



The U.S.-Mexican War

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

The Road to War | CAUSES

❖ MANIFEST DESTINY

President Polk believed that the United States had the right and duty to expand to the Pacific Ocean.

❖ ANNEXATION

1845 | Texas added to U.S. as 28th state. Mexico angry—never recognized Texas as independent.

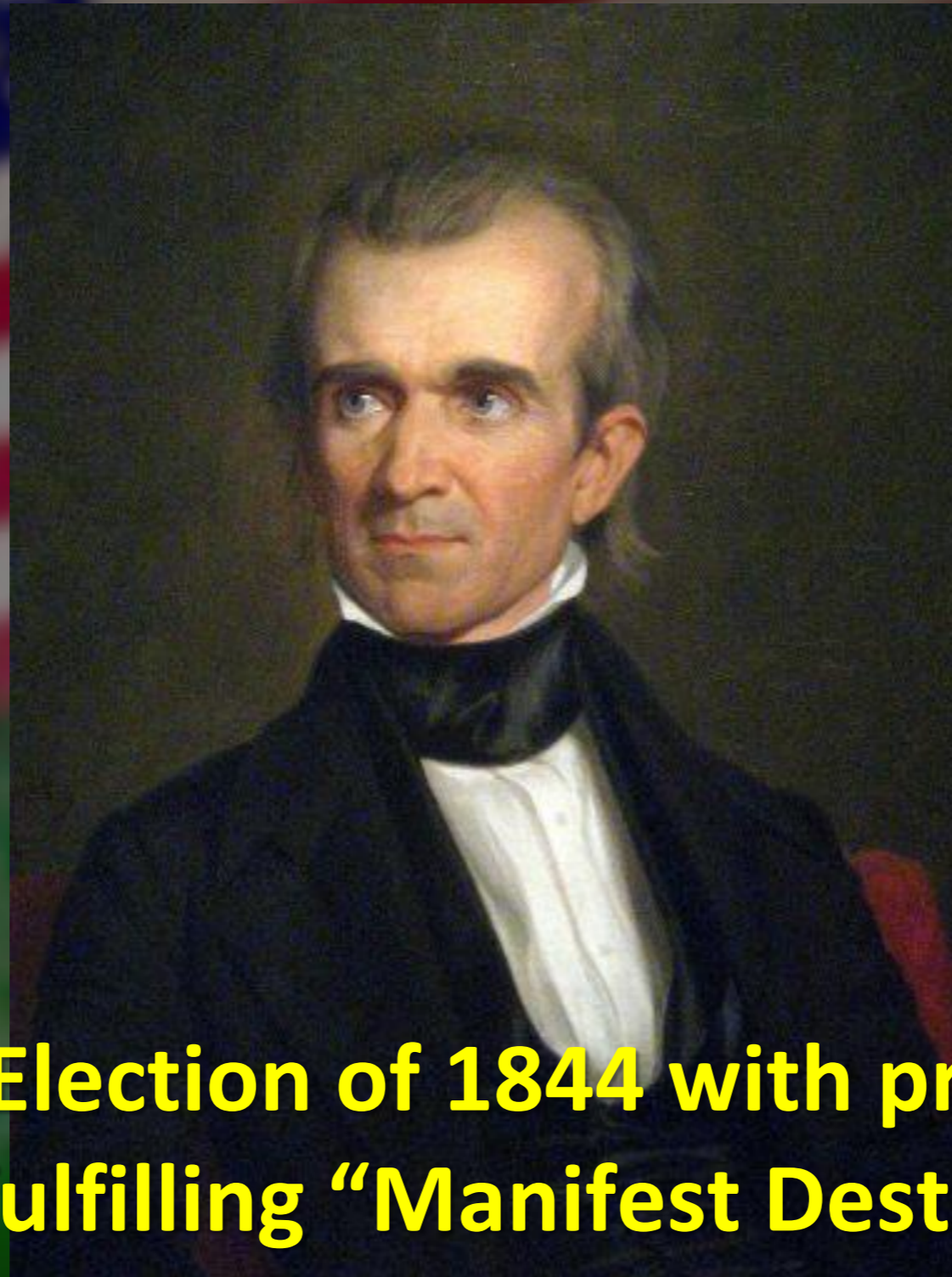
❖ BORDER DISPUTE

U.S. = Rio Grande (RG) | Mexico = Nueces River (NR)

❖ \$30 MILLION

Diplomat John Slidell sent to Mexico to buy the territories of New Mexico (NM) and California (CA). Mexican officials refused to meet.

