

Section

2

Results of the Mexican War

Main Ideas

1. The United States gained new territory after the Mexican War, leading to debates about slavery.
2. Many Tejanos faced discrimination as a result of the Mexican War.
3. The population of Texas grew in the 1840s and 1850s, largely through immigration.

Why It Matters Today

At the end of the Mexican War, the United States and Mexico negotiated and signed a peace treaty. Use current events sources to learn about recent negotiations and treaties.



TEKS: 4C, 8A, 9C, 11A, 11B, 19C, 21A, 21B, 21C, 21F, 22D

myNotebook

Use the annotation tools in your eBook to take notes on changes in Texas after the Mexican War.

Key Terms

- Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo
- Mexican Cession
- Compromise of 1850

The Story Continues

U.S. diplomat Nicholas Trist was in Mexico City trying to work out a peace treaty. But Mexican officials were reluctant to agree to U.S. terms, and the treaty talks dragged on for months. Frustrated with the negotiations, President Polk ordered Trist to return home. With peace in sight, Trist ignored the order. Furious, Polk called Trist a scoundrel!



The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo

After the capture of Mexico City, Mexican officials met with U.S. diplomat Nicholas Trist to discuss peace terms. Their meeting took place near Mexico City at the town of Guadalupe Hidalgo. On February 2, 1848, diplomats from the two countries signed the **Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo**, officially ending the Mexican War.

The terms of the treaty favored the United States. Mexico officially recognized Texas as part of the United States. It gave up all claim to the territory between the Nueces and the Rio Grande. Mexico also agreed to cede some 529,000 square miles of additional territory, including California, to the United States for \$15 million. You can see this ceded territory on the map on the next page. Mexicans living in this region, known as the **Mexican Cession**, were to be granted all the rights of U.S. citizenship. In return, the United States agreed to cover the \$3.25 million in claims that U.S. citizens had against Mexico.

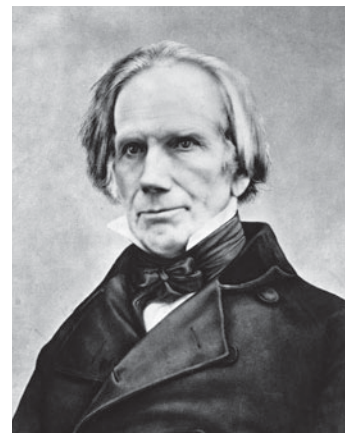
The addition of so much territory to the United States reignited old debates about slavery. As before, the debate was split over regional lines. Legislators from pro-slavery states wanted to allow slavery in the new territories, while antislavery legislators wanted to ban it.

The Mexican Cession also raised questions about the borders of Texas. Texans claimed that the state included all land east of the Rio Grande. This would include nearly half of present-day New Mexico, including the trading city of Santa Fe. Early in 1848, the Texas legislature declared the huge disputed region to be Santa Fe County, Texas.

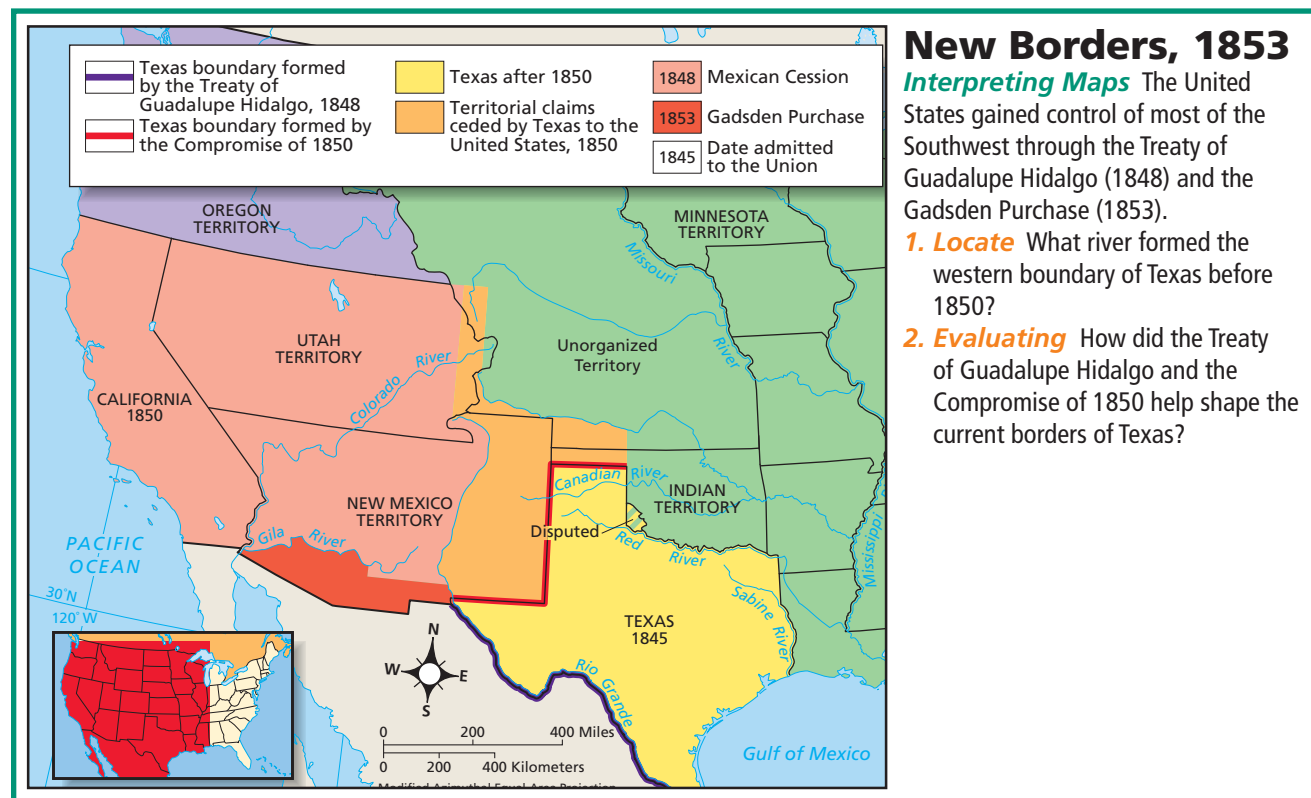
However, the people in this region—particularly in Santa Fe—rejected the Texas claim. Most people in Santa Fe opposed slavery and had no desire to become part of a slave state like Texas. Pro-slavery Southern members of the U.S. Congress supported the Texas claim. Northern members argued against it.

In 1850 Senator Henry Clay of Kentucky came up with a plan to resolve both the border conflict and the issue of slavery in the Texas and New Mexico. His plan was called the **Compromise of 1850**. To settle the border conflict, the federal government would pay Texas \$10 million to give up its claim. Because the state government needed money to pay debts, Texas voters approved the agreement. The plan also established the present-day border between Texas and New Mexico. In addition, New Mexico and Utah became territories, and California became a state.

Reading Check Categorizing List what the United States gained from the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo and what Mexico gained.



U.S. senator Henry Clay urged Congress to reach a compromise on slavery.



New Borders, 1853

Interpreting Maps The United States gained control of most of the Southwest through the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (1848) and the Gadsden Purchase (1853).

- 1. Locate** What river formed the western boundary of Texas before 1850?
- 2. Evaluating** How did the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo and the Compromise of 1850 help shape the current borders of Texas?



Interpreting Visuals

Immigration. Originally founded by German immigrants, Indianola was one of several ports of entry for immigrants to Texas. **What in this painting shows how transportation and geography affected immigration to Texas?**



Tejanos and the War

Perhaps the greatest impact of the U.S.–Mexican War was felt by Tejanos. Since the Texas Revolution, many Tejanos had been treated with suspicion and distrust by other Texans. Many questioned their loyalty. As conflicts emerged with Mexico during the 1840s, discrimination against Tejanos increased.

During the U.S.–Mexican War, many Texans viewed Tejanos as enemies because of their Mexican and Spanish ancestry. Some Tejanos, fearing that they would lose their farms and ranches because of the war, sold their property—often at low prices—and left Texas. Others were forced to leave Texas under threats of violence and had their land taken without payment. Many of those who left lived in areas that had only recently become part of Texas. Therefore they did not consider themselves Tejano at all. Most of them headed south to Mexico.

The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo guaranteed that Mexican Americans would receive equal protection under U.S. law. Nonetheless, discrimination against Tejanos continued. Tejanos in some cities, such as Austin, Seguin, and Uvalde, were driven from their homes during the 1850s. A newspaper article described one such incident.

TEXAS VOICES



“The people of Matagorda County have held a meeting and ordered every Mexican to leave the county. To strangers this may seem wrong, but we hold it to be perfectly right, and highly necessary.”

—Matagorda newspaper, quoted in *A Journey through Texas*, by Frederick Law Olmsted

Despite such discrimination, many Tejanos remained in Texas. Those who lived south of the Nueces—the new Tejanos—made up a large percentage of the South Texas population. However, few of the area’s political leaders were from Tejano communities.

Reading Check Evaluating How did events during and after the Mexican War affect Tejanos?

Analyzing Primary Sources

Identifying Bias What is the article’s bias, and what words show the author’s position?

New Migration to Texas

After the Mexican War, the population of Texas grew rapidly. From 212,592 people in 1850, the population swelled to 604,215 by 1860. As in the past, most new Texans were farmers from the southern United States. Many of them brought slaves when they came. As a result, the African American population in Texas nearly tripled between 1850 and 1860. However, fewer than 800 free African Americans lived in Texas during this time. The Texas population also included more than 12,000 Tejanos, mostly in the southern region of the state.

Many Europeans also came to Texas during this time. Most wanted to escape hardships in their homelands. Crop failures had left people starving in Ireland and parts of central and northern Europe. In addition, a series of revolutions in 1848 led many people to leave. Germans made up the largest European immigrant group, with a population of more than 20,000 in 1860.

The mid-1800s saw immigrants from all parts of Europe arriving in Texas. Their settlements helped push the frontier westward. Frenchman Victor Considerant established La Réunion, a colony of about 350 settlers in North Texas near the Trinity River. Polish colonists founded Panna Maria in Karnes County, while Czech immigrants settled at Cat Spring, Fayetteville, and Praha. Slavic settlers known as Wends also came to Central Texas. Hundreds of Jewish immigrants settled in cities such as Galveston, Houston, and San Antonio. The first Norwegian settlement in Texas was at Normandy. Immigrants from Italy, the Netherlands, and Belgium also arrived. Each group brought its traditional foods, celebrations, and architecture to Texas. The influence of these various cultural traditions spread across the state.

Reading Check Analyzing Information Why did immigrant groups come to Texas, and where did they settle?



German Culture in the Hill Country

Several towns in the Hill Country show traces of their German heritage. German architecture called *Fachwerk*—part timber and part stone—can be seen in many buildings. German food is popular throughout the state. In addition, the barbecue that many Texans enjoy originated in the smokehouses of early German settlers. Texans have adopted these and other German traditions as their own. **How has the culture of German immigrants influenced Texas?**



Section 2 Review



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ONLINE QUIZ

1. Identify and explain

the significance of each of the following in Texas history:

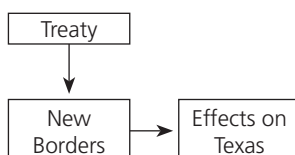
- Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo
- Mexican Cession
- Compromise of 1850

2. Locate on a map:

- Nueces River

3. Summarizing

Copy the graphic organizer below. Use it to describe the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo and its effects on the border of Texas.



4. Finding the Main Idea

- a. How did the Compromise of 1850 affect the borders of Texas?
- b. How did population growth after the Mexican War affect the state?

5. Writing and Critical Thinking

myWriteSmart

Identifying Cause and Effect Imagine that you are a Tejano in the 1850s. Write a diary entry about how your life has changed since the war. Consider the following:

- why some Tejanos left Texas
- the changing population distribution