

Texas War for Independence and Mexican-American War



Spanish Texas

- The Spanish had been in the Americas since Columbus in 1492
- Spain owned a large part of North America, including Texas



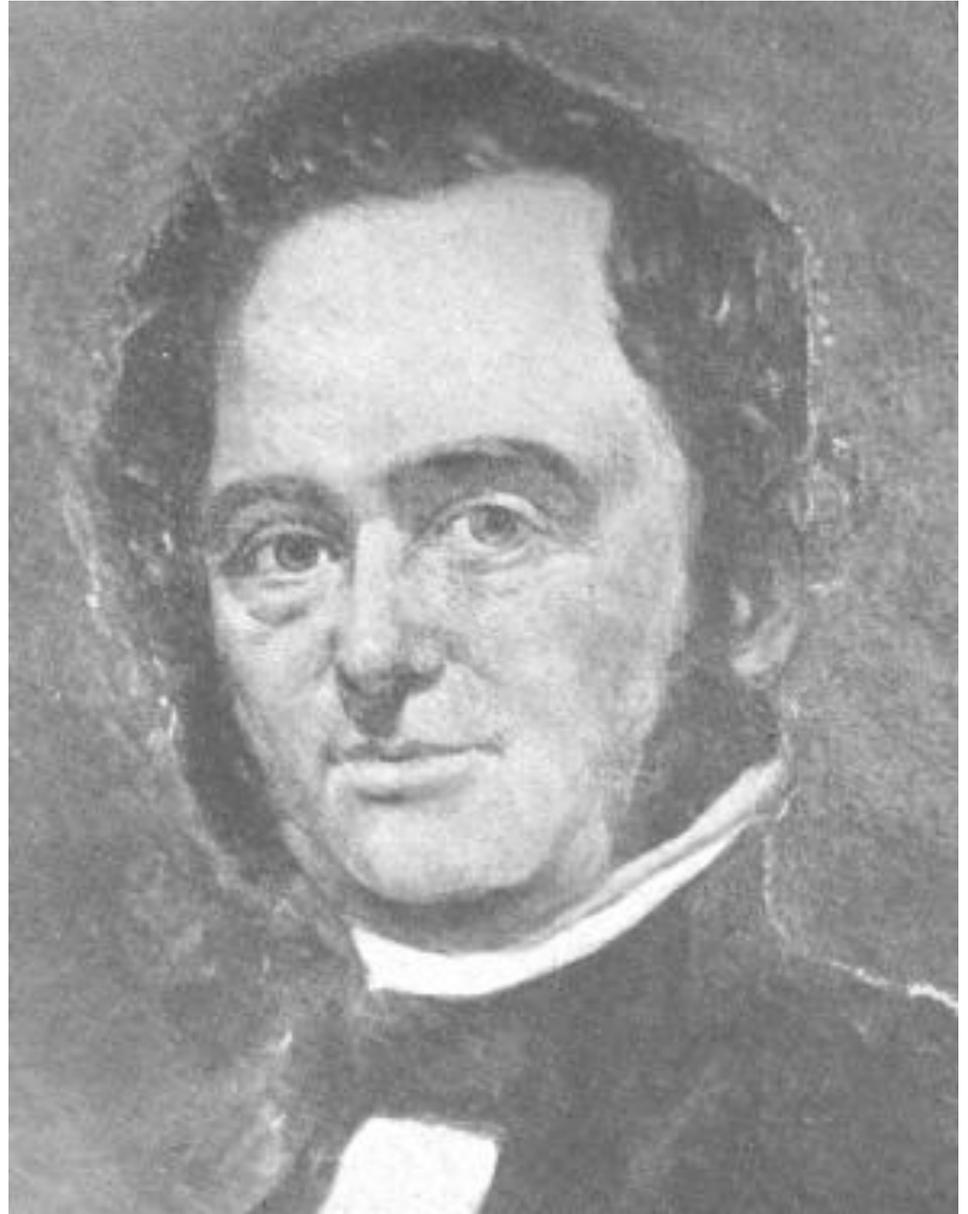
Tejanos

- In 1821, only about 4,000 “Tejanos” lived in TX
 - People of Spanish heritage who considered TX their home
- The Spanish govt tried to attract Spanish settlers to TX, but very few came

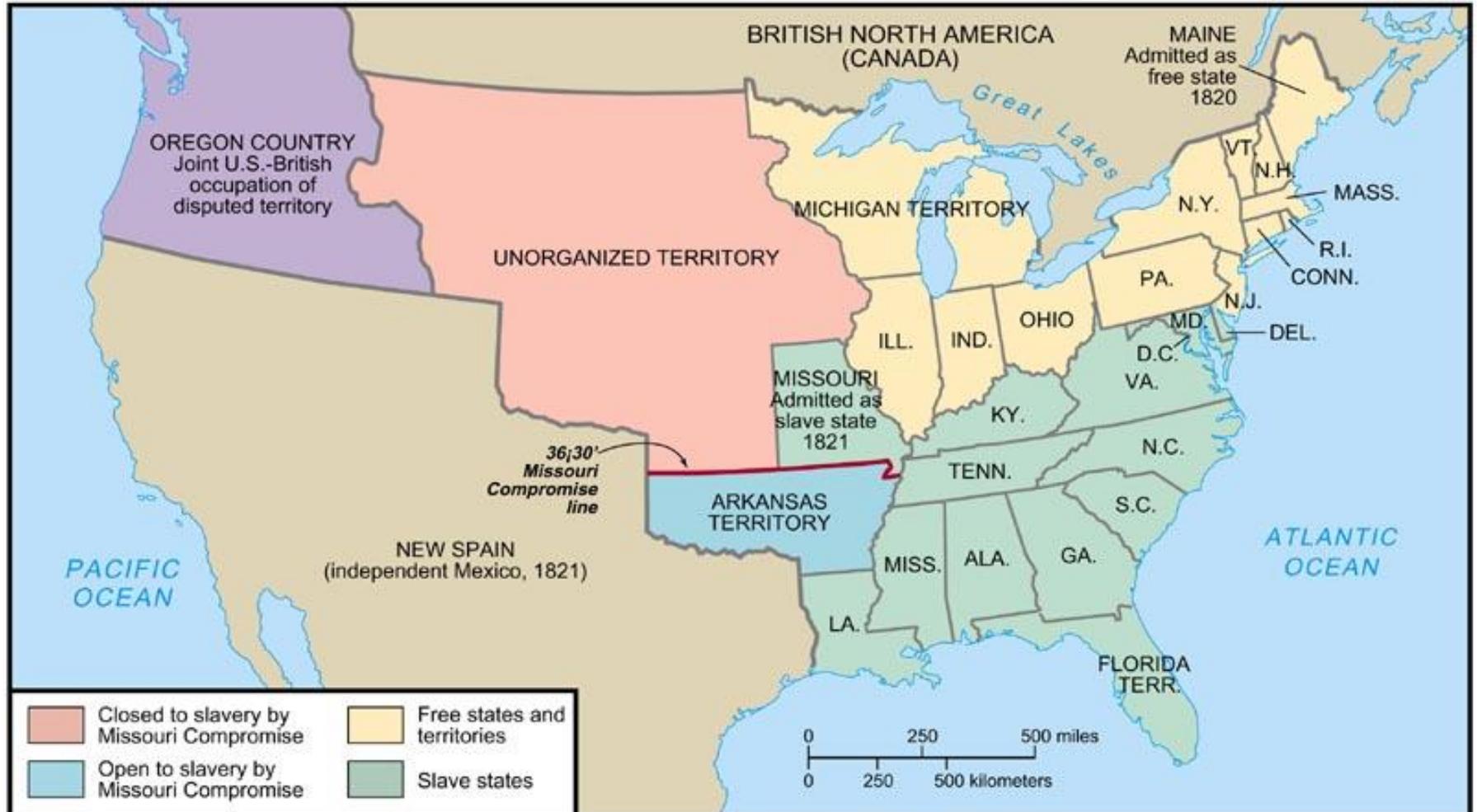


Moses Austin

- An American, Moses Austin was given permission by the Spanish govt to start a colony in TX
 - Provided Americans follow Spanish laws
- Moses died in 1821, so his son Stephen Austin actually started the colony



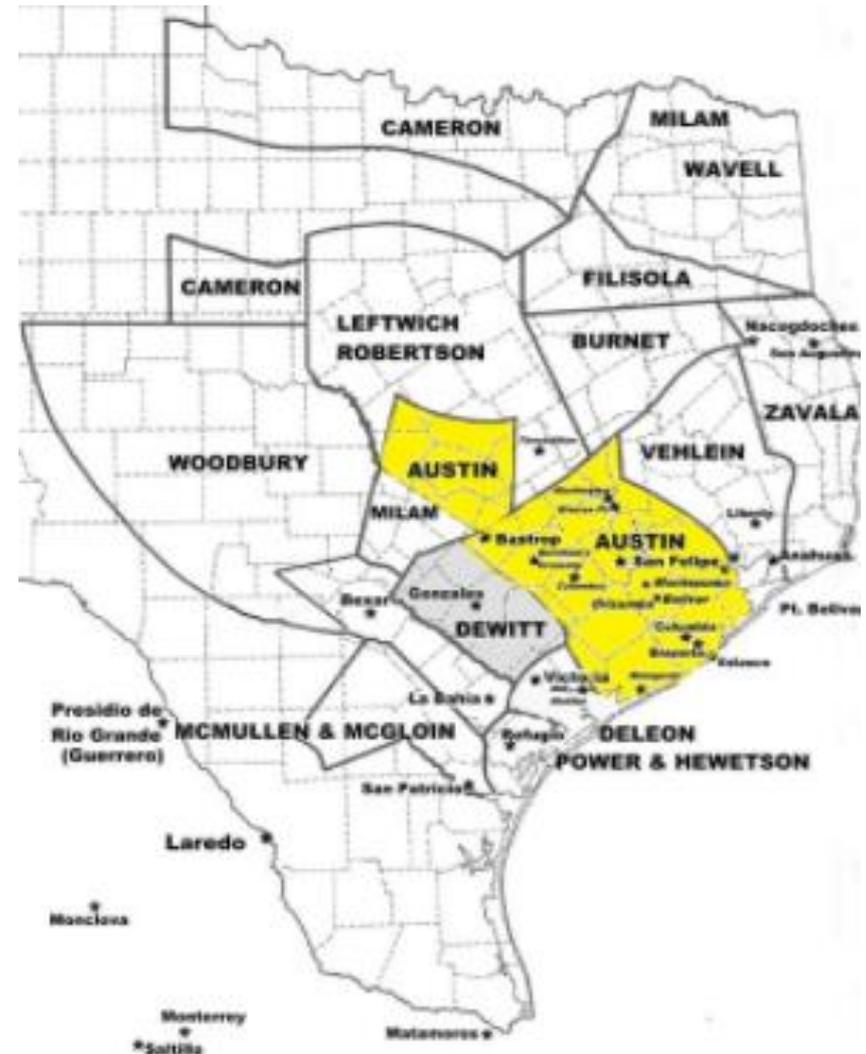
In 1821, Mexico won independence from Spain