President James K. Polk



**Won Election of 1844 with promise
of fulfilling “Manifest Destiny”**

The Road to War | CAUSES



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❖ FORT TEXAS

Polk ordered Gen. Zachary Taylor + 4,000 troops to Corpus Christi. Built fort at site next to Rio Grande.

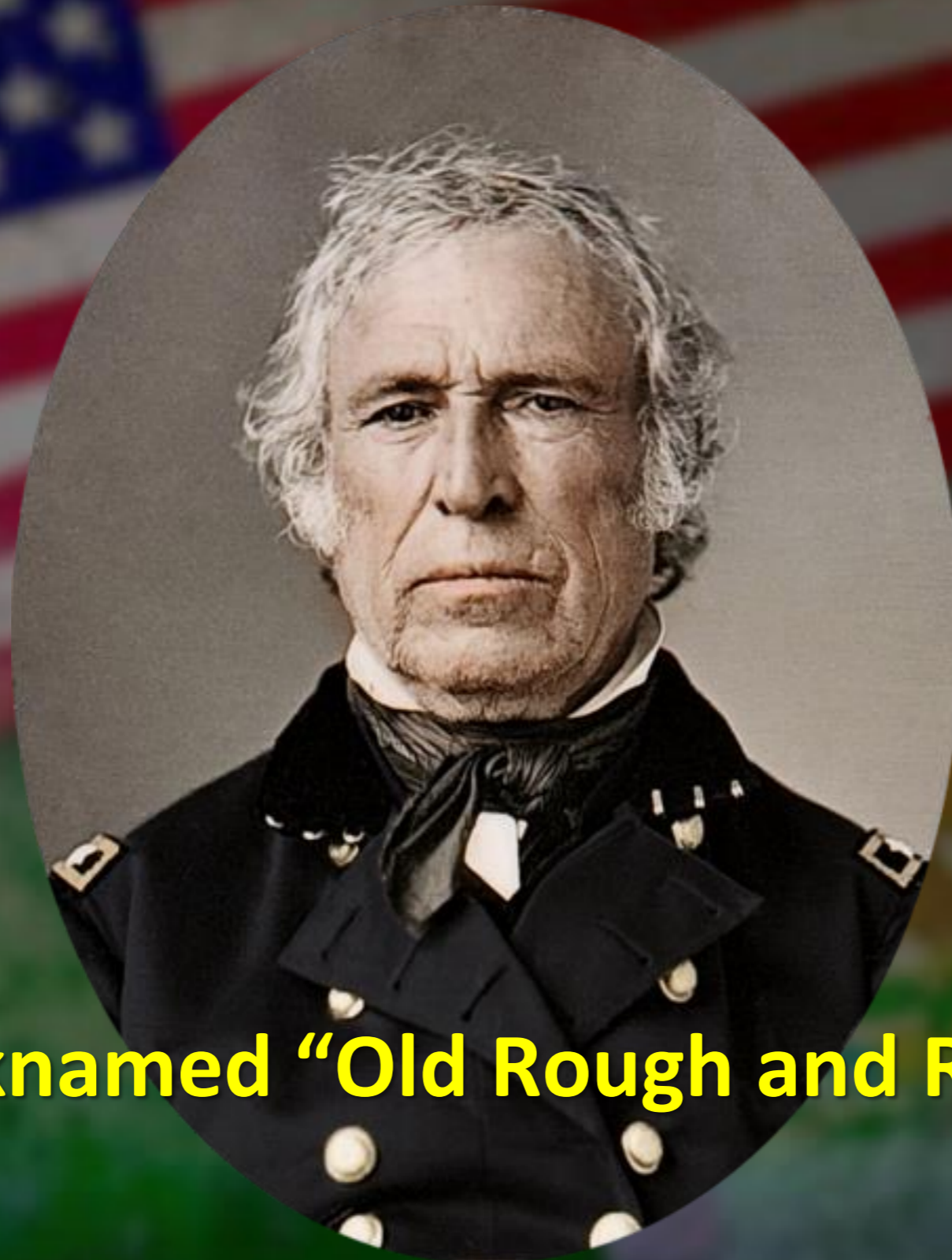
❖ BORDER CLASH

April 1846 | Fighting breaks out—11 American soldiers killed.

