

“THE DISPUTE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATE AND GREAT BRITAIN OVER THE OREGON TERRITORY”

Dr. MethaqShyyalZora

Lecture in Department of History –College of Education for Human Sciences Ibn –Rushd
Baghdad University-Iraq.

ABSTRACT

This paper highlights an important time in the American history, the post-independence phase of 1776, which is identified by the attempt of the United States to acquire as much land as possible in order to expand its influence. Oregon was one of those areas the United States was able to annex to its territory. In fact, the United States has engaged in a major dispute with other countries to achieve its expansionist goals. The most significant dispute was with Britain, which was almost, about to escalate into a military conflict between the two countries. The conflict was resolved by the peaceful negotiation of a treaty between the United States and Britain. The main disagreements between the USA and Britain was about Oregon as both countries claimed it as theirs. It is worth mentioning that the dispute over the annexation of Oregon was not limited to Britain and the United States only; Russia also claimed the right to control it. The dispute between Russia and USA over Oregon settled after signing a treaty in 1824, in which Russia ceded claim to Oregon. As a result, the United States gained a full right to annex Oregon, especially after the people of Oregon expressed their desire to join of the United States.

Keyword :Oregon , territory , the United States.

INTRODUCTION

The United States believed in the necessary to expand to the west and east of the Rockies, which meant restricting Britain's freedom to trade, fish and control the ocean and rivers of the Vancouver Islands and the eastern Columbia River.

The United States entered into a long-running dispute with other countries, such as Russia and Britain, to acquire Oregon, a region that is complementary to its strategic dimension, and the dispute continued until it was dissolved by treaties with those countries, albeit gradually, starting with the Treaty of 1818 with Britain and 1824 with Russia.

On the other hand, the people and Congress have a great desire to make Oregon a part of American territory. This was exploited by the Whig Party and the Democratic parties in their campaign for the US presidency in 1844.

The events of the 1846 Treaty, in which Britain officially relinquished all its claims in Oregon, which became the official state of the United States. The United States officially became the only State with the right to annex Oregon.

THE DISPUTE BETWEEN EUROPE AND AMERICA OVER OREGON

Oregon is a northwestern Pacific state; bordered north by Washington, east by Idaho, south by Nevada and California, and west by the Pacific Ocean. The Oregon Country at that time covered far more area than the state does today. It extended north from California to Alaska, and east to the Rocky Mountains⁽¹⁾. The English sailor and explorer Sir Francis Drake⁽²⁾ may have landed on the south Oregon coast while searching for an ocean route from the Pacific to the Atlantic in 1579. Finally, in 1788, the American sea captain Robert Gray⁽³⁾ became the first white person known to set foot on Oregon soil, at Tillamook Bay. In 1811, fur trader John Jacob Astor⁽⁴⁾ established a trading post at the mouth of the Columbia River. Fort Astoria, as the post was named, was the first permanent white settlement in Oregon. In 1825, Hudson's Bay Company⁽⁵⁾, a British trading firm, built Fort Vancouver on the Columbia River, in present-day Washington State.

With the increasing commercial interests of the United States and the European countries in Oregon, four countries disputed over its annexation to their own. The Spanish considered it as a part of their area of influence in California. Britain based its claim of Oregon on the Nootka Convention⁽⁶⁾ and on the presence of a number of British fur companies in the region. The United States of America asserted that Oregon was a natural extension of its border areas.

Russia considered Oregon as an extension of Alaska, its claim was supported by the fact that a large numbers of Russians were settled in the area. On September 16, 1821, Russia assumed exclusive jurisdiction and sovereignty over the northwest US coast. All ships and foreign vessels would be confiscated if they approached the coast within 100 miles distance. Britain and the United States of America responded strongly against such decree and didn't recognize it⁽⁷⁾.

The dispute between these countries continued and resolved only through treaties signed between Russia, Spain and Britain on the one hand and the United States of America on the other. Britain, in 1818 signed a treaty with the United States, in which it agreed of a joint occupation of Oregon, and the agreement was renewed by a treaty in 1827. In 1819, Adams-Onis Treaty⁽⁸⁾ was signed between Spain and the United States of America, in which Spain officially ceded Oregon⁽⁹⁾ to the United States.

