possible. Santa Ana at the same time was personally leading an army of 15,000 up north to meet Taylor. At the battle of Buena Vista, the Americans entrenched themselves in the mountain pass, and Mexicans tried scaling the heights to attack them. Both sides suffered heavy casualties, but in the end, Santa Ana withdrew back to Mexico, there to receive from the Church funds in order to continue the war. He indeed would need them, for there was now a new arrival on the scene.

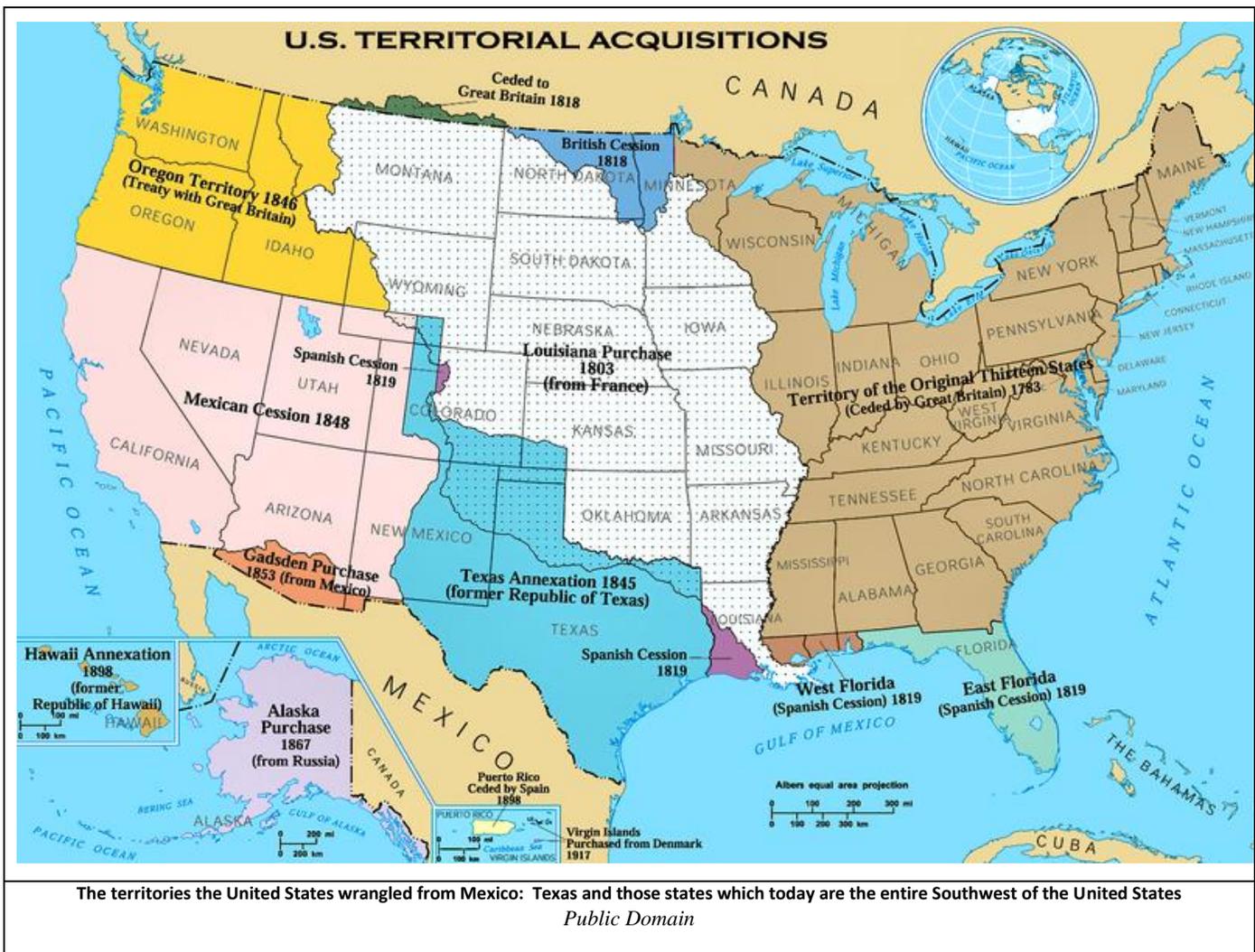
General Winfield Scott had been pressuring President Polk to allow him to draw up his own army and win glory in Mexico. Polk finally gave in, and rather than have him reinforce Taylor's force, sent him across the Gulf of Mexico to then march towards Mexico City along the same route that Cortes had taken some 300 years before. In March of 1847, he arrived outside a city on the route and unloaded weapons and horses. In his army were officers who would in less than 20 years be famous: Ulysses Grant, Robert Lee, and Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson. After a two week siege the city surrendered and Scott pushed on. On August 9th the bells of Mexico City Cathedral announced the coming of the Americans. At the battle of Churubusco, which took place only 10 miles from the city, Scott's troops barely managed to overcome the 3,000 Mexicans, but they did. Among the American troops, over 800 were wounded and 179 killed. They suffered many of these casualties from the San Patricio Battalion fighting for the Mexican cause. When the Catholic Battalion was finally defeated along with the Mexicans, Scott punished in a special way the remaining 82 Catholic Irish who were taken prisoners. In view of the Mexican prisoners whom the San Patricios had helped, he set up gallows and hung 52 of these Catholics, and flogged and branded the others with the letter "D" on their cheek – signifying their desertion.



Figure 53. Battle of Chapultepec
Public Domain

The last obstacle between the Americans and Mexico City was the Castle of Chapultepec. In this bloody battle on September 13th six military cadets of young teenage boys, later called *Niños Héroes*, fought doggedly with their elders against the Americans. One of them, Juan Escutia, wrapped himself in a Mexican flag and met his death by jumping out of the castle, rather than surrender to the Americans. The same evening, the Americans entered Mexico City and fired at the Mexicans all night from the top of their city walls and roofs. In the morning the Mexicans surrendered, and Scott's soldiers cheered for his victory. At the capture Santa Ana fled. Though he continued to battle other American forces after the capture of Mexico City, for all purposes this capture spelled the end of the war. Later, Santa Ana was exiled again, this time to Jamaica.

