

Lone Star Legacy: The Texas Republic and The War With Mexico

1 videocassette..... ..26 minutes

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INTRODUCTION

This program examines the emigration of U.S. settlers to Mexican -owned Texas and how the early settlement of this area lead to the eventual cessation of Texas and the war with Mexico. Legendary Texas heroes Stephen Austin, Jim Bowie, Sam Houston and Davy Crockett are discussed along with the important contributions of Mexicans like Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna. Living history segments depict the early settlers move to Texas, the famous battles of the Alamo and Goliad, and the Mexican War. Finally the recognition of the Lone Star Republic and it's eventual annexation by the U.S. is detailed.

Learning Objectives

After reading about the Texas Republic and the War with Mexico and viewing this video students should understand the following key points:

1. Stephen F. Austin was the first and most successful of the American men licensed to advertise and sell Mexican land to settlers.
2. By 1825, 1800 people lived in Austin's colony.
3. There were many American settlers who did not pay for the Mexican land they occupied.
4. As more Americans settled in Texas the Mexican government could make Texans conform to their laws.
5. The conflict increased in Texas resulting in an open rebellion against Mexico.
6. The Texans formed an army and fought against the Mexicans General Santa Anna at the Alamo.
7. The Battle of the Alamo and the battle at Goliad became rallying cries for the independence of Texas.
8. After Santa Anna and the Mexican Army were defeated at San Jacinto, Texas would declare independence.

9. The U.S. and Mexico disagreed on the borders between the two countries and this dispute eventually led to the war with Mexico.
10. Texas wanted to join the U.S. as a slave state.
11. Texas was officially admitted to American statehood on December 29th 1845.
12. The Mexican General Santa Anna, Sam Houston and Zachary Taylor were famous men involved with freedom for Texas.
13. In February 1848, Folk's representative Nicholas Trist signed the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo with Mexico.
14. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo expanded the U.S. territory to the Pacific Ocean.
15. President James K. Folk's administration added more territory to the United States than any other president since Jefferson's Louisiana Purchase.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Why did American settlers move to Texas?

A. Rich soil, vast herds, could be a center of trade

2. Who was the first man to advertise and sell land?

A. Stephen F. Austin

3. Why did Mexico try to stop further American emigration?

A. American settlers were not paying for land and they were not abiding by Mexican law.

4. What did settlers do when Mexico tried to stop emigration?

A. Settlers declared independence from Mexico.

5. What battle became a rallying cry for Texans? A.

Remember the Alamo!

6. Who was elected President in the election of 1844?

A. James K. Polk

7. Did Texas want to join the United States as a free state or a slave state?

A. A slave state

S. When was Texas officially admitted into the United States?

A. December 29th, 1845

9. Name one United States General who fought in the war with Mexico and a battle he fought?

- Zachary Taylor, Buena Vista
- Winfield Scott, Chapultepec
- Stephen Kearny, San Diego, Los Angeles etc.

10. After the war with Mexico how far did the United States expand?

A. To the Pacific Ocean

ACTIVITIES

Divide students into groups and have them design an advertisement for land in Texas that is being sold by Stephen Austin, the head of a Texas colony. The advertisement should include a description of the land, the reasons why it is a good deal and how much it will cost. Hang all advertisements in the classroom.

Split the class in half. One half discusses why Texas should become part of the United States and the other half discusses why Mexico should keep control of the Texas area.

Pick a character from the video and describe from their point of view what Texas was like before and during the Mexican War.

GLOSSARY

Alamo —chapel-fort in San Antonio, Texas, built in 1744. It was held by Davy Crockett, Jim Bowie, William Travis, and about 180 other Texans against a siege by an army of several thousand Mexicans under Gen. Santa Anna (Feb. 24-Mar. 6, 1836) during the Texas Revolution. While the defenders died, their resistance rallied others who defeated the Mexicans six weeks later, crying, "Remember the Alamo!"

Austin, Moses — (1761-1821) Texas colonizer who went to Mexico City seeking official permission from Spain to bring 300 American families to Texas. He died before he could complete the migration, but his son, Stephen, carried out his plans.

Austin, Stephen ~ (1793-1836) Texas colonizer, known as the Father of Texas; born in Wythe County, Virginia. He took up the colonizing plans of his father, Moses Austin, 1761-1821, and began (1822) planting settlements in Texas between the Brazos and Colorado rivers. He later forwarded the Texas Revolution (1836) and was briefly secretary of state of the Republic of Texas.

Bowie, Jim ~ (1796-1836) Texas hero; born in Logan County, Kentucky. He was a leader of the Americans in Texas who opposed Mexican rule. A colonel in the Texas Revolution (1835-36), he died at the Alamo. Legend credits him with inventing the bowie knife.

Brazos River ~ A river rising as a tributary in eastern New Mexico and flowing about 1,400 km (870 mi)

generally southeast across Texas to the Gulf of Mexico, southwest of Galveston.

Buena Vista — A locality in northern Mexico just south of Saltillo. In the Mexican War U.S. forces led by Zachary Taylor defeated a Mexican army commanded by Santa Anna on February 22-23, 1847.

Chapultepec — A rocky hill south of Mexico City, Mexico. It was the site of a major American victory (September 12-13, 1847) during the Mexican War.

Cherokees — A Native American people formerly inhabiting the southern Appalachian Mountains from the western Carolinas and eastern Tennessee to northern Georgia, with present-day populations in northeast Oklahoma and western North Carolina. The Cherokee were removed to Indian Territory in the 1830's after conflict with American settlers over rights to traditional lands.

Clay, Henry - (1777-1852) Known as "the Great Compromiser." American politician who pushed the Missouri Compromise through the U.S. House of Representatives (1820) in an effort to reconcile free and slave states. He was the Whig Party's candidate for President in 1844, losing to James K. Polk.

Cos, Martin Perfecto de - Mexican general. Brother-in-law of Mexico's General Santa Anna, whose forces were overwhelmed by rebellious Texans in 1835.

Crockett, Davy — (1786-1836) American frontiersman and politician who was a U.S. representative from Tennessee (1827-1831 and 1833-1835) and joined the Texas revolutionaries fighting against Mexico. He died at the siege of the Alamo.

Douglass, Frederick - (1817-1895) American abolitionist and journalist who escaped from slavery (1838) and became an influential lecturer in the North and abroad. He wrote against the Mexican War.

Fannin, James ~ A Texas revolutionary who led his forces to Goliad, where General Santa Anna's forces disarmed them and then shot them and set their corpses on fire.

Florida Purchase Treaty ~ (1819) Treaty between the governments of the United States and Spain in which Spain ceded to the U.S. its possessions east of the Mississippi River, including the Florida peninsula. In exchange, the U.S. agreed to renounce future claims to the Spanish possession of Texas.

Fremont, John Charles - (1813-90) American explorer, soldier, and political leader; born in Savannah, Ga. His enthusiastic reports of his Western explorations (1841-44) created wide interest in that region. He was a leader (1846) in the revolt of California against Mexico until he quarreled with S.W. Kearny in Kearny's contest for command with Robert Stockton. Fremont was called the Pathfinder.

Giddings, Joshua - Antislavery Congressman from Ohio, who voted against all Mexican War measures.

Goliad — City, seat of Goliad County, South Texas, on the San Antonio River, a market town in a farm area. During the Texas Revolution (1836) it was the scene of the infamous "Goliad massacre" of Texan prisoners by Mexican troops. A Spanish mission (est. 1749) and presidio are tourist attractions.

Halls of Montezuma - Aztec architecture in Mexico City from the era of the last Aztec emperor in Mexico, Montezuma (1502-1520). He was overthrown by the Spanish conquistador Hernando Cortes.

Houston, Sam - (1793-1863) American general and politician who fought in the Texan struggle for independence from Mexico and became president of the Republic of Texas (1836-1838 and 1841-1844). When Texas was admitted to the Union, he served as U.S. senator (1845-1859) and governor (1859-1861).

Jackson, Andrew - (1767-1845) Seventh president of the U.S. (1829-37); nicknamed "Old Hickory." He was the greatest hero of his time and became associated with increased popular participation in government. Recognized the Republic of Texas on his last day in office.

Karankawa Indians - Native Americans who lived and hunted in Texas on territory that overlapped with that settled by Americans, which led to skirmishes between them for control of the land.

Kearny, Stephen Watts - (1794-1848) American general in the Mexican War; made (1846) commander in the West, Kearny captured Santa Fe and Los Angeles and was military governor of California until 1847.

