

A collection of historical artifacts is displayed on a light-colored surface. On the left, a portion of a chessboard with a checkered pattern and several chess pieces is visible. Below the chessboard, there are two ornate medals with star-shaped centers and intricate designs. A pair of round-rimmed glasses with thin metal frames lies across the middle. In the bottom left corner, a circular compass with a white face and black markings is partially visible. The background is a plain, light-colored surface.

From Sea to Shining Sea: The Mexican War

Causes of the War
Leadership
The Mexican War
The Aftermath of War



Manifest Destiny

“[Mexicans] must amalgamate and be lost, in the superior vigor of the Anglo-Saxon race, or they must perish.”

*John L. O’Sullivan,
Editor,
Democratic Review*



What Caused the Mexican War?

- ◆ Americans are determined to move westward from sea to shining sea
- ◆ Texas is annexed by the United States in 1845 and becomes the 28th state in the union
- ◆ Mexico argues that the boundary is still the Nueces River not the Rio Grande
- ◆ The U.S. Army provokes the Mexican army to attack them along the Rio Grande River

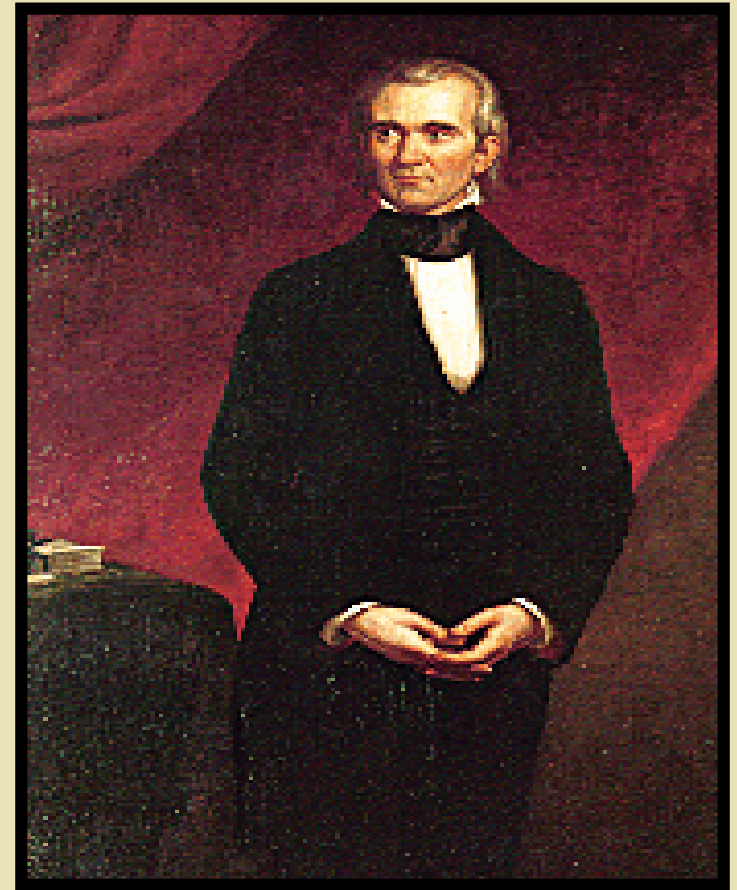


America Divided?

- ◆ Northerners feel that the war is taking money away from improvements to the nation
- ◆ Northerners feel that Polk wants to take over all of Mexico. They are right!
- ◆ Taxes for the war effort increase. Some Americans are against more taxes.
- ◆ Senator John C. Calhoun is against acquiring Mexico because it will “taint” the U.S.

The Election of James Polk 1844

- ◆ James Polk runs a campaign of expansion and pledges to expand the United States if elected
- ◆ When elected he interprets this as a mandate to expand the nation from the people



Mr. Polk's Little War

- ◆ Polk orders General Zachary Taylor to send troops to provoke the Mexicans
- ◆ American troopers are attacked and with this Polk goes to Congress to get approval for war





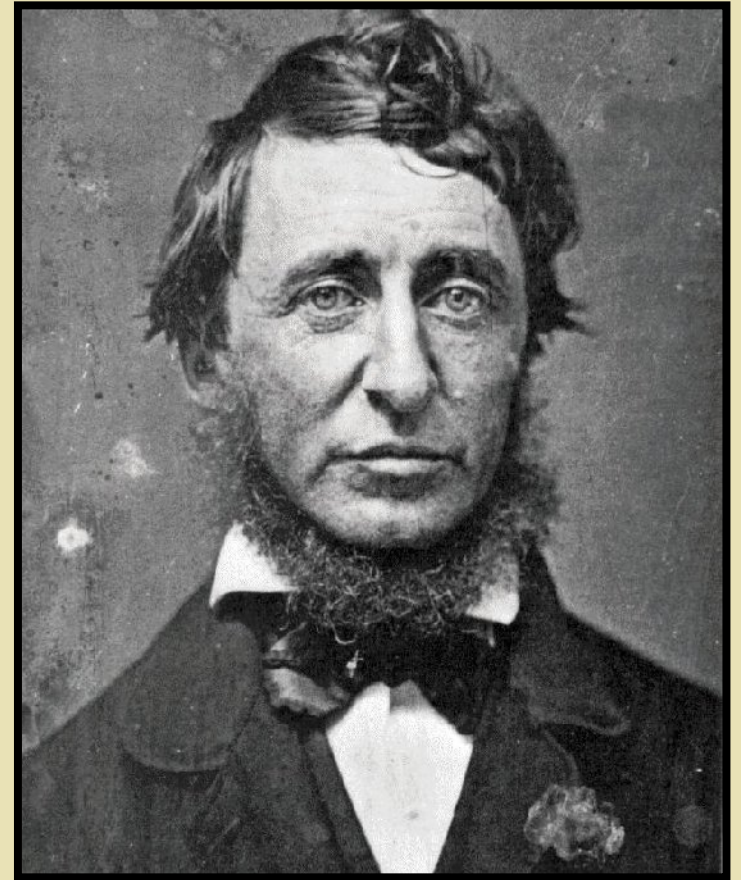
Polk before Congress

“Mexico has passed the boundary of the United States, has invaded our territory and shed American blood upon American soil... War exists by the act of Mexico herself”

*President James Polk
Speech before Congress
1846*

Civil Disobedience

- ◆ In 1847 Illinois congressman Abraham Lincoln questions Polk's account of the border incident
- ◆ He goes on to accuse Polk of misleading Congress and starting a war for territory
- ◆ Writer Henry David Thoreau is arrested for failing to pay taxes that he believes support the war
- ◆ He writes an essay "Civil Disobedience"



The Opposing Armies

The Mexican Army

- ◆ Mexican officers do not go to military school
- ◆ Old weapons, cannons and disorganization
- ◆ It is an army of men forced to serve as soldiers

The American Army

- ◆ College educated West Point officers
- ◆ Horse mounted “Flying Artillery” units (good cannons)
- ◆ The army was a volunteer army comprised of many immigrants



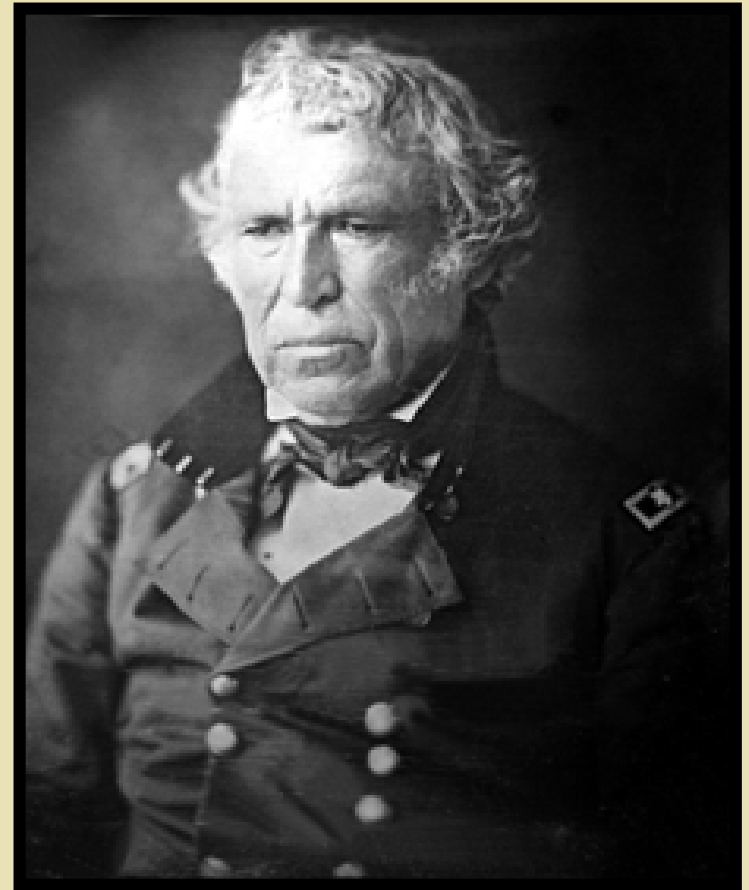
General Winfield Scott

- ◆ Hero of the War of 1812 who is known for his strict discipline
- ◆ Commander of the U.S. army during the Mexican War who marches onto Mexico City and ends the war



General Zachary Taylor

- ◆ Veteran soldier of Indian Wars and plantation owner
- ◆ American general who is “not afraid of blood or to get bloody”



Santa Anna

- ◆ A talented politician but his ego is his downfall
- ◆ President of Mexico who leads the Mexican Army to defeat because of poor leadership





Battles of the Mexican War

- ◆ Palo Alto is fought on May 8, 1846. It is the first battle of the war and shows that the war will be brutal and bloody.
- ◆ The Battle of Buena Vista sees heavily outnumbered Americans use their cannons to defeat Mexico on February 22-23, 1847.
- ◆ The Battle of Mexico City, September 12-13, 1848, ends the war because it is the capital of Mexico. Both sides will lose thousands of men at this last battle.



