5.1 Three Defining Questions on the Path to Civil War (1828–1850)



5.2 1828

Andrew Jackson and the Complexities of the 'Common Man'



The Champion

- Expansion of voting rights to nearly all white men
- Rise of mass rallies and party organization
- The 'Spoils System' to reward political supporters

The Critic's View

- Dubbed 'King Andrew' by opponents
- Staunch expansionist
- Committed slaveholder

5.3

1830–1832

The Clash Over Native Lands in the Southeast

The Executive Push

Indian Removal Act of 1830

Jackson authorizes the exchange of eastern Native land for territory west of the Mississippi River.

Andrew Jackson

The Judicial Resistance

Worcester v. Georgia (1832)

The Supreme Court explicitly rules that Georgia cannot extend its state laws over sovereign Cherokee land.

Jackson refuses to enforce the Supreme Court's ruling, clearing the path for forced removal.

5.4 1831–1839

The Relentless Tragedy of Forced Removal



1831
Choctaw Nation removed.

Post-1831
Creek, Chickasaw, and Seminole removed (some following protracted wars).

1835
A divided Cherokee Nation sees a minority faction sign the disputed Treaty of New Echota, rejected by most Cherokee.

1838–1839
The Trail of Tears.

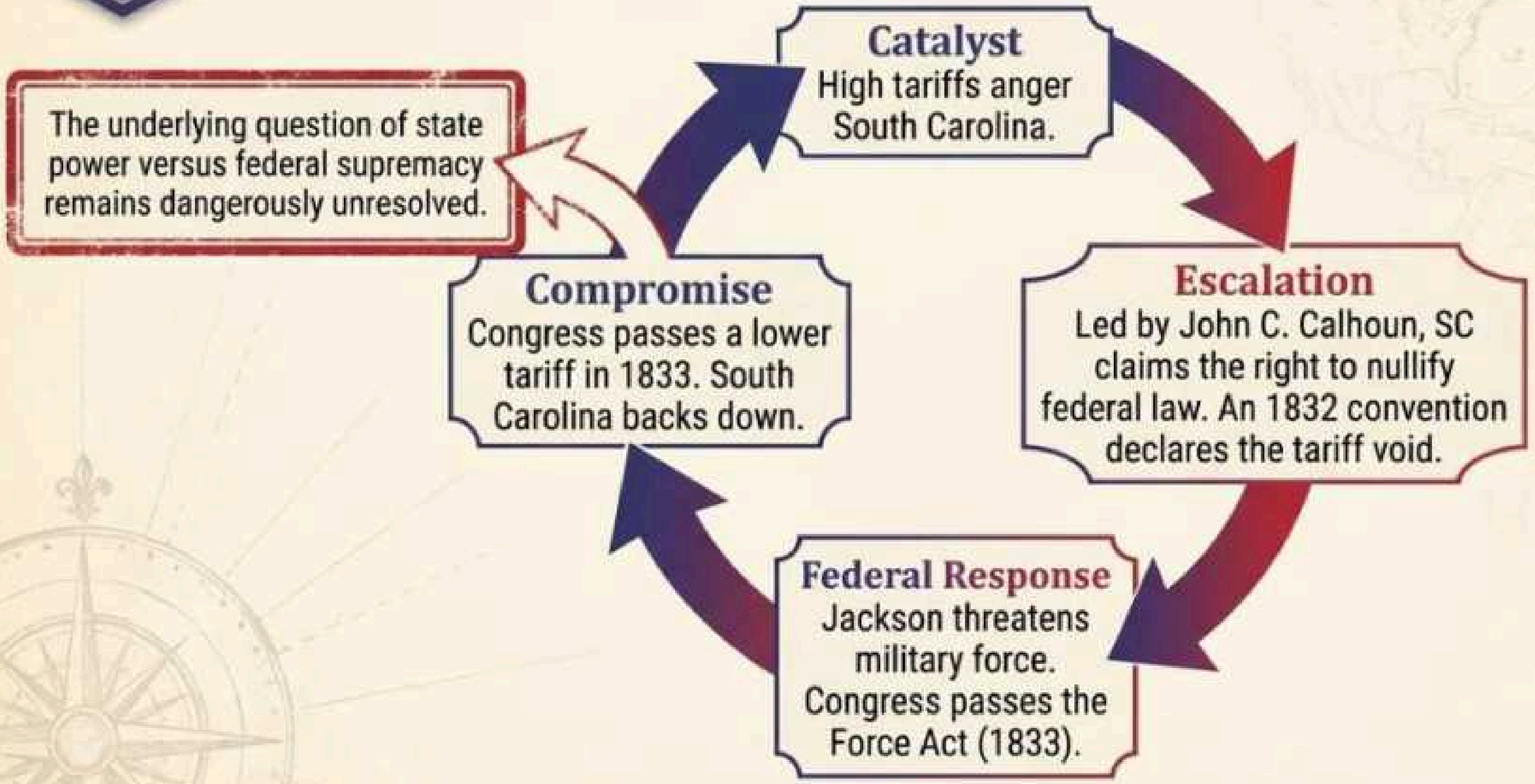
16,000
Cherokee forced west

~4,000
Deaths along the trail

5.5

1832–1833

The Nullification Crisis Tests Federal Supremacy

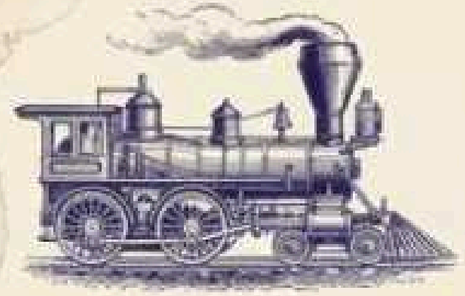


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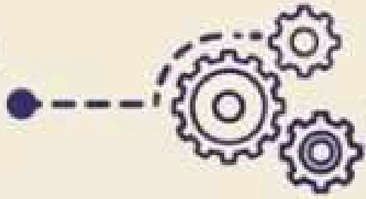
1830–1854

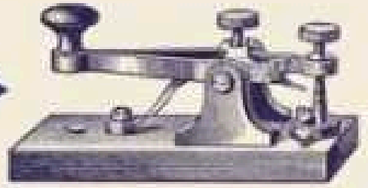
A Changing Nation Driven by Technology and Immigration

Technological Acceleration



1830: Baltimore and Ohio Railroad opens





1844: Samuel Morse sends the first long-distance telegraph message

Demographics & Backlash



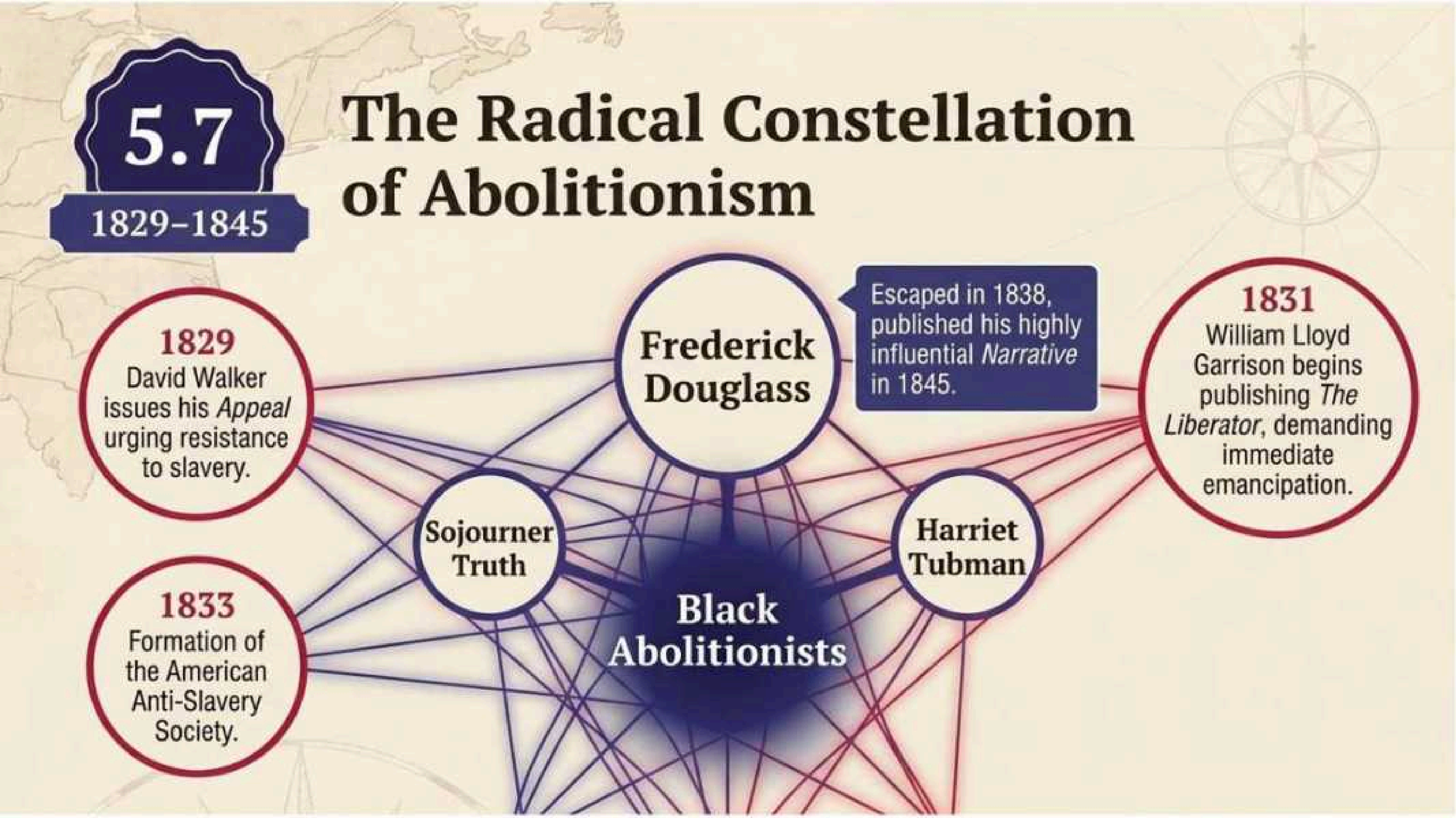
Beginning in 1845, famine in Ireland and political turmoil in Germany bring millions across the Atlantic.

Rise of nativist movements, culminating in the emergence of the Know-Nothing Party in 1854.

5.7

1829–1845

The Radical Constellation of Abolitionism



5.8

1831–1844

Rebellion, Retribution, and Systemic Suppression

The Action

Nat Turner's Uprising (August 1831, Southampton County, Virginia). Enslaved men lead a rebellion, killing approximately 60 white people.

The Immediate Reprisal

The rebellion is crushed. Retribution is swift and violent, with many Black people—including those entirely uninvolved—killed in reprisal.

The Systemic Reaction:

Southern states immediately pass tighter, highly restrictive laws. At the federal level, the U.S. House of Representatives institutes a "Gag Rule" (1836–1844) strictly blocking all petitions regarding slavery.

5.9

1837–1860

The Pro-Slavery Defense and Demographic Reality

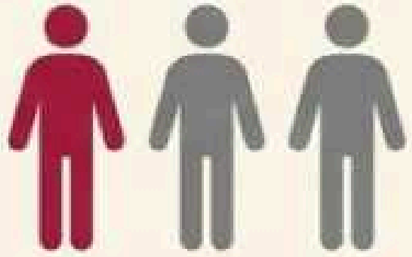
The Ideology

In 1837, **John C. Calhoun** labels slavery a **"positive good,"** an argument reinforced by ministers, professors, and politicians using **twisted biblical, historical,** and **"scientific"** justifications.