THE MISSOURI COMPROMISE, 1820-1821

Mexican Independence Changes Texas

- Between 1821 - 1827, Austin attracted 297 families to his settlement
- The Mexican govt told them they would have to become Mexican citizens, convert to Catholicism, and learn Spanish



- The success of Austin's colony attracted more land speculators and settlers to TX from the U.S.
- Some were looking for a new life, some were escaping from the law, and others were looking for a chance to own land and gain wealth
- By 1830, the population had swelled to about 30,000, with Americans outnumbering the Tejanos 6:1



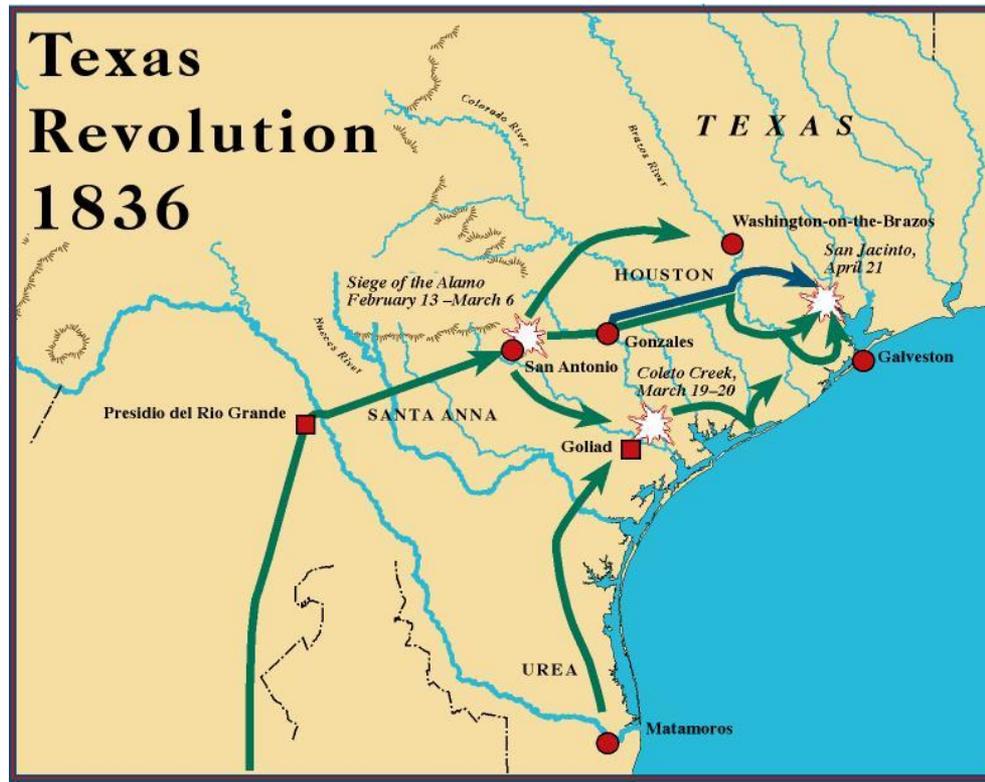
Rising Tension in Texas

- In 1829, the Mexican govt outlawed slavery
- Settlers wanted to keep their slaves for cotton production
 - Also didn't want to learn Spanish or follow Mexican laws
 - Very few settlers had converted to Catholicism



A Texas Cotton Field.

- In 1829, the Mexican govt closed the state to further U.S. immigration
- Texans had to start paying taxes for the first time
- Mexican President General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna sent more Mexican troops to Texas
- Texans began talk of breaking away from Mexico
- When Stephen Austin was jailed, Texans staged a revolt
- Santa Anna led 6,000 troops to Texas to put it down



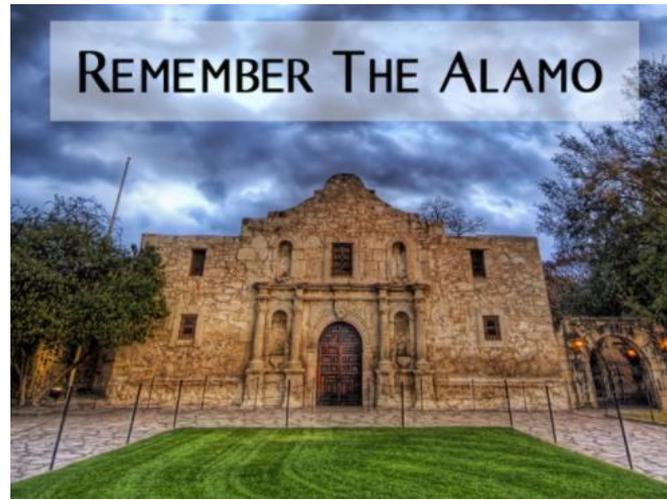
The Alamo

- The first battle between the Texans and Mexicans took place at on old mission that was used as a fort



The Fight for the Alamo

- Only 183 Texans guarding the Alamo
- Mexican army: 1,800 men
- The Texans held the Alamo for 12 days
- On the 13th day, Santa Anna ordered his men to storm the fortress
- When it was over, all but 5 Texans were dead
- The men not killed in the battle were executed by Santa Anna
- Texans were shocked by the slaughter at the Alamo and vowed to fight for their freedom



Battle at San Jacinto

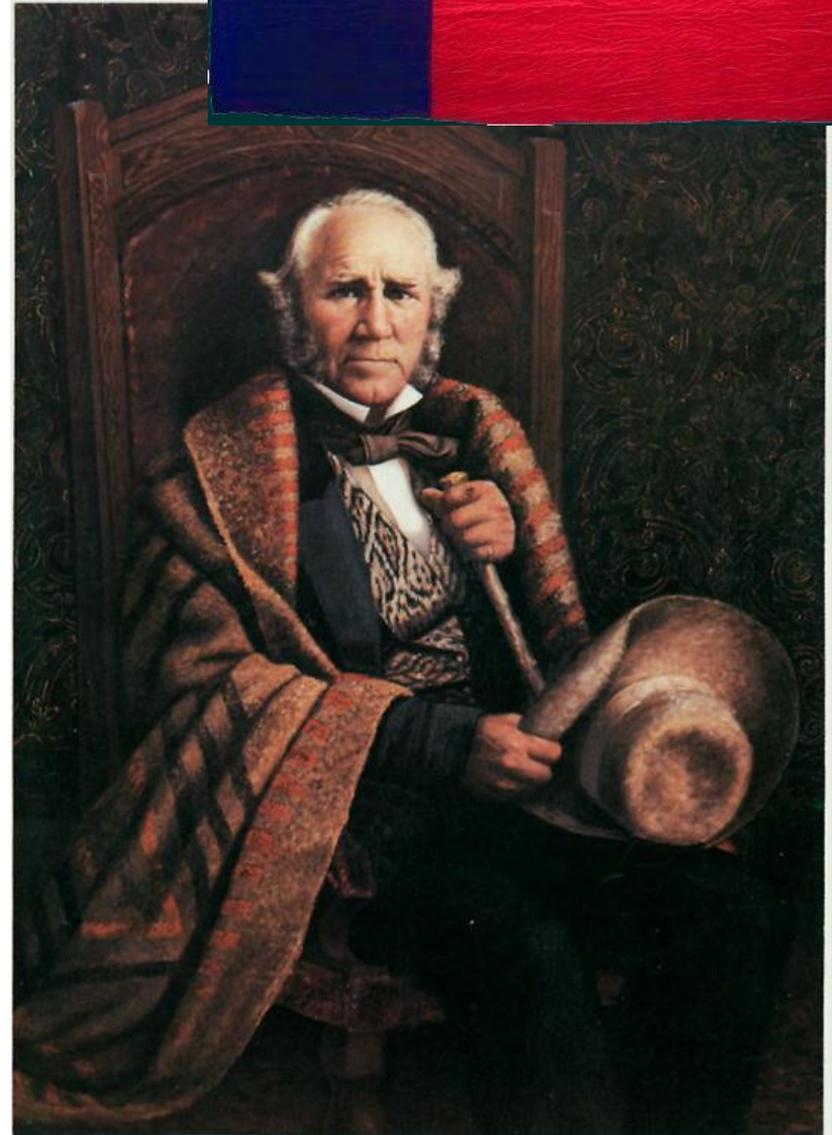
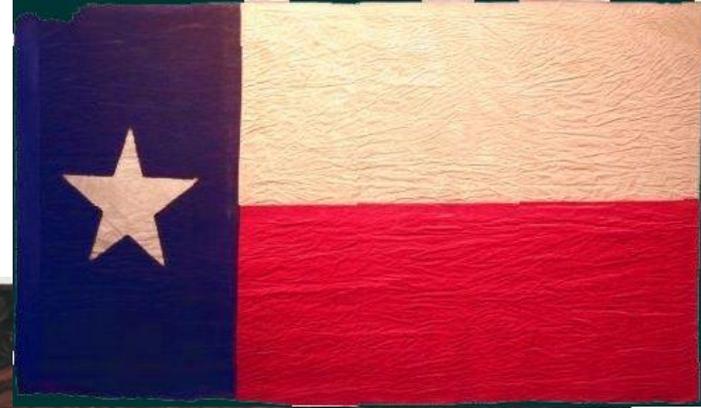
- Santa Anna had over 300 more Texans executed at Goliad
- Texan general, Sam Houston gathered more troops, 800 in all
- Included Tejanos, American settlers, volunteers from the U.S., and many free and enslaved blacks
- They met Santa Anna at San Jacinto
- Their battle cry was, “Remember the Alamo!”
- It was over in 18 minutes - More than half the Mexican army was killed
- Santa Anna was forced to sign a treaty giving Texas its freedom.
 - Texas was now an independent country

General Santa Anna surrenders to General Houston



Lone Star Republic

- In 1836, Texas declared itself The Lone Star Republic
- Sam Houston elected president
- Some Americans wanted Texas to be part of the U.S.
- Some people were afraid of Texas becoming a slave state, others of war with Mexico
- Both would eventually happen

