

1 ☐2 ☐ **I. The Accession of “Tyler Too”**

- Whig party:
 - Wm. H. Harrison, a Whig, elected in 1841 and John Tyler elected Vice-President
 - Cabinet: Secretary of State—Daniel Webster
 - Henry Clay in Senate, uncrowned king of Whigs
 - Harrison contracted pneumonia and died after only four weeks in office:
 - By far shortest administration in American history but longest inaugural address
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3 ☐ **I. The Accession of “Tyler Too” (cont.)**

- John Tyler:
 - “Tyler too” party of Whig ticket, now claimed spotlight
 - Stubbornly attached to principle
 - Resigned earlier from Senate, rather than accept distasteful instructions from Virginia legislature
 - Left Jacksonian Democrats for Whigs
 - Enemies accused him of being a Democrat in Whig clothing
 - Tyler was at odds with majority of Whigs
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4 ☐ **I. The Accession of “Tyler Too” (cont.)**

- Whig party platform:
 - Pro-bank, pro-protective tariff, and pro-internal improvements.
- “Tyler too” rhymed with “Tippecanoe,” but there harmony ended.
- Harrison, the Whig, served for only four weeks, whereas Tyler, the ex-Democrat but largely a Democrat at heart, served for 204 weeks.

5 ☐ **II. John Tyler: A President Without a Party**

- Whigs platform:
 - Outlined a strongly nationalist program

- Financial reform came first:
 - Whig Congress passed law ending independent treasury system
 - President Tyler, disarmingly agreeable, signed it
 - Clay drove through Congress a bill for a “Fiscal Bank” which would create a new Bank of the United States
 - Clay—the “Great Compromiser”—would have done well to conciliate Tyler

6 ☐ II. John Tyler: A President Without a Party (cont.)

- Tyler vetoed bill on both practical and constitutional grounds
- Whig leaders tried again, passing another bill providing for a “Fiscal Corporation”
- Tyler again vetoed the offensive substitute
- Democrats were jubilant
- Whig extremists condemned Tyler as “His Accidency” and “Executive Ass”
 - He was formally expelled from his party
 - Entire cabinet resigned, except Secretary of State Webster, then in midst of delicate negotiations with England

7 ☐ II. John Tyler: A President Without a Party (cont.)

- Proposed Whig tariff:
 - Tyler vetoed bill
 - He disagreed with Whig scheme for distributing to states revenue from sale of public lands in West
 - He believed this would squander federal money
- Chastened Clayites redrafted tariff bill:
 - Removed dollar-distribution scheme
 - Lowered rates to moderately protective level of 1832—roughly 32% on dutiable goods
 - Tyler reluctantly signed Tariff of 1842

8 ☐ III. A War of Words with Britain

- Anti-British passions:
 - At bottom lay bitter memories of two Anglo-American wars
 - Pro-British Federalists had died out
 - British travelers wrote negatively about American customs in

travel books

- Writings touched off “Third War with England”
- Fortunately this British-American war fought on paper broadsides; only ink was spilled

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10 ☐ **III. A War of Words with Britain (cont.)**

- America a borrowing nation:
 - Expensive canals to dig and railroads to build
 - Britain, with overflowing coffers, was a lending nation
 - During panic of 1837, several states defaulted on bonds or repudiated them altogether
- 1837—short-lived insurrection erupted in Canada
 - Hot-blooded Americans furnished military supplies or volunteered for armed service
 - Washington regime tried to maintain neutrality

11 ☐ **III. A War of Words with Britain (cont.)**

- But it could not enforce unpopular laws in face of popular opposition.
- Provocative incident on Canadian frontier brought passions to boil in 1837:
 - American steamer, *Caroline*, was carrying supplies to insurgents across Niagara River
 - Attacked by British and set on fire
 - Craft sank short of falls, but one American was killed
- Unlawful invasion of American soil had alarming aftermaths.

