

Chapter 17

Manifest Destiny and Its Legacy, 1841-1848

A. True or False

Where the statement is true, mark T. Where it is false, mark F, and correct it in the space immediately below.

- ___ 1. After President Harrison's death, Vice President John Tyler carried on the strong Whig policies of leaders like Clay and Webster.
- ___ 2. By the 1840s, the bitter memories of two Anglo-American wars had disappeared, putting an end to major British-American conflicts.
- ___ 3. The "Aroostook War" over the Maine boundary was settled by territorial compromise in the Webster-Ashburton Treaty.
- ___ 4. A primary motive driving Americans to annex Texas was fear that the Lone Star Republic would become an ally or protectorate of Britain.
- ___ 5. Because the two-thirds vote necessary for a treaty of annexation could not be obtained in the Senate, Texas was annexed by a simple majority resolution of both houses of Congress.
- ___ 6. In the dispute with Britain over Oregon, the United States repeatedly demanded control of the whole territory as far north as "fifty-four forty."
- ___ 7. In the election of 1844, Clay lost to Polk partly because he tried to straddle the Texas annexation issue and thus lost antislavery support.
- ___ 8. Polk's victory in 1844 was interpreted as a mandate for Manifest Destiny and led directly to the annexation of Texas and a favorable settlement of the Oregon dispute.
- ___ 9. President Polk originally opposed acquiring California because of its large population of Mexican citizens.
- ___ 10. The immediate cause of their Mexican war was an attempt by Mexico to reconquer Texas.
- ___ 11. Polk's primary objective in fighting the Mexican War was to obtain California for the United States
- ___ 12. The overwhelming American military victory of Mexico led some Americans to call for the United States to take over all of Mexico.

- ___ 13. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo gave the United States a small slice of present-day southern New Mexico and Arizona.
- ___ 14. The outcome of the Mexican War became a source of continuing bad feeling between the United States and much of Latin America.
- ___ 15. The Wilmot Proviso prohibiting slavery in territory acquired from Mexico helped shove the slavery issue out of sight.

B. Multiple Choice

Select the best answer and write the proper letter in the space provided.

- ___ 1. The conflict between President Tyler and Whig leaders like Henry Clay took place over issues of
 - a. slavery and expansion.
 - b. banking and tariff policy.
 - c. foreign policy.
 - d. agriculture and transportation policy.
- ___ 2. Among the major sources of the tension between Britain and the United States in the 1840s was
 - a. American involvement in Canadian rebellions and border disputes.
 - b. British refusal to support American abolitionists.
 - c. American anger at British default on canal and railroad loans.
 - d. American intervention in the British West Indies.
- ___ 3. The “Aroostook War” involved
 - a. a battle between American and French fishermen over Newfoundland fishing rights.
 - b. a battle between American and Canadian lumberjacks over the northern Maine boundary.
 - c. a battle between British and American sailors over impressment.
 - d. a battle between Americans and Mexicans over the western boundary of Louisiana.
- ___ 4. During the early 1840s, Texas maintained its independence by
 - a. waging a constant war against Mexico.
 - b. refusing to sign treaties with any outside powers.
 - c. relying on the military power of the United States.
 - d. establishing friendly relations with Britain and other European powers.
- ___ 5. Which of the following was *not* among the reasons why Britain strongly supported an independent Texas?
 - a. Britain was interested in eventually incorporating Texas into the British empire.
 - b. British abolitionists hoped to make Texas an antislavery bastion.
 - c. British manufacturers wanted to reduce their dependence on American cotton.
 - d. Britain planned to use Texas as a check on American southward expansion.

- ___ 6. Texas was finally admitted to the Union in 1844 as a result of
- the Mexican War.
 - the Texans' willingness to abandon slavery.
 - President Tyler's interpretation of the election of 1844 as a "mandate" to acquire Texas.
 - a compromise agreement with Britain.
- ___ 7. "Manifest Destiny" represented the widespread American belief that
- Americans were destined to uphold democracy and freedom.
 - there would inevitably be a civil war over slavery some time in the future.
 - Mexico was destined to be acquired by the United States.
 - God had destined the United States to expand across the whole North American continent.
- ___ 8. Britain eventually lost out in the contest for the disputed Oregon territory because
- the rapidly growing number of American settlers overwhelmed the small British population.
 - the British recognized the greater validity of American legal claims on the territory.
 - superior American naval forces made the British position in the region untenable.
 - an international arbitration commission ruled in favor of the American claims.
- ___ 9. Henry Clay lost the election of 1844 to James Polk because
- his attempt to "straddle" the Texas issues lost him votes to the anti-slavery Liberty party in New York.
 - his strong stand for expansion in Texas and Oregon raised fears of war with Britain.
 - he supported lower tariffs and an independent Treasury system.
 - he lacked experience in presidential politics.
- ___ 10. The final result of the British-American conflict over the Oregon country in 1844-1846 was
- American success in winning the goal of a boundary at "fifty-four forty."
 - an agreement to continue the joint occupation of Oregon for twenty years more.
 - a compromise agreement on a border at the forty-ninth parallel.
 - an outbreak of war between the two nations.
- ___ 11. The immediate cause of the Mexican War was
- American refusal to pay Mexican claims for damage to its citizens.
 - Mexican refusal to sell California and a dispute over the Texas boundary.
 - Mexican support for the anti-slavery movement in Texas.
 - American determination to establish democracy in northern Mexico.
- ___ 12. The phrase "spot resolutions" refers to
- President Polk's message asking Congress to declare war on Mexico "on the spot."
 - the amendment introduced after the Mexican War declaring the not one new spot of land be opened to slavery.
 - Congressman Abraham Lincoln's resolution demanding to know the exact spot of American soil where American blood had supposedly been shed.
 - the congressional act determining which spots of Mexican land should be ceded to the United States.

