By the 1840s, economic growth and social reform had made the North and the South increasingly different economies, societies, and cultures. When these emerging differences intersected with ambitions over the control of the West, sectional differences became different visions of the American future. In the political struggle to determine the course of expansion and the social and institutional development of the new territories, residents of both North and South increasingly viewed the prospects for their region as dependent on keeping up with the other region. The passions of increasing sectionalism would end the Second Party System and endanger the Union.

A crude nonpartisan satire, parodying all four candidates in the 1860 presidential election. A map of the United States hung on a wall is being torn apart by three of the candidates. Lincoln (far left) and Douglas tear at the western part of the country, as Breckinridge (center) attacks the South. The fourth, John Bell (right), stands on a stool trying to repair the northeastern section with a jar of "Spaldings," a widely marketed glue of the period. Several boxes of this adhesive appear, prominently labeled, at right. Source: American Political Prints, 1766 - 1876: A Catalog of the Collections in the Library of Congress, 1991, by Bernard F. Reilly, Jr.
The American realizes that 'Progress is God.' The destiny of the American people is to subdue the continent -- to rush over this vast field to the Pacific Ocean... to change darkness into light and confirm the destiny of the human race... Divine task! Immortal mission! The pioneer army perpetually strikes to the front. Empire plants itself upon the trails.

William Gilpin
What is Manifest Destiny

In 1845, a democratic leader and influential editor by the name of John L. O'Sullivan gave the movement its name. In an attempt to explain America's thirst for expansion, and to present a defense for America's claim to new territories he wrote:

".... the right of our manifest destiny to over spread and to possess the whole of the continent which Providence has given us for the development of the great experiment of liberty and federaltive development of self government entrusted to us. It is right such as that of the tree to the space of air and the earth suitable for the full expansion of its principle and destiny of growth."

Manifest Destiny became the rallying cry throughout America. The notion of Manifest Destiny was publicized in the papers and was advertised and argued by politicians throughout the nation. The idea of Manifest Destiny Doctrine became the torch, that lit the way for American expansion.
What was the difficulty in expanding to these new areas?

- Already populated by other people.
  - Native Americans
  - Spanish
  - Mexicans
  - British
  - French
  - Russians
Section 1: Manifest Destiny

1. Manifest Destiny

A. The Independence of Texas

1. Realizing that it could not deter illegal immigrants from the United States, the Mexican government welcomed American settlers and tried to turn them into loyal Mexican citizens by granting them tracts of the best land in Texas.

2. However, American settlers did not assimilate into Mexican culture and refused to follow the ban on slavery.

3. When the Mexican government tried to enforce the ban on slavery, the Americans in Texas split into two groups: the "peace party" under the leadership of Stephen Austin and the "war party" that demanded independence.

4. After the American war party ousted all Mexican troops from Texas, General Santa Anna, Mexico's president, was forced to lead a large army across the Rio Grande and into San Antonio,
Texas: The Birth of the Lone Star Republic
To what two conditions did Stephen Austin and other Americans have to agree in order to live in Texas?

- Become Roman Catholics
  - Most settler failed to become Roman Catholics
- Obey Mexican law
  - Mexico had laws against slavery.
- Population by 1830
  - 30,000 Americans lived in Texas
  - Americans outnumbered the Mexicans by a 10 to 1 margin.
Why did rebellion break out in Texas in 1835?

- Mexican government moved to abolish local rights of the citizens of Texas.
- Santa Anna had originally promised more local control by the Texans.
- Texans declare their independence.
- Santa Anna with 2,000 troops invade Texas to subdue the rebellion.
  - Santa Anna believes he is the Napoleon of the Americas.
What happened at the Alamo?

- 2,000 Mexican troops lay siege to the Alamo.
- 188 Americans resist.
  - Davey Crockett
  - Jim Bowie
- After a two week siege, Santa Anna takes the Alamo after losing over 600 men.
- The Alamo becomes the rallying cry of the Texan Independence movement.
- The two week delay allows the fledgling Texan government to organize and army.
Section 1: Manifest Destiny contd.

- 5. Santa Anna’s army wiped out the garrison defending the Alamo because the rebellious Americans had declared Texas an independent nation and adopted a constitution legalizing slavery.

- 6. A vengeful rebel army led by General Sam Houston routed the Mexican Army in the Battle of San Jacinto on April 21, 1836, and established de facto independence.

