

## Foreign Politics of the Era of Good Feelings & Antebellum America

### *Rush – Bagot Agreement (1817)*

1. naval disarmament treaty
2. b/t US & GB
3. demonstrated significant trust & understanding
4. treated US & GB equally

### *Convention of 1818 (Treaty of 1818)*

1. fixed land boundary of US & Canada at 49<sup>th</sup> parallel
2. US & GB jointly occupy the Oregon Country

### *Adams – Onis (Transcontinental) Treaty (1819)*

1. Spain surrenders FL to US
2. Spain gives up claim to Oregon Territory north of the 42<sup>nd</sup> parallel
3. US gives up claims to TX west of the Sabine River
4. US assumes \$5 million debt Spain owes US merchants

### *The Monroe Doctrine (1823)*

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

### *The Oregon Territory*

1. 1825 – Russia gives up claim to land south of 54° 40’
2. 1827 – US & GB revive 1818 agreement for joint occupation b/t 42° and 54° 40’

### *Mexico*

1. Independence from Spain (1821)
2. Mexico controls all land formerly Spain’s in North America
3. Spanish Speaking
4. Roman Catholic
5. Spanish Missions
  - a. key instrument of expansion on the frontier
  - b. it combined goals of
    - i.
    - ii.
    - iii.
  - c. Presidios –
6. By late 1820s:
  - a. Provincial ties to central Mexican Government began to fray
  - b. Mexicans secularized missions
  - c. Gave land to government officials & private ranchers
  - d. Native American Problems: Comanches, Apaches, Navajos & Utes

- e. Little military protection from Mexican Government
- f. Vast land unsettled for fear of attack
- g. Those living there became dependent on American trade
- 7. Americans traders return with glowing reports of northern provinces
  - a. good climate
  - b. fertile soil

### *Santa Fe Trail*

1. Trade continued with MX & US
2. trail went from Santa Fe, NM to Independence, MO (800 mi.)
3. took first leg of journey to Council Grove, KS individually
4. took second leg as a caravan of 100 wagons in four columns

### *Texas*

1. Mexican State of Coahuila-Texas
2. lacked natural protection of other MX states
3. 1823: 3,000 Americans live in East Texas
4. 1824: Mexican Government began to encourage American colonization of TX
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
    - i.
    - ii.
    - iii.
5. Stephen F. Austin
  - a. Most successful empresario
  - b. Attracted 300 US families to TX by 1825
6. Americans were mixed blessing
  - a.
  - b.
    - i.
    - ii.
  - c.
  - d.
  - e.
7. 1826 – Revolt
  - a. Haden Edwards (empresario) leads revolt against MX rule
  - b. MX forces, led by Stephen F. Austin, crush uprising
8. 1829 – emancipation of slaves in MX
9. 1830
  - a. MX closes TX to further immigration from US
  - b. Forbade introduction of new slaves to TX
  - c. MX lacked military to enforce its decrees
  - d. B/t 1830 & 1834 number of Americans in TX doubled

10. 1834 - Austin secured repeal of 1830 prohibition on immigration
11. 1835 – est. 1000 Americans per month crossed into TX
12. 1836 – TX contained:
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.

*The Texas Revolution (1836)*

1. Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna – President of Mexico
  - a. brutally crushes rebellions
  - b. abolishes all state governments in MX
  - c. invades TX in the fall of 1835
  - d. Austin leads radical Americans who want independence
2. Texas declares Independence
  - a. March 2, 1836
  - b. Sam Houston is President & General
3. The Alamo
  - a. Abandoned Mission in San Antonio
  - b. Siege lasts from February 23 – March 6, 1836
  - c. 4000 MX troops
  - d. 200 TX defenders
  - e. 1,600 Mexican dead
  - f. 187 Texans dead – Davy Crockett & Jim Bowie
  - g. 4 survivors: Mrs. Dickenson, her infant, 2 slaves
4. Goliad
  - a. March 20, 1836
  - b. MX massacre 350 Texan prisoners
5. San Jacinto River
  - a. April 21, 1836
  - b. Houston surprises Santa Anna
  - c. “Remember the Alamo”
  - d. Houston’s Army
    - i. 800 men
    - ii. tore through MX lines in 15 minutes
    - iii. took Santa Anna prisoner
6. Houston forces Santa Anna to sign Peace Treaty
  - a. Recognizes the Independence of Texas
  - b. Releases Santa Anna
  - c. Mexican Government never ratifies treaty
  - d. US, GB & FR recognize TX independence
7. Sept 1836 – Sam Houston officially elected president of the Lone Star Republic
8. December 29, 1845
  - a. Texas becomes the 28<sup>th</sup> State of the US
  - b. Why did it take so long?

