

THE OLD SCHOOL BOOK MAP ATLAS

William E. Kitchens

Old Fashioned History Publishing

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The Old School Book Map Atlas / William E. Kitchens—1st ed.

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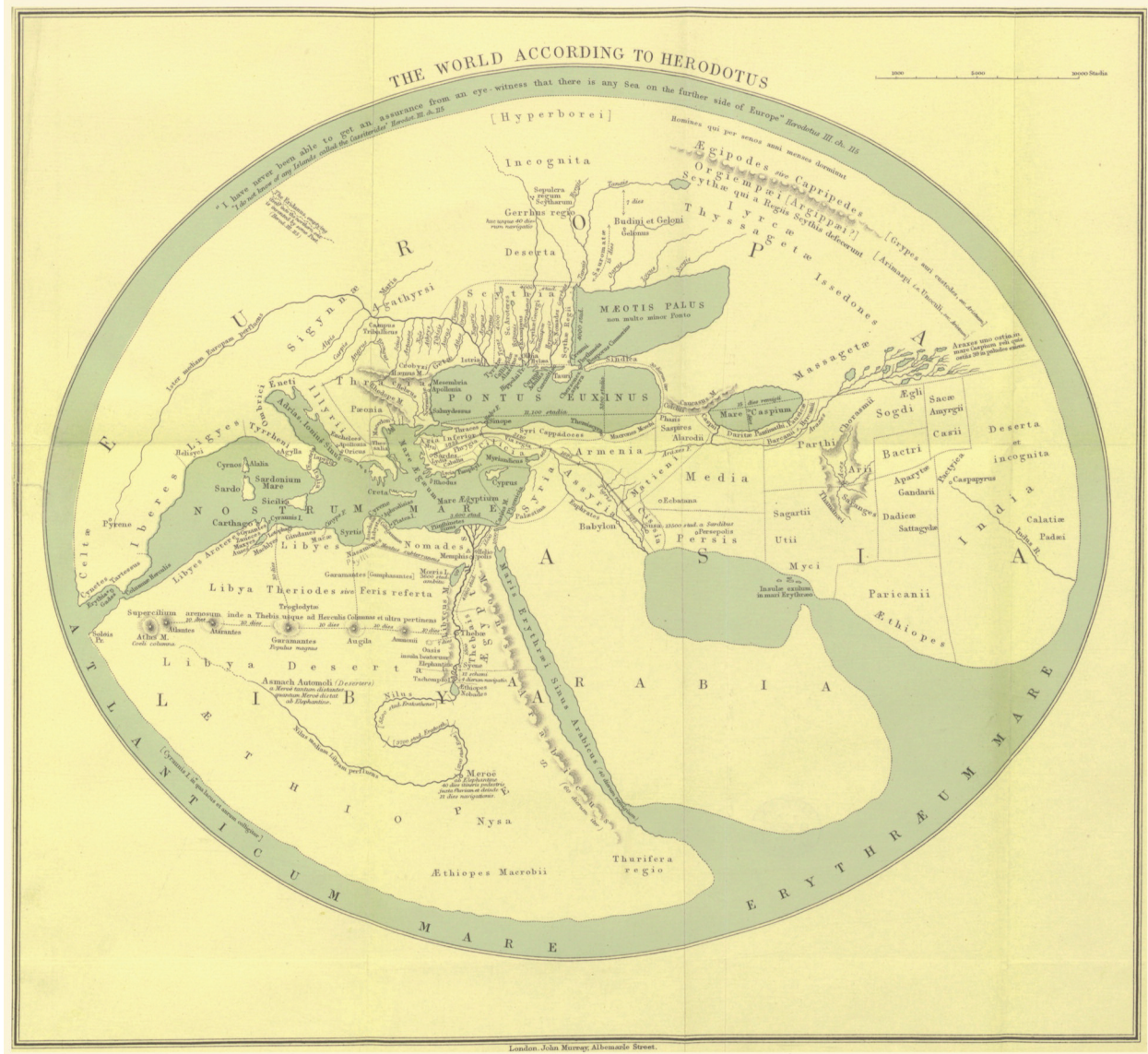
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Introduction

Maps are useful, decorative, and a fascinating historic chronicle. This small atlas contains a variety of maps, chosen mostly to illuminate events and characters described in the Old Fashioned School Book Readers. Most of the maps in this atlas are maps from old school books, though a few are antique commercial maps, and other historical maps. As these are very old maps, some may be rather crude compared to modern maps, and some show stains and wear common to antique maps. Some of the old maps, however, are true works of art that could scarcely be duplicated today. All maps in this atlas are in the public domain.



1 - World Map by Herodotus, 5th Century BC



This is a 19th century representation of a map by the Greek scholar Herodotus (484 BC–425 BC). There are no copies of the original map; this one was made from written descriptions that have survived the centuries. Notice that it is fairly accurate in the Mediterranean area, but most of the world was unknown. The shape of the map should not be misinterpreted as depicting the earth as an oblate sphere (which it truly is, though not so oblate), but that the known world was surrounded by water.

2 - World Map by Ptolemy, 2nd Century AD



The next great map maker we know anything of was Claudius Ptolemy (c. AD 100–170), a man of Greek descent living in Roman Egypt. Ptolemy (with a silent *P*) was a true “polymath,” a genius in many fields. Like the map by Herodotus, there are no copies of Ptolemy’s maps, only written descriptions. But those descriptions are sufficient to produce maps like this one published in 1467, and one undoubtedly known to Christopher Columbus. Note that the coverage area is about the same as the map of Herodotus; very little exploration had been done in the centuries separating him from Ptolemy, or the thirteen hundred years separating Ptolemy from Columbus. But notice that this map is a spherical projection (Ptolemaic Projection) like modern maps. Ptolemy deduced that the earth was spherical, and even calculated its size with remarkable accuracy.

Ptolemy’s genius was lost to the western European world after the “Fall of Rome” and the descent into the “Dark Ages.” The Greco-Roman civilization of the eastern, Greek-speaking part of the Roman Empire survived the fall of the western part of the Empire, however. Centered in Constantinople, and usually known as the “Byzantine Empire,” it was finally destroyed by the Ottoman Turkish Empire in 1453.

But by that time, western Europe had broken out of the Dark Ages and had re-acquired much of the old knowledge, including Ptolemy's, from the Byzantines.

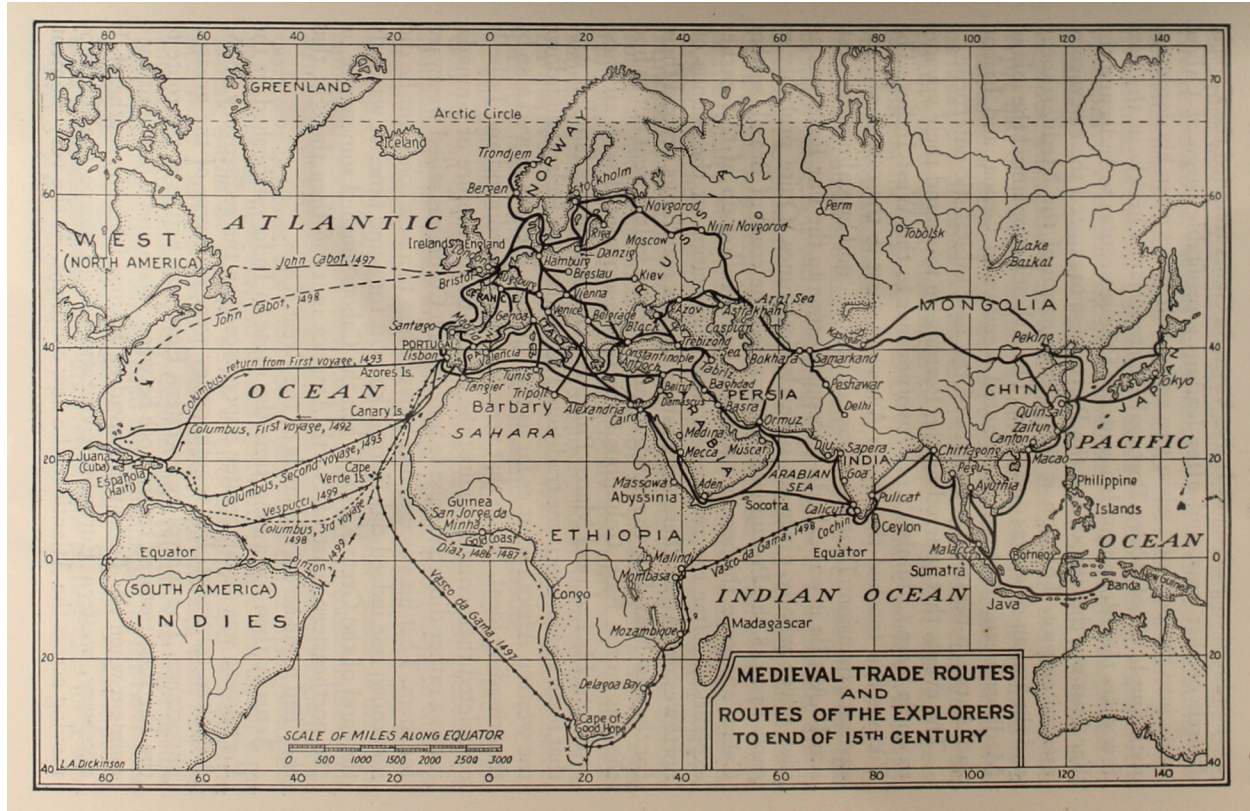
Ironically, Ptolemy's incorrect theory of a geocentric solar system was accepted better than his correct theory of a spherical earth. Only a few visionaries like Columbus accepted that, and even they ignored his calculations of the earth's diameter, assuming it to be much smaller. The wind symbols (faces) "box the compass": north, north by east, northeast, east, southeast, south by east, south, etc.

