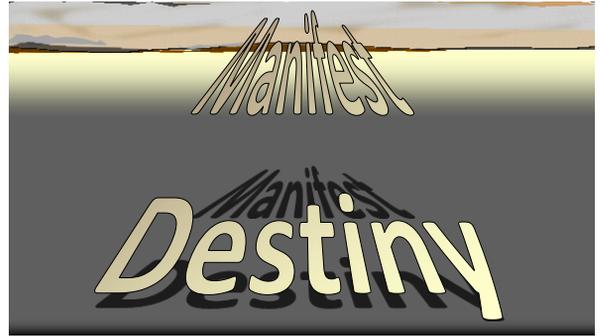
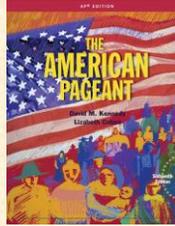


## Chapter 17

*Manifest Destiny  
and Its Legacy,  
1841–1848***"Manifest Destiny"**

- First coined by newspaper editor, **John O'Sullivan** in 1845.
- *".... the right of our **manifest destiny** to over spread and to possess the whole of the continent which Providence has given us for the development of the great experiment of liberty and federative development of self-government entrusted to us. It is right such as that of the tree to the space of air and the earth suitable for the full expansion of its principle and destiny of growth."*
- A myth of the West as a land of romance and adventure emerged.

## I. The Accession of "Tyler Too"

- Whig party:
  - Wm. H. Harrison, a Whig, elected in 1841 and John Tyler elected Vice-President
    - Cabinet: Secretary of State—Daniel Webster
    - Henry Clay in Senate, uncrowned king of Whigs
  - Harrison contacted pneumonia and died after only four weeks in office:
    - By far shortest administration in American history but longest inaugural address

I. The Accession of "Tyler Too"  
(cont.)

- John Tyler:
  - "Tyler too" party of Whig ticket, now claimed spotlight
  - Stubbornly attached to principle
  - Resigned earlier from Senate, rather than accept distasteful instructions from Virginia legislature
  - Left Jacksonian Democrats for Whigs
  - Enemies accused him of being a Democrat in Whig clothing
  - Tyler was at odds with majority of Whigs

I. The Accession of "Tyler Too"  
(cont.)

- Whig party platform:
  - Pro-bank, pro-protective tariff, and pro-internal improvements.
- "Tyler too" rhymed with "Tippecanoe," but there harmony ended.
- Harrison, the Whig, served for only four weeks, whereas Tyler, the ex-Democrat but largely a Democrat at heart, served for 204 weeks.

## II. John Tyler: A President Without a Party

- Whigs platform:
  - Outlined a strongly nationalist program
  - Financial reform came first:
    - Whig Congress passed law ending independent treasury system
    - President Tyler, disarmingly agreeable, signed it
    - Clay drove through Congress a bill for a “Fiscal Bank” which would create a new Bank of the United States
    - Clay—the “Great Compromiser”—would have done well to conciliate Tyler

## II. John Tyler: A President Without a Party (cont.)

- Tyler vetoed bill on both practical and constitutional grounds
- Whig leaders tried again, passing another bill providing for a “Fiscal Corporation”
- Tyler again vetoed the offensive substitute
- Democrats were jubilant
- Whig extremists condemned Tyler as “His Accidency” and “Executive Ass”
  - He was formally expelled from his party
  - Entire cabinet resigned, except Secretary of State Webster, then in midst of delicate negotiations with England

## II. John Tyler: A President Without a Party (cont.)

- Proposed Whig tariff:
  - Tyler vetoed bill
  - He disagreed with Whig scheme for distributing to states revenue from sale of public lands in West
  - He believed this would squander federal money
- Chastened Clayites redrafted tariff bill:
  - Removed dollar-distribution scheme
  - Lowered rates to moderately protective level of 1832—roughly 32% on dutiable goods
  - Tyler reluctantly signed **Tariff of 1842**

## Trends in Antebellum America: 1810-1860

1. New intellectual and religious movements.
2. Social reforms.
3. Beginnings of the Industrial Revolution in America.
4. Re-emergence of a second party system and more political democratization.
5. Increase in federal power → Marshall Ct. decisions.
6. Increase in American nationalism.
7. Further westward expansion.

“American Progress” by John Gast, 1872





### The Pony Express

The Pony Express advertisement features a central illustration of a rider on a horse. To the right is a map of the United States showing the route from St. Joseph, Missouri to California. Below the map are several circular postmarks. The text of the advertisement includes:

**PONY EXPRESS**  
 ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI TO CALIFORNIA  
 in 10 days or less.

- Between April, 1860 and Nov., 1861.
- Delivered news and mail between St. Louis, MO and San Francisco, CA.
- Took 10 days.
- Replaced by the completion of the trans-continental telegraph line.

**WANTED**  
 YOUNG, SKINNY, WIRY FELLOWS  
 not over eighteen. Must be expert riders, willing to risk death daily. Orphans preferred.  
 Wages: \$25 per week.  
 APPLY: PONY EXPRESS STABLES  
 St. JOSEPH, MISSOURI.

### IV. Manipulating the Maine Maps

- Maine boundary dispute:
  - St. Lawrence River icebound several months of year:
    - As defensive precaution, British wanted to build a road west from seaport Halifax to Quebec
    - Road would go through disputed territory claimed by Maine
    - Aroostook War** threatened to widen into full war

### Aroostook "War," 1839

- The only war ever declared by a state.
  - Between the Canadian region of New Brunswick and the state of Maine.
  - Cause:** The expulsion of Canadian lumberjacks in the disputed area of Aroostook by Maine officials.
- Congress called up 50,000 men and voted for \$10,000,000 to pay for the "war."
- General Winfield Scott arranged a truce, and a border commission was convened to resolve the issue.

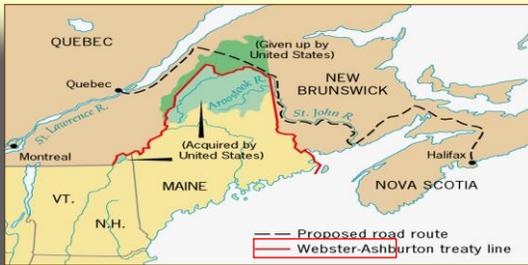
### IV. Manipulating the Maine Maps (cont.)

- Britain sent to Washington a nonprofessional diplomat, Lord Ashburton, who established cordial relations with Secretary Webster
  - They agreed to compromise on Maine boundary A split-the-difference arrangement:
    - Americans retained 7,000 square miles of 12,000 square miles of wilderness in dispute
    - Britain got less land but won desired Halifax-Quebec route

### IV. Manipulating the Maine Maps (cont.)

- Caroline** affair patched up by exchange of diplomatic notes
- Bonus in small print:
  - British, in adjusting U.S.-Canadian boundary farther West, surrendered 6,500 square miles
  - Area later found to contain priceless Mesabi iron ore of Minnesota

## Maine Boundary Settlement, 1842



## Texas Independence (1836-1845)

### A Clash of Cultures (cont.)



The first Texas land grant went to Moses Austin in 1821. ↓

He agreed to bring a number of settlers to Texas, but died before he could organize the project. ↓

After Moses died, his son Stephen F. Austin recruited 300 settlers to live on land along the Brazos and Colorado Rivers in Texas.



### A Clash of Cultures (cont.)

Mexico wanted to encourage settlers from many places, not just the United States, to settle in Texas. ↓

To attract new settlers, Mexico passed laws giving cheap land to people who promised to learn Spanish, convert to Catholicism, and obey Mexican law. ↓

But most Texas settlers continued to be Americans who declined to adopt Mexican ways.

### A Clash of Cultures (cont.)

By 1830 there were more Americans than Mexicans in Texas. ↓

Alarmed by the number of Americans, and aware that the United States wanted to acquire Texas, Mexico forbade further immigration from the United States to Texas, and discouraged trade with the United States by taxing American goods.

### A Clash of Cultures (cont.)

Texans were angered by the ban on American immigration and the taxes on trade. ↓

Stephen F. Austin went to Mexico City to ask Mexico's president, Antonio López de Santa Anna, to remove the settlement ban and make Texas a separate state. ↓

He agreed to the first demand but not the second.

### A Clash of Cultures (cont.)

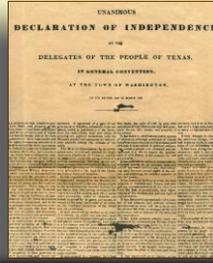
Soon thereafter, Santa Anna declared himself dictator and overthrew Mexico's 1824 constitution. ↓

These actions encouraged an increasing number of American settlers in Texas to seek independence.



Antonio de Padua María Severino López de Santa Anna y Pérez de Lebrón

### Texas Declaration of Independence



When a government has ceased to protect the lives, liberty and property of the people, from whom its legitimate powers are derived, and for the advancement of whose happiness it was instituted, and so far from being a guarantee for the enjoyment of those inestimable and inalienable rights, becomes an instrument in the hands of evil rulers for their oppression.

When the Federal Republican Constitution of their country, which they have sworn to support, no longer has a substantial existence, and the whole nature of their government has been forcibly changed, without their consent, from a restricted federative republic, composed of sovereign states, to a consolidated central military despotism, in which every interest is disregarded but that of the army and the priesthood, both the eternal enemies of civil liberty, the ever ready minions of power, and the usual instruments of tyrants.

### Key Figures in Texas Independence, 1836



Sam Houston  
(1793-1863)



Stephen Austin  
(1793-1836)

### The Struggle for Independence



The first fight of the Texan Revolution occurred in October 1835 at the town of Gonzales. ↓

After this skirmish, Texans asked for volunteers to help them fight Mexico. ↓  
In December the Texans scored their first important victory as they liberated San Antonio from a larger Mexican force.



### The Struggle for Independence

Santa Anna, furious at the loss of San Antonio, marched north to retake the settlement and found only a small force barricaded inside a nearby mission called the Alamo. ↓

The defenders at the Alamo, including Davy Crockett and Jim Bowie, held off with rifle fire the larger and better-armed Mexican force for 12 days.

### The Struggle for Independence

On March 6, 1836, after Mexican cannon fire smashed the Alamo's walls, Mexican soldiers attacked, killing almost everyone inside. ↓

"Remember the Alamo" became a rallying cry for Texas rebels during the rest of the war with Mexico.



### Remember the Alamo!



### Davey Crockett's Last Stand



### The Battle of the Alamo



Title: Painting, "Dawn at the Alamo," by Henry Arthur McArdie, hanging in the Senate Chamber of the Texas State Capitol in Austin, Texas

### The Battle of San Jacinto



### The Republic of Texas



### V. The Lone Star of Texas Shines Alone

- Texas's precarious existence:
  - Mexico:
    - refused to recognize Texas's independence
    - regarded Lone Star Republic as a province in revolt to be reconquered in future
    - Mexican officials threatened war if U.S.A. ever annexed Texas

## V. The Lone Star of Texas Shines Alone (cont.)

- Threatened by Mexico, Texas maintained costly military defense
- Texas also negotiated with Britain & France to secure a defensive shield of a protectorate:
  - In 1839 and 1840, Texans concluded treaties with France, Holland, and Belgium.
- Britain & France interested in an independent Texas to help block further American expansion

## V. The Lone Star of Texas Shines Alone (cont.)

- Other foreigners interested in Texas:
  - British abolitionists hoped to end slavery in Texas
  - British merchants regarded Texas as important free-trade area—an offset to tariff-walled United States
  - British manufacturers hoped Texas could produce enough cotton to reduce Britain's chronic dependence on American fiber

### The Oregon Trail – Albert Bierstadt, 1869



## VII. Oregon Fever Populates Oregon

- Oregon Country:
  - Geography
    - From Rockies to Pacific Ocean, north of California to 54° 40' (present southern tip of Alaska panhandle)
  - Claimed at one time or another by Spain, Russia, Britain, and the United States
  - Two claimants dropped out of competition:
    - Spain through Florida Treaty of 1819
    - Russia retreated to 54° 40' line by treaties of 1824 & 1825

## VII. Oregon Fever Populates Oregon (cont.)

- British claims to Oregon were strong:
  - Especially portion north of Columbia River
  - Based on:
    - Prior discovery and exploration
    - Treaty rights
    - Actual occupation
    - Colonizing agency Hudson's Bay Company
- American claims to Oregon:
  - Exploration and occupation
  - Captain Robert Gray (1792) stumbled onto Columbia River, which he named after his ship

## VII. Oregon Fever Populates Oregon (cont.)

- Famed Lewis and Clark expedition of 1804-1806
- Presence of missionaries and other settlers, some of whom reached Willamette River valley
  - Missionaries, in trying to save the soul of the Indians, were instrumental in saving the soil of Oregon for United States
  - They stimulated interest in a faraway domain that many Americans earlier assumed would not be settled for centuries
- Scattered Americans and British pioneers lived peacefully side by side

### VII. Oregon Fever Populates Oregon (cont.)

- Anglo-American Convention of 1818 (Chap. 12):
  - United States wanted to divide at forty-ninth parallel
  - British wanted Columbia River as dividing line
  - A scheme for peaceful "joint occupation" was adopted, pending future settlement
  - Handful of Americans in Willamette Valley was multiplied in early 1840s by "Oregon fever"

### VII. Oregon Fever Populates Oregon (cont.)

- Over 2,000 mile Oregon Trail (1846) five thousand Americans had settled south of Columbia River
- British could only muster seven hundred north of Columbia River
- Actually only a relatively small area was in dispute by 1845:
  - Americans proposed line @ forty-ninth parallel
  - British again offered line at Columbia River
  - Issue now tossed into presidential election of 1844, where it became overshadowed by question of annexing Texas

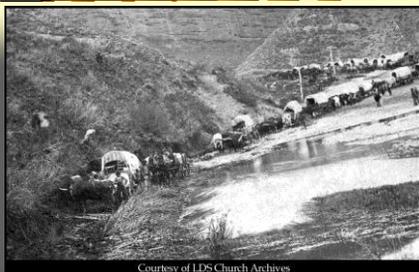
On the Oregon Trail



Covered Wagons About to Cross a Stream on the Oregon Trail, 1843



Mormon Wagon Train, Utah, 1873

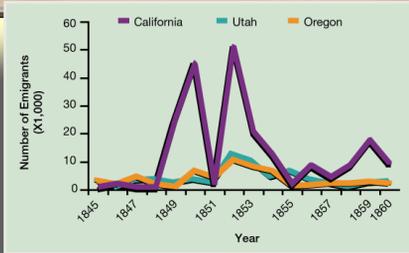


Courtesy of LDS Church Archives

### Trails Westward

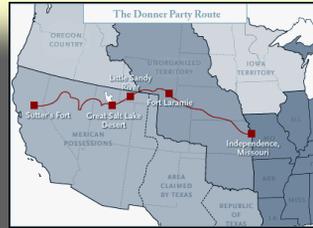


**Overland Emigration to Oregon, California & Utah, 1840–1860**



Between 1840 and 1860, more than 250,000 people made the trek westward

**The Doomed Donner Party**



April, 1846 – April, 1847



**The Doomed Donner Party**

**CANNIBALISM !!**



Margaret Breen Patrick Breen John Breen



James Reed & Wife

Of the 83 members of the Donner Party, only 45 survived to get to California!

**The Oregon Dispute: 54' 40" or Fight!**

- By the mid-1840s, "Oregon Fever" was spurred on by the promise of free land.
- The joint British-U. S. occupation ended in 1846.



*The Mexican War (1846-1848)*

**VI. The Belated Texas Nuptials**

- Texas became a leading issue in 1844 presidential campaign:
  - Foes of expansion assailed annexation
  - Southern hotheads cried, "Texas or Disunion"
  - Pro-expansion Democrats under James K. Polk defeated Whigs
  - Lame duck president Tyler interpreted narrow Democratic victory as "mandate" to acquire Texas
  - Tyler deserves credit for shepherding Texas into fold

### VI. The Belated Texas Nuptials (cont.)

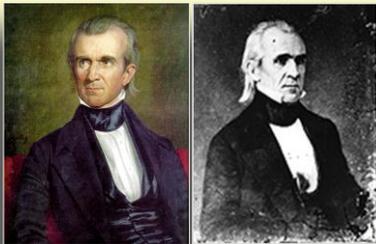
- Despairing of securing necessary 2/3 vote in Senate for a treaty, Tyler sought annexation by joint resolution
- After spirited debate, resolution passed in 1845, and Texas formally invited to become 28<sup>th</sup> state
- Mexico angrily charged Americans had despoiled it of Texas
- But clear by 1845 that Mexico would not be able to retake Texas

### VI. The Belated Texas Nuptials (cont.)

- By 1845 Lone Star Republic had become a danger spot:
  - Invited foreign intrigue that menaced American people
  - Continued existence of Texas as independent nation threatened to involve United States in wars
  - United States can hardly be accused of haste in achieving annexation

### MEXICAN - AMERICAN WAR: Causes

- Election of 1844
- James K. Polk
- U.S. Annexation of Texas, 1845



President James K. Polk (1845-49)

**The Capitol in 1846**  
(Earliest known photograph, probably by John Plum)

Did you notice that Photography is becoming more common  
How does this affect the way History might be recorded?

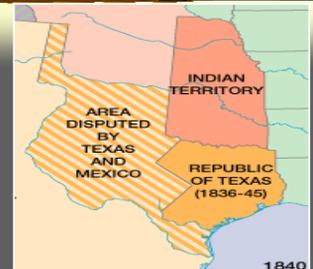
**The White House in 1846**

### X. Misunderstandings with Mexico

- Faraway California was another worry for Polk:
  - Diverse population: Spanish Mexicans; Indians; some “foreigners” (mostly Americans)
  - Given time these transplanted Americans might bring California into the Union
  - Polk was eager to buy from Mexico
  - Mexico owed United States some \$3 million for damages to American citizens and their property
  - More serious contention was Texas
  - Deadlocked with Mexico over Texas’s boundaries

### MEXICAN - AMERICAN WAR: Causes

- Election of 1844
- James K. Polk
- Annexation of Texas, 1845
- Texas boundary dispute
  - Nueces River
  - Rio Grande River
- War (May 13, 1846)



## War With Mexico

The annexation of Texas by the United States in 1845 worsened relations between Mexico and the United States, which had already been bad for years. ↓

The two countries also could not agree on the border between Texas and Mexico. ↓

The United States placed the border at the Rio Grande, while Mexico claimed it was at the Nueces River, 150 miles farther north.

## X. Misunderstandings with Mexico

- Texas wanted boundary at Rio Grande River
- Mexico sought boundary at Nueces River
- Polk careful to keep U.S. troops out of no-man's-land - 150 mile section between the two "borders"
- California continued to cause Polk anxiety:
  - Rumors—British wanted to buy or seize California
    - Americans could not accept under Monroe Doctrine
  - Polk dispatched John Slidell to Mexico City (1845):
    - To offer \$25 million for California and territory to east
    - Mexico would not even permit Slidell to present his offer

## The Slidell Mission: Nov., 1845



- Mexican recognition of the Rio Grande River as the TX-US border.
- US would forgive American citizens' claims against the Mexican govt.
- US would purchase the New Mexico area for \$5,000,000.
- US would California at any price.

John Slidell

## XI. American Blood on American (?) Soil

- Polk decided to force a showdown:
  - January 13, 1846, he ordered 4,000 men:
    - Under General Zachary Taylor to march from Nueces River to Rio Grande hoping for a clash
    - When nothing happened, he informed cabinet (May 9, 1846) that he proposed to declare war because of:
      - Unpaid claims
      - Slidell's rejection
    - News of bloodshed arrived same night
    - Mexican troops crossed Rio Grande and met Taylor
    - Mexican soldiers attacked some of Taylor's troops in this disputed area on April 24, 1846.

## XI. American Blood on American (?) Soil (cont.)

– Polk sent vigorous war message to Congress:

- Congress overwhelmingly voted for war
- In message to Congress, Polk was making history—not writing a balanced account
- **Spot resolution**—by Abraham Lincoln demanded information as to precise "spot" on American soil where American blood had been shed



## War With Mexico (cont.)

Some Americans opposed war with Mexico. ↓

Abraham Lincoln, a member of Congress, thought Taylor's troops had been attacked in Mexican territory, meaning there were no grounds for retaliation or war. ↓

Some people, such as antislavery activist Frederick Douglass, feared that expansion into the West would carry slavery with it.




Frederick Douglass  
Original Tintype photo and one later  
Colorized—does it make a difference?

### XI. American Blood on American (?) Soil (cont.)

- Did Polk provoke war?
  - California was imperative in his program
  - Mexico would not sell it at any price
  - Polk wanted California, so he pushed quarrel to bloody showdown
  - Both sides were spoiling for a fight
  - Both sides were fired by moral indignation
  - Mexicans wanted to fight "Bullies of the North"
  - Many Americans sincerely believed Mexico was aggressor

### XII. The Mastering of Mexico

- Polk wanted California—not war:
  - When war came, he wanted to fight on a limited scale and then pull out when he captured prize
  - Santa Anna convinced Polk that he would betray Mexico, but he then drove his countrymen to a desperate defense of their soil

Many Americans turned their anger on Mexico, and on May 11, Congress declared war on Mexico.

### War With Mexico (cont.)

- Polk had a **three-part plan** to win the war with Mexico. ↓
- First, drive Mexican troops out of the disputed territory in Texas north of the Nueces River and secure the Texas border ↓
  - Second, seize New Mexico and California ↓
  - Third, capture Mexico's capital, Mexico City

### XII. The Mastering of Mexico (cont.)

- American operations in Southwest & California completely successful Both General Stephen Kearny and Captain John Frémont had success in West
  - Frémont collaborated with American naval officers and local Americans who hoisted banner of short-lived **California Bear Flag Republic**

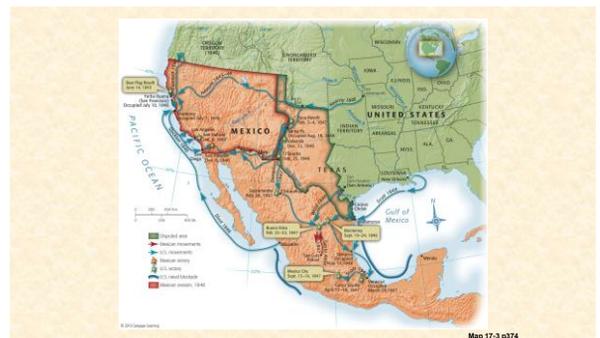
### The Bear Flag Republic



John C. Frémont  
Remember this Guy!



The Revolt → June 14, 1845





### XII. The Mastering of Mexico (cont.)

- General Taylor defeated Mexicans in several battles and then reached **Buena Vista** (February 22-23, 1847):
  - Here his 5,000 troops repulsed attack by 20,000 troops under Santa Anna
  - Taylor became "Hero of Buena Vista"
  - Taylor, however, could not defeat Mexico decisively in semi-deserts of northern Mexico
  - Need a crushing blow at enemy's vitals—Mexico City

### Battle of Buena Vista (1847)

Buena Vista, Battle of Buena Vista, lithograph by Currier & Ives, c. 1847. Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. (Digital file no. cph 3q02957)

General Winfield Scott

### General Zachary Taylor at Palo Alto

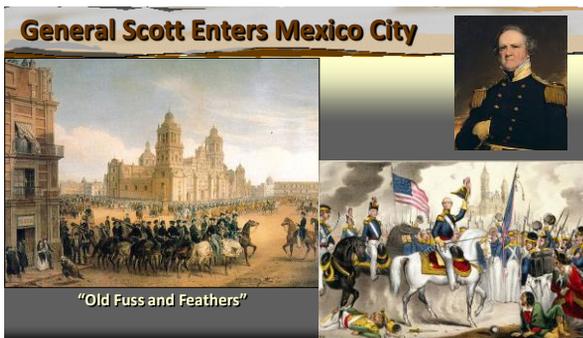
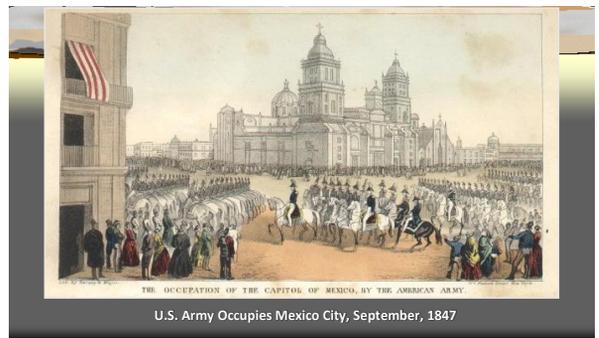
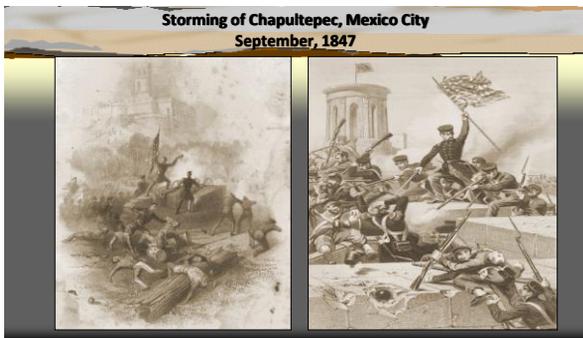
"Old Rough and Ready"

### The Bombardment of Vera Cruz

U.S. Forces Land at Vera Cruz, Mexico, March 9, 1847

## XII. The Mastering of Mexico (cont.)

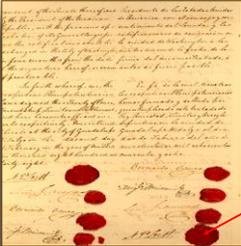
- General Winfield Scott succeeded in battling his way to Mexico City by Sept., 1847
  - One of most brilliant campaigns in U.S. history
  - Scott proved to be most distinguished U.S. general between American Revolution and Civil War

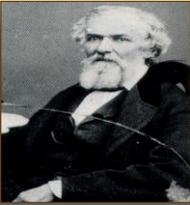


## XIII. Fighting Mexico for Peace

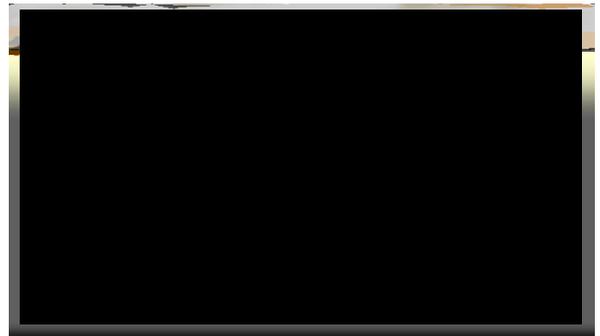
- Scott and chief clerk of State Department Nicholas Trist arranged:
  - Armistice with Santa Anna (cost \$10,000)
  - Polk ordered Trist home, but he wrote a 65-page letter explaining why he could not come home
  - Trist signed **Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo** on February 2, 1848, forwarded it to Washington

## Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo, 1848





Nicholas Trist,  
American Negotiator



## Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo, 1848

The Treaty was basically forced on Mexico!

- Mexico gave up claims to Texas above the Rio Grande River.
- Mexico gave the U. S. California and New Mexico.
- U. S. gave Mexico \$15,000,000 and agreed to pay the claims of American citizens against Mexico (over \$3,500,000).

