

AP US History

Chapter 13 - The Impending Crisis

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Key Concepts

What are this chapter's key concepts?

- **5.1.I.A** - Sought for natural resources → settlers migrated Westward; sought econ./relig. opportunities
- **5.1.I.B** - Manifest Destiny justified expansion to Pacific Ocean
- **5.1.I.C** - U.S. added large territories in West after winning in Mexican-American War → questions about slavery, American Indians, Mexicans
- **5.2.I.A** - North's economy required free labor, South required slave labor; some Northerners only objected economically → free soil movement arguing that slavery was incompatible w/ free labor
- **5.2.I.C** - Slavery defendants focused on racial superiority based on Constitution
- **5.2.II.A** - Mexican Cession → sectional crisis as to whether to allow slavery in territories
- **5.2.II.B** - Courts/national leaders posed variety of solutions to resolve slavery, but ultimately unsuccessful
- **5.2.II.C** - Second Party System ended after slavery/nativism → sectional parties w/o strong alliances to either one

Looking Westward

What were the critical effects of westward expansion?

Driven by Manifest Destiny, based around racial and political superiority, Americans migrated throughout the territory of modern America. Some migrated to Mexican Texas to form a new cotton kingdom, ultimately defeating Mexico's military dictator to declare independence for Texas; annexation by the United States was not immediate and native Mexicans were often ostracized. Oregon, too, was initially only inhabited by fur traders, but soon became a missionary hotbed and thousands flocked over the Oregon Trail to reach it; along with those who travelled to Santa Fe trail to Mexico, the westward migrants seeking to exploit America's economic freedom faced many hardships but enjoyed the collectivity of a larger group and a transplantation of American society.

What was the concept of Manifest Destiny?

- Expansion argued to benefit rest of society (never self-ish)
- Beyond pol. pride: racial justification w/ superiority of white "American race" w/ "nonwhites" excluded
 - O'Sullivan argued "racial purity" was critical
- Spread throughout nation by "penny press": inexpensive newspapers
- Advocates never uniform in goals w/ some seeking modern U.S., others Canada/Mexico/Carib., some entire world
 - Some saw necessity of force
- Others feared potential for revival of sectional conflict (valid concern)

Manifest Destiny reflected a growing pride in American nationalism with an idealistic vision of social perfection stimulating reform. Several argued it was never selfish, instead benefiting the inferior "nonwhites" in the rest of society.

What stimulated Americans to migrate to Texas?

- U.S. claimed Texas as Louisiana Purchase but renounced in 1819; Mexico had rejected two requests for purchase
- Early 1820s: MX government encouraged American migration to Texas to increase tax revenues, create buffer between natives and southern Mexicans, convert American loyalty to Mexico
 - Thousands migrated due to rich soil for cotton; many brought slaves
- Most settlers migrated due to intermediaries, receiving land grants from Mexico in exchange for bringing settlers
 - Stephen Austin most successful: first legal American settlement in Texas but created power source competing with Mexican govt.
 - 1826: one of intermediaries led revolt to establish independent state of Fredonia but quickly crushed
- 1833: Mexicans issued useless immigration ban: Americans had outnumbered Mexicans significantly

After the Mexican government opened American migration to Texas for increased tax revenue and for a buffer between Mexicans and the northern natives, migrants poured in through intermediaries, who received large land grants and encouraged settlers to migrate.

How did tensions develop between the United States and Mexico?

- Friction grew due to continuing migration, conflicting laws on slavery (MX govt. made illegal in TX)
 - Some Americans sought peaceful settlement, others war for independence
- Mid-1830s: General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna took over Mexico, establishing autocracy
 - Stricter laws increasing national power; Texans felt directly targeted, with even Austin imprisoned in Mexico City due to fear of revolt
 - By 1836, Americans declared independence from Mexico → Santa Anna brought army
 - * Rebels disorganized on true leader → destroyed at Alamo w/ very light defense; Goliad, too, annihilated
 - * General Sam Houston remained strong, defeating Mexican army at Battle of San Jacinto, taking Santa Anna prisoner → signed independence

Friction emerged as migration increased and immigrants disagreed with restrictive Mexican slavery laws. After Santa Anna, a military dictator, took over Mexico, establishing stricter nationalist laws, Americans declared independence and, despite some initial losses, ultimately triumphed over the Mexicans under the command of Sam Houston.

How did Texas develop soon after declaring independence?