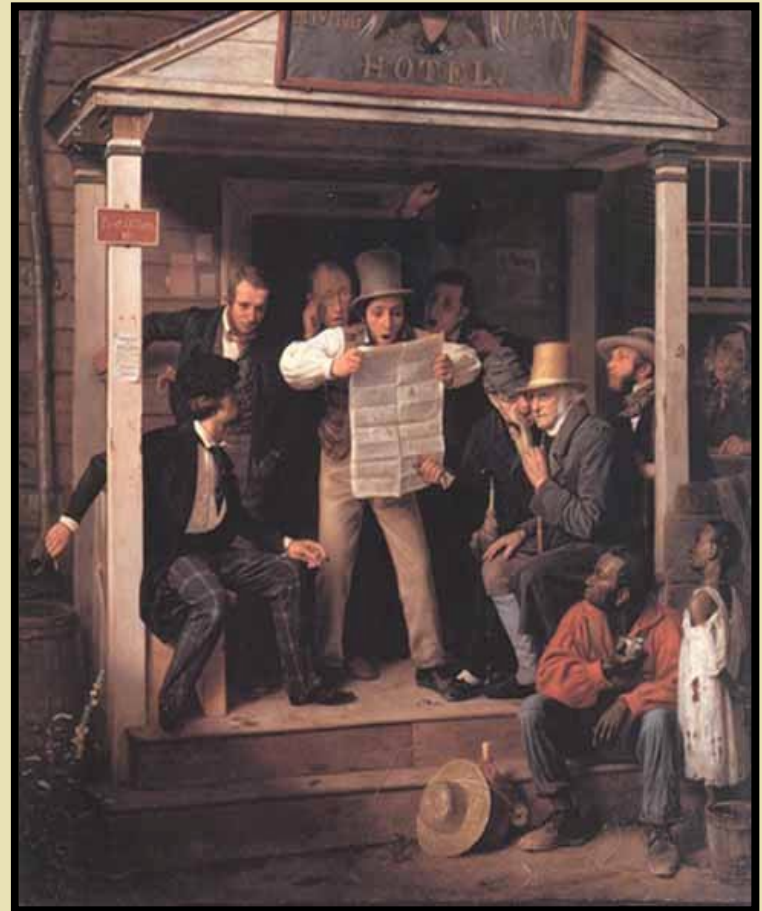
A soldier's view of the war

“The shells thrown from our battery were constant and regular discharges, so beautiful in their flight and so destructive in their fall. It was awful! My heart bled for the inhabitants. The soldiers I did not care so much for, but it was terrible to think of the women and children.”

Captain Robert E. Lee
Corps of Engineers

The Cost of War

- ◆ 1,700 killed
- ◆ 11,000 die of diseases
- ◆ Millions will be spent on the war effort
- ◆ The Mexican War will serve as a training ground for Civil War generals





Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo

- ◆ United States pays Mexico \$15 million dollars an additional \$3 million will paid to Mexican citizens who make claims against the United States military
- ◆ Texas, California, Nevada, New Mexico, Arizona and Colorado are ceded to the U.S.
- ◆ Ceded, is the act of legally giving up territory to another nation
- ◆ Mexicans in the region overnight are to become Americans. It is estimated that 100,000 Mexicans will become American citizens



Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo

“In the said territories, property of every kind, now belonging to Mexicans not established there, shall be inviolably respected. The present owners, the heirs of these, and all Mexicans who may hereafter acquire said property by contract shall enjoy with respect to it guarantees equally ample as if the same belonged to citizens of the United States.”

Article VIII, Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo

The Mexican Cession



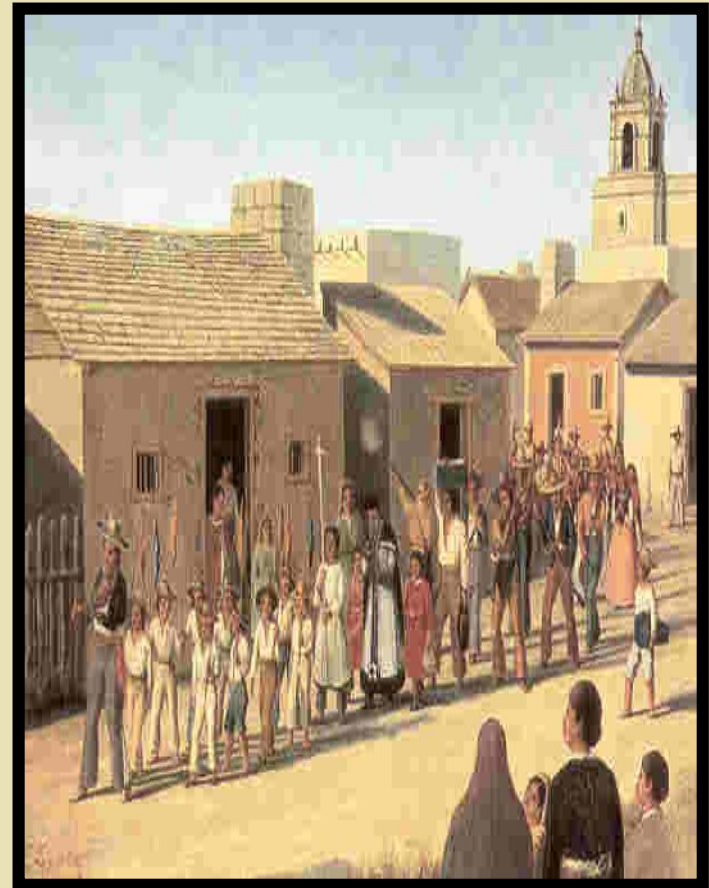
Second Class Citizens

- ◆ The Spanish language and Mexican culture will not be accepted and this leads to Mexican Americans not being accepted
- ◆ Mexican Americans will be subjected to low wages and minimal work
- ◆ In response to such actions Mexican Americans choose to deal with these issues in many ways



Isolation

- ◆ Mexican Americans isolate themselves from Americans
- ◆ Maintain a sense of community and tend to be small farmers
- ◆ Are loyal to the region they are from as opposed to being proud Americans



Accommodation

- ◆ “*Gente Decente*”
- ◆ Maintain their social and political positions by working with/or for Americans
- ◆ Most tend to be the middle class and seek to keep their land holdings



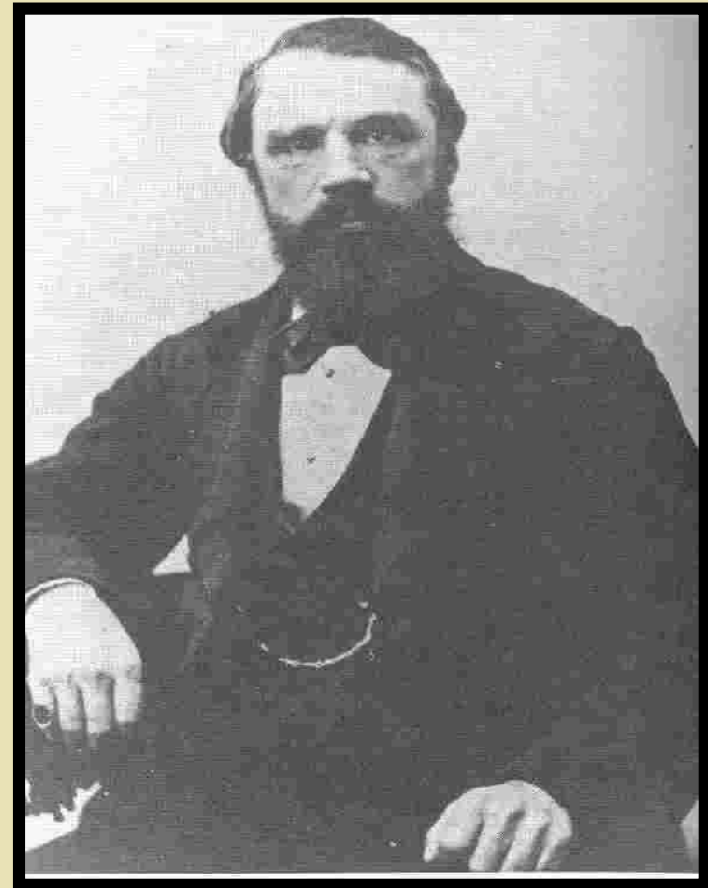
Assimilation

- ◆ Elites and middle class intermarry with Anglos to protect their interest
- ◆ Anglos gain land holdings and Mexicans keep their land through marriage



Resistance

- ◆ Fight back against Anglo racism after the Mexican War
- ◆ “*Social bandits*”, protect the poor and fight back against Anglos and the wealthy
- ◆ Juan Cortina, Brownsville, Texas 1859



Dramatic Land Loss

- ◆ After the war Mexican Americans lose more land than any period of American history
- ◆ Reasons for land loss
 - Anglos do not recognize Mexican ownership
 - Texas Rangers
 - Fraud and intimidation
 - Gambling debts
 - Chicanery from American lawyers

