
History 1301
U.S. to 1877

Chapter 13

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The Impending Crisis

America, westward focused:

- Manifest Destiny:
 - Popular and unstoppable movement west to claim 1M square miles opened to America in 1840s
 - John O’Sullivan to describe US justification for Texas, California and Oregon“
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 - Extending “American Liberty” throughout the continent ... “New Arcadia” vs. Old World
 - God ordained “Self Interest” – America was our “Special Blessing” “California belonged not to indolent Mexico, but to people who would use it.”
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- Texas:
 - South Mexico dominated by Spanish (then Mexicans) Comanche dominated Central Texas, leaving East & Southeast Texas almost without significant population 1800 – 1820s
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 - Moses Austin 1821 – failed lead minor and Spanish citizen (emigrated to Missouri from Virginia before Louisiana Purchase) gets Spanish / Mexican grant for US settlers – 4 year Tax abatement if became Mexican citizens

Texas (continued) :

- 1822 Stephen F. Austin's Emparassario
- 1824 – Mexican colonization law offering land and taxes credits widens American incursion
 - Slave owners making S. Texas another Cotton plantation society
- 1828-9, US offers to buy Texas from Mexico
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- 1830 Mexicans barred entry, but people came, anyway – gave up by 1833
- 1831 Mexico abolishes slavery – Texas ignores
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- Santa Anna
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 - 1834, withdrew the Constitution of 1824 which allowed for local rule. Sporadic fighting with Texicans in 1835 became war in 1836
- Texan War for Independence 1836:
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 - Santa Anna – granted Texas Independence / traveled to Washington to return to Mexico
- Texan Republic 1836 - 1845
 - US could not accept (politically) Texas into Union, and didn't recognize Texas till 1837
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 - Applied for Statehood in 1844, but Northerners defeated it over slavery and war with Mexico
 - Brought in by Congressional Resolution Mar & July 1845 / Mexico broke diplomatic relations

Oregon:

- 1818 Treaty set up joint US / British sovereignty for Oregon Territory – WA, OR, ID, BC
- 1840s Americans substantially outnumbered British in territory
 - Indians refused conversion which forfeited their ownership of land
- American westward migrations to Oregon
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 - Increasingly able to economically exploit
 - River boats / China Trade / Slavery & Cotton
 - Growing popularity - Penny Press “Go West!”
- Residents in Texas and Oregon (and California) pressured Washington to annex them.
 - 1844 Democrats pass over Van Buren for annexationist James K. Polk – Texas is main issue.
 - Feb 1845 – Tyler completes annexation of Texas with a sweetheart deal.
 - Polk offered 49th parallel as boarder, rejected
 - “54’40^o or fight”
 - 1846 British “visit” & Mexico made US accept 49th
 - North saw it as sell out to slavery

Southwest and The Mexican War:

- California and New Mexico
 - What was “Texas” – south and western border
 - Mexico owned them, but not Mexican in character
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 - 1845 US sent fleet to California coast to assuming war
- Texas boarder dispute
 - Texans considered Rio Grande / Mexico the Nueces River
 - 1845 – Zachary Taylor and US forces to protect Texas ~ South of Nueces before annexation
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 - Polk orders Taylor to the Rio Grande – “American Blood on American Soil” War in May of 1846
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- The Mexican War
 - US Smuggles Santa Anna in – but he doesn’t deal
 - Willing but not with American troops on Mexican soil
 - 1846 - Taylor in North wins at Monterrey – Polk didn’t want Taylor to win single-handedly because of political future – AND Taylor moved slow
 - Texas Ranger terror

Mexican War resolution:

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- 1846 – Kearny joins Fremont in taking California
- Scott landed at Vera Cruz and takes Mexico City.
 - Exploits of Robert E Lee and other future civil war leaders
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- US Army raises 50K volunteers but few make it to battle area (Over 200K come forward)
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- Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo 1848
 - Trist negotiated peace – resisted Congressional demands to annex all of Mexico – World opinion
 - Army in Mexico saves money by requisitioning supplies
 - Polk needed fast peace / recalls Trist who works out peace treaty in interim
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 - Mexico ceded California, New Mexico and recognized Rio Grande
 - US to assume dept in those areas and pay Mexico \$15M
 - Mexican residents were US Citizens

Sectional Debate:

- Expansion of slavery controversy:
 - 1836 – 1844 “Gag Rule” Northern Voter issues
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 - Texas 1844 became Democratic Party crisis
 - “Wilmont Proviso” resolution 1846:
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 - All Northern State legislatures pass resolutions of support / public confrontation with Northern Dems
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 - Slavery in Territories question
 - Extension of the Missouri Compromise
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 - Whig gain in election of 1846 – control of HR - much about slavery issue and Democrat party unity
- Presidential contest of 1848
 - Cass – Dem., Taylor – Whig, Van Buren – Free Soil
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 - Free Soil party garner 10% of vote signifying existing parties couldn’t control slavery question
 - “Conscience Whigs” trend toward sectional party – rejection of “Lords of Lash & Lords of Loom” from old “Liberty” party to new “Free Soil” alliance under Van Buren

