

Ch 9 section 4 The War with Mexico

Polk Urges War

“Polk the Purposeful”

- President **James K. Polk** favors seizing land from, and war with, Mexico
 - believes U.S. will get Texas, New Mexico, California

Slidell’s Rejection

- Polk sends John Slidell to buy Southwest, negotiate Texas border
- Santa Anna ousted; Mexican government unstable, ignores Slidell
- Polk orders General **Zachary Taylor** to blockade the Rio Grande

Sectional Attitudes Toward War

- South favors war to extend slavery, increase its power in Congress
- North opposes war, fears spread of slavery, Southern control of U.S.

The War Begins

Polk Provokes War

- U.S. repeatedly violates Mexico’s territorial rights
- Mexican, U.S. soldiers skirmish near Matamoros; 9 Americans killed
- Polk sends war message to Congress, withholds facts
- Congress approves war, stifles opposition

Kearny Marches West

- Polk orders Colonel **Stephen Kearny** to march to Santa Fe
- New Mexico surrenders to U.S. without a fight

The Republic of California

- 1830s, 12,000 Mexican settlers in California; 1840s, 500 Americans
- John C. Frémont proclaims **Republic of California** in 1846
- Frémont joined by Kearny, Commodore John D. Sloat’s naval expedition

The War in Mexico

- U.S. has many military victories; Mexican troops have poor leaders
- Invasion of Mexico led by generals Zachary Taylor, **Winfield Scott**
- Polk helps Santa Anna regain power, but Santa Anna fights U.S.

America Gains the Spoils of War

The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo

- U.S. and Mexico sign **Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo** in 1848
 - Texas border set at Rio Grande
 - Mexico cedes western lands for \$15 million
 - guarantees rights of Mexicans living in territories
- War enlarges U.S. territory by about one-third
- Franklin Pierce authorizes 1853 **Gadsden Purchase**, sets final border of the lower 48 states

Taylor’s Election in 1848

- Democrats divided over extension of slavery
- Whig nominee, war hero Zachary Taylor easily wins election

The California Gold Rush

The Rush Begins

- 1848, gold discovered at Sutter’s Mill in California Sierra Nevadas
- San Francisco residents abandon city to pan for gold
- **Gold rush**, or migration of prospectors to California in 1849

- **Forty-niners**, gold prospectors, come from Asia, South America, Europe

Impact of Gold Fever

- San Francisco becomes supply center for miners, major port

Gold Rush Brings Diversity

- By 1849, California's population exceeds 100,000, gold rush brought diverse population
- Chinese, free blacks, Mexicans migrate in large numbers
- Slavery permitted until outlawed by 1849 constitutional convention
- California joins Union in 1850