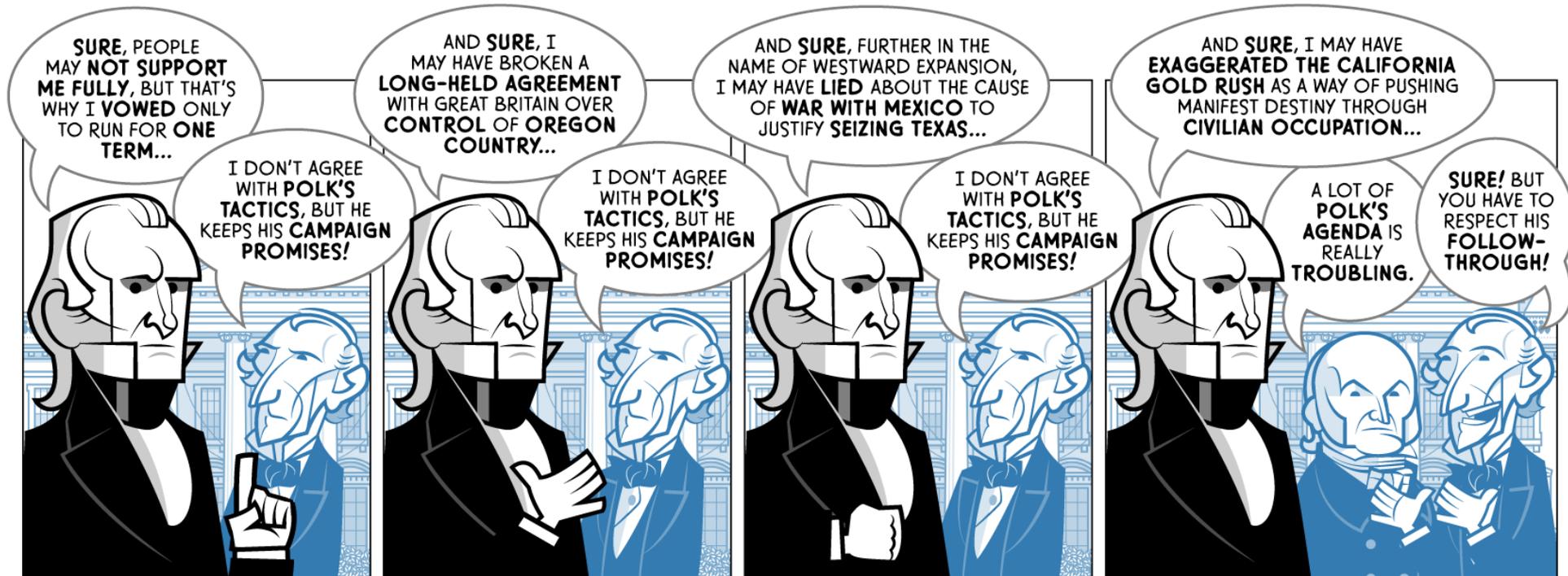


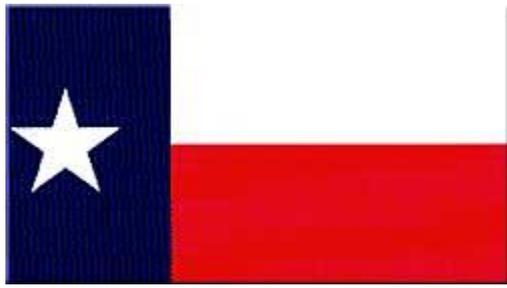
James K. Polk – “Manifest Destiny President”

-Election of 1844

-Campaign promises:

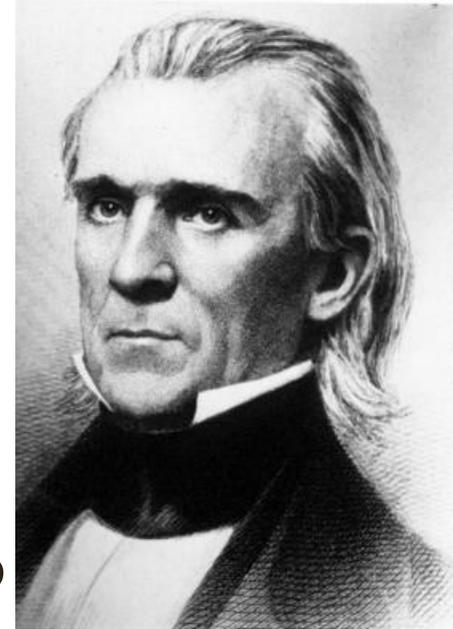
1. Reduce tariffs
2. “54 40 or Fight” for the Oregon Border
3. Acquire CA and NM from Mexico
4. Restore an independent treasury (Jacksonian belief; a banking system opposite of the BUS; farmer-friendly)





Annexation of Texas

- Many Texans want to join the U.S. after it became independent
- Mexico warned the U.S. to not annex Texas into the Union
- President Polk offered to buy California:
 - Mexicans were convinced the U.S. intended to take the entire continent
 - They refused to sell CA
 - The problem was that there were no slaves in CA, and white laborers did not want slaves to undercut their wages with free labor



President Polk



The War Begins



25 April 1846 Mexican and American forces clashed in disputed territory

- Texas boundary dispute

 - Mexico argued the Nueces River vs. U.S. argued the Rio Grande

- 11 American soldiers killed

-U.S. declared war two days later; Lincoln (Whig Party) demands that the “Spot” where “American blood was shed on American soil” be specifically proven (named the **Spot Resolution**)

-American armies moved into California, New Mexico, and Texas to defend territories

- California and New Mexico surrendered

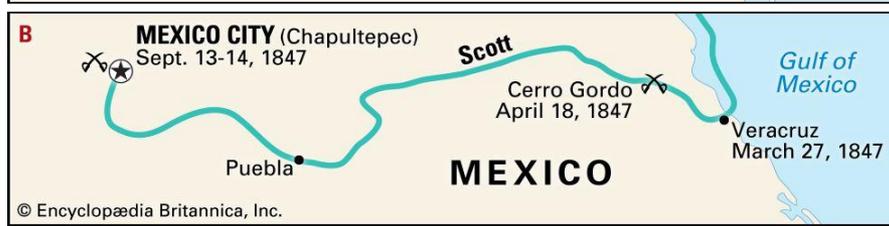
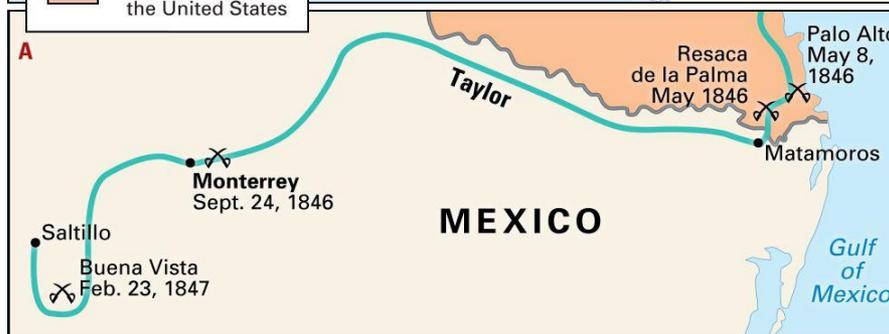


