

Manifest Destiny and Westward Expansion

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ACaigPuJa3k&list=PLEHRHjlCEfDUUtmhaZpPb-ND-fqr3t-SI&index=1>

1. What name did John O'Sullivan, a newspaper editor, give to the idea of westward expansion in July 1845?

Manifest destiny

"And that claim is by the right of our manifest destiny to overspread and to possess the whole of the continent which Providence has given us for the development of the great experiment of liberty and federated self-government entrusted to us."

- John O'Sullivan

2. Explain the two following pieces of information: what did O'Sullivan say manifest destiny meant AND who gave this to America.

To possess whole continent from sea to sea / coast to coast, Atlantic to Pacific Oceans AND it was Providence / God.

3. What were the first practical reasons for moving West?

Americans needed access to mineral and natural resources (discovery of Gold in California in 1848 and later gold and silver in Colorado and the Dakotas attracted people West).

4. What was the second reason for moving West (and encouraged by the Preemption Acts during the 1830s and 1840s)?

To create homesteads and farm the land – the Preemption Acts made vast areas or tracts of land available for cheap for anyone wanting to buy it and setup a homestead.

5. What was the third reason people moved West?

The purpose of religious refuge (e.g. Mormons moved to Utah).

6. What was President James K. Polk (1845-49) a big believer in?

Manifest destiny

7. Which territories did Polk want to add to the Union?

Texas and Oregon.

8. Since when had Americans been settling in Texas? Which country did it belong to at that time?

1820s. Mexico.

9. By the 1830s there were three times more Americans than Mexicans in Texas. What characteristics did these Americans have in common?

They were all Southern, Protestant and slave owning or sympathetic to slave-owning.

10. What two decrees did the Mexican government pass in 1829 regarding people living within its borders?

Immigrants must convert to Roman Catholicism

They outlawed slavery

11. How did Americans living in this territory view these requirements?

As intolerable.

12. Under the leadership of which figure and what did Texan Americans declare in 1836?

Under Sam Houston they declared Texas to be an independent republic.

13. What happened following the siege by Mexicans of the fort known as the Alamo (23rd February to 6th March 1836)?

They killed every American who defended it

14. The Battle of San Jacinto, fought in retaliation by Houston and his army, led to what outcome?

They captured the Mexican General and forced him to sign a treaty granting Mexican Independence.

15. Who or what should to never 'mess with' according to the presenter?

Texas.

16. Why did US Presidents Jackson and Van Buren say no to the annexation of Texas by the USA?

Because of the possibility of war.

17. Which branch of the US government prevented President John Tyler (1841-45) from admitting Texas to the Union?

The Senate.

18. Which territories did President James K. Polk (1845-49) want to admit to the USA?

Texas, Oregon and California.

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What were the causes and effects of the American-Mexican War?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MOCr_4NORM0&list=PLEHRHjICEfDUUtmhaZpPb-ND-fqr3t-SI&index=2

1. What was one of the main campaign policies of James K. Polk during the 1844 election?

Annexation of TEXAS

2. What tasks did President Polk charge the diplomat John Slidell to do on his visit to Mexico City?

He asked the Mexican government to sell even more land to the USA (New Mexico and California) + he was tasked with settling the location of the southern border of Mexico.

3. The Mexican government said the border ran along the Nueces River but the American government said it ran along which other river?

Rio Grande

4. Who was sent by Polk to advance US troops to the Rio Grande? How many were killed?

General Zachary Taylor. 11 killed.

5. What did Congress authorize on May 13th 1846?

War with Mexico.

6. Which victory of General Winfield Scott forced the Mexican government to negotiate?

The invasion and occupation of Mexico City.

7. What were the main effect of this war?

Lots of land for the USA

8. What did the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo establish?

Established Rio Grande as Southern Border of Texas.

Outlined the Mexican Cession – land ceded by Mexico (Cal. And New Mex.) for 15 million dollars.

9. Along with the Gadsden Purchase of 1853 how much territory did Mexico lose to the USA?

More than half.

10. What was the Wilmot Proviso?

An amendment to an appropriations bill in Congress that proposed any land gained by the USA from war with Mexico be off limits for slavery.

11. Although the Wilmot Proviso was voted down, why is it important?

Illustrates growing tension over the question of slavery.

12. The politicians who voted this proviso down were not necessarily abolitionists but they agreed with the idea of Free Soil. What did this mean?

It meant they wanted to acquire additional land for homesteaders to settle on for free without competition from the system of slavery.

What were the causes and effects of the American-Mexican War?

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