- Mexican residents of Texas ("Tejanos") supported independence in war but mistrusted by Americans → mostly driven out or given subordinate status
- American Texans sought U.S. annexation - first president, Sam Houston, sent delegates to Wash. to offer joining Union
 - Some opposition in U.S. due to large slave territory, increase of Southern votes in Congress
 - Jackson feared potential war w/ Mexico; Van Buren/Harrison also failed to pass
- Texas remained independent for some time; some dreamed of rivaling U.S. → reached out to European powers
 - England/France feared losing remainder of U.S. to Texas → concluded trade relations
 - Tyler persuaded reapplication for statehood but Calhoun presented as new slave state → Northern senators prevented from passing

After declaring independence, many Americans ostracized the remaining Mexicans and drove them out as subordinates. Although under their first president, Sam Houston, they voted for annexation, the U.S. refused, particularly due to the opposition of Andrew Jackson and northerners fearing the expansion of slavery. After England and France concluded trade with Texas to prevent competition, Tyler attempted to integrate Texas into the Union but failed.

How did Oregon become a critical part of the sectional conflict?

- Control of Oregon Country (modern OR, WA, ID) in PNW major 1840s pol. issue because both GB/U.S. claimed land
 - Agreed in 1818 treaty to allow equal access ("joint occupation")
 - Neither U.S nor GB had created large presence around time of treaty: mostly American/Canadian fur traders w/ post at John Jacob Astor's company w/ farming + native labour
- Interest grew in 1820s/30s as missionaries sought to begin evangelical expansion
 - Witnessed strange appearance of four natives in Missouri (unable to speak English), believing in divine need to expand westward
 - Sought to counter Catholic missionaries in Canada
 - Little success w/ converted tribes: experienced some resistance to efforts particularly among Cayuse (where Marcus Whitman and wife Narcissa established unsuccessful mission)
- White Americans began emigration in early 1840s, outnumbering GB settlers and crushing natives w/ disease
 - Cayuse tribe blamed Whitman for disease → killed 13 whites; whites continued to migrate through 1840s

The Oregon Country, jointly controlled by Britain and the United States, only began to truly develop in the 1820s/30s as missionaries like Marcus Whitman began to take interest. Americans quickly outnumbered the British settlers and many began to call for a complete American rule.

What were the main westward migrations in the mid-19th century?

- Most Southerners → Texas, but majority of migrants were prosperous young men from Old Northwest → California for gold rush
- Only poor migrants went in groups as laborers to assist on farms, ranches (men) or as servants, teachers, and prostitutes (women)
- Single men → places w/ lumbering/mining primary activity; families → farming regions
- All migrants sought new life, but differed in precise cause: some sought quick riches; others to take over new federal lands; others mercantile pursuits; others escaped religious persecution; most economic opportunities

Most Southerners migrated to Texas, but the majority of migrants came from the Northwest: most were prosperous young men but some were poor, mainly traveling in groups. Although every migrant desired to begin a new life, most sought to migrate for economic reasons (but some for religious and territorial purposes).

What were the hardships experienced by those who migrated westward?

- $\approx 300,000$ migrants betw. 1840-1860, travelling west after meeting in Iowa/Missouri along Oregon Trail (to OR) or Santa Fe Trail (to NM)
- Mountain/desert terrains challenging, constant pressure to reach destination before winter despite slow wagon pace
- Migrants often suffered from epidemics contracted while travelling
- Few migrants died due to native conflicts
 - Most were assisted by tribes, who acted as guides and trading partners
 - Few stories of conflict \rightarrow many white travellers fearful
- Trail life generally based around traditional gender divisions
 - Although all migrants walked most of the way, women worked harder than men, unable to rest after stopping
 - Travellers generally enjoyed collective, group experience after spending months with close friends, relatives, and neighbors
 - Intestive w/o human contact \rightarrow required close bonds

The westward travellers struggled with tough terrain, a cooling climate as they approached winter, epidemics, and conflicts with the natives (though they more often helped by trading with and guiding the travellers). In general, migrations closely mirrored American life with similar gender divisions and a focus on collectivity.

Expansion and War

How did American expansion stimulate the Mexican-American war?

After Democrat Polk won the presidency for his strong stance on annexation, and tensions rose concerning Texas' southern border as well as over ownership of New Mexico and California, Polk encouraged the Mexican-American War despite moral and political opposition. American troops dominated the Mexicans, eventually annexing California and New Mexico; the Mexicans finally surrendered with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo after American troops seized Mexico City.

