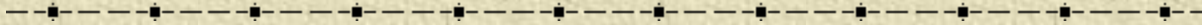


Chapter Fourteen

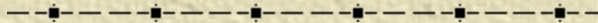
**The Territorial
Expansion of the
United States,
1830s–1850s**



Part One:



Introduction



Chapter Focus Questions

- ✦ How did the political effects of expansion heighten sectional tensions?
- ✦ How did the concept of manifest destiny affect continental expansion?
- ✦ How was the frontier development in Oregon, Texas, and California similar and different?



Part Two:

Texans and Tejanos

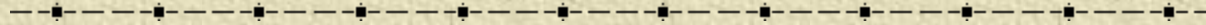
“Remember the Alamo!”

Remember the Alamo

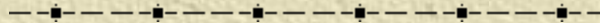
- ✦ The Texas uprising was an alliance between American and native-Spanish speakers, *Tejanos*.
- ✦ The *Tejano* elite welcomed American entrepreneurs and shared power with them.
- ✦ The Mexican state was unstable and the conservative centralists decided Americans had too much power and tried to crack down on local autonomy.
- ✦ *Tejanos* played key roles in the Texas Revolution, though once independence was secured they were excluded from positions of power.
- ✦ The frontier pattern of dealing with native people was by:
 - ◆ first, blending with them
 - ◆ second, occupying the land
 - ◆ third, excluding or removing native settlers.



Part Three:



Exploring the West



The Fur Trade

- ✦ The fur trade was the greatest spur to exploration in North America.
- ✦ Not until the 1820s could American companies challenge the British.
- ✦ Trappers known as mountain men:
 - ◆ accommodated themselves to local Indians
 - ◆ rarely came in contact with whites
 - ◆ might be viewed as the advance guard of the market revolution.
- ✦ By the 1840s, however, the beaver was virtually trapped out.

Government-Sponsored Exploration

- ✦ Map: Exploration of the Continent, 1804–1830.
- ✦ The federal government promoted western expansion by sending out exploratory and scientific expeditions that mapped the West and brought back artists' re-creations.

Expansion and Indian Policy

✧ Map: Indian Territory

- ✧ Government policy looked upon the West as a refuge for eastern Indians who were removed.
- ✧ Encroachment on the new Indian Territory was not long in coming.
- ✧ The government pushed for further land concessions from the western tribes, though the tribes in Oklahoma held on to their lands until after the Civil War.
- ✧ The major battles between whites and Indians in the Great West occurred after the Civil War.



Part Four:

The Politics of Expansion

Manifest Destiny, an Expansionist Ideology

- ✦ In 1845, journalist John O'Sullivan coined the phrase “manifest destiny” to imply Americans had a basic right to spread across the continent and conquer whomever stood in their way.
- ✦ Westward expansion would increase trade and enable whites to “civilize” the Indians. Democrats saw expansion as the cure for national ills by providing new opportunities in the West, leading to increased trade with Asia.
- ✦ Whigs feared expansion would bring up the slavery issue.

The Overland Trails

✦ [Map: The Overland Trails, 1840, p. 397](#)

- ✦ The great trails started at the Missouri River.
- ✦ The Oregon, California, and Mormon Trails followed the Platte River into Wyoming.
- ✦ The Santa Fe Trail was much harsher.
- ✦ The 2,000-mile Overland Trail was a long, expensive, and hazardous journey.
- ✦ Pioneers traveled in groups and often hired a pilot who knew the terrain.
- ✦ Men were responsible for care of the animals.
- ✦ Women prepared food and took care of the children.
- ✦ Problem arose when the parties reached the Rocky Mountains.
- ✦ Though Indian attacks were few, throughout the journey disease plagued the pioneers.