❖ WAR DECLARED

May 1846 | Polk: *“Mexico has passed the boundary of the United States, has invaded our territory, and shed American blood upon the American soil.”*

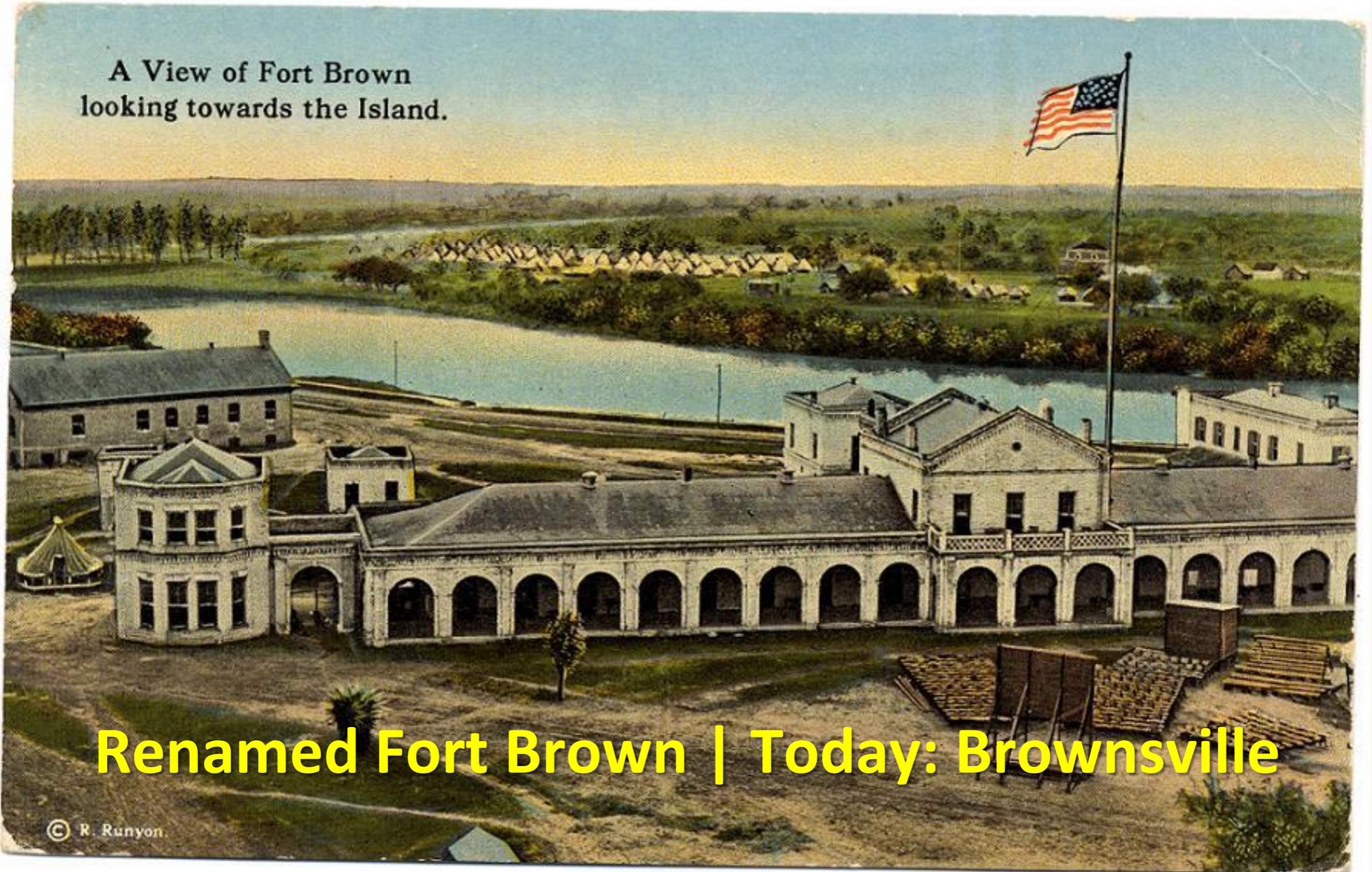
General Zachary Taylor



Nicknamed "Old Rough and Ready"

Fort Texas

A View of Fort Brown
looking towards the Island.



Renamed Fort Brown | Today: Brownsville

Polk's Declaration of War Against Mexico (1846)

- ❖ *"...after reiterated menaces, Mexico has passed the boundary of the United States, has invaded our territory, and shed American blood upon the American soil. She has proclaimed that hostilities have commenced, and that the two nations are now at war...I invoke the prompt action of Congress to recognize the existence of the war, and to place it at the disposal of the Executive the means of prosecuting the war with vigor..."*

General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna



He proclaimed himself the “Napoleon of the West”



Six Things You May Not Know About Santa Anna

1. Santa Anna headed the Mexican government on 11 occasions.
2. He proclaimed himself the “Napoleon of the West.”
3. He staged a state funeral for his amputated leg.
4. Santa Anna’s prosthetic leg was captured as a battlefield trophy.
5. He was once exiled to Staten Island.
6. Santa Anna helped to introduce chewing gum to the U.S.

