

US/Mexico Conflict

1823-1848

The Beginnings

- 1821- Mexico wins independence
- Invites American settlers, under Stephen Austin in to Texas territory
- Individualistic settlers
- Differences over slavery and local rights
- 1836: Lone Star Rebellion (Texas declares independence); Americans (led by Sam Houston) defeated at the Alamo

- 1836: Santa Anna captured, agrees to remove Mexican troops, set the Rio Grande as the SW border of Texas
- US recognizes independence in 1837 (Jackson); angers Mexico
- Texas applies for statehood, stirs up slavery issue; granted in 1845

Manifest destiny

- 1844: Election of Democrat James K. Polk; takes no stand on Texas
- California- diverse (Mexican, Indian, “illegal” Americans); Polk wants to purchase but is rejected
- 1846- sends in American troops to force a showdown, 16 American troops killed/
wounded “American blood on American soil”;
Congress authorizes war

Mexican-American War 1846-1848

- American troops very successful
- 1847- Americans capture Mexico City
- Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (1848):
Americans get land up to Oregon and to the Pacific Ocean (California), about half of Mexico, for \$15 million
- Opens debate on slavery: what to do with the new territory? (Wilmot Proviso: forbid slavery in the territory)

What's up with California?

- 1769: Father Junipero Serra begins establishing Catholic missions along the CA coast
- Spanish settlers called *Californios* follow
- Labor system dependent on Indian slaves
- Mexican government sends inmates from jail to go settle after receiving independence in 1821
- Giant *ranchos* formed
- Land and assets lost during MA war and the influx of Gold Rush miners