Chapter 17 Study Guide

Section 17-1: Manifest Destiny and Expansion

Fill in the blank:

1. **Manifest Destiny** was the idea that it was America’s God-given fate to expand westward all the way to the Pacific Ocean.

2. **John O’Sullivan** coined the above term.

3. **American Exceptionalism** is the idea or belief that America is “special” in terms of its society, economy, and government.

4. **John Tyler** became President of the United States after William Henry Harrison died in office.

5. The addition of **Texas** became one of the primary goals of the administration of the above Presidential administration.

6. **Henry Clay** was the primary Whig Party nominee in the election of 1844.

7. **James Polk** was the Democratic Party nominee, and eventual winner, in the election of 1844.

8. One of the main goals of the above administration was to see **Oregon**, jointly occupied by the US and Britain, added to the growing territory of the United States.

9. Americans wanted the northern border of the above territory fixed at a latitude of **54°, 54’ N**.

10. The slogan of supporters of this fixed border was “**Fifty-Four Forty or Fight**” to indicate their willingness to go to war with Britain if necessary.

11. The border was finally fixed at a latitude of **49°N**.

12. In 1845, **Texas** became the 28th state.

13. General **Zachary Taylor** was sent to Texas to protect American interests.

14. **John Slidell** was sent to Mexico to negotiate a deal settling the border of Texas, and purchase California and New Mexico if possible.

15. A small skirmish called the **Thornton Affair** sparked the war between Mexico and the United States.

16. Pride in one’s country, culture, etc. is called **nationalism**.

Thoroughly answer the following questions:

17. a) What was Manifest Destiny? b-d) What were three major reasons Americans felt this way? e) Overall, how did Americans justify their desire to move westward at the expense of others?

a) The belief that Americans were clearly destined to spread west across the continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific
b) Religious: Americans believed that N. America was given to them by God as his chosen people, wanted to spread Christianity to the people of the West, encouraged by the Second Great Awakening

Political: Americans believed themselves to be exceptional, or special, as citizens in the world’s first truly democratic republic. Wanted to spread democracy, liberty, etc. across the American continent.

e) Economic: Growing urban population/overcrowding in the East encouraged westward expansion, which would alleviate problems (poverty, crime, etc) in American cities; opportunity to expand America’s agricultural/natural resource wealth; the desire to expand the area in which plantation agriculture/slavery could flourish; open new markets in the West for Eastern manufacturers

e) Argued that the American way of life was superior, that the inhabitants of these areas would be better off under American rule

18. a) Why was annexation of Texas considered “off-limits” for political consideration until the 1840s? b) Who supported Texas annexation efforts, and c) why?

a) Wanted to avoid sparking a debate over slavery in the American govt.; avoid potential war with Mexico

b) Presidents John Tyler and James Polk, Southern politicians, Democratic Party

c) Wanted to help fulfill Manifest Destiny and spread plantation agriculture/slavery

19. a) What were the major issues of the election of 1844? b) What did candidate James Polk promise the American people?

a) Westward expansion, the annexation of Texas, Oregon, etc.; the spread of slavery

b) To add Texas, Oregon, and potentially California to the United States, fulfill Manifest Destiny

20. a) What were the major reasons for American settlement and control of Oregon? b) What line of latitude did Americans want as Oregon’s northern border, and what formed the final border after negotiations?

a) To fulfill Manifest Destiny; take advantage of Oregon’s environment and natural resources; to give America a port on the Pacific Ocean

b) Americans wanted the border set at 54°, 54’ N, border settled at 49°N

21. a) Which state was admitted to the Union in 1845, and b) who did this anger and why? c) Ultimately, what was this country’s response to the annexation of Texas?

a) Texas

b) Mexico’s government, who had not officially recognized Texas independence

c) Mexico reluctantly accepts American annexation of Texas, but disputes the Rio Grande as Texas’ border

22. a) According to the United States, what was the border of Texas and Mexico? b) What was the border according to the Mexican government? c) Who was sent to guard the border for the US?

a) The Rio Grande River

b) The Nueces River

c) General Zachary Taylor, aka “Old Rough and Ready”

23. a) What “battle” sparked the Mexican War? b) When did Congress declare war on Mexico? c) What was the primary reason given by Polk for asking Congress to declare war?

a) The Thornton Affair, a small skirmish between Mexican troops and Captain Seth Thornton’s detachment

b) May 1846

c) That American blood had been shed on American soil by Mexico
Section 17-2: The Mexican War

Fill in the blank:

24. Zachary Taylor was known as Old Rough and Ready to his soldiers.

25. Taylor won key battles at the Battle of Palo Alto and the Battle of Resaca de la Palma in May of 1846.

26. Taylor also defeated a larger Mexican force at the Battle of Monterrey.

27. Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna was secretly smuggled back into Mexico by President Polk to help negotiate a peace, only to launch a coup and have himself declared emperor of Mexico.

28. General Taylor defeated the above leader at the Battle of Buena Vista.

29. General Stephen Kearny was sent from Kansas to attack the Mexican town of Santa Fe, New Mexico.

30. American explorer and Army officer John C. Fremont encouraged Americans in California to revolt and declare California to be an independent republic.

31. The above republic was called the Bear Flag Republic.

32. General Winfield Scott led an invasion force that landed at Veracruz, Mexico.

33. The above leader was known as Old Fuss and Feathers to his soldiers because of his gaudy uniform and attention to discipline and detail.

34. The capture of Mexico City ultimately forced the Mexican government to ask for peace.

35. The Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo, negotiated by Nicholas Trist, ended the Mexican War.

36. The territory “purchased” from Mexico for $15 million was known as the Mexican Cession.

37. In 1853, the US also purchased a small strip of land in southern Arizona and New Mexico called the Gadsden Purchase for $10 million.

Thoroughly answer the following questions:

38. a) At the beginning of the Mexican War, what was the state of the American military, especially compared to Mexico’s? b) How did the United States fill the ranks of its army, and c) how many men ended up serving in the war?
   a) American military smaller, but better trained, equipped, and led than Mexican army
   b) By asking for volunteer regiments from the various states
   c) 200,000

39. a) How did Americans in general feel about the war? b) Who was primarily in support for it and why? c) Who was against it and why?
   a) Strong support for the war, sense of nationalism and pride, saw the war as a “grand adventure”
   b) Southerners, especially Southern politicians, and people living in the West who saw the potential for fulfillment of Manifest Destiny and the spread of plantation agriculture and slavery
c) Many Northerners, who believed it was part of the “Slave Power Conspiracy” to spread slavery west; believed it was an unjust war of imperialism and a “land grab.”

40. a-c) What were the three major theaters of the Mexican War?
a) Southern Texas/Northern Mexico/Near the Rio Grande
b) New Mexico and California
c) The area in and around Mexico City in southern central Mexico

41. a) Name the battles that Zachary Taylor fought and won in northern Mexico. b) In general, why were these victories so impressive? c) Why did Polk replace Taylor with Winfield Scott as overall commander of US forces?
a) The Battle of Palo Alto, the Battle of Resaca de la Palma, Battle of Monterrey, Battle of Buena Vista
b) Taylor was generally outnumbered by his Mexican enemies at these battles
c) Polk feared Taylor’s military success would make him a popular Presidential candidate in 1848

42. a) What territory did Stephen Kearny claim for the United States? b) What Mexican town did he capture without a fight?
a) New Mexico
b) Santa Fe, New Mexico

43. a) How did Army explorer John C. Fremont influence the inhabitants of California? b) What “republic” was established there in 1846? c) What key towns and cities were captured by American forces in California?
a) He encouraged and stirred up rebellion against Californios and Mexicans among American immigrants in the region
b) The Bear Flag Republic
c) San Francisco, Monterrey, Los Angeles, San Diego

44. a) Name the three main battles fought by Winfield Scott on his march to capture Mexico City. b) Scott followed the same route as which Spanish Conquistador, who defeated the Aztecs over 400 years earlier?
a) Battle of Veracruz, Battle of Cerro Gordo, Battle of Chapultapec
b) Followed the route of Hernan Cortez when he conquered the Aztecs in 1519

45. a) What treaty ended the Mexican War, and who negotiated it? b) What was the overall name given to the land sold to the United States and for how much, and which modern-day states were included? c) What other parcel of land was purchased from Mexico in 1853? d) In total, how much did the United States pay Mexico for the American Southwest?
a) Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo, negotiated by Nicholas Trist
b) The Mexican Cession, purchased for $15 million, included California, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Colorado, parts of Wyoming and Texas
c) The Gadsden Purchase, narrow strip of land on the Arizona/NM border with Mexico, for $10 million
d) $25 million

46. a) How did the outcome of the war affect Mexicans living in the newly acquired Southwest?
a) 75,000 Mexicans, Tejanos, and Californios were now living under American rule. These people faced discrimination and persecution at the hands of white American settlers

47. Describe how Americans felt about the outcome of the war. a) What were the arguments in support of the outcome, and b) what arguments were made against it?
a) Some felt great pride at America’s victory; fulfilled Manifest Destiny; gave US access to vast new lands and resources
b) The war was unjust and illegal; only served to expand slavery; war of imperialism
48. a) What was significant about the experiences of many young officers fighting in the war? b) Many of the officers in the Mexican War would be key leaders in what future conflict?
   a) For many, it was their first experience in war; developed friendships and brotherhood
   b) Many of these leaders would later be fighting both together and on opposite sides as important leaders and soldiers in the Civil War

Section 17-3: More Settlers Head West

Fill in the blank:

49. Mexican, Californio, and Tejano inhabitants of the American Southwest faced losing their property if they could not provide **title or deed** to their land.

50. Those that could not prove ownership of their land were often forced into **bankruptcy** because they could not pay their legal debts.

51. Originally from New York, the **Mormons** moved to Illinois to escape religious persecution.

52. The above group was originally founded during the Second Great Awakening by **Joseph Smith**.

53. The above group was shunned for their practice of **polygamy**, or plural marriage, among other reasons.

54. **Brigham Young** took over leadership of this group after its leader was killed by an angry mob.

55. The above leader led this group to **Utah** along the **Mormon Trail**.

Thoroughly answer the following questions:

56. a) What kinds of issues did Mexicans, Tejanos, Californios, and native Americans experience at the hands of newly arrived American immigrants? b) Did Americans respect existing claims to land and resources by these people, and what was often the result?
   a) Would become victims of persecution and discrimination; forced to prove ownership of property through deeds and titles that they could not provide, and thus lost their lands. Americans would often ignore existing water and mineral rights, diverting communal resources for their own use.
   b) No; the result was often legal battles that became prohibitively expensive, forcing the Mexican inhabitants to sell their land or spend all their money on legal expenses, which often led to bankruptcy. Disputes over land and resources often led to violence and conflict.

57. a) Give examples of cooperation and cultural integration in the Southwest. b) Agriculturally, what did Americans bring to the region, and what did locals introduce to them? c) Trade-wise, describe the relationship between the inhabitants of the Southwest and the newly arrived Americans.
   a) Americans brought modern farming techniques, tools, and new crops and livestock; locals introduced Americans to mining, ranching, new types of food and cuisine, new crops, and adobe construction
   b) Modern farming techniques and equipment, new crops; locals introduced various crops like beans and corn
   c) Americans would purchase goods made by local Mexicans and Native Americans; Americans would bring manufactured goods and modern technology
58. a) Who were the Mormons, and what did they believe? b) What Mormon practice, in particular, angered many people? c) Who was the original leader of the Mormons, and what happened to him? d) Who replaced this leader, and where did he lead the Mormons in the West?

a) Mormons were a Christian sect from NY, formed during the Second Great Awakening, that believed they were the spiritual descendants of an ancient tribe of Hebrews that migrated to the Americas in ancient times; believed that they were God’s chosen people in America

b) Polygamy, or plural marriage

c) Joseph Smith, who claimed to have found the lost “Book of Mormon” written on golden tablets; killed by a mob of angry people in Illinois

d) Brigham Young, led the Mormons west, settled near the Great Salt Lake in Utah.

Section 17-4: The California Gold Rush

Fill in the blank:

59. The California Gold Rush began in the year 1849.

60. Gold was first discovered at Sutter’s Mill.

61. Those who went to California seeking gold were known as Forty-Niners.

62. Most coming to California came through the city of San Francisco, which experienced massive growth as a result of the Gold Rush.

63. Most of these miners engaged in prospecting, or surface mining.

64. Laying claim to an area in order to prospect for gold was called staking a claim.

65. Levi Strauss made money selling supplies to miners, including heavy denim pants that would protect miners’ legs.

66. Chinese immigrants came to the United States in large numbers, although they were generally unwelcome.

Thoroughly answer the following questions:

67. a) From where would immigrants come to California, and b) over what three primary routes?

a) From the eastern United States, Europe, Latin America, and Asia.

b) Americans came primarily via the overland route, by sailing around Cape Horn at the southern tip of S. America, or sailing through the Gulf of Mexico, then on foot over the isthmus of Panama, and then by boat up the Mexican and California coast

68. a) Describe the population growth of San Francisco between 1848 and 1850.

a) Grew from a population of 1,000 in 1848 to 25,000 in 1850.

69. a) Describe the process of “staking a claim,” and b) why did these claims sometimes lead to violence?

a) One would simply claim an area as theirs for mining and as long as they physically occupied the land, no one else could stake a claim there. When they abandon the claim, it is “up for grabs”.

b) Disputes over claims were common, and with no legal system in place to decide claim ownership, people would resort to fighting and violence to solve disputes.
70. a) Describe ways in which people would profit from the Gold Rush other than mining for gold.  
   a) By providing services, goods, equipment, and other necessities for miners.

71. Describe the experience of the Chinese immigrant to California during the Gold Rush.  a) What kinds of jobs would these people perform?  b) What kinds of discrimination would they face?  c) Many of these immigrants would later find work as labor doing what?  
   a) Some would attempt to engage in mining, but many would provide miners with goods and services.  
   b) Cultural, economic, and political discrimination. In 1852, California placed a tax on the incomes of immigrants, a law specifically aimed at Chinese immigrants  
   c) Would find work as labor on the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad.