Chapter 17 Study Guide **AP US History**

Manifest Destiny and Its Legacy

Theme: American expansionism gained momentum in the 1840s, leading first to the acquisition of Texas and Oregon, and then to the Mexican War, which added vast southwestern territories to the United States and ignited the slavery question.

Summary: As Tyler assumed the presidency after Harrison's death, the United States became engaged in a series of sharp disputes with Britain. A conflict over the Maine boundary was resolved, but British involvement in Texas revived the movement to annex the Lone Star Republic to the United States.

The Texas and Oregon questions became embroiled in the 1844 campaign, as the Democrats nominated and elected the militantly expansionist Polk. After Texas was added to the Union, conflicts with Mexico over California and the Texas boundary erupted into war in 1846.

American forces quickly conquered California and New Mexico. Scott's and Taylor's invasion of Mexico was also successful, and the United States obtained large new territories in the peace treaty.

Besides adding California, New Mexico, and Utah to American territory, the Mexico War trained a new generation of military leaders and aroused long-term Latin American resentment of the United States. Most important, it forced the slavery controversy to the center of national debate, as first indicated by the Wilmot Proviso

A. Read chapter 18

B. *Define and give the significance of each of the following:*

William Henry Harrison
The Whig party
John Tyler
Henry Clay
the *Caroline*
Webster-Ashburton Treaty
"Oregon fever"
James K. Polk
Oregon Compromise 1846
John Slidell
Gen. Zachary Taylor
John C. Fremont
Gen Winfield Scott
Nicholas P. Trist
Treaty of Guadeloupe Hidalgo
Wilmot Proviso

C. *Answer*

1. What led to the resignation of Tyler's entire cabinet (except Webster)?

2. Discuss the "war of words" that festered between the U. S. and Britain in the 1830's and 1840's. Briefly identify the opinions and actions of both sides.

3. Why were President Tyler and the South eager to annex Texas? What steps did he take to try to accomplish this and what were the results of his actions?

4. **Manifest Destiny:** "Countless citizens in the 1840's and 1850's feeling a sense of mission, believed that Almighty God had "manifestly" destined the American people for a hemispheric career." Discuss the political effects of this vision.

5. Discuss Polk's agenda as president. Why might Polk be labeled as *the* "Manifest Destiny" president?

6. Identify the main points of contention between Mexico and the United States on the eve of The Mexican-American War. Did Polk provoke this war to achieve his prizes?

7. What did the United States gain from victory in the Mexican War and why were some Americans disturbed by the events of the war.

8. What problems were created as a result of the land acquisitions? -Do you agree with the text authors' conclusion that "In a broad sense, the opening shots of the Mexican War were the opening shots of the Civil War?

Identification *Supply the correct identification for each numbered description.*

_____1. British colony where Americans regularly aided anti-government rebels

_____2. State where "Aroostook War" was fought over a disputed boundary with Canada

_____3. Nation that strongly backed independence for Texas, hoping to turn it into an economic asset and antislavery bastion

_____4. Antislavery Whigs who opposed both the Texas annexation and the Mexican War on moral grounds

_____5. Act of both houses of Congress by which Texas was annexed

_____6. Northern boundary of Oregon, advocated by Democratic Party and others as the desired line of American expansion

_____7. Two-thousand-mile-long path along which thousands of Americans journeyed to the Willamette Valley in the 1840s

_____8. The widespread American belief that God had ordained the United States to occupy all the territory of North America

_____9. Small antislavery party that took enough votes from Henry Clay to cost him the election of 1844

_____10. Final compromise line that settled the Oregon boundary dispute in 1846

_____11. Rich Mexican province that Polk tried to buy and Mexico refused to sell

_____12. River that Mexico claimed as the Texas-Mexico boundary, crossed by Taylor's troops in 1846

_____13. Resolutions offered by Congressman Abraham Lincoln demanding to know the precise location where Mexicans had allegedly shed American blood on "American" soil

_____14. Treaty ending Mexican War and granting vast territories to the United States

_____15. Controversial amendments, which passed the House but not the Senate, stipulating that slavery should be forbidden in territory acquired from Mexico

Putting Things in Order

Put the following events in correct order by numbering them from 1 to 5.

____ United States ends a long courtship by incorporating an independent republic that had once been part of Mexico

____ The first American president to die in office is succeeded by his controversial vice president

____ A treaty adding vast territory to the United States is hastily pushed through the Senate

____ American and Mexican troops clash in disputed border territory, leading to a controversial declaration of war

____ An ambitious "dark horse" wins an election against an opponent trapped by the Texas annexation issue

Matching People, Places and Events

Match the person, place or event in the left column with the proper description in the right column by inserting the correct letter on the blank line.

____1. John Tyler

____2. Henry Clay

____3. Aroostook War

____4. Daniel Webster

____5. Texas

____6. Oregon

____7. James K. Polk

____8. Election of 1844

____9. Abraham Lincoln

____10. Rio Grande

____11. Zachary Taylor

____12. Winfield Scott

____13. Santa Anna

____14. Nicholas Trist

____15. David Wilmot

A. Congressional author of the "spot resolutions" criticizing the Mexican War

B. "Old Fuss and Feathers," whose conquest of Mexico City brought U.S. victory in the Mexican War

C. Leader of Senate Whigs and unsuccessful presidential candidate against Polk in 1844

D. Long-winded American diplomat who negotiated the Treaty of Guadeloupe Hidalgo

E. Whig leader and secretary who negotiated an end to Main boundary dispute

F. Claimed by United States as southern boundary of Texas

G. Won by the party stressing expansionism and lost by the party divided over slavery and Texas

H. Clash between Canadians and Americans over disputed timber country

I. Mexican military leader who failed to stop humiliating American invasion of his country

J. Independent nation that was the object of British, Mexican, and French scheming in the early 1840s

K. American military hero who invaded northern Mexico from Texas in 1846-1847

L. Congressional author of resolution forbidding slavery in territory acquired from Mexico

M. Dark-horse presidential winner of 1844 who effectively carried out ambitious expansionist plans

N. Northwestern territory in dispute between Britain and United States, subject of "Manifest Destiny" rhetoric in 1844

O. Leader who was elected on the Whig ticket but spent most of his presidency in bitter feuds with his fellow Whigs

Matching Cause and Effect

Match the historical cause in the left column with he proper effect in the right column by writing the correct letter on the blank line.

Cause

___1. Tyler's refusal to carry out Whig politics
___2. Strong American hostility to Britain
___3. British support for the Texas Republic
___4. Rapidly growing American settlement in Oregon
___5. The upsurge of Manifest Destiny in the 1840s
___6. Clay's unsuccessful attempts to straddle the Texas issue
___7. Polk's frustration at Mexico's refusal to sell California
___8. The overwhelming American military victory over Mexico
___9. The rapid Senate ratification of the Treaty of Guadeloupe Hidalgo
___10. The Wilmot Proviso

Effect

A. Thwarted the movement that advocated the United States' annexing all of Mexico
B. Enabled the United States to take vast territories in the Treaty of Guadeloupe Hidalgo
C. Helped lead to a controversial confrontation with Mexico along the Texas border
D. Increased American determination to annex Texas
E. Split the Whig party and caused the entire cabinet except Webster to resign
F. Heated up the slavery controversy between North and South
G. Sparked bitter feuds over Canadian rebels, the boundaries of Maine and Oregon and other issues
H. Turned antislavery voters to the Liberty party and helped elect the expansionist Polk
I. Created widespread popular supports for Polk's expansionist policies on Texas, Oregon and California
J. Strengthened American claims to the Columbia River country and made Britain more willing to compromise

Answers:

Identification
1. Canada
2. Maine
3. Britain
4. Conscience Whigs
5. Joint Resolutions
6. 54*40'
7. Oregon Trail
8. Manifest Destiny
9. Liberty Party
10. 49th parallel
11. California
12. Nueces
13. Spot Resolutions
14. Treaty of Guadelupe Hidalgo
15. Wilmot Proviso

Matching People, Places, and Events
1. O
2. C
3. H
4. E
5. J
6. N
7. M
8. G
9. A
10. F
11. K
12. B
13. I
14. D
15. L

Putting Things in Order
3
1
5
4
2

Matching Cause and Effect
1. E
2. G
3. D
4. J
5. I
6. H
7. C
8. B
9. A
10. F