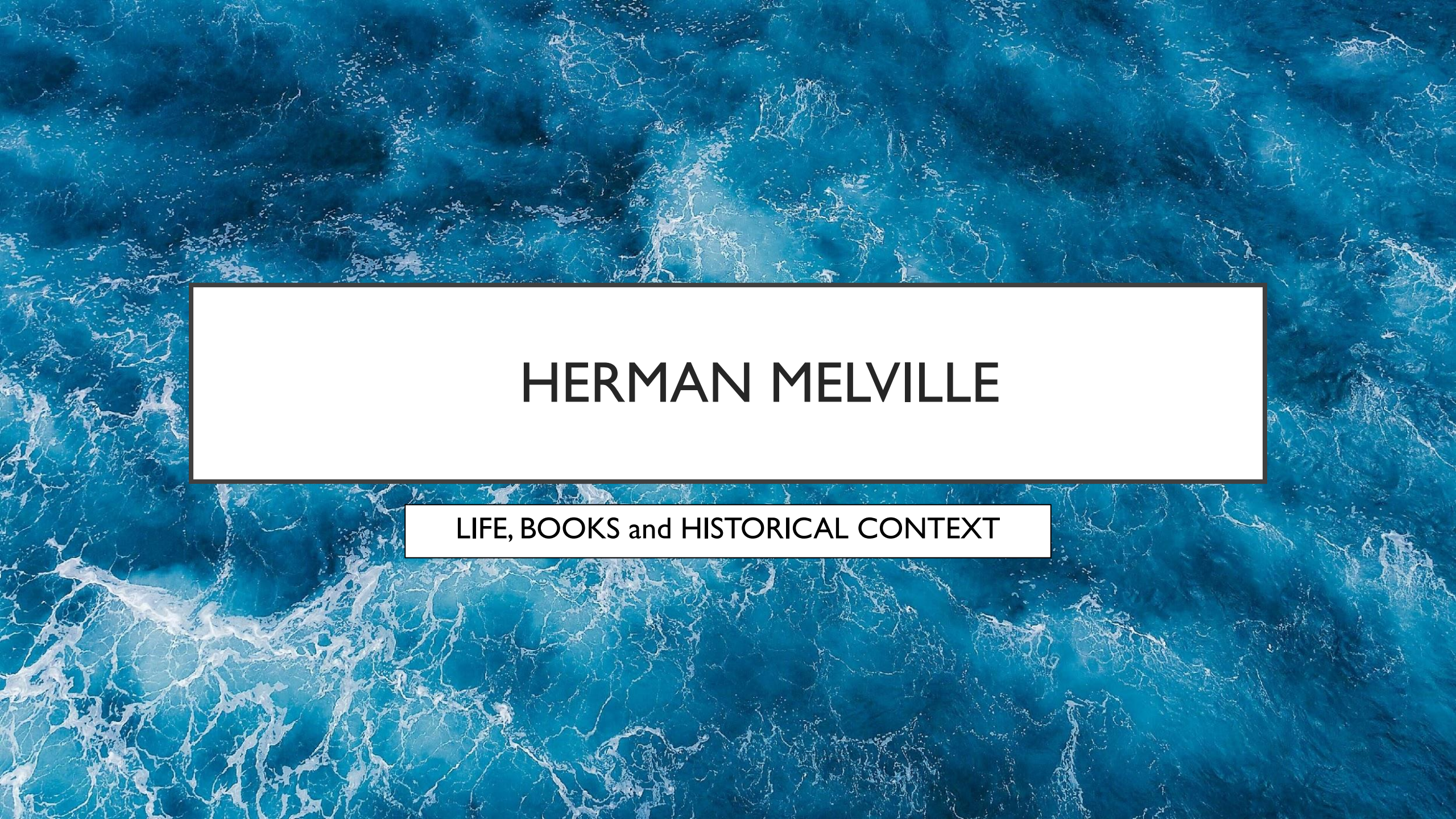


HERMAN MELVILLE

LIFE, BOOKS and HISTORICAL CONTEXT

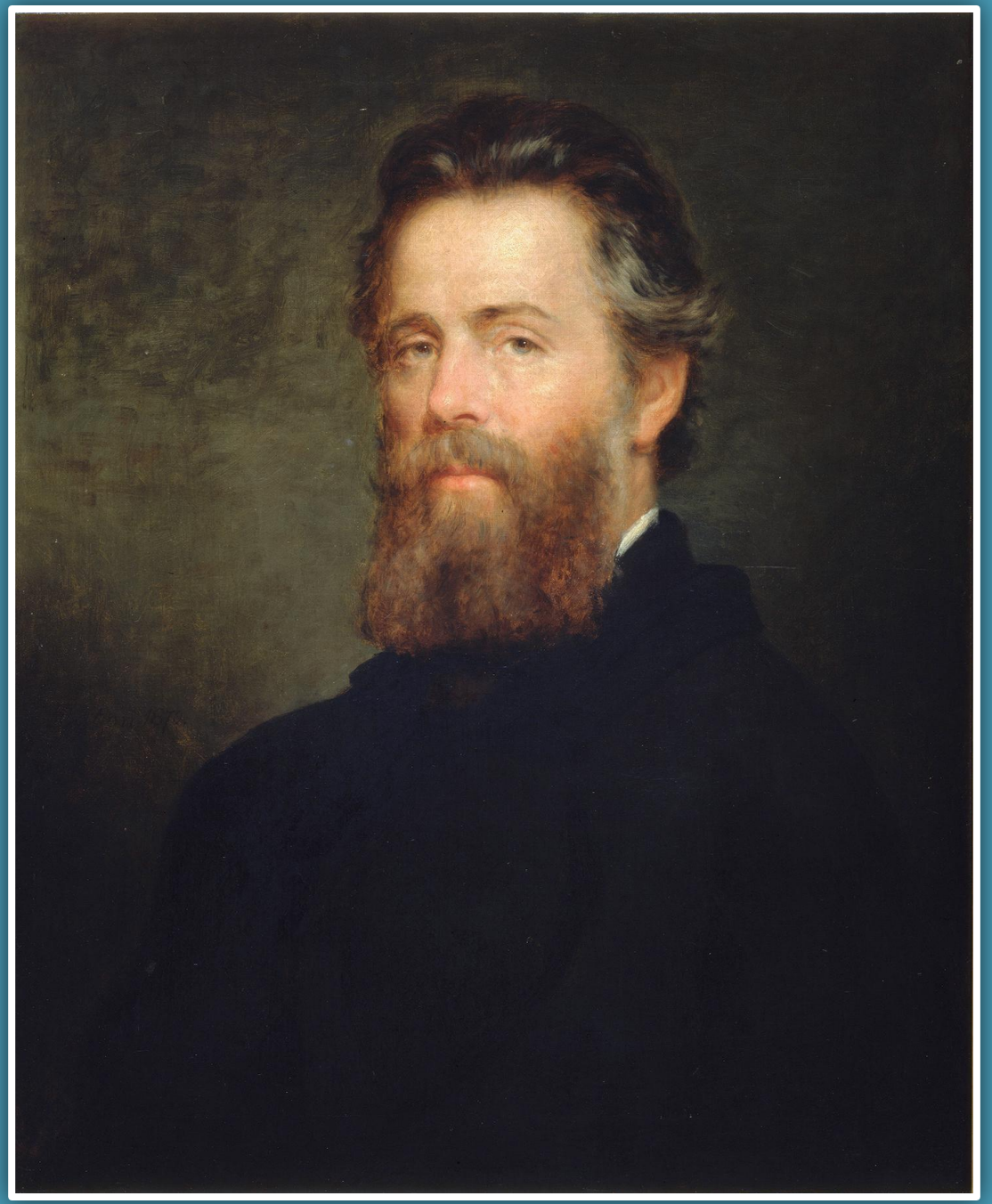
CHILDHOOD

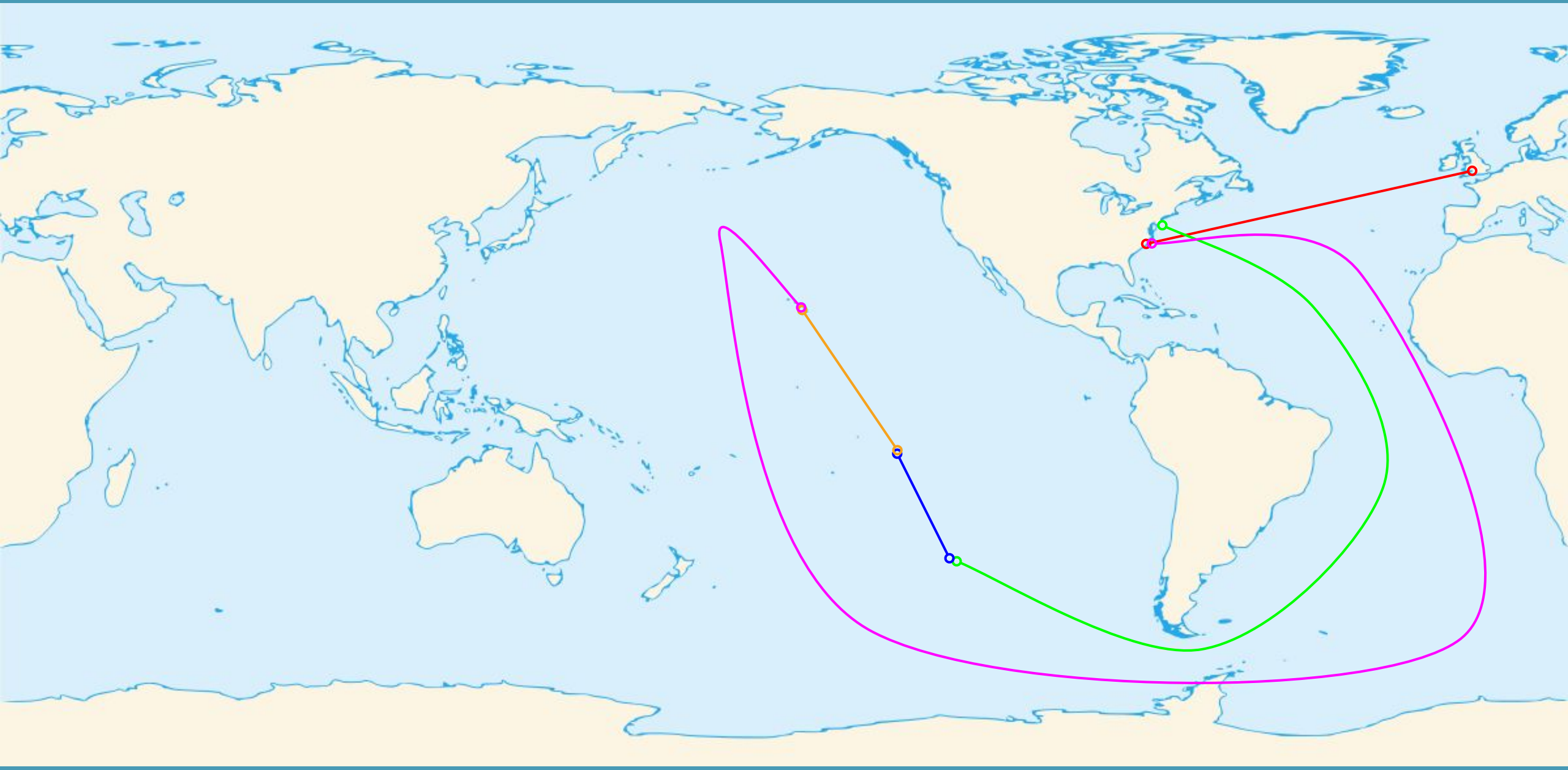
-Herman Melville born in New York in 1819 from Dutch and Scottish settlers.
His grand father took part in 1773 at Boston Tea Party, and then become an american importer.

-when he was a child his father described him like

"backward in speech and somewhat slow in comprehension . . . of a docile and amiable disposition."