- 7. The Texans immediately sought annexation by the United States, but Van Buren denied their request because of its potential effect on domestic politics.

- 8. Many political leaders feared annexation would spark both a war with Mexico and conflict at home because of the slavery issue.

**B. The Push to the Pacific**

- 1. In the 1840s, American expansionists developed continental ambitions and used the term *Manifest Destiny* to explain their plan to expand west to the Pacific Ocean.

- 2. Claimed by Great Britain as well as the United States, the Oregon Country was desired for its fertile soil, lucrative fur trade, & potential harbors for plying China trade.

- 3. Many settlers from the Midwest braved the hardships of the Oregon Trail to discover a new life in Oregon.

- 4. Some pioneers settled in California, a province of Mexico.

- 5. In California, these settlers hoped to emulate the Americans who colonized Texas & then sought annexation into the United States; however, there were too few American settlers in California at that time.
What four countries claimed the Oregon territory?

- United States
- Russia
- Great Britain
- Spain
By 1824, what two countries were left to compete for the Pacific Northwest territory?

- United States
- Great Britain
Why did missionaries go to Oregon?

- To convert native Americans to Christianity
- Nez Percé Indians come to St. Louis in 1832 looking for the black book that would give them power.
What was the result of glowing reports by the missionaries?

- Covered wagons head out over the Oregon Trail.
- By 1845, 5,000 Americans were living south of the Columbia River.
- Demanded that the U.S. government annex the territory.
C. The Fateful Election of 1844

1. The course of the American government's policy toward California, Oregon, and Texas was determined by the election of 1844.

2. Since Texas wanted to join the Union as a slave state, its annexation became the central issue of the election.

3. In the election of 1844, Democrats passed over Tyler, whom they did not trust, and Van Buren, whom southern Democrats despised for his stance on Texas. They chose instead James K. Polk, a man of iron will and boundless ambition for the nation.

4. The Whigs nominated Henry Clay, who continually dodged the issue of Texas annexation.

5. After Polk's victory, congressional Democrats closed ranks and immediately moved to bring Texas into the Union.

6. The efforts of cautious party politicians to avoid sectional conflict over slavery had collapsed in the midst of popular enthusiasm for westward expansion.
Section 2: War, Expansion, & Slavery 1846-1850

II. War, Expansion, and Slavery, 1846-1850

A. The War with Mexico, 1846-1848

1. The Mexican government had been determined to retain all its historical territories.

When the breakaway Texas Republic accepted American statehood on July 4, 1845, Mexico broke off diplomatic relations with the United States.

2. President Polk viewed Mexico's actions as a great opportunity. He sought to acquire all of the Oregon Territory and all of Mexico west of Texas to the Pacific Ocean & was prepared to go to war to get it.

3. To provoke a fight with the Mexican govt. Polk ordered military units under the command of General Zachary Taylor into disputed lands in the West & Mexico.

4. Polk also dispatched diplomat John Slidell to offer to buy Mexico’s western lands at a price that he knew they would refuse.

5. To avoid a simultaneous war with Britain over Oregon, Polk accepted a British proposal to divide the Oregon Country, and Oregon became a state.

6. American naval and marine forces successfully landed in harbors in California to aid American settlers who rose in revolt against Mexico.
What controversy sparked war between the United States and Mexico?

- A dispute over the southern boundary of Texas.
  - Mexico claimed it was the Nueces River
  - U.S. claimed it was the Rio Grande

- Polk orders General Zachary Taylor to move his troops south to the Rio Grande.
  - Taylor’s troops were looking for trouble waiting for something to happen.
What incident caused Polk to ask for a declaration of war in April of 1846?

- Mexican soldiers crossed the Rio Grande and attacked a small group of United States cavalry.
- “But now, after reiterated menaces, Mexico has passed the boundary of the United States, has invaded our territory and shed American blood upon the American soil. She has proclaimed that hostilities have commenced, and that the two nations are now at war.”
  
  – Polk: Declaration of War
Why did the Whig party accuse Polk of starting the war?

- Placed troops in the disputed territory.
- Annexed Texas even with the Mexican threat of war.
- Colonel Ethan Allen Hitchcock
  - I have said from the first that we are the aggressors… We have not one particle of right to be here. It looks as if the government sent a small force on purpose to bring on a war.
What was the three part strategy for defeating Mexico?