- ___ 13. The main American military campaign that finally captured Mexico City was commanded by
- General Stephen W. Kearny.
 - Captain John C. Frémont.
 - General Zachary Taylor.
 - General Winfield Scott.
- ___ 14. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ending the Mexican War provided for
- return of the status quo that had existed before the war.
 - the eventual American acquisition of all of Mexico.
 - American acquisition of about half of Mexico and payment of several million dollars in compensation.
 - the acquisition of California and joint U.S.-Mexican control of Arizona and new Mexico.
- ___ 15. The major domestic consequence of the Mexican War was
- the decline of the Democratic party.
 - a sharp revival of the issue of slavery.
 - a large influx of Hispanic immigrants in to the southern United States.
 - a significant increase in Taxes to pay the costs of the war.

C. Identification

- _____ 1. Nation that strongly backed independence for Texas, hoping to turn in into an economic asset and anti-slavery bastion
- _____ 2. Anti-slavery Whigs who opposed both the Texas annexation and the Mexican War on moral grounds
- _____ 3. Act of both houses of congress by which Texas was annexed
- _____ 4. Northern boundary of Oregon territory jointly occupied with Britain, advocated by Democratic party and others as the desired line of American expansion.
- _____ 5. Two-thousand-mile-long path along which thousands of American journeyed to the Willamette Valley in the 1840's
- _____ 6. The widespread American belief that God had ordained the United States to occupy all the territory of North America
- _____ 7. Small antislavery party that took enough votes from Henry Clay to cost him the election of 1844
- _____ 8. Final compromise line that settled the Oregon boundary dispute in 1846
- _____ 9. Rich Mexican province that Polk tried to buy and Mexico refused to sell
- _____ 10. River that Mexico claimed as the Texas-Mexico boundary, crossed by Taylor's troops in 1846

- _____ 13. Resolution offered by Congressman Abraham Lincoln demanding to know the precise location where Mexicans had allegedly shed American blood on “American” soil
- _____ 14. Treaty ending Mexican War and granting vast territories to the United States
- _____ 15. Controversial amendment, which passed the House but not the Senate, stipulating that slavery should be forbidden in territory acquired by Mexico

D. Matching People, Places, and Events

Match the person, place, or event in the left column with the proper description in the right column by inserting the correct letter on the blank line.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ___ 1. John Tyler ___ 2. Henry Clay ___ 3. Aroostook War ___ 4. Daniel Webster ___ 5. Texas ___ 6. Oregon ___ 7. James K. Polk ___ 8. John C. Frémont ___ 9. Abraham Lincoln ___ 10. Rio Grande ___ 11. Zachary Taylor ___ 12. Winfield Scott ___ 13. Santa Anna ___ 14. Nicholas Trist ___ 15. David Wilmot | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Congressional author of the “spot resolutions” criticizing the Mexican War B. “Old Fuss and Feathers,” whose conquest of Mexico City brought U.S. victory in the Mexican War C. Leader of Senate Whigs and unsuccessful presidential candidate against Polk in 1844 D. Long-winded American diplomat who negotiated the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo E. Whig leader and secretary who negotiated an end to Maine boundary dispute in 1842 F. Claimed by United States as southern boundary of Texas G. Dashing explorer/adventurer who led the overthrow of Mexican rule in California after war broke out H. Clash between Canadians and Americans over disputed timber country I. Mexican military leader who failed to stop humiliating American invasion of his country J. Independent nation that was the object of British, Mexican, and French scheming in the early 1840’s K. American military hero who invaded northern Mexico from Texas in 1846-1847 L. Congressional author of resolution forbidding slavery in territory acquired from Mexico M. Dark-horse presidential winner of 1844 who effectively carried out ambitious expansionist plans N. Northwestern territory in dispute between Britain and US, subject of “Manifest Destiny” rhetoric in 1844 O. Leader who was elected on the Whig ticket but spent most of his presidency in bitter feuds with his fellow Whigs |
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F. Matching Cause and Effect

Match the historical cause in the left column with the proper effect in the right column by writing the correct letter on the blank line.

Cause	Effect
___ 1. Tyler's refusal to carry out his own Whig party's policies	A. Thwarted a growing movement calling for the United States to annex all of Mexico
___ 2. Strong American hostility to Britain	B. Enabled the United States to take vast territories in the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo
___ 3. British support for the Texas Republic	C. Helped lead to a controversial confrontation with Mexico along the Texas border
___ 4. Rapidly growing American settlement in Oregon	D. Increased American determination to annex Texas
___ 5. The upsurge of Manifest Destiny in the 1840's	E. Split the Whigs and caused the entire cabinet except Webster to resign
___ 6. Clay's unsuccessful attempts to straddle the Texas issue	F. Heated up the slavery controversy between North and South
___ 7. Polk's frustration at Mexico's refusal to sell California	G. Sparked bitter feuds over Canadian rebels, the boundaries of Maine and Oregon, and other issues
___ 8. The overwhelming American military victory over Mexico	H. Turned antislavery voters to the Liberty party and helped elect the expansionist Polk
___ 9. The rapid Senate ratification of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo	I. Created widespread popular support for Polk's expansionist policies on Texas, Oregon, and California
___ 10. The Wilmot Proviso	J. Strengthened American claims to the Columbia River country and made Britain more willing to compromise