Church History



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- Introduction to Church History
- The Ancient Church
- The Rise of Christendom
- The Early Middle Ages
- The Age of Crusades
- The Renaissance
- Conquest and Reformation
- The Age of Enlightenment
- The Age of Revolution
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- The Age of Enlightenment
- The Age of Revolution
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AD 1st-3rd centuries

AD 4th-5th centuries

AD 6th-10th centuries

AD 11th-13th centuries

AD 14th-15th centuries

AD 16th century

AD 17th-18th centuries

AD 19th century



The age of revival also led to conflict
1817 Claus Harms posts his 95 Theses
Harms was born in Kiel and became enamored with Enlightenment rationalism at an early age
But when he went to school at the University of

Kiel, he came under the teaching of Friedrich

Schleiermacher

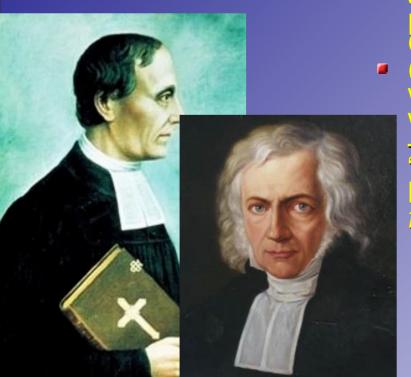
(If you'll remember, Schleiermacher was the guy who—having grown up amidst Moravians and Pietists—believed that the most important parts of Christianity involved how you lived out Christ's heart, not what doctrines you followed)

(Thus, we shouldn't believe the Bible as if it were an accurate historical record, but rather we should live it out as an artifact of its times

—the Bible "means" whatever you feel like it "means" to you, because all it was intended to be was an reflection of what its original writers

felt like it meant to them)

(He developed a school of "higher criticism" that presumed what those original intents were, based on assumptions of the identities and motivations of original authors such as a "Priestly" source, a "Jahwist" source, etc.)



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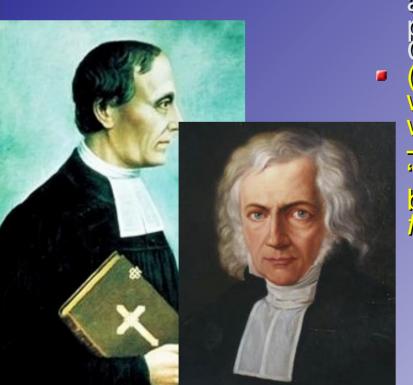
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Ironically, it was Scheliermacher who helped young Harms become less rationalistic and more conservative in his faith

He taught Harms that there is still a genuine faith component in following God—that religion isn't just about being rationally good, but is about having a relationship with Christ Harms took that and ran with it, moving past Schleiermacher's "just live out Christ's heart" liberalism and emphasizing an evangelical return to a truly Biblically-based Christianity Soon, he was preaching in conservative Lutheran churches, pointing people back to Scripture as their foundation for faith —and attacking the Lutheran/Reformed "Prussian Union of Churches" for not being enough of either being enough of either

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By 1817, he had a strong following, so he used the 300" anniversary of Martin Luther's posting of his 95 Theses at Wittenberg to publish his own, printing them side-by-side

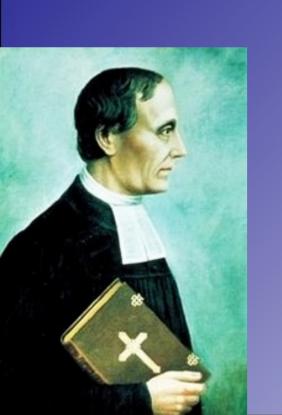
But in Harm's 95 Theses, he wrote—

"We could call reason our time's pope, our antichrist..."

"Reason rages in the Lutheran church: it tears

"Reason rages in the Lutheran church: it tears Christ from the altar, throws God's word from the pulpit, casts excrements into the baptismal water, mixes all sorts of people when it comes to God-parents, erases the address of the confessional chair, hisses out the priests, and all people with them, and has been doing this for a long time." for a long time...

So what would constitute a healthy church, if the use of reason is—by definition—the bane of healthy churches?



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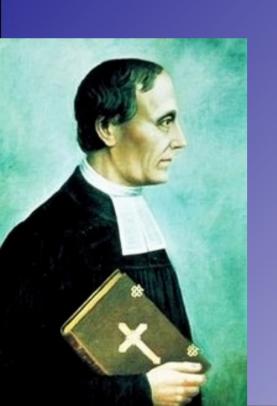
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"The evangelical-Catholic church is a glorious church. It rests on and builds itself preferably by the sacrament. The evangelical-Reformed church is a glorious church. It rests on and builds itself by God's word. More glorious than both is the evangelical-Lutheran church. It rests on and builds itself by the sacrament as well as God's word."

The healthy church abandons all man-made doctrines, all intellectual study, and simply makes use of the *Bible*, through the power of the sacraments —do you agree?



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The healthy church abandons all man-made doctrines, all intellectual study, and simply makes use of the Bible (NOTE: Isn't this the basic argument of

the various Churches of Christ?)



Funky little teaching moment—

As part of this "return to being Biblical" that Harms was pressing for, he also attempted to help the church appreciate and return to its traditional hymns

See, over the years, many of the classic hymns had been tweaked and changed

Their lyrics had been modernized, or their doctrines had been updated to avoid what was later perceived to be errors

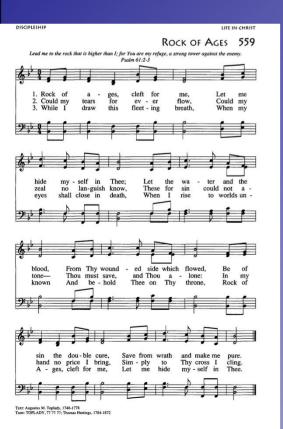
Remember how the original Methodist doctrines of Toplady's Rock of Ages had been tweaked to reflect his growing Calvinism?

Be of sin the double cure;

Save from wrath and make me pure.

emisped

Be of sin the double cure; Save me from its guilt and power.





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Their music had also been updated over the years to move away from the plainsong and Renaissance-style tunes in order to closer accommodate people's contemporary tastes

Ironically, though Harms was able to reinstate most of the original lyrics, "traditionalists" were far more resistant to changing the tunes.

They perceived the original tunes as archaic oddities, and the "new" tunes as "traditional," since they'd grown up with them as familiar (suggesting that their issues—though expressed as being grounded in tradition and ecclesiastical maturity—were really more about how the songs feel to them than about any kind of doctrines or commitment to history)



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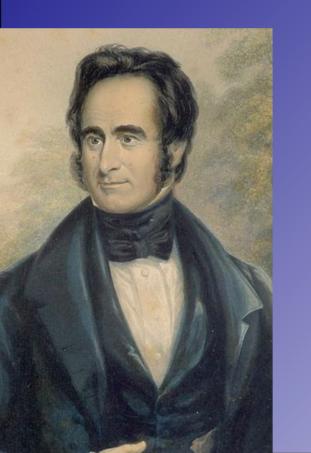
They perceived the original tunes as archaic oddities, and the "new" tunes as "traditional," since they'd grown up with them as familiar.

Thus, they weren't really as dedicated to the traditional as they were to the familiar.

—as is the case with lots of so-called "traditionalists," the issue isn't really about being "pro-tradition" as much as it is about being "anti-change"



The age of revival also led to conflict
1817 Claus Harms posts his 95 Theses
Robert Moffat arrived in South Africa
Born in southern Scotland, Moffat had a passion
for missions, and applied at age 20 to the London
Missionary Society
They saw a need for him in South Africa
(which was not only under-evangelized, but
was also currently suffering under chaos and
violence due to the invasion of Shaka and his
new Zulu empire)





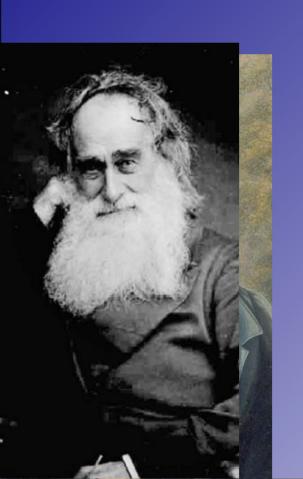
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next 67 years

