

Identifies Period 5: 1844-1877

AMSCO Chapter 12, [American Yawp](#) Chapter 13

1. The West: The Frontier, White Settlers on the Western Frontier (pgs. 181-182 2015-2019 books)
2. Manifest Destiny
3. Conflicts Over Texas, Maine, Oregon: Texas
4. *Primary Source: Annexation* (excerpt)
5. *Primary Source: Speech in the U.S. Senate – Thomas Hart Benton*
6. Oregon Territory; “Fifty-four Forty or Fight!”
7. War With Mexico: Immediate Causes of the War
8. *Primary Source: Legislature of Massachusetts*
9. *Primary Source: Editorial – New York Sun*
10. Consequences of the War: Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo; Mexican Cession
11. Consequences of the War: Wilmot Proviso
12. Ostend Manifesto
13. Gadsden Purchase
14. Settlement of the Western Territories: Overland trails
15. Settlement of the Western Territories: Mining frontier: Gold Rush
16. Settlement of the Western Territories: Farming frontier
17. The Expanding Economy: Foreign Commerce

Primary Sources

Annexation, John L. O’Sullivan, 1845

“Our ... destiny [is] to overspread the continent allotted by Providence for the free development of our yearly multiplying millions. . . . The Anglo-Saxon foot is already on [California’s] borders. Already the advance guard of the irresistible army of Anglo-Saxon emigration has begun to pour down upon it, armed with the [plow] and the rifle, and marking its trail with schools and colleges, courts and representative halls, mills and meetinghouses. A population will soon be in actual occupation of California. . . . Their right to independence will be the natural right of self-government belonging to any community strong enough to maintain it.”

— John L. O’Sullivan, 1845

Excerpt from Speech in the U.S. Senate, Thomas Hart Benton (D-MO), 1844

After twenty-five years, the American population has begun to extend itself to the Oregon. Some hundreds went a few years ago; a thousand went last year; two thousand are now setting out from the frontier of Missouri; tens of thousands are meditating the adventure. I say to them all, Go on! the Government will follow you, and will give protection and land. . . .

Let the emigrants go on, and carry their rifles. We want thirty thousand rifles in the valley of the Oregon; they will make all quiet there, in the event of a war with Great Britain for the domination of that country. Thirty thousand rifles on the Oregon will annihilate the Hudson Bay Company, drive them off our continent, quiet their Indians, and protect the American interests in all the vast region of the Rocky Mountains. Besides . . . the settlers in Oregon will also recover and open for us the North American road to India!

Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri,
Speech in the U.S. Senate, 1844

Legislature of Massachusetts, Charles Sumner, 1847

Resolved, That the present war with Mexico has its primary origin in the unconstitutional annexation to the United States of the foreign state of Texas while the same was still at war with Mexico; that it was unconstitutionally commenced by the order of the President, to General Taylor, to take military possession of territory in dispute between the United States and Mexico, and in the occupation of Mexico; and that it is now waged ingloriously—by a powerful nation against a weak neighbor—unnecessarily and without just cause, at immense cost of a portion of her territory, from which slavery has already been excluded, with the triple object of extending slavery, of strengthening “Slave Power,” and of obtaining the control of the Free States, under the Constitution of the United States.

Resolved, That our attention is directed anew to the the wrong and “enormity” of slavery, and to the tyranny and usurpation of the “Slave Power,” as displayed in the history of our country, particularly in the annexation of Texas and the present war with Mexico. . . .

Charles Sumner,
Legislature of Massachusetts, 1847

Editorial, New York Sun, 1847

The [Mexican] race is perfectly accustomed to being conquered, and the only new lesson we shall teach is that our victories will give liberty, safety, and prosperity to the vanquished. To *liberate* and *ennoble*—not to *enslave* and *debase*—is our mission. Well may the Mexican nation, whose great masses have never yet tasted liberty, prattle over their lost phantom of nationality. . . . [T]here is no excuse for the man educated under our institutions, who talks of our “wronging the Mexicans” when we offer them a position infinitely above any they have occupied, since their history began, and in which, for the first time, they may aim at the greatness and dignity of a truly republican and self-governing people.

Editor, New York *Sun*,
November 20, 1847