

Reflect

Answer the Qs in the margin.

Why do you think that Americans felt justified in expanding the border to the Pacific Ocean?

How hawkish do you think Polk was, and why do you feel this way?

"The war was contrived." How can you justify this statement?

Focus Question: What trends in westward expansion were taking shape in the United States by 1850?

Manifest Destiny & the Mexican-American War

James K Polk and Manifest Destiny

- Struggling to create a stronger global presence, US policymakers (.....) sought to dominate North America
- Manifest Destiny (US expansion in North America) built on belief of racial superiority and sense of American cultural superiority
- James K and Democrats advocated "Manifest Destiny" (God-supported US expansion)
- The possible annexation of was major campaign issue (Clay was inconsistent on the issue and he lost election)
- (.....) James K. Polk and his expansionist ideas won the election
- Polk wanted to annex Texas and knew it might cause war with
- (1845) Polk invited Texas to be state
- Once Texas was acquired few southern Democrats cared about further expansion
- Polk wanted to acquire and settle the Oregon dispute
- Oregon was (stretching from northern CA to the 54°40' line)
- British claims were strong north of the River (populated by Brits and claimed by Hudson's Bay Company)
- US had strong claims south of Columbia River (lots of Americans lived there thinks to Trail)
- Britain proposed treaty separating British and American claims at parallel (excluding Vancouver) and Polk accepted it

The Mexican-American War

- Polk wanted-owned California (a diplomatic solution less likely given annexation of Texas)
- US sent John Slidell to Mexico City prepared to offer up to \$..... million for CA (he was ignored)
- Border between Mexico and US undefined (Texas claimed itsat the Rio Grande and not the Nueces River like Mexico)
- (Jan, 1846) Polk sent 4000 men under Zachary to march from the Nueces River to the Rio Grande (near Mexican troops)
- (April, 1846) news of Mexican troops crossing Rio Grande and killing or wounding Americans reached Polk
- Polk called for a declaration of on Mexico
- declared war (the Mexican-American War began)
- Polk hoped to beat Mexico enough so they would CA

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How devastating to the US was the war?

What impression of the US did this war give to other foreign powers?

Who was Santa Anna, & what was his "Revenge"?

- The recently dethroned Santa Anna promised the US if he returned to power he would end war and give US CA (he)
- Operations under Stephen Kearny captured
- John successfully led the Bear Flag Revolt in CA in 1846
- General Zachary Taylor pushed into Mexico with 5,000 men and defeated 20,000 Mexican troops at Vista
- General Winfield led US troops into Mexico City
- Polk sent Nicholas Trist to negotiate an with Mexico
- Trist negotiated the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (Feb,)
- Mexico gave US all land of the Rio Grande from CA to TX (cost only \$15 million)
- Some people in US wanted to end the war (northerners) while others wanted of Mexico (many Southerners)
- Polk speedily passed the bill to the who approved it 38 to 14
- US lost 13,000 soldiers in the war (most by)
- The war proved a practicing ground for the War (Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee)
- With no major blunders regarding Mexico, other countries now U.S. militarily
- The acquisition of new territory in the West after the Mexican-American War led to a heated controversy over allowing or forbidding in these territories
- As overcultivation depleted arable land in the Southeast, slaveholders sought to relocate agricultural enterprises to the new Southwest (..... sectional tensions)
- Northerners proposed the Wilmot Proviso hoping to slavery in the lands gained from Mexico
- The Wilmot Proviso passed House of Reps. (controlled by) twice but not the Senate
- Mexico lost ½ its land in the war but took satisfaction that this land helped cause Civil War in U.S. ("Santa Anna's")

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SUMMARY- Summarize your notes using at least 4 complete sentences:
