

An Account of the Mexican War: A Comprehensive Examination of the Causes, Events, and Aftermath of the Conflict



For the Liberty of Texas: Account of the Mexican War

by Edward Stratemeyer

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The Mexican War was a defining moment in American history, shaping the nation's territorial expansion and its relationship with Mexico. This conflict, which spanned from 1846 to 1848, had lasting consequences for both nations and left a complex legacy that continues to be debated today.

Causes of the Mexican War

The roots of the Mexican War can be traced back to several factors:

- **Tensions over Texas annexation:** After the successful Texas Revolution in 1836, the United States and Mexico disputed the territory

of Texas. Mexico considered Texas as a breakaway province, while the United States recognized it as an independent republic.

- **American expansionism:** The United States, driven by the ideology of Manifest Destiny, believed it had the right to expand its territory westward, including acquiring Mexican lands.
- **Border disputes:** There were ongoing disputes over the precise location of the border between the United States and Mexico, particularly in the area of the Nueces River and the Rio Grande.
- **Economic interests:** American merchants sought access to Mexican markets and resources, while Mexico feared the loss of its customs revenues.

Outbreak of War

On May 13, 1846, the United States Congress declared war on Mexico after President James K. Polk claimed that Mexico had "invaded our territory and shed American blood upon the American soil." The Mexican government denied these accusations, but the war had already begun.

Battles of the Mexican War

The Mexican War was a series of battles fought in various locations throughout Mexico, including:

- **Battle of Buena Vista (February 22-23, 1847):** General Zachary Taylor led American forces to victory over the Mexican army under General Antonio López de Santa Anna.
- **Battle of Chapultepec (September 12-13, 1847):** American forces under General Winfield Scott captured the Mexican military academy

of Chapultepec, paving the way for the capture of Mexico City.

- **Battle of Cerro Gordo (April 17-18, 1847):** Scott's forces defeated Santa Anna's army, securing control of the port of Veracruz.
- **Battle of Monterrey (September 21-23, 1846):** American forces under Taylor captured the city of Monterrey after intense fighting.
- **Siege of Mexico City (September 14-15, 1847):** Scott's forces laid siege to Mexico City, eventually forcing its surrender.

Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo

The Mexican War ended with the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo on February 2, 1848. The treaty established the Rio Grande as the boundary between the United States and Mexico and ceded vast territories to the United States, including present-day California, Nevada, and Utah. In return, the United States paid Mexico \$15 million and assumed the claims of American citizens against the Mexican government.

Impact of the Mexican War

The Mexican War had a profound impact on both the United States and Mexico:

- **Territorial expansion:** The United States gained significant territory from Mexico, adding over 500,000 square miles to its domain.
- **Economic growth:** The war stimulated American economic growth, particularly in the West, as new markets and resources became accessible.
- **Increased tensions:** The war left a legacy of bitterness and mistrust between the United States and Mexico, shaping their relations for

years to come.

- **Questioning of Manifest Destiny:** The war's brutality and high cost of life led some Americans to question the idea of Manifest Destiny.

Legacy of the Mexican War

The Mexican War remains a controversial chapter in American history. Its causes, events, and aftermath continue to be debated by historians, scholars, and policymakers. The war's legacy is complex and multifaceted, reflecting the complex interplay of power, expansionism, and the struggle for national identity.

The Mexican War was a pivotal event in the history of the United States and Mexico. Its causes, events, and aftermath shaped the trajectory of both nations and left a lasting legacy that continues to resonate today.

Understanding the Mexican War is essential for comprehending the history of American expansionism, the complexities of international relations, and the enduring tensions between neighboring nations.



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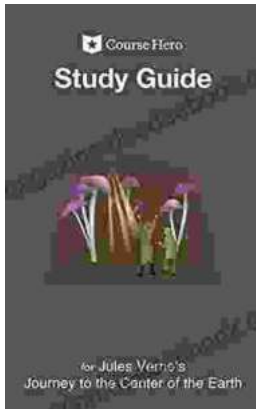
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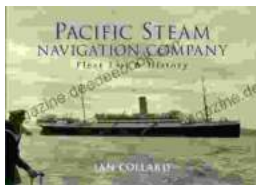
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