

PRESIDENT POLK



"Dark Horse" candidate. Became elected in 1845 and was the unexpected candidate for the democratic party.

Polk's main goals were to gain acquisition of California and to settle the Oregon dispute.



Spot resolutions



April 25, 1846: Mexican troops crossed the Rio Grande and attacked, killing sixteen Americans. Polk called to Congress for a war using patriotic sentiment.

Lincoln requested information on where the blood was shed on American soil. Many Whigs labeled the president as a liar.

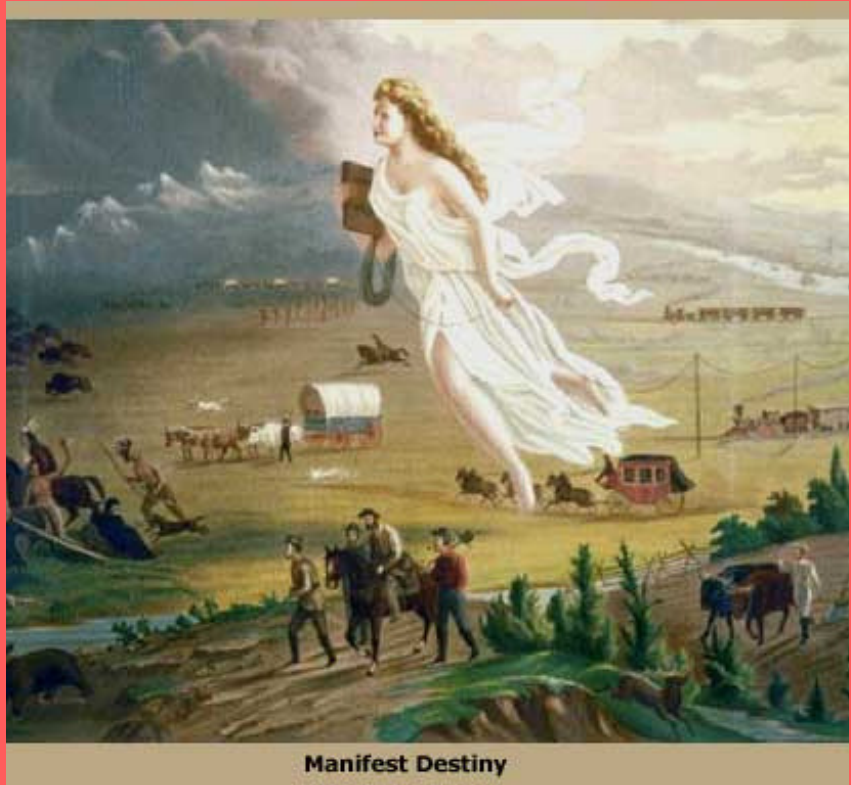


The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo



Ended the Mexican American war on February 2, 1848. Terms included America confirming title to Texas and the area stretching westward to Oregon.

The antislavery Whigs or "Conscience Whigs" denounced the war, threatening to take away supplies. Also, the extension of land reignited the debates over slavery.



Manifest Destiny

EXPANDING BORDERS

by Jessica Ordonez

Key Concept 4.3

America looked for ways to increase foreign policies as many people migrated west. The lands that were being disputed included Oregon territory, Texas, and California. As settlers began to travel to the lands, America began to have problems with Mexico and Britain. Texas became a problem after it declared itself an independent union in 1836. Britain became very interested in running Texas so that they would not have problems with America. In response to Britain's offer to help Texas, America passed a law in 1845 for Texas to become the 28th state. Mexico saw this as betrayal against them because America was taking their territory. Oregon also became an issue with foreign policy because Britain wanted to keep claims in the land at the Columbia line. America, however, was willing to offer the 49th parallel but the two eventually came to peace because Britain wanted to avoid bloodshed. About five thousand Americans had settled south of the Columbia River, outnumbering the British settlers. The cause for expansion had largely to do with the upsurge known as Manifest Destiny. Citizens believed that God had destined the American people for a hemispheric empire. As they traveled west, people were encouraged to spread democratic institutions. Without these ideals and a growing economy, America would have not gained the territories they did in the 1800s.

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