

Chapter 13 - Manifest Destiny and the Mexican American War

The Independence of Texas

- 1819 Adams-Onís Treaty guaranteed Spanish sovereignty over Texas
- 1821 Mexican government - now independent - encourages settlement into Texas
- 1836 War Party faction in Texas proclaims independence, adopts a constitution.
General Santa Anna wipes out the war party garrison at the Alamo and captures Goliad
War Party led by Sam Houston, defeats the Mexicans at San Jacinto

De facto Independence

Presidents Jackson and Van Buren refuse annexation of Texas due to slavery controversy

Manifest Destiny

1845 John L. O'Sullivan coins phrase "Manifest
Destiny"

Oregon - 42° north to 54°40' - disputed
territory

"Oregon fever" rages in the U.S.

California - attractive to Americans

1844 Election Year

Southerners - annex Texas and expand slavery

Northerners - demand 54°40' - or FIGHT!

Whigs - nominate Henry Clay

Democrats - nominate James K. Polk

Polk wins - Congress moves to annex Texas

The War with Mexico, 1846-1848

1845 Texas Republic accepted American statehood in 1845

Mexico breaks diplomatic relations with the United States.

President Polk orders General Zachary Taylor to disputed lands between the Nueces River and the Rio Grande.

Polk sends John Slidell to Mexico City to secure Texas boundary and to buy California.

Mexican officials refuse to see Slidell and declare annexation of Texas illegal.

"American Blood shed on American Soil"

Mexicans clash with General Taylor - Polk blames Mexicans

Congress declares war over Whig objections

Polk avoids war with Britain - Oregon Territory is divided at 49°

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A Divisive Victory

"Conscience Whigs" War was a slavery conspiracy!

Wilmot Proviso (1846) - killed in Senate

Northerners begin to join a new "free-soil" movement - Slavery was a threat to Republicanism and yeoman farmers

Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (1848)

US pays Mexico \$15 million for Texas, New Mexico and California

The issue: what is the status of slavery in the new territories?

Popular Sovereignty becomes the political answer