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12 ☐ **III. A War of Words with Britain (cont.)**

- In 1840 a man, McLeod, who confessed to being involved in *Caroline* raid, was arrested and indicted for murder
- London made clear his execution would mean war
- Fortunately, McLeod freed after establishing alibi

- Tensions renewed in 1841 when British officials in Bahamas offered asylum to 130 Virginian slaves who had rebelled and captured American ship *Creole*
- Britain had abolished slavery within empire in 1833, raising southern fears that its Caribbean possessions would become Canada-like havens for escaped slaves

13 ☐ IV. Manipulating the Maine Maps

- Maine boundary dispute:
 - St. Lawrence River icebound several months of year:
 - As defensive precaution, British wanted to build a road west from seaport Halifax to Quebec
 - Road would go through disputed territory claimed by Maine
 - Aroostook War threatened to widen into full war

14 ☐ IV. Manipulating the Maine Maps (cont.)

- Britain sent to Washington a nonprofessional diplomat, Lord Ashburton, who established cordial relations with Secretary Webster
 - They agreed to compromise on Maine boundary (see Map 17.1)
 - A split-the-difference arrangement:
 - Americans retained 7,000 square miles of 12,000 square miles of wilderness in dispute
 - Britain got less land but won desired Halifax-Quebec route

15 ☐ IV. Manipulating the Maine Maps (cont.)

- *Caroline* affair patched up by exchange of diplomatic notes
- Bonus in small print:
 - British, in adjusting U.S.-Canadian boundary farther West, surrendered 6,500 square miles
 - Area later found to contain priceless Mesabi iron ore of Minnesota

16 ☐ V. The Lone Star of Texas Shines Alone

- Texas's precarious existence:
 - Mexico:
 - refused to recognize Texas's independence

- regarded Lone Star Republic as a province in revolt to be reconquered in future
- Mexican officials threatened war if U.S.A. ever annexed Texas

17 ☐18 ☐ **V. The Lone Star of Texas Shines Alone (cont.)**

- Threatened by Mexico, Texas maintained costly military defense
- Texas also negotiated with Britain & France to secure a defensive shield of a protectorate:
 - In 1839 and 1840, Texans concluded treaties with France, Holland, and Belgium.
- Britain & France interested in an independent Texas to help block further American expansion

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19 ☐ **V. The Lone Star of Texas Shines Alone (cont.)**

- Other foreigners interested in Texas:
 - British abolitionists hoped to end slavery in Texas
 - British merchants regarded Texas as important free-trade area—an offset to tariff-walled United States
 - British manufacturers hoped Texas could produce enough cotton to reduce Britain's chronic dependence on American fiber

20 ☐ **VI. The Belated Texas Nuptials**

- Texas became a leading issue in 1844 presidential campaign:
 - Foes of expansion assailed annexation
 - Southern hotheads cried, “Texas or Disunion”
 - Pro-expansion Democrats under James K. Polk defeated Whigs
 - Lame duck president Tyler interpreted narrow Democratic victory as “mandate” to acquire Texas
 - Tyler deserves credit for shepherding Texas into fold

21 ☐ **VI. The Belated Texas Nuptials (cont.)**

- Despairing of securing necessary 2/3 vote in Senate for a treaty, Tyler sought annexation by joint resolution
- After spirited debate, resolution passed in 1845, and Texas formally invited to become 28th state
- Mexico angrily charged Americans had despoiled it of Texas

- But clear by 1845 that Mexico would not be able to retake Texas

22 ☐ **VI. The Belated Texas Nuptials (cont.)**

- By 1845 Lone Star Republic had become a danger spot:
 - Invited foreign intrigue that menaced American people
 - Continued existence of Texas as independent nation threatened to involve United States in wars
 - United States can hardly be accused of haste in achieving annexation

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24 ☐ **VII. Oregon Fever Populates Oregon**

- Oregon Country:
 - Geography
 - From Rockies to Pacific Ocean, north of California to 54° 40' (present southern tip of Alaska panhandle)
 - Claimed at one time or another by Spain, Russia, Britain, and the United States
 - Two claimants dropped out of competition:
 - Spain through Florida Treaty of 1819
 - Russia retreated to 54° 40' line by treaties of 1824 & 1825

