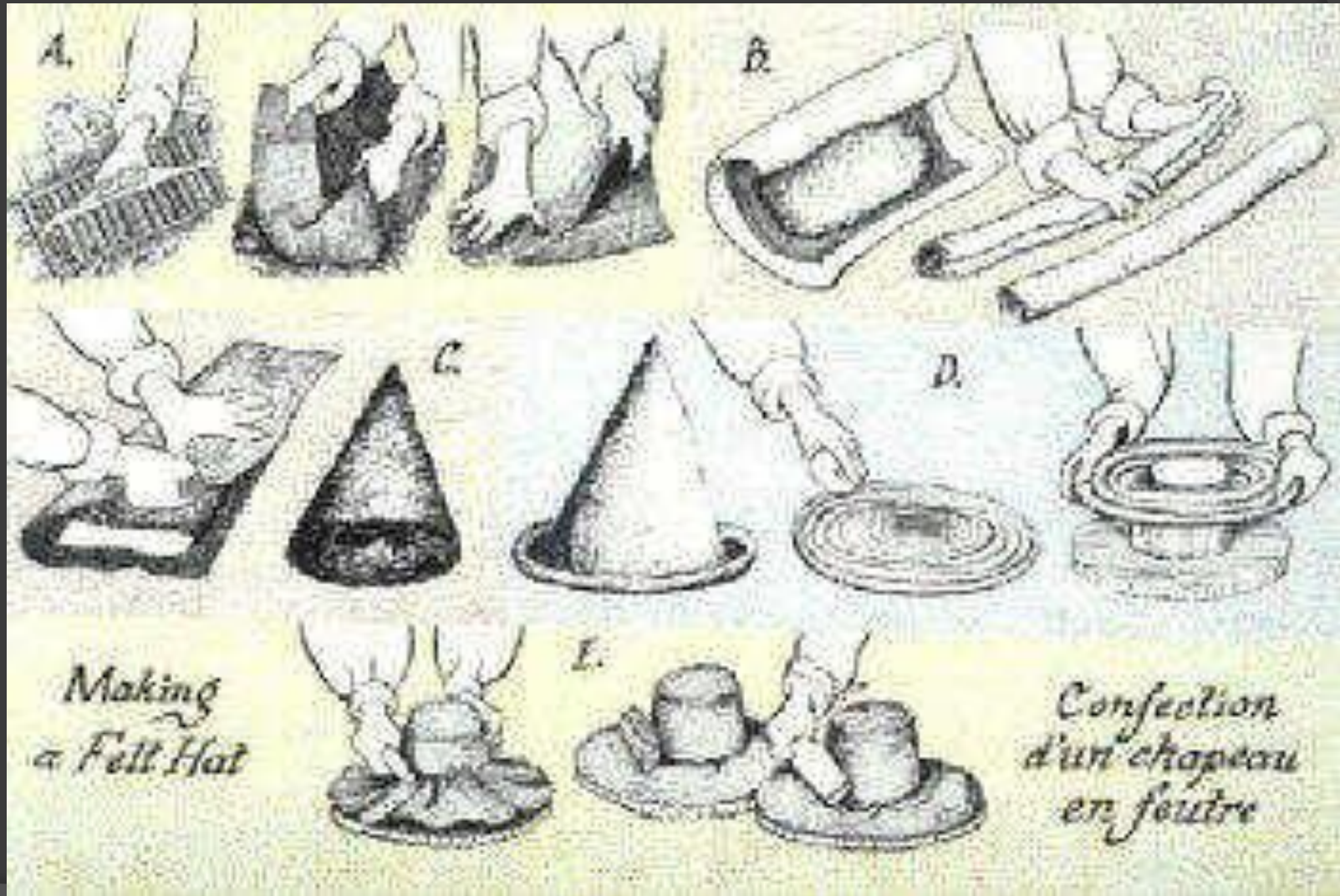


**TERRITORIAL  
EXPANSION OF THE  
UNITED STATES,  
CHAPTER 14 NOTES,  
PART 1**

# Westward Exploration

- Westward Expansion happened because of the market revolution as well as improvements in transportation
- Fur Trade 1670s to 1840s
  - Spurred exploration on the Continent
  - American companies challenged British dominance starting in the 1820s
  - “Mountain men” employed by American fur companies helped to explore the West

# Process to turn Fur into a Hat



# Product of the Fur Trade



# Government-Sponsored Exploration

- Lewis and Clark Expedition (1804-1806)
- Lieutenant Zebulon Pike led an expedition to the Rocky Mountains in Colorado (1806-1807)
- John C. Fremont mapped overland trails to Oregon and California (1843-1844)
- These expeditions increased public interest in the West

# Expansion and Indian Policy

- Indian territory in modern day Kansas and Oklahoma (where Eastern Indians were moved to) was crossed by the Santa Fe Trail, established in 1821
- For the most part, settlers moving to California and Oregon just moved through areas controlled by Native Americans in the Plains and West

# Politics of Expansion

## ◉ Manifest Destiny

- To push beyond existing boundaries risked war with Great Britain, which claimed the Pacific Northwest
- Mexico held what is now Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, California, and part of Colorado
- The United States would be reducing 75,000 Spanish-speaking people and 150,000 Indian people to subject status
- What could the Rationale—the reason—for this massive expansion be?

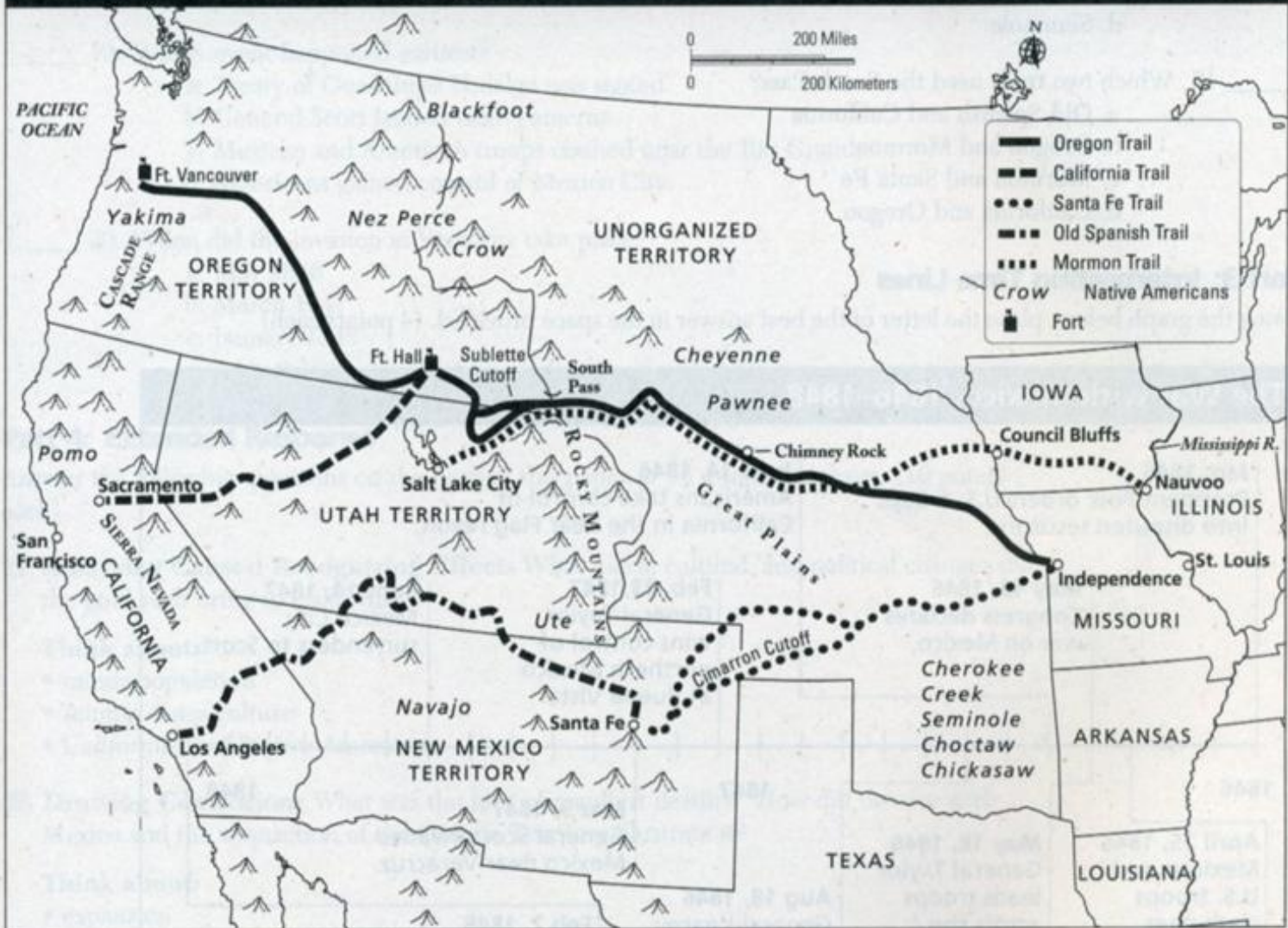
# Manifest Destiny

- John O'Sullivan, a newspaperman in 1845 wrote that it was our “manifest destiny to overspread the continent allotted by Providence”
- He argued that Americans had a duty to bring the benefits of Democracy to Mexicans and Indians—by force if necessary
- Politicians favored economic development that expansion might allow
- Farmers just wanted land, were curious, or had a sense of adventure

# Overland Trails

- Oregon Trail
- Santa Fe Trail
- California Trail

# Trails West



- From the Missouri River to Oregon or California took seven months and covered 2,000 miles
- Travel was dangerous, slow, and exhausting
- Most travelers joined a larger group and formed a wagon train
- By 1860, almost 300,000 people had traveled the Overland Trails to Oregon or California

# Santa Fe Trade

- Santa Fe trail joined Santa Fe and Missouri—a 900 mile trip
- Profits made by people trading with the Mexican community in Santa Fe were large
- The trip was dangerous because of the risk of Native American attacks

# Texas

- Mexico wanted a buffer between dangerous Indian tribes and its own territory