Six Things You May Not Know About Santa Anna



General Santa Anna's prosthetic leg.

(Located at the Illinois State Military Museum in Springfield, Illinois.)



Santa Anna, c.1853

(He came to Staten Island, New York, in 1866 with hopes of returning to power.)

CAUSES | PERSPECTIVES

U.S.

Manifest Destiny

Treaty of Velasco: valid

Border Dispute (RG)

Negative view of Mexico
due to Texas Revolution
(Alamo/Goliad)

MX (Mexico)

Sovereignty

Treaty of Velasco: invalid

Border Dispute (NR)

Negative view of U.S.
due to Annexation
(Texas “stolen”)

Political Opposition to War

- ❖ Some felt the president had forced the U.S. into the war—only Congress can declare war.
- ❖ Many members of Congress opposed war, including 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 | MAP



U.S. Victories | NOTES

- ❖ **Military strategy:** Invade Mexico and conduct an offensive war
- ❖ **Most major battles fought in Mexico.**
- ❖ **Important victories:** Palo Alto (TX), Monterrey, Veracruz, Cerro Gordo, and Chapultepec Castle (Mexico City).
- ❖ **More than 5,000 Texans fought in war.**

Final Battle at Mexico City (13 September 1847)

- ★ Mexican victory
- ★ U.S. victory
- ←--- Mexican forces
- ← U.S. forces
- ▨ Mexican Cession