In 1822, the US Secretary of State John Quincy Adams⁽¹⁰⁾ and Russian Minister Pierre de Polignac held talks in Washington. The Russian minister announced that he was authorized by the emperor Alexander to hand the American minister an edict to the effect that the sovereignty of the region should be granted to Russia by peaceful means. However, these meetings were halted after US President James Monroe issued a statement, known as the Monroe statement, which stated that America is for Americans and European countries can not intervene in its affairs, and that led to a strong protest from both Russia and Britain. In 1824, Russia announced its withdrawal from Oregon after signing a treaty with the United States of America in the same year⁽¹¹⁾.

THE BRITISH-AMERICAN DISPUTE

- Treaty of 1818 with Britain

An American and British delegation were formed in 1818 to negotiate and resolve the dispute between the two countries over Oregon. The American side represented by both the US ambassador to France and the US ambassador to Britain. The British side represented by both the British naval commander and the British foreign secretary⁽¹²⁾.

The Treaty was signed on October 20, 1818, and ratified on January, 30, 1819. A number of politicians from both countries emphasized that the treaty was the beginning to improve the relationships between Britain and its former colonies.

The most important articles of the treaty are:

Article I secured the fishing rights along the Newfoundland⁽¹³⁾ and other areas on the American border.

Article II set the boundaries between the British colonies in North America and the United States, along the line drawn from the 49th to the rocky Rockies to be under American sovereignty.

Article III provided for joint control of land in the Oregon Country for ten years. Both could claim land and both were guaranteed free navigation throughout.

Article IV regulated commerce between the two parties for an additional 10 years

Article V agreed to refer differences over U. S. claims stemming from the Treaty of Ghent⁽¹⁴⁾ to a friendly state to be signed. The treaty was about handing over properties the U.S. claims to belong to American citizens

Article VI established that ratification would occur within at most six months of signing the treaty. The two countries had the right to withdraw from the treaty after notifying each other about their decision⁽¹⁵⁾.

Britain was the biggest beneficiary of the joint occupation. British Hudson gradually expanded its network of trading posts to cover vast areas, and took control of the fur trade in the region⁽¹⁶⁾. Most of the settlers who arrived in the area were British fur traders⁽¹⁷⁾ who worked for Hudson. The new settlers were encouraged by the quality of good leather, the presence of rivers extending to the ocean and the ease of shipping to export fur to all parts of the world⁽¹⁸⁾.

So many Americans felt that their government should not allow the British to establish permanent control of the Pacific Northwest. At the same time, American citizens wanted to live on a fertile land that can provide agricultural opportunities. Oregon was the place the American saw to hold all the agricultural values, but they felt that the the presence of the British flag in these areas as an obstacle to their aspirations⁽¹⁹⁾.

Nevertheless, the number of Americans moving to Oregon has increased after some of missionaries who espoused the expansionist policies such as Jason Lee⁽²⁰⁾ and Marcus Whitman campaigned for it. Although their main goal was to spread Christianity, but they set the

foundation to improve the agriculture in Oregon through transferring the American technology and tools to improve the quality of the soil and the crops⁽²¹⁾. Marcus Whitman worked to encourage American families to move to Oregon after promising them with generous rewards as well as making big profits in cultivating the Willamette Valley⁽²²⁾. Indeed, a number of American families have migrated and established homes and fields in the area. Here, Hudson⁽²³⁾ began to see a clear challenge to its works in the region because of the large number of people who flocked to it.

A member of the US Congress, John Floyd⁽²⁴⁾ of Virginia in 1820, filed a request to set up a committee to look into the Oregon case and determine the economic benefits that the United States could obtain if it claims control over Oregon⁽²⁵⁾.

After the approval of its formation, the committee submitted a report highlighting the huge economic benefits that the United States can get from occupying Oregon. But the issue of Oregon's annexation was rejected by the US Congress, because many members felt that Oregon was too far from any American city, and could an independent state which might benefit the U.S. more than if it is annexed to it⁽²⁶⁾.

On the other hand, the US government saw the need to expand and extend to the west and east of the Rockies, which means restricting Britain's freedom to trade, fishing, and the control the ocean and rivers of the Vancouver Island⁽²⁷⁾ and the eastern Columbia River⁽²⁸⁾.

As a result, Britain suggested that the Columbia River to be the dividing line between US and British interests in Oregon. The treaty of 1818 was renewed indefinitely on August 7, 1827. This time, the agreement was unsatisfactory for fur traders and the settlers who demanded an end to the joint occupation by drawing permanent borders agreed upon by both parties⁽²⁹⁾.

