

Manifest Destiny

- ◆ Belief that the United States is destined to spread self-advancement, civilization and democracy across the continent to the Pacific Ocean.
- ◆ It contained racist ideas that it was acceptable to remove Native Americans and Mexicans from their land because they were holding up progress.





Underlying Reasons for Manifest Destiny

- ◆ **Purely Economic**
- ◆ **Social and Economic**

- ◆ **New Land**
 - **New Domestic Resources for Production**
 - **Domestic Markets for Manufactured Goods**
- ◆ **Western Ports**
 - **Access to Asian markets**
- ◆ **Population increase**
 - **Natural & immigration**
 - **Germany & Ireland**
 - **Conflicts over employment - living space**
- ◆ **Social / Economic Pressure Valve Theory**
- ◆ **Enthnocentrism and Entitlement**
 - **Divine Will**
 - **Free Development - Political Institutions**



Social Reasons

- ◆ Anglos believed that they are bringing civilization, democracy and technology to the west.
- ◆ Americans associate land ownership with wealth, individualism, political power and independent "self-rule."
- ◆ The United States population has grown dramatically due to European immigration. Americans feel cramped along the east coast and move out west.



Economic Reasons

- ◆ The United States has suffered several economic depressions which cause people to look to the west for new economic opportunities.
- ◆ Frontier land was inexpensive or free. Perfect for those starting a new life again.
- ◆ Businesses seek new trade markets with countries in the Pacific region.

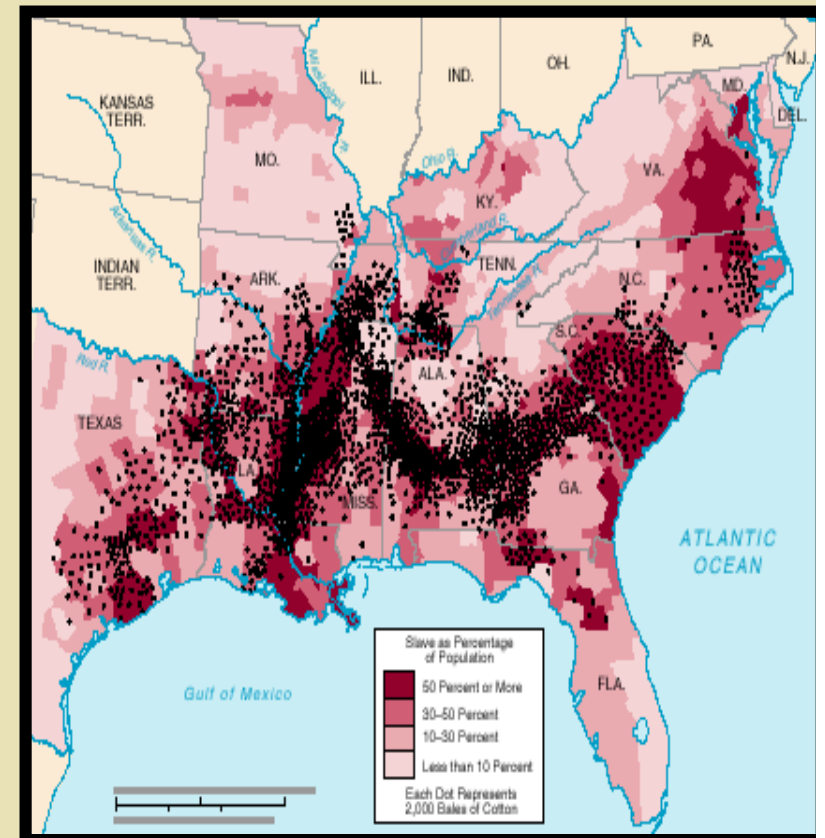


Political Reasons

- ◆ Americans have had a history of westward movement since they stepped foot on North America.
- ◆ Americans also have dreams of expanding into Cuba and Mexico.

Southern Desires for Expansion

- ◆ Southerners wanted to enlarge the slave empire demanded territory.
- ◆ New slave states as promised under the Missouri Compromise would also enhance the South's political power in Washington
- ◆ New slave states would also make the growing slave population profitable

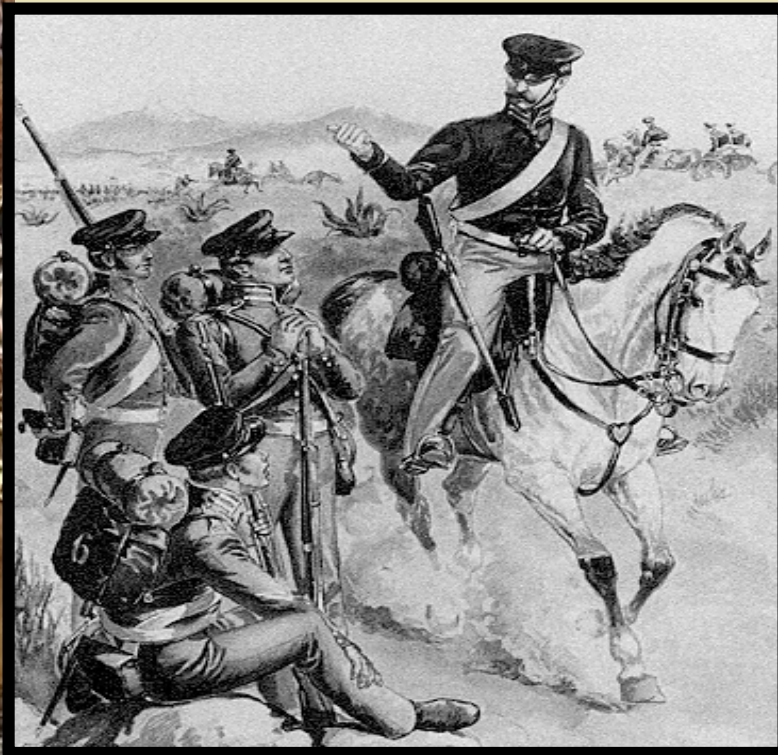


Northern Desires for Expansion

- ◆ East coast businesses sought more markets in the Pacific (they want to sell goods to Asia)
- ◆ The ports of San Francisco would serve as a military presence along the Pacific Coast