The Data by 1860

4,000,000

Total enslaved population



1 in 3 Southerners was an enslaved person.



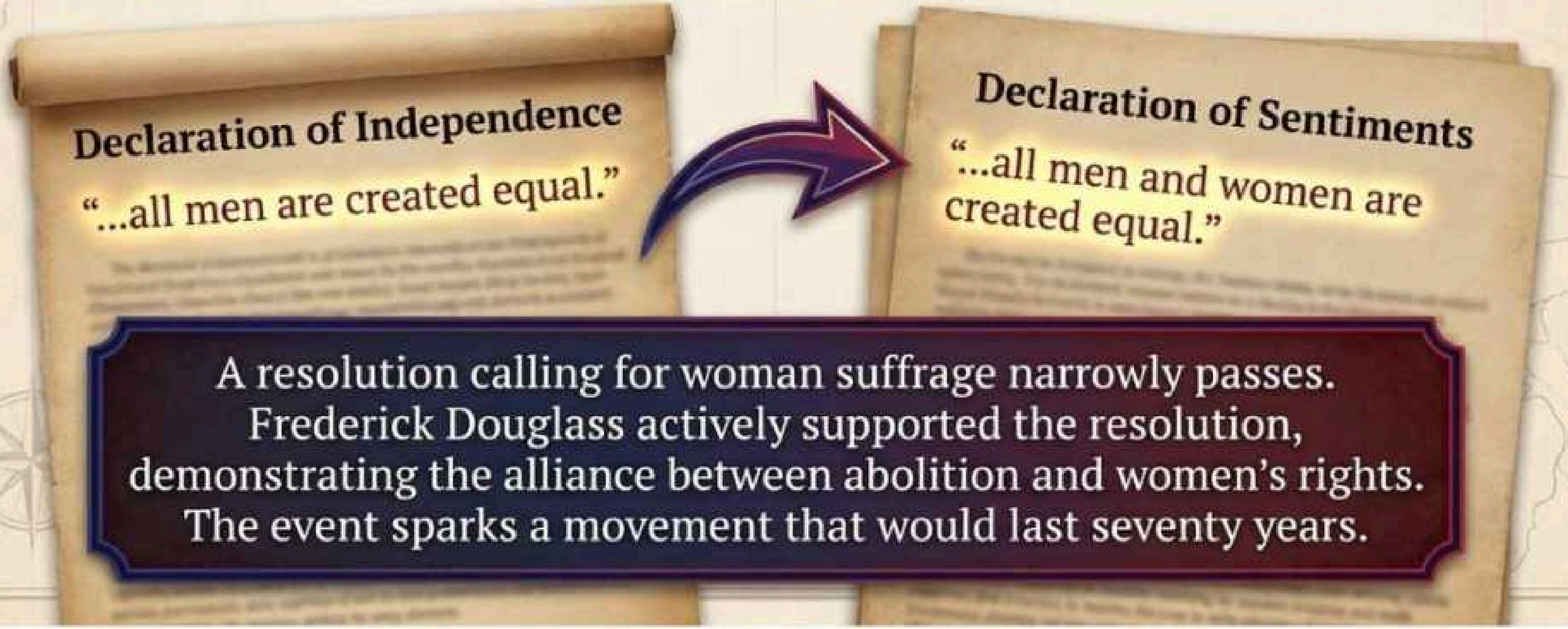
About a quarter (1 in 4) of white Southern families held slaves.

A slaveholding minority entirely dominated the region's wealth and political landscape.

5.10 July 1848

Seneca Falls and the Spark of Women's Rights

July 1848, New York.
Organized by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott.



A resolution calling for woman suffrage narrowly passes. Frederick Douglass actively supported the resolution, demonstrating the alliance between abolition and women's rights. The event sparks a movement that would last seventy years.