In that time, his ministry had fully and firmly established the native church in South Africa, reaching thousands with the Gospel message, he had translated the Bible into Setswana (a language spoken in southern and central Africa by more than five million people—the first time that the Bible had ever been printed in its entirety anywhere in Africa and the first time in a previously unwritten African language)



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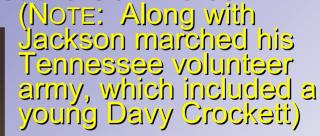
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1818 The First Seminole War kicked in
I say "kicked in" because it had arguably been going on since Creek Chief Menawa had escaped to Florida to join and stir up the Seminole tribes there, at the end of the Creek War

Since he'd been so successful at fighting against the Creek, new President James Monroe asked Andrew Jackson to rejoin the military to fight against the Seminoles

(Note: Along with Jackson marched his Tennessee volunteer







Funky little teaching moment—
It wasn't just the Seminoles that Jackson was supposed to fight, but also fugitive slaves
At the end of the War of 1812, the last remnant of British forces in the United States was a regiment of Royal Marines, led by Lt. Col. Edward Nicolls
As he was preparing to return to England with his men, he leit one fort in the care of a group of Seminole mercenaries and a corps of fugitive slaves whom he'd been training as guerrillas
When the guerrillas attacked and killed a group of American sailors in 1816, the nation was shocked and the southern states in particular were freaked out by the idea of an armed and trained force of former slaves, killing whites in an organized and brutal fashion—which made them worry about a potential slave revolt





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Monroe sent Jackson to quell the potential uprising by any means necessary, as quickly as possible
The tricky bit was that the fort was actually in Florida (which was still Spanish territory)





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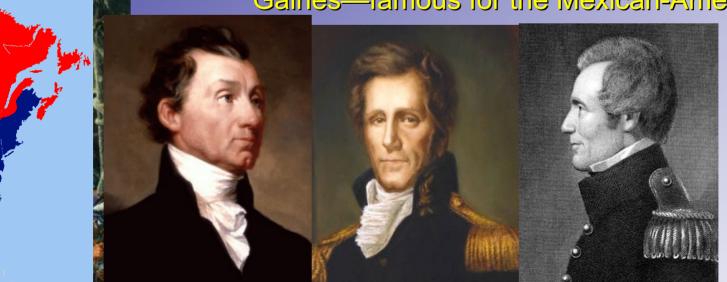
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Jackson officially requested that Florida Governor José Masot destroy the fort, since it was a security issue for both governments

Masot refused to do so, claiming that he didn't have the manpower to do it (which might be true)

So—without orders—Jackson invaded Spanish Florida and destroyed the fort himself

As he set out on his invasion, he sent a letter informing Monroe that he was doing so (though the attack itself was led by Gen. Edmund Gaines—famous for the Mexican-American War)

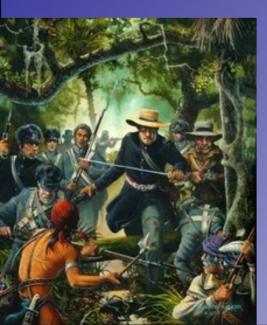




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In retaliation, some Seminoles attacked Jackson's troops as they marched back to U.S. territory
The troops fought back and killed the Seminoles but while the Seminoles were away from their families, American settlers raided their villages

families, American settlers raided their villages which made the natives respond with more violence

which hade the halives respond with more wollence which Jackson suppressed by burning down whole villages and destroying the crops in their fields While he was doing so, Jackson discovered letters that implicated both the British and the Spanish in a conspiracy to stir up an uprising out of Florida so he wrote to Monroe that the only real way to bring about peace was to conquer Florida itself



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So—without orders—Jackson took over Pensacola and deposed Governor Masot

This was a bit much, even for Monroe, and he called Jackson back across the border

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Spain demanded the immediate punishment of Jackson, threatening war against the U.S.