At the same time, Floyd's efforts continued to incite American citizens in Oregon to demand the its annexation to the U.S.A. Floyd received support from Hall J. Kelly⁽³⁰⁾, who helped him to rally the Americans around him. In 1829 Kelly was able to form an American association to promote the construction of American settlements in Oregon⁽³¹⁾.

Some American activists tried to exploit the religious factor to advance their claim of Oregon. In 1831, four American missionaries made a trip to St. Louis. The crux of the trip was curiosity, but the real reason was that they were trying to spread the teaching of the bible among the Indians⁽³²⁾. A missionary was sent there afterward to teach the Indians the principles of the Bible.

In 1833, an American religious magazine published a story about a number of Indians who came to William Clark's house⁽³³⁾ in St. Louis asking him to teach them the principles of the Gospel. Indeed, a number of American missionaries made a trip to Oregon and laid the foundations for the establishment of churches there. The most famous missionaries of this period were Marcus Whitman⁽³⁴⁾ and his wife, who in 1839 made their first trip with fur traders. His wife was the first white woman to reach Oregon⁽³⁵⁾. Thus, the fur traders and the missionaries had shown that they were able to cross the vast American desert and the Rocky Mountains for

200 miles journey from Missouri to Oregon. In the years to come, pioneers came to call the route the Oregon Trail⁽³⁶⁾.

Later on , a number of American merchants tried to expand their trade in Oregon. In 1832, a Massachusetts merchant, Nathaniel Wyeth, led a group of settlers and marched along the Oregon trail. Wyeth's goal was to expand the fur trade In Oregon, however, Hudson Company, which was in control of this area, opposed their attempt and made it hard for them to compete which led them eventually to abandon their project in 1835. However, that didn't stop the American traders from heading to Oregon⁽³⁷⁾.

- OFFICIAL AMERICAN DEMANDS TO ANNEX OREGON

The number of Americans who crossed the Rockies and settled in Oregon rapidly skyrocketed, and over time they were ready to battle Britain in order to limit the economic benefits of the region to the Americans only. The dispute the between U.S. A. and Britain was supposed to be resolved according to the Webster- Ashburton Treaty⁽³⁸⁾ on August 19, 1842.

In 1843, some American settlers elected a provisional government⁽³⁹⁾ in Oregon that would serve as a nucleus for the consolidation of US authorities in the region. In the same year around 1000 people moved from Missouri to Willamette Valley but the American Fur Company⁽⁴⁰⁾ forced them to limit their activities in the area. The new settlers as a result tries to convey their grievances to the American government to resolve the border issue and annex the territory.

At the end of 1843, a bill passed by the US Senate to establish fortified points, fortresses and castles along the border with Oregon, and to grant American citizens who are willing to live there some financial support and provide them with special social services. Although the House of Representatives believed that the approval of this law could be interpreted as a declaration of war against Britain, but it was approved nevertheless for ratification in the US Senate, and soon the law was passed which helped significantly increasing the number of American settlers in Oregon⁽⁴¹⁾.

On the other hand, the Democratic Party used the increasing number of the American settlers in Oregon as one of their campaign's issue to push for during the US presidential election in 1844. Several members of the party demanded the annexation of the Oregon territory to the U.S.A. even if it meant resorting to war⁽⁴²⁾. James Polk and his supporters in the 1844 campaign had promoted the occupation of the entire territory, as encapsulated in their slogan "54°40' or Fight." The northern boundary of Oregon was the latitude line of 54 degrees, 40 minutes. "**FIFTY-FOUR FORTY OR FIGHT!**" was the popular slogan that led Polk to victory against all odds. Polk and the Democrats espoused the expansionist position, calling for the reoccupation of Oregon. This slogan is consistent with James Polk's⁽⁴³⁾ statements about Oregon after his nomination for the Democratic Party⁽⁴⁴⁾.

The party slogans and Polk's statements raised the concerns of the British government and also some members of the Whig party members who had commercial interests with Britain. they were afraid that the party's extreme stand might lead to a war with Britain⁽⁴⁵⁾.

After Pollack's victory in the presidential election, he stressed in his inaugural address on March 4, 1845, the right of the United States in Oregon, and that his country would be able to control it by peaceful means, and he called for preservation of the right of the United States of America to the land along the Rocky Mountains. In addition, all the territory of Oregon must annexed, and all these demands should be clear and nonnegotiable⁽⁴⁶⁾.