## XIII. Fighting Mexico for Peace (cont.)

- **Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo:**
  - Confirmed American title to Texas
  - Yielded enormous area stretching to Oregon, the ocean, embracing California
  - Total expanse was about 1/2 of Mexico
  - United States agreed to pay \$15 million for land and to assume claims of its citizen against Mexico (amount = \$3,250,000)

## XIII. Fight Mexico for Peace (cont.)

- Polk submitted treaty to Senate:
  - Antislavery Whigs in Congress—dubbed “Mexican Whigs” or “**Conscience Whigs**”—denounced “damnable war”
  - Another peril impended:
    - A swelling group of expansionists clamored for all of Mexico
    - If America had seized it, she would have been saddled with an expensive and vexatious policing problem

## XIII. Fight Mexico for Peace (cont.)

- Victors rarely pay an indemnity:
  - Polk arranged to pay \$18,250,000 after winning
  - Critics claimed Americans had guilty conscience
  - Apologists pointed proudly to “Anglo-Saxon spirit of fair play”

#### XIV. Profit and Loss in Mexico

- As wars go, Mexican War a small one:
  - Cost 13,000 American lives, most by disease
  - Fruits of war were enormous:
    - America's total expense was increased by 1/3
    - Proved to be blood-spattered schoolroom for Civil War
    - Campaigns provided priceless experience for army
    - Navy valuable in blockading Mexican ports

#### XIV. Profit and Loss in Mexico (cont.)

- Marine Corps won new laurels and to this day sings in its stirring hymn about the “Halls of Montezuma”
- Army waged war without defeat and without a major blunder
- Opposing armies emerged with increased respect for each other
- Mexicans never forgot that U.S.A. tore away about 1/2 of their country
- **Marked an ugly turning point in relations between United States and Latin America**

#### XIV. Profit and Loss in Mexico (cont.)

- War aroused slavery debate that not stop until Civil War
- David Wilmot of Pennsylvania introduced amendment that slavery should never exist in any territories wrested from Mexico
- **Wilmot Proviso** never became law, but:
  - Endorsed by legislatures of all but one of free states
  - Came to symbolize burning issue of slavery in territories
- More than any other issue, debate over slavery in new western lands divided North & South
- From perspective of history, opening shots of Mexican War were opening shots of Civil War

#### Wilmot Proviso, 1846

*Provided, territory from that, as an express and fundamental condition to the acquisition of any the Republic of Mexico by the United States, by virtue of any treaty which may be negotiated between them, and to the use by the Executive of the moneys herein appropriated, **neither slavery nor involuntary servitude shall ever exist in any part of said territory, except for crime, whereof the party shall first be duly convicted.***



Congr. David Wilmot (D-PA)

#### Anti-Catholic Feelings



Who is immigrating to America on the east Coast in the early 1800s? Now what has just happened to American Culture, language, and religion now that we have added lands after the Mexican American War?

#### Results of the Mexican War?

1. The 17-month war cost \$100,000,000 and 13,000+ American lives (mostly of disease).
2. New territories were brought into the Union which forced the explosive issue of SLAVERY to the center of national politics.
  - \* Brought in 1 million sq. mi. of land (incl. TX)
3. These new territories would upset the balance of power between North and South.
4. Created two popular Whig generals who ran for President.
5. Manifest Destiny partially realized.

### Gen. Zachary Taylor



- > Hero of Mexican War
- > Elected President in 1849
- > 2<sup>nd</sup> President to die in office, 1850

### First War Fought by Graduates of U.S. Military Academy, West Point



- Robert E. Lee
- George G. Meade
- William T. Sherman
- Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson
- Ulysses S. Grant
- George McClellan

## Unresolved Issues & Unresolved Issues New Opportunities

### Free Soil Party

Free Soil!  
Free Speech!  
Free Labor!  
Free Men!

- "Barnburners" – discontented northern Democrats.
- Anti-slave members of the Liberty and Whig Parties.
- Opposition to the extension of slavery in the new territories!

**WHY?**



### The 1848 Presidential Election



Candidate	Electoral Vote	Popular Vote	Percent of Popular Vote
Zachary Taylor (Whig)	163	1,360,967	47.4
Lewis Cass (Democrat)	127	1,222,342	42.5
Martin Van Buren (Free-Soil)	—	291,263	10.1



### The Mexican Cession



Territory ceded by Mexico to U.S., 1848

Claim waived by Texas, 1850

REPUBLIC OF TEXAS (1836-1845)

UNITED STATES

MEXICO

PACIFIC OCEAN

Gulf of Mexico

Scale: 0 100 200 miles / 0 100 200 Kilometers

### GOLD! At Sutter's Mill, 1848



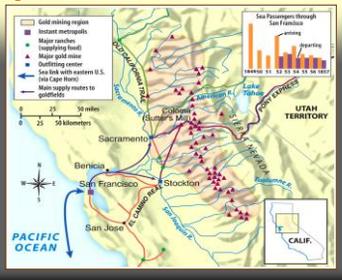

John A. Sutter

### California Gold Rush, 1849



**49er's**





### Digging for Gold in California



### Chinese Immigrants

For most Chinese immigrants of the 1850s, San Francisco was only a transit station on the way to the gold fields in the Sierra Nevada. By the late 1850s there were 15,000 Chinese mine workers in the "Gold Mountains" or "Mountains of Gold" (Cantonese: Gam Saan, 金山).

Because of a hostile climate, Chinese miners developed a basic mining approach that differed from the white European gold miners. While the Europeans mostly worked as individuals or in small groups, the Chinese formed large teams, which protected them from attacks and, because of good organization, often gave them a higher yield. To protect themselves even further against attacks, they preferred to work areas that other gold seekers regarded as unproductive and had given up on. Because much of the gold fields were exhaustingly gone over until the beginning of the 20th century, many of the Chinese remained far longer than the European miners. In 1870, one-third of the men in the Californian gold fields were Chinese.



