

US-Mexican War: Outline

PRELUDE TO WAR:

- Two Republics—Two Visions (I)
- California: Gateway to the Pacific (I) (I)
- King Cotton and Slavery (I) (I) (I)
- James K. Polk and Manifest Destiny (I) (I)
- The Nueces Strip (I)
- Texas Annexation (I)
- Opposition. **John Quincy Adams (I)** led the tiny opposition and referred to the conflict with Mexico as "a most unrighteous war." **Henry David Thoreau's (I)** anti-slavery, anti-Mexican War, anti government lectures were the genesis of his *Civil Disobedience*, which he published in 1849. Democratic Congressman **David Wilmot (I)** introduced the **Wilmot Proviso**, which aimed to prohibit slavery in new territory acquired from Mexico. Wilmot's proposal did not pass Congress, but it spurred further hostility between the factions. **Joshua Reed Giddings (I)** condemned the annexation of Texas and the Mexican War. Following the war with Mexico, Giddings cast the only ballot against a resolution of thanks to US General Zachary Taylor.

OPENING SALVOS:

- General **Zachary Taylor** and the Army of Observation (I)(I)
- Advance to the Rio Grande
- Construction of Fort Texas
- **Thornton Affair**—April 25, 1846. Two thousand Mexican cavalymen cross the Rio Grande and attack Captain Seth B. Thornton's 63-man patrol. The Mexicans kill, wound, or capture every man under Thornton's command.
- **Siege of Fort Texas**--May 3, 1846. Post Commander Major **Jacob Brