Immigration and Expansion (1840-1860)
Immigration Patterns, 1840-1860

- 4 million immigrants to the U.S.
- German and Irish predominate
- Most will vote Democratic (machine politics, anti-temperance as issues)
Nativist Backlash

- Fear non-English immigration, Catholicism, and labor competition
- See republicanism being threatened
- Push public school movements and Americanization of immigrants
Manifest Destiny

- Spread of American civilization westward
- Mexicans criticized for lack of settlement
- Indian removals ("savage" cultures)
- Indian tribal divisions facilitate White expansion
- Need for farm and grasslands
- Avoidance of class-conflict in eastern society
- Railroad and telegraph spur development
Origins of the Mexican War, 1821-1846
Mexican Independence

- Defeat of Spain (1821)
- Sparse settlements (mission systems)
- Conflict between Federalist/Centralists
- Indian rebellions
- Increase in number of American settlers in Texas
The Texas War of Independence (1836)

- Mexico closes Texas to further American settlement (1830)
- Santa Anna wants centralized control of Texas, taxes on province
- Texians defeated at the Alamo and Goliad
- Republic of Texas declared (1836)
- Battle of San Jacinto and Mexican Army surrender
- Mexico does not accept Texas boundary
Origins of the Mexican War

- Texas annexed to the Union (1845)
- Mexico ends relations with the U.S.
- U.S. claims Rio Grande River as border with Mexico
- Mexico claims Nueces River as Texas boundary
- American troops sent into disputed territory in 1846 under Zachary Taylor
- Skirmishes in Texas lead to U.S. war declaration
The Mexican War

- Whig opposition (Spot Resolutions, slaveholder conspiracy)
- American superiority in artillery, leadership
- Stephen Kearny takes Santa Fe, heads to California (1846)
- Tampico taken by Zachary Taylor (1846)
- John C. Fremont and the Bear Flag Revolt
- Veracruz and Mexico City fall to Winfield Scott (1847)
Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo (1848)

- Texas ceded at the Rio Grande
- New Mexico, California to U.S for 15 million
- Present day Nevada, Utah, Arizona, and Colorado are part of territorial cessions
- U.S. pays debts of Americans to Mexico
- Annexations create conflict between expansionists and anti-slavery politicians