³¹⁴ (Miller A. S., 2006, p. 132)



At first the terms Polk stipulated for a treaty were so intolerable that the Mexicans would hear nothing of them until Polk threatened to continue the war. On February 2, 1848, Mexicans and Americans came to an understanding and signed the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. The terms were shocking. Mexico would have to give up its claim to the current states of California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, and parts of New Mexico and Colorado in return for only \$15 million. The territory was so great that, if Texas were added to it, then all the land taken together would be half of what was previously Mexico. The Americans, on their part, agreed to cancel all of Mexico's debts. More importantly, the treaty promised that the Mexicans in the acquired territory would be shown respect as regards their property and language, and that they would be "secured in the free exercise of their religion without restriction."³¹⁵ We shall see shortly how well these promises were kept.

Spain's legacy to the United States

With the acquisition of both these lands and Texas previously, Spain could now in truth be called a mother-country of the United States. Besides material wealth, by the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo the U.S. also inherited the religion and culture of the Spanish way, as Bishop David Arias notices in 1992:

The taking of this vast region by the United States is not like coming into an uncivilized land, but into a territory that is explored and unified. It is a territory with a language and culture deeply

³¹⁵ <https://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?flash=false&doc=26&page=transcript>

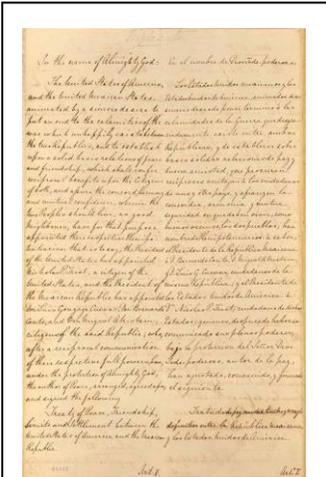


Figure 54. Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.
Public Domain

*rooted in its people and cities. Also, this is a territory with mining, agriculture, cattle raising, and economy in progress. It is a territory with its Indian population, to a large extent, settled, civilized, and Christianized, from a slow but steady labor of Spain for over three hundred years. It is also a great legacy of Spain, which is now an integral part of its geographical, anthropological, and cultural identity. To realize that, one only has to formulate this question: "Would the United States be the same without Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, and California."*³¹⁶

But just how did the U.S. treat the religion and culture of the Spanish? The first scuffle arose between rich American emigrants who coveted the open land, and the Mexicans who by the Guadalupe Treaty had a right to the lands. In 1851, Congress passed the law that the Mexicans must prove in court their rights to any lands for them to be legitimate. This was nearly impossible because many did not have sufficient funds to pay for lawyers. Speaking on behalf of his unjustly deprived fellows, Pablo de la Guerra addressed the California legislature thus:

They [the Mexicans] have no voice in this Senate, except such as I am now weakly speaking on their behalf...I have seen old men of sixty and seventy years weeping like children because they have been cast out of their ancestral home. They have been refused the privilege of taking water from their own wells...And yet those individuals who have committed these abuses have come here looking for protection, and surprisingly, the Senate sympathizes with them.

In Our Opinion: By taking away their lands, the U.S. practically eliminated the Mexican as well as any Spanish influence from society. The result was that the Mexican inhabitants did not have sufficient means of exerting a strong Catholic influence over the region through political power. In addition, the European appreciation of the finer things of life and leisure (which the Mexicans had learned from Spain) was lost. In its place the Anglo (English) settlers replaced it with the cold dominance of banking, industry, and money-making. Thus, the Spanish influence - one of the chief tools for Catholicizing the United States and raising it to new cultural heights - was eradicated.

The Indians that had been living alongside the Mexicans did not fare any better under U.S. rule than those Indians in the eastern U.S. decades previously. Anglo settlers murdered Indians at their own pleasure. Indian retaliations embroiled both races in constant conflict. By 1900, the Indian population dropped to one-ninth of the number it had been in 1845.

Perhaps the Mexicans in a way had their revenge on the United States' illegitimate seizure of their land. **The huge territory exacerbated the problem of determining which parts would be represented as slavery versus anti-slavery.** David Wilmot of Pennsylvania proposed that all the newly acquired lands be free, much to the distress of the southern representatives. What Southerner John Calhoun observed would later become true: "Mexico is to us the forbidden fruit...the penalty of eating it would be to subject our institutions to political death."³¹⁷ He means that acquiring this large territory would exacerbate the raging debates about slavery in the U.S. and even cause the destruction of the republic.

In Our Opinion: Seeing that Freemason Santa Ana did not win a single battle in the Mexican War, though he often had more troops and supplies at hand, this makes one wonder if his heart was perhaps sympathetic with the United States' Manifest Destiny spirit. Interestingly, even after the conquest of Mexico City, President Polk still trusted him enough to send him \$10,000 as a further incentive to sell his country.

³¹⁶ (Spanish Roots of America, 1992, pp. 256-257)

³¹⁷ <http://www.learner.org/series/biographyofamerica/prog10/transcript/page02.html>

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Peninsular campaign

Since Confederate possessions were becoming less stable, their Congress met on April 16, 1862. Over President Davis' signature, the Confederacy passed a law which drafted all men between ages 18 and 35 to serve in the army. Many Southerners refused to recognize the legitimacy of this law, including Confederate Vice President Alexander Stephens. He claimed that each citizen owed his allegiance first to his own state, and it was only through the specific call to arms of each state that citizens would be required to serve. The result was that only about half the drafted men actually served. Another source of contention was the tax that the Confederate Congress laid on the citizens: each had to hand over one tenth of their cattle or crops to furnish the army. As a result, prices for food rocketed to as much as four times their regular price.

