
STAAR Review Cards
Chapter 12 Manifest
Destiny and the Rise of
Sectionalism

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Manifest Destiny

This expression was popular in the 1840s. Many people believed that the United States was destined to secure territory from "sea to sea," from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean. This rationale drove the acquisition of territory.

Mormons

Church founded by Joseph Smith in 1830 with headquarters in Salt Lake City, Utah founded by Brigham Young., ; Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints; group's beliefs criticized for teaching and practicing polygamy

Annexation of Texas

Texas became part of the United States, this made some people angry because Mexicans believed that Texas should be a part of Mexico. This was one of several factors that led to the Mexican-American War. As a result of this war, Texas was granted into the U.S as a slave state.

James Polk

The 11th U.S. President, he led the country during the mexican war and sought to expand the United States

U.S. - Mexican War

Conflict (1846-1848) between the United States and Mexico after the U.S. annexation of Texas; U.S. acquired vast new territories from Mexico (CA, NM, UT, NV, AZ some of CO & WY)

Mexican Cession

land that Mexico gave to the United States after the Mexican War through the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo; included in what is now California, Nevada, and Utah; most of Arizona and New Mexico and parts of Colorado, Texas, and Wyoming

Gadsden Purchase

area for which the US paid \$10 million, it strengthened the South's bid for a transcontinental railroad

Immigration

migration into a place (especially migration to a country of which you are not a native in order to settle there)

Eli Whitney

an American inventor who developed the cotton gin. Also contributed to the concept of interchangeable parts that were exactly alike and easily assembled or exchanged

Nat Turner Rebellion

led a slave rebellion in Virginia, attacked many whites, prompted non-slaveholding Virginians to consider emancipation

Free Blacks

African Americans who were NOT slaves, vulnerable group that was the object of prejudice in the North and despised as a "3rd race" in the South

Sectionalism

loyalty to one's own region of the country, rather than to the nation as a whole

Abolitionists

believed that slavery should be prohibited everywhere in US; conflict over slavery increases; Harriet Beecher Stowe and Uncle Tom's Cabin

Harriet Beecher Stowe

She was an American writer famous for Uncle Tom's Cabin, which was about the evils of American slavery. Acclaimed in Europe and the North, the book furthered the abolitionist movement, and it was a cause of the Civil War.

Uncle Tom's Cabin

An 1852 novel by Harriet Beecher Stowe written to show the evils of slavery and the injustice of the Fugitive Slave Act.

Frederick Douglass

United States abolitionist who escaped from slavery and became an influential writer and lecturer in the North

Henry David Thoreau

A transcendentalist who wrote the essay "Civil Disobedience" which outlined his protest to the Mexican American war. This essay later influenced non-violent protests by Gandhi and M.L. King Jr.

Civil Disobedience

opposing a law one considers unjust by peacefully disobeying it and accepting the resultant punishment

Transcendentalism

A philosophy stressing the relationship between human beings and nature, spiritual things over material things, and the importance of the individual conscience.

Underground Railroad

A secret cooperative network that aided fugitive slaves in reaching sanctuary in the free states or in Canada in the years before the abolition of slavery in the United States

John C. Calhoun

South Carolina Senator - advocate for state's rights, limited government, and nullification.

Theory of Nullification

Calhoun argued that states should have the power to declare acts of Congress "unconstitutional", and therefore refuse to follow them. He used this in SC to get rid of the "tariff of abominations"

States' Rights

Theory that says states had the right to judge when the federal government had passed an unconstitutional law, belief that because the states created the United States, individual states have the power to nullify federal laws

Dred Scott v. Sanford

1857 Supreme Court decision that stated slaves were not citizens: slaves were property no matter where they were living and the Missouri Compromise was unconstitutional

Kansas-Nebraska Act

Created Nebraska and Kansas as states and gave the people in those territories the right to chose to be a free or slave state through popular sovereignty.

Popular Sovereignty

people hold the final authority in all matters of government

Republican Party

political party formed in 1854 in response to the Kansas-Nebraska Act; it combined remnants of Whig, Free Soil, and Know-Nothing Parties as well as disgruntled Democrats. Although not abolitionist, it sought to block the spread of slavery in the territories. It also favored tariffs, homesteads, and a transcontinental railroad.

Lincoln-Douglas Debates

1858 Senate Debate, Lincoln forced Douglas to debate issue of slavery, Douglas supported pop-sovereignty, Lincoln asserted that slavery should not spread to territories, Lincoln emerged as strong Republican candidate

John Brown's Raid

In 1859, the militant abolitionist seized the U.S. arsenal at Harper's Ferry. He planned to end slavery by massacring slave owners and freeing their slaves. He was captured and executed.
