

GLOBALIZATION OF THE UNITED STATES

1789
1861



SEPTEMBER 15 – DECEMBER 18, 2014

An Exhibition at the Lilly Library

Map Foster from *Wahaway*



The Five Varieties of the Human Race, from *A Comprehensive Atlas Geographical, Historical & Commercial*



Globalization of the United States, 1789-1861

Between the American Revolution and the American Civil War the United States built a continental nation — and it also built a global empire. In 1789 the country amounted to no more than a fragile collection of thirteen seacoast states encircled by the British empire to the north, the Spanish empire to the south, and many Native American nations to the west. By the fateful year of 1861 the United States had managed to expand across North America and to project diplomatic, commercial, military, missionary, and scientific power into every corner of the wider world, second only to the British empire.

Projecting the reach of the United States throughout the world required the effort and determination of many Americans willing to cross vast ocean distances on sailing ships and steamships ... to negotiate, to trade, to battle, to proselytize, to explore. It moreover required the knowledge and promotion of many writers urging their countrymen to venture across the globe in the face of opposition and indifference at home, and competition and resistance abroad. Over the course of three generations Americans would succeed in shrinking the geographical distance between the United States and almost every other *place* in the world — even as they would

come to magnify the cultural distance between themselves and almost every other *people* on the globe.

This exhibition gleans from the Lilly Library's exquisite collection of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century books to capture this paradox of interconnection and disconnection enacted by a nation attaining continental size and an empire reaching global scale. The formative era between the American Revolution and the American Civil War helps us appreciate how difficult efforts to extend the global reach of the United States were in the century before the so-called "American Century," and it remains highly instructive as Americans confront dilemmas of globalization and imperialism in the present day.

An online version of the exhibition can be found at globalization1789-1861.indiana.edu. It offers complete digitized copies of all exhibition materials, and features an interactive mapping visualization using world maps from the early nineteenth century to trace American diplomatic, military, commercial, missionary, and other activities in the world as they changed over time between the American Revolution and the American Civil War.

National American Atlases — The United States Reaches the Pacific Coast

Upon facing the world as an independent nation, many Americans felt themselves to be surrounded and vulnerable. The British empire loomed to the north; the Spanish lurked to the south; and even the Russian empire had a foothold in North America in distant “Alaska.” Within a few decades, Americans’ worry about encroachment would give way to a sense of the country’s bulging expansion as the 1803 Louisiana Purchase inspired endeavor at the far edge of American exploration and settlement, the Pacific coast.

Anthony Finley. *A New American Atlas, Designed Principally to Illustrate the Geography of the United States of North America; in which Every County in Each State and Territory of the Union Is Accurately Delineated, as Far as at Present Known....* Philadelphia: Published by Anthony Finley, 1826.

Thomas G. Bradford. *An Illustrated Atlas, Geographical, Statistical, and Historical, of the United States, and the Adjacent Countries.* Boston: Weeks, Jordan, and Company, 1838.

Global American Atlases — The Pacific Ocean as Center of the World

In 1569 Gerardus Mercator invented his famous new way of mapping the world with Western Europe and the Atlantic Ocean rather than the Middle East and the Mediterranean Sea at the center of the world. One of the unusual aspects of many world maps published in the United States is that they used Mercator’s projection technique yet centered

the world on the Pacific instead of the Atlantic Ocean. Even though almost all American shipping traffic crisscrossed the Atlantic, new world atlases still placed the barely-known Pacific at the center.

Aaron Arrowsmith. *A New and Elegant General Atlas*. Boston: Thomas and Andrews, 1805.

Mathew Carey. *Carey's General Atlas, Improved and Enlarged: Being a Collection of Maps of the World and Quarters, Their Principal Empires, Kingdoms, &c.* Philadelphia: Published by M. Carey, 1816.

Global American Atlases — A Western Hemisphere Connected to Oceans

By the 1830s American atlases featured radically new ways of envisioning both nation and wider world. No longer was the United States a vulnerable Atlantic nation sandwiched between the British and Spanish empires. Instead, a new breed of world atlas situated the country safely between two oceans, in a Western Hemisphere simultaneously connected to and disconnected from the wider world.