While Union General Grant was pushing steadily south, Union General McClellan was finding excuses to disobey President Lincoln's orders to capture Richmond, VA. Though McClellan had about 120,000 men, he was afraid of attacking Confederate Joseph Johnston's forces at Manassas. Lincoln then downgraded him from Commander of all Union forces to General of the Army of the Potomac. To begin the capture of Richmond, McClellan finally decided to ship his huge army down to Williamsburg, on one of the peninsulas of Virginia. With the *Virginia* protecting Norfolk, the only direction he could march his army was toward Richmond. In April of 1862, he marched up slowly until he met with a Confederate force. Their maneuvers convinced McClellan that they had more than 11,000 men. Slowly the two armies moved closer to Richmond, during which McClellan captured Yorktown, Virginia. McClellan was hoping that McDowell would sweep down from Fredericksburg in the north so that together they could pinch Richmond between them.

However, it was lucky for Lincoln that the rest of the Union army under McDowell stayed behind to protect Washington, for Stonewall Jackson with a relatively small force was wreaking havoc in the Shenandoah Valley. He moved so fast and secretly that no one could catch him.

As McClellan was stalled before Richmond, Jeb Stuart went around McClellan's force and took some of his horses on the way. Lee, now given charge of the Confederate Army, then made plans with Jeb Stuart and Jackson to outflank the Union army. In a series of fierce encounters termed the Seven Days Battles, together they pushed McClellan 18 miles back toward the James River, where his gunboats were stationed. On the way the Confederates picked up food and supplies the pursued Union Forces had left behind. When McClellan complained to Lincoln that he did not have enough troops to crush the Confederates in another encounter, Lincoln told him to return home. The ships, now full with soldiers, floated down the James River and then up the Potomac to Washington. However, Lee's defense of Richmond was at the cost of 20,000 casualties.

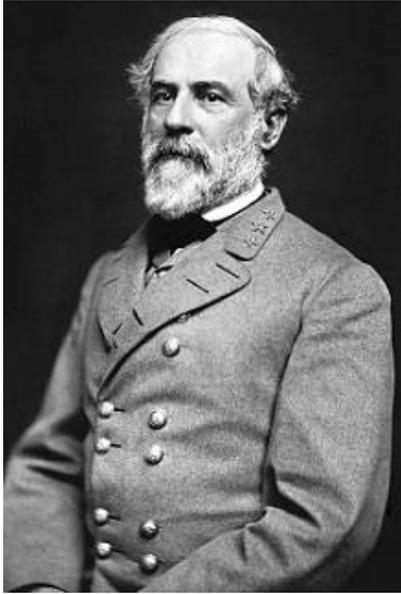


Figure 67. Robert E. Lee
Public Domain

Lincoln would have no more of the slow-moving techniques of Generals McDowell and McClellan. General John Pope now assumed command of those armies and initiated a reign of terror. Though he declared no soldier had the right to steal Confederate property, he let them pillage Virginia houses and steal grain and livestock. One Yankee officer complained that “the lawless acts of many of our soldiers are worthy of worse [punishments] than death.”⁴¹²

Lee was determined to overturn the miscreant Union General Pope. Jackson was the first to engage with his army, on August 9th at Cedar Mountain. After repulsing him there he left for the Union supply depot at Manassas, which he burned after taking the contents. Pope followed him, and both sides gained reinforcements, Lee joining Jackson. On August 30th, on the same battlefield as First Manassas, the allied Confederates forced Pope into a retreat toward Washington. The Battle of Second Manassas or Bull Run, cleared Virginia of Union troops. Unlike Beauregard, Lee wanted to continue pushing on to Washington. He knew that its capture would most likely bring France or Britain into the war. However, Pope’s army was still in the way, and Washington had been fortified.

The bloody battle of Antietam

What Lee did do instead was to strike not as far to the north, into Maryland. The troops lustily sang *Maryland, My Maryland* as they crossed the Potomac.

McClellan, who replaced Pope, cautiously followed Lee, and passed up numerous opportunities to destroy the Confederate army. Finally, while he was encamped along the Antietam Creek, one of his soldiers found a sheet of paper with Lee’s battle plans, dropped by one his soldiers. McClellan resolved to attack the next day, September 17th, which gave Jackson time to join up with Lee. The Confederate force, now about 45,000, faced the Union army of 95,000. In one of the bloodiest battles of the war, the two sides fought to a draw, each losing more than 10,000 men. Lee was forced to withdraw back into Virginia for more men and supplies. This battle appeared as a Union victory to France and Britain who were eagerly watching, and were on the verge of intervention. But intervention did not look so appealing any more if the Union was still holding out strong.

The Emancipation Act

The “victory” at Antietam gave Lincoln the perfect chance to issue his Emancipation Proclamation which he had secretly been planning for some time. The northern Congress was becoming more dominated by radical Republicans. In April of 1862, it passed a law forbidding slavery in Washington D.C. and in the western territories, something that no abolitionists would have dreamed to be possible before the Confederates’ secession. Previously, Lincoln claimed that the war was fought to preserve the Union. But as the war lengthened with thousands of casualties and no clear sign of victory on either side, this argument made less sense. Lincoln himself liked the direction Congress was taking in abolishing slavery, and thought that in changing the war into a moral crusade against it, he would galvanize the Northern spirit. If he offered freedom to the slaves, several additional advantages would accrue: for one, Southern slaves might rise up in revolt against their masters. Besides, foreign aid for the Confederates would be less likely, since they would appear all the more immoral, fighting to preserve slavery. On September 22, 1862, President Lincoln on his own authority as “Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy” issued as law that “all persons held as slaves within any State, or designated part of a state, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforth, and forever free.” This law, called the “Emancipation Act” made all slaves in rebellious Confederate territories free.

What is striking about this Proclamation is that first, according to its specification, it did not free any slaves in Union territory, not even the border-states. This is surprising if Lincoln was opposed to slavery on principle. Rather, it seems more reasonable that Lincoln used the freeing of the slaves as a means to strengthen the North, when we consider once again what he told the anti-slavery editor Horace Greeley:

⁴¹² (Zehnder, Lands of Hope and Promise, 2013, p. 438)

*My paramount object in this struggle is to save the Union, and is not either to save or to destroy slavery. If I could save the Union without freeing any slave I would do it, and if I could save it by freeing all the slaves I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone, I would also do that.*⁴¹³

Secondly, at least for the Confederates, the Proclamation had no authority in the areas intended to be affected. The Confederacy was no longer part of the Union, and therefore no longer subject to its laws. Jefferson Davis called the Proclamation a “most execrable measure recorded in the history of guilty man.” Irish and British journalists sneered, a British reporter pointing out that “the principle asserted [in the Proclamation] is not that a human being cannot justly own another, but that he cannot own him unless he is loyal to the United States.”⁴¹⁴ If it be contended that Lincoln considered the Confederacy as part of the Union, then it contradicted the position he consistently held in his debates against Douglas.

