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In July 1845 Texas formally accepted an American proposal to be annexed to the United States. Already strained relations between the United States and Mexico rapidly worsened. President James K. Polk ordered General Zachary Taylor and his troops to Corpus Christi. In March 1846, under instructions, Taylor took up positions on the Rio Grande. On April 26 an American squadron of dragoons surrounded by Mexicans and unable to fight its way out surrendered. Several Americans lost their lives in the defeat.

On May 8 the Mexicans intercepted Taylor at Palo Alto but were driven back. The next day Mexicans again gave way in battle at Resaca de la Palma. In June Taylor began a march toward Monterrey, taking that city on September 25. Two months later the Americans took Saltillo and with little effort filed into Tampico.

Santa Anna now took the field against the American forces in northern Mexico, finally engaging the Americans at Buena Vista in February. Upon learning of the Mexican's design, General John E. Wool, marched from San Antonio to join Taylor's forces, abandoning his prior plans to take Chihuahua. After extremely bitter fighting Santa Anna pulled out his army, leaving Taylor in control of northern Mexico.

While Taylor pursued the enemy, Colonel Stephen W. Kearny took the "Army of the West" into New Mexico, capturing Santa Fe on August 16, 1846. Kearny then divided his forces, taking part to California and sending the remainder under Alexander W. Doniphan against Chihuahua. After General Winfield Scott captured Mexico City the two countries finally reached a settlement.

Source: Maps adapted from *The West Point Atlas of American Wars*, Volume 1, Frederick A. Praeger, 1959.

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Thanks you, fonda!