

SAN FRANCISCO

(Prepared by the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce)

HISTORICAL

San Francisco is located centrally on the coast in 37° 47' 22-25" N. Latitude and 122° 25' 40-76" W. Longitude and situated on a peninsula bounded on the west by the Pacific Ocean, the north and east by the Bay of San Francisco and on the south by wooded hills and fertile valleys. Its elevation extends from sea level to 965 feet. The city covers an area of about 45.2 square miles and is built principally on hills. The population as of January 1, 1939, amounted to 761,654.

The San Francisco Bay Region was discovered in July, 1769, by Don Gaspar de Portola's soldiers, who were seeking the Monterey Bay. In 1775 Don Manuel Ayala sailed the first ship through the Golden Gate into the San Francisco Bay. The San Carlos was the name of the vessel.

Years before, however, Sir Francis Drake brought his vessel, the Golden Hind, close to the Golden Gate and ran her ashore at what is now known as Drake's Bay. This was in 1579 and the first religious service in the English language was held on the Pacific Coast by the chaplain of the Golden Hind.

In 1776 a land expedition commanded by Colonel Juan Bautista de Anza arrived on the San Francisco peninsula and established the Presidio and the Mission Dolores. In 1777 Padre Junipero Serra, father of the California missions, arrived in San Francisco. The settlement was known as Yerba Buena until 1847, when it became San Francisco.

In 1806 the Russians attempted to establish themselves in and about San Francisco. They established a settlement at Fort Ross, near Santa Rosa, but after a few years gave it up, disposing of all movable fixtures and arms to Capt. John A. Sutter of Sacramento.

In 1846 war was declared by the United States on Mexico and on July 9, 1848, Capt. John B. Montgomery of the United States Navy arrived in the sloop-of-war "Portsmouth" and raised the American flag in what is now Portsmouth Square; thus without great excitement San Francisco passed from Spanish to Mexican and finally American rule.

San Francisco's greatest excitement perhaps came with the discovery of gold in 1848. People rushed here by every known mode of transportation and in thousands. The population increased steadily and the port became the most important on the Pacific Coast, which position it has steadily maintained.

Because of the number of lawless individuals during the fifties, the citizens organized the Vigilance Committee and after a short campaign succeeded in ridding the city of the law breakers.

GOVERNMENT

San Francisco has a combined City and County Government functioning as a Municipal Corporation, which began January 8, 1932, to operate under a new Charter (Freeholders). Under this new Charter the Legislative Powers are vested in a Board of Supervisors consisting of 11 members. The Administrative Powers are vested in a Mayor and a Chief Administrative Officer, the latter appointed by the Mayor. The people elect the Mayor, Assessor, Treasurer, Sheriff, Public Defender, Supervisors, District Attorney, City Attorney, Municipal and Superior Court Judges and the members of the Board of Education.

The salary of the Mayor is \$10,000 per year and the major Departments under him include the Police, Fire, Park, Recreation, and Library, the Art Commission, the Utilities Commission, Civil Service Commission, and City Planning Commission.

The Chief Administrative Officer, appointed by the Mayor, receives a salary of \$12,000 a year and has under him the following: Departments of Finance and Records, Purchasing, Real Estate, Department of Public Works, Department of Electricity, Street Traffic Advisory Board, Department of Public Health, County Welfare Department, Coroner's Office, Horticultural Inspection Department, and Department of Weights and Measures.

The Controller is responsible to the Mayor and is appointed by him subject to the confirmation and approval of the Board of Supervisors.

HARBOR AND COMMERCE

Centered in the San Francisco Bay Area, San Francisco is an important port of general commerce, handling a large and valuable domestic and foreign trade. It is the main gateway of commerce for the vast territory of the Central Pacific Coast Area and Intermountain States. The Bay extends from the Golden Gate to the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers on the northeast, and to a point near San Jose on the south, covering an area of 450 square miles. The deep-water commerce enters San Francisco Bay through the Golden Gate, which is but one mile wide, thus affording natural protection from the ocean to the waters of the San Francisco Bay. To this has been added the most comprehensive docking and berthing facilities, rail and freight connections, modern and well-equipped warehouses, etc. San Francisco harbor has 17.5 miles of berthing space and this is constantly being added to; there are 195.62 acres of pier and wharf area, with a capacity of 2,030,600 tons of cargo; 43 modern piers; facilities to dock the largest vessels; seven drydocks; 160 spur tracks; 66 miles of harbor trackage connecting piers and warehouses; car capacity for 3600 cars; 42 cranes, derricks and aeriels.

The harbor is controlled by the State of California and is governed by a board of harbor commissioners appointed by the Governor. Of the 43 piers, most of them are assigned to steamship companies having their own fleets and operating their own schedules. San Francisco harbor facilities are valued at \$100,000,000.

The water-borne commerce of San Francisco has trebled since pre-war days and now ranks second in value of all ports in the United States, and outranking all other Pacific Coast ports by nearly \$170,000,000 annually.

Arrivals and departures of vessels show the following increases:

	Registered Arrivals	Registered Tonnage	Registered Departures	Registered Tonnage
1923.....	6792	15,049,446	6830	14,802,870
1938.....	5140	17,248,061	5121	7,512,629
Exports during 1937 amounted to.....				\$136,024,000
Imports during 1937 amounted to.....				\$ 90,876,393

The principal exports by value are bulk oil, dried and canned fruits, cotton, machine parts, barley, fresh fruits, auto parts, and canned fish.

The principal imports are coffee, copra, paper, burlap and whiskey.

The 1938 report of the U. S. Army Engineers shows the distribution of the cargo tonnage, domestic and foreign, during 1937 as follows:

Total tonnage, San Francisco Bay.....	28,812,967 Tons
Foreign tonnage	4,328,550 "
Inland waterway tonnage	7,952,590 "
Domestic Coastwise and Interoastal tonnage	16,531,827 "

Besides the movement of commodities by water, there is a large rail traffic in San Francisco; during 1937 it reached 217,949 carloadings and unloadings, not including less-than-carload business.

San Francisco is also the ocean port for the great inland empire of California, 500 miles in length, 50 miles wide and containing 16,100,000 acres of irrigable land, 5,000,000 acres of which is under irrigation. Approximately 33 per cent of the tonnage of the port is received from points on the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers, which drain a large portion of the "back country."

San Francisco is the port of call for 177 steamship lines.