As might be expected, Lincoln’s Proclamation had almost no effect in the South. Though many slaves were free to leave the camps set up by the Union Army for escaped or captured slaves (called “contraband camps”), there was no slave insurrection in the South. Most slaves stayed on their master’s plantation. Even in the Union, it was not received well. Desertion increased as men complained that they joined the army to defend their country, not to free the Blacks. The Midwestern states were threatening to make their own peace with the Confederacy. In response to these reactions Lincoln lifted the *habeas corpus* privilege throughout the North, with Congress’ approval. A total of 13,000 people were imprisoned without *habeas corpus* throughout the war.

Conquests in the West

Back in Tennessee, General Braxton Bragg had gathered the Confederate forces again, and drove the Union army out of Tennessee back into Kentucky. He was stopped at Perryville by Buell.

Even further west, the Confederates were also busy. They took control of Santa Fe and pushed their way towards California, where there was hope of California forming a separate republic with Oregon and Washington. The hope was also to help fill the nearly-empty Confederate treasury with gold and silver from the western mines. But the Confederates had to guard against spreading themselves too thin, on account of lack of supplies. In fact, near Santa Fe, a group of 1,300 Union volunteers came down from Colorado. These volunteers were at first beaten back by the Confederates, yet they made a surprise night attack on the Confederates at Glorietta Pass (just east of Santa Fe, New Mexico). They destroyed most of the Confederate supplies, thus forcing them to withdraw from the western plan. Union armies took back what the Confederates had appropriated. In Missouri and Kansas, small bands engaged in guerilla warfare, both sides committing atrocities against civilians.

Back in Virginia

Ambrose Burnside,⁴¹⁵ now in command of the Army of the Potomac, was leading an army of 125,000 to mount another invasion against Richmond. In December, 1862, he reached Fredericksburg and made preparations to take the city. This gave Lee enough time to take a commanding position on Marye’s Height, a steep hill above the city. On December 13th, division after division attempted to take the Confederates, who sniped at the Yankees from behind a wall. Burnside was forced to retire the next day after he suffered about 10,000 dead or wounded.

⁴¹³ (Lincoln, 1953, p. 388)

⁴¹⁴ (David M. Kennedy, Lizabeth Cohen, and Thomas A. Bailey, p. 459)

⁴¹⁵ The word “sideburn” came from his name

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decided there should be maximum hours for laborers, and in another that there should not. Concerning trusts, it made the proviso that only those trusts which “unreasonably” restrained trade were illegal. That qualifier was vague enough to allow anything. Of course, such arbitrary reasoning as this was but an inevitable consequence of the Constitution having separated the State from the wisdom of the Catholic Church, and thereby separating the State from the infallible teacher of moral principles.

2. Taft Administration

Two new amendments

Since Roosevelt promised he would not run for another term, he championed the cause of his handpicked successor, William Howard Taft. Backed by Roosevelt, he easily defeated William Bryan in 1908, who was running again as the Populist candidate. Roosevelt returned home to enjoy nature and go on his hunting expeditions in Africa. Though Taft lacked the charisma and vitality of Roosevelt’s personality, he was still committed to continue Roosevelt’s reform. However, he did not favor the Progressives as much, and replaced some of the members of Roosevelt’s cabinet with more conservative members. He even signed a tariff bill that the Republicans were pushing for. Under Taft, the Sherman Anti-Trust Bill also became less popular as the number of violations of it increased more than in Roosevelt’s administration.

The socialist “Income Tax”

In spite of Taft not being as Progressive, yet some of the very things the Progressives had been clamoring for but had not yet achieved, were passed by Taft. Later these pushes would become amendments to the Constitution. The first of these things was the beginnings of the “income tax.”

The “income tax” gave Congress power to levy income taxes “from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several states, and without regard to any census or enumeration.” The tax started out very modestly: 7% was the highest legal tax for individuals making more than \$3,000 a year. However, in the court case *Pollock*, the Supreme Court luckily ruled it unconstitutional according to Article 1, Section 9 of the Constitution which said: “No capitation, or other direct tax, shall be laid, unless in proportion to the census or enumeration herein before directed to be taken.” However, the Progressives were victorious shortly after, as you will read below, in the passage of the 16th Amendment which finally allowed the income tax.

In Our Opinion: If you do not know what the income tax is, ask your parents about it! Most American adults have to submit a great part of their wages every year in order to pay federal and state income taxes, between which over 40% of a citizen’s wages can be taken! That is, for every \$1 you make, you must give the government up to 40 cents of it, leaving you as little as 60 cents. The creation of the “IRS” and the infamous “April 15th tax return” deadline that you may have noticed your parents scrambling to meet every year, is all thanks to the “legalization” of income taxes.

Karl Marx, the “father of Communism” correctly realized that income taxes were critical to controlling the people, and thus identified the income tax as one of the 10 steps necessary to enslave a nation under Communism.

And, should you feel that the 60 cents remaining after income taxes is still not bad, keep this in mind: the income tax is now only *one* of many, many taxes Americans must pay. Other big ones: property taxes (i.e., taxes on your parents’ house, cars, etc.); sales taxes (i.e., on just about everything you buy at any store); fuel taxes (every gallon of fuel purchased at the pump); electrical tax; cell phone taxes; on and on! Businesses also must pay tremendous “corporate taxes.” It is amazing there are any wages left after all the governmental taxation. Yet, let us count our blessings, for we in America have it *much* better with respect to taxes than the very socialist countries of Europe, as well as Canada.