Thomas G. Bradford. *A Comprehensive Atlas Geographical, Historical & Commercial*. Boston: William D. Ticknor; New-York: Wiley and Long; Philadelphia: T.T. Ash, 1835.

H. S. Tanner. *A New Universal Atlas Containing Maps of the Various Empires, Kingdoms, States and Republics of the World*. Philadelphia: H.S. Tanner, 1836.

Geographical Imaginaries — A Wider World of Lesser Peoples

By the 1830s the United States had attained commercial, missionary, diplomatic, and military reach and presence on a global scale. Yet the ability to overcome geographical distances to other places in the world mainly served to magnify Americans' sense of cultural distances from other peoples. Popular geography books routinely taught American schoolchildren unthinking racist contempt for most peoples and societies in the world. Scientists and nativists of the 1850s turned this casual racism into strongly defined cultural affiliations purely with the European, the Anglo-Saxon, and the Protestant.

Samuel G. Goodrich. *Peter Parley's Universal History, on the Basis of Geography*. Boston: American Stationers' Company; John B. Russell, 1837.

S. Augustus Mitchell. *A System of Modern Geography, Comprising a Description of the Present State of the World and its Five Great Divisions: America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and Oceanica....* Philadelphia: Thomas, Cowperthwait and Co., 1844.

J. C. Nott and George R. Gliddon. *Types of Mankind: or, Ethnological Researches, Based Upon the Ancient Monuments, Paintings, Sculptures, and Crania of Races, and upon their Natural, Geographical, Philosophical, and Biblical History....* Philadelphia: Lippincott, Grambo and Co.; London: Trubner and Co., 1854.

Frederick Saunders. *A Voice to America; or, The Model Republic, its Glory, or its Fall: with a Review of The Causes of the Decline and failure of the Republics of South America, Mexico, and of the Old World; Applied to the Present Crisis in the United States*. New York: Edward Walker, 1855.

Harriet Beecher Stowe. *First Geography for Children*. Boston: Phillips, Sampson and Co., 1855.

John P. Sanderson. *Republican Landmarks. The Views and Opinions of American Statesmen on Foreign Immigration. Being a Collection of Statistics of Population, Pauperism, Crime, etc.* Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott and Co., 1856.

Thomas R. Whitney. *A Defence of the American Policy, as Opposed to the Encroachments of Foreign Influence, and Especially to the Interference of the Papacy in the Political Interests and Affairs of the United States*. New York: De Witt and Davenport, 1856.



Races of Men, from *First Geography for Children*

Geographical Imaginaries — Useful Knowledge of the Nation Itself

In 1789 Jedidiah Morse lamented the fact that Europeans had created from afar all the geographical knowledge of what had just become the new United States. Morse devoted himself to producing a correct homegrown geography of the United States, even as he blindly accepted the supposed accuracy of European knowledge about the rest of the world. Many authors joined Morse in the nationalist project of providing what John Melish called “geographical intelligence” of the United States: for statesmen, for army officers, for business travelers, for migrating families, for immigrants.

Jedidiah Morse. *The American Geography; or, A View of the Present Situation of the United States of America*. Elizabeth Town: Shepard Kollock, 1789.

John Melish. *A Geographical Description of the United States, with the Contiguous British and Spanish Possessions....* Philadelphia: Published by the author, 1818.

S. Putnam Waldo. *The Tour of James Monroe, President of the United States, in the Year 1817....* Hartford: Printed by F.D. Bolles and Co., 1818.

Edmund Dana. *Geographical Sketches on the Western Country: Designed for Emigrants and Settlers....* Cincinnati: Looker, Reynolds and Co., Printers, 1819.

John Melish. *The Traveller's Directory through the United States; Containing a Description of All the Principal Roads Through the United States, with Copious Remarks on the Rivers, and Other Objects*. New-York: Published by the Author, 1825.



H. S. Tanner. *The Traveller's Guide. A Map of the Roads, Canals and Steam Boat Routes of the United States; With the Distances from Place to Place Carefully Noticed....* Philadelphia: H.S. Tanner, 1825.


