TIMELINE: 1800-1860

accompanying the Seminar Toolbox

THE TRIUMPH of NATIONALISM ◆ THE NATION DIVIDING

From Nationalism to Sectionalism in the United States, 1815-1850

National Humanities Center

SECOND CENSUS: U.S. population totals 5.3 million, including one million African Americans, of whom 900,000 are enslaved.

Federal capital moves from Philadelphia to Washington, D.C.

Virginia bans gathering of slaves at sunset for religious worship.

First recorded camp meeting revival is held in Logan County, Kentucky.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION: Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr (Democratic-Republican) defeat John Adams and Charles Pinckney (Federalist).



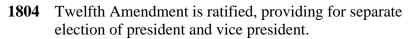
John Adams

- 1801 Jefferson-Burr tie forces election into House of Representatives (since candidates were not nominated separately for president and vice-president); Jefferson is elected in 36 ballots.
 Tripoli declares war on U.S.; Jefferson sends naval ships to Mediterranean Sea.
- **1802** Alien and Sedition Acts are allowed to expire by Congress.
- **1803 LOUISIANA TERRITORY** is purchased from France for \$15 million.

Louis and Clark expedition begins in St. Louis, Missouri.

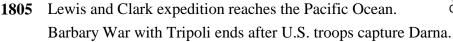
Supreme Court declares its right to review constitutionality of acts of Congress (judicial review) in *Marbury* v. *Madison*.

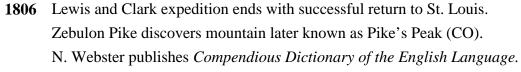
Ohio enters Union as 17th state.



Aaron Burr kills Alexander Hamilton in a pistol duel.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION: Jefferson is re-elected president and George Clinton elected vice president.





- 1807 Importation of African slaves is banned by Congress.Congress passes Embargo Act in response to British and French interference with U.S. trade.
- Rev. Richard Allen publishes *Confession of John Joyce*. **PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION**: James Madison and George Clinton are elected president and vice president (Democratic-Republican).

1808 U.S. ships and cargoes in European ports are confiscated by France.



Thomas Jeffersor



Capt. Clark and his men shooting bears



Slave family, NC, 1862

AS JEFFERSON

- 1809 First black Baptist church is founded in Philadelphia.
- 1810 **THIRD CENSUS:** U.S. population totals 7.2 million, including 1.4 million African Americans, of whom 1.2 million are enslaved. Population west of Appalachian Mountains is 1 million.
- **1811** Construction of Cumberland Road begins in Maryland.



James Madison

- WAR OF 1812 begins as U.S. declares war on Great Britain over issues of borders, trade, 1812 freedom of the seas, and the rights of neutrals. Indians under Tecumseh fight on British side. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION: James Madison and Elbridge Gerry are elected president and vice president (Democratic-Republican).
 - Louisiana enters Union as 18th state.
- 1813 U.S. defeats British at the Battle of the Thames (in which Tecumseh is killed). British burn Buffalo, New York.
- British burn Washington, DC, including the White House. 1814 U.S. wins Battle of Fort McHenry in Baltimore harbor (witness Francis Scott Key later writes "The Star-Spangled Banner"). WAR ENDS with signing of Treaty of Ghent.

"The Taking of the City of Washington"

- British are defeated at the Battle of New Orleans (two weeks after Treaty of Ghent is signed). 1815 American settlers begin large migration to the "Old Southwest" (Alabama and Mississippi).
- Congress passes the first tariff that is intended to protect U.S. industry rather than raise revenue. 1816 Second Bank of the United States begins its twenty-year charter. Indiana enters Union as 19th state.
 - PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION: James Monroe and Daniel Tompkins are elected president and vice-president (Democratic-Republican).
- Construction of Erie Canal begins to connect the Great Lakes and the Ohio 1817 and Mississippi valleys with the Hudson River (and the Atlantic Ocean). Seminoles attack white settlers in Florida and Georgia. Mississippi enters Union as 20th state. William Cullen Bryant publishes "To a Waterfowl."
- Seminole chief
- Connecticut abolishes property ownership as a requirement for voting. 1818 Illinois enters Union as 21st state.
- Supreme Court upholds right of federal government to charter a national bank, thus affirming that 1819 it holds "implied powers" beyond those stated in the Constitution (M^cCulloch v. Maryland). U.S. acquires Florida from Spain by treaty; Andrew Jackson becomes military governor in 1821. Alabama enters union as 22nd state.
- 1820 FOURTH CENSUS: U.S. population totals 10 million, including 1.7 million African Americans, of whom 1.5 million are enslaved. Population west of Appalachian Mts. is 2.2 million. MISSOURI COMPROMISE is passed by Congress. Maine is admitted as a free state (23rd) and Missouri as a slave state (24th). Slavery is banned in Louisiana Territory north of 36°30′. **PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION:** Monroe and Tompkins are re-elected president and vice pres.

