Territorial & Economic Expansion

APUSH- Period 5
“Away, away with all these cobweb issues of the rights of discovery, exploration, settlement... [The American claim] is by the right of our manifest destiny to overspread and to possess the whole of the continent which Province has given us for the development of the great experiment of liberty. “

- John L. O’Sullivan, Democratic Review, 1845
Texas, Maine, & Oregon

US interest in pushing borders into Texas (Mexican province) & Oregon (British claim) largely a result of American pioneers venturing into these lands in 1820’s & 1830’s

- Webster-Ashburton Treaty of 1842 ends Maine problems
- Impact of Election of 1844 on others.
  - Dark Horse candidate (& Jackson protege) James K. Polk
  - “Fifty-four Forty or Fight!”
- Polk’s election pushes Tyler to get Congressional resolution approving annexation of Texas
- Polk gets compromise on Oregon- takes southern half (divide at 49th parallel- Louisiana Territory marker)
War with Mexico- Prelude to Civil War???

Annexation of Texas led to problems with Mexico

- Polk tries to get settlement of Mexico-Texas border & sale of California & New Mexico territories- both fail
- American blood shed on American soil?- War with Mexico
- Mostly fought in Mexican territory with small armies of Americans
- In addition, success in taking New Mexico territory and California (Bear Flag Republic proclaimed in North)
- Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (1848) after fall of Mexico City
- Wilmot Proviso
Western Expansion
Southern Expansion

Dissatisfied over gains from Mexican War, many Southerners seek expansion into Latin America in 1850’s

- See plantations worked by slaves as economically feasible.
- Main target: Cuba
- Ostend Manifesto
- Walker Expedition
- Clayton-Bulwar Treaty (1850)
- Gadsden Purchase
Settlement of Western Territories

Western migration expands after acquisition of new lands

- “Great American Desert” passed over quickly
- Fur traders are earliest non-natives to go West & will provide much of early info about trails & conditions to later settlers
- Hundreds of thousands traverse many hazards to reach western lands by 1860’s
- Gold in California (1848)
- Homesteads & isolation
- Cities
Expanding Economy

Territorial expansion coincides with era of major economic growth

- Industrial Technology
- Railroads
- Foreign commerce - Kanagawa Treaty (1854)
- Panic of 1857