John M. Atwood. *Map of the United States, Canada, Mexico, Central America, and the West India Islands With a Portion of Venezuela & New Granada; Showing the routes overland and by the Isthmus to California and Oregon, Also the new Boundaries of California, Utah, & New Mexico....* New York: D. McLellan, 1851.

Geographical Imaginaries — Distant Impressions and Actual Experiences of the World

One of several Americans who could, by the 1820s, make a career out of churning out popular geography books, Charles Goodrich trumpeted the advantages of reading about the world rather than experiencing it. Deeming firsthand travel to be elitist, Goodrich argued that geography books like his own served the needs of a democratic nation in providing supposedly more accessible, more complete, and more comprehensive knowledge than travel could afford. By the 1850s, however, American explorers were presented as a new breed of national hero in bringing “the dark places of the earth” within American mastery.

Charles A. Goodrich. *The Universal Traveller: Designed to Introduce Readers at Home to an Acquaintance with the Arts, Customs, and Manners of the Principal Modern Nations on the Globe.* Hartford: G. Robins, 1843.

Samuel G. Goodrich. *A Pictorial History of America; Embracing both the Northern and Southern Portions of the New World.* Hartford: House and Brown, 1847.



S. Augustus Mitchell. *A General View of the World, Comprising a Physical, Political, and Statistical Account of its Grand Divisions, America, Europe, Asia, Africa and Oceanica, with their Empires, Kingdoms, Republics, Principalities, &c....* Philadelphia: Published by Thomas, Cowperthwait and Co., for James A. Bill, 1847.

Samuel G. Goodrich. *A History of All Nations, from the Earliest Periods to the Present Time; or, Universal History: in which the History of Every Nation, Ancient and Modern, is Separately Given.* New York and Auburn: Miller, Orton and Mulligan, 1856.

John S. Jenkins. *United States Exploring Expeditions.* Auburn: Alden, Beardsley and Co.; Rochester: Wanzer, Beardsley and Co., 1852.

Samuel M. Smucker. *The Life of Dr. Elisha Kent Kane, and of other Distinguished American Explorers: Containing Narratives of their Researches and Adventures in Remote and Interesting Portions of the Globe.* Philadelphia: G.G. Evans, 1860.

Religious Expansionism — Converting the “Heathen” Around the World

1801 saw the outbreak of war between the United States and the Barbary States of north Africa. These countries intercepted merchant ships, ransomed sailors, and exacted tribute, prompting not only American political ire but also cultural sneering toward the Muslim world. In the 1820s the Middle East became one of the first targets of newly established American missionary programs which quickly encompassed both the continent and the globe, often in concert with British missionary programs.

James Wilson Stevens. *An Historical and Geographical Account of Algiers; Comprehending a Novel and Interesting Detail of Events Relative to the American Captives*. Philadelphia: Printed by Hogan and M'Elroy, 1797.

The Life of Mahomet; or, the History of that Imposture which was Begun, Carried On, and Finally Established by Him in Arabia; and which has Subjugated a Larger Portion of the Globe, than the Religion of Jesus has yet set at Liberty. Worcester: Printed by Isaiah Thomas, Jun., 1802.

The Koran, Commonly Called the Alcoran of Mahomet. Translated from the Original Arabick into French, by the Sieur De Ryer ... the Whole Now Faithfully Translated into English. Springfield: Printed by Henry Brewer, for Isaiah Thomas, Jun., 1806.

Samuel Parker. *Journal of an Exploring Tour Beyond the Rocky Mountains, Under the Direction of the A.B.C.F.M. Performed in the Years 1835, '36, and '37; Containing A Description of the Geography, Geology, Climate, and Productions; and the Number, Manners, and Customs of the Natives*. Ithaca: Published by the author; Mack, Andrus and Woodruff, Printers, 1838.

Edward W. Hooker. *Memoir of Mrs. Sarah L. Huntington Smith, Late of the American Mission in Syria*. New York: Published by the American Tract Society, 1846.