*Webster – Ashburton Treaty (1842)*

1. US & GB
2. settled dispute over Canadian/ME border
3. more than 1/2 disputed territory to the US

*Election of 1844*

1. James K. Polk (D-TN) \*
2. Henry Clay (W-KY)
3. continentalism & annexation of TX major issues

*Manifest Destiny*

1. John L. O’Sullivan, journalist, wrote of:  
“our manifest destiny to overspread and possess the whole continent which Providence has given us for the development of the great experiment of liberty and federated self-government entrusted to us.”
2. US hungered for land
3. Pros:
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
  - e.
  - f.
4. Cons:
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
5. really more interested in OR & CA than TX – Why?

*Annexation of Texas (July 1845)*

1. GB showed interest in TX
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
2. South & West wanted it – Why?
3. Mexico’s reaction –

*Oregon*

1. Dem Platform of 1844 called for total control of Territory
2. Polk’s inaugural address: “clear & unquestionable claim to the country of OR”
3. Polk hoped GB would accept division of OR at 49°
4. US would get deep water harbors of Puget Sound
5. US had far more settlements in OR than the British

6. April 1846 Congress terminates joint GB-US occupation of OR & gave GB the required one year's notice
7. GB Options: Either war over US claims to 54° 40' or negotiate
8. Treaty of 1846 divides OR at 49<sup>th</sup> parallel

### *California*

1. mid-1840s: 700 Americans
2. San Diego & San Francisco major trading harbors
3. non-issue in the election of 1844
4. Britain showed interest in the territory
5. In war of words with GB over OR, so try negotiating with MX
6. Polk offers to buy territory in 1845:
  - a.
  - b.
  - c. MX response -

### *Declaration of War*

1. Polk wanted MX to recognize Rio Grande River as border
2. General José Herrera, MX President, refuses to negotiate
3. Gen. Zachary Taylor ordered to march from Corpus Christi to Rio Grande
4. Hoped to spur MX to attack
5. May 9, 1846
  - a. Polk can no longer wait for MX to attack
  - b. Must send war message to Congress
  - c. Few hours later news arrived of a MX ambush of 2 companies this side of the Rio Grande
  - d. "American blood has been shed on American soil"
6. May 11, 1846
  - a. Polk address Congress
  - b. "war exists by the act of Mexico herself"
  - c. called for \$10 million appropriations to fight the war
  - d. furious opposition in Congress
    - i.
    - ii.
    - iii.
    - iv.
  - e. Polk maneuvered Whigs into a corner
    - i.
    - ii.
7. Polk succeeds as President because:
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
  - e.

*The Mexican – American War (1846 – 1848)*

1. Most Euro nations expected MX to win
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
2. US hardly expected MX to fight at all
3. MX fought bravely & stubbornly with little success
4. Gen. Zachary Taylor
  - a. “Old Rough & Ready”
  - b. 62 yrs old
  - c. veteran of War of 1812
  - d. defeats MX in 2 battles north of Rio Grande May 1846
  - e. captures Monterrey in September 1846
  - f. Whigs begin touting him for president in 1848
  - g. Needed supplies so offered armistice for 8 weeks
  - h. Polk undercuts Taylor
  - i. Orders half his troops to Gen. Winfield Scott
5. Gen. Winfield Scott
  - a. “Old Fuss & Feathers”
  - b. ordered to prepare amphibious assault on Vera Cruz
6. New Mexico
  - a. Colonel Stephen Kearny (US)
  - b. Marches from KS to Santa Fe
  - c. Takes it without a shot fired
  - d. Kearny sends troops south to Taylor in MX
7. Battle of Buena Vista
  - a. Feb. 22 – 23, 1847
  - b. Santa Anna led 20,000 men to attack Taylor
  - c. Santa Anna demoralized by superior American Artillery
  - d. MX forces retreat
8. California
  - a. 1845 – Polk orders Commodore Sloat occupy ports in event of war
  - b. John C. Fremont
    - i. “the Great Pathfinder”
    - ii. ordered to “watch over the interest of the US”
    - iii. rounded up US insurgents
    - iv. seized Sonoma
    - v. proclaimed the independent “Bear Flag Republic” in June 1846
9. Battle of Vera Cruz
  - a. March 1847 – Scott lands near Vera Cruz with 12,000 men
  - b. Pounded city into submission
  - c. Moves inland and encounters Santa Anna at Cerro Gordo
  - d. Capt. Robert E. Lee finds trail around & above Mexican troops
  - e. April 18 – stormed the pass & routed MX
  - f. Moves directly to Mexico City

10. Battle of Mexico City

- a. Scott takes key forts of Churubusco & Chapultepec
- b. Takes Mexico City on Sept. 13, 1847
- c. US troops = 11,000
- d. MX troops = 25,000
- e. US had better weapons, supplies & organization

*Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (February 2, 1848)*

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

*Results*

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

*Gadsden Purchase (1853) - \$10 million*