Northern Mexico Campaign of the U.S. - Mexico War

1846 - 1847



Compiled by Ellyson Wong and Lila Rakoczy, 2023. Based on information and maps from Jim Tiller's A Boundary Atlas of Texas, 1821-1845; Peter Guardino's The Dead March; Stephen A. Carney's U.S. Army Campaigns of the Mexican War series; and Stanley Adamiak's Great Britain, Blockades, and Neutral Rights: Royal Navy Operations during the Mexican-American War, 1846-1848. Basemap courtesy of Esri. The Texas General Land Office makes no representations or warranties regarding the accuracy or completeness of the information depicted on this map or the data from which it was produced. This map IS NOT suitable for navigational purposes and does not purport to depict or establish boundaries between private and public land.



Invading Mexico

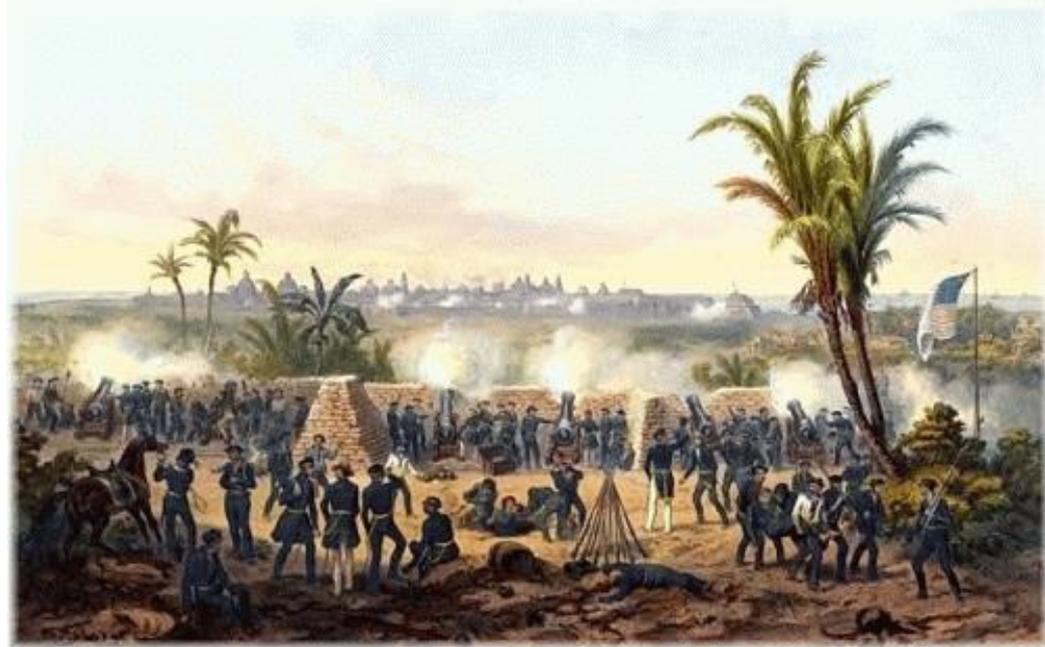


Zachary Taylor at his encampment during the Mexican War

- Zachary Taylor led 6,000 U.S. troops into Mexico
- Santa Ana led an army of 20,000
- Both met near Monterey in 1847
 - Santa Ana retreated

