The Mexican-American War
Why Manifest Destiny?

- Economic Opportunity
- Harbors for Asian trade
- Adventurism
- Security
- “Providence” – Duty of a republican government to spread despite racism toward NAMs & Blacks
Texas Revolution

• 1830 – 20K US settlers, 1K slaves in TX
• 1835-36 – War vs. Santa Anna (4th term) for indep.
  – Goes well for TX at first
  – Goliad Massacre – 303 TX POWs killed on SA’s orders
  – Alamo – 1500 MEX vs. 200 TX → All TX fall
  – San Jacinto – Houston wins in 20min
    • Deaths: 630 MEX to 9 TX + 730 MEX POWs
• Declares Lone Star Republic after victory
  – Wants to join US, but issues in Senate re: slavery
Causes

• 1844 – “Dark Horse” Polk (D-TN) wins vs. Clay by embracing Jacksonian policies, MD & annexing TX
• Annexes TX in 12/1845 & MEX breaks off relations
  – US Citizens couldn’t get compensation for claims against MEX government
  – Boundary dispute of Nueces (MEX) vs. Rio Grande (TX)
• MEX gov’t pretty unstable → Taylor sent to Corpus Christi → MEX threatened → Slidell tries to negotiate for TX, NM & CA → Fails miserably
War!

• MEX crosses the Rio Grande & kills 16 US soldiers – 5/13/1846 – War declared; “particular spot”
• US: 68K soldiers; better leaders & equipment
• MEX: 60K soldiers; Unified & enthusiastic, but poor leaders
**Rough & Ready**

- **Z. Taylor** – Leads initial campaigns (294) & pushes MEX back, but Polk loses confidence & takes his troops for an assault on **Vera Cruz**
- **Santa Anna** – Takes control of MEX (9\(^{\text{th}}\) term) → Taylor at **Buena Vista** → loses & retreats to M. City
- **Kearny** – Moves on CA (declared free in Fremont’s **Bear Flag Revolt** → Secured 1/47
- **Scott** – Takes **Vera Cruz** → 3/47 to Mexico City!
  - Santa Anna surrenders 9/47 (10\(^{\text{th}}\) term)
Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo

- **2/2/1848** – US gains CA, NM, Rio Grande boundary for $15M and assumption of claims against MEX by US citizens (.5M sq. mi. of territory)

- Promise MEX living in territory US citizenship

- **Gadsden Purchase (1853)** – 45K sq. mi. of desert for $10M from Santa Anna (11th term) when desperate for cash.