-he also had fever that left him eyesight



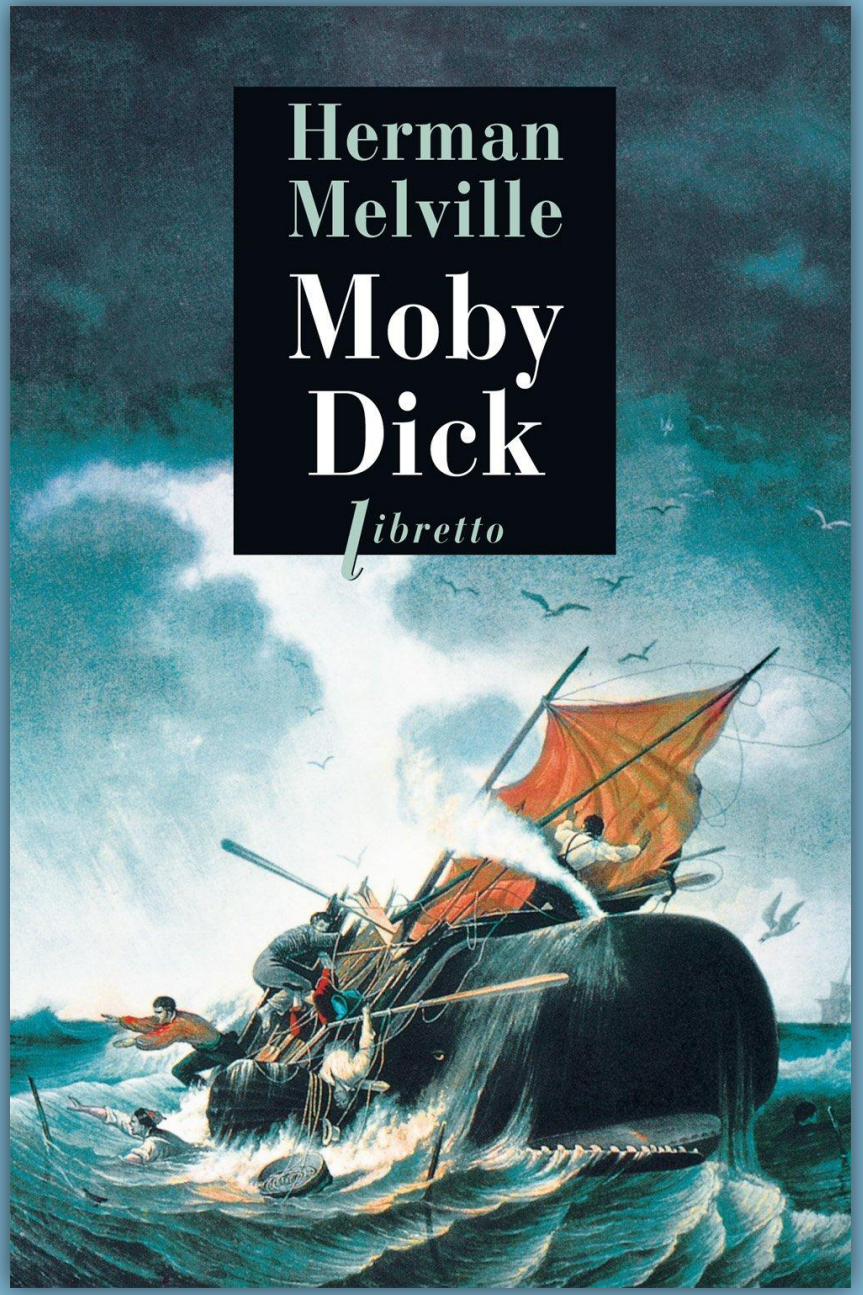


NOVEL AND POEMS

NOVEL

MOBY DICK

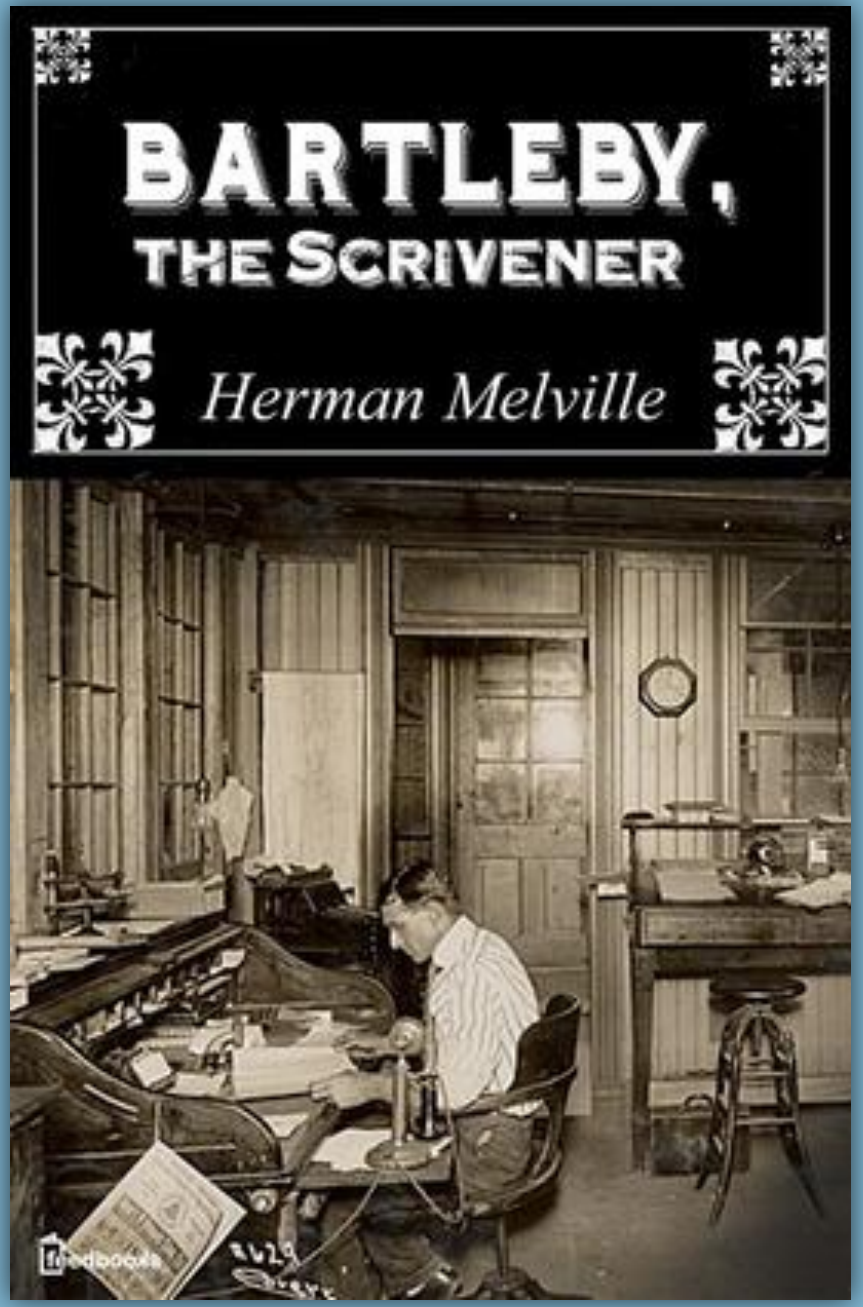
1851



NOVEL

BARTLEBY THE SCRIVENER

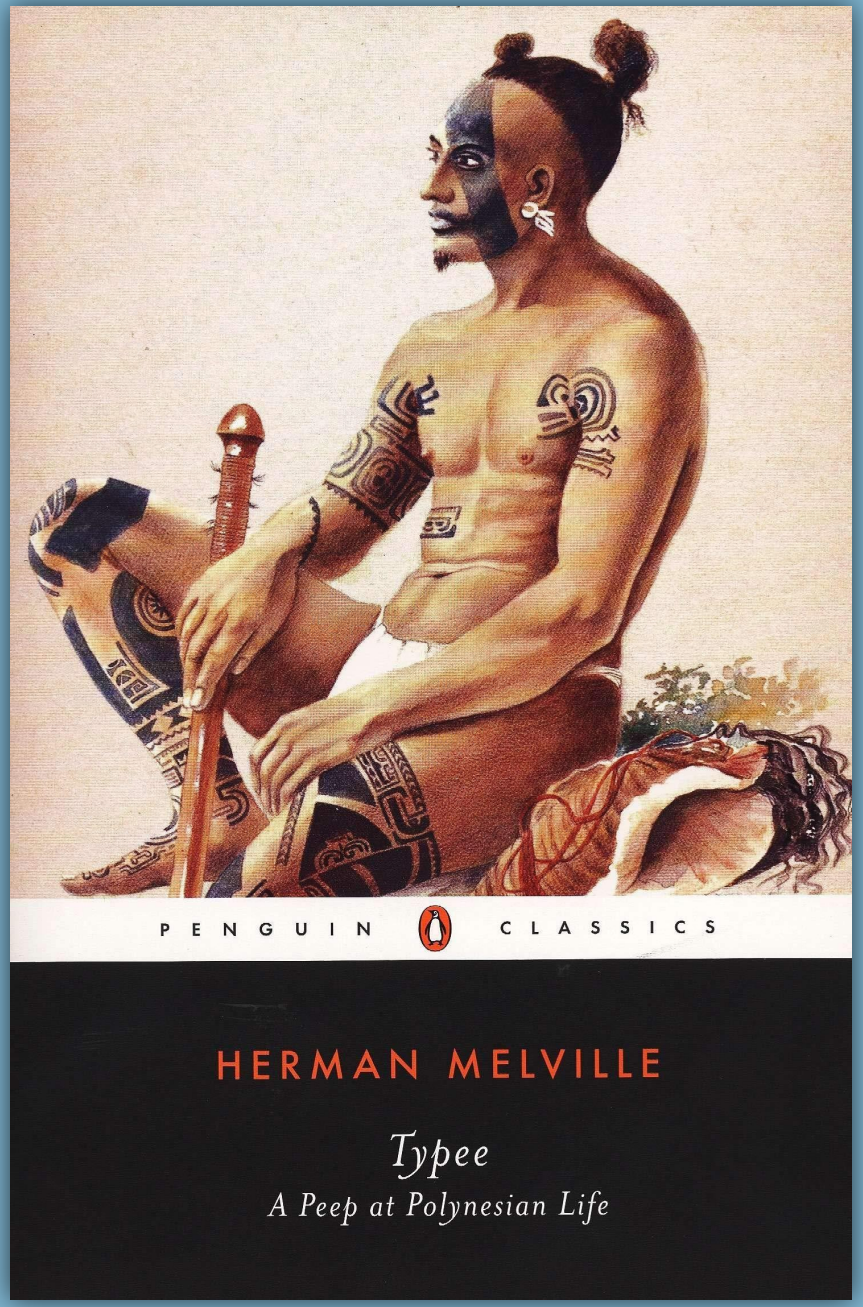
1853



NOVEL

TYPEE

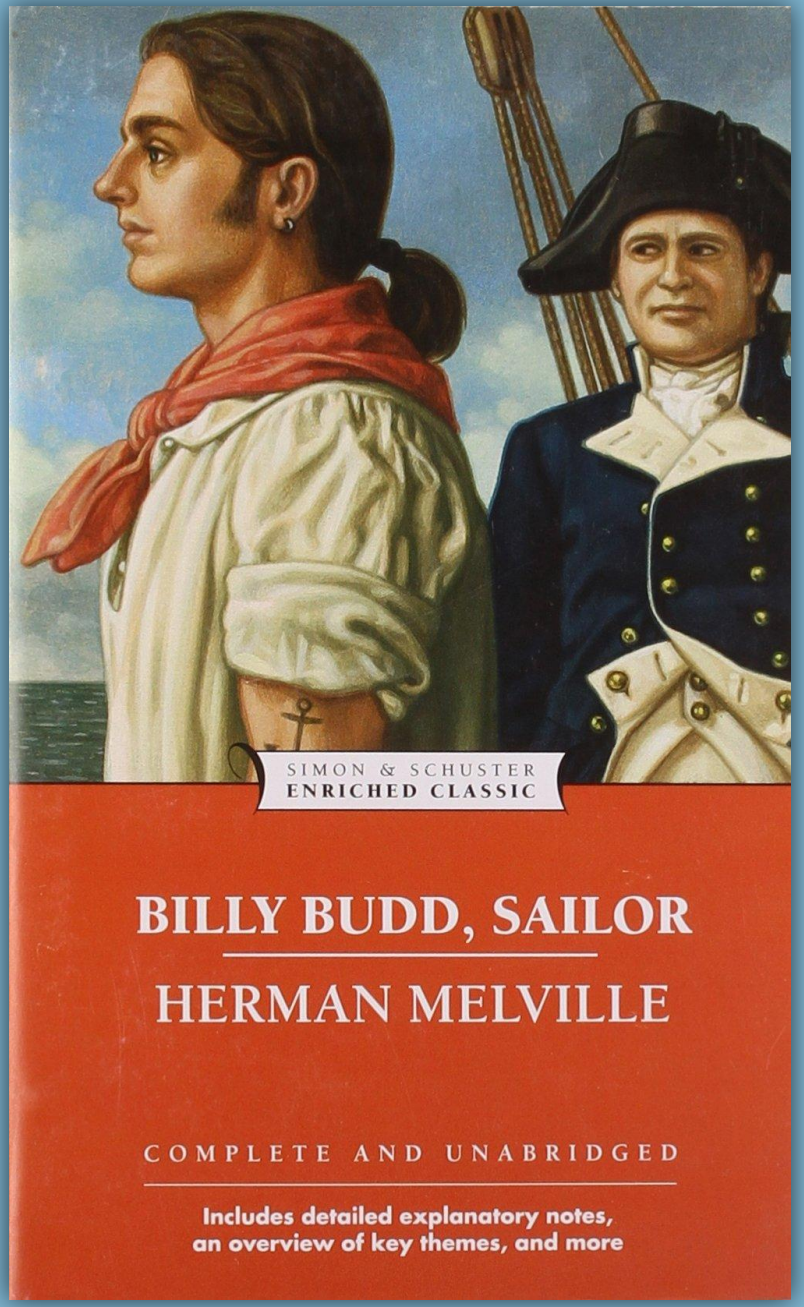
1846



NOVEL

BILLY BUDD

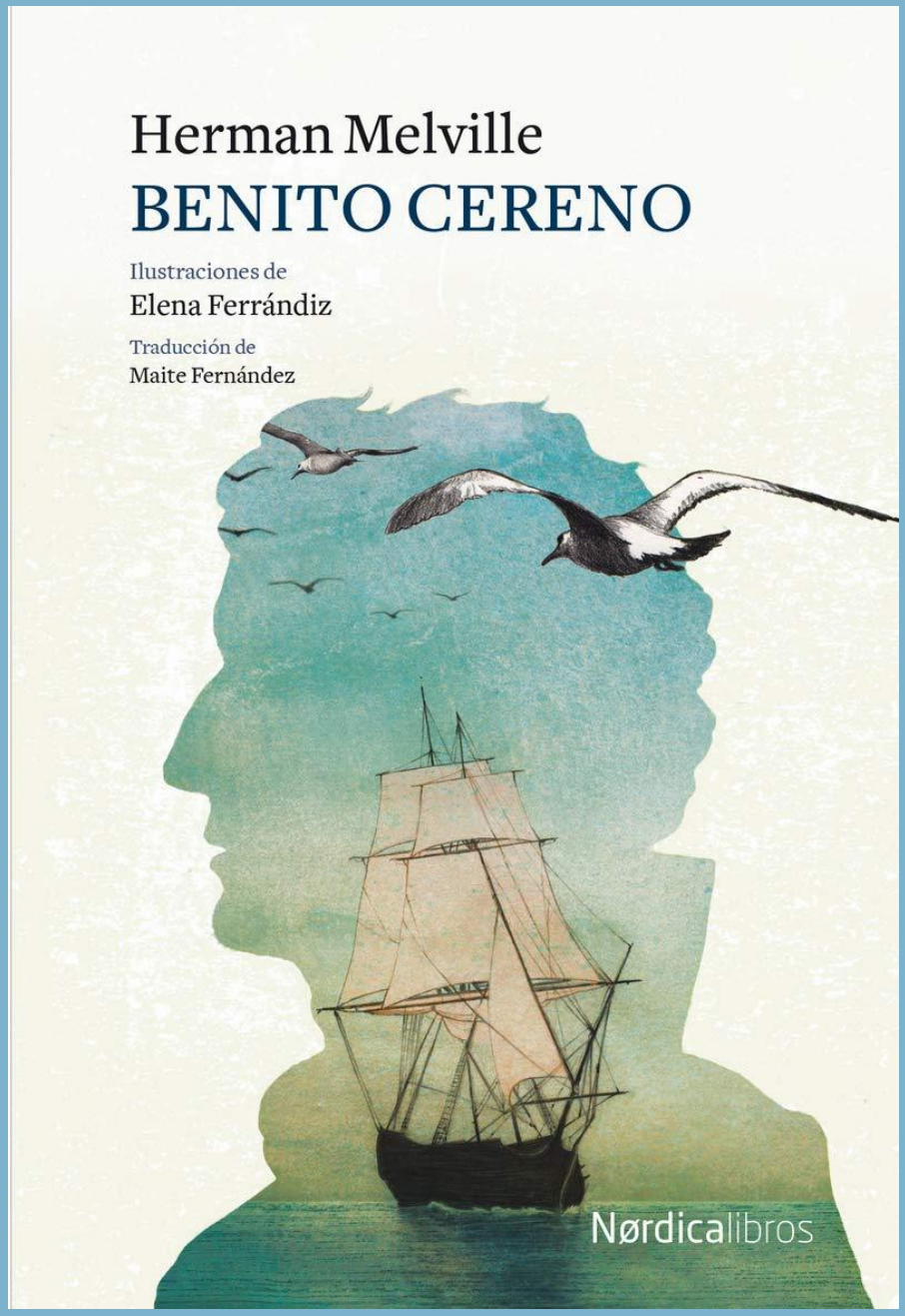