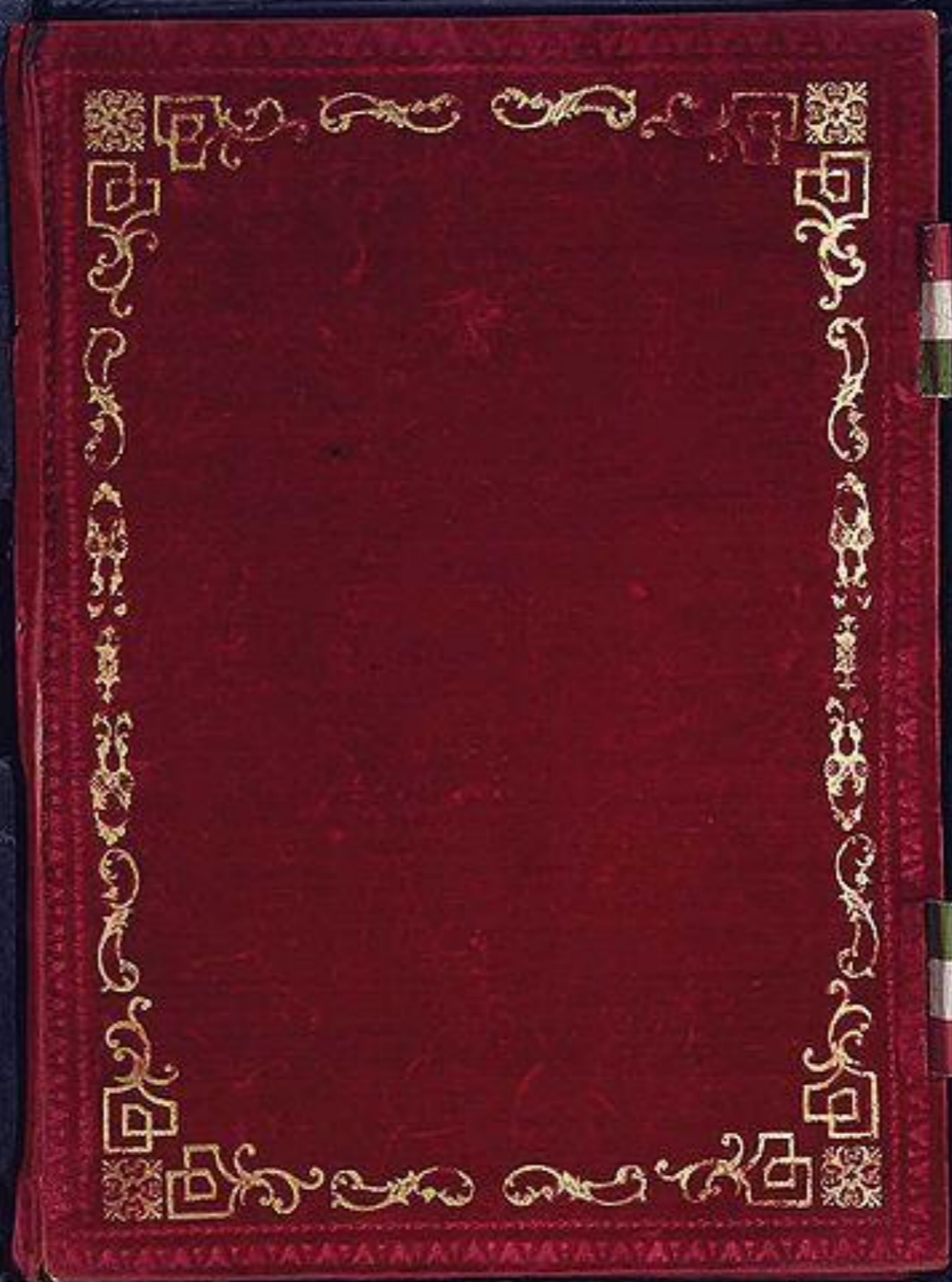


Peace Treaty

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

Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo

Mexico agreed to:	United States agreed to:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Give up all claims to Texas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pay Mexico \$15 million
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accept the Rio Grande as the border	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Give all territory between Texas and the Pacific Ocean to the United States	





Manuel de la Peña y Peña Presidente
interino de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos

A todos los que las presentes vieren salud:
Que en la Ciudad de Guadalupe Hidalgo se concluyó y firmó el
día dos de Febrero del presente año, un tratado de paz, amistad, límites
y arreglo definitivo entre los Estados Unidos Mexicanos y los Estados Unidos
de América por medio de Plenipotenciarios de ambos Gobiernos autorizados
debida y respectivamente para este efecto, cuyo tratado y artículos adi-
cionales son en la forma y tenor siguientes.

En testimonio de Dios Cielo
pedidos:

Los Estados Unidos Mexicanos
y los Estados Unidos de América, ani-
mados de un sincero deseo de poner
fin a las calamidades de la
guerra que desgraciadamente existe
entre ambas repúblicas, y de esta-
blecer sobre bases sólidas relaciones
de paz y buena amistad, que pro-
curen recíprocos ventajas a los
ciudadanos de uno y otro país,
y afianzar la concordia, armonía

In the name of Almighty
God:

The United States of America
and the United Mexican States,
animated by a sincere desire to put
an end to the calamities of the war
which unhappily exists between the
two republics, and to establish upon
a solid basis relations of peace and
friendship, which shall confer reci-
procal benefits upon the citizens of
both, and to promote the concord, har-
mony, and mutual confidence

comunicado, dicho Tratado y las modificaciones hechas por el Senado
de los Estados Unidos de América, y dado cuenta al Congreso general
conforme a lo dispuesto en el artículo XIV del artículo III de la Consti-
tución federal de estos Estados, para que sus apellidos en todas
sus partes el contenido Tratado y las modificaciones, y en consecuen-
cia en uso de la facultad que me concede la Constitución suspte,
ratifico y ratifico el referido Tratado con sus modificaciones y
prometo en nombre de la República Mexicana cumplirlo y obser-
varlo, y hacer que se cumpla y observe.

Hecho en el Palacio nacional de la ciudad de Santiago de
Cobateca, firmada de mi mano, autorizada con el gran sello nacional
y sellado por el Secretario de Estado y del despacho de relacio-
nes interiores e exteriores a los treinta días del mes de Mayo del
año del Señor de mil ochocientos cuarenta e ocho y de la Indepen-
dencia de la República el vigésimo octavo.



Manuel de la Peña
y Peña

Manuel de la Peña
Secret. de Estado y de
Relaciones

Mexican Cession | Land



Mexican Cession | Concerns

❖ 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 New Mexico, but the people there did not want to be part of Texas.

Compromise of 1850

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

Compromise of 1850



Compromise of 1850



Please make a sketch of this map in your Notes.

D | E | B | A | T | E

THREE GROUPS

will be formed based on the following questions...

❖ FOR |

What are your reasons for *supporting* war with Mexico?

❖ AGAINST |

What are your reasons for *opposing* war with Mexico?

❖ NOT SURE |

Why are you *not ready* to make a decision? What will change your mind? Are you leaning?





