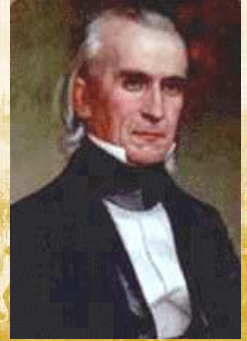


## War with Mexico

### Chapter 12, Section 2

## Election of 1844

- Whigs nominated Clay.
- Democrats faced intense fight.
  - Btw. Van Buren and Calhoun
    - Neither able to secure the nomination.
  - Nominated James K. Polk instead
    - Who ran an expansionist campaign driven by “manifest destiny”
- Liberty Party
  - Anti-slavery splinter group founded in 1840
  - Drew votes away from Clay
    - Who sought to compromise on the question of Texas
    - Cost Clay the election

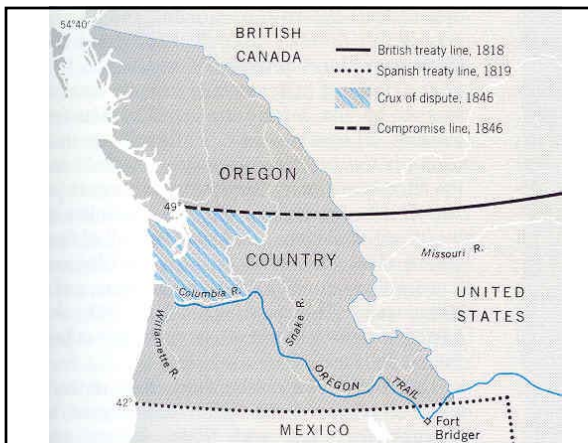


## Annexation of Texas

- Election of 1844
  - Used as a mandate by Pres. Tyler
    - Grant of authority
- Called for a joint resolution of Congress
  - Required only a maj. of both houses of Congress
    - Rather than 2/3 vote in the Senate for a treaty
  - Signed by Tyler before leaving office in 1845

## Dividing Oregon

- Polk campaigned to reoccupy all of Oregon.
  - “54°40’ or Fight!”
- Threat of war w/ Mexico caused him to compromise.
  - To prevent a 2<sup>nd</sup> war w/ Britain
  - Agreed to divide Oregon at the 49<sup>th</sup> parallel
    - N. border of Louisiana Territory agreed to in 1818
  - Alienated northerners
    - Felt betrayed by false campaign promise
    - Felt they had been sold out by southerners
      - Why fight for slave territory, but not for free territory?



## Prelude to the War with Mexico

- Mexico ended diplomatic relations when Texas was annexed.
- Zachary Taylor ordered to defend borders of Texas.
  - Texas claimed Rio Grande as southern border.
  - Mexico claimed Nueces R. as southern border.
- James Slidell sent to negotiate peaceful settlement.
  - Mexico’s debts to the U.S. to be cancelled.
  - U.S. offered \$30 million for California and New Mexico.
  - He was not received by Mexican authorities.
- Polk ordered Taylor to advance to the Rio Grande.
- Mexican army attacked Taylor’s forces on April 25, 1846.
  - Quickly driven back
  - Infuriated the U.S. by shedding “Am. blood on Am. soil”
  - Prompted Congress to declare war on Mexico

## The Mexican-American War

- Taylor
  - Known as “Old Rough and Ready”
    - B/c of his stubbornness and unsoldierly appearance
  - Advanced across Rio Grande into northern Mexico
  - Won the Battle of Buena Vista
    - Defeating an army 3x's his own



## The Mexican-American War

- Winfield Scott
  - Known as “Old Fuss and Feathers”
    - B/c of his resplendent uniforms and strict discipline
  - Landed troops at port of Veracruz on Mar. 9, 1847
  - Pushed on to capture Mexico City
    - Cap. of Mexico
    - Fell in Sept. 1847 after the Battle of Chapultepec
  - Became most highly regarded Am. General of his time

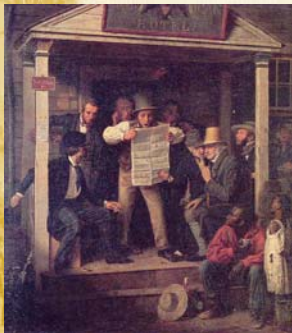


## The Bear Flag Republic

- Stephen Kearny
  - Led 3<sup>rd</sup> army westward to capture Santa Fe
  - Pushed onto San Diego
    - Divided Mexican territory and forces
- John C. Frémont
  - Am. explorer
  - In Cal. on scientific mission when war began
  - Collaborated in revolt against Mexican rule
    - W/ local Am. and naval officers
    - To drive Mexican forces out of northern Cal.
  - Helped to est. the Bear Flag Republic on June 14, 1846



## Opposition to the War



- Abraham Lincoln
  - Serving in the U.S. House
  - Believed the U.S. had been misled into declaring war
- Henry David Thoreau
  - Wrote “Civil Disobedience” to protest the war
- Enlistments were low
  - B/c of unpopularity of war
  - Esp. from the N.E. and N.W.

## Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo

- Negotiated by Nicholas Trist in 1848
  - Stalled by disorganized state of Mexican affairs
  - Completed treaty after being recalled by Polk
    - Which led to his arrest and his being fired
- Terms
  - Rio Grande accepted as southern border of Texas.
  - Mexico ceded the Mexican Cession to the U.S.
    - California and New Mexico
  - U.S. paid \$15 million to Mexico.
  - U.S. assumed the claims of Am. Against Mexico.
    - About \$3.25 million