Lincoln, Abraham ~ 1809-65, 16th president of the U.S. (1861-65). He served one term (1847-49) in Congress as a Whig and opposed the Mexican War.

Lone Star Republic - Another name for the Republic of Texas (1836-45).

Long, Dr. James - A Mississippian who led a contingent of 300 volunteers to conquer Texas from Spain in July 1819. They invaded the Texas town of Nacogdoches and declared it the capital of the Republic of Texas, but when Long left, Spanish troops reclaimed it.

Manifest Destiny ~ The 19th-century doctrine that the United States had the right and duty to expand throughout the North American continent. The doctrine was invoked to justify the Mexican War.

Matamoros — A city in northeast Mexico near the mouth of the Rio Grande opposite Brownsville, Texas. It was captured by Zachary Taylor's forces in 1846 during the Mexican War.

Mexico City - The capital and largest city of Mexico, at the southern end of the central plateau. Situated at an altitude of 2,379 m (7,800 ft), it was founded on the site of an ancient Aztec capital destroyed by Cortes in 1521. The city was captured (1847) by U.S. troops during the Mexican War.

Missouri Compromise - (1820-21) Measures passed by the U.S. Congress to end the first crisis concerning the extension of slavery. Maine was admitted as a free state and Missouri as a slave state, and slavery was prohibited from the Louisiana Purchase north of 36 degrees 30 minutes.

Nacogdoches ~ A city in eastern Texas east of Waco. Settled in 1779 on the site of a Spanish mission founded in 1716. In 1819 it was the site of a short-lived invasion led by Dr. James Long.

Nueces River -- A river in southern Texas flowing about 507 km (315 mi) to Nueces Bay, an inlet of the Gulf of Mexico near Corpus Christi.

Oregon Territory - The portion of the Oregon Country that became a U.S. territory in 1848 as a result of a compromise to split the large Northwest land mass at the 49th parallel with Great Britain. The area above the 49th parallel became part of Canada and the area below it became the states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and parts of other states.

O'Sullivan, John - Editor who wrote editorials in 1845 popularizing the doctrine of Manifest Destiny as justification for annexing Texas and expanding across the North American continent.

Polk, James Knox -(1795-1849) 11th president of the U.S. (1845-49). Democrat Polk narrowly defeated Whig Henry Clay in the 1844 election. As president, Polk resolved the dispute with Britain over Oregon by adopting the 49th parallel as the territory's northern boundary. His ordering U.S. troops to the Rio Grande brought about the Mexican War, which resulted in U.S. acquisition not only of California but of the entire Southwest.

Republic of Texas - (1836-45). After Americans in Texas won against Mexican forces led by General Santa Anna, the independent Republic of Texas was declared in 1836. It lasted until December 29, 1845, when Texas became the 28th state of the Union.

Rio Grande River -- A river, about 3,033 km (1,885 mi) long, rising in southwest Colorado and flowing generally south through central New Mexico to southwest Texas, where it turns southeast and forms the

U.S.-Mexican border for the rest of its course. It empties into the Gulf of Mexico near Brownsville, Texas, and Matamoros, Mexico.

San Antonio ~ A city in south-central Texas southwest of Austin on the San Antonio River, flowing about 322 km (200 mi) southeast to San Antonio Bay on the Gulf of Mexico. The city was founded as a Franciscan mission in 1718 and is the site of the Alamo, which was besieged and captured by Mexican forces in February-March 1836.

San Jacinto ~ A river, about 209 km (130 mi) long, of southeast Texas flowing into Galveston Bay. The final battle of the Texas Revolution, in which insurgents under Sam Houston defeated the Mexican forces led by Santa Anna, was fought on its banks on April 21, 1836.

Santa Anna, Antonio Lopez de - (1794-1876) Mexican military and political leader who tried to crush the Texan revolt. Victorious at the Alamo (1836), he was soon after defeated and captured by the Texans. In the Mexican War he lost several major battles (1846-1847) to General Zachary Taylor.

Santa Fe - City, state capital and seat of Santa Fe County, New Mexico, at the foot of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. Founded in 1609 by the Spanish, it was a Spanish-Native American trade center for over 200 years. Taken by the U.S. in 1846 by forces under the command of General Stephen Kearny.