3 - Map of the World, AD 1522



This is a AD 1522 map of the world. Notice that there is only a slight reference to the western hemisphere; it was not then known if Columbus had discovered new continents, or only reached the far side of India.

4 - Exploration and Trade Prior to AD 1500



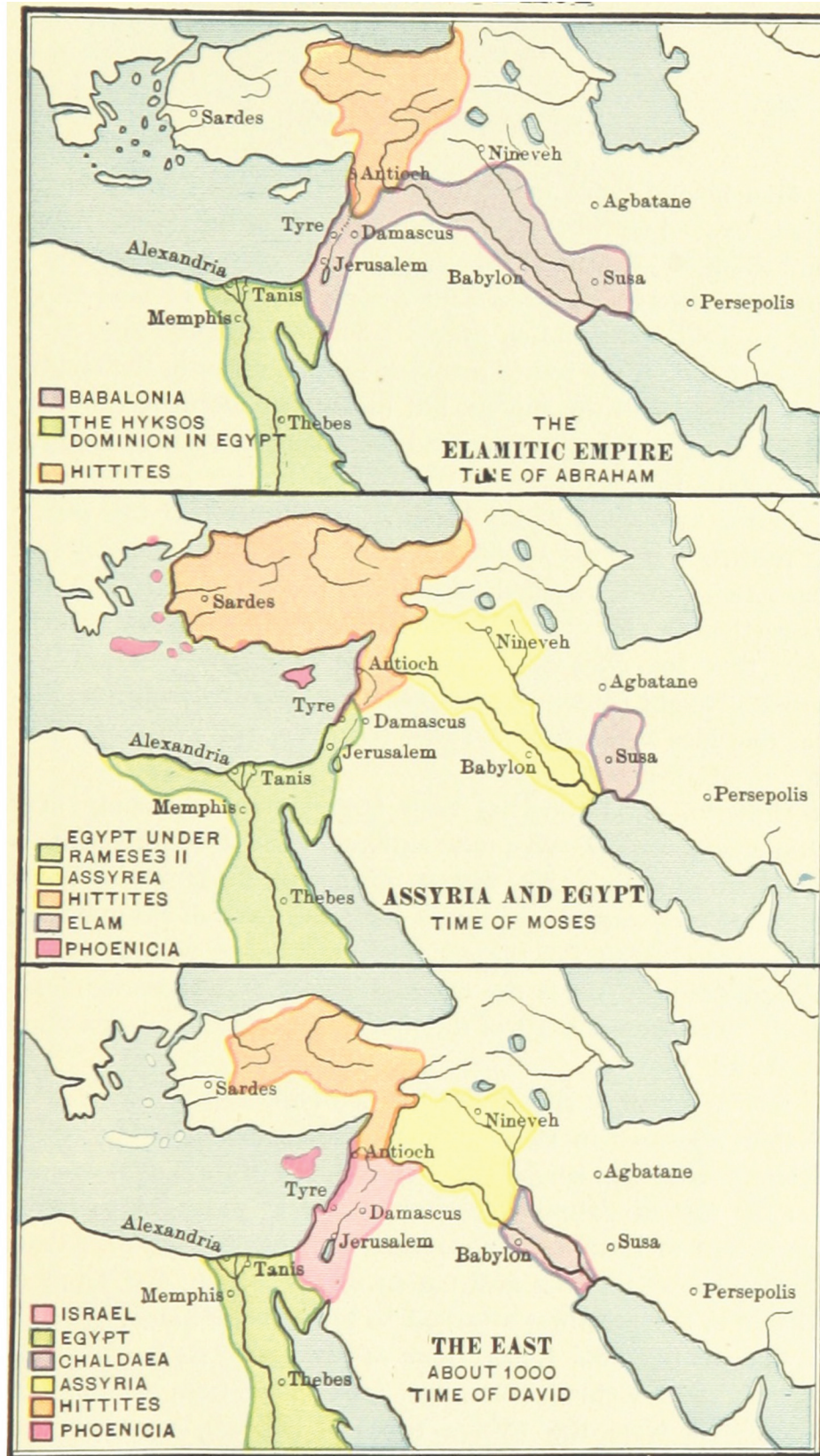
This is a map showing the routes of the early explorers until 1500. Columbus of course, and Vasco De Gama, who was first to sail all the way to India. Magellan was first to circumvent the earth, but that was a few years later. Notice that many of the voyages stop over in the Canary Islands. Also shown are the overland routes to the East. The base map is modern.

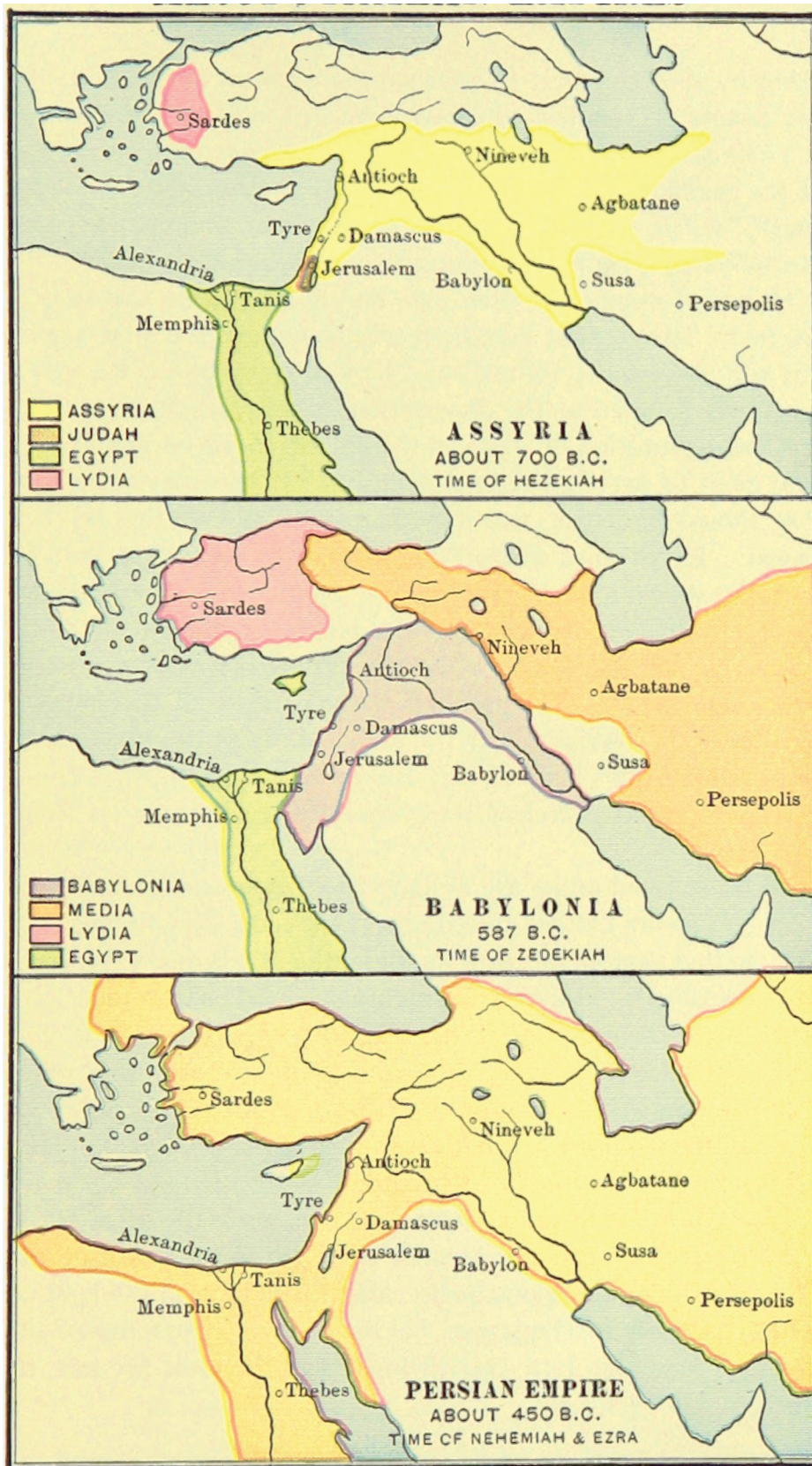
5 - The Fertile Crescent and Ancient Civilizations