1821 Santa Fe Trail is opened from Independence, MO, to Santa Fe, NM. First American settlers (300 families) arrive in Texas.
Massachusetts and New York end property qualifications for voting. First public high school opens in Boston.
First American tunnel (450 ft.) opens in Pennsylvania.



On the Santa Fe Trail, 1889

- 1822 Cotton mills with women workers begin production in Lowell, Mass.
 Slave rebellion led by Denmark Vesey is crushed in Charleston, SC.
 American Colonization Soc. establishes Monrovia (Liberia) to promote emigration of free blacks.
- **MONROE DOCTRINE** announced: U.S. warns Europe not to interfere in Western Hemisphere affairs and proclaims intention to remain uninvolved in European wars.

 James Fenimore Cooper begins publishing the Leatherstocking Tales series with *The Pioneer*.
- 1824 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION: None of the four candidates receives majority of electoral votes; John Calhoun is elected vice president (Democratic-Republican).
 U.S. signs treaty with Russia setting 54'40° as southern limit of Russian territory.
- **1825** John Quincy Adams (Natl. Rep.) is elected president by House of Rep.
- 1826 Elias Boudinot, a Cherokee, delivers speech "An Address to the Whites." Hezekiah Niles publishes "Great National Interests" in *Niles' Register*.John Adams & Thomas Jefferson die on July 4, the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.



John Quincy Adams

- **1827** California becomes a Mexican province.
- "Tariff of Abominations" is passed by Congress to intense hostility from Southern states.
 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION: Democratic Party is established; Andrew Jackson is elected as first Democratic president; John Calhoun is re-elected vice president (Democratic-Republican).
- 1829 Andrew Jackson introduces spoils system into national politics.

 David Walker, a free black, publishes *An Appeal to the Colored People of America*.

 Slavery is abolished in Mexico.

Lewis Cass publishes "Removal of the Indians" in North American Review.

FIFTH CENSUS: U.S. population totals 13 million, including 2.3 million African Americans, of whom 2 million are enslaved. Population west of the Appalachian Mountains is 3 million, more than 25% of the U.S. population.

INDIAN REMOVAL BILL is passed by Congress to forcibly resettle southeastern Indian tribes to territory west of the Mississippi River.



Andrew Jackson

- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon) is founded by Joseph Smith in New York. *Godey's Lady's Book* begins monthly publication (continues until 1898).
- **NAT TURNER'S REBELLION** (Virginia): about 60 white people killed. Turner is executed. William Lloyd Garrison founds first abolitionist periodical *The Liberator* in Boston. Reaper is invented by Cyrus McCormick (patented in 1834).

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION: Jackson is re-elected president and Martin Van Buren elected vice president (Democratic).

Jackson's "Bank War" begins when he orders funds withdrawn from the 1833 National Bank and deposited into "pet" state banks.

Force Bill is passed by Congress, giving Jackson power to use the military to enforce tariff laws.

Slavery is abolished in the British Empire.

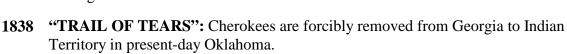
Andrew Dorr issues "An Address to the People of Rhode Island." 1834



- **TEXAS REVOLUTION** begins when Mexico rejects Texans' petition for statemood, 1835 Gold is found on Cherokee land in Georgia; Cherokees are forced to cede land. Seminole Indians in Florida begin seven-year war to resist forced removal to the West. Alexis de Tocqueville publishes first volume of *Democracy in America* (second in 1840). Harriet Jacobs goes into hiding in Edenton, North Carolina, for seven years.
- 1836 Gag rule is passed by Congress to prevent abolitionist petitions from being considered. Texas declares independence from Mexico; siege of the Alamo. Arkansas enters Union as 25th state. Emerson publishes *Nature*; Transcendental Club holds first meeting in Boston.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION: Martin Van Buren (Dem.) is elected president. Richard Johnson (Dem.) is elected vice president by the Senate since no candidate received an electoral majority.

1837 Panic of 1837 leads to collapse of many early labor unions. Angelina and Sarah Grimké begin abolitionist talks to women's groups. Anti-immigrant, anti-Catholic organization is formed (Native American Assn.). Michigan enters Union as 26th state.



Routes later known as Underground Railroad begin to be established. James Fenimore Cooper publishes The American Democrat.

Caroline Gilman publishes *Recollections of a Southern Matron*.

- 1839 Slaves aboard slave ship L'Amistad rebel. Slaves are freed by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1841 and returned to Africa. First "normal" school opens with a teacher training program (Mass.).
- 1840 **SIXTH CENSUS:** U.S. population totals 17 million, including 3 million African Americans, of whom 2.5 million are enslaved. Population west of the Appalachian Mountains is 5 million, more than one third of the U.S. population.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION: William Henry Harrison and John Tyler are elected president and vice president (Whig Party).



