The **Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo**, signed on **February 2, 1848**, was a monumental agreement that ended the **Mexican-American War (1846–1848)** and significantly altered the territorial landscape of North America. While Texas's annexation by the United States occurred earlier, the treaty formalized its incorporation and settled broader territorial disputes between Mexico and the U.S.

**Key Context: Texas and the War**

1. **Annexation of Texas (1845)**:
   * The Republic of Texas, an independent nation since its victory over Mexico in 1836, was annexed by the United States in 1845.
   * Mexico viewed this as an act of aggression, as it still claimed sovereignty over Texas despite Texas's self-declared independence.
2. **Mexican-American War (1846–1848)**:
   * Border disputes, especially over whether the **Nueces River** or the **Rio Grande** marked Texas's southern boundary, ignited conflict.
   * The U.S., driven by the ideology of **Manifest Destiny**, sought to expand its territory to the Pacific.

**Provisions of the Treaty**

1. **Territorial Changes**:
   * Mexico ceded nearly **525,000 square miles** of territory to the U.S., including present-day **California**, **Arizona**, **New Mexico**, **Nevada**, **Utah**, and parts of **Colorado** and **Wyoming**.
   * The treaty established the **Rio Grande** as the southern border of Texas, formalizing its annexation.
2. **Financial Terms**:
   * The U.S. paid Mexico **$15 million** for the ceded territories and assumed **$3.25 million** in debts owed by Mexico to American citizens.
3. **Protection of Mexican Citizens**:
   * The treaty promised that Mexican citizens in the newly acquired territories could choose to relocate to Mexico or remain in the U.S. with full citizenship rights.
   * Despite these promises, many faced discrimination and the loss of property.

**Impact of the Treaty**

1. **Expansion of U.S. Territory**:
   * The treaty added vast lands, fulfilling much of the U.S.'s **Manifest Destiny** aspirations.
   * It exacerbated tensions over the expansion of slavery, as the new territories disrupted the balance of power between free and slave states.
2. **Loss for Mexico**:
   * Mexico lost about **half of its territory**, a profound blow to its national pride and stability.
   * The treaty deepened economic and political challenges in Mexico.
3. **Native American and Tejano Communities**:
   * The treaty disregarded Indigenous sovereignty, further displacing Native American tribes.
   * Tejanos (Mexican Texans) and other Hispanic communities often faced marginalization under U.S. governance.
4. **Future Conflicts**:
   * The territorial gains sowed the seeds of the **Civil War**, as debates over slavery in the new lands intensified.