Santa Fe Trail ~ A trade route to the southwest United States extending about 1,287 km (800 mi) westward from Independence, Missouri, to Santa Fe, New Mexico. First traversed in 1821, it was the primary

wagon and stage route to the Southwest until the coming of the railroad in 1880.

Scott, Winfield - (1786-1866) American general; appointed supreme commander of the U.S. Army (1841-61), in the Mexican War he led the southern expedition in a triumphant campaign from Veracruz to Mexico City (1847), which confirmed him as a daring strategist and bold fighter. Scott was vain and pompous—his nickname was "Old Fuss and Feathers"—but he was also generous and fair.

Seguin, Juan - Organized a force of Mexican Texans to help the Americans fight for independence from Mexico.

Taylor, Zachary - (1785-1850) 12th president of the U.S. (1849-50); nicknamed "Old Rough and Ready." He took command (1845) of the army in Texas and won victories in the Mexican War, concluding with the decisive battle of Buena Vista (1847) against great odds. A popular hero, he was elected president on the Whig ticket in 1848.

Tejanos - Spanish-speaking Texans of Mexican heritage.

Travis, William Barret - (1809-1836) American military leader who commanded the Texans defending the Alamo (1836). All the defenders, including Travis, Davy Crockett, and James Bowie, were massacred.

Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo - (February 1848) Peace treaty between the U.S. and Mexico that ended the Mexican War. It confirmed U.S. claims to Texas. Mexico ceded most of the present Southwest U.S. for \$15 million.

Trist, Nicholas Philip - (1800-1874) American diplomat and public official who negotiated the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo with Mexico (1848).

Vera Cruz — A city of east-central Mexico on the Gulf of Mexico east of Puebla. Founded in 1599 on a site visited earlier (1519) by Hernando Cortes, it was frequently sacked by buccaneers in the 17th and 18th centuries. U.S. troops led by Gen. Winfield Scott captured the city in 1847 during the Mexican War.

Washington-on-the-Brazos - A tiny settlement on the Brazos River where Texans created a constitution in 1836 for the independent Republic of Texas and named Sam Houston commander in chief of the army.

NOTE: many definitions and descriptions come from:

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TIMELINE
FOR
Lone Star Legacy:
The Texas Republic and
The War With Mexico

- 1819 - The United States signs the Florida Purchase Treaty with Spain
- July 1819 - Dr. James Long leads ill-fated raid to wrest Texas from Mexico
- 1820 - Missouri Compromise passed
- 1821 - Mexico wins its independence from Spain
- 1821 - Stephen Austin brings Americans to settle in Texas on the Brazos River
- 1830 - The American-born Texans and the slaves they brought with them outnumber the Spanish-speaking natives
- 1833 - Stephen Austin jailed in Mexico City
- 1835 - Santa Anna takes away local rights for Texans
- February 24-March 6, 1836 - Santa Anna's forces lay siege to Alamo, finally killing all the rebels inside
- 1836 - Goliad Massacre of rebels by Mexican army

April 21, 1836 - Sam Houston's forces defeat Santa Anna's forces in San Jacinto, Texas

1836 - Texas declared an independent republic

1837 - Republic of Texas unsuccessfully petitions the United States to join as a slave state

1844 - Democrat James K. Polk elected 11th U.S. president

1845 - Newspaper editor John O' Sullivan popularizes the doctrine of Manifest Destiny

December 29, 1845 - Texas admitted into the Union as the 28th state

1846 - Oregon Territory's border fixed at 49th parallel in Oregon Treaty with Great Britain

April 25, 1846 - Mexicans attack Zachary Taylor's soldiers stationed on the Rio Grande, precipitating the Mexican War

February 2, 1848 - Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed ceding California Territory from Mexico to the United States and formally ending the Mexican War

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INTERNET RESOURCES

Online sources that may be useful for this topic

America at War: Mexican-American War America at War American Military History: Revolutionary War to World War II. Mexican War Mexican-American War Timeline. January 1 -President Polk orders General Zachary Taylor to advance to the Rio... <http://www.semo.net/suburb/dlswoff/mexwar.html>

AZTEC CLUB OF 1847

Military Society of the Mexican War - The Aztec Club of 1847, Military Society of the Mexican War, was founded by American officers during the Mexican War. Its 160 original members represent most of the major figures of the Mexican War.
<http://www.walika.com/aztec.htm>

