

# THE WEST

Concept:

- The West as a Place and a Process.

Key Terms:

Missionaries

Settler Colonialism

Mormons

Puget Sound Indian War

Dakota Conflict

Sand Creek Massacre

Homestead Act

Chinese Immigrants

Places:

Utah

Dakota Territory

Colorado

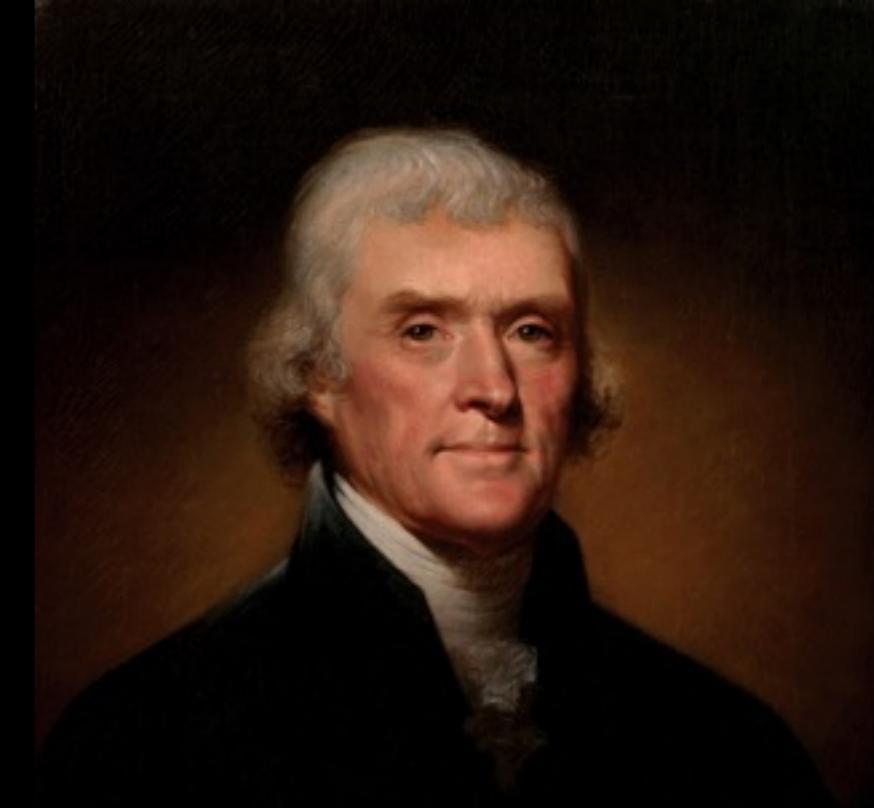
California

Washington

PLACE

# THE EARLY 19TH CENTURY WEST

- The Ohio River Valley and The Old Northwest
- Agrarianism - a Jeffersonian vision of America
- This view did not match most of the trans-Mississippi West
- In the Far West, where were environmental conditions similar to the east leading settlers there in 1850?



