THE COMING OF THE CIVIL WAR 1846-1861
(CHAPTER 10)
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Two Nations

- Historians & the Civil War
  - Could the Civil War been avoided?
    - Some historians – say yes – if elected better leaders &
      established stronger political institutions
    - Other more recent historians – say no – b/c the differences
      b/tw the regions, racial groups, & social classes were too
great
  - However, whatever the differences: Americans supported
democracy, free enterprise, & social equality

The Case Against Slavery

- Key difference b/tw the North & South
- Many Northerners believed slavery violated basic principals of
  both the U.S. & Christianity, but didn’t necessarily believe that
  blacks & whites were equal – prejudice
- Uncle Tom’s Cabin 1852 – Harriet Beecher Stowe
  - Many readers became convinced that slavery – ruin of the
    U.S.

Southern Views on Slavery

- Some had exaggerated views – plantation households were
  like a large & happy family
- Attack the evils of the North
  - low wages, poor working conditions, etc. Cannibals All 1857
    by George Fitzhugh
  - Besides many Revolutionary leaders – G.W., T.J. owned
    slaves
- Not about to let the arrogant and self-righteous Northerners
tell them how to live

Differences b/tw North & South

- North
2 More Urban & Industrial
   - by 1860 9 of 10 largest cities
   - ~22,000 mi RR
   - by 1860 – 70% of RR tracks
   - 110,000 factories

3 South
   - ½ the population of the North
   - 9,000 mi. of RR
   - More likely to transport crop by water than by rail
   - 20,000 factories

6 The Mexican War & Slavery Extension
   - Annexation of Texas –
     - 1836 – after winning independence from Mexico - voted (by
       Texans) to be annexed by U.S.
     - Mexican Leader - Santa Ana – warned annexation would led
to a declaration of war against Mexico
     - 1845 TX became 28th state
     - James K. Polk 1845 – 1849 - 11th President
       - strong advocate of expansion
       - offered to buy both New Mexico and California for $30
         Million; Mexico refused
       - believed in Manifest Destiny

7 War with Mexico
   - U.S. claimed Rio Grande the official U.S. – Mexican border
   - Mexico claimed Nueces River
   - Polk was determined to have his way - sent 3000 American
     troops, under Gen. Zachary Taylor, into Southern Texas

   - May 13, 1846, the Mexican War was declared

8 War with Mexico con’t.
   - Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo
1. Mexico gave up Texas  
2. Mexico gave CA and NM to US  
3. US paid Mexico $15 Million  
4. U.S. agreed to pay > $3M claims made by American citizens against Mexico

Gadsden Purchase - 5 years after this treaty (1853), Mexico sold 30,000 sq. mi. of land that would become NM & AZ for $10 Million.

The Wilmot Proviso

1846 bill, introduced by PA Democrat David Wilmot, that asked Congress to provide funds for negotiating with Mexico.

stated “as an express & fundamental condition of the acquisition of any territory from the Republic of Mexico... neither slavery nor involuntary servitude shall ever exist in any part of said territory.”

if passed – closed CA & NM to slavery as a req. for annexation

never became law, but showed the gap b/tw N. & S.