• General Taylor and his troops would invade Northern Mexico.

• General Stephen Kearney to take Santa Fe and then they march to California.

• General Winfield Scott capture of Mexico City.
Section 2: War, Expansion, & Slavery 1846-1850 contd.

Art from the U.S. Mexican War  
Source: http://www.dmwv.org/mexwar/mwart.htm

Battle of Monterrey

Bombardment of Vera Cruz

General Winfield Scott
and his army occupy
Mexico City
Section 2: War, Expansion, & Slavery 1846-1850 contd.

- 7. American naval and marine forces successfully landed in harbors in California to aid American settlers who rose in revolt against Mexico.
- 8. By early 1847, the American forces controlled Los Angeles, San Francisco, Santa Barbara, and San Diego.
- 9. To defeat Mexican forces and get the Mexican govt. to sue for peace, American forces under Gen. Winfield Scott invaded Mexico and defeated the Mexican Army in a succession of battles at Monterrey, Tampico, and finally captured Mexico City in September of 1847. The Mexican govt. was forced to ask for peace.

B. A Divisive Victory

- 1. Many Americans viewed the war as a necessary struggle to extend their republican institutions & free Mexico from the threat of a weak regime that might fall under the influence of the ambitious European monarchies.
- 2. However, the annexation of Texas & the resulting war with Mexico altered the character of American politics.
What did the proponents of Manifest Destiny especially in the South urge the United States to do with Mexico?

• They wanted the government to annex all of Mexico.
3. Antislavery Whigs maintained the war was a southern conspiracy to add more slave states in the West and thereby assure control of the federal government by slaveholding Democrats.

4. Whigs proposed the Wilmot Proviso, a simple amendment to a military appropriations bill. It stated that slavery would be prohibited in the new territories acquired from Mexico.

5. Followers of the Free Soil movement depicted slavery as a threat to republican institutions and yeoman farming and vowed to prevent its expansion into the western territories.

6. The Wilmot Proviso's call for free soil was the first antislavery proposal to attract broad popular support.

7. The conflict over slavery played a major role in the election of 1848. The Whig candidate, General Zachary Taylor, won the election, but just barely.

8. The popularity of the Wilmot Provisod and the rapid growth of the Free Soil Party had changed the dynamics of American politics.
What were the terms of the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo?

- U.S. gained full title to Texas.
  - Rio Grande as the southern border.
- U.S. gained California and New Mexico.
  - Utah and New Mexico Territory
- U.S. paid the Mexican government $15 million dollars.
  - Mexico lost 1% of its population, but half of its land.
What was the Senate’s reaction to the treaty?

- Expansionists argued over the annexation of all of Mexico.
- Eventually the treaty was approved by a 38 to 14 vote.
  - Needed a 2/3 majority to approve the treaty.
  - What was a 2/3 majority in 1848 in the Senate?
Why did the United States purchase more land from Mexico?

• The Gadsden Purchase: 1853
  – Paid Mexico $10 million dollars.
  – Modern day Arizona
  – Purchased with the idea of building a railroad to California
Why was Lincoln chosen to be the Republican Party candidate for president in 1860?

How could Lincoln have reassured southerners before his election?

Which of the following was the most important cause of the Civil War: economic differences, political failures, or slavery?
Section 4: Abraham Lincoln and the Republican Triumph, 1858–1860

- The Kansas and Nebraska Act angered Lincoln
- Lincoln was convinced that a "Slave Power" conspiracy to open the territories to slavery existed.
- Lincoln promoted the Republican platform, calling for the prohibition of slavery in the territories followed by gradual emancipation of slaves.
- Using simple rhetoric & skillful debating style in his debates with Stephen Douglas in 1858, Lincoln played a key role in drawing various anti-Nebraska elements into the Republican Party & edging it toward national power.
- Southern fears of a gathering abolitionist conspiracy against slavery were exacerbated by John Brown’s raid on a federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Virginia.
- Republicans tried to disavow a connection between Brown’s raid & their platform, most observers in both the North & the South recognized the logical connection.
- Virginia’s execution of Brown was taken as an expression of the state’s determination to defend slavery.
- Lincoln, was only a regional candidate, arguing a moderate Republican line, defeated the divided Democratic Party in the election of 1860