Polk reaffirmed and extended a set of points to what was known as the Monroe Doctrine. The most important points Polk extended were:

1. The people *of this continent alone have the right to decide their own destiny.*
2. The United States does not allow the European countries to block independent states from joining the Union.
3. The United States does not permit any European country to establish a colony in North America without the consent of the United States of America⁽⁴⁷⁾.

In this way, the Polk's extensions has reaffirmed the principles of the Monroe Doctrine, and has contributed to prepare the United States to establish itself as a major power the Western Hemisphere.

The British government, for its part, saw Polk's statements as a serious challenge and a threat against its interests, and that the US government was trying to strip Britain of its rights in Oregon. Britain tried to offer a compromise in setting the Columbia River as the line border, which meant depriving the US from the Willamette Valley, the most fertile part of Oregon the with most density of the American settlers⁽⁴⁸⁾.

Therefore, the US government rejected British proposed compromise, and suggested that the negotiations should be based on the boundary at the 49th parallel prior to any formal decision to annex Oregon to the United States⁽⁴⁹⁾.

On July 12, 1845, US Secretary of State James Buchanan⁽⁵⁰⁾ informed the British minister in Washington, Richard Buckingham, that the United States was prepared to divide Oregon at at the 49th parallel, and that this proposal was presented for the fourth time to the British government⁽⁵¹⁾. That British Minister made a personal decision of rejecting the American proposal before informing his government about it. The US president, as a result, felt that his position has been strengthened now, and he planned to get more concessions from Britain. He made it clear on one occasion that if war erupted between the two countries, America is not the one that will be blamed on causing it, rather it would be Britain⁽⁵²⁾.

In his annual letter to Congress, December 1845, Polk proposed a date to end the joint occupation of Oregon and he emphasized that the British government must meet the US demands to ratify the proposed border agreement. Polk's letter was supported by the Democratic senators. One congressman from Indiana stated that history will remember the great people like George Washington and John Adams for their great works for America. He said that for the sake

our future children, we must build a free America and fight for all its territory to salvage our honor and our principles; either full sovereignty or war⁽⁵³⁾.

Massachusetts State Representative Robert C. Winthrop⁽⁵⁴⁾ said that if a house representative wishes to participate in the Oregon negotiations, the final decision should represent the majority opinion, which is all or nothing. He stated that the president and his foreign minister have repeatedly stressed the right of this country on all its territory and not just part of it. He said that anything less than that would be a violation of the US sovereignty⁽⁵⁵⁾.

The debate in the US Senate on ending the joint occupation lasted for four months, while Britain, was facing a challenging time domestically⁽⁵⁶⁾. The deteriorating situation in Britain gave the USA the upper hand in the negotiation over Oregon which eventually tipped it to serve the American interests. After all, a lot of businessmen, private and government companies in Britain relied on the US markets to sell their goods and products⁽⁵⁷⁾.

The pressure on the British government has intensified by its local newspapers which showed that the Oregon problem was a burden financially and politically. The Times of London has published articles suggesting that the parallel latitude 49 is not vital for Britain.

Luckily for the British government, Hudson has no agents⁽⁵⁸⁾ or supporters in Britain, and the income the British businessmen and private companies get from the fur trade in Oregon was of a limited financial reward to Britain. In addition, there was a great opposition to British expansion from influential political figures in Britain at that time. A war with the United States, in this condition, would not only damage the British economy but also would hurt British domestically because the British themselves had no desire to fight⁽⁵⁹⁾.

British Prime Minister Robert Peel⁽⁶⁰⁾ submitted his resignation in December 1845 and was replaced by the leader of the opposition, Lord Russell, after the British monarchy appointed him to form a new government. In February 1846, John Russell⁽⁶¹⁾ pledged to work to calm the internal situation. In his foreign policy, he announced his intention to settle the Oregon case and directed the Secretary of State, Lord Aberdeen, to propose a waiver of the area bordering the Columbia River triangle. The proposals were presented to the US Secretary of State Buchanan through the British minister in Washington, Buckingham, along the British Government's desire to obtain free navigation of its fleets in the Columbia River⁽⁶²⁾.

The British proposal was submitted to the US Senate to approve or reject it. It took the US senate two weeks of discussion to approve the British proposal, with 38 votes in favor against 12 opposing it⁽⁶³⁾. On June 15, 1846, Richard Buckingham and James Buchanan signed the treaty of Oregon. The important provisions of the treaty are:

Recognition of the territory south of the 49th parallel as a United States possession

1- Recognition of the territory north of the 49th parallel as a British possession.