California:

- Gold Rush 1848
 - California becomes rapidly settled
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 - Highly diversified economy, California becomes turbulent
 - 1849 California tries to become a Free State
- Slavery dominates congressional issues
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 - Northern agitation against returning slaves
 - Northern legislatures resist slavery in Territories
 - Southerners in Senate balked because of Oregon, NM and Utah might upset balance and slavery lose its power in Fed Gov't.
 - Taylor not a staunch pro-slavery president
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 - Popular sovereignty has operational issues.
- Henry Clay tries another great compromise
 - California as a Free State
 - “Popular Sovereignty” for the rest of the Mexican Cession
 - Abolition of the Slave trade in DC
 - Federal Fugitive Slave Law – outside State officials

Compromise of 1850:

- Clays compromise defeated by July 1850
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 - Southern Whigs and Democrats working together
- New congressional leaders – new agendas
 - Succeeded Clay, Webster and Calhoun
 - 1850 Taylor died – succeeded by Millard Fillmore
 - Stephen A. Douglas broke the bill apart.
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 - Added Railroad concessions and Gov't bonds to deal
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 - William Seward became anti-slavery leader
- Compromise of 1850
 - Unorganized Territory, CA and OR were Free
 - Indian Territory (OK) was Slave
 - Utah & New Mexico Terr. were Popular Sovereignty
 - Fugitive Slave Act – bounties and teeth
- Election of 1852, purposely, not about slavery
 - Franklin Pierce for Democrats and Scott for Whigs
 - Neither took a stand on slavery
 - Anti-Slavery left Whigs and joined Free-Soil party
 - Southern Whigs join Democrats for slavery's sake

1850s:

- Young America:
 - Franklin Pierce – spread American Democracy to all western hemisphere
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 - Southerners blocked Hawaii’s entrance because it was Free
- Fugitive Slave Law problems
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- Western migration continues:
 - Northern Plains could be settled and farmed
 - Transcontinental Railroad, needed Indians out
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 - 1853 Gadsden purchase (\$10M) in NM added southern route for RR / was opposed by Anti-slavery / made Platt R (Nebraska) a priority
 - Kansas-Nebraska debate 1854:
 - Stephen A. Douglas – Northern route for transcontinental Railroad needed for Illinois econ
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 - 1854 – “Open” the Nebraska Territory (Kansas and Nebraska) and change the framework:
 - Popular Sovereignty – two territories – sop to slavery
 - Repeal of Missouri Compromise
 - Opponents from both parties become “Republicans” in 1854 – against slavery's expansion

Sectional Arguments:

- 1855 – 1857 Bleeding Kansas:
 - Fight for slavery produced two governments and range war - 200 KS people killed during 1856
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 - 1856 Sumner – v Butler / Brooks beating in Senate
- Free Soil philosophy:
 - Rights of all Americans to own land and control their own labor and advance as they saw fit
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 - The whole country had to be open, but for now slavery not to be abolished, and not expanded
- Pro-Slavery:
 - Siege mentality
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 - Personal Freedom laws and resistance to Fugitive Slave Act seen as against constitution / Rights
 - Propaganda war in popular media against slavery
 - Expressed slavery as positive good
 - Legal, constitutional & historical
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 - Only way two races could live together in harmony
 - Spirit of North was corrupt, greedy and class-warfare ridden
 - Blacks not really the same sort of people

Slavery again:

- Election of 1856
 - Democrats - Buchanan / Republicans –Freemont
 - Republicans ran on internal improvements and against spread of slavery
 - 1856 recession strengthened Republicans and manufacturing needs over Cash-crop South
- Dred Scott 1857 (Scott v Sanford)
 - Supreme court contest over definition of slavery, Black status, property and “States Rights”
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 - Legal definition of property, equal protection clause
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 - Decision
 - Scott had no basis to sue / he was not a citizen
 - Feds could not take property without due process
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 - Northerners dejected and Southerners elated
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 - Slave state constitution blocked in Congress
 - Redone constitution was rejected by State voters
 - Admitted into the Union in 1861 as a Free State
 - Stephen A. Douglas bolts Democratic party to block Lecompton Constitution in 1858

John Brown's Raid:

- Lincoln
 - Illinois senatorial election 1858 – becomes a national stage for Republicans
 - Got public following even though he lost. Lincoln – Douglas debates
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 - Douglas by not defending slavery loses support in South for Democratic Presidential bid
- John Brown, well financed “terrorist”
 - October 1859 – led a raid to inspire a general slave revolt in Virginia
 - Harpers Ferry – Robert E. Lee subdued the revolt
 - Tried in a VA court for treason and hanged
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- Election of 1860
 - Lincoln the Republican candidate was the machine choice
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 - Breckenridge for the deep south – Slavery
 - Lincoln's victory told the South their position was only a matter of time ...