25 ☐ **VII. Oregon Fever Populates Oregon (cont.)**

- British claims to Oregon were strong:
 - Especially portion north of Columbia River
 - Based on:
 - Prior discovery and exploration
 - Treaty rights
 - Actual occupation
 - Colonizing agency Hudson's Bay Company
- American claims to Oregon:
 - Exploration and occupation
 - Captain Robert Gray (1792) stumbled onto Columbia River, which he named after his ship

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26 ☐ **VII. Oregon Fever Populates Oregon (cont.)**

- Famed Lewis and Clark expedition of 1804-1806
- Presence of missionaries and other settlers, some of whom reached Willamette River valley
 - Missionaries, in trying to save the soul of the Indians, were instrumental in saving the soil of Oregon for United States
 - They stimulated interest in a faraway domain that many Americans earlier assumed would not be settled for centuries
- Scattered Americans and British pioneers lived peacefully side by side

27 ☐ **VII. Oregon Fever Populates Oregon (cont.)**

- Anglo-American Convention of 1818 (Chap. 12):
 - United States wanted to divide at forty-ninth parallel
 - British wanted Columbia River as dividing line
 - A scheme for peaceful “joint occupation” was adopted, pending future settlement
 - Handful of Americans in Willamette Valley was multiplied in early 1840s by “Oregon fever”

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29 ☐ **VII. Oregon Fever Populates Oregon (cont.)**

- Over 2,000 mile Oregon Trail (1846) five thousand Americans had settled south of Columbia River
- British could only muster seven hundred north of Columbia River
- Actually only a relatively small area was in dispute by 1845:
 - Americans proposed line @ forty-ninth parallel
 - British again offered line at Columbia River
 - Issue now tossed into presidential election of 1844, where it became overshadowed by question of annexing Texas

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31 ☐ **VIII. A Mandate (?) for Manifest Destiny**

- Two major parties nominated their standard-bearers in May 1844:
 - Whigs selected Henry Clay
 - James Polk (Tennessee) chosen by Democrats—America's first “dark horse”
- Campaign an expression of Manifest Destiny:
 - Sense of mission, believing God had “manifestly” destined

U.S.A. for career of hemispheric expansion

32 ☐ **VIII. A Mandate (?) for Manifest Destiny (cont.)**

–Expansionist Democrats:

- Strongly swayed by Manifest Destiny
- Platform: “Reannexation of Texas” and “Reoccupation of Oregon” all the way to 54° 40'
- “All of Oregon or None” (Slogan “Fifty-four forty or fight” not coined until two years later)
- Condemned Clay as “corrupt bargainer,” dissolute character, and slaveowner

33 ☐ **VIII. A Mandate (?) for Manifest Destiny (cont.)**

–The Whigs:

- Countered with their own slogans
- Spread lie that a gang of Tennessee slaves had been on way to slave market branded with initials J.K.P. (James K. Polk)
- Clay “straddled” crucial issue of Texas:
 - While he personally favored annexing slaveholding Texas (an appeal to South), he also favored postponement (an appeal to North)

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35 ☐ **VIII. A Mandate (?) for Manifest Destiny (cont.)**

- Election results:
 - Polk nipped Clay 170 to 105 votes in Electoral College
 - 1,338,464 to 1,300,097 in popular vote
 - Clay would have won if he had not lost New York State by a mere 5,000 votes:
 - Tiny antislavery Liberty Party absorbed nearly 16,000 votes that would have gone to Clay
 - Democrats proclaimed they received a mandate from voters to take Texas

36 ☐ **IX. Polk the Purposeful**

- President James Polk:
 - Not an impressive figure

- His workload increased by his unwillingness to delegate authority
- Methodical and hard-working but not brilliant
- Shrewd, narrow-minded, conscientious, persistent
- Developed a four-point program, and with remarkable success achieved it completely in less than four years

37 ☐ **IX. Polk the Purposeful (cont.)**

- Polk's four-point program:
 - Lower tariff
 - Secretary of Treasury, Robert Walker, devised tariff-for-revenue bill that reduced average rates of Tariff of 1842 from 32% to 25%
 - With strong support from low-tariff southerners, Walker Tariff bill made it through Congress
 - Complaints came from middle states and New England (see Table 17.1)
 - Bill proved to be excellent revenue producer

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39 ☐ **IX. Polk the Purposeful (cont.)**

- Restore independent treasury:
 - Unceremoniously dropped by Whigs in 1841
 - Pro-bank Whigs in Congress raised storm of opposition, but Polk successful in 1846
- Third and fourth points on Polk's "must list" were acquisition of California and settlement of Oregon dispute (see Map 17.2)

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41 ☐ **IX. Polk the Purposeful (cont.)**

- Settlement of Oregon dispute:
 - "Reoccupation" of "whole" had been promised to northern Democrats in 1844 campaign
 - Southern Democrats, once Texas annexed, cooled off
 - Polk, feeling bound by three offers of his predecessor to London, proposed line at 49°.

- British anti-expansionists now believed that Columbia River was not St. Lawrence of West
- Britain in 1846 proposed line at 49°

42 ☐ **IX. Polk the Purposeful (cont.)**

- Polk threw decision to Senate
- They speedily accepted offer and subsequent treaty
- Satisfaction with Oregon settlement among Americans not unanimous
- Polk, despite all the campaign bluster, got neither “fifty-four forty” nor a fight
- He got something that in the long run was better: a reasonable compromise without a rifle raised

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44 ☐ **X. Misunderstandings with Mexico**

- Faraway California was another worry for Polk:
 - Diverse population: Spanish Mexicans; Indians; some “foreigners” (mostly Americans)
 - Given time these transplanted Americans might bring California into the Union
 - Polk was eager to buy from Mexico
 - Mexico owed United States some \$3 million for damages to American citizens and their property
 - More serious contention was Texas
 - Deadlocked with Mexico over Texas's boundaries

45 ☐ **X. Misunderstandings with Mexico (cont.)**

- Texas wanted boundary at Rio Grande River
- Mexico sought boundary at Nueces River
- Polk careful to keep U.S. troops out of no-man's-land
- California continued to cause Polk anxiety:
 - Rumors—British wanted to buy or seize California
 - Americans could not accept under Monroe Doctrine
 - Polk dispatched John Slidell to Mexico City (1845):
 - To offer \$25 million for California and territory to east
 - Mexico would not even permit Slidell to present his offer

46 ☐ **XI. American Blood on American (?) Soil**

- Polk decided to force a showdown:
 - January 13, 1846, he ordered 4,000 men:
 - Under General Zachary Taylor to march from Nueces River to Rio Grande hoping for a clash
 - When nothing happened, he informed cabinet (May 9, 1846) that he proposed to declare war because of:
 - Unpaid claims
 - Slidell's rejection
 - News of bloodshed arrived same night
 - Mexican troops crossed Rio Grande and met Taylor

47 ☐ **XI. American Blood on American (?) Soil (cont.)**

- Polk sent vigorous war message to Congress:
 - Congress overwhelmingly voted for war
 - In message to Congress, Polk was making history—not writing a balanced account
 - Spot resolution—by Abraham Lincoln demanded information as to precise “spot” on American soil where American blood had been shed
- Did Polk provoke war?
 - California was imperative in his program
 - Mexico would not sell it at any price
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48 ☐ **XI. American Blood on American (?) Soil (cont.)**

- Polk wanted California, so he pushed quarrel to bloody showdown
- Both sides were spoiling for a fight
- Both sides were fired by moral indignation
- Mexicans wanted to fight “Bullies of the North”
- Many Americans sincerely believed Mexico was aggressor
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49 ☐ **XII. The Mastering of Mexico**

- Polk wanted California—not war:
 - When war came, he wanted to fight on a limited scale and then