2- It defined the border as the Strait of Juan de Fuca.

3- Agreed free and open navigation of "channels and straits, south of the 49th parallel of north latitude" to both Great Britain and America

4- Agreed that the property rights of the "Hudson's Bay Company" and its subsidiary the "Puget's Sound Agricultural Company"

5. The President of the United States of America shall ratify the treaty after its approval by the United States Senate and the Queen of the United Kingdom in a period not exceeding six months⁽⁶⁴⁾.

Thus the United States managed to outperform its competitors from the European countries (Britain, France and Russia) to obtain important areas, either by treaties or using the Monroe Doctrine as a pretext to prevent these countries from occupying territories in the American continent, and was able to force these countries to abandon their claims in both Oregon and California.

CONCLUSION

The idea of acquiring new lands met the objectives of the American politicians in the period following their independence in 1776. Acquiring new territories stirred conflicts between the US and a number of European countries which believed that they had the same right in acquiring new territories wherever the interests are especially in the territory Oregon.

The United States of America formed its current borders after controlling many areas where it saw great importance in expanding its strategic and economic influence even if it was forced to enter into disputes with other countries. One of the most important areas is Oregon, which is a natural extension of the US border. Many American explorers arrived in the area early on after the discovery of America. They established important commercial centers that later became one of the United States' pretexts for the take over of Oregon. Add to that was the American missionaries role to encourage the americans to settle there as well as the desire of Oregon's citizens to have their state annexed to the USA.

Oregon was considered as an important center for the fur trade, especially to the British companies, which started investing there early on and set up important commercial sites, making it difficult to give up this area easily. The dispute between Britain and the United States about their right to control Oregon kept persistent for a long time. After many and long negotiations, the Great Britain peacefully surrendered its claim to the Oregon territory to the United States of America.

FOOTNOTES

(¹)The **Rocky Mountains** are the major mountain system of North America. They form part of the great cordillera that dominates the western regions of both North and South America. The Rockies extend for about 4,890 km (3,000 mi) in a north-south orientation from northern Alberta, Canada, to central New Mexico.

Toy, Terrence J.. "Rocky Mountains." Scholastic Grolier Online, go.scholastic.com/content/schgo/C/article/024/916/0249160-0.html.

⁽²⁾ir Francis Drake (c. 1540 to January 28, 1596) was an English explorer involved in piracy and illicit slave trading who became the second person ever to circumnavigate the globe. He helped defeat the Spanish Armada of 1588 and was the most renowned seaman of the Elizabethan era.

⁽³⁾**Gray, Robert** (1755–1806), American sea **captain** who, as the first white to encounter the Columbia River that flows between Oregon and Washington, gave it its name; he was also the first American seaman to carry the flag of the new United States around the world. Born in Tiverton, R.I., on May 10, 1755. **Gray** served in the Continental Navy during the American Revolution. **Gray** became a pioneer in the China fur trade that enriched residents of New England. **Gray** took over the *Columbia*, sailed for China with the furs, and continued on around the world, returning to Boston on Aug. 10, 1790.

Winther, O. O.. "Gray,Robert (1755–1806)." Scholastic Grolier Online, go.scholastic.com/content/schgo/L/article/018/340/0183400-00.html

⁽⁴⁾**Astor, JohnJacob** (1763–1848), American fur merchant and capitalist who cornered the nation's fur trade. He created the first American trust and built what was said to be the largest American fortune of his day. **Astor** traveled up the Hudson River to trade for furs. By the mid-1790s he was one of the leading fur merchants in the United States.

Gershenberg, Irving. "Astor,JohnJacob (1763–1848)." Scholastic Grolier Online,go.scholastic.com/content/schgo/L/article/002/450/0024500-00.html.

⁽⁵⁾**on'sBayCompany**, an English joint-stock enterprise founded to trade in furs and to colonize North America. King Charles II granted its charter on May 2, 1670, to the "Governor and **Company** of Adventurers Trading into **Hudson'sBay**." Over the next two centuries the **company's** representatives explored vast areas from **Hudson** Strait to the Pacific Coast, developed an extensive network of trading posts, and effectively established British sovereignty in what became western Canada.

Perkins, George B., et al. "Hudson's Bay Company." *Benet's Reader's Encyclopedia of American Literature*, vol. 1, HarperCollins, 1991, p. 496.