- Mexico granted 18,000 square miles of territory in Texas to the Austin family of Missouri. Stephen Austin became the first “empresario” or land agent.
- Austin and other empresarios owned their lands as part of a formal contract with the Mexican government
- The empresarios agreed to become Mexican citizens and become Catholic

# Life in Texas

- Austin's colonists were mostly Southerners and created a cotton growing enterprise
- They lived in enclaves (self-contained communities) and had little contact with Tejanos or Indian peoples
- They did not typically learn Spanish
- Texas held three communities: Comanche, Tejano (Spanish-speaking residents of Texas), and Americans

# 1830s--Conflict

- Later settlers in the 1830s did not want to join Mexico—they planned to take over Texas, seeing American society as superior to that of Mexico
- The Alamo (1836) was a battle where Americans and Tejanos lost a fierce standoff to a Mexican army
- Santa Anna was later in 1836 surprised and defeated by Texans, and Texas was made a Republic

# Texas

- Congress refused to grant Texas statehood in 1837 because Texas would have been a slave state
- Texas continued to seek statehood while also seeking recognition by Great Britain
- Democrats nominated James Polk for President in 1844 who wanted to annex Texas
- Texas was added in 1845 as a state

# Polk's War (Mexican-American War)

- 1846—Polk peacefully added Oregon through negotiations with Britain
- November of 1845—Polk sent an envoy to Mexico with an offer of \$30 million or more for the Rio Grande border in Texas as well as New Mexico and California
- The Mexican government refused to talk to the envoy, and Polk ordered General Zachary Taylor and his army south to disputed territory at the Rio Grande River
- A brief skirmish broke out in April of 1846 in the disputed territory

- Polk claimed that Mexico invaded America and attacked us in an attempt to start a war
- This was not true, although Congress declared war in May of 1846
- General Winfield Scott and Zachary Taylor fought toward Mexico City and eventually captured it

- Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo—ended the war with Mexico and Mexico ceded California and New Mexico and accepted the Rio Grande as the border of Texas
- Gadsden Purchase (1853) later added parts of New Mexico and Arizona (see map on textbook page 476)