5.11 1829–1845

Texas and the Drive of "Manifest Destiny"

1829
(Mexican Territory)

Mexico officially abolishes slavery.



1836
(The Rebellion)

American settlers, many bringing enslaved workers, rebel.

Following the fall of the Alamo, Texas wins independence at San Jacinto.

1845
(Annexation)

Texas is officially annexed by the United States.

Journalist John O'Sullivan coins the term "Manifest Destiny" in 1845 to describe and justify this relentless westward growth.

5.12 1846–1848

Polk's Two-Front Expansion: Diplomacy and War



The North (Diplomacy)

1846. The Oregon boundary is peacefully settled with Britain at the forty-ninth parallel.



The South (War)

1846–1848. A dispute over the Texas border sparks the Mexican-American War.



The Dissent

Young Congressman Abraham Lincoln and writer Henry David Thoreau fiercely criticize the conflict as an aggressive war designed to acquire more slave territory.

5.13 1848–1849

The Spoils of War and the Rush for Gold



January 1848: Gold discovered

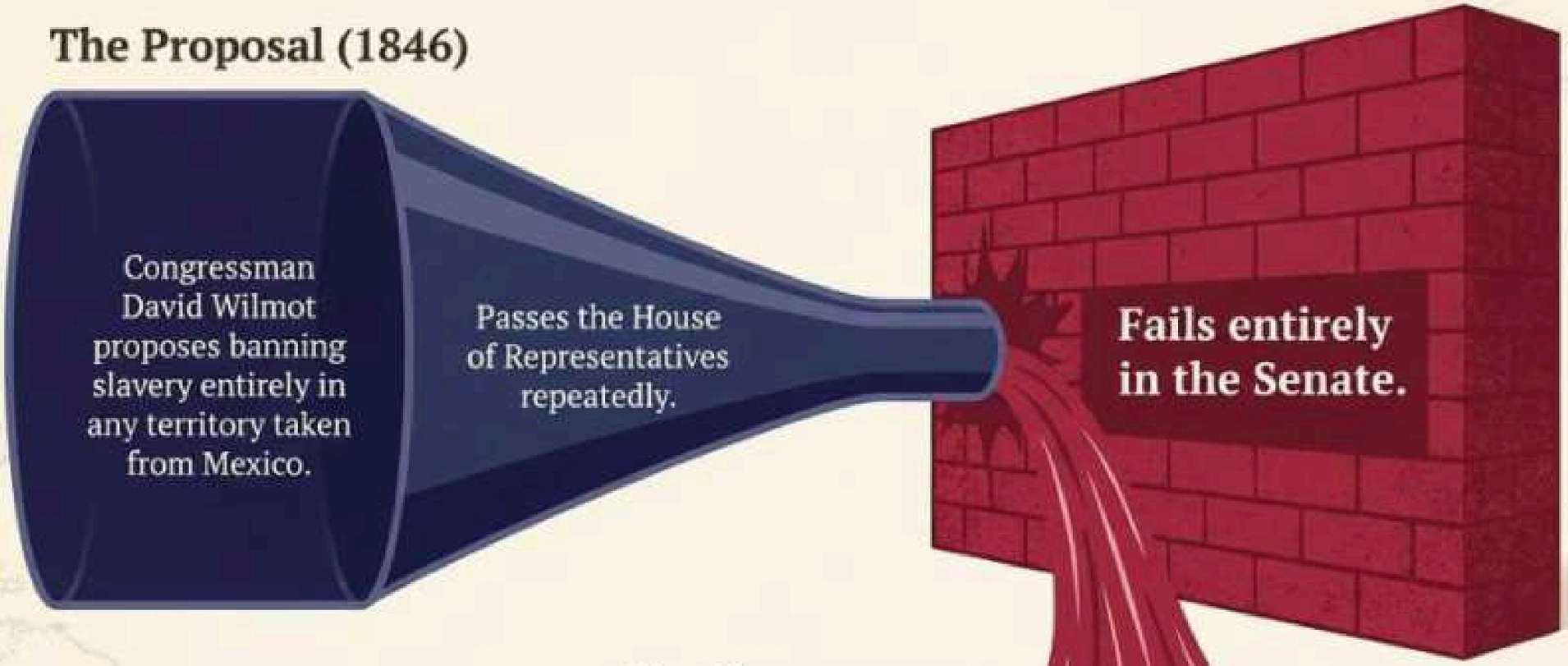
1849: Massive Gold Rush instantly fills the territory with settlers.

Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (1848)	
Territory Gained	The U.S. acquires California, Nevada, Utah, and parts of AZ, NM, CO, and WY (about half of Mexico's territory) for $15 million.
The Human Cost	Mexican residents living in the acquired territory are offered U.S. citizenship, though many ultimately lose their land.

5.14 1846–1848

The Wilmot Proviso: Can Slavery Spread West?

The Proposal (1846)



The Consequence

The failure nationalizes the issue. In 1848, the Free Soil Party emerges, running on a strict platform opposing the expansion of slavery.

5.15 1850

The Compromise of 1850: A Fragile Balance



5.16

1850–1852

The Fugitive Slave Act and Cultural Outrage

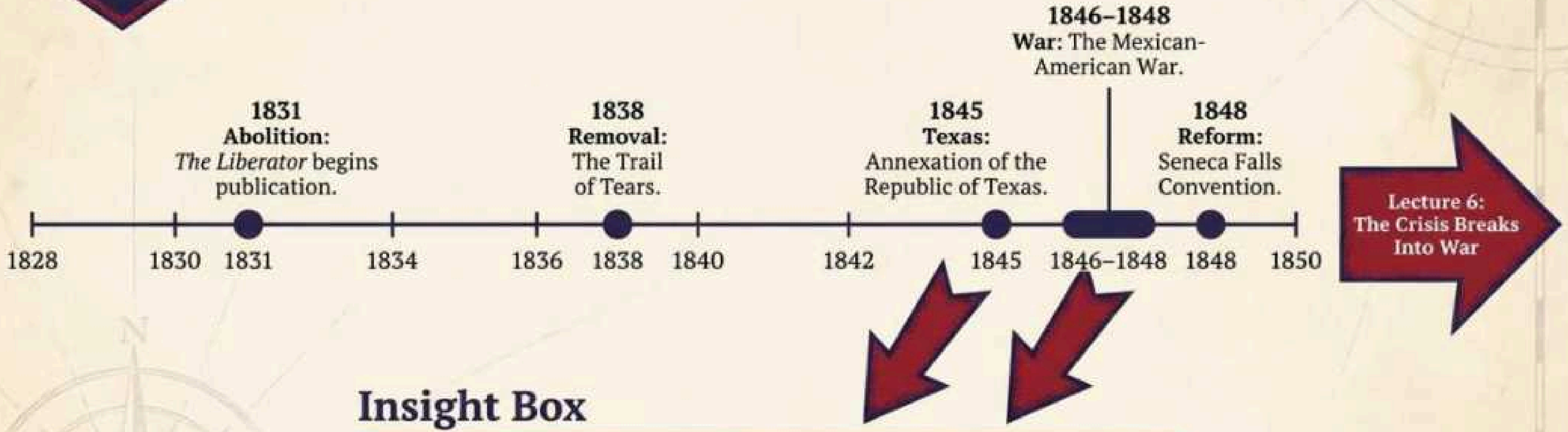


The Impact

The novel sells roughly 300,000 copies in its first year, turning millions of readers decisively against slavery. The 1850 compromise brings only a very short calm.

5.17

Tracing the Pattern: Expansion Forces the Crisis



Insight Box

Every instance of geographic expansion directly enlarged the reach of slavery, proving that westward growth forced the national crisis.