Emily C. Judson. *Memoir of Sarah B. Judson, Member of the American Mission to Burmah*. New-York: L. Colby and Company, 1848.

R. G. Wilder. *Mission Schools in India of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, with Sketches of the Missions among the North American Indians, the Sandwich Islands, the Armenians of Turkey, and the Nestorians of Persia*. New York: A.D.F. Randolph; Boston, Crocker and Brewster, 1861.



Linguistic Competencies — Constructing a National Language, and Acquiring Foreign Languages

Noah Webster devoted decades creating a distinctly American version of the English language, an undertaking furthered by John Russell Bartlett's identification of thousands of "Americanisms." If one cultural project was to develop a national language for the United States, another was to master relevant foreign languages. Believing that Christianity was too small a presence on the globe, American missionaries were especially motivated to learn languages spoken by Native Americans in the North American west and by indigenous peoples around the world.

Noah Webster. *An American Dictionary of the English Language....* New York: Published by S. Converse; New Haven: Printed by Hezekiah Howe, 1828.

John Leighton Wilson. *A Grammar of the Mpongwe Language, with Vocabularies, by the Missionaries of the A.B.C.F.M., Gaboon Mission, Western Africa.* New York: Snowden and Prall, Printers, 1847.

John Russell Bartlett. *Dictionary of Americanisms: A Glossary of Words and Phrases Usually Regarded as Peculiar to the United States.* New York: Bartlett and Welford, 1848.

Mary Longley Riggs. *An English and Dakota Vocabulary, by a Member of the Dakota Mission.* New York: Printed by R. Craighead, 1852.

James Wyld. *An Atlas of Maps of Different Parts of the World; Designed to Show the Stations of the Protestant Missionaries.* London: J. Wyld, 1839.

John O. Choules and Thomas Smith. *The Origin and History of Missions; a Record of the Voyages, Travels, Labors, and Successes of the Various Missionaries, Who Have Been Sent Forth by Protestant Societies and Churches to Evangelize the Heathen....* Boston: Gould, Kendall and Lincoln, and Crocker and Brewster, 1842.



Commodore Stephen Decatur,
from *History of the Navy of the United States*

Diplomatic Expansionism — Answering the Law of Nations, While Competing and Cooperating with Britain

No matter the political independence they attained in 1783, Americans would remain in the shadow of the more powerful British nation and empire throughout the nineteenth century. As the United States increasingly came to partner with the British empire around the world, the Anglophobia voiced by Robert Walsh in 1819 gradually gave way



to a new tone of Anglophilia registered by Harriet Beecher Stowe in 1855. The United States strove from the Declaration of Independence forward to join Britain and France in formulating a “law of nations” meant to dictate decidedly unequal terms of international relations with the world beyond “the West.”

Robert Walsh, Jr. *An Appeal from the Judgments of Great Britain Respecting the United States of America*. Philadelphia: Mitchell, Ames, and White; William Brown, Printer, 1819.

Theodore Lyman. *The Diplomacy of the United States. Being an Account of the Foreign Relations of the Country, from the First Treaty with France, in 1778, to the Treaty of Ghent, in 1814, with Great Britain*. Boston: Wells and Lilly, 1826.

Jonathan Elliot. *The American Diplomatic Code, Embracing a Collection of Treaties and Conventions Between the United States and Foreign Powers: From 1778 to 1834*. Washington DC: J. Elliot, 1834.

Prize Essays on a Congress of Nations, For the Adjustment of International Disputes, and for the Promotion of Universal Peace without Resort to Arms. Boston: Published by Whipple and Damrell, for the American Peace Society, 1840.

Robert Greenhow. *The History of Oregon and California, and the other Territories of the North-West Coast of North America....* Boston: Charles C. Little and James Brown; London: John Murray, 1845.

Harriet Beecher Stowe. *Sunny Memories of Foreign Lands*. Boston: Phillips, Sampson, and Company; New York: J.C. Derby, 1854.

Eustace Clare Grenville Murray. *Embassies and Foreign Courts: A History of Diplomacy*. London and New York: G. Routledge and Co., 1855.