This map represents the “Fertile Crescent,” also known as “the Cradle of Civilization,” at the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea in which the earliest civilizations with well-recorded histories developed. The area encompasses the Nile River valley and delta to the west, and the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers on the north and east, with the Levant, or eastern shore of the Mediterranean, connecting them. This put the lands of the Old Testament at the crossroads of the ancient world.

The following two maps show the parade of empires during the Old Testament period.





6 - Early Greek and Phoenician Colonies



This map shows the distribution of other early civilizations on the Mediterranean rim around the time of King David. The Phoenicians (purple), whose origin is in dispute, colonized the eastern shore of the Sea and developed scattered city/colonies along the North African shore, including Carthage, which became a major colonial power. Greeks from their several city states also developed colonies along the Mediterranean rim.

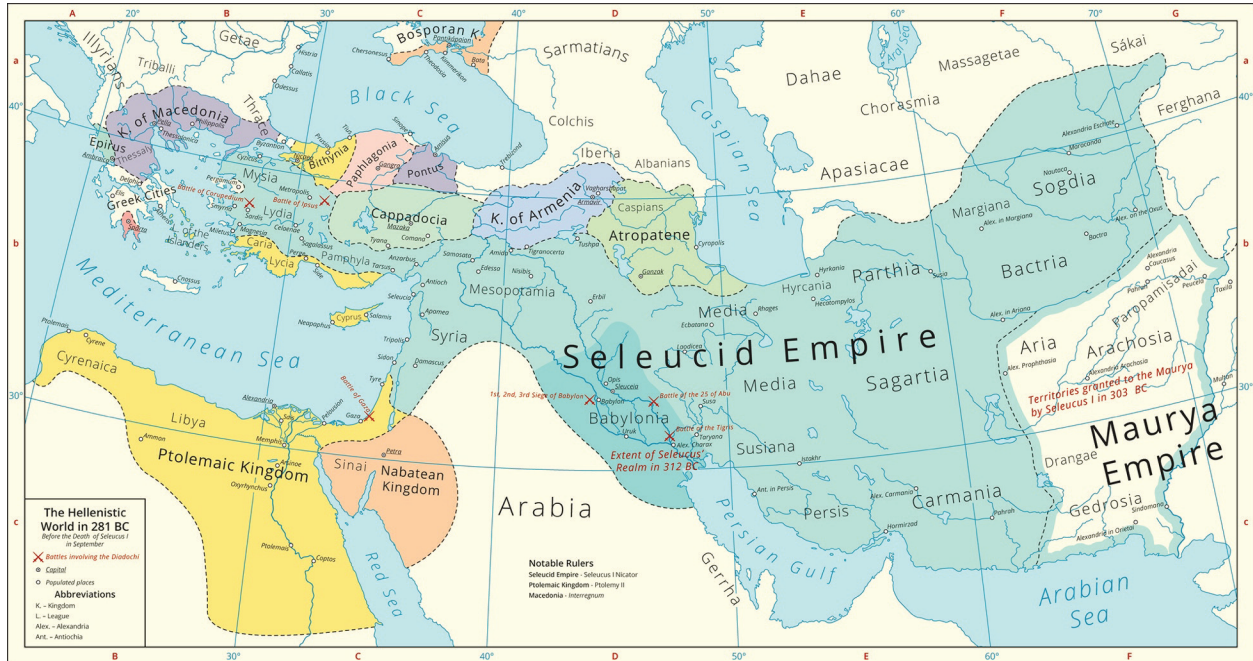
7 - Alexander the Great's Empire



This map shows the Macedonian Empire, essentially the conquests of Alexander the Great, King of Macedon (just north of Greece and culturally related) in the time period 336–323 BC. Alexander's empire includes Greece and continues eastward all the way to India. Alexander never turned westward toward the fledgling republic of Rome; all the treasure and glory lay to the east and south in Persia, India, and Egypt.

Alexander brought an end to all the older empires of the region — Egypt, Phoenicia, Persia. The Macedonian/Greek conquests brought the Greek culture and language to a large part of the known world of the day, and it remained the dominant culture and language in the eastern Mediterranean throughout the Roman period, and until the Arab and Turkish conquests of the Byzantine Empire.