Britannica

Level 6 Site reviews Best of the Web: Biography of Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna by Lyman Hardeman.
http://nwl.newsweek.com/nw-srv/inetguide/iguide_4498004.html

Handbook of Texas Online: REPUBLIC OF TEXAS
REPUBLIC OF TEXAS. In the fall of 1835 many Texans, both Anglo-American colonists and Tejanos, concluded that liberalism and republicanism in Mexico, as reflected in its Constitution of 1824, were...
<http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/view/RR>

Historical Survey—A Shared Experience—The Mexican-American War

A Shared Experience's Historical Survey. The Mexican-American War: 1846 to 1848. In August 1843, not long after the Mexican victory at Mier, plans were made in Mexico City for an invasion of Texas, <http://www.rice.edu/armadillo/Past/book/Part2/1846-48.html>

History Guy: The Mexican-American War - A brief description of the war between the United States and Mexico in the 1840s. Designed as a resource for students, researchers and history buffs.
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Invasion Yanqui: The Mexican War
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Jim Beckwourth and the Mexico-American War
Jim Beckwourth was an African American who played a major role in the early exploration and settlement of the American West. Although there were people of many races and nationalities on the...
<http://www.beckwourth.org/Biography/mexicanwar.html>

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With the annexation of Texas in early 1845, war with Mexico became all but inevitable, <http://www.usahistory.com/wars/mexico.htm>

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Enough Blame to Go Around: Causes of the Mexican American War. President James K. Polk, among his campaign promises, vowed to bring Oregon and California under American control.

<http://www.azteca.net/aztec/war/Mexican-American-War.html>

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Money of the Republic of Texas

Financing the public debt and implementing a stable currency system were among the many challenges facing the government of the Republic of Texas.

http://www.lsjunction.com/facts/tx_money.htm

Republic of Texas-Index

Index to the DeWitt Colony region after independence.

<http://www.tamu.edu/ccbn/dewitt/republiccon.htm>

Texas During the Republic

The map shows the major settlements in Texas that date from the time of the Republic. Additional background information is available for each town by selecting the desired point on the map.

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<http://www.dmwv.org/mexwar/mexwar.htm>

RELATED VIDEOS FROM RAINBOW

Countdown to Independence: Causes of the American Revolution

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Native Americans: People of the Northwest Coast

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Struggle for the Colonial Frontier 1600-1750: France and Spain Defend their Claims

Trail to Riches?: The California Gold Rush and Settlement of the Pacific Northwest

Westward Strategy: The Louisiana Purchase and The Lewis and Clark Expedition

SCRIPT

Lone Star Legacy: The Texas Republic and The War With Mexico

In this program you will learn about the battles at the Alamo and Goliad, and the Mexican War, and how these events resulted in the American expansion to the Pacific.

You will meet Stephen Austin, head of the Texas colony, as well as legends of Texas, Jim Bowie and Sam Houston.

And you will encounter the "Napoleon of the West", Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, who fought to hold and defend Mexico's Texas territory.

In 1800, Spain controlled the land that is now known as the country of Mexico. Back then, Mexico included the whole of what is now the state of Texas. When the United States signed the Florida Purchase Treaty in 1819, it gave up any claim to Texas, but many Americans still wanted to move there.

Texas had rich soil which was well suited to cotton growing and cotton was the most important crop in

the South at that time. Texas also featured vast herds of cattle and had the potential to become a center of trade.

MELTZER: "Moses Austin was a businessman from the east coast. He approached the Spanish government with a proposal to allow him to sell land in the Texas territory. The Spanish government agreed, and Moses Austin became the first American with the rights to legally settle and sell land in Texas. Unfortunately, Moses Austin died very shortly after finishing the agreement with the Spanish, so his son Stephen took over as head of the Texas colony."

Stephen Austin was the first and most successful of the American "impresarios" men licensed to advertise and sell land to settlers. Austin recruited 300 American families to his new Texas colony but just as they arrived, trouble arose in the land.

HARDIN: No sooner did Stephen F. Austin bring the first of his colonists to settle on the banks of the Brazos River, does he find that there has been a revolution in Mexico City. In 1821, Mexico declares its independence from Spain just like the United States had in 1776 declared its independence from Great Britain. Mexico was no longer a colony of Spain. Mexico is now an independent republic. The question in Austin's mind, and indeed in the minds of all the American colonists, is the new Mexican government going to honor the deal Moses had made with the old Spanish government? Well, there's only one way to find out. Austin has to mount his horse and make the long, arduous overland journey to Mexico City.