The 17th Amendment established the direct election of U.S. senators by the people. Formerly, the U.S. senators had been appointed by the state governments. Both amendments increased the prestige of the Federal Government, especially the last, which did away with another key element to the sovereignty of the states. How? Now that the people as a whole of each state chose their senators, the senators were no longer under the direct influence of the State

legislature. As a result, the people had in a sense direct participation in the Federal Government, whereas before the wisdom of the state legislature acted as a buffer between the people and the Federal Government. Now federal positions were more envied than state offices, because it was a more direct way to get into politics.

Two new states

New Mexico and Arizona had applied to be admitted into the Union in 1890. The Catholic influence that the Hispanic leaders still had deterred Congress from admitting them. They stated that “The Roman Catholic population seemed un-American.”⁴⁷⁷ The Chicago Tribune concurred with this, saying: “It is not right that New Mexico should enumerate her ignorant, mongrel, foreign-speaking Greasers in order to qualify on a representative basis for admission.” Five days before, it had given them the epithets “weak, stagnant, mentally childish, unproductive rubbish, wretched and imbecile.”⁴⁷⁸ Finally in 1912, New Mexico and Arizona were admitted into the Union, after the Guadalupe Hidalgo Treaty had been broken enough times such that territories were now quite Anglicized. (Recall from a former lesson that this treaty, signed between Mexico and the United States back in 1848, promised that the Mexicans in the acquired territory – most of them Catholics – would be shown respect as regards their property and language, and that they would be “secured in the free exercise of their religion without restriction.” In that previous lesson we showed how “well” the federal government kept its part in the treaty.)

3. Wilson Administration

The election of 1912 saw three candidates struggling for the Republican nomination. Progressivist Senator La Follette formed the Progressive Republican League, but Taft had more support from the Republicans. Although Roosevelt had insisted that he would not run again, and had practically put Taft into office, his disgust with the way Taft had administered his term convinced him to write to several state governments, offering himself as another Republican nominee. In the end the Republican nomination fell on Taft, while at the same time, Roosevelt split the Republicans by forming his “Bull Moose” Party.



Figure 84. Woodrow Wilson,
Harris & Ewing, Public domain,
via Wikimedia Commons

The Democratic Party was also in a similar position: it lacked a leader. Ever since the Civil War it was the party of conservatives, ex-Confederates, and Irish. Now, though, after his suddenly complete adherence to the Democrat platform, William Bryan was able to get Woodrow Wilson nominated. Wilson was a professor who served as president of Princeton University. His fame there (as a liberal) won him the governorship of New Jersey where he showed himself an enemy of trusts and a friend to the people. As the Democrat nominee, he thought businesses should run without regulations, but that “because the laws of this country do not prevent the strong from crushing the weak,” anti-trust laws should be enforced vigorously. At this point, there was little that distinguished the Republicans from the Democrats.

Fast-Forward: The result of Roosevelt’s campaigning against his friend Taft was that the election fell on Wilson by a great majority of electoral votes. This shift of the Progressive movement from the Republicans to the Democrats signified that the Democrats would carry on the Progressive, and therefore popular and more liberal, views of government – a trend that we still see today.

Tight control

In this section, we will only look at Wilson’s impact on the Federal Government. Nevertheless, even here we may see that President Wilson was one of the most influential presidents of the United States. Though he lacked Roosevelt’s charming personality, his academic eloquence and appeal to morals gave him a kind of preeminence of his own. In his inaugural address, he hid his plans of government expansion under the pretext

⁴⁷⁷ (Miller A. S., 2006, p. 189)

⁴⁷⁸ (Fisher, 1994, p. 81)

of the principle that government is “at the service of humanity.” He said the first duty of law “is to keep sound the society it serves. Sanitary laws, pure food laws, and laws deterring conditions of labor which individuals are powerless to determine for themselves are intimate parts of the very business of justice and legal efficiency.”⁴⁷⁹ Though he called himself a Progressive, practically he spoke and legislated more like a socialist. In this claim, he takes up a very socialist principle: “There is nothing private in America. Everything is public; everything belongs to the united energy of the nation; everything is an asset of the nation.”⁴⁸⁰

Wilson was not afraid to use his power as president to the utmost, especially since he had Roosevelt’s example behind him. Wilson said that the president can no longer be hidden “as a mere domestic officer. We can never again see him as the mere executive he was in the [eighteen] thirties and forties. He must stand always at the front of our affairs, and the office will be as big and as influential as the man who occupies it.”⁴⁸¹

Once elected, Wilson got right down to business. One of the first innovations he put into practice was to address both the House and Senate at the same time. He called Congress into session for unheard of periods of time, once for a year and a half. In the first irregular session he convened, the Underwood Tariff was passed, lowering rates on foreign imports. Most importantly, though, was the passing of the graduated income tax, which the Supreme Court earlier had struck down. It now became Amendment 16 to the U.S. Constitution. In addition to the ceiling of 7%, there was an additional tax of less than 7% for incomes above \$20,000. Corporations were only taxed 1%. Now legalized as an Amendment, the Supreme Court’s previous decision was nullified.

Something Interesting: As stated earlier, Karl Marx in his 1848 book *Communist Manifesto* proposed ten political goals for developed countries such as the United States. One of those goals was a heavy federal income tax. Although the tax instituted by this 16th Amendment was not heavy, it has since become so. The highest federal tax rate in 1960 was 91%! Fortunately, in modern times, things were not as bad as that rate, but in some years it has been as high as 45% (that is, almost one-half of one’s income is due to the Federal government, not even counting the state taxes, and many other taxes). Another goal of Marx was a free education for all children in government schools (i.e., a public school system). Today we have the so-called “free” public schools; these are of course, not free, but paid for by hard-earned tax-dollars. Public schools are almost universally godless and immoral, and are failing miserably at providing a solid education. Such schools are therefore the perfect factories to produce citizens ready for Communism.

Federal Reserve Act

Another concern that Wilson had was about the money supply. Ever since Andrew Jackson abolished the Bank of the United States, the money supply had been inelastic – meaning that the amount available at any time at a given bank could not always adapt to the demands of consumption and production in the surrounding regions. If a bank had lent out its allowance of funds, the customer could do nothing about it. Allegedly, this had caused some of the financial “panics” in the past.

