

C-NOTES: THE U.S.-MEXICAN WAR

Essential Question: Why did conflict develop into war between the U.S. and Mexico?

MANIFEST DESTINY	President Polk believed that the United States had the right and duty to expand to the Pacific Ocean. GOAL = LAND FROM OCEAN TO OCEAN
ANNEXATION	1845 Texas added to U.S. as 28th state. Mexico angry—never recognized Texas as independent.
BORDER DISPUTE	U.S. = Rio Grande is southern border of TX (Treaty of Velasco [1836]) Mexico = Nueces River is northern border of MX (Treaty is invalid)
\$30 MILLION	Diplomat John Slidell sent to Mexico to buy the territories of New Mexico (NM) and California (CA). Mexican officials refused to meet.
FORT TEXAS	Polk ordered Gen. Zachary Taylor + 4,000 troops to Corpus Christi. Built fort at site next to Rio Grande.
BORDER CLASH	April 1846 Fighting breaks out—11 American soldiers killed.
WAR DECLARED	May 1846 Polk: <i>“Mexico has passed the boundary of the United States, has invaded our territory, and shed American blood upon the American soil.”</i>
CAUSES OF WAR [PERSPECTIVES]	U.S.: Manifest Destiny Treaty of Velasco valid Border Dispute (RG) Negative view of Mexico due to Texas Revolution (Alamo/Goliad) MX: Sovereignty Treaty of Velasco invalid Border Dispute (NR) Negative view of U.S. due to Annexation (Texas “stolen”)
POLITICAL OPPOSITION	Some felt president had forced U.S. into the war—only Congress can declare war. Many members of Congress opposed war, incl. Abraham Lincoln. Others thought it wrong to take territory from Mexico (Thoreau).
U.S. ADVANTAGES	POPULATION: U.S. = 17,000,000 Mexico = 7,000,000 ECONOMY: U.S. = Dynamic economy (agriculture + manufacturing + trade) Mexico = Stagnant economy (agri.) / Debts TECHNOLOGY: Better weapons & artillery Telegraph
U.S. VICTORIES	Military strategy: Invade Mexico and conduct an offensive war. Most major battles fought in Mexico. [Important victories: Palo Alto (TX), Monterrey, Veracruz, Cerro Gordo, & Chapultepec Castle (Mexico City).] More than 5,000 Texans fought in war.

PEACE TREATY

2 February 1848 | Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo signed to end the war.

Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo	
Mexico agreed to:	United States agreed to:
• Give up all claims to Texas	• Pay Mexico \$15 million
• Accept the Rio Grande as the border	• Pay reparations up to \$3.25 million owed to U.S. citizens by Mexico
• Give all territory between Texas and the Pacific Ocean to the United States	• Guarantee rights to Mexicans living in the U.S.; they would have a year to become U.S. citizens

MEXICAN
CESSION

SLAVERY: Southerners wanted area open to slavery. Northerners: NO!
Many feared that Texans would bring slavery into region.
TX/NM BORDER DISPUTE: Texas claimed about half of what is now NM,
but the people there did not want to be part of Texas.

COMPROMISE
OF 1850
[see MAP]

CALIFORNIA admitted to the Union as a free, or non-slave, state.
VOTERS in remaining areas could decide about slavery for themselves
(known as popular sovereignty).
TEXAS agreed to give up claims to New Mexico for \$10 million to pay off
its public debt; western border redrawn to present configuration.