Oregon

- ✦ After 1818, the United States and Britain jointly controlled Oregon territory, though the British dominated the region.
- ✦ Along with fur trappers, missionaries were among the earliest white settlers.
- ✦ Conflicts with Indians resulted in periodic bloodbaths.
- ✦ Disease greatly reduced the Indian population.
- ✦ By the mid-1840s “Oregon Fever” broke out, spurred by the promise of free land. Joint occupation ended in 1846, when the Canadian border was drawn in its current location.
- ✦ “Overland Emigration to Oregon, California, and Utah”

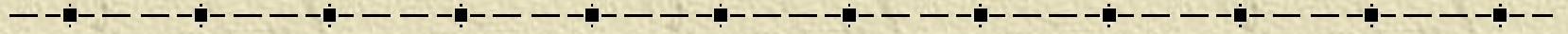
Oregon: Settlements

- ✦ White Oregonians built closely-knit communities.
- ✦ African Americans were formally excluded.
- ✦ Relations with the Indians were peaceful until 1847, when a series of wars broke out. In 1859, Oregon was admitted to the United States as a state.

The Santa Fe Trade

- ✦ After independence, New Mexico welcomed American trade along the Santa Fe Trail.
- ✦ American trappers and traders assimilated into the local population.
- ✦ The trail was hard, arduous, and dangerous; profits were high.

Texas from Mexican Province to State



✠ Maps: Texas

Mexican Texas

- ✦ In Texas, multiethnic settlements revolved around the presidio, mission, and rancho. Mexican authorities sought American settlement as a way of providing a buffer between its heartland and the Comanches.
- ✦ Stephen F. Austin promoted American emigration.
- ✦ Generally, slaveholders came to grow cotton in their self-contained enclaves.
- ✦ Americans viewed Texas as an extension of Mississippi and Louisiana.

Toward Texas Independence

- ✦ For a brief period Texas was big enough to hold Comanche, Mexican, and American communities:
 - ◆ Mexicans maintained ranches and missions in the South.
 - ◆ Americans farmed the eastern and south central sections.
 - ◆ The Comanches held their hunting grounds on the frontier.
- ✦ In 1828, a new Mexican centrist government broke the balance when it sought to control Texas by restricting immigration, outlawing slavery, and raising taxes.
- ✦ Americans came to see their own culture as superior to that of the “mongrel Spanish-Indian.”

The Texas Revolt

- ✦ War broke out in 1835.
- ✦ The Mexican army overwhelmed Americans at the Alamo.
- ✦ At the San Jacinto River, Sam Houston's forces victory led to a treaty granting independence to the Republic of Texas and fixing the southern boundary at the Rio Grande.

Texas and the Election of 1844

- ✦ The Texas Republic developed after the United States rejected admission for fear of rekindling slave state/free state conflicts.
- ✦ Within the republic, conflicts between Anglos and *Tejanos* grew as Americans assumed themselves to be racially and culturally superior.
- ✦ President Tyler raised the issue of annexation in 1844 with hopes of re-election—the debate over the ramifications of annexation ensued.
- ✦ Polk won the 1844 election after calling for “the re-occupation of Oregon and the re-annexation of Texas at the earliest practicable period.”
- ✦ The 1844 election was widely interpreted as a mandate for expansion.
- ✦ Texas became a state in 1845, becoming the eighth state of the Union and the fifteenth slave state.



Part Five:

**The Mexican-American
War**

Origins of the War

- ✦ James K. Polk was committed to expanding U.S. territory.
- ✦ He peacefully settled the Oregon controversy.
- ✦ Increasing tensions with Mexico led that nation to break diplomatic relations with the United States.
- ✦ Polk wanted to extend U.S. territory to the Pacific and encouraged a takeover of California.
- ✦ A border dispute led Polk to order troops to defend Mexico.

Mr. Polk's War

- ✦ The dispute with Mexico erupted into war after that nation refused to receive Polk's envoy and a brief skirmish occurred on the Texas-Mexico border.
- ✦ Polk asked for war with Mexico.
- ✦ The call was politically divisive, particularly among opponents of slavery and northerners.
- ✦ Mass and individual protests occurred.

The Mexican-American War

✦ Maps: The Mexican-American War, 1846–1848

✦ Polk planned the war strategy, sending troops into the northern provinces of Mexico, conquering New Mexico and California.

The Invasion of Mexico

- ✦ Victories in Mexico came hard.
- ✦ The fierce Mexican resistance was met by American brutality against Mexican citizens.
- ✦ When General Scott captured Mexico City, the war ended.

American Expansion after the Mexican- American War

-
- ✦ Polk had ambitions of taking over Mexico, but strong opposition made him accept the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.
 - ✦ Territory Added, 1845–1853

The Press and Popular War Enthusiasm

- ✦ The Mexican-American War was the first conflict featuring regular, on-the-scene reporting.
- ✦ The war reports united Americans into a temporary, emotional community.
- ✦ Popular war heroes like Zachary Taylor and Winfield Scott later became presidential candidates.



Part Six:

**California and the Gold
Rush**

California Before the Gold Rush

- ✦ The Russians had enjoyed a brisk trade in California.
- ✦ A Swiss immigrant who became a Mexican citizen, John Sutter, helped Americans emigrate to California.
- ✦ An American community grew up around Sutter's land grant, which participated in the independence movement from Mexico.

Gold!

✦ Map: California in the Gold Rush

- ✦ The discovery of gold in January 1848 triggered a massive gold rush of white Americans, Mexicans, and Chinese.
- ✦ Because it was the entry port and supply point, San Francisco grew from a village of 1,000 in 1848 to a city of 35,000 in 1850.

The Forty-Niners

- ✦ California's white population grew by nearly tenfold.
- ✦ Twenty percent of the miners came from foreign countries.
- ✦ California gained enough residents to become a state in 1850.
- ✦ "Where the Forty-Niners Came From"

The Chinese Miners

- ✦ The Chinese first came to California in 1849.
- ✦ They were often forced off their claims.
- ✦ The Chinese worked as servants and in other menial occupations.

Mining Camps

- ✦ The mining camps were generally miserable, squalid, temporary communities where racism was widespread.
- ✦ Most of the miners were young, unmarried, and unsuccessful.
- ✦ A much more reliable way to earn wealth was to supply the miners.



Part Seven:

**The Politics of Manifest
Destiny**

The Wilmot Proviso

- ✦ Northern Whigs opposed expansion on antislavery grounds.
- ✦ The Wilmot Proviso caused a controversy over the status of slavery in the new territories.
- ✦ A bitter debate on the Proviso raised serious sectional issues and caused the first breakdown of the national party system.

Free-Soil

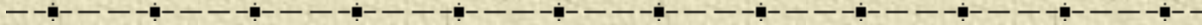
- ✦ The growth of the Liberty Party indicated northern public opinion was shifting toward an antislavery position.
- ✦ The Free-Soil Party offered a compromise for northern voters by focusing on stopping the spread of slavery.
- ✦ The Free-Soilers appealed to northern values of freedom and individualism, as well as racism, for they would ban all African Americans from the new territories.

The Election of 1848

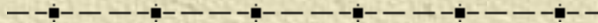
- ✦ In the election of 1848, candidates had to discuss their views on the slavery expansion. Lewis Cass, the Democrat, favored popular sovereignty but was vague on details.
- ✦ The Whig war hero, Zachary Taylor, refused to take a position on the Wilmot Proviso. The Free-Soil Party ran Martin Van Buren as a spoiler.
- ✦ By taking Democratic votes from Cass, Van Buren helped Taylor win the election. Unfortunately, Taylor died in office.



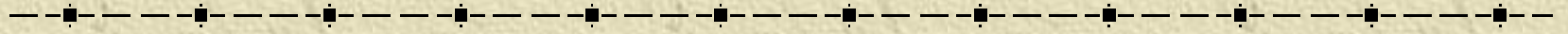
Part Eight:



Conclusion



The Territorial Expansion of the United States



✠ Media: Chronology