Austin's trip to Mexico City was a success.

The new Mexican government also agreed to let Austin's settlers bring slaves to Texas, receiving 80 acres of land for each slave they brought. By 1825, 1800 people lived in Austin's colony, 443 of them were slaves of African and Caribbean descent.

The Americans were expected to accept and abide by Mexican law. Some did. Many others did not.

There were many American "squatters," people who settled upon land for which they had not paid and did not have permission to occupy. Some of these were criminals running away from the law or poor people trying to escape their debts in the US. The Mexicans looked down on them.

Jose Maria Sanchez was a Mexican draftsman sent in 1828 by the Mexican government to survey the Texas province border with Louisiana. Sanchez came back with a very critical assessment of the American settlers.

Mexico officially reversed its immigration policy, not allowing any more American settlers to come to Texas. The Mexicans also banned the further importation of slaves, they imposed heavy taxes on American goods, and they sent troops to the frontier to enforce the new laws.

Nevertheless, Americans continued to stream into Texas and tensions between the two sides increasingly turned into open hostility.

Men who wanted Texas to break away from Mexico and join the United States unified into "The War Party". It was from the ranks of these rebellious settlers that two legends of Texas emerged: Jim Bowie and Sam Houston.

HARDIN: By the time he came to Texas, Jim Bowie was already something of a legend up and down the Mississippi River. Born in Kentucky, he spent his boyhood in Louisiana where he is said to have hunted bear and wrestled alligators. But as he grew to manhood, he got involved in some shady dealings. He was a land speculator and that would have been fine, but he also seems to have had a career dealing in forged land certificates. So what we're talking about here is land fraud.

Sam Houston came to Texas to try to rebuild his shattered life. By the time he was 34, Houston had been a member of the U.S. House of Representatives and had become the youngest governor in the history of Tennessee. But Houston fell on personal and political hard times. He resigned his governorship in disgrace and moved to Texas in 1832, attempting to make money through land speculation. Instead, his fame was later to be made through his military and political service in Texas. Houston joined the War Party shortly after his arrival.

The popularity of the War Party rose as the Mexicans became more oppressive in their rule. In 1833, Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna was elected as the new president of Mexico.

In 1835, Santa Anna took away all local rights for Texans. This moved the Texans and Mexico to the brink of war. Even former peacemaker Stephen Austin echoed the call for the colonists to take up arms against Mexico. Among those who responded to the call to battle the Mexicans was legendary frontier rifleman and Tennessee congressman, Davy Crockett.

On October 2, 1835, fighting broke out at the Battle of Gonzalez and the Texas Revolution was underway.

Santa Anna began the Goliad Campaign to crush the rebellion. He sent General Martin Perfecto de Cos, to lead an army of 800 to establish Mexican military posts at Refugio, Goliad and San Antonio. In response, Stephen Austin went with a group of a few hundred calling themselves "the Army of the People" to surround Cos and his army in San Antonio.

With Sam Houston, the Texans took the Mexican post at Goliad and then drove Cos and his army into the Alamo, an old Spanish Catholic mission in San Antonio. Cos surrendered. The Texans let the Mexican troops go, and rejoiced in their triumph.

The victory was short-lived. Santa Anna himself took command of the campaign in Texas, leading an army of nearly 6,000 troops. Sam Houston realized that there was little that could be done to stop Santa

Anna from overtaking the forces at the Alamo. He sent Jim Bowie to destroy the Alamo before the Mexicans could use it to protect San Antonio.

Instead of destroying it, Bowie tried to hold the Alamo, occupying it with a group that included Davy Crockett, William Travis and other volunteer militiamen.

On February 24, 1836, Santa Anna and his troops arrived at the Alamo and demanded surrender. In response, the Texans fired their weapons upon the Mexicans. The Mexican forces bombarded the mission with artillery fire for thirteen days until the fort was destroyed. On March 6, the Mexicans climbed over the bombed out walls and entered the barracks, killing every American in the Alamo, including Jim Bowie and Davy Crockett.

On March 2, 1836, the Texans declared independence from Mexico. It was a gesture of defiance, much like the US Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.

Shortly after the Alamo siege, Santa Anna began his move to take Goliad.

General Jose Herrera, under Santa Anna's command, marched up from Matamoras up along the Texas coast towards the town of Goliad and the Goliad Fort the Presidios La Bahia. This garrison was commanded by James Walker Fannin. Fannin was a very brave man but unfortunately was not a strong military leader. He thought that his troops should retreat from Goliad but he hesitated. Finally Sam Houston ordered him to retreat but he still delayed leaving. As he began his retreat northward

to rendezvous with Houston on the Colorado River, it was already too late. On an open prairie between Goliad and Victoria, General Herrera's cavalry and Fannon and his men met and fought the Battle of Coleto.

They were overwhelmed and forced to surrender. The garrison was marched back to Goliad. Under the direct orders of Santa Anna, the majority of Fannon's Goliad troops were marched out and shot.

Santa Anna figured that the siege of the Alamo and the massacre at Goliad would crush the morale of the rebels. He was wrong. Instead, the losses only intensified the efforts of people in the United States to help out the Texans. "Remember the Alamo!" and "Remember Goliad!" became rallying battle cries for the Texas and US rebellion.

While the details of the Texas constitution were being debated, Sam Houston retreated east with his army toward the Gulf Coast port of San Jacinto. It was there that he fought the decisive battle of the Texas Revolution.

HARDIN: Santa Anna actually assured the Texan success by separating himself, the commander of the army from the main bulk of the army, and going off with a very small detachment in an effort to capture the Texas government. Well, they didn't capture the Texas government, but they did place themselves in a position to be cut off by Sam Houston and his rebel army. And that army attacked on April 21, 1836.

When Santa Anna's troops stopped to rest, Houston and his troops were hiding nearby. Houston

ordered a bridge behind the Mexican troops burned down, so that neither the Texans nor the Mexicans could escape from the area surrounded by water.

Houston led the charge, and the Texan forces wiped out the Mexican forces taking Santa Anna prisoner. The Mexican dictator was forced to sign a treaty acknowledging Texas as an independent republic and expanding its borders.

As soon as Santa Anna was released, he and the Mexican legislature renounced the treaties as illegal and refused to acknowledge Texas sovereignty. They made no effort to reclaim Texas for fear of ending up in a war with the United States.

Andrew Jackson recognized the Independent Republic of Texas on his last day in office as President of the United States. Houston was elected president of the Texas Republic. In September 1836, the people of Texas voted to ratify a constitution. Texas was now an independent country.

However, few Texans actually wanted to remain independent. On their own, they were not strong enough to succeed as an independent country. Financial problems, and battles with Indian and Mexican raiders quickly overwhelmed the Lone Star Republic. The vast majority of Texans, including Houston, wanted to join the United States. In 1837, Houston petitioned the United States government for entry into the Union.

Obtaining statehood would not be easy for Texas. They wanted to join the Union as a slave state.

Many members of Congress from the North were opposed to slavery, and blocked any attempt to expand the number of states that allowed it. At the very least, they did not want the even balance between slave and free states in the Union to be tipped to the slaveholders' side.

HARDIN: The greatest issues in the Presidential election of 1844 was the annexation of Texas. Is it going to happen? Is it not? The Whig candidate was Henry Clay. Now he said that he was for the annexation of Texas unless it meant war with Mexico. Well in this he's not sincere, because he knows the annexation of Texas will lead to war with Mexico because Mexico has always said that the moment Texas joins the Union there will be a declaration of war. So, what he really means is that he's opposed to the annexation of Texas. On the other hand, the democratic candidate, James Knox Polk, is forthright in his desire to bring Texas into the Union at any cost, even if it means war with Mexico.

Polk narrowly defeated Clay. Polk took his victory as an agreement and authorization from the American people to expand the country, whether by treaty or by war. Polk subscribed to a doctrine called "Manifest Destiny." "Manifest Destiny" centered on the belief that the United States had been selected by God to spread their democratic institutions from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean.

HARDIN: There's a lot of confusion today among most Americans concerning what the term "Manifest Destiny" means. Well, in that time manifest was just another word for obvious. It was America's obvious destiny to expand westward, to annex Texas, New

Mexico, California. It was obvious to Americans. It was less obvious to Mexicans who said, this is after all our territory.