But Secretary of State John Quincy Adams called their bluff

Spain was still recovering from their years of war against Napoleon (who had broken the Spanish military and placed his own brother on the Spanish throne)

(and that meant that they had also been too weak to effectively deal with the sudden rush of revolutions hitting Central and South America)

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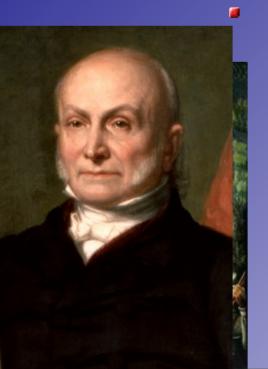
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"Spain must immediately make her election either to place a force in Florida adequate at once to the protection of her territory and to the fulfillment of ner engagements, or cede to the United States a province, of which she retains nothing but the nominal possession, but which is, in fact, a derelict, open to the occupancy of every enemy civilized or savage, of the United States and serving no other earthly purpose than as a post of annoyance to them..."



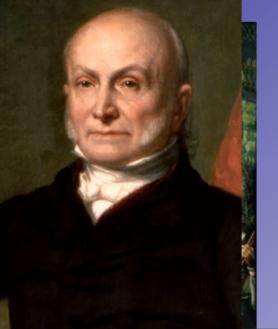
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England backed off, not wanting to directly start any new troubles, leaving Spain on her own, scrambling to decide how to respond...





The age of revival also led to conflict
1817 Claus Harms posts his 95 Theses
Robert Moffat arrived in South Africa
The First Seminole War kicked in

The USS Ontario landed in Oregon
See, for years, Britain and Spain and Russia had all laid claim to what we now call the "Pacific Northwest"—but Russia was the only country actually trying to do anything with the region
So in 1818, Captain James Biddle sailed the USS Ontario to the mouth of the Columbia

River and went ashore

His men dug up some dirt and then planted a United States flag, saluted it with the ship's big guns, greeted some very confused Chinook who were

watching, then moved on Later, they connected with local fur trappers and greeted the British factor at the local Fort George, formally claiming possession of the region... and then they sailed away...

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The British, the Russians, and the Spanish were all kind of perplexed by all of this, but none of them had any real presence in the area

So for the time being, everyone just sort of scratched their heads and said, "Um...

whatever...'





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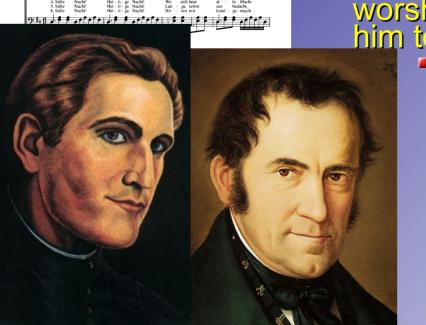
1818 The First Seminole War kicked in
The USS Ontario landed in Oregon
The controversial Stille Nacht was performed
For his Christmas Eve service, Catholic priest
Josef Mohr needed one more hymn to sing at his
little church outside of Salzburg

So on December 24, he took a poem that he'd written two years earlier to his friend and worship leader, Franz Xaver Gruber, asking him to come up with a quick and easy melody

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Gruber did it, arranging a simple, quickmoving and plucky little piece for guitar and choir

(either because the church's organ was broken, or simply because it was easiest just to set it up for the guitar)



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choir, and it worked out great for everyone
until it became something of a firestorm
later on...







formed riest ng at his

that he'd ind asking

It was such an easy melody, so tailor-made for Christmas Eve services, that the guys kept using it, which means it became a tradition

And traditions have a way of getting around...

which meant that more and more people came

to hear the song
(which they eventually began to play
with a joint accompaniment of the
guitar and the organ)







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It was such an easy melody, so tailor-made for Christmas Eve services, that the guys kept using it, which means it became a tradition frontically, by the later 20th century, that argument had been reversed, and people complained about the use of guitars in worship for the exact same reason (that tradition supported organs, and that guitars were for rock concerts, not church)

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And now, we're back to what we observed with Harms trying to "update" hymns by returning them to their original state

People tend to perceive whatever they grew up with—whatever they're personally familiar with in a church worship setting—as "traditional" (and we aren't usually really dedicated to the traditional as much as we are to the familiar—thus making us not so much "pro-tradition" as much as just "anti-change") much as jušt "anti-change")