- pull out when he captured prize
- Santa Anna convinced Polk that he would betray Mexico, but he then drove his countrymen to a desperate defense of their soil

50 ☐ **XII. The Mastering of Mexico (cont.)**

- American operations in Southwest & California completely successful (see Map 17.3):
 - Both General Stephen Kearny and Captain John Frémont had success in West
 - Frémont collaborated with American naval officers and local Americans who hoisted banner of short-lived California Bear Flag Republic

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52 ☐ **XII. The Mastering of Mexico (cont.)**

- General Taylor defeated Mexicans in several battles and then reached Buena Vista (February 22-23, 1847):
 - Here his 5,000 troops repulsed attack by 20,000 troops under Santa Anna
 - Taylor became “Hero of Buena Vista”
 - Taylor, however, could not defeat Mexico decisively in semi-deserts of northern Mexico
 - Need a crushing blow at enemy's vitals—Mexico City

53 ☐ **XII. The Mastering of Mexico (cont.)**

- General Winfield Scott succeeded in battling his way to Mexico City by Sept., 1847
 - One of most brilliant campaigns in U.S. history
 - Scott proved to be most distinguished U.S. general between American Revolution and Civil War

54 ☐ **XIII. Fighting Mexico for Peace**

- Scott and chief clerk of State Department Nicholas Trist arranged:
 - Armistice with Santa Anna (cost \$10,000)
 - Polk ordered Trist home, but he wrote a 65-page letter explaining

why he could not come home

–Trist signed Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo on February 2, 1848, forwarded it to Washington

55 ☐ **XIII. Fighting Mexico for Peace (cont.)**

- Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo:
 - Confirmed American title to Texas
 - Yielded enormous area stretching to Oregon, the ocean, embracing California
 - Total expanse was about ½ of Mexico
 - United States agreed to pay \$15 million for land and to assume claims of its citizen against Mexico (amount = \$3,250,000)
- (see “Makers of America: the Californios”)
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58 ☐ **XIII. Fight Mexico for Peace (cont.)**

- Polk submitted treaty to Senate:
 - Antislavery Whigs in Congress—dubbed “Mexican Whigs” or “Conscience Whigs”—denounced “damnable war”
 - Another peril impended:
 - A swelling group of expansionists clamored for all of Mexico
 - If America had seized it, she would have been saddled with an expensive and vexatious policing problem

59 ☐ **XIII. Fight Mexico for Peace (cont.)**

- Victors rarely pay an indemnity:
 - Polk arranged to pay \$18,250,000 after winning
 - Critics claimed Americans had guilty conscience
 - Apologists pointed proudly to “Anglo-Saxon spirit of fair play”

60 ☐ **XIV. Profit and Loss in Mexico**

- As wars go, Mexican War a small one:

- Cost 13,000 American lives, most by disease
- Fruits of war were enormous:
 - America's total expanse was increased by 1/3
 - Proved to be blood-spattered schoolroom for Civil War
 - Campaigns provided priceless experience for army
 - Navy valuable in blockading Mexican ports
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61 ☐ **XIV. Profit and Loss in Mexico (cont.)**

- Marine Corps won new laurels and to this day sings in its stirring hymn about the “Halls of Montezuma”
- Army waged war without defeat and without a major blunder
- Opposing armies emerged with increased respect for each other
- Mexicans never forgot that U.S.A. tore away about ½ of their country
- Marked an ugly turning point in relations between United States and Latin America

62 ☐ **XIV. Profit and Loss in Mexico (cont.)**

- War aroused slavery debate that not stop until Civil War
- David Wilmot of Pennsylvania introduced amendment that slavery should never exist in any territories wrested from Mexico
- Wilmot Proviso never became law, but:
 - Endorsed by legislatures of all but one of free states
 - Came to symbolize burning issue of slavery in territories
- More than any other issue, debate over slavery in new western lands divided North & South
- From perspective of history, opening shots of Mexican War were opening shots of Civil War
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