One way to remedy this was to put the money under the control of the government, which would at the same time give extra privileges to the government. However, most people hadn’t changed their opinion since Jackson’s time: they did not want a centralized money supply like the Bank of the United States. But Wilson would still get his way, although by more subtle means than Jackson had used: he divided the country into twelve regions and assigned a bank to each, all under the management of a **private corporation** deceptively called the “Federal Reserve Board”. This became law in 1913, when Wilson signed the Federal Reserve Act. Technically, the banks were still privately owned but controlled centrally by the Federal Reserve Board. The board could control the circulation to and between banks, and its members were chosen by the president. The board also had the power to print paper money at its discretion without federal permission, a clearly unconstitutional right, given Article 1, Section 8. Thus, in a financial crisis, ‘funny money’ could be printed and put into circulation. Although the Reserve was a private institution, it was not taxed by the government. Congress quickly amended the Federal Reserve Act by stipulating that the printed money must be redeemable in gold from the U.S. Treasury or Federal Reserve Bank. The government could effectively circulate the money by getting loans from the Federal Reserve and spending the loaned money. Thus, inflation and deflation could be induced by the government borrowing more or less money from the Reserve, which we have long been experiencing since. For the time, though, it seemed to bring about economic stability. Just three years later, America went from being a debtor to a creditor nation, and the international gold exchange center was transferred from London to New York.

⁴⁷⁹ <http://www.bartleby.com/124/pres44.html>

⁴⁸⁰ (Princeton Alumni Weekly, 1909, p. 453)

⁴⁸¹ <http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/document/constitutional-government-chapter-iii-the-president-of-the-united-states/>

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The sinking of the Lusitania

Even after Germany made it clear that all merchant ships in Allied waters that were bound for Allied nations would be sunk without warning, Britain still sent a passenger ship *Lusitania* into the war zone. The passengers on board were bound from New York to Britain and were aware of the strict German policies. When the liner entered the war zone on May 7, 1915, the *Lusitania* was torpedoed and exploded, and as a result 128 Americans perished. This event turned the American people and Wilson more against the Germans. The American media parroted British reports that the Germans had fired two torpedoes at the ship without any prior warnings. However, there had been clear, repeated warnings beforehand, and in fact, on April 24, 1915, German officials had published notices in forty US newspapers that a state of war existed between Germany and Britain and that passengers would be travelling at their own risk. The public had no idea that British passenger ships would also be carrying implements of war intended for use against Germany, thus making them targets.

Fast-Forward: There is much evidence that the *Lusitania*, unknown to its innocent passengers, was indeed carrying war supplies. “Germany’s claim that *Lusitania* was carrying munitions for the killing of German soldiers was proven correct in examination of a portion of her manifest [document listing items on ship], kept from the public until the 1950s. She [the ship] had originally said that she would take platinum, bullion, diamonds and various other precious stones along with her passengers, but these items were never found and port records do not list them either. A licensed Irish dive team made the first known discovery of munitions aboard the ship in 2006 and these included 15,000 rounds of 0.303 (7.7×56mmR) caliber rifle ammunition in boxes in the bow section of the ship, munitions used by the British in all of their battlefield rifles and machine guns. Indeed, *Lusitania* carried at least 2,400 cases of Remington rifle cartridges, 1,248 cases of three-foot shrapnel shell cases, 18 cases of non-explosive fuses and 4,927 boxes of cartridges with 1,000 rounds in each box, all under the guise of bales of fur and cheese boxes. More ammunition made in the USA (and intended for the British to kill Germans with) was found on a recent dive to the wreck in 2008.”⁵⁷⁴

OCEAN STEAMSHIPS.

CUNARD



EUROPE VIA LIVERPOOL LUSITANIA

Fastest and Largest Steamer
now in Atlantic Service Sails
SATURDAY, MAY 1, 10 A.M.
Transylvania, Fri., May 7, 5 P.M.
Orduna, - Tues, May 18, 10 A.M.
Tuscana, - Fri., May 21, 5 P.M.
LUSITANIA, Sat., May 29, 10 A.M.
Transylvania, Fri., June 4, 5 P.M.

Gibraltar—Genoa—Naples—Piraeus
S.S. Carpathia, Thur., May 13, Noon

NOTICE!

TRAVELLERS intending to embark on the Atlantic voyage are reminded that a state of war exists between Germany and her allies and Great Britain and her allies; that the zone of war includes the waters adjacent to the British Isles; that, in accordance with formal notice given by the Imperial German Government, vessels flying the flag of Great Britain, or of any of her allies, are liable to destruction in those waters and that travellers sailing in the war zone on ships of Great Britain or her allies do so at their own risk.

IMPERIAL GERMAN EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D. C., APRIL 22, 1915.

Unkonwn author, public domain,
via Wikimedia Commons

⁵⁷⁴ <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/irish-diving-team-finds-munitions-on-wreck-of-the-lusitania-1.1029633> “Irish diving team finds munitions on wreck of the 'Lusitania'” ; <http://www.revisionist.net/hysteria/lusitania.html> “The Lusitania: The Ship That Helped Launch Millions of Deaths”

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Although this is a history book, this is a good time for a mini-lesson in the subject of civics. Certainly you are aware that the U.S. Constitution specifies that the term of the U.S. president is four years. This means, of course, that every four years there is a presidential election. The history of our nation's elections has almost always been an essentially two-party choice system: Republican and Democrat (although the meaning / position of those parties has undergone great changes!). At each presidential election, one Democratic candidate faces one Republican candidate, with other smaller parties also offering their own candidates (but these others, such as the Independent Party, rarely win).

But what most students your age are not aware of is something called the "Primary Election." Although the "primary" as it is called in short, is not the "real election" which determines which man will fill the government office, yet the "primaries" are very important. The purpose of a primary election is for each political party to choose just one man to represent that party in the real election. For example, in the election we are speaking of here, both Eisenhower and Taft wanted to become run for the presidency *representing the Republican Party*. But U.S. law only allows one candidate from each official party to run. So primary elections are sort of "internal elections" to each political party, in which that party chooses one and only one person to run in the official, November presidential election.