That's human nature, and it is what it is but it gets dangerous when we presume that our familiar traditions are somehow cosmologically the "right" way of doing things (whether it be organ or guitar)



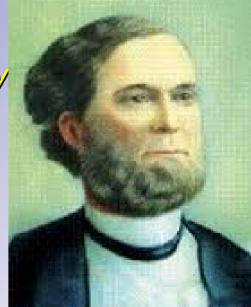
Funky little teaching moment—
I'll give you a fun "for instance"
By 1822, the Rainer Family Singers and the
Strasser Family Singers were running around
singing the "Tyrolean Folk Song" all over Austria—
eventually including a large, prestigious concert in
Leipzig in December of 1832

For that concert, the Strassers decided to do their decade-and-a-half-old perennial favorite as a lullaby for a change, instead of a plucky dance piece

That brought the crowd to tears, and they decided to do it that way from then on By the time that New York
Episcopal priest John F. Young translated the song into English in 1859, that version was the only version that most people knew



Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht



Funky little teaching moment

I'll give you a fun "for instance"
So here's the fun, "Harms" test for the song—
If this coming Christmas Eve, we were to play
"Silent Night" as a quick, plucky dance song, would
you hear that as the "traditional" version, or would
you hear that as changing the "traditional" version?
Which version would somehow "feel" like the more
cosmologically "right" version to you?

"So are you ultimately more "pro-tradition" or
"anti-change" (from what is familiar to you)?





Funky little teaching moment²—
And no, I can't get past this song without commenting on something that happened a century later on In 1914, after the most brutal fighting in that first year of World War I, the men on both sides of the trenches were exhausted and more than just a little demoralized

On Christmas Eve, the Germans near Ypres,
Belgium (and probably elsewhere in the French
trenches, too), decided to decorate their trenches
for the holiday to lift their spirits
They began singing Christmas carols, and the
British troops began singing carols back to them
but when they started singing "Stille Nacht," the
situation intensified, since the British could sing
"Silent Night" at the same time—they could sing
a Christmas song together.

a Christmas song together
Soon, the artillery barrages stopped, and men
started darting across the No Man's Land
between the trenches to share chocolate, cigarettes, buttons, pictures of loved ones, etc.
—anything to remind them that this was still
Christmas, even if it was during a war
They even began playing soccer with one
another and being generally goofy together

Funky little teaching moment²—

 And no, I can't get past this song without commenting on something that happened a century later on But it wasn't just one clump of German and British soldiers—men just stopped fighting all along the trenches for hundreds of miles

For most of them, the truce lasted only a few hours but for others, it lasted for several days
In the end, both high commands finally had to reassign hundreds of soldiers because they simply couldn't get the men to open fire on new friends and Christian brothers whom they'd just spent Christmas worshipping God alongside

"Stille Nacht" had interrupted perfectly good bloodshed by reminding people that they had the same Saviour, and that He didn't much like war...





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The controversial Stille Nacht was performed

1819 The Jefferson Bible was produced
Remember, Thomas Jefferson was an avowed

Deist

(he believed that there was a God... of some kind... but that whatever it was, it wasn't very involved)

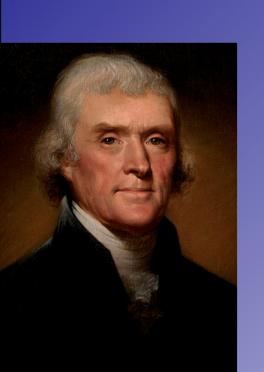


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The Jefferson Bible was produced
Remember, Thomas Jefferson was an avowed
Deist, so though he loved the basic idea of the
Bible, he didn't like all of the Bible-y parts

So, for instance, the history bits were good to read, and it was good to understand the kind of nice guy that Jesus was as a wise teacher but all of those miracles and thundering judgments were just... ridiculous...

Any rationalistic, Enlightenment thinker should just ignore all of those things

So how can you enjoy sitting down and reading the Bible without having to wade through all of the supernatural and religion and dogma and miracles...?



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1819

The First Seminole War kicked in The USS Ontario landed in Oregon The controversial Stille Nacht was performed The Jefferson Bible was produced Remember, Thomas Jefferson was an avowed Deist, so though he loved the basic idea of the Bible, he didn't like all of the Bible-y parts Jefferson decided to hack his Bible to shreds, getting rid of all of the parts that he didn't like (and let's be honest here that though we all groan and say, "Oh, Tom...!" this is precisely what most people do, albeit without the razor and paste—we decide what parts of the Bible we tend to prefer to ignore, and those parts just slide out of our

ignore, and those parts just slide out of our consciousness when we read it)

(Calvinists tend to squirm at the Arminiansounding passages, and Arminians tend to squirm at the Calvinist-sounding passages, feminists hate that verse, cessationists ignore that section, warhawks skip the pacifist bits, others avoid Revelation, etc.)

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Robert Moffat arrived in South Africa

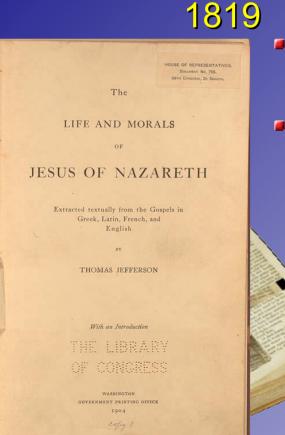
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In 1819, he published his edited Bible as The Life and Morals of Jesus of Nazareth (which got rid of all of the miracles, odd teachings that nobody really understands, mentions of the Resurrection, etc., and leaving only the purity of Jesus Christ's clearly Deistic moral code)

(because if you get rid of everything you don't like in a set of data, you're usually left with a data set that proves you right...



1818

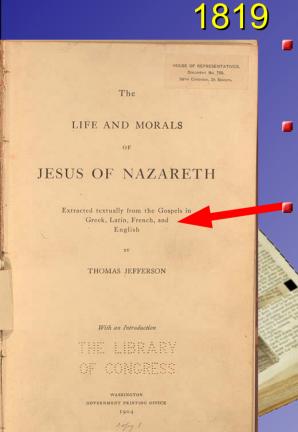
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Interestingly, he made it a point to do a bunch of
study in the process, printing the edited sections study in the process, printing the edited sections in parallel Greek, Latin, French, and English He also included maps that he'd found, various

study aids, and more

(chopping the Gospels up and mixing them together in what his study suggested was the proper chronological order for the "Jesus narrative," etc.)



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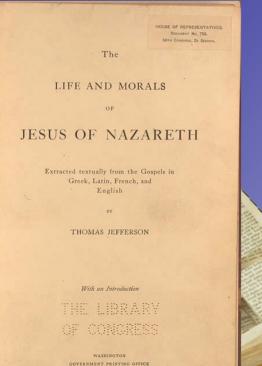
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Thus, most people saw his editing as the act of an educated, "Enlightened" thinker, and clearly better scholarship than that plain old King James Bible that you had sitting on your shelf at home...

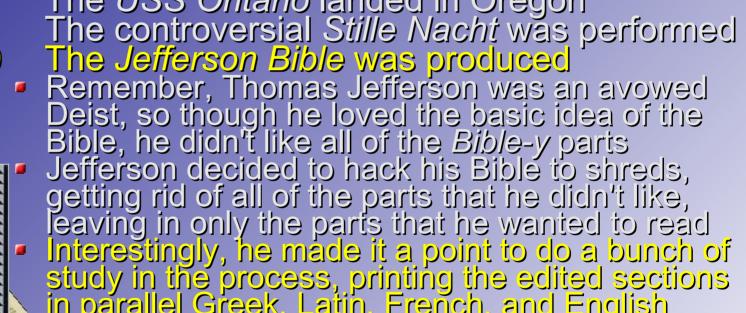




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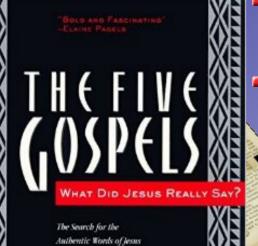
study in the process, printing the edited sections in parallel Greek, Latin, French, and English He also included maps that he'd found, various

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1818



ROY W. HOOVER.