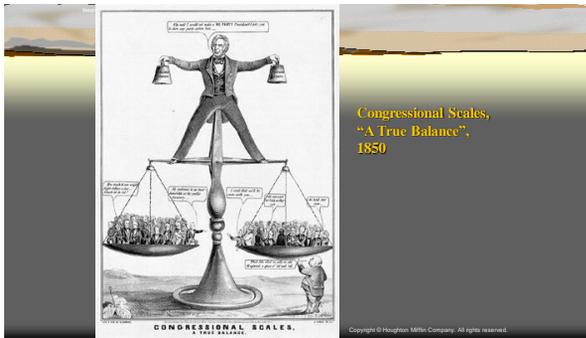
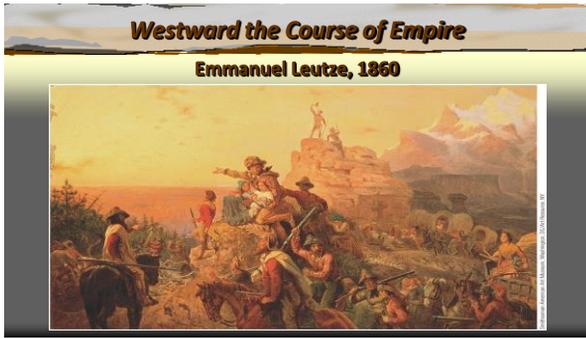
### Two Views of San Francisco, Early 1850s

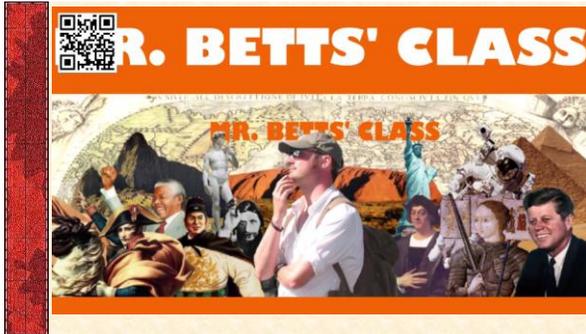



- By 1860, almost 300,000 people had traveled the Oregon & California Trails to the Pacific coast.

### Territorial Growth to 1853

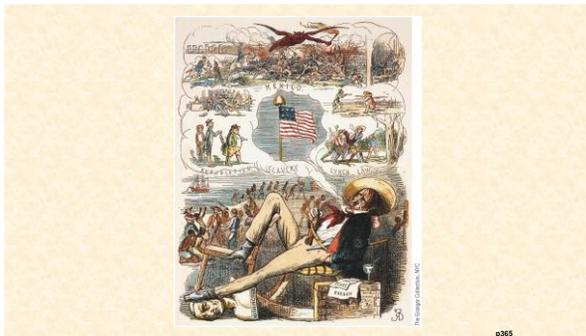






### III. A War of Words with Britain

- Anti-British passions:
  - At bottom lay bitter memories of two Anglo-American wars
  - Pro-British Federalists had died out
  - British travelers wrote negatively about American customs in travel books
  - Writings touched off "Third War with England"
  - Fortunately this British-American war fought on paper broadsides; only ink was spilled



### III. A War of Words with Britain (cont.)

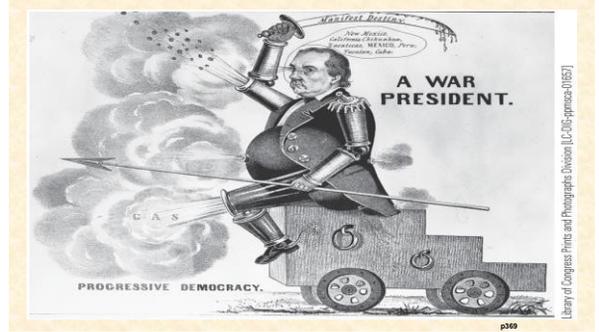
- America a borrowing nation:
  - Expensive canals to dig and railroads to build
  - Britain, with overflowing coffers, was a lending nation
  - During panic of 1837, several states defaulted on bonds or repudiated them altogether
- 1837—short-lived insurrection erupted in Canada
  - Hot-blooded Americans furnished military supplies or volunteered for armed service
  - Washington regime tried to maintain neutrality

### III. A War of Words with Britain (cont.)

- But it could not enforce unpopular laws in face of popular opposition.
- Provocative incident on Canadian frontier brought passions to boil in 1837:
  - American steamer, *Caroline*, was carrying supplies to insurgents across Niagara River
  - Attacked by British and set on fire
  - Craft sank short of falls, but one American was killed
- Unlawful invasion of American soil had alarming aftermaths.

### III. A War of Words with Britain (cont.)

- In 1840 a man, McLeod, who confessed to being involved in *Caroline* raid, was arrested and indicted for murder
- London made clear his execution would mean war
- Fortunately, McLeod freed after establishing alibi
- Tensions renewed in 1841 when British officials in Bahamas offered asylum to 130 Virginian slaves who had rebelled and captured American ship *Creole*
- Britain had abolished slavery within empire in 1833, raising southern fears that its Caribbean possessions would become Canada-like havens for escaped slaves



### VIII. A Mandate (?) for Manifest Destiny

- Two major parties nominated their standard-bearers in May 1844:
  - Whigs selected Henry Clay
  - James Polk (Tennessee) chosen by Democrats—America's first “dark horse”
- Campaign an expression of **Manifest Destiny**:
  - Sense of mission, believing God had “manifestly” destined U.S.A. for career of hemispheric expansion

### VIII. A Mandate (?) for Manifest Destiny (cont.)

- Expansionist Democrats:
  - Strongly swayed by Manifest Destiny
  - Platform: “Reannexation of Texas” and “Reoccupation of Oregon” all the way to 54° 40’
  - “All of Oregon or None” (Slogan “**Fifty-four forty or fight**” not coined until two years later)
  - Condemned Clay as “corrupt bargainer,” dissolute character, and slaveowner

### VIII. A Mandate (?) for Manifest Destiny (cont.)

- The Whigs:
  - Countered with their own slogans
  - Spread lie that a gang of Tennessee slaves had been on way to slave market branded with initials J.K.P. (James K. Polk)
  - Clay “straddled” crucial issue of Texas:
    - While he personally favored annexing slaveholding Texas (an appeal to South), he also favored postponement (an appeal to North)

### VIII. A Mandate (?) for Manifest Destiny (cont.)

- Election results:
  - Polk nipped Clay 170 to 105 votes in Electoral College
  - 1,338,464 to 1,300,097 in popular vote
  - Clay would have won if he had not lost New York State by a mere 5,000 votes:
    - Tiny antislavery **Liberty Party** absorbed nearly 16,000 votes that would have gone to Clay
  - Democrats proclaimed they received a mandate from voters to take Texas

### IX. Polk the Purposeful

- President James Polk:
  - Not an impressive figure
  - His workload increased by his unwillingness to delegate authority
  - Methodical and hard-working but not brilliant
  - Shrewd, narrow-minded, conscientious, persistent
  - Developed a four-point program, and with remarkable success achieved it completely in less than four years

### IX. Polk the Purposeful (cont.)

- Polk's four-point program:
  - Lower tariff
    - Secretary of Treasury, Robert Walker, devised tariff-for-revenue bill that reduced average rates of Tariff of 1842 from 32% to 25%
    - With strong support from low-tariff southerners, **Walker Tariff** bill made it through Congress
    - Complaints came from middle states and New England (see Table 17.1)
    - Bill proved to be excellent revenue producer

**TABLE 17.1** House Vote on Tariff of 1846

Region	For	Against
New England	9	19
Middle states	18	44
West and Northwest	29	10
South and Southwest	58	20
Total	114	93

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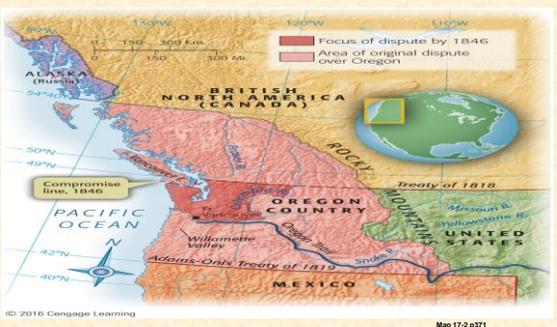
Table 17.1 p371

### IX. Polk the Purposeful (cont.)

- Restore independent treasury:
  - Unceremoniously dropped by Whigs in 1841
  - Pro-bank Whigs in Congress raised storm of opposition, but Polk successful in 1846
- Third and fourth points on Polk's "must list" were acquisition of California and settlement of Oregon dispute (see Map 17.2)

### IX. Polk the Purposeful (cont.)

- Settlement of Oregon dispute:
  - "Reoccupation" of "whole" had been promised to northern Democrats in 1844 campaign
  - Southern Democrats, once Texas annexed, cooled off
  - Polk, feeling bound by three offers of his predecessor to London, proposed line at 49°.
  - British anti-expansionists now believed that Columbia River was not St. Lawrence of West
  - Britain in 1846 proposed line at 49°



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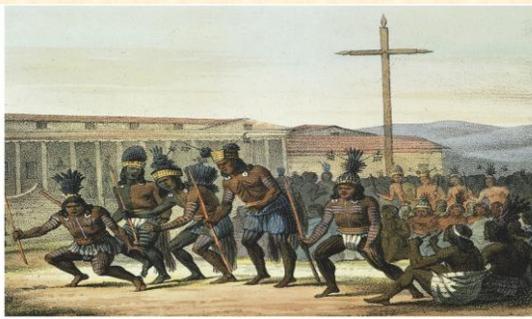
Map 17.2 p371

## IX. Polk the Purposeful (cont.)

- Polk threw decision to Senate
- They speedily accepted offer and subsequent treaty
- Satisfaction with Oregon settlement among Americans not unanimous
- Polk, despite all the campaign bluster, got neither “fifty-four forty” nor a fight
- He got something that in the long run was better: a reasonable compromise without a rifle raised



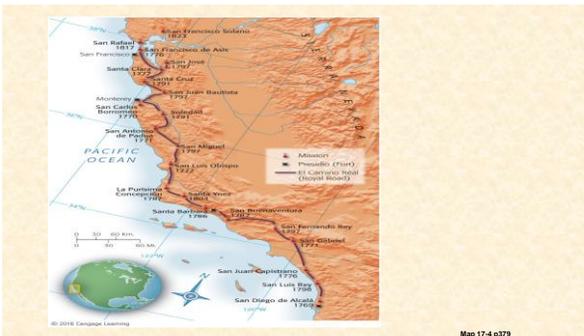
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© The Art Institute of Chicago, The Field House, 1842, by John Henry



Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County



CHRONOLOGY	
1837	Canadian rebellion and <i>Caroline</i> incident
1839	“Aroostook War” breaks out over Maine boundary
1840	Antislavery Liberty party organized
1841	Harrison dies after four weeks in office Tyler assumes presidency
1842	Webster-Ashburton treaty
1844	Polk defeats Clay in “Manifest Destiny” election
1845	United States annexes Texas
1846	Walker Tariff Independent treasury restored United States settles Oregon dispute with Britain United States and Mexico clash over Texas boundary Kearny takes Santa Fe Frémont conquers California Wilmot Proviso passes House of Representatives
1846-1848	Mexican War
1847	Battle of Buena Vista Scott takes Mexico City
1848	Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo

