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**History 1301**  
**U.S. to 1877**

Unit 4 - Lecture 1

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**The Impending Crisis**

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## America, westward focused:

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- 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) :

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- 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:

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- 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 49<sup>th</sup> parallel as boarder, rejected
    - “54’40<sup>o</sup> or fight”
    - 1846 British “visit” & Mexico made US accept 49<sup>th</sup>
    - North saw it as sell out to slavery

# Southwest and The Mexican War:

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- 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:

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- 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:

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- 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:

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- 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:

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- 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:

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- 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:

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- 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:

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- 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 ...