Chapter 12: Territorial and Economic Expansion (1830 - 1860)

1. Causes of manifest destiny
   1. nationalism- Murica is destined for all of North America and the white, “racially-superior” Americans must be taken over through Manifest Destiny
   2. population increase
      1. improvements in public health
      2. birth rate still very high (6.14 children each)
      3. not from immigration b/c of economic problems in America and wars in Europe, until the 1830s
   3. rapid economic development
   4. technological advances
   5. reform ideals- ‘altruistic attempt to extend democracy into new realms
2. manifest destiny fervor spread through the **penny press**
3. Texas
   1. pioneers migrated into these lands during the 1820s-1830s
   2. 1823- Mexico won independence from Spain and began to attract settlers with a colonization law (cheap land and four year exemption from taxes)
      1. wanted to farm the land and increase tax revenues
      2. wanted a buffer zone between Mexico and the US/Indian tribes
      3. people like **Austin** bought land grants from Mexico and then sold them to settlers
   3. steady migration of Americans led to a ratio of 3:1, Americans to Mexicans
   4. revolt led by an intermediary was crushed
   5. 1829- Mexico outlawed slavery and required all immigrants to convert to Roman Catholicism
   6. no one obeyed, so closed immigration, but Americans didn’t listen so the immigration law was dropped in 1833
   7. Revolt and independence
      1. **Santa Anna** declared himself dictator of Mexico, became stricter in entire country, tried to enforce laws in Texas
      2. **Sam Houston** revolted and declared Texas independent
      3. Anna forced to sign, but the Mexican legislature refused to recognize Texas as independent
   8. Annexation denied
      1. Houston applied to US for Republic of Texas to be annexed
      2. supporters were expansionists
      3. Jackson and Van Buren refused because northerners objected to the expansion of slavery and the addition of five new slave states from Texas
      4. they also didn’t want to fight a war with Mexico
      5. Texas wanted to rival the United States
4. Boundary Dispute in Maine
   1. **Arrostook War** (battle of the maps) over the boundary between Maine and the Canadian province of New Brunswick
   2. still much resentment between British (who rule Canada still) and Americans
   3. **Webster-Ashburton Treaty** split the disputed territory between Maine and British Canada
5. Boundary Dispute in Oregon
   1. claimed by Spain, Russia, Great Britain and the US
      1. but Spain gave up its claim to Oregon in the Adams-Onis Treaty of 1819
      2. Britain claimed Oregon because of the **Hudson Fur Company** but there were few British people living in Oregon
      3. US claim:
         1. discovery of Columbia River
         2. Lewis and Clark expedition
         3. fur and trading post/fort in Oregon
         4. many Americans caught “Oregon fever” after hearing about the fertile Oregon land
   2. most people were fur traders
   3. religiously motivated: 1. tried to convert natives 2. when unsuccessful, they said that they didn’t deserve their land, lawl
   4. nationalistic Americans wanted Oregon, Texas and Mexico’s California
      1. Mexico’s California had more Native Americans than Spanish-Mexicans, so Americans migrated by the masses so they could take it just like they took Texas
6. The Election of 1844
   1. Democratic nominee candidates
      1. Martin Van Buren opposed annexation
      2. Calhoun was proslavery and proannexation
      3. deadlocked, so they picked **James K. Polk** who was proannexation. He had four goals:
         1. settle Oregon
         2. bring California into the union
         3. independent treasury to solve Jackson’s debt
         4. lower tariffs
      4. “Fifty-four Forty or Fight!”- refers to the latitude line between Oregon and Alaska
   2. Whigs nominated Clay, who was neutral about annexation
   3. Democrats won because of their appeal to expansionist democrats

“The re-occupation of Oregon and the re-annexation of Texas at the earliest practicable period are great American measures.”

