16.2 Results of The Mexican War

Woo hoo! We won the Mexican War!
After the capture of Mexico City, Mexican officials had few options. Mexican officials met with U.S. diplomat Nicholas Trist, near Mexico City, at the town of Guadalupe-Hidalgo. On Feb. 2, 1848, the diplomats signed the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo, ending the Mexican War.
Mexico’s acting president, Manuel de la Pena y Pena, urged his fellow citizens to accept the treaty.

The treaty had several terms.

- Mexico recognized the annexation of Texas and the Rio Grande as its border.
The Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo

Terms of the treaty continued:

- The U.S. agreed to cover the $3.25 million in claims the U.S. citizens had against the Mexican government.
- Mexico agreed to cede some 529,000 square miles of its northern territory to the U.S. for $15 million.

- Mexicans living in this region, known as the Mexican Cession, were to be granted all the rights of U.S. citizenship.
After the Mexican War, a heated debate erupted over slavery in the new U.S. territories. The U.S. Congress was divided. Pro-slavery legislators wanted to allow slavery in the new territories, while antislavery legislators wanted to ban it.
The Treaty of Guadelupe-Hidalgo

- Texans claimed that the Rio Grande formed not only their state’s southern border but also its western one.
- Nearly half of present-day New Mexico, including the trading center of Santa Fe, lay east of the Rio Grande.
- The people in this region, particularly those in Santa Fe, rejected this claim.
Some have may have been angry with Texans for President Lamar’s invasion during the early 1840s.
In addition, most people in Santa Fe opposed slavery.
They had no desire to become a part of Texas because it allowed slavery.

Lamar
Pro-slavery members of the U.S. Congress supported the Texas claim.

While the U.S. Congress debated, the Texas Legislature acted.

Early in 1848, it declared the huge region to be Santa Fe County, Texas.
In 1850 Senator Henry Clay came up with a plan to resolve both the border conflict and the issue of slavery in the Texas-New Mexico territories of the Mexican Cession. His plan was called the Compromise of 1850.
To settle the border conflict, the federal government offered to pay Texas $10 million to give up its claim.

The state government needed the money to pay debts, so Texas voters approved the agreement.

The U.S. government then established the present-day border between Texas and New Mexico.

Since the Texas Revolution, many U.S. settlers in Texas had been suspicious of Tejanos and questioned their loyalty.

During the Mexican War, many Texans view Tejanos as the enemy.
As conflicts erupted with Mexico during the 1840s, discrimination against Tejanos increased.

Many Tejanos, fearing that they would lose ownership of their farms and ranches because of the war, sold their property – often at low prices – and left Texas.
The Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo guaranteed that Mexican Americans would receive **equal protection** under U.S. law.

Nonetheless, discrimination against Tejanos continued.

Some Tejanos in Austin, **Seguin and Uvalde** were driven from their homes during the 1850s.
Despite such discrimination, many Mexican Americans remained in Texas. They made up a large percentage of the South Texas population. However, a few of the area’s political leaders were from Mexican American communities.
After the Mexican War, the state’s population increased from 212,592 in 1850 to 604,215 in 1860. As in the past, most new Texans were farmers from the southern U.S.
Many of them brought slaves when they came. As a result, the African American population in Texas rose as well, from more than 58,000 in 1850 to 183,000 in 1860. However, fewer than 800 free African Americans lived in Texas during this time.
The Texas population also included more than 12,000 Mexican Americans, who primarily lived in the southern region of the state.
Many Europeans came to Texas to escape hardships.

**Crop failures** had left people starving in Ireland and parts of central and northern Europe.

In addition, a series of **revolutions** in 1848 pushed many Europeans from their homelands.

With a population of more than 20,000 in 1860, **Germans** were the largest European immigrant group in Texas.
Land agents such as Frenchman Victor Considerant brought groups of Europeans to Texas and established La Reunion, a colony near Dallas.
Other Europeans came to Central Texas

- In 1854, **Polish** colonists founded Panna Maria in Karnes County.
- **Czech** immigrants settled in Fayetteville, Cat Spring and Praha.
- **Slavic** settlers known as Wends also came to Central Texas and pushed the frontier line westward.
Hundreds of **Jewish** immigrants settled in cities such as Galveston, Houston, and San Antonio.

The first **Norwegian** settlement in Texas was at Normandy, near Brownsboro.

Immigrants from Italy, the **Netherlands** and **Belgium** also arrived, bringing traditional foods, celebrations and architecture to Texas.