How did the Democrats stand for expansion?

- Neither Clay (W.)/Van Buren (D.) took stand on annexation; Whigs nominated Clay but Democrats nominated Polk
 - Polk represented TN in House of Representatives for 14 yrs.: spent 4 yrs. as Speaker; later governor
 - Disappeared for 3 yrs. but returned for election, won nomination and election due to strong support for OR/TX annexation
- Tyler accomplished annexation of TX near end of presidency (1845); Polk personally resolved OR
 - GB minister in WA completely ignored initial offer for formal U.S./Canada border at 49th parallel
 - Tensions rose w/ Americans often asserting "54-40 or fight!" referencing desired border location
 - Neither U.S./GB wanted war → GB eventually accepted orig. offer in 1846

After Democrat James Polk won the presidential election due to his strong stance on the annexation of Texas and Oregon, outgoing president Tyler received congressional approval to annex Texas and Polk resolved Oregon with a resolute proposal for the British which was eventually accepted.

How did tensions begin to rise in the Southwest?

- U.S. annexation of Texas → Mexico ended diplomacy w/ U.S.
- Tensions grew after Texas asserted Rio Grande marked Southern border (included modern NM) while Texans pushed for Nueces River
- Several territories became problematic as Americans began to pour in and outnumber Mexicans
 - NM debated due to disruption of long-standing native/Spanish society by pouring of U.S. immigrants, becoming more American than Mexican
 - CA inhabited by native tribes, small number of Mexicans ($\approx 7,000$)
 - * White Americans slowly arrived initially on whaling ships, creating small stores for trade
 - * Farmers later went to Sacramento Valley
 - Polk sought both NM/CA → told troops sent to annex TX to also seize CA ports if MX declared war, inform CA Americans that U.S. would support revolt

Tensions rose in the Southwest as Texans sought their southern border to include much of modern New Mexico; both New Mexico, where a long-standing social harmony between Spanish and natives was disrupted by Americans, and California, with few Mexicans but growing numbers of American whalers and farmers, became desirable to Polk.

What were the critical events of the Mexican-American War?

- Polk initially tried to buy territories from Mexicans thru. diplomat John Slidell; rejected → Polk sent Taylor's TX army across Nueces to Rio Grande
 - Mexicans initially refused to fight, but Americans claimed eventually crossed Rio Grande and attacked American troops → Congress approved war
- American forces dominated Mexicans but war still time-consuming
 - Taylor ordered to cross Rio Grande, seizing northern MX (first Monterrey, then Mexico City)
 - * Seized Monterrey but allowed army to escape → Polk feared competence, potential political rivalry if MX City successful
 - Other troops ordered → NM/CA, led by Colonel Kearny
 - * Captured Santa Fe w/o opposition
 - * Moved into CA, joining existing conflicts where settlers + exploring party (under Frémont) + U.S. Navy initiated Bear Flag Revolution
- U.S. controlled territories which had inspired war but MX refused defeat
 - Polk sent General Scott w/ large army → Tampico, eventually MX City, winning every battle and finally dominating capital → MX govt. agreed to form peace treaty
- Nearing election → Polk sought to end war → sent Nicholas Trist to negotiate Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in Feb. 1848
 - Ceded NM/CA to U.S., allowed Rio Grande to be border of TX; absorbed debts of citizens to Mexico, paid \$15 million
 - Trist had not agreed on additional Mexican territory → Polk angry but forced to accept due to strong antislavery argument

After Polk's attempt to buy off the Mexicans failed, he initiated war by sending troops into Texan territories which Mexico claimed for themselves; war became official after the Mexicans eventually retaliated. Kearney led troops into New Mexico and California, ultimately annexing those two regions, and Taylor into Monterrey, successfully taking over the city. After the U.S. had annexed all desired territories, Mexico would not concede defeat so Polk sent General Scott to seize Mexico City, finally forming the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, receiving all desired territories for a fee of \$15 million.

What were the main sources of opposition to the Mexican-American War?

- Whig critics felt Polk had manipulated battles, staged inciting incident
- Many felt greater focus should be on Pacific NW, arguing that Polk settled finally settled for low amt. w/ GB because focus was on SW
- Moral opposition, w/ Ulysses Grant claiming "unjust," Lincoln criticizing for power given to Polk, Thoreau going refusing to pay taxes as pacifist

The war was criticized by Whigs on partisan grounds, others on grounds that the Pacific Northwest should be prioritized over the Southwest, and others on moral grounds.