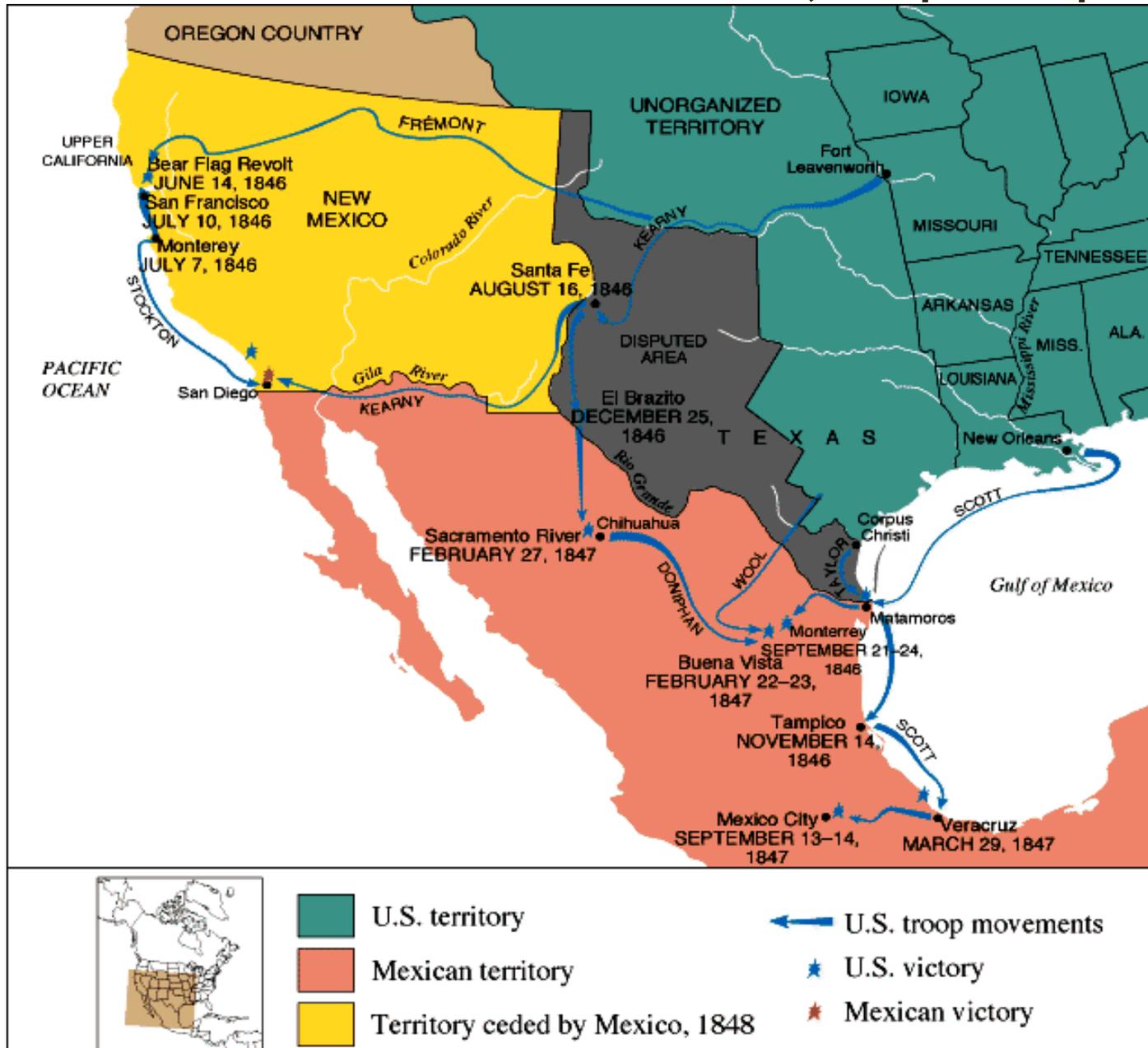
Battles

- Winfield Scott replaces “Ol’ Rough and Ready”
- Navy to Vera Cruz and captured it on 27 March with 10,000 troops
- Mexican army made a last stand at Chapultepec Castle, 13 September 1847
 - Los Niño's Heroes
- Mexico surrendered 2 Feb. 1848



Battle of Vera Cruz fought in March of 1847

The Mexican-American War, 1846-1848

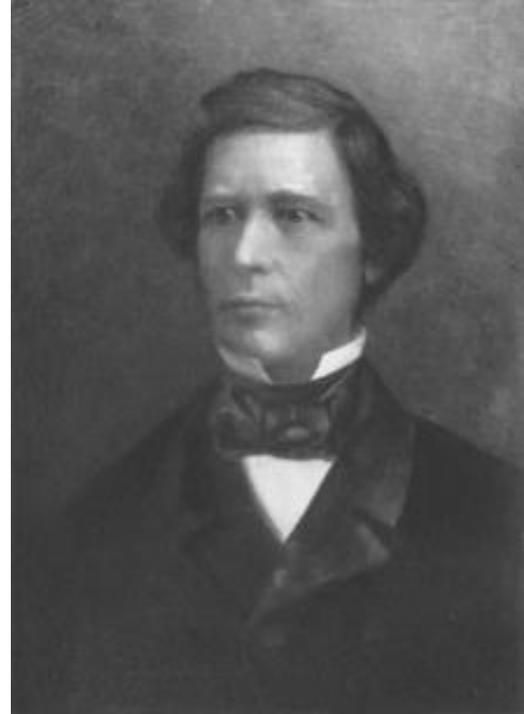


American Territorial Acquisitions



Wilmot Proviso (1846)

- *Would have* banned slavery in any territory to be acquired from Mexico in the Mexican War; or, in the future, including the area later known as the “Mexican Cession”
- Congressman David Wilmot first introduced the Proviso in the House but failed in the Senate
- One of the major events leading to the Civil War
- Killed on the Senate floor and led to Republican Party formation



Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo

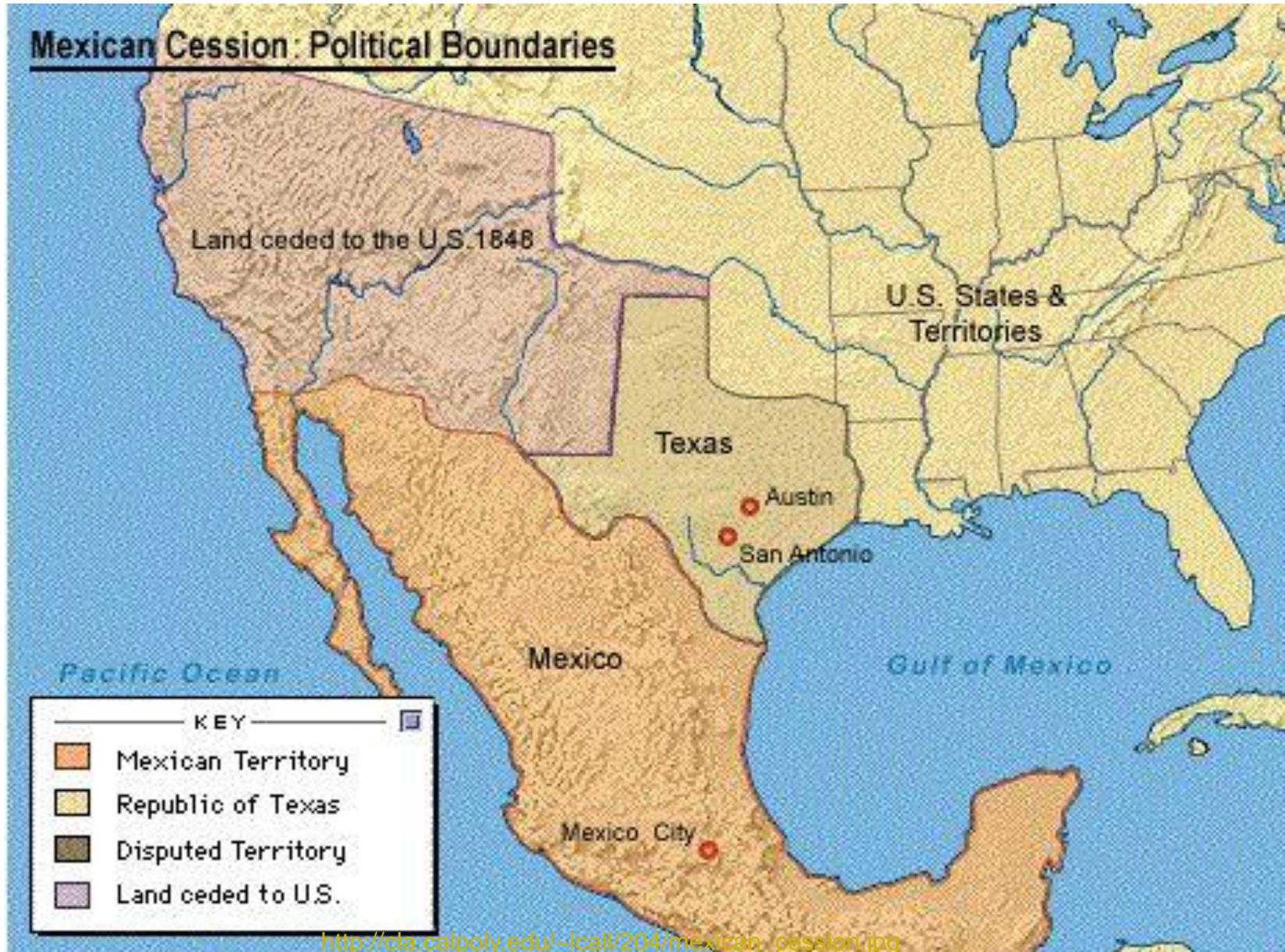
- Officially ended the Mexican-American War in 1848
- “Mexican Cession” included present-day California, Nevada, and Utah, & parts of Arizona, New Mexico, & Wyoming
- Mexico was paid \$15 million
 - Another \$3 million in debt was forgiven
- Increased size of the U.S. by almost 25%



Settlement

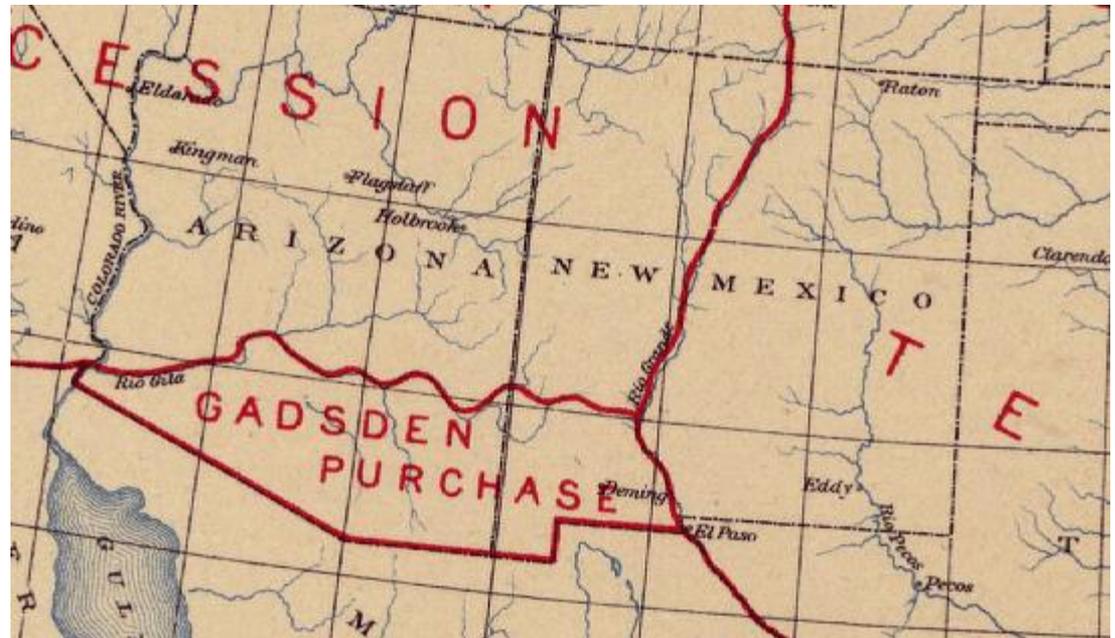
- Mexicans in the cession areas were “protected in the free enjoyment of their liberty and property, and secured in the free exercise of their religion”
- Americans began to flood into the Southwest
- Discrimination forced many Mexicans out of the territory
 - High taxes & discrimination

Mexican Cession



Gadsden Purchase of 1853

- U.S. paid Mexico \$10 million for southern parts of present-day Arizona and New Mexico
- This land was needed for the expansion of the RRs



Manifest Destiny “Fulfilled” (for now)

The belief that the U.S., having the superior govt (democracy), superior intellect and culture in the world, had the right and duty to control all lands from the Atlantic to the Pacific

It was also based on racism, that Americans were superior to NAs, and Mexicans (which meant they had the right to these lands)

