

Summary: Texas and the Mexican War

The Texas Revolution

In 1821, Texas was part of Mexico. The land was cheap, so many Americans settled in Texas. Mexico tried to stop them, but they still came. Slavery was against Mexican law, but Americans brought slaves to Texas. Many American settlers and Tejanos, or Mexicans who lived in Texas, wanted to break away from Mexico. They did not like laws made by Santa Anna, Mexico's president. The Tejanos and Texans decided to fight for independence.

In 1836, Santa Anna took an army to San Antonio to take a fort called the Alamo. Fewer than 200 Texans and Tejanos met him. Most of them died in battle. After this, Texans declared independence and formed the Republic of Texas. Sam Houston led their army in a surprise attack at San Jacinto. They won, and captured Santa Anna. For his freedom, Santa Anna gave Texas its independence.

Texans elected Sam Houston president and voted to join the United States. They also made slavery legal. President Van Buren was against annexation. Mexico wanted to keep Texas, and Van Buren feared it would cause war. He also didn't want to add a new state to the Union that allowed slavery. People who wanted to annex Texas said it was the manifest destiny of the United States to spread from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean. In 1845, James Polk became President. Congress voted to annex Texas.

War with Mexico

The United States and Mexico disagreed on the border between Texas and Mexico. Congress declared war in 1846. Soldiers fought on three fronts. Americans captured Mexico City in 1847. In 1848, Mexico signed the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. Mexico agreed to the annexation of Texas and the Rio Grande as the border between Texas and Mexico. Mexico also gave a large area of land, the Mexican Cession, to the United States.



Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

annexation *noun*, joining two countries or pieces of land together

manifest destiny *noun*, the belief that the United States should spread across North America

front *noun*, where the fighting takes place in a war

cession *noun*, something that is given up



After You Read

REVIEW Why didn't President Van Buren want to annex Texas? Underline the two sentences that tell the answer.

REVIEW What did Mexico agree to under the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo? Circle the sentence that tells the answer.