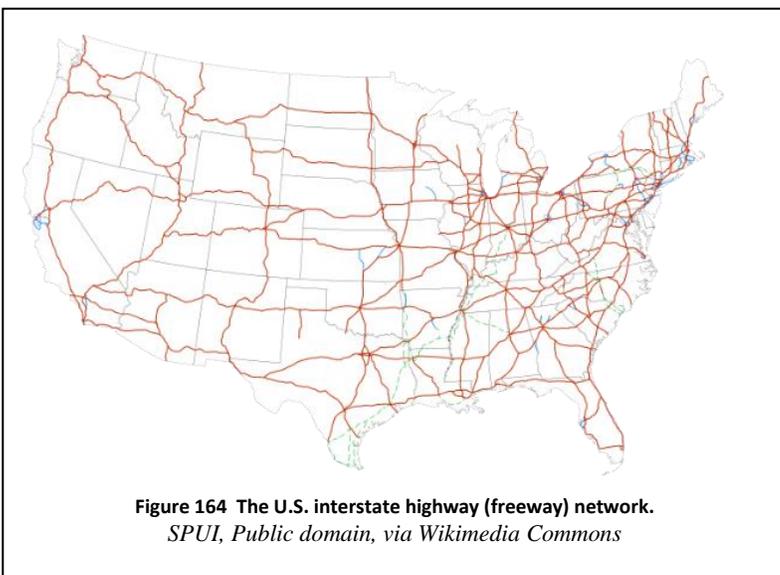


Figure 164 The U.S. interstate highway (freeway) network.
SPUI, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

For the Republican primary election, the internationalist wing picked the less-than-conservative Dwight Eisenhower (the same who had cold-bloodedly murdered countless Germans after WWII had ended) against the true patriot and conservative Taft. Eisenhower won the primary.

To attract the support of Republican conservative and patriots, Eisenhower shrewdly chose Richard Nixon as his running mate for the 1956 presidential election. Nixon had a good reputation at that time, as he had been instrumental in the conviction of the Communist, Alger Hiss.

The Republican platform called out the "Cowardly Communist Containment" program of Truman, and his betrayal of the great anti-communist, Chiang-Kai-shek (which allowed

China to fall the Communists). They also pointed out the corruption of the officials under Truman's administration. In the Democratic Party, Truman declined to run again, so the nomination went to Adlai Stevenson. It would be hard to beat a World War II hero, and Eisenhower bespoke security and confidence to most Americans. The polls on election day confirmed this: Eisenhower won over 55% of the popular votes.

Eisenhower was committed to a policy of what he called "dynamic conservatism." This meant joining some Republican and Democrat ideals into one. After 15 years of Roosevelt's socialist policies, most businesses were accustomed to allowing government control their operations. Eisenhower's administration favored big businesses, even allowing them to invest in public reserves. Big industries united to have more control over the prices for their products. This started a price war for the smaller businesses. Simultaneously, though, Eisenhower continued to expand government agencies. 10 million more citizens received social security. The Interstate Highway Act in 1956 gave \$27 billion to build the 41,000 miles of freeways that we are all familiar with.

Eisenhower created what he called a "military-industrial complex" by entering into contracts with businesses to improve military equipment. Most Americans assented, as there were rumors of Russia outstripping the U.S. in the number of nuclear warheads. Actually though, at the time, the U.S. had many times more nuclear weapons than Russia. Oddly, in his farewell address Eisenhower warned against his own "complex" growing too big. But Russia did pass up the U.S. by launching the *Sputnik*, the first earth orbiting satellite in 1957. The next year the U.S. answered the challenge by launching the *Explorer I*.

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murder on the victims of their hatred. New York, Chicago, and Philadelphia witnessed violent race riots. Communists saw the strife as opportunities to “enlarge the cracks” in the fabric of American society.

New legislation

For the presidential elections of 1964, the Republicans nominated a great conservative named Senator Barry Goldwater of Arizona. Goldwater’s platform opposed Johnson’s social programs and the Civil Rights Act. Johnson’s campaign painted Goldwater unfairly as mentally unstable, and Nelson Rockefeller called on Goldwater “to repudiate his ultra-right support.”⁸²⁶ Johnson won a landslide victory: 61% of the popular vote. In his inaugural address (a speech every new president of the U.S. gives when taking office), he noted the fast changes that were leaving their marks on the American people: “Ours is a time of change – rapid and fantastic change – bearing the secrets of nature, multiplying the nations, placing in uncertain hands new weapons for mastery and destruction, shaking old values and uprooting old ways.”⁸²⁷ His presidency would show what he thought of these changes. (Barry Goldwater, now defeated, would, continue as a senator but unfortunately, later become more liberal, even going so far as to cooperate with the liberal future president Jimmy Carter in the 1970’s to “give away” the Panama Canal, which you will read about shortly.)

In Our Opinion: In 1964, the 24th Amendment was approved, eliminating poll taxes for voting (one pays a payment in order to vote). While its intent was good in eliminating racism, it had the effect of changing what was left of the American **republic** into a **democracy**. The previous restrictions on voting served as means to better ensure that only intelligent and prudent people voted, and thus the best leaders were elected. Truth be told, the poorest and least intelligent people are often able to be influenced by cheap and dishonest slogans and propaganda. Although there are exceptions to most general truths: fast-forwarding to the 2000’s, plenty of rich and so-called ‘educated’ liberals voted for the notoriously liberal President Obama and for Hilary Clinton (another liberal).

Johnson outlined what his “Great Society” would look like in a speech given to the University of Michigan:

*The Great Society rests on abundance and liberty for all. It demands an end to poverty and racial injustice, to which we are totally committed in our time. But that is just the beginning. The Great Society is a place where every child can find knowledge to enrich his mind and to enlarge his talents. It is a place where leisure is a welcome chance to build and reflect, not a feared cause of boredom and restlessness. It is a place where the city of man serves not only the needs of the body and the demands of commerce but the desire for beauty and the hunger for community. It is a place where man can renew contact with nature...*⁸²⁸

As he mentioned, this utopia included the “War on Poverty.” Like FDR’s measures, this meant an increase of socialist programs, taxes on the working class, and thus an even more far-reaching Federal Government.