On December 29, 1845, Texas was officially admitted to American statehood as the 28th state of the Union.

President Polk soon looked to the Pacific Northwest to expand the US and was able to strike a deal with Britain to split the Oregon Territory, giving the U.S. land that includes present-day Oregon, Washington and Idaho, and parts of other states.

Then he looked west of Texas and offered to buy the Southwest territories from Mexico but was refused. Polk was still determined to get the territory he wanted and decided to provoke a confrontation with Mexico in order to gain through war what could not be gained through diplomacy.

In early 1846, Polk sent troops led by General Zachary Taylor to defend the disputed southwestern border between Texas and Mexico. Mexico took this as an act of aggression and broke off diplomatic relations. On April 25, Mexican troops crossed the river and attacked a patrol of Taylor's soldiers, killing 16 men and wounding and capturing others.

Mexicans had "shed American blood upon the American soil." Although some dissenters, like Henry Clay and Whig Congressman Abraham Lincoln, questioned whether that soil was actually American, Congress overwhelmingly voted for war, initiating the Mexican War.

What began as a border dispute between Texas and Mexico grew into a concerted effort to gain New Mexico and the Californias from Mexico.

General Taylor led the effort to invade northeastern Mexico. "Old Rough and Ready," as Taylor was nicknamed, found his forces outnumbered 20,000 to 5,000 in the northern Mexican town of Buena Vista. When he and his troops succeeded in beating back the Mexican troops, Taylor became "The Hero of Buena Vista."

General Winfield Scott had the most difficult campaign of the entire war. Scott advanced his troops upon the ancient Aztec "halls of Montezuma" in Mexico's capital, Mexico City.

MELTZER: During the American campaign to capture what they called the so-called Halls of Montezuma in Mexico City, the Americans assaulted the Fort at Chapultepec in Mexico. At this fort were training a bunch of soldiers, who were just boys. Well, these boys ended up fighting alongside adults, fighting the Americans who were invading their country. Although the fort was captured and it basically meant that Mexico, for all intents and purposes lost the war at that point, the boys who fought there became great heroes of the Mexican people. They symbolized the bravery of the Mexican people and that anybody can help out in battling the foreign powers.

Unlike Taylor and Scott, General Stephen Kearny's path to victory was relatively easy. He was able to take New Mexico and Santa Fe without a single casualty. Kearny then pushed on through San Diego and Los Angeles gaining control of California from Mexico.

The Mexicans were defeated. In February 1848, Folk's representative Nicholas Trist signed the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo with Mexico. The treaty cut Mexico in half, giving to the United States the land that includes all or part of the present-day states of New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, Colorado, Wyoming and California. For this, the U.S. paid Mexico 15 million dollars.

HARDIN: The Mexican war, or the War of Northern Imperialism as they call it in Mexico, had an important and lasting effect on the nation of Mexico. Prior to this war, there wasn't a real sense of nationhood. They called themselves a United Mexico but they really weren't. And it was the shame of this defeat that really forced Mexicans to come together, to forge a real sense of nationhood. It was a hard way to do it, but it was really the defeat and the solidarity that that defeat brought to Mexico that forged a real sense of Mexican nationalism.

Most Americans were not at all concerned with the effect the war had on Mexico and the Mexican people. President James K. Folk's administration added more territory to the United States than had any since Jefferson's Louisiana Purchase. But the cost in human and political terms was immense. Texas became independent and the Mexican War was won at the cost of substantial bloodshed on both sides.

The acquisition of these new territories led to increasingly heated debates about the spread of slavery into new settlements. The rift between slave

states in the South and free states in the North became more and more divisive during the 1850s.

HARDIN: The annexation of Texas led to the Mexican War. And then slavery becomes an issue again, because all of these new territories that we got from Mexico, once again, are these territories going to be free or slave? And it's this issue, the question of the extension of slavery into the territories, that is ultimately going to lead to cessation and war.

American settlers streamed to Texas for its rich soil, vast herds of cattle, and its potential to become a center of trade.

When Mexico tried to shut off further American immigration, the tensions between the two sides increasingly turned into open hostility and the settlers decided to break away from Mexico.

On March 6, 1836 the Mexicans climbed over the bombed out walls and entered the barracks, killing every American in the Alamo.

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President James K. Polk's administration added more territory to the United States than any other president since Jefferson's Louisiana Purchase.