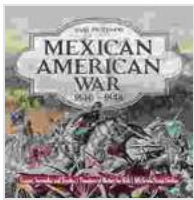


The Mexican-American War: 1846-1848

Causes

The Mexican-American War, fought between the United States and Mexico from 1846 to 1848, was a complex event with multiple underlying causes:



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- **Manifest Destiny:** The belief popular in the United States that its destiny was to expand westward to the Pacific Ocean. This belief fueled desires to acquire Mexican territories in the Southwest.
- **Annexation of Texas:** Texas had declared independence from Mexico in 1836, but Mexico never recognized it. The United States annexed Texas in 1845, which angered Mexico and heightened tensions.
- **Disputed BFree Download:** The bFree Download between Texas and Mexico was disputed, with Mexico claiming the Nueces River as the boundary and the United States claiming the Rio Grande.
- **Economic Interests:** The United States sought access to Mexican markets and resources, while Mexico feared American economic

dominance.

- **Slave Issue:** The Mexican government abolished slavery in 1829, but slavery was legal in the United States. Southerners in the United States feared that westward expansion would limit the spread of slavery.

Timeline

1. **April 25, 1846:** The United States declares war on Mexico after a clash at the Rio Grande.
2. **September 23, 1846:** General Zachary Taylor captures Monterrey, Mexico.
3. **February 22-23, 1847:** General George Washington Scott invades Mexico City.
4. **September 14, 1847:** Mexico City falls to the American army.
5. **February 2, 1848:** The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo is signed, ending the war.

Surrender

After the fall of Mexico City, the Mexican government agreed to negotiate a peace treaty. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed on February 2, 1848.

The treaty transferred a vast amount of land from Mexico to the United States, including the present-day states of California, Nevada, Utah, and parts of Arizona, New Mexico, Wyoming, and Colorado. In exchange, the United States paid Mexico \$15 million and assumed its debt to American citizens.

Treaties

In addition to the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, two other treaties were signed as part of the Mexican-American War settlement:

- **Treaty of Mesilla (1853):** This treaty acquired the Gadsden Free Download, which added a small strip of land along the southern bFree Download of New Mexico and Arizona to the United States.
- **Treaty of Chamizal (1964):** This treaty settled a dispute over the boundary between El Paso, Texas, and Ciudad Juárez, Mexico.

Consequences

The Mexican-American War had profound consequences for both the United States and Mexico:

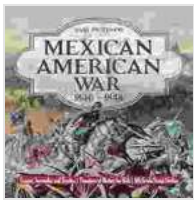
- **Territorial Expansion:** The United States gained a vast amount of territory, which helped fulfill the goal of Manifest Destiny.
- **Mexican Loss of Territory:** Mexico lost about half of its territory, which had a significant impact on its economy and political stability.
- **Increased Tensions:** The war exacerbated tensions between the United States and Mexico, which have persisted in some form to this day.
- **Mexican Immigration:** The war led to increased Mexican immigration to the United States, particularly to the Southwest.

Legacy

The Mexican-American War remains a significant event in the history of the United States and Mexico. Its causes, surrender, and treaties have been

the subject of extensive study and debate.

The war's legacy includes the acquisition of vast territories by the United States, the loss of territory by Mexico, and the ongoing relationship between the two countries. The Mexican-American War is a reminder of the importance of understanding the historical context and consequences of war.



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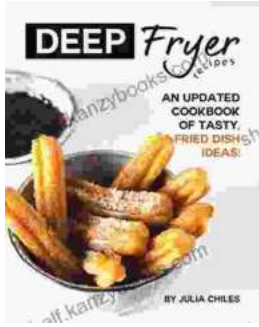
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