A historical map of the United States and surrounding regions, including Canada, Mexico, Central America, and the West India Islands. The map is titled "MAP OF THE UNITED STATES" and is rendered in a sepia tone.

Economic Expansionism — Cultivating the Skills and Resources to Compete with “Europe”


In achieving political independence the United States entered into fierce economic competition with what the Declaration of Independence called the “powers of the earth”: Britain and the other European colonial empires. To compete in a highly uncertain global economy dominated by those empires, Americans toiled to cultivate mercantile skills and resources. They increasingly lauded their own navigation, manufacturing, and agricultural prowess, yoking private enterprise to national pride and global ambition. And Americans readily integrated themselves into the vast transportation and communication networks that European colonial empires spun across the globe via steamship and telegraph.

Joshua Montefiore. *The American Trader’s Compendium: Containing the Laws, Customs, and Regulations of the United States, Relative to Commerce*. Philadelphia: Samuel R. Fishers, Jun., 1811.

Michael Walsh. *A New System of Mercantile Arithmetic; Adapted to the Commerce of the United States, in its Domestic and Foreign Relations....* Newburyport: E. Little and Co.; C. Norris and Co., Printers, 1816.

George Armroyd. *A Connected View of the Whole Internal Navigation of the United States; Natural and Artificial, Present and Prospective....* Philadelphia: Published by the Author; Printed by Lydia R. Bailey, 1830.

J. R. McCulloch. *A Dictionary, Practical, Theoretical, and Historical, of Commerce and Commercial Navigation*. Philadelphia: A. Hart; Printed by T.K. and P.G. Collins, 1851.



John Disturnell. *Disturnell's American and European Railway and Steamship Guide, Giving the Arrangements on All the Great Lines of Travel through the United States and Canada, Across the Atlantic Ocean, and Throughout Central Europe*. New York: J. Disturnell; for Sale by Booksellers and Periodical Agents in the United States and Canada, 1851.

David A. Wells. *The Year-Book of Agriculture; or The Annual of Agricultural Progress and Discovery, For 1855 and 1856*. Philadelphia: Childs and Peterson, 1856.

J. Leander Bishop. *A History of American Manufactures from 1608-1860: Exhibiting the Origin and Growth of the Principal Mechanic Arts and Manufactures....* Philadelphia: E. Young and Co.; London: Sampson Low, Son and Co., 1864.

Economic Expansionism — The Atlantic World, the Pacific World, and the Western Hemisphere In Between

Promoters of the United States tended to write in terms of the future. They typically portrayed the United States as imminently fulfilling its destiny and inexorably becoming itself: a powerful nation and global empire, second only to Britain. Parts of the world once associated with peril were optimistically reframed within a world characterized by opportunity everywhere. If the Continental Railroad was presented in the 1860s as a transformation of American spaces, the Panama railroad was presented as the American transformation of global spaces.

James Riley. *An Authentic Narrative of the Loss of the American Brig Commerce, Wrecked on the Western Coast of Africa, in the Month of August, 1815*. Hartford: The author, 1817.

Archibald Robbins. *A Journal Comprising an Account of the Loss of the Brig Commerce, of Hartford, (Con.) James Riley, Master, upon the Western Coast of Africa, August 28th, 1815....* Hartford: Silas Andrus; New-York: Stereotyped by C. Starr, 1818.

William A. Scott. *Trade and Letters: Their Journeyings Round the World.* New York: Robert Carter and Brothers, 1856.

Ephraim G. Squier. *The States of Central America; their Geography, Topography, Climate, Population, Resources, Productions, Commerce, Political Organization, Aborigines, etc., etc....* London: Sampson Low, Son, and Co.; New York: Harper and Brothers, 1858.

Fessenden N. Otis. *Isthmus of Panama: History of the Panama Railroad: and of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company.* New York: Harper and Brothers, Publishers, 1867.

Geographical Imaginaries — An Atlantic Nation Eyes the Continental West

The 1804-1806 “Lewis and Clark Expedition” famously reached the Pacific coast of the North American continent, but its first impact was to stimulate concerted exploration and settlement of the Mississippi River Valley. By the time Carlos Butterfield published his 1860 map, Americans increasingly saw themselves as a continental nation at the unique and favorable confluence of the Atlantic and Pacific worlds. The continental vision of the United States quickly became a global oceanic one.

Zebulon Montgomery Pike. *An Account of Expeditions to the Sources of the Mississippi, and Through the Western Parts of Louisiana, to the Sources of the Arkansaw, Kans, La Platte, and Pierre Jaun, Rivers....* Philadelphia: C. and A. Conrad and Co., 1810.

Patrick Gass. *A Journal of the Voyages and Travels of a Corps of Discovery, Under the Command of Capt. Lewis and Capt. Clarke of the Army of the United States, From the Mouth of the River Missouri Through the Interior Parts of North America to the Pacific Ocean, During the Years 1804, 1805 and 1806.* Philadelphia: Mathew Carey, 1812.

Henry R. Schoolcraft. *Travels in the Central Portions of the Mississippi Valley: Comprising Observations on its Mineral Geography, Internal Resources, and Aboriginal Population.* New-York: Collins and Hannay; J. and J. Harper, Printers, 1825.

Calvin Colton. *Manual for Emigrants to America.* London: F. Westley and A.H. Davis, 1832.

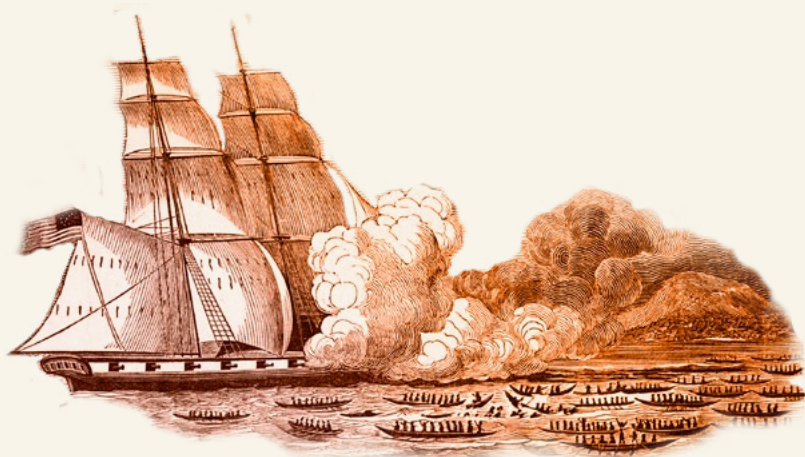
Joel Palmer. *Journal of Travels over the Rocky Mountains, to the Mouth of the Columbia River; Made During the Years 1845 and 1846....* Cincinnati: J.A. and U.P. James, 1847.

G. Woolworth Colton. *Map of the United States of America, The British Provinces, Mexico, the West Indies and Central America, with part of New Granada and Venezuela.* New York: J.H. Colton, 1849.

Carlos Butterfield. *Map of United States and Mexico.* New York: Johnson and Browning, 1859.

Economic Imaginaries — A New Science of Statistics to Represent Reality

What constituted “knowledge” became in the mid nineteenth century more numerical through an exciting new science of statistics meant to capture reality more accurately than ever before. In advance of the American Statistical Association’s formation in 1839, Timothy Pitkin was



Attack of the Savages on the Brig Margaret Oakley, in Reynolds's Bay (Papua), from *Scenes, Incidents, and Adventures in the Pacific Ocean*

a pioneer who struggled with the limited availability of raw data from which to generate telling statistics. By the 1850s American intellectuals celebrated statistics not only as a means of national knowledge, but also as a measure of national potency: a great nation like the United States was exceptionally able to preserve data and to produce statistics.

Timothy Pitkin. *A Statistical View of the Commerce of the United States of America: Its Connection with Agriculture and Manufactures: and an Account of the Public Debt, Revenues, and Expenditures of the United States*. Hartford: Charles Hosmer, 1816.

Timothy Pitkin. *A Statistical View of the Commerce of the United States of America: Including also an Account of Banks, Manufactures and Internal Trade and Improvements: Together with that of the Revenues and Expenditures of the General Government: Accompanied with Numerous Tables*. New Haven: Durrie and Peck, 1835.



James D. B. DeBow. *Statistical View of the United States, Embracing its Territory, Population — White, Free Colored, and Slave — Moral and Social Condition, Industry, Property, and Revenue....* Washington DC: A.O.P. Nicholson, Public Printer, 1854.

William J. Bromwell. *History of Immigration to the United States, Exhibiting the Number, Sex, Age, Occupation, and Country of Birth, of Passengers Arriving in the United States By Sea from Foreign Countries, from September 30, 1819, to December 31, 1855....* New York: Redfield, 1856.

Elihu Burritt. *The Year-Book of the Nations, for 1856.* New York: D. Appleton and Co., 1856.

Military Reach — The Projection of Power Across the Continent and Around the World

The United States created a permanent navy in 1794 initially to defend American merchant ships against Barbary predation in the Mediterranean Sea, but soon to wage defensive war against first France and then Britain. Militaristic celebrations of war flourished during intervals of relative peace after the 1812-1815 war against Britain and the even more controversial 1846-1848 war against Mexico. Some American authors sought to thrill popular audiences with accounts of “Indian wars” in the unruly North American west, but others like James Fenimore Cooper enchanted them with stories of navy battles and cruises. Rarely battling actual navies after 1815, American navy squadrons cruised the globe to punish perceived transgressions against American diplomats and merchant shipping.

The Naval Temple: Containing A Complete History of the Battles Fought by the Navy of the United States. From its Establishment in 1794, to the Present Time.... Boston: Published by Barber Badger, 1816.

W. S. W. Ruschenberger. *A Voyage Round the World; Including an Embassy to Muscat and Siam in 1835, 1836, and 1837.* Philadelphia: Carey, Lea and Blanchard, 1838.

Walter Colton. *Deck and Port; or, Incidents of a Cruise in the United States Frigate Congress to California. With Sketches of Rio Janeiro, Valparaiso, Lima, Honolulu, and San Francisco.* New York: A.S. Barnes and Co.; Cincinnati: H.W. Derby and Co., 1850.

John Frost. *Thrilling Adventures Among the Indians: Comprising The Most Remarkable Personal Narratives of Events in the Early Indian Wars, as well as of Incidents in the Recent Indian Hostilities in Mexico and Texas.* Philadelphia: J.W. Bradley, 1851.

James Fenimore Cooper. *History of the Navy of the United States of America. Continued to 1853.* New York: G.P. Putnam, 1853.

Fitch W. Taylor. *A Voyage Round the World, and Visits to Various Foreign Countries, in the United States Frigate Columbia.* New Haven: H. Mansfield; New York: D. Appleton, 1859.

Jacob K. Neff. *Thrilling Incidents of the Wars of the United States: Comprising the Most Striking and Remarkable Events of the Revolution, the French War, the Tripolitan War, the Indian War, the Second War with Great Britain, and the Mexican War.* New York: Robert Sears, 1860.



Scientific Exploration — Into Every Corner of the World

Forgotten to history, Jeremiah Reynolds worked doggedly for years to stimulate global ambitions in the United States, urging American science to catch up to the global scope of American commerce, so that the country could turn itself into a great power on the order of Britain and France. Though excluded from the famous 1838-1842 United States Exploring Expedition he had long promoted, Reynolds lived to see the national government sponsor a burgeoning number of scientific expeditions around the world in the 1840s and 1850s: to the Pacific, the “Holy Land,” the postwar boundary with Mexico, the Amazon River valley, and the Antarctic and Arctic antipodes.

Jeremiah N. Reynolds. *Address, on the Subject of a Surveying and Exploring Expedition to the Pacific Ocean and South Seas....* New York: Harper and Brothers, 1836.

Charles Wilkes. *Narrative of the United States Exploring Expedition During the Years 1838, 1839, 1840, 1841, 1842.* Philadelphia: Lea and Blanchard, 1845.

William Francis Lynch. *Narrative of the United States' Expedition to the River Jordan and the Dead Sea.* Philadelphia: Lea and Blanchard, 1849.

John Russell Bartlett. *Personal Narrative of Explorations and Incidents in Texas, New Mexico, California, Sonora, and Chihuahua, Connected with the United States and Mexican Boundary Commission, During the Years 1850, '51, '52, and '53.* New York and London: D. Appleton and Company, 1854.

William Lewis Herndon and Lardner Gibbon. *Exploration of the Valley of the Amazon: Made Under the Direction of the Navy Department.* Washington DC: Robert Armstrong, Public Printer, 1854.



Panama Railroad, from *Isthmus of Panama*

Matthew C. Perry. *Narrative of the Expedition of an American Squadron to the China Seas and Japan....* Washington DC: A.O.P. Nicholson, 1856.

Elisha Kent Kane. *Arctic Explorations: The Second Grinnell Expedition in Search of Sir John Franklin, 1853, '54, '55.* Philadelphia: Childs and Peterson..., 1857.



Travel Narratives — Americans Out in the World

Americans encountered in their books not only distant societies and foreign peoples, but also Americans themselves out in the world. As more and more sailors, traders, missionaries, navy personnel, scientists, and eventually even moneyed tourists returned from travels and sojourns overseas, they increasingly wrote firsthand narratives to tap into an avid book-buying public. Whereas popular geography books removed Americans from their image of the world, positioning readers as detached observers, popular travel narratives placed Americans within the frame and positioned readers as embedded eyewitnesses. The prevailing message in both cases was to elevate “Western” culture above all other cultures in a world where only Americans and Europeans were thought capable of bridging global distances and appraising places and peoples.

Samuel Patterson. *Narrative of the Adventures and Sufferings of Samuel Patterson, Experienced in the Pacific Ocean, and Many Other Parts of the World, with an Account of the Feejee, and Sandwich Islands*. Palmer: From the press in Palmer, 1817.

Jared Sparks. *The Life of John Ledyard, the American Traveller; Comprising Selections from his Journals and Correspondence*. Cambridge: Published by Hilliard and Brown, 1828.

Paul Cuffe. *Narrative of the Life and Adventures of Paul Cuffe, a Pequot Indian: During Thirty Years Spent at Sea, and in Travelling in Foreign Lands*. Vernon: Printed by Horace N. Bill, 1839.

George Little. *Life on the Ocean; or Twenty Years at Sea: Being the Personal Adventures of the Author*. Boston: Waite, Peirce and Company, 1846.



Caroline Paine. *Tent and Harem: Notes of an Oriental Trip*. New York: D. Appleton and Co., 1859.

Charles W. Thomas. *Adventures and Observations on the West Coast of Africa, and its Islands*. New York: Derby and Jackson, 1860.

Travel Narratives — Visualizing the Past and Present of the World

Travel narratives hinged on entertainment more than information. But even as they delighted audiences with thrilling adventures undertaken by fellow Americans across the North American west and around the world, they provided sober moral lessons. The ancient past of indigenous Americans served to stress the avoidance of cultural decline; the more recent past of American ships on every ocean measured the extent of national capability. By the eve of the American Civil War, American audiences encountered more and more Americans (as well as imperial Britons) already present throughout the world, undeterred by danger, exploiting opportunity, and entrenched on continental territory and in global enclaves.

The Mariner's Library or Voyager's Companion. Containing Narratives of the Most Popular Voyages, from the Time of Columbus to the Present Day.... Boston: Lilly, Wait, Colman and Holden, 1833.

John L. Stephens. *Incidents of Travel in Yucatan*. New York: Harper and Brother, 1843.

Thomas Jefferson Jacobs. *Scenes, Incidents, and Adventures in the Pacific Ocean, or, the Islands of the Australasian Seas, During the Cruise of the Clipper Margaret Oakley, under Capt. Benjamin Morrell*. New-York: Harper and Brothers, 1844.



Flock of Children, from *First Geography for Children*

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Cover image adapted from
Colton's General Atlas of the World

Curated by Konstantin Dierks
Associate Professor of History, Indiana University



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