AND THE JESUS SEMINAR

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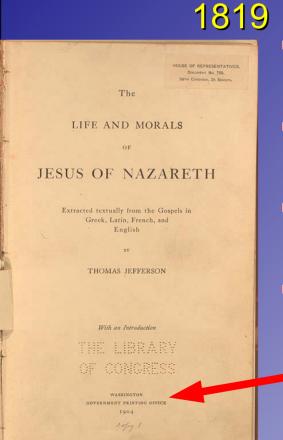
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But Jefferson only published the book for himself

But Jefferson only published the book for himself and the personal use of his friends and family

It wasn't published for mass consumption until 1895

though starting in 1904, Congress passed a law requiring that the book be printed by the Government Printing Office and given to every incoming member of Congress



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(Note: Oregon and Florida were only really "contested" because we'd flagrantly invaded both of them within the past calendar year...)

the past calendar year...)





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America acquired Oregon and Florida
Secretary of State John Quincy Adams took
advantage of the fact that Spain was struggling

So Adams made a deal with weakened Spain
The United States would take possession of the contested Oregon and Florida regions and Spain would take possession of Texas

(which wasn't really that much land for us

to have to turn over)

(Note: In addition, the United States would cover any residents' claims against Spain—which Spain couldn't pay—up to \$5,000,000)

(NOTE²: Upon taking possession of Florida in 1821, the U.S. also officially inherited the issue of dealing with the Seminoles...)



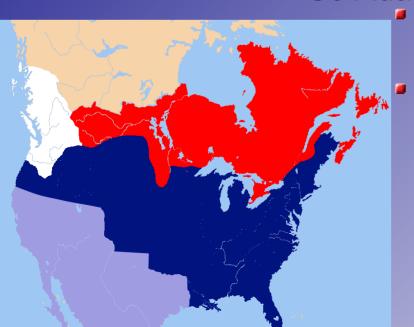


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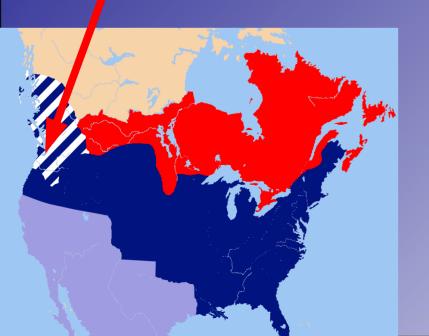
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advantage of the fact that Spain was struggling
So Adams made a deal with weakened Spain
The United States would take possession of
the contested Oregon and Florida regions
and Spain would take possession of Texas
So with one agreement, suddenly the United
States truly stretched across the continent,
with ports on both coasts
Not only did this give us more physical

Not only did this give us more physical land, but it also opened up trade with the Orient and with Russia



Funky little teaching moment—
Speaking of Russia, there's still that pesky Oregon territory that we were disputing with them about
Both countries now officially claimed the area for themselves—Russia because they'd been there for years, and America because of the even earlier British claim

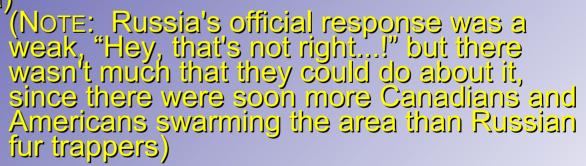
(and—let's be honest—because of the "we've got troops and warships who can get there faster" claim, thanks to Biddle and the USS Ontario)

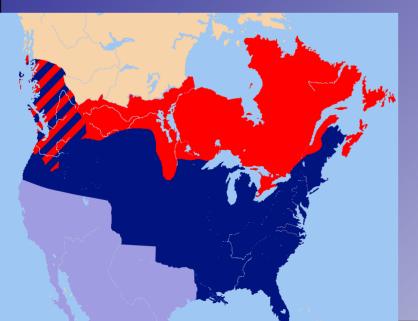




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Funky little teaching moment—
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So in 1818, the United States made a deal with England, sharing "joint custody" of the region and as a result of the treaty, eventually finalized the division by trading some land possessions and cutting the boundary across the 49th parallel

Suddenly, the borders of the United States should be looking quite a bit more familiar to your

familiar to you...





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1820 Joseph Smith received a vision