8 - The Break Up of Alexander's Empire

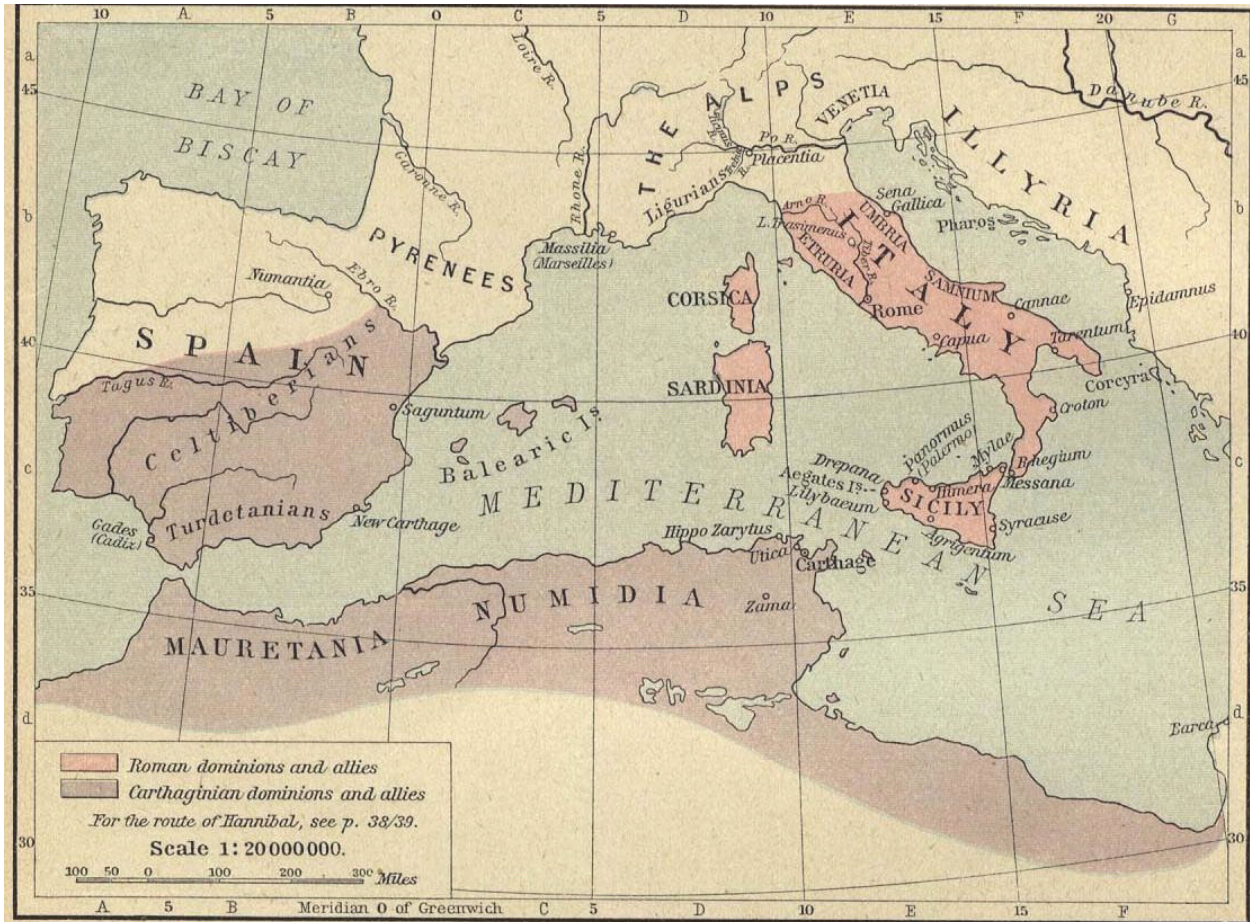


After the death of Alexander, his generals fought over the spoils and carved up his empire for themselves.

Seleucus and Ptolemy grabbed off the largest parts, Mesopotamia and Egypt, respectively. Ptolemy's successors ruled Egypt for centuries without becoming Egyptian. Cleopatra was a direct descendant of Ptolemy.

Seleucus's successors managed to merge their area into a Greco-Syrian culture with the worst of both pagan cultures. The Persian Empire had been tolerant of the Jews, but this new regime brutally oppressed them, until the Jews successfully rebelled. This brief period of an independent Judea is known as the "Maccabean Period," after which it was absorbed into the Roman Empire.

9 - Territories of Carthage and Rome



A few generations after Alexander rearranged the eastern Mediterranean world, Rome and Carthage were disputing the western Mediterranean. This map depicts the territories held by the Romans, and the Carthaginians, at the time of the Second Punic War in the early third century BC.

Carthage was a colony of the Phoenician (“Punic” to the Romans) city-state of Tyre, which figures prominently in Old Testament history. Over centuries Carthage became a great colonial power in its own right. By the time of the Punic Wars, the Assyrians, and then the Macedonians, who destroyed Tyre, had broken the Carthaginians’ power in the Eastern Mediterranean and weakened the Empire considerably. They still retained much of their territory and powerful navy, making them the main obstacle to Roman growth in this period however.

10 - The Roman Empire at Its Height



This map is a depiction of the Roman Empire at its height, showing the Roman Provinces; many of their names are familiar from the Book of Acts.

Notice that the only great addition to the Alexandrian and Carthaginian Empires were to the west. Roman territory extends to the Danube River in continental Europe, and to Hadrian's Wall in Britain. Today's Scotland and Ireland remained unconquered.

11 - The Roman Empire in Its Last Days



This is a map of the Roman Empire in its decline in the mid-fifth century AD. Notice that the Empire had been driven out of Mesopotamia by the Parthians, but the main threat to Rome came from the north. The Central Asian Huns, under their king, Attila, were moving westward. The Danube River had long been the frontier of the Roman world with the “barbarian” Germanic tribes, but now the Huns were pushing the Germanic peoples westward. Rome was not able to stem the Germanic tide, so it made alliances with the border crossers, allowing them to live in peace in return for help against the approaching Huns. Germanic mercenary soldiers became major portions of the Roman army. Others of the Germanic tribes, however, allied with the Huns against their old enemy Rome. The situation came to a head when the Huns and allies crossed the Danube. They were defeated by a combined army of Roman Legions and Germanic warriors in a series of battles in the 450s AD. Shortly thereafter, Attila was killed in a battle with his former allies, and his empire crumbled to dust and blew away. The Germanic peoples continued to move into Roman territory, and coupled with a higher birth rate (and aversion to abortion, which the Romans practiced) became dominant. With the end of Roman government and authority, a “Dark Age” descended upon western Europe. The map also shows the Franks, West Goths, Burgundians, and Saxons having carved out enclaves in Europe. The Vandals, another Germanic tribe, had captured Roman North Africa. The Vandals later sacked Rome, hence the term “vandal.”

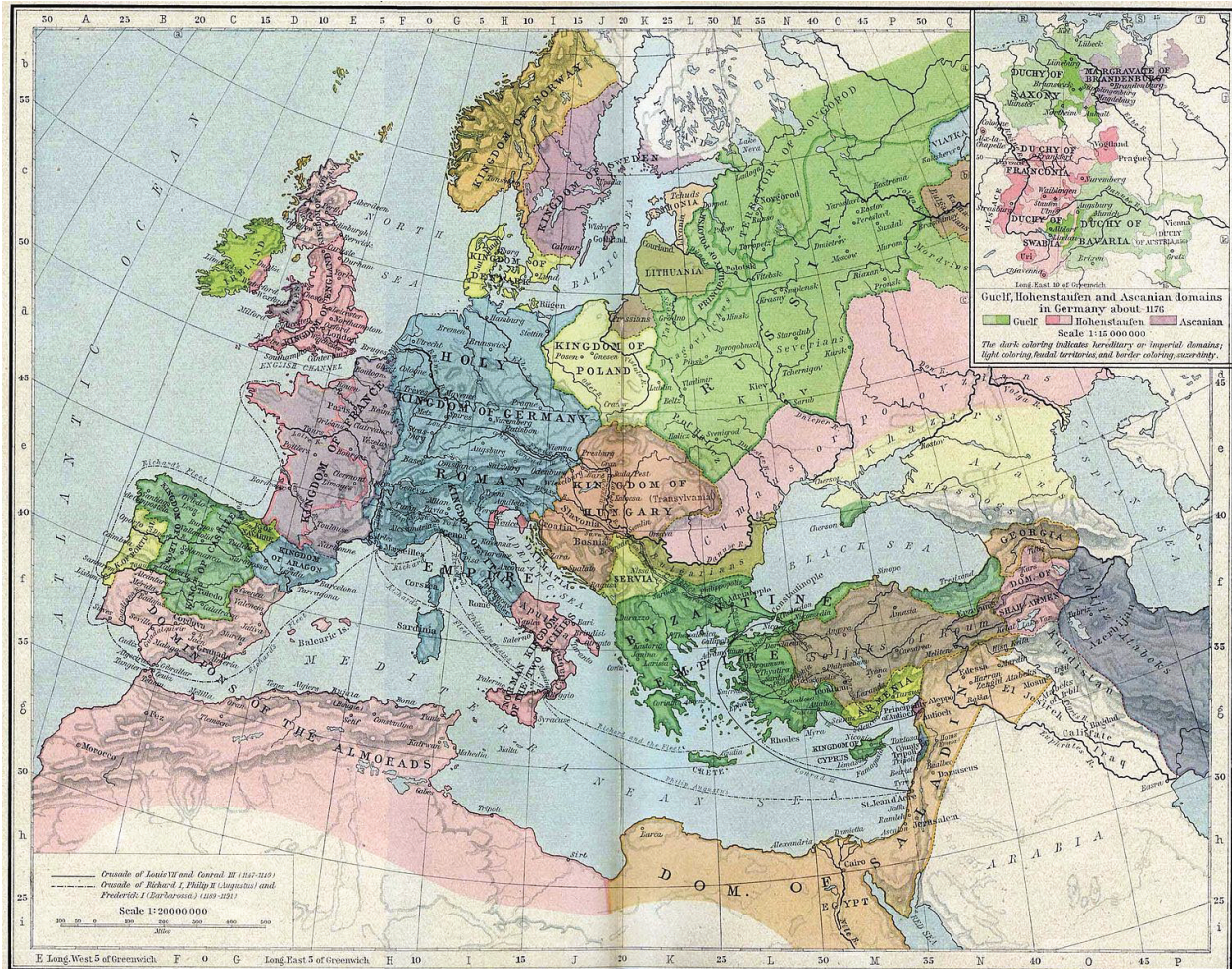
12 - The Empire of Charlemagne in AD 814



The Mediterranean world had changed a great deal from Roman days by 814 AD. This map shows the major geopolitical players of the day.