1. Annexing Texas and Dividing Oregon
   1. after the election of 1844, as one of his last acts of his presidency, John Tyler annexed Texas
   2. compromised with Britain on Oregon, fighting only for the southern half of it at the 49th parallel
   3. Northerners angry, because the 49th parallel was the boundary between free and slave states
   4. didn’t want to fight a war with both Mexico and Britain, so compromise was ratified
2. War with Mexico (1846-1847)
   1. Polk sent **Slidell** to 1. persuade Mexico to sell the California and New Mexico territories to the US 2. settle dispute concerning Mexico-Texas border (US wanted border to be along Rio Grande, not along the Nueces)
   2. Immediate Causes of the War
      1. also, New Mexico was becoming more American than Mexican, booming trade made it desirable to annex as well
      2. California had a lot trade with Mexicans and Indians, settlers wanted to annex California
      3. Polk ordered General Zachary Taylor to move his army toward the Rio Grande
      4. Mexicans kill some Americans, and they start fighting a war  
         “War exists by the act of Mexico herself.”
   3. Military Campaigns
      1. not a popular war, people were upset about Polk’s concessions to the British regarding Oregon
      2. small American armies took Santa Fe, New Mexico and southern California
      3. Zachary Taylor captured Mexico City
   4. **Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (Mexican Cession) (1848)**
      1. Rio Grande is the boundary of Texas
      2. US pays $15 million for California and New Mexico
      3. some Whigs opposed because they thought it was an immoral attempt to expand slavery
      4. some southern Democrats opposed because they wanted to take *all* of Mexico
   5. acquisition of new territories renewed sectional debate about slavery
   6. political conflict that would lead to civil war
3. The Sectional Debate
   1. **Wilmot Proviso**- failed bill that proposed new territories from Mexico would be free; brought up and debated often
   2. debated about popular sovereignty
   3. 1848, Zachary Taylor elected
      1. Free-Soil party got 10% of the vote, showed inability of existing parties to contain the political passions slavery was creating
4. Manifest Destiny to the South
   1. Southerners, disappointed with Mexican War spoils, wanted slave Cuba
   2. **Ostend Manifesto**
      1. Polk wanted to buy Cuba from Spain, but Spain pridefully refused
      2. Pierce later wanted to secretly buy Cuba from Spain, but it was leaked and the antislavery people got angry, forcing him to drop it
      3. Pierce’s secondary motivation was also to divert attention away from the issue of slavery to American nationalism, contrasting with the European revolutions of 1848
   3. **Walker Expedition**
      1. **William Walker** wanted to create a proslavery Central American empire
      2. captured Nicaragua
   4. **Clayton-Bulwer Treaty** (1850)
      1. Britain and America both agreed not to take exclusive control of any future canal route in Central America
   5. **Gadsden Purchase**
      1. Pierce bought a strip of the American Southwest for the southern terminus of a railroad
      2. increased sectional rivalries, because North wanted eastern terminus to be Chicago, South wanted it to be in St. Louis, Memphis or New Orleans
   6. Seward bought Alaska
   7. However, Southerners rejected the annexation of Canada and Hawaii because they would have been antislavery
5. Settlement of the Western Territories
   1. Southerners went to Texas, but most settlers were from the Northwest who wanted economic opportunities
   2. young, relatively prosperous people who traveled in families (except for the gold diggers and miners :b )
   3. otherwise, you worked as LENNY!! (migrant farm/ranch hand) or as Curley’s wife (prostitute!!) or teacher, domestic servant
   4. Fur trappers- hardy band of explorers and trappers provided early information about trails and frontier conditions
   5. Overland Trails
      1. started in Missouri/Iowa, then took the Oregon Trail over the Great Plains, then Rockies, Sierras/Cascades
      2. lasted five or six months, always trying to beat the snow, moved very slowly
      3. died more from disease and depression than Indian attacks; actually, the Indians were helpful
      4. work divided among gender roles, solitude and intensity of the trip made it a bonding family time!!
   6. Mining Frontier (Gold Rush)
      1. started in California in 1848
      2. the “forty-niners” (California migrants) abandoned farms, jobs, homes, families to gold mine
      3. brought many people into the mountains to create short-lived mining camps and towns
      4. Chinese people came too, lol, for gold but also to fill in the job shortages created because of the gold rush
      5. gold rush made California a very diverse place, created turbulence and pressure on the federal government resolve the slavery issue
   7. Farming Frontier
      1. **Preemption Acts**- gave squatters the right to settle public lands and purchase them for low prices once the government put them up for sale
         1. small areas of land also put up for sale-- made it easier for small families to settle
      2. mostly middle class families attempted the trek because of the cost of the overland trip
      3. initially isolated, but communities developed with institutions modeled after the East or their respective countries of origin
   8. Urban Frontier
      1. San Francisco, Denver and Salt Lake City came as a result of railroads, mineral wealth, farming and supplying travelers on their overland trails
6. The Expanding Economy
   1. Industrial Technology
      1. industrialization spread from New England to the other states of the Northeast
      2. **Elias Howe**’s sewing machine moved production of clothing from the home to the factory
      3. growth of **Morse**’s telegraph literally ran parallel to the growth of railroads, speeding up communication and transportation
   2. Foreign Commerce
      1. shipping firms encouraged trade and travel across the Atlantic by having a regular departure schedule
      2. demand for whale oil caused a whaling boom, in which New england merchants took the lead
      3. steamships replaced clipper ships-- had greater storage capacity, lower maintenance costs and better able to follow regular schedule
      4. Commodore Perry forced Japan to open up its ports to trade
   3. **Panic of 1857**
      1. big drop in prices, many jobless
      2. South’s cotton prices remained high, gave them the impression that they were superior
      3. in the North, strengthened the Republicans because they believed that the depression was caused by the south’s Democratic administration