Thomas Jefferson



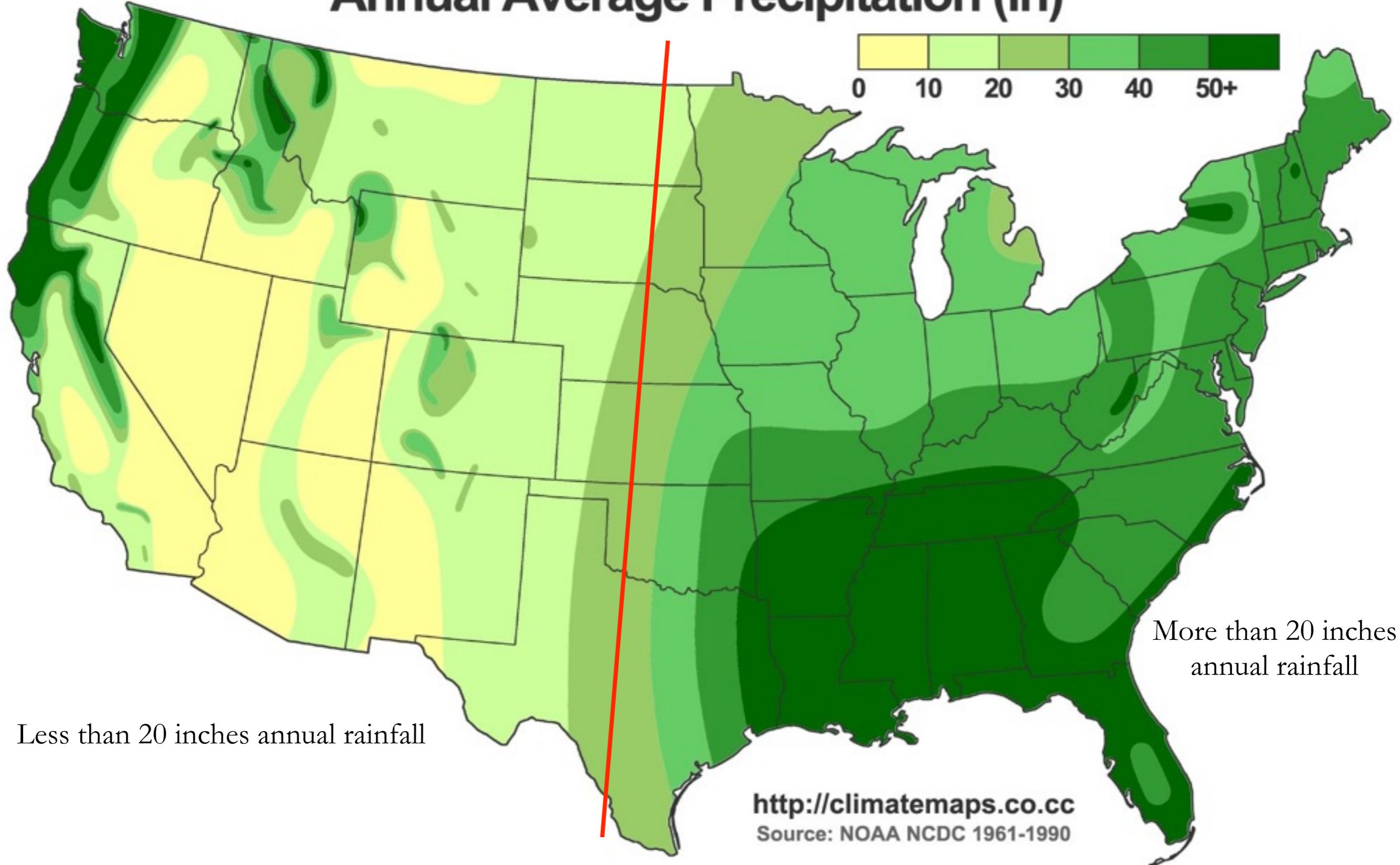
OREGON DONATION LAND CLAIM ACT, 1850

# WILLAMETTE VALLEY, OR



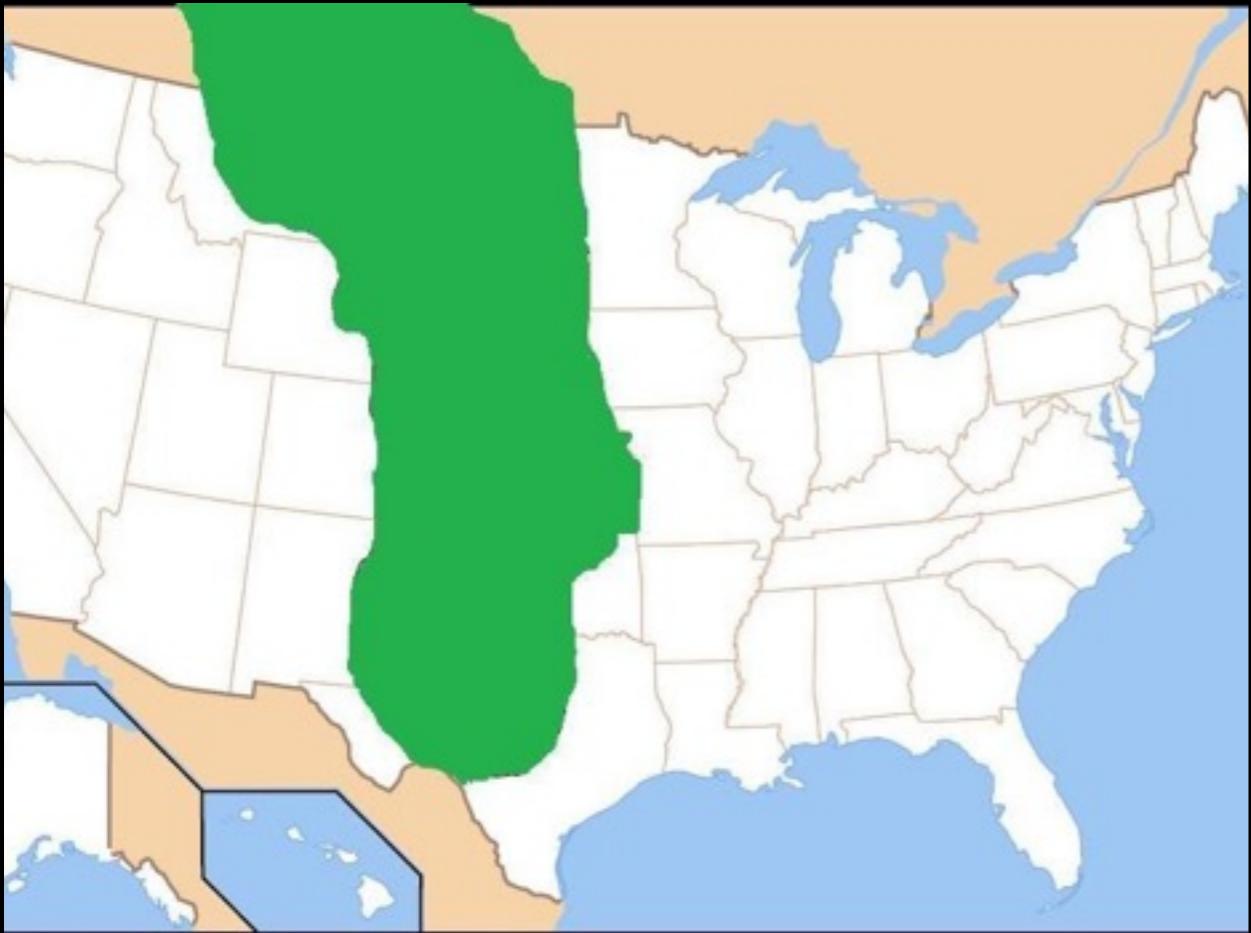
# Aridity: the 100th Meridian

## Annual Average Precipitation (in)



# THE WEST: TOPOGRAPHY

- Great Plains
- flat, arid, few forests
- Bison: approx. 25 million



# THE WEST: TOPOGRAPHY

- Great Basin or Basin & Range
- Arid, few forests
- Mountain Ranges broken by low, flat areas



## ADDITIONAL WESTERN REGIONS



- Mountain Ranges
  - Rockies, Sierra Nevadas, Cascades...
- Desert Southwest
- Pacific Northwest
- Central Valley in CA



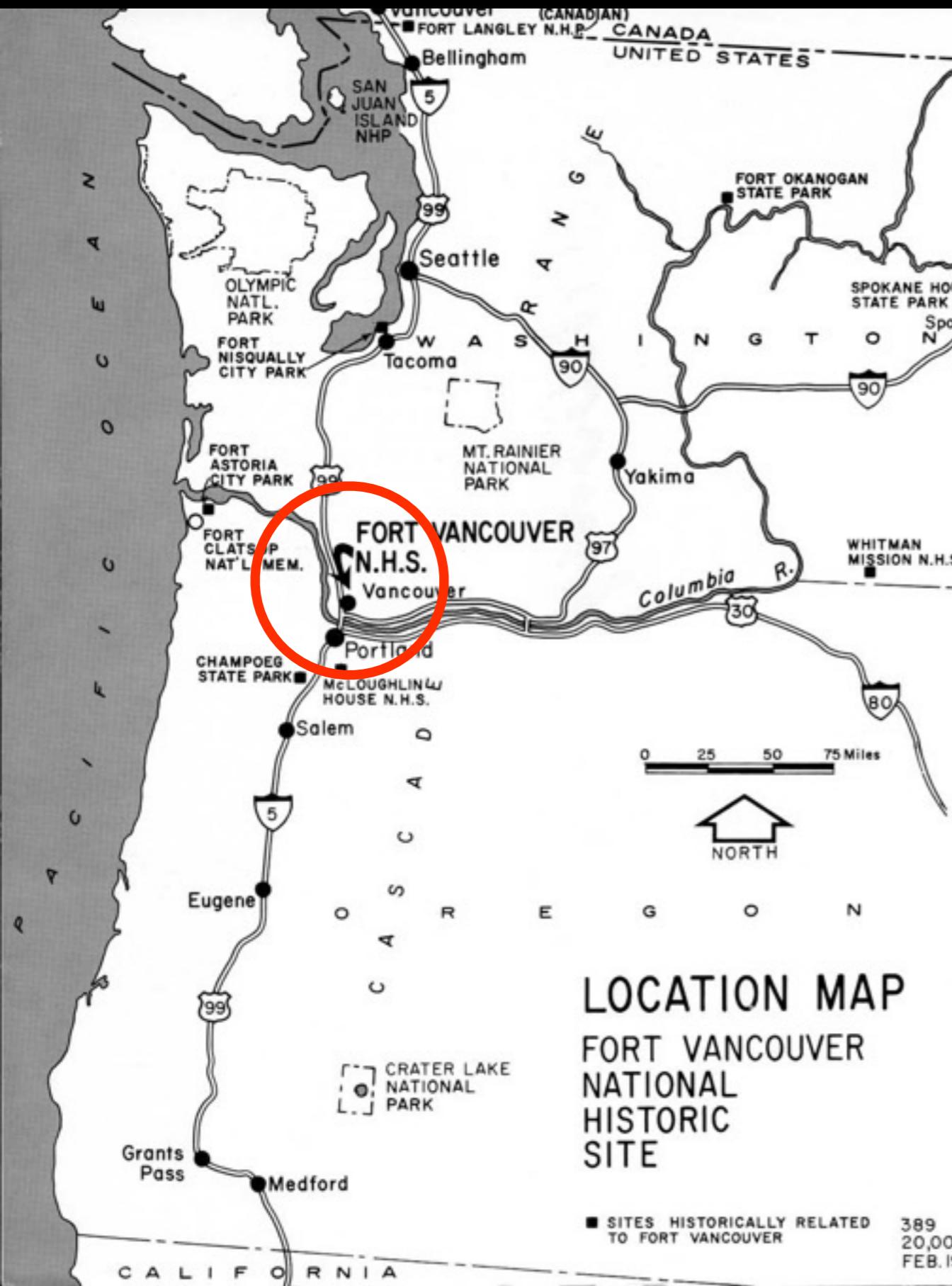
# RESOURCE COLONIALISM

- Distinct from the Jeffersonian-Agrarian view.
- Fur trade in the PNW
- California gold rush
- Later...mining, timber
- Focus on extraction of specific resources
- Few non-Indians in the West



# THE FUR TRADE

- Hudson's Bay Co.
  - beavers and sea otters
  - peaked in the 1820s, then declined
- Ft Vancouver (1828)



# Gold in California, 1848

- 300K people migrate during 1849-1852
- Early Chinese Immigrants



## TAKE NOTICE. Ho! for California!

A Meeting of the Citizens of  
the Village of Canajoharie and its vicinity, will  
be held at the house of T. W. Bingham, on

**FRIDAY EVENING,**

the 19th inst., at early candle light, for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of forming a company to proceed to California, and mining for **GOLD**. All who feel interested on the subject are requested to attend.

**MANY CITIZENS.**

*Canajoharie, Jan. 16, 1849.*



# ETHNIC DIVERSITY

- Native People
- Hispanics
- Chinese
- Euro-Americans
- African-Americans



# THE TRANS-MISSISSIPPI WEST AS A PLACE

- Distinct climate and topography
- Ethnic Diversity
- Early focus on resource extraction
  - male, temporary, in transition

THE WEST AS A  
PROCESS

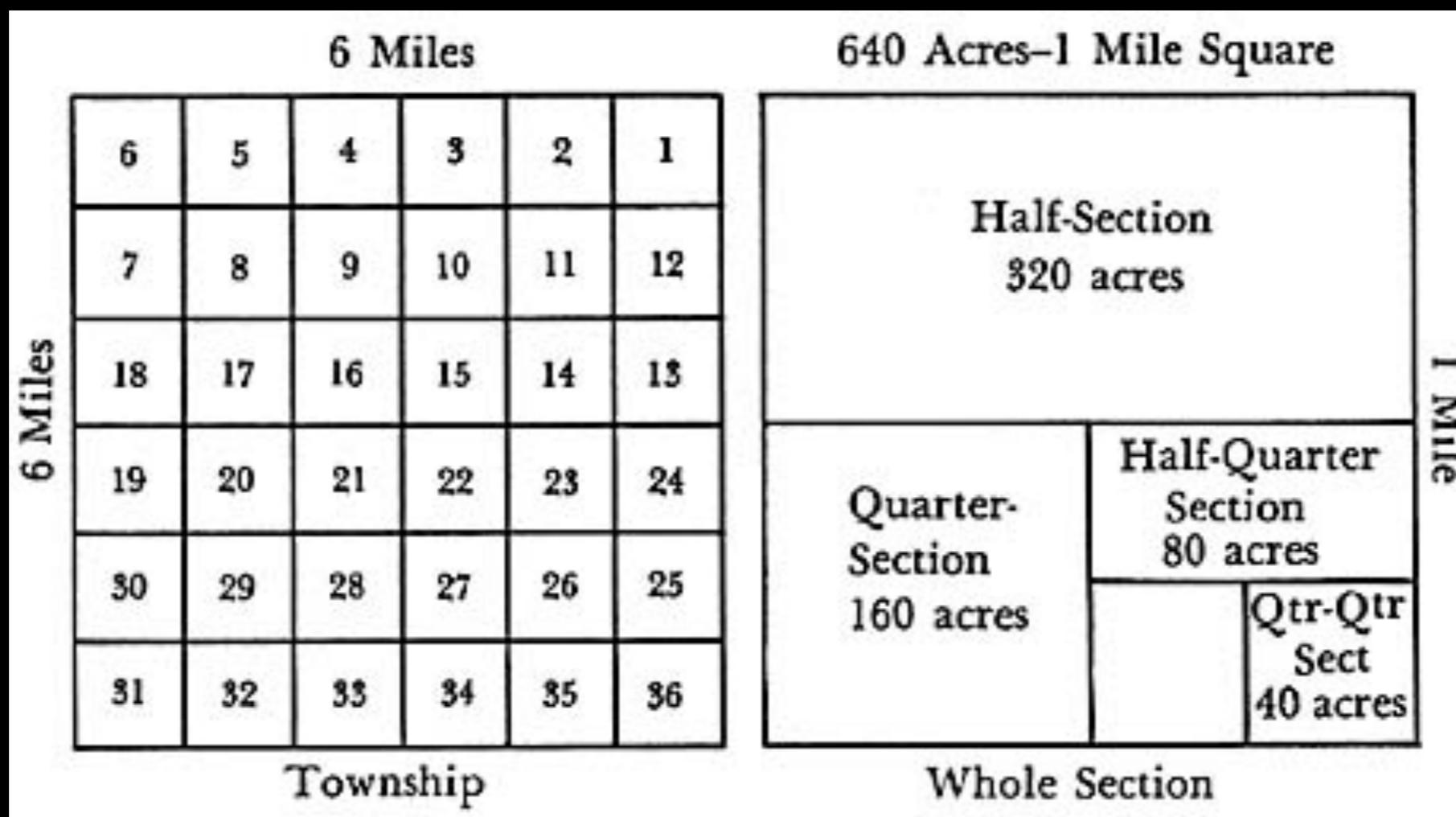


# NORTHWEST ORDINANCE, 1787

- How was the process of western incorporation supposed to work?
    - Acquire lands from Indians through treaty.
    - USGS survey lands, plat.
    - Then the General Land Office would assign to settlers.

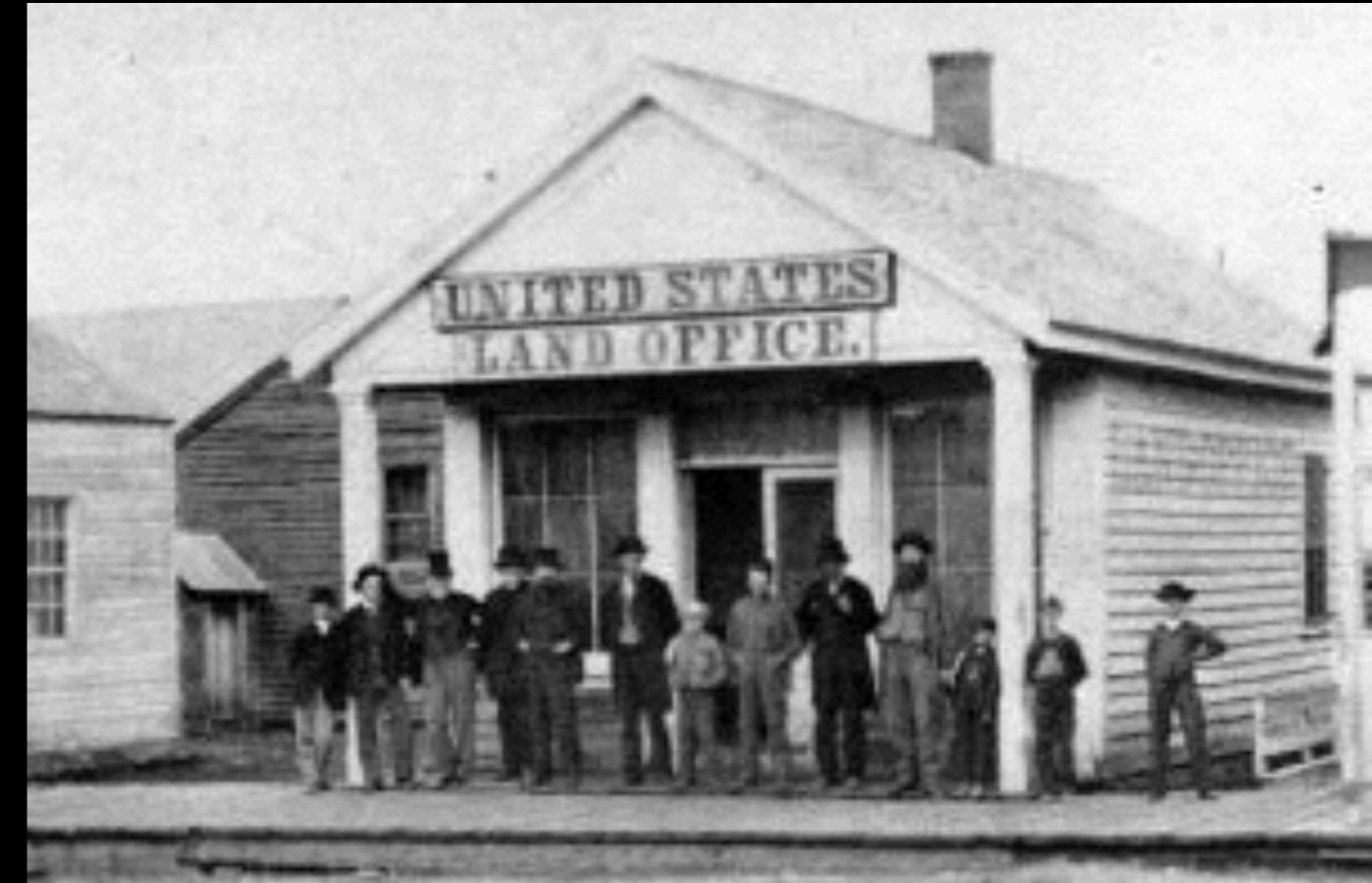
# THE GRID: TOWNSHIP & RANGE

- An agrarian view
- Also a commercial view: commodifying land



# THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

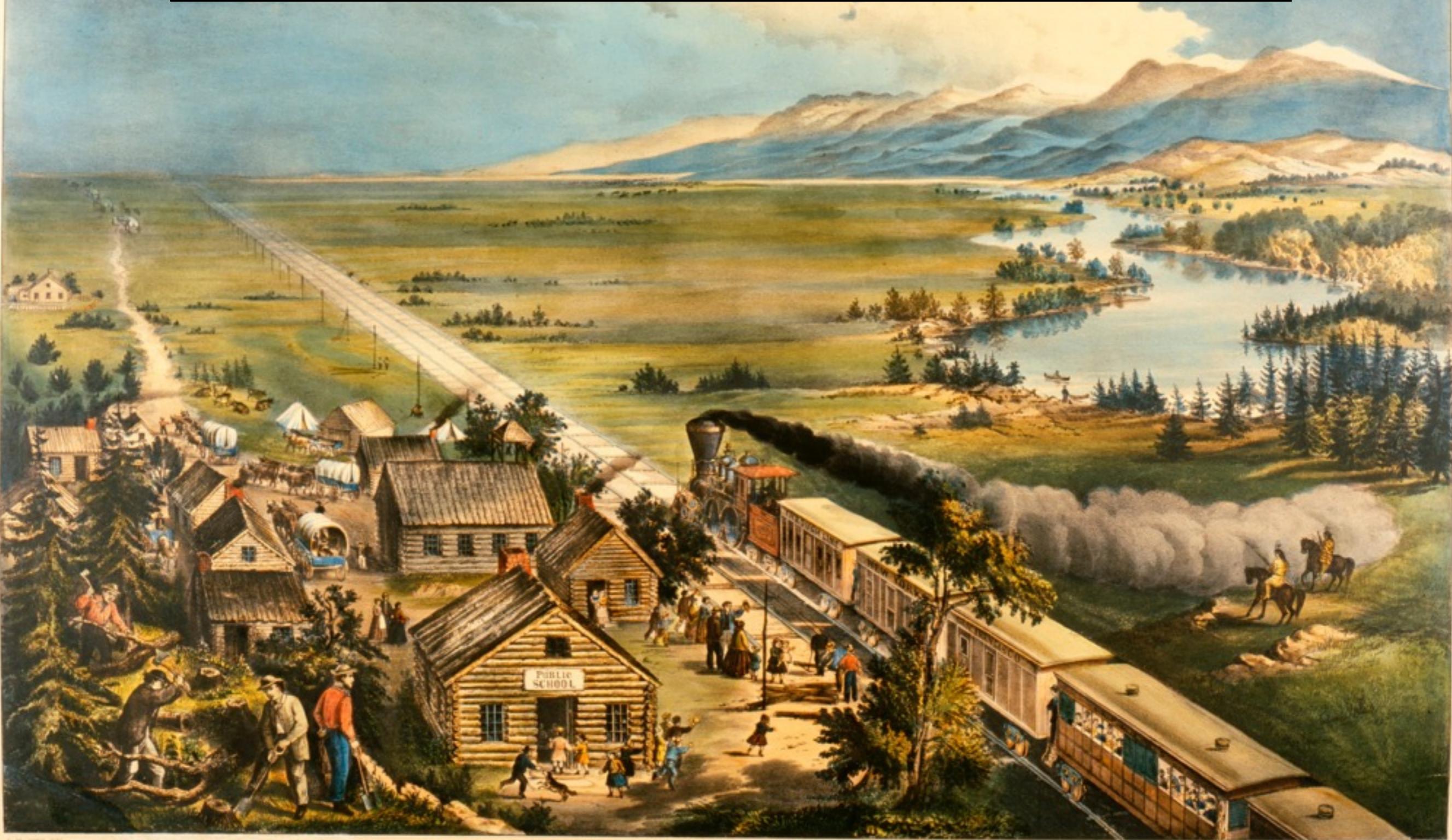
- General Land Office (GLO), 1812
- The job of the GLO was to put land into private hands.



# SETTLER COLONIALISM IN THE US WEST

- A process of conquest, incorporation, and cultural change.
- U.S. government driven through policies
- Culturally driven through Manifest Destiny
- Conflicts with Native People

# Euro-Americans imagining an empty space



ACROSS THE CONTINENT.  
"WESTWARD THE COURSE OF EMPIRE TAKES ITS WAY."

1868

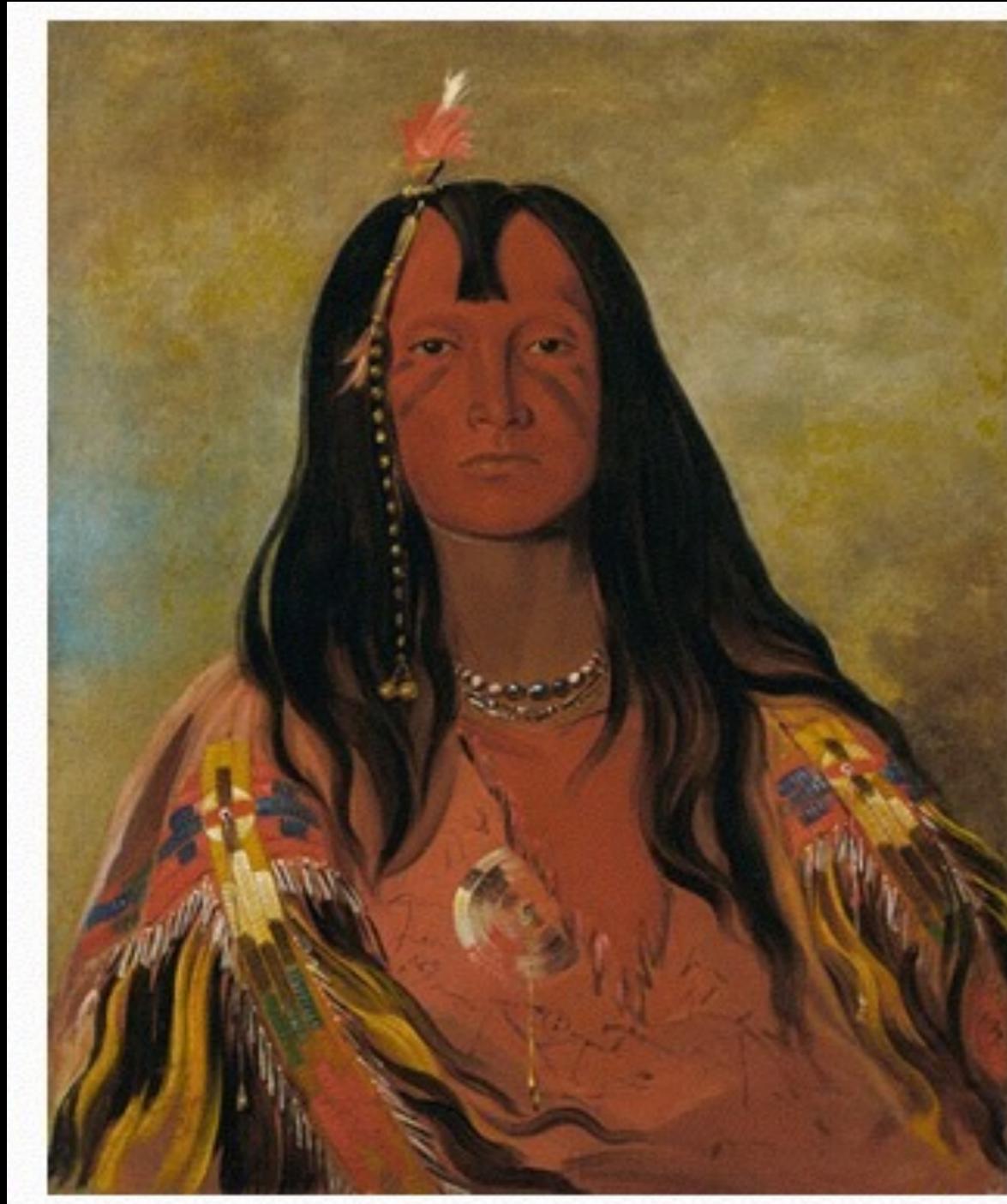
# MISSIONS PROMOTED FARMING & CHRISTIANITY

- Marcus and Narcissa Whitman at Walla Walla (1836)
- Among the Cayuse Indians
- Missionaries as the vanguard for settlers



GEORGE CATLIN PAINTINGS, 1832

NEZ PERCE TO ST LOUIS, 1831



H'co-a-h'co-a-h'cotes-min, No Horns on His Head



Hee-oh'ks-te-kin, Rabbit's Skin Leggings

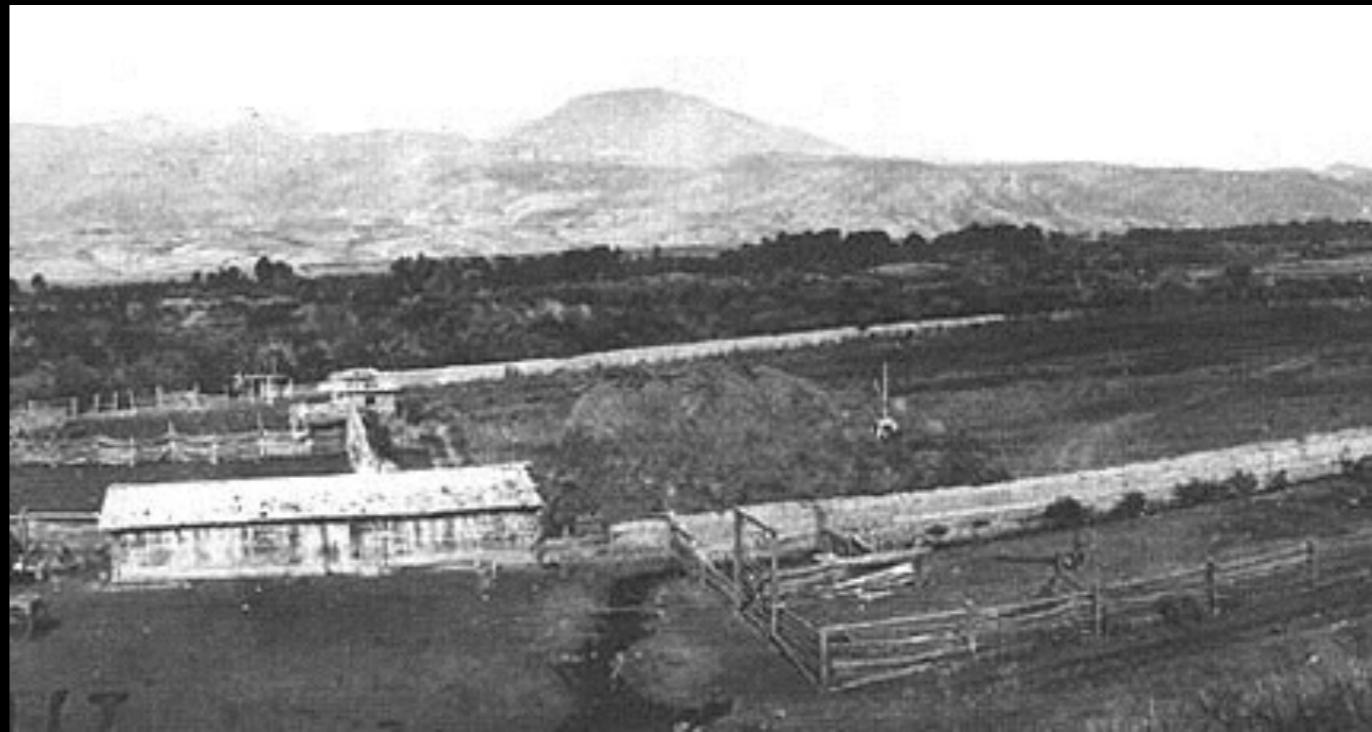


The Mormon pioneers coming  
off Big Mountain into  
Mountain Dell.  
July 1847.

Mormons into Utah, 1847

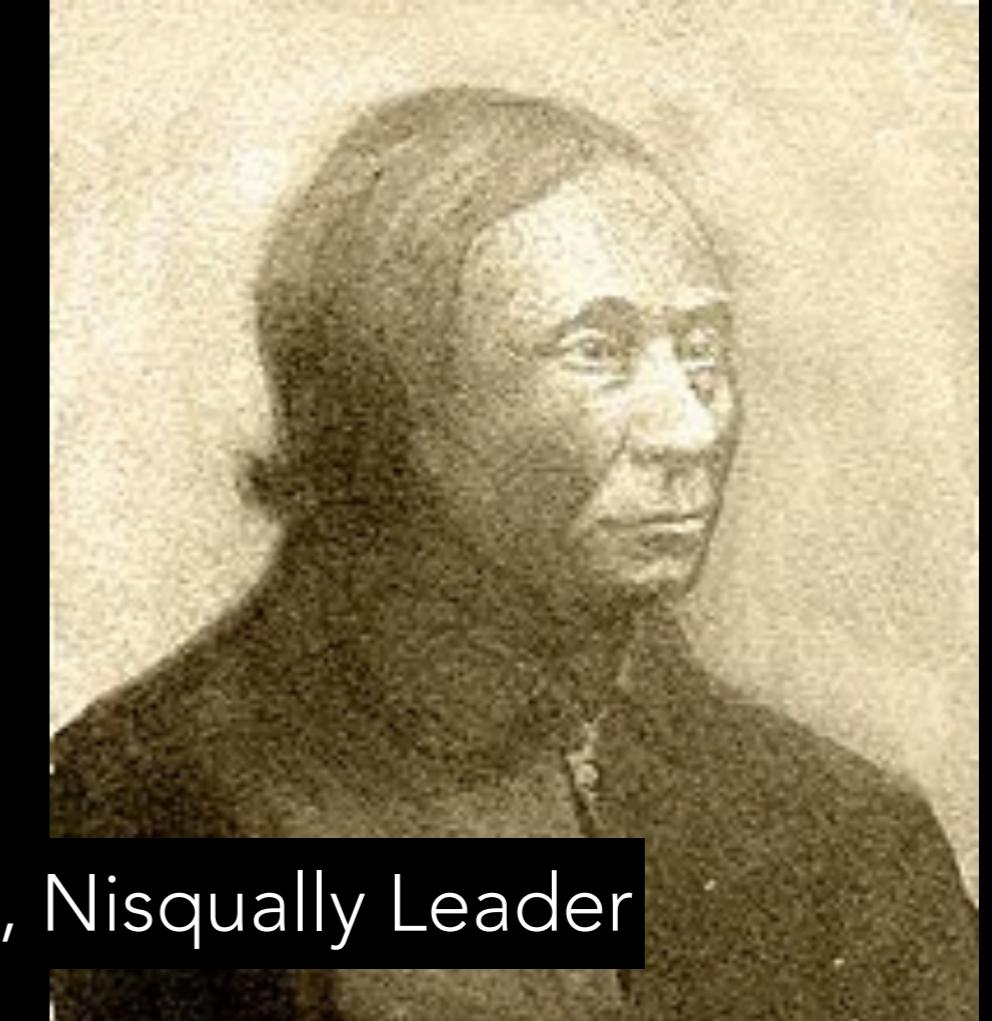
# MORMONS

- Began in western New York (1830s)
  - Then to Naboo, IL
- First Mormons to Salt Lake, Utah in 1847
- Mission at Lemhi, ID in 1855

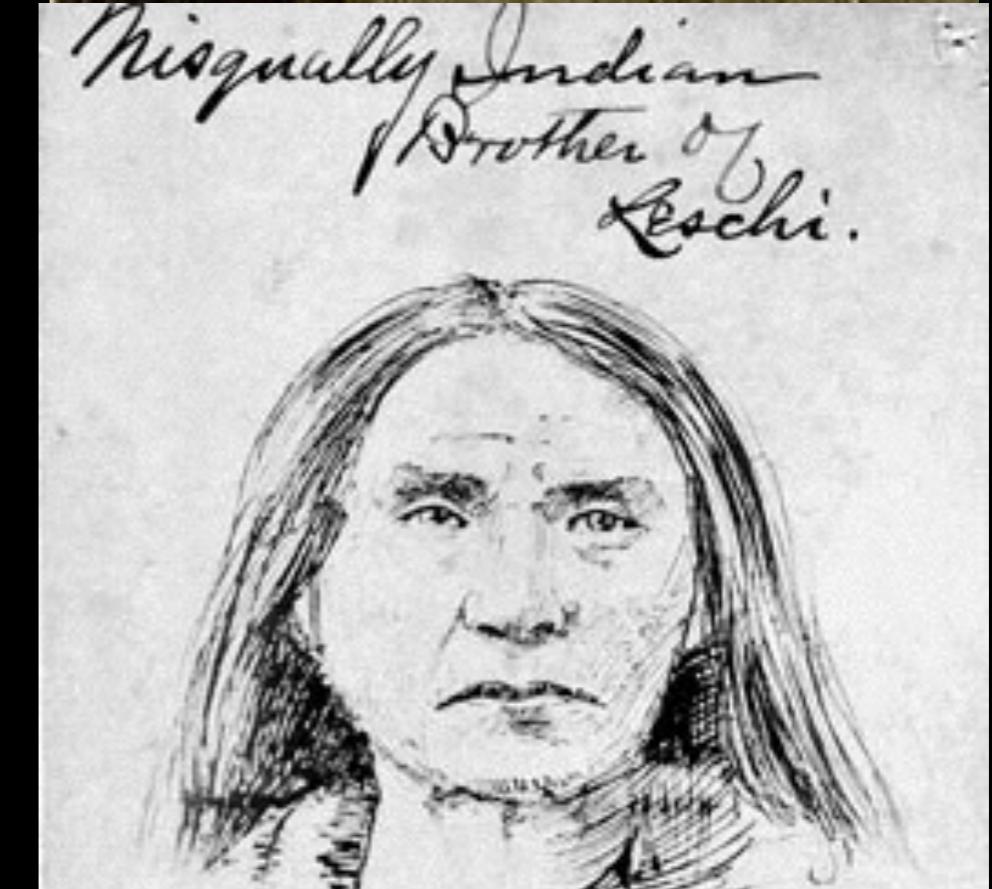


# WASHINGTON TERR. 1855-56

- Treaties caused tensions where there had been peace
- Puget Sound War
- Execution & Murder
- “savages”



Leschi, Nisqually Leader



Quiemuth, Nisqually Leader

# U.S. POLICY DURING THE US CIVIL WAR (1861-1865)

- The Homestead Act (1862) Promoted Settlement on the western Plains
- Morrill Land-Grant Act (1862) to establish agricultural colleges
- Timber Culture Act (1873) to encourage tree-planting on the Great Plains
- Lots of subsequent land settlement acts

# DAKOTA CONFLICT (1862)

- Policy: Treaties
- Sioux Tribes
- Western Settlement
  - MN: Between 1851 and 1858 more than 140,000 new settlers
  - Homestead Act, 1862



# DAKOTA

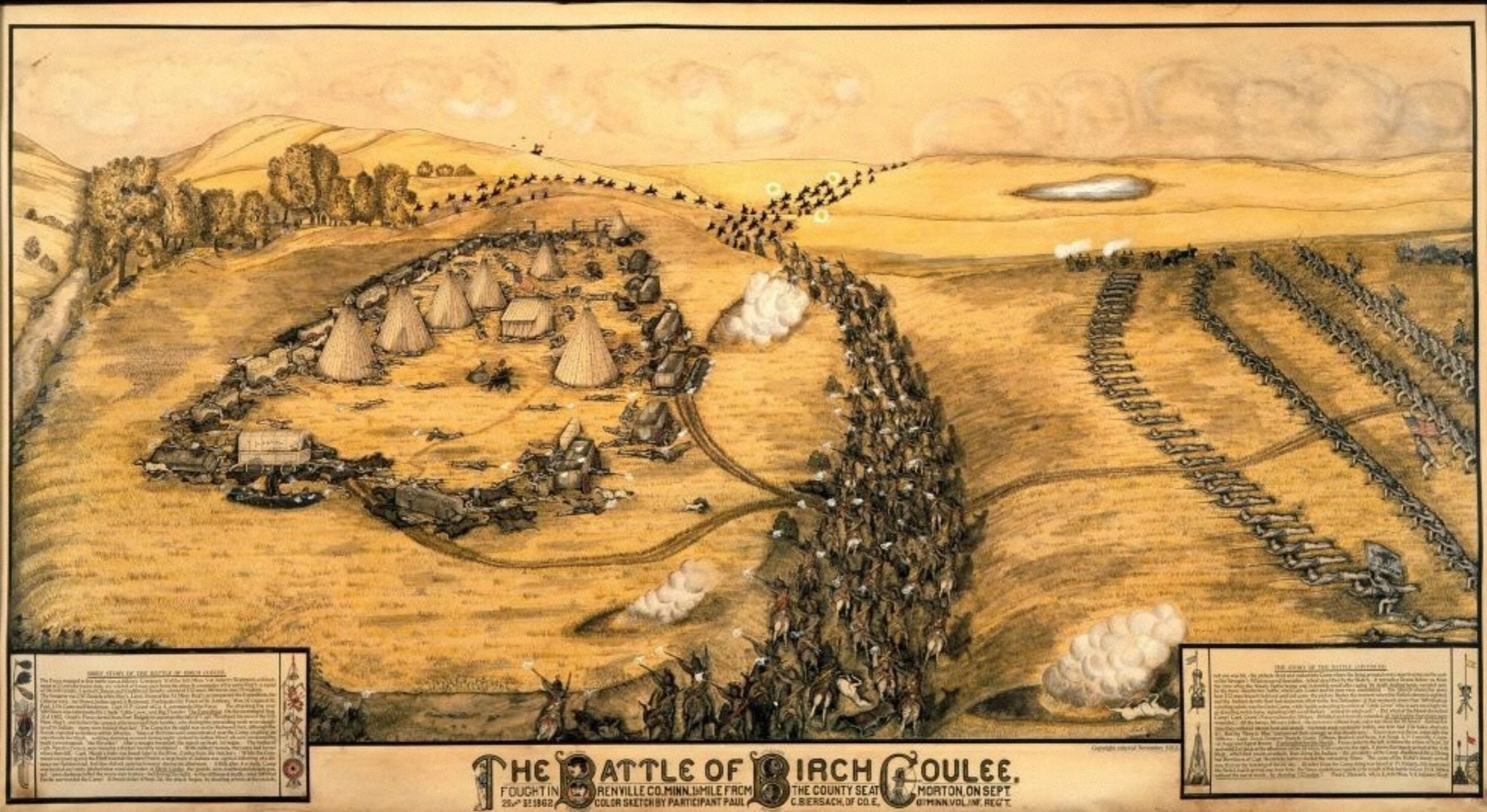
# TER R I T O R Y



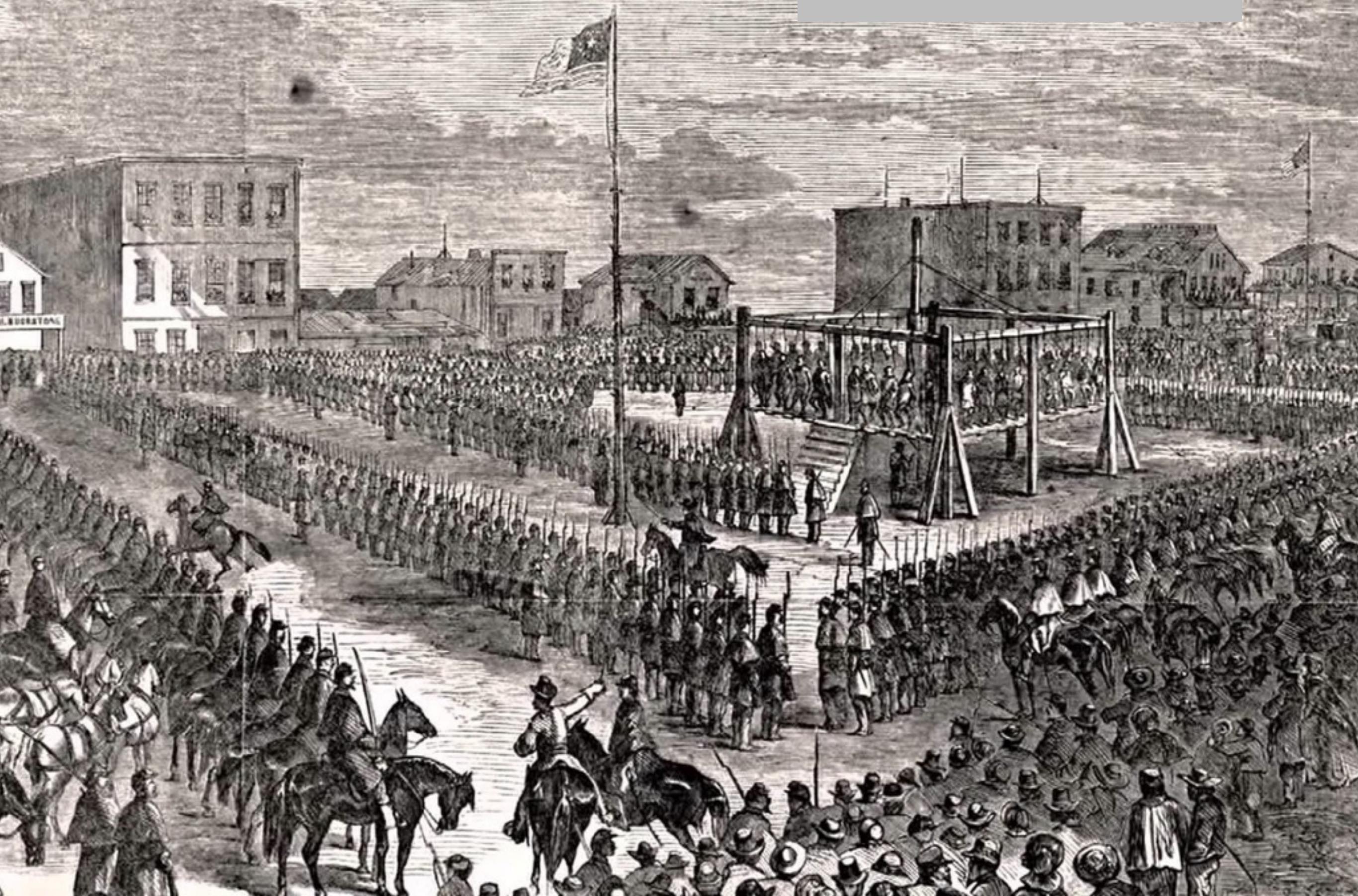
Treaty Reservations

# BATTLE OF BIRCH COULEE

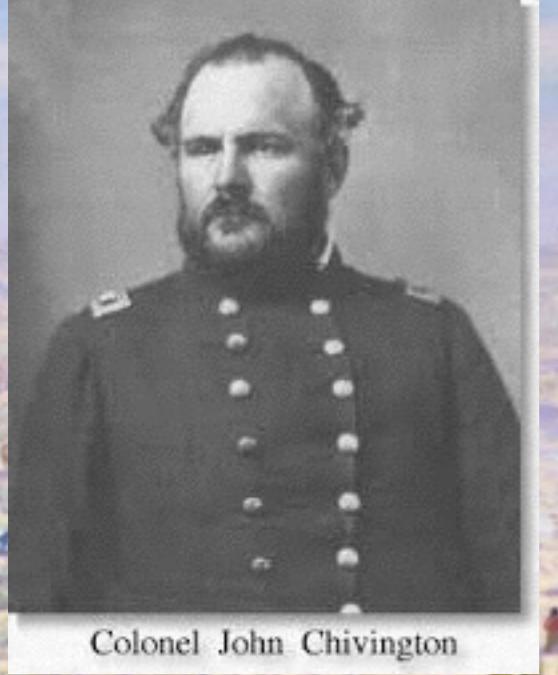
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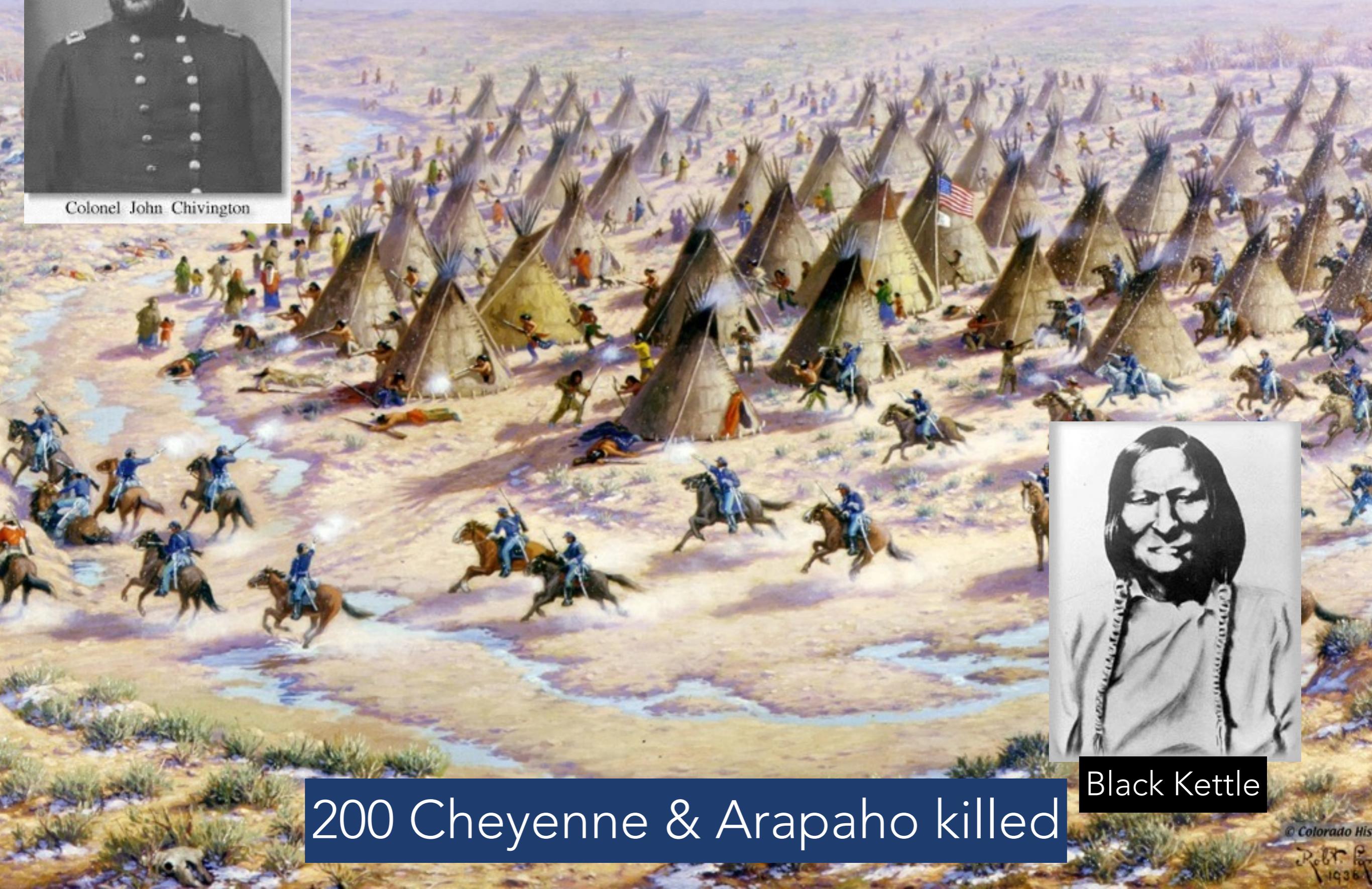
38 Sioux Executed



# Sand Creek Massacre (1864)



Colonel John Chivington



Black Kettle

200 Cheyenne & Arapaho killed

© Colorado His

Robt P  
1938

# NOT TRADITIONAL COMBATANTS: RACE WAR

Capt. Simon Soule  
ordered his troops  
not to fire



*"The Indians were scalped, their brains knocked out; the men used their knives, ripped open women, clubbed little children, knocked them in the head with their guns, beat their brains out, mutilated their bodies in every sense of the word."*

# SUM UP

- The West:
  - A distinct place - topography & climate, people, resources
  - A process of settler colonialism that ranged from collaborative to violent
    - U.S. government-backed
    - Manifest Destiny-inspired