Westward Movement will lead to conflict



- ◆ Several military conflicts will increase the size of the United States
- ◆ The Texas Revolution 1836
- ◆ Mexican War 1846-1848
- ◆ Indian Wars 1840-1890



Arguments Over Expansion

- ◆ Not all Americans believed that the country should continue its drive to spread west
 - Many Northerners accused the South of pushing for the spread west so that the US could gain more slave states, giving the proslavery South more votes in Congress
 - Some Americans simply felt that it was wrong for the US to push so many different peoples off of lands that the US had no legal claim to
 - Some also wished for the US to maintain its long-standing policy of isolationism



The Texas Dilemma

- ◆ Mexico won its independence from Spain in 1823
 - In efforts to attract settlers, even American settlers, it began to offer generous terms
 - Americans could bring slaves and could worship any Christian religion
 - Americans soon outnumbered Mexicans three to one
 - In 1829 the Mexican government banned slavery in the Texas region and stated that all migrants would have to convert to the Roman Catholic religion
 - Americans ignored the demands and continued to migrate



The Texas Dilemma

- ◆ Santa Anna overthrew the Mexican government in 1834 and declared himself dictator
- ◆ He soon after stated that Mexico's laws would now be enforced in Texas
- ◆ Texans, under the leadership of Sam Houston, declared their independence by stating that Texas was now an independent republic



The Texas Dilemma

- ◆ Santa Anna invaded Texas and at the infamous Battle of the Alamo killed all of the defending Texans
- ◆ The Texas army, under Sam Houston, surprised the Mexican army at the San Jacinto River and captured Santa Anna
- ◆ Santa Anna was forced to sign a treaty that stated that Mexico would now recognize the independence of the Republic of Texas
 - Texas's southern border would also stretch all the way to the Rio Grande River



The Texas Dilemma

- ◆ Sam Houston applied immediately for Texas to be annexed by the US
 - Jackson and Adams ignored his request
 - They knew the North would oppose annexation because Texas would be a slave state
 - There was also the issue of possible war with Mexico if the US annexed Texas
 - President John Tyler (1840-1844) tried to annex Texas
 - The British were by now in talks with Texas about annexing the territory (it needed the cotton and it would protect them from the Mexicans) and Tyler wanted to block their efforts (the British having Texas would threaten US rule in America)




Disputes in the North

- ◆ Many Americans still saw England as America's greatest enemy → there were harsh feelings remaining from the two wars...
- ◆ Canadians and America's began a small war in the 1830's and 1840's over disputed lands in the Maine region
- ◆ The Webster-Ashburton Treaty of 1842 settled the land disputes and established a Maine-Canada boundary
 - It also settled the boundary for Minnesota, which did place the iron-rich Mesabi Range in US hands




Disputes in the North

- ◆ The Oregon conflict was much more serious than that of the Maine
- ◆ America and England were also in dispute over this territory
- ◆ Americans greatly outnumbered the English in the region, but the English did not want to lose more land to the Americans
- ◆ Americans, embracing Manifest Destiny, felt it was their right to claim lands deep into Canada




Manifest Destiny and the Election of 1844

- ◆ The Democratic Party was somewhat unsure about what approach they should take to the 1844 election...
 - John C. Calhoun represented proslavery and pro-annexation (Texas)
 - Martin Van Buren represented the North and those unsure about the possibility of more slave states
- ◆ Deadlock at the party's convention led to them deciding on James Polk, a dark horse (unexpected) candidate
 - He was a disciple of Andrew Jackson and he completely embraced Manifest Destiny (expansion)



Manifest Destiny and the Election of 1844

- ◆ The Whigs chose Henry Clay, and he promptly hurt his chances by constantly changing his answer to expansion question (yes I support it, no I don't support it...)
- ◆ Polk and the Democrats stated that they would annex Texas, try to get California, and state for Oregon... “Fifty-four Forty or Fight”
 - This meant that they wanted the Oregon boundary to extend all the way to Russian Alaska



Manifest Destiny and the Election of 1844

- ◆ Americans displayed their desires for expansion by throwing their support behind the unknown Democrat, Polk
 - The election was close for the most part, as Clay was a well-known candidate
 - The Whigs lost New York and thus the election
- ◆ Tyler was still president until Polk was inaugurated, and in an effort to save his image he took Polk's victory as a sign to once again try to annex Texas
 - He pushed an annexation bill through Congress that was this time approved, but Polk would have to deal with the aftershocks of the issue



Settling the Oregon Issue

- ◆ In one of his first moves as president, Polk backed down from his promises of war with England for Oregon and agreed on a treaty to solve the issue
 - The Oregon border with Canada was set at the 49th parallel, and the US said that the British could use the Columbia River as a water-travel-route
 - Northerners felt that Polk had betrayed them
 - He was a Southerner and his not pushing for more northern territory had denied the North an opportunity to gain more free states (states that were not proslavery)