The “Carolingian Empire”—occupying modern France, Germany, Austria, and Italy—is the empire founded by the Frankish King Charlemagne (Carolus in Latin) around the year 800 AD. By this time the Islamic Moors had captured most of Roman Spain (shown as the Emirate of Cordova) up to the Pyrenees Mountains (shown as the Spanish March), the Caliph of Baghdad (Abbassids) had conquered the entire south shore of the Mediterranean, and the Byzantine Empire (the Eastern Roman Empire), though reduced, was still holding on to a fair sized territory. The Saxons had conquered Roman Britain, and they were besieged by the Viking kingdoms of Scandinavia. The Scots and Welsh remained unconquered at this time.

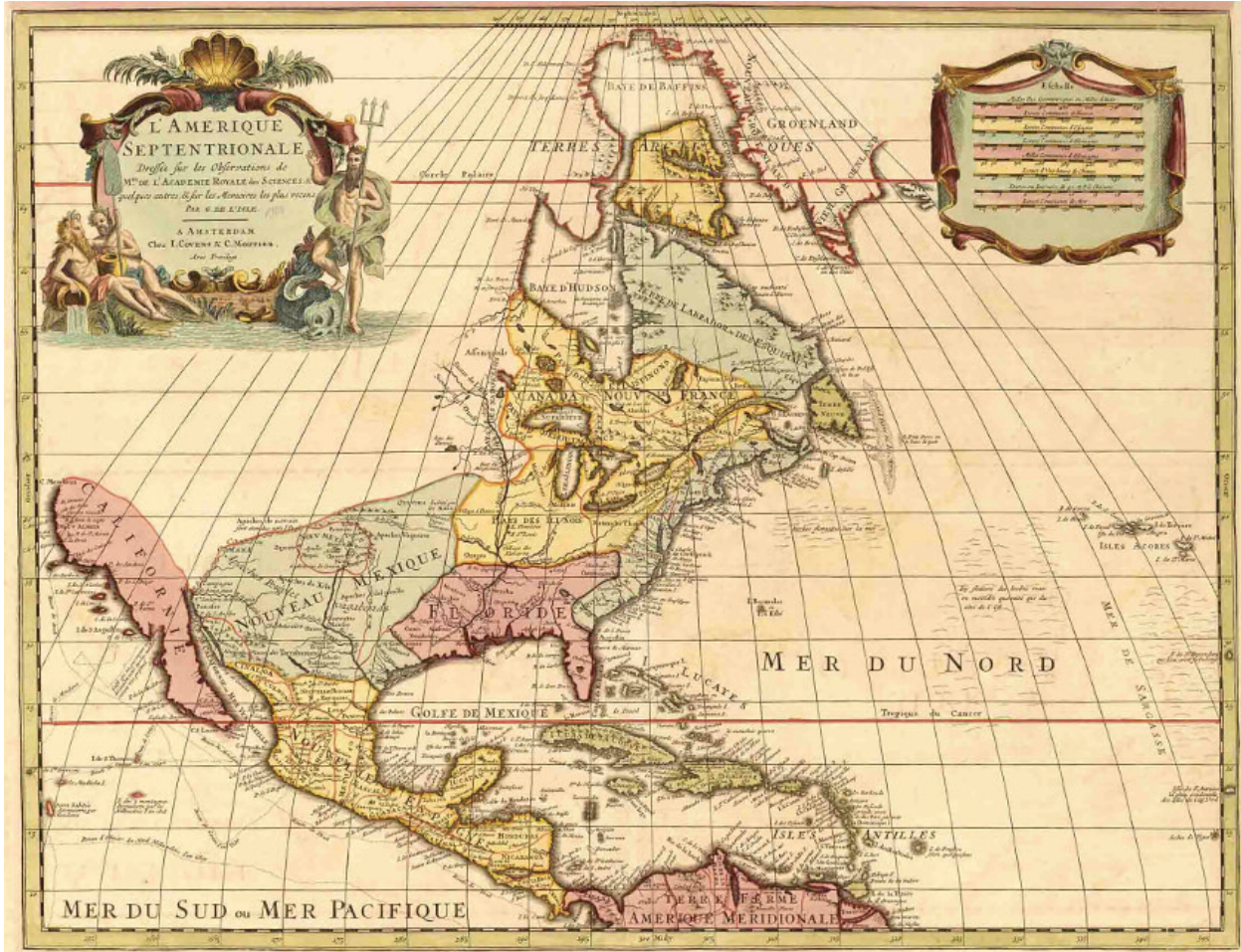
13 - Breakup of Charlemagne's Empire, AD 1090



This map represents Europe and the Mediterranean area as it was in AD 1090. It was a period of breakup of empires and formation of nation states. The Carolingian Empire (this is, the Holy Roman Empire, HRE) is now broken up into the Kingdom of France and the HRE. We see Sicily as a Norman Kingdom.

The Normans, descendants of Viking raiders who had settled in Normandy, France, had conquered England in AD 1066, and are now vying with Islamic pirates for control of the Mediterranean Sea. The Saracens/Moors (Almohads) control the south western shore of the Mediterranean Sea and a considerable part of the Iberian Peninsula, but are now being pushed back out by the Spaniards. The archetypal Jihadist and scourge of the Crusaders, Saladin, controls the southeastern shore, including Egypt and the Nile Valley.

14 - An Early Dutch Map of North America



This and the next few maps show the “war of maps” between the European contenders for supremacy on the North American continent. The “war of maps” was accompanied by war on the battlefields, in Europe, America, and virtually world wide.

The map above is an early Dutch map of North America showing the continent divided up between the French and the Spanish, with a small British area along the eastern seaboard. It also shows how little was known of the interior.

The following map is a representation of claims of a New Sweden, and a New Netherlands, as well as a New England, New Spain, and New France. It was to the New Netherlands, in the Hudson River Valley, that the Pilgrims were headed but were forced by bad weather to land in New England.

The Dutch were great seafarers and had a formidable navy, and they were allied with Sweden, also a military power at that time in continental Europe. The British defeated the Dutch navy in 1673 and seized the Dutch settlements. The Swedes gave up their attempt at settlement in the New World.



15 - French Claims in North America Prior to 1763



This is a 1762 French map of North America showing limited English colonies on the eastern coast, Florida as Spanish territory, most of the continent as French territory, and Mexico and the south west as Spanish. Note the inclusion of a mythical north western “sea.”

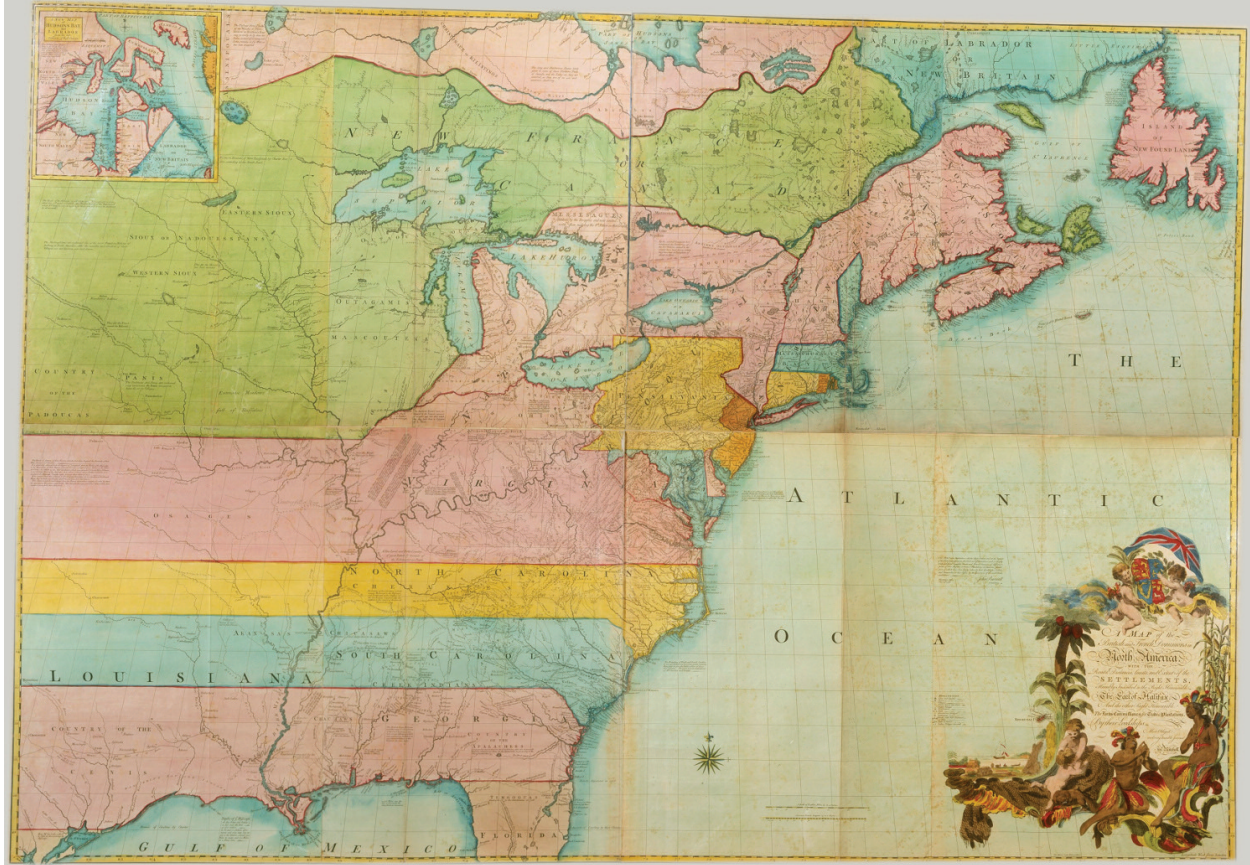
This was just before the ending of the war between England and France in which France lost all its continental North American territory (1763).

16 - A Pair of English Maps of British Colonies in North America

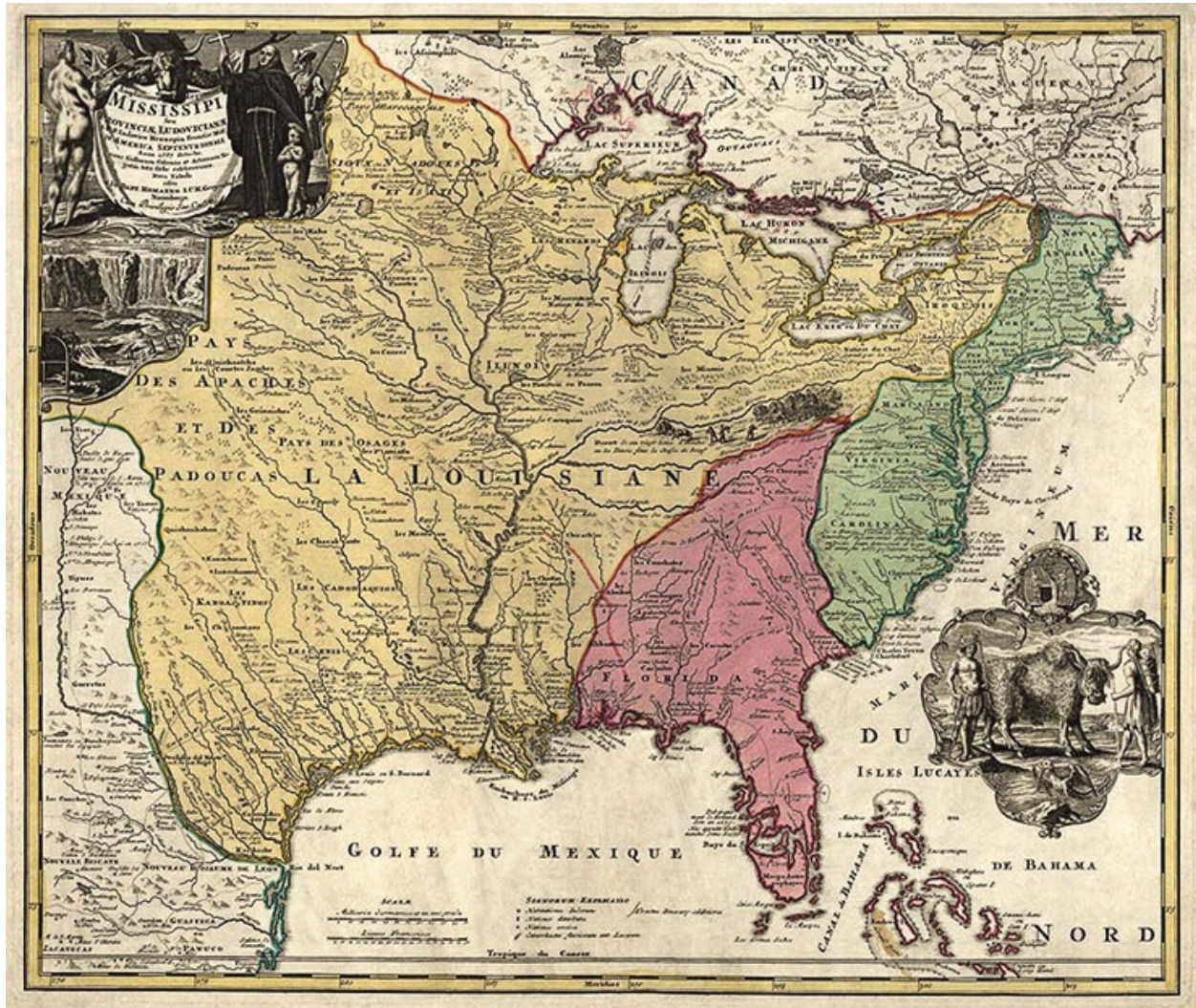


This map, from just after the Treaty of Paris in 1763 ending the French and Indian War, shows the boundaries of the British colonies extending to the Mississippi River. Beyond which, what was formerly French Louisiana was given to Spain, as Spain was not considered a threat to English dominance in North America.

This pre-Revolutionary War British map depicts the British colonies extending indefinitely across the continent cutting off French and Spanish claims. Those colonial boundaries were claimed by the states after American independence and required substantial conflict and compromise to be resolved over the next decades.

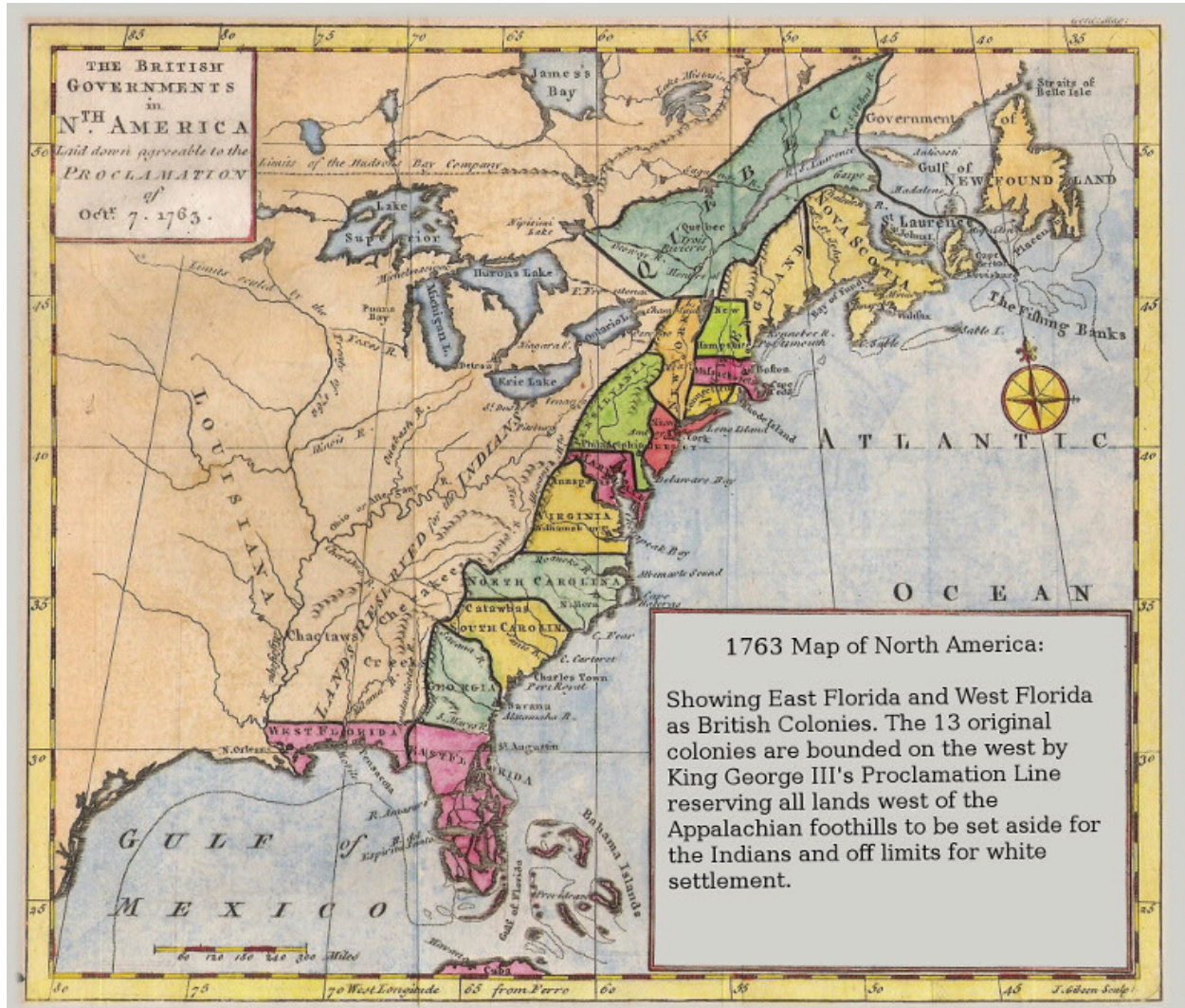


17 - A Pre-1763 French Map of North America



A pre-1763 French map crowds out most of the Spanish territorial claim (New Mexico) as well as cutting off the British. Notice that it shows French Louisiana extending to the Rio Grande River. That French claim was the basis of the American claim to Texas as part of the Louisiana Purchase.

18 - The Royal Proclamation Line of 1763



A map of 1763 showing the fifteen British Colonies and King George III's "Proclamation Line" beyond which settlers were forbidden. That was a source of considerable anger and conflict in the colonies. And many American pioneers became "rebels and criminals" for settling across the line. East and West Florida were short-term British colonies.

19 - An American Map of 1818



An 1818 American-made map of the United States showing the the Louisiana Purchase extending beyond the current Oregon boundary, which was a negotiated compromise line with Britain in 1846.

This map illustrates an interesting historical footnote. In 1670, the English Crown, under Charles II, granted an exclusive charter to the Hudson's Bay Company for fur trading and other economic development within the drainage basin of Hudson's Bay. It was named "Rupert's Land" in honor of "Prince Rupert of the Rhine," one of the stock holders and first Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company. Rupert, a German Prince, was a legendary figure of the religious wars in the Holy Roman Empire and the English Civil War. Rupert led daring cavalry actions for years in support of his uncle's (Charles I) losing side in the English Civil War. After the Restoration of the Monarchy, Charles II was generous to his father's supporters. His generosity in granting rights to the Hudson's Bay Company of territory claimed by France was not appreciated in France, however. Battles over that territory lasted until the British victory in 1763. The Hudson's Bay Company produced vast wealth for its stockholders after that, and continues to this day in altered forms.

21 - A 1765 British Map of North America



This 1765 British map represents North America after the 1763 treaty ending the Seven Years' War between Great Britain and France (known in America as the "French and Indian War"). France lost all of its North American territory, except a few islands. Canada and part of Louisiana went to Britain, with the part of Louisiana west of the Mississippi River being tacked onto Spanish territory.

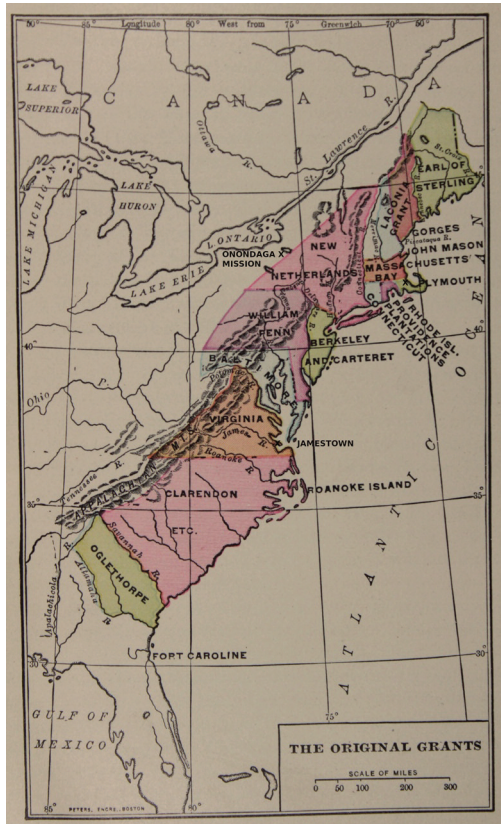
An important note on that episode is that Napoleon forced Spain to cede Louisiana back to France, and then sold it to America. England refused to accept that land cession and tried to take Louisiana during the War of 1812. Long after the war, the boundaries of Louisiana were still disputed.

22 - An 1805 American Map of North America



A less detailed nineteenth century textbook map shows the territorial growth of the United States in 1805, after the Louisiana Purchase. Notice that Oregon is shown as disputed by Great Britain and the United States, and Texas as disputed between the United States and Spain. France claimed both those areas as part of Louisiana that had been coercively ceded to Spain after the Seven Years' War and were coercively ceded back to France and sold to the US. The US claimed those areas on that basis. Britain and Spain, then united against Napoleon, denied both the reversion to France and the boundaries of French Louisiana. The US made several attempts to purchase the Spanish, and then the Mexican, claims to Texas before the War of Texas Independence.

23 - English Colonies by Charter and Grant



This old textbook map shows the original land grants from the English Crown to various individuals and corporations. A few notes on some of these follows.

Queen Elizabeth I granted Virginia (named for her, the “Virgin Queen”) to Sir Walter Raleigh, who famously spread his coat for her to walk on, and later became her paramour. It was later developed as a commercial venture.

The grant to Lord Baltimore became Maryland (originally Mary Land) and was a refuge for Catholics fleeing persecution in Europe.

William Penn’s grant (Pennsylvania—Penn’s Woodland) was a refuge for German and Dutch Protestant migrants fleeing war and religious persecution in Europe.

New Netherlands (claimed by the Dutch) still shows on this map although it was captured early on by the British and was renamed “New York.” It was the intended destination of the English Puritan Pilgrims seeking freedom of worship from the Church of England.

The Puritans settled in the Massachusetts Bay and New England areas and in this remote area were allowed religious freedom for several generations. The crack down on religious liberty, in all the colonies, became one of the main causes of the American revolution.

The Virginia, Clarendon, and Oglethorpe grants/colonies were staunchly Anglican (Church of England).

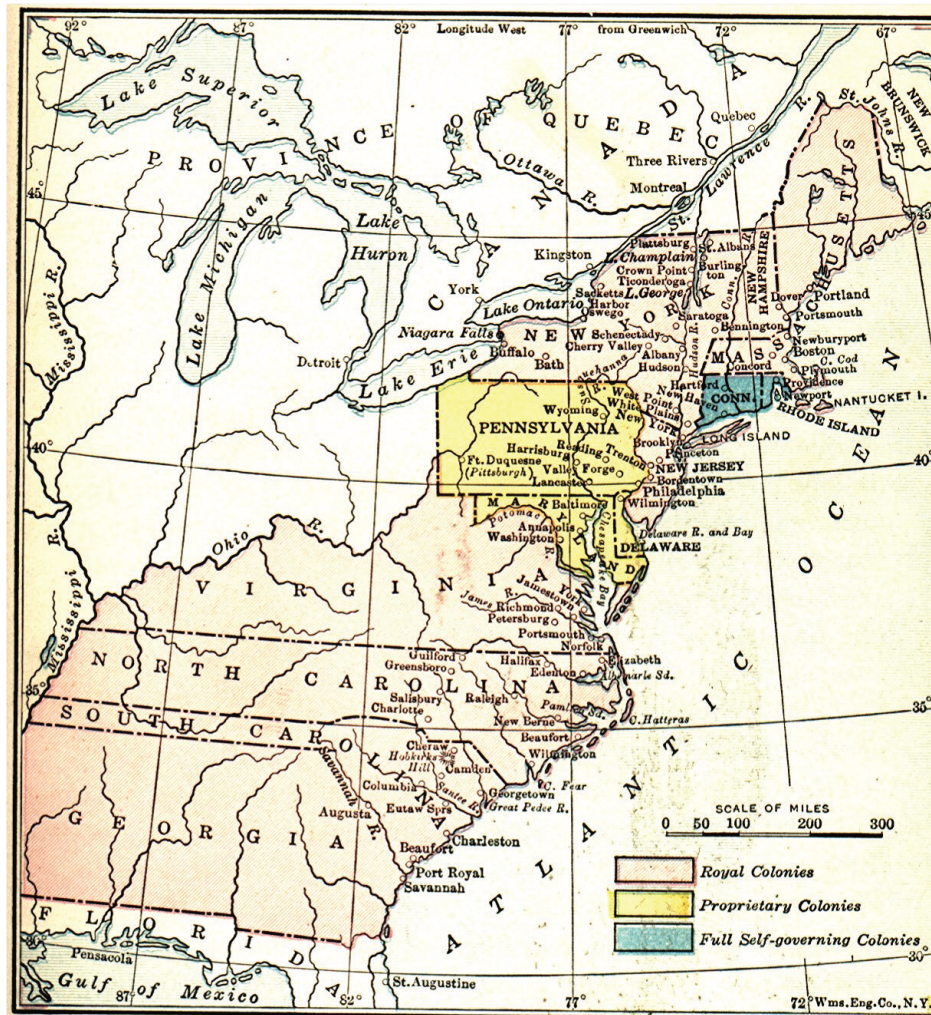
The Massachusetts Bay and Plymouth grants were side by side. The Pilgrim’s first landing was on Cape Cod, the hook across from Plymouth.

Jamestown was at the mouth of the James River, both named for King James I.

Both Jamestown and Plymouth were abandoned and are now only historical sites. Roanoke Island, just below Jamestown, was the site of a failed, “lost colony,” of England prior to Jamestown.

Lands west of these English grants were being settled by the French. The Onondaga Mission, west of New Netherlands, was a French Jesuit mission and trading post that was abandoned due to hostility of the Iroquois Indian Tribe.

24 - American Colonies at the Time of the American Revolution



This map shows the status of the colonies at the time of the Declaration of Independence: Royal, Proprietary, Self-governing. One of the great causes of the Declaration of Independence was the British monarchy ignoring the various charters of these colonies and ruling by fiat as a tyrant.

The boundaries of the colonies/states changed somewhat from that time. The area of the US between Virginia and the Great Lakes was then known as “the Northwest Territories.”

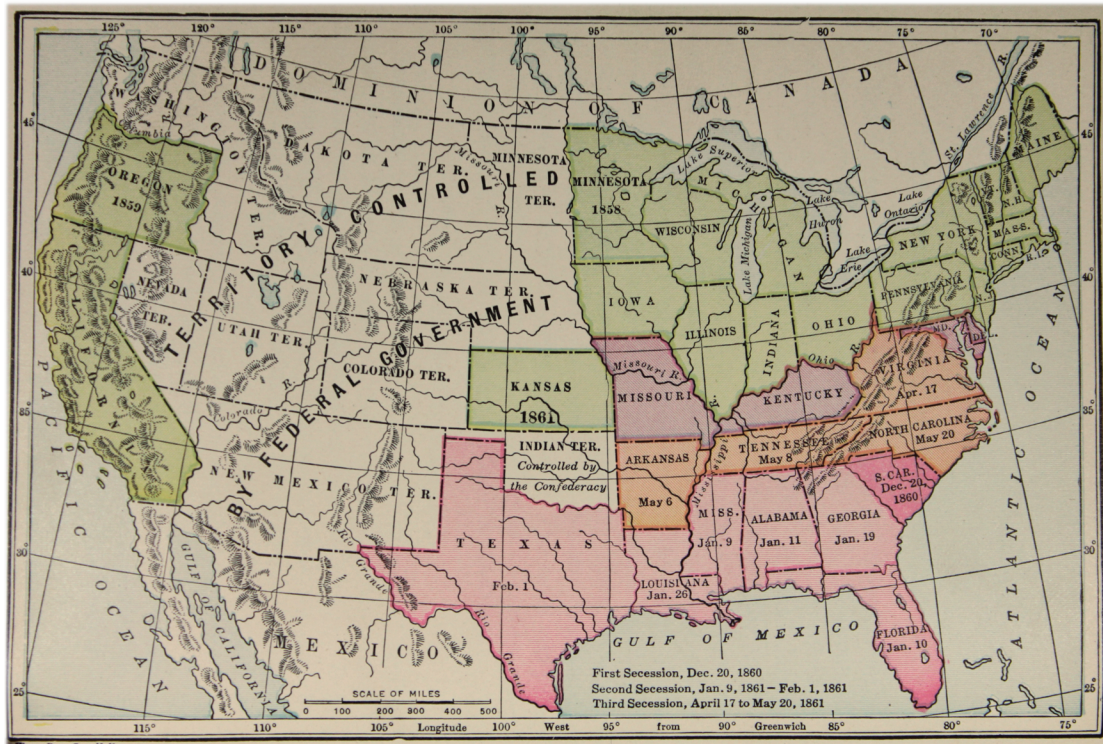
25 - The Louisiana Purchase of 1803



This is a much less detailed map of the United States before the Louisiana Purchase. The Floridas are again shown as Spanish territory. Alaska is shown as Russian.

The former great French Empire in North America was lost to the British. At the insistence of the British, French Louisiana was ceded to Spain, as shown on this map. Napoleon did not recognize that cession and sold the territory to the United States (the Louisiana Purchase).

26 - The United States at the Beginning of the American Civil War



This map shows the United States at the time of the American Civil War. States that did not secede from the Union are shown in green. States are shown in various other shades by the date of their vote for secession. The date in Kansas is the date of its admittance to the Union. Missouri, Kentucky, Maryland, and Delaware voted for secession but were occupied immediately by federal troops and did not actually secede and join the Confederacy. The mountainous western part of Virginia rebelled against Virginia and became a new state, West Virginia. The tribes in the Indian Territory generally were pro-slavery and supported the Confederacy.

27 - The British Isles with Ethnic Homelands



A very generalized antique map of the British Isles showing the ancestral lands of the four main ethnic groups: English, Welsh, Scottish, and Irish.

28 - The Ottoman Turkish Empire in the 16th and 17th Centuries



This map shows the extent of the Ottoman Turkish Empire (in brown) in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Notice that the Ottoman Turks had displaced the Arab Empires in the Middle East and North Africa, and had driven into Central Europe as far as modern Hungary and Poland.

29 - A Modern Political Map of the World



A world political map as of April 2021.

About the Author

What shall I, William E. Kitchens (Bill), say about myself? I am now a fairly old man; that at least infers that I have seen and experienced a lot. And I have learned a lot, but about that, you'll have to judge for yourself, my dear reader. The things I am most proud of, and most thankful to God for are (and putting these blessings in order of importance would be gut wrenching, and fortunately not necessary), my good wife of fifty years, our four wonderful children, our grandchildren, my parents and our extended family; that I was able to have a career as a geologist for over 40 years, that I am able now to try to impart some of what I have learned in that time to future generations; and that which made it all possible: that I have known my savior Jesus the Christ for many years now. Of lesser importance, I have from my youth been interested in history and the political scene, and could have been considered a "professional student" for years, save for the fact that I worked and raised a family much of the time, wandering the halls of higher education evenings and weekends (to the detriment of my family life, I have to admit). Between interests ranging from astronomy to zoology, with a lot of history, political science, philosophy, psychology, Bible study in between, I managed to eke out two degrees: a Bachelor's degree in Geology and a Master's in Religion and Philosophy.

You can find out much more from what I have written on my websites:

Old Fashioned History

<https://oldfashionedhistory.com/>

God Made Agates

<https://godmadeagates.com/>

War Comes to God's House

<https://www.warcomestogodshouse.com/>