Martin Van Buren



against laying of a railroad, 1839

W. H. Harrison



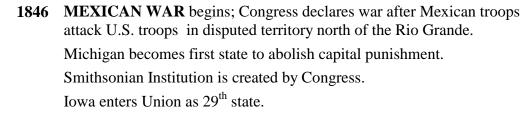
John Tyler

- **1841** Harrison dies after one month in office; John Tyler becomes president. Catherine Beecher publishes A Treatise on Domestic Economy. Emerson publishes Essays, First and Second Series, including "Self-Reliance."
- Dorr's Rebellion in Rhode Island leads to liberalized voting requirements. 1842 Supreme Court rules that state laws prohibiting the capture and return of fugitive slaves are unconstitutional (Prigg v. Pennsylvania). First wagon train reaches Oregon Territory via the Oregon Trail. Massachusetts enacts ten-hour work day for children under 12. Charles C. Jones publishes *The Religious Instruction of the Negroes in the U.S.*
- 1843 Massachusetts passes law forbidding state officials from catching fugitive slaves. Sojourner Truth begins delivering abolitionist speeches across the nation.
- Methodist Church divides into northern and southern sections over the issue of slavery. 1844

Morse sends first telegraph message (from Baltimore to Washington, DC): "What hath God wrought!"

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION: James Polk and George Dallas elected president and vice president (Democratic Party).

1845 Frederick Douglass publishes *Narrative of the Life of an American Slave*. Florida enters Union as 27th state; Texas enters Union as 28th state. Thoreau moves into a cabin on Walden Pond for two years and two months. Baptist Convention splits over the issue of slavery into northern and southern sections. Irish potato famine begins; 1.5 million Irish emigrate to U.S. in the next decade.



- **1847** U.S. forces defeat Mexican army at Veracruz and Mexico City. Mormons arrive in Utah and establish the community Deseret.
- 1848 **MEXICAN WAR** ends officially by treaty.

California Gold Rush begins.

Wisconsin enters Union as 30th state.

Women's Rights Convention held in Seneca Falls, New York German immigrants begin to emigrate to the U.S. after crop failures and failed revolutions.

John Humphrey Noves establishes the Perfectionist Community in Oneida, New York.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION: Zachary Taylor and Millard Filmore elected president and vice president (Whig Party).

France abolishes slavery in its West Indies colonies.



Frederick Douglass



James Polk

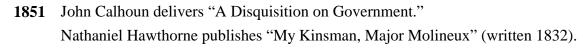


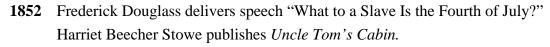
Yerba Buena, Mexico, 1846

- **1849** Thoreau publishes "Civil Disobedience."
- **SEVENTH CENSUS:** U.S. population totals 23.2 million, including 3.5 million African Americans, of whom 3 million are enslaved.

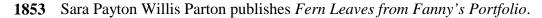
COMPROMISE OF 1850 allows residents of New Mexico and Utah territories to permit or ban slavery, admits California as a free state (31st), ends the slave trade (but not slavery) in the District of Columbia, and enacts a stricter fugitive slave law requiring citizens in free states to turn in runaway slaves.

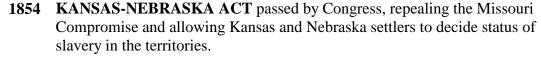
President Taylor dies; Millard Fillmore becomes president.





PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION: Franklin Pierce and William King are elected president and vice president (Democratic Party).





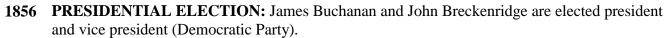
Anti-immigrant Know-Nothing Party is founded.

James G. Baldwin publishes Flush Times in Mississippi and Alabama.

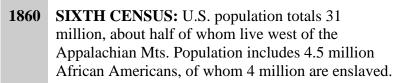
George Fitzhugh publishes Sociology for the South; or, The Failure of Free Society.

Thoreau publishes Walden; or, Life in the Woods.

1855 "BLEEDING KANSAS": Intense local warfare erupts between pro- and anti-slavery settlers. Walt Whitman anonymously publishes *Leaves of Grass*.



- **1857 DRED SCOTT DECISION:** Supreme Court holds that Congress has no power to regulate slavery in the territories, that African Americans are not citizens, and that residence in free territory does not confer freedom on enslaved persons.
- **1858** Minnesota enters Union as 32nd state. Emancipation of serfs begins in Russia.
- **1859** Oregon enters Union as 33rd state.





U.S. Capitol under construction, 1860

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION: Abraham Lincoln and Hannibal Hamlin are elected president and vice president (Republican).

South Carolina secedes from the Union, the first state to do so.



Zachary Taylor



Millard Fillmore



Franklin Pierce