⁽⁶⁾**Nootka** settlement, on the southern point of the island, was founded in the 18th century by English merchants who traded with China. During 1789–1790 three of their ships were seized by Spaniards. The British government asked for redress, to which Spain replied by claiming **Nootka** for itself. Both countries and their allies prepared for war, but the French National Assembly was against it, and negotiations were begun. Spain surrendered all its claims by the **NootkaConvention**, signed on Oct. 28, 1790. **LA (Modern Language Association) style:**

"**Nootka** Sound." Scholastic Grolier Online, go.scholastic.com/content/schgo/L/article/028/907/0289070-00.html.

⁽⁷⁾I.Fontana,Pictorial images of Spanish-North America , Journal of the south west,(Winter,2000)P.46.

⁽⁸⁾The **Treaty** of Ghent, signed on Dec. 24, 1814, officially ended the War of 1812 between Great Britain and the United States, although the slowness of communications allowed a major battle to be fought at New Orleans early in 1815. The American negotiators at Ghent included John Quincy **Adams**, James **Bayard**, Henry **Clay**, and Albert **Gallatin**; the British were represented by William **Adams**, Admiral Lord Gambier, and Henry Goulburn. The **treaty** was an agreement to stop fighting, to restore any occupied territory, and to establish boundary commissions to settle problems along the Canadian–U. S. border. Carruth, Gorton. "1814: Exploration and settlement; wars; government; civil rights; statistics." *The Encyclopedia of American Facts and Dates*, by Gorton Carruth, 9th ed., HarperCollins, 1993, p. 150.

⁽⁹⁾Thomas A. Baily, Op,Cit.,P.221.

⁽¹⁰⁾Many Americans have sought the office of president of the United States and have deliberately shaped their lives to that end. **JohnQuincyAdams'** parents prepared him for the presidency from boyhood. But although **Adams** achieved his goal of becoming president, his term in the White House was overshadowed by his two other political careers—as America's greatest diplomat and as its greatest defender of human freedom in the U.S. House of Representatives. "John Quincy Adams (1825-29)." *The World Almanac and Book of Facts*, World Almanac Books, 2003, p. 1349

⁽¹¹⁾ Nathaniel, Christopher. Russia Life, (May -June, 2008), p58.

⁽¹²⁾Ibid

⁽¹³⁾ First British colony. It is one of the Atlantic Provinces of Canada, occupies the easternmost part of North America.

Rogers, Barbara Radcliffe, and Stillman Rogers. "Newfoundland." *Canada's Atlantic Provinces Adventure Guide*, Hunter Publishing, 2006, p. 457

⁽¹⁴⁾The **Treaty** of Ghent, signed on Dec. 24, 1814, officially ended the War of 1812 between Great Britain and the United States. The **treaty** was an agreement to stop fighting, to restore any occupied territory, and to establish boundary commissions to settle problems along the Canadian–U. S. border. Carruth, Gorton. "1814: Exploration and settlement; wars; government; civil rights; statistics." *The Encyclopedia of American Facts and Dates*, by Gorton Carruth, 9th ed., HarperCollins, 1993, p.

⁽¹⁵⁾Michael Hurst, Key Treaties for The Great Powers 1814-1914, Vol. 1,(1814-1878), (New York, 1972), P.95.

⁽¹⁶⁾Ray Allen and Others, The United State of American Democracy in World Perspective, (New York, 1947), P. 148.

⁽¹⁷⁾The **British** Hudson's Bay Company entered the coast trade in the 1820s with the intention of driving the Americans away. This was accomplished by about 1840. In its late period the maritime fur trade was largely conducted by the British Hudson's Bay Company and the Russian-American Company. Duckworth, Harry W. "Trading Beyond the Mountains: The British Fur Trade on the Pacific 1793-1843." *The Beaver: Exploring Canada's History*, Oct.-Nov. 1997, p. 4

⁽¹⁸⁾Homer Carey Hockett, Op. Cit., P.204.

⁽¹⁹⁾Ray Allen and Others, Op. Cit., P.163.

⁽²⁰⁾**Lee, Jason** (1803–1845), American Methodist clergyman and pioneering missionary in the Pacific Northwest. **Lee** was born on June 28, 1803, in Stanstead, Quebec, Canada, then considered part of Vermont. He represented the interests of permanent American settlers in Oregon to members of Congress. "Jason Lee." *Merriam Webster's Biographical Dictionary*, Merriam-Webster, 1995.

⁽²¹⁾Charles M. Dollars, *America: Changing Times*, (New York, 1980),P.193.

⁽²²⁾Willamette Valley is a 150-mile (240 km) long valley in the Pacific Northwest region of the United States. Throughout the 19th century it was the destination of choice for the oxen-drawn wagon trains of emigrants who made the perilous journey along the Oregon Trail. "The History of the Pacific Northwest." *Pacific Northwest*, DK Publishing, 2010, pp. [34]-41

⁽²³⁾TraversTwiss, Op. Cit., P. 136.

⁽²⁴⁾**John Floyd** (April 24, 1783 – August 17, 1837) was a Virginia politician and soldier. He represented Virginia in the United States House of Representatives and later served as the 25th Governor of Virginia. During his career in the House of Representatives, Floyd was an advocate of settling the Oregon Country, unsuccessfully arguing on its behalf from 1820 until he left Congress in 1829; the area did not become a territory of the United States until 1848.

Z.T.Fulmore, *A History and Geography of Texas* ,(New York, 1915)

P. 86

⁽²⁵⁾TraversTwiss, Op. Cit, P. 150.

⁽²⁶⁾Boyed R. Joy, Op. Cit, P.87.

⁽²⁷⁾**Vancouver Island**, the largest **island** on the Pacific coast of Canada. Part of the province of British Columbia, it is separated from the Canadian mainland on the east and northeast by the Georgia, Johnstone, and Queen Charlotte straits.

"**Vancouver Island**." Scholastic Grolier Online, go.scholastic.com/content/schgo/L/article/040/023/0400230-00.html.

⁽²⁸⁾Homer Carey Hockett, Op. Cit., P. 209

⁽²⁹⁾Travers Twiss, Op. Cit., P.223.

⁽³⁰⁾Hall Jackson Kelley (1790-1874), American promoter, worked to encourage the settlement of the Oregon Territory: Henry BampfrefParkes, *The United States of America*, (New York, 1943 P.307

⁽³¹⁾JamesM. Mcpherson, Op. Cit. P.380

⁽³²⁾John Dunn, Op.Cit., P. 22.

⁽³³⁾William Clark, born in Virginia in 1770, moved with his family to a Kentucky plantation as a teenager. William Clark and Meriwether Lewis are best known for their exploration from 1804 to 1806 of the Louisiana Purchase and the Northwest Territory in what is now part of the United

States: Jackson Donald, "Clark William (1770-1838), Encyclopedia of American Scholastic Grolier online, 2017.

⁽³⁴⁾James M.Mcpherson, Ordeal by Fire, The Civil War and Reconstruction, (New York, 1982). P. 38.

⁽³⁵⁾James M.Mcpherson, Ordeal by Fire, The Civil War and Reconstruction, (New York, 1982). P. 38.

⁽³⁶⁾**OregonTrail**, the route followed by American pioneers as they moved westward during the 1840s to people the **Oregon** Country, which was then claimed by both Britain and the United States: Bertrand M. Wainger, The American Adventure,(New York, 1957),P. 167

⁽³⁷⁾Ray Allen, The United States, American Democracy in World Perspective, (New York, 1947), P. 153.

⁽³⁸⁾The **Webster-AshburtonTreaty** (Aug. 9, 1842), negotiated by U.S. Secretary of State Daniel **Webster**and special British envoy Lord **Ashburton**, settled a long-standing dispute over the boundary between Maine and New Brunswick, Canada, while also resolving other issues. Under the terms of the agreement, which was hastened by the Aroostook War between residents of Maine and New Brunswick, the United States received about 7,000 of the 12,000 disputed square miles, the rest going to Great Britain. The **treaty** also defined the U.S.-Canadian boundary between Lake Superior and the Lake of the Woods. For more information : Hunter Miller, , Treaties and Conventions Between the United States of America and Other Powers Since July,1776, Vol.4, , (Washington, Government Printing office,1934) Vol.4, Doc. No.80-121.

⁽³⁹⁾Frank Otto Gatell, Frank Otto Gatell and Allen Weinstein, The Growth of American political, Vol. 1, (London, 1972)

⁽⁴⁰⁾The American Fur Company (AFC) was founded in 1808, by John Jacob Astor, a German immigrant to the United States. During the 18th century, furs had become a major commodity in Europe, and North America became a major supplier: Stahl, Martin. "Astor, John Jacob." *Encyclopedia of New York State*, edited by Peter R. Eisenstadt and Laura-Eve Moss, Syracuse University Press, 2005, p. 131

⁽⁴¹⁾John Dunn, Op. Cit.,27.

⁽⁴²⁾Charles M. Dollars, Op. Cit, P.198.

⁽⁴³⁾**James K. Polk** became the first dark horse, or little-known candidate, to win the presidency when he unexpectedly defeated Henry Clay in the election of 1844. During his single term in office, **Polk** achieved all of the ambitious political goals he had set for himself. This included the addition to the United States of a vast area stretching from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean. Opponents of his own day condemned him, for they believed that he desired only to extend the area of slavery. But most modern scholars reject this idea and generally rank **Polk** among the near-great U.S. presidents:

The Encyclopedia Americana, Vol. 22, PP. 317-318. & John S.Jenkins, James Knox Polk and A History of His Administration, (New York, 1889), P.1-9.

⁽⁴⁴⁾John Dunn, Op. Cit.,27.

⁽⁴⁵⁾John Dunn, Op. Cit., P. 28.

⁽⁴⁶⁾Quoted in Samuel Flagg Bemis, Op. Cit., P. 277.

⁽⁴⁷⁾Michel D. Gambone, Doc.No.24, Op.Cit.,PP.72-73.

⁽⁴⁸⁾Thomas A. Baily, Op.Cit.,P. 227.

⁽⁴⁹⁾Homer Carey Hockett, Op.Cit., P.218.

⁽⁵⁰⁾James Buchanan (1791-1868) was the fifteenth president of the United States. His administration was dominated by fighting between pro-and antislavery forces. In 1860, at the close of his term in office, South Carolina became the first state to secede from the Union: Encyclopedia of World Biography. Online ed. 1998.

⁽⁵¹⁾Quoted in Samuel flagg Bemis, Op.Cit., P. 275.

⁽⁵²⁾Quoted in John Dunn, Op. Cit., P. 22.

⁽⁵³⁾Quoted in Louis B. Wright, Op. Cit.,P.153.

⁽⁵⁴⁾Winthrop, Robert Charles, a Representative and a Senator from Massachusetts; born in Boston, Mass., May 12, 1809;member, State house of representatives 1835-1840, and served as speaker 1838-1840; elected as a Whig to the Twenty-sixth Congress to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Abbott Lawrence: Blackwell, Op.Cit.,p. 302

⁽⁵⁵⁾Quoted in Anllas, Vol. 7, Op. Cit., P. 318.

⁽⁵⁶⁾ British government was forced to decree a law called The **Corn Laws** were tariffs and other trade restrictions on imported food and grain ("corn") enforced in Great Britain between 1815 and 1846. They were designed to keep grain prices high to favour domestic producers, and represented British mercantilism, since they were the only mercantilist laws of the country.¹ The Corn Laws imposed steep import duties, making it too expensive to import grain from abroad, even when food supplies were short: H.C.Allen, Op.Cit., P. 308.

⁽⁵⁷⁾Ibid.

⁽⁵⁸⁾Ray Allen, Op.Cit., P. 159.

⁽⁵⁹⁾James M.Mcpherson, Op.Cit., P. 391.

⁽⁶⁰⁾RobertPeel was born in Bury, Lancashire, the son of Robert Peel, a wealthy calico manufacturer and landowner, and Ellen Yates. He served twice as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom (1834–35 and 1841–46) and twice as Home Secretary (1822–27 and 1828–30). He is regarded as the father of modern British policing and as one of the founders of the modern Conservative Party: Paula Kay Byers & Suzan Michele ,Op.Cit., P. 360

⁽⁶¹⁾**John Russell, 1st Earl Russell**, also called (until 1861) Lord John Russell (born Aug. 18, 1792, London, Eng.—died May 28, 1878, Pembroke Lodge, Richmond Park, Surrey), prime minister of Great Britain (1846–52, 1865–66), an aristocratic liberal and leader of the fight for passage of the Reform Bill of 1832: <https://www.britannica.com/biography/John-Russell-1st-Earl-Russell>

⁽⁶²⁾Frank Otto Gatell, Op.Cit., P. 154.

⁽⁶³⁾John Dunn, Op.Cit., P. 28.

⁽⁶⁴⁾Travers Twiss, Op.Cit., P.245; & Hunter Miller, Op.Cit., Vol.9, Doc.No.122.