1891



NOVEL

BENITO CERENO

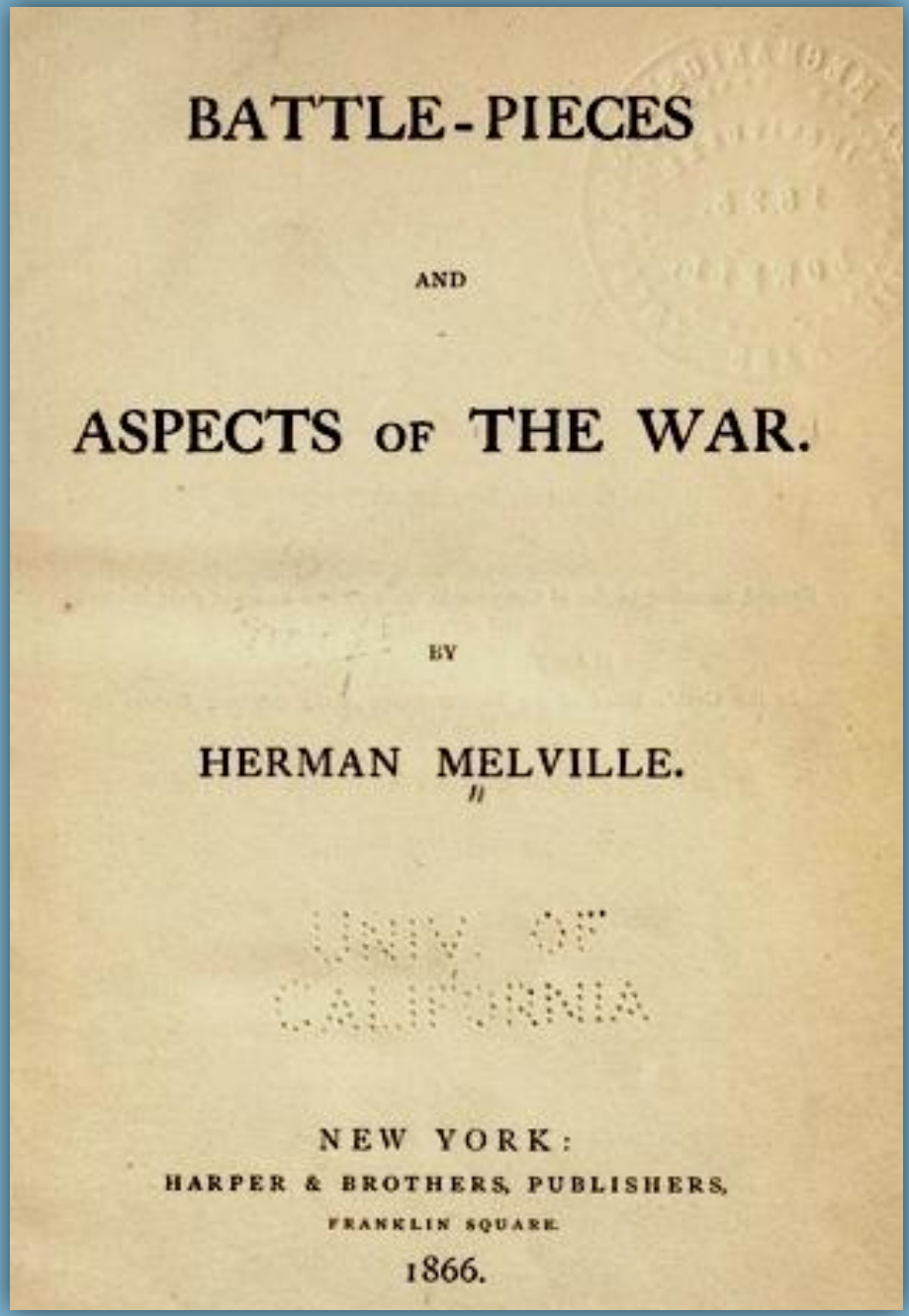
1855



POEM

BATTLE PIECES AND ASPECTS OF THE WAR

1866


BATTLE-PIECES

AND

ASPECTS OF THE WAR.

BY

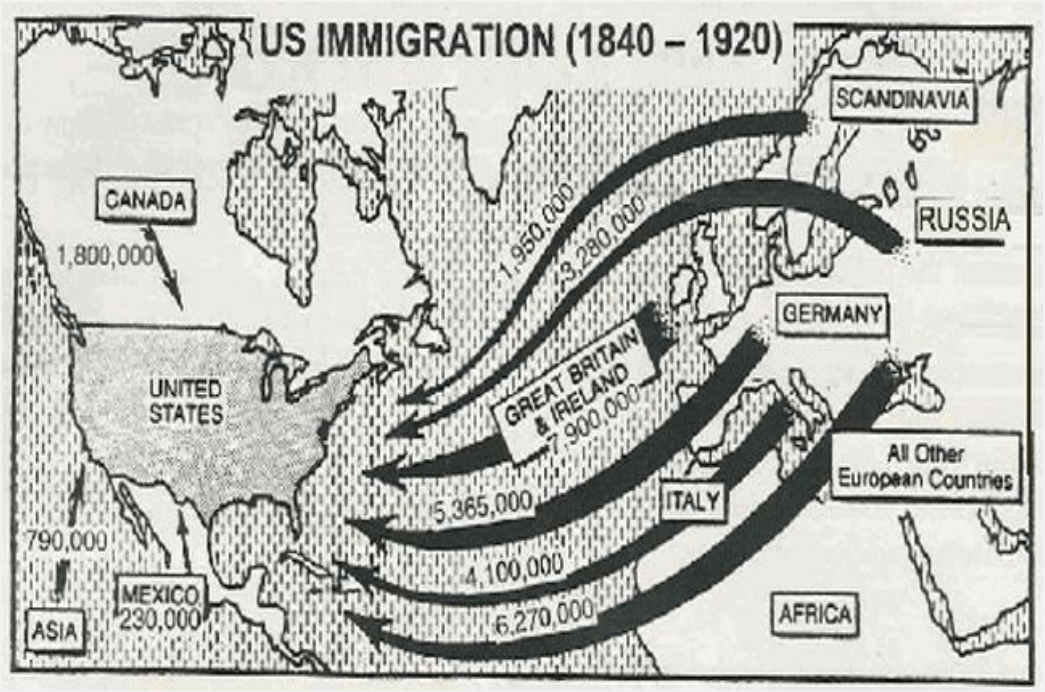
HERMAN MELVILLE.

NEW YORK:
HARPER & BROTHERS, PUBLISHERS,
FRANKLIN SQUARE.
1866.

Historical context

When Herman Melville was born, The Americans declared war on Britain to uphold American honor at sea, and to end the Indian raids in the west, as well as to temporarily seize Canadian territory as a negotiating chip.

1840



By the 1840s increasing numbers of immigrants were arriving from Europe, especially British, Irish, and Germans. Many settled in the cities, which were starting to emerge as a major factor in the economy and society. The Whigs had warned that annexation of Texas would lead to a crisis over slavery, and they were proven right by the turmoil of the 1850s that led to the Civil War.

Causes of seccesion war

The primary catalyst for secession was slavery, most immediately the political battle over the right of Southerners to bring slavery into western territory that had hitherto been free under the terms of the Missouri Compromise or while part of Mexico.

By seven of the 34 states, whose river or coastal economies were all based on cotton grown using slave labor

GOLD RUSH

The gold rush or gold fever indicates a period of feverish (frenetic) migration of workers to areas where the discovery of significant amounts of commercially exploitable gold occurred.