Socialist Federal medical and school programs

In 1965 Johnson provided federal aid for medical expenses in two ways: Medicare and Medicaid. Medicare provided low-cost health insurance to those over 65 who could pay for it, while Medicaid did so for those who could not (low incomes). Besides being, at that point, the largest increase of federal power over the lives of individuals, it also caused further problems. Due to the government paying for health services, the doctors and hospitals began increasing their charges, knowing that Uncle Sam would give them the money. Prices rose steadily, hitting the middle class the hardest, since they often did not qualify for Medicaid. People on Medicare were left to pay part of the bills out of their own pockets.

Public schools and students were given billions of dollars for “improvement” in technology and education.

⁸²⁶ (Stormer, 1964, p. 233)

⁸²⁷ <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/?pid=26985>

⁸²⁸ <http://www.lbjlibrary.net/collections/selected-speeches/november-1963-1964/05-22-1964.html>

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write one such biography. But a biography of whom? One could choose to write about the brilliant military leaders or one of the valiant fighting soldiers on the front lines. But there is an all-too-forgotten group of other eternally important men who also go to war with the soldiers. This group is the Catholic priests who serve as “chaplains” (the generic term the United States military uses indiscriminately both for Catholic priests bringing the True Faith to the soldiers, as well as for the ministers of false religions). One such Catholic chaplain was the humble, devoted, and incredibly courageous priest, Father Vincent Robert Capodanno.

Vincent Capodanno was born in 1929, the last of ten children, to a hardworking Italian immigrant family on Staten Island, New York. Growing up nourished by the beautiful Traditional Catholic Faith and Tridentine Mass, Vincent felt his calling as a young man, entered the seminary, and was ordained in 1958. When the Vietnam War broke out, Fr. Capodanno sought permission from his bishop in 1965 to enter the United States Navy to serve with the Marines in the bloody Vietnam War. He trained as an officer for one year, received the rank of lieutenant, and set foot in Vietnam in 1966.

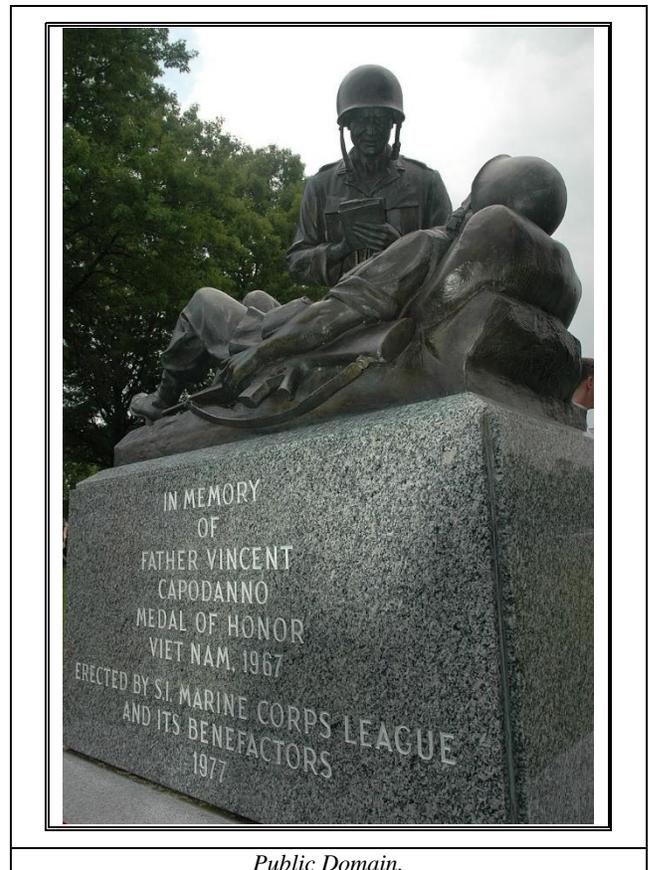
Although trained as an officer (thus having rank and privilege), Father Capodanno chose to spend his time with the enlisted (that is, lower-ranking, common) soldiers. He ate, worked, talked, lived with them, said Holy Mass for them, encouraged them with sermons, and fed them with the sacraments. The men in turn loved, respected, and showed gratitude to their “Grunt Padre” – a name they gave him because he partook in all their ‘grunt’ toils with them – including going into the heat of battle with them on the front lines.

On September 4, 1967, while serving with the 3rd Battalion, the Marines were badly outnumbered (2,500 Communists to 500 Marines) in a heavy battle. Let us read the official Navy account written for the bestowal of the Medal of Honor after Father’s death: “...Lieutenant Capodanno left the relative safety of the Company Command Post and ran through an open area raked with fire, directly to the beleaguered platoon. Disregarding the intense enemy small-arms, automatic-weapons, and mortar fire, he moved about the battlefield administering last rites to the dying and giving medical aid to the wounded. When an exploding mortar round inflicted painful, multiple wounds to his arms and legs, and severed a portion of his right hand, he steadfastly refused all medical aid. Instead, he directed the corpsmen to help their wounded comrades and, with calm vigor, continued to move about the battlefield as he provided encouragement by voice and example to the valiant Marines. Upon encountering a wounded corpsman in the direct line of fire of an enemy machine gunner positioned approximately fifteen yards away, Lieutenant Capodanno rushed forward in a daring attempt to aid and assist the mortally wounded corpsman. At that instant, only inches from his goal, he was struck down by a burst of machine gun fire.”

Always unarmed, Father was acting as many Catholic priests did during the war – he did his duty, simply taking care of his sheep. He administered the sacrament of Extreme Unction and gave absolution to these soldiers, encouraging them in life and helping them to die holy deaths so as to be able to better face their Eternal Judge. He, like most all those wartime priests, probably would not think of himself as a hero.



Father’s body was buried near those of his parents in Staten Island. He was awarded posthumously three honors from our nation: the Congressional Medal of Honor, the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star. His Cause for Canonization was opened on May 19, 2002, and God willing, he will someday be declared a saint. May he rest in peace.



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