

* II. Westward Expansion of the United States

- Manifest Destiny

= desire of many Americans to expand the U.S. west, from Atlantic to Pacific coast

= “predetermined destiny” to control North America (expand west)

= Darwinism – survival of the fittest (expand west)



Expansionists did not care about Mexicans or Native Americans, whom they saw as inferiors to be pushed out of the way.

Southern expansionists also hoped to add new slave states to strengthen their position in Congress.



Expansionists saw Mexican independence as an opportunity to take New Mexico, Texas, and California.

*<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bs2w4lwQRtc>

***School House Rock
Manifest Destiny**

* 1. Texas War for Independence (1836)

1. Santa Fe Trail (1821) = leads Americans to Spanish Southwest
result = Mexicans invite Americans led by Stephen Austin to Texas (part of Mexico)

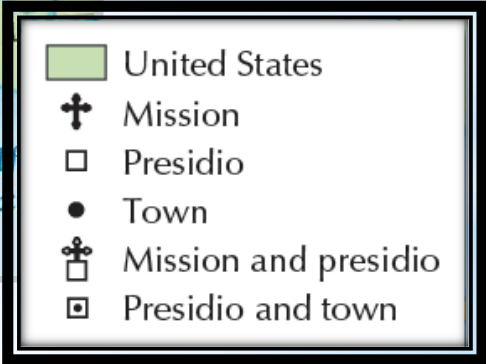
2. Santa Anna (1832) = becomes Mexican dictator and hates Americans
results

= stops more Americans from settling in Texas

= forbids slavery in Texas

= Texans must become Roman Catholic (no religious freedom)





Spanish Territory, 1820

3. Texas Revolts Against Santa Anna (1836)

results

- = 187 Texans led by Davie Crockett, James Bowie, and William Travis hold off the Mexican army at the Alamo – this allows the Texan army to form
- = Texan army is inspired by the courage of the men at the Alamo (“Remember the Alamo!”)



* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qehVsQFRSGM>

* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vAMZQLAQAYQ>

* Battle of the Alamo Video



- In 1835, Texans declared independence for the **Lone Star Republic.**
- Santa Anna personally led a siege of Texan forces at the **Alamo** in San Antonio.
- After twelve days, he stormed the mission and **executed any surviving defenders,** including Jim Bowie and Davy Crockett.

Several weeks later, Santa Anna took **Goliad** and again executed prisoners, in an attempt to frighten Texas into surrender.



Instead, Santa Anna created a set of martyrs. "**Remember the Alamo,**" became the Texans' rallying cry.

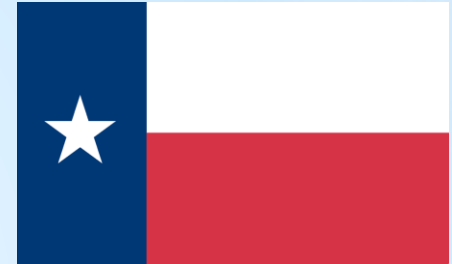
Many Southerners were inspired to volunteer and joined the Texans.

4. Battle of San Jacinto (1836)

- Texas General, Sam Houston beats the Mexican army and wins independence

results

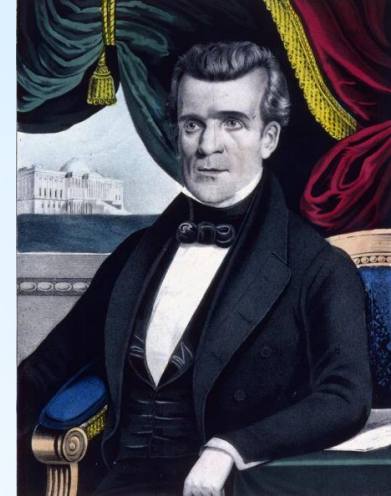
- = “Lone Star Republic – nickname of Texas
- = Texas was not allowed to join the U.S. – northern states feared Texas would be a giant slave state
- = 1845 – Texas is annexed (taken over) by the U.S. and made a state



COMPROMISE OF 1850

In 1844, expansionist **James K. Polk** was elected president on a promise to obtain both Oregon and Texas.

In Congress, northern Democrats reluctantly agreed to annex Texas if all of Oregon was also added.



Britain did not concede all of the territory. Rather than fight, Polk made a deal to split Oregon and extend the 49th parallel border with Canada to the Pacific Ocean. Northerners felt betrayed.

The United States annexed Texas in 1845, leading to war with Mexico.

- President Polk claimed all land as far as the **Rio Grande**, tripling the previous size of Texas.
- **General Zachary Taylor** was sent to occupy these border lands.
- Mexico objected to the granting of statehood to Texas and saw statehood as an **invasion of Mexican territory**.

* 2. Mexican War (1846-1848)

a. Causes

1. The U.S. allowing Texas to become a state angers Mexico
2. Dispute over the Texas border
 - Texas = border is the Rio Grande River
 - Mexico = border is the Nueces River

result

- = President Polk sent General Zachary Taylor (“Old Rough & Ready”) into disputed area knowing Mexico would fight



Purchase of the Mexican Cession caused a debate over the expansion of slavery.



- In 1846, the **Wilmot Proviso** proposed a **ban on slavery in the territories** obtained from Mexico.
- The Proviso passed in the House, but failed in the Senate. Both Whigs and Democrats voted along sectional lines.
- The Proviso **brought the issue of slavery before Congress**, which had tried avoid the topic for decades.

*b. Battles of the Mexican War

- Mexico is much weaker than the U.S. and loses every battle results

=1847 – Buena Vista – General Zachary Taylor wins this battle (later becomes President)

=1848 – General Winfield Scott captures Mexico City to end fighting



* c. Treaty of Guadeloupe - Hidalgo (1848)

- ends the Mexican War

results

= U.S. wins California and entire southwest

= Rio Grande becomes border of Texas

This contributes to U.S. Manifest Destiny and Westward Expansion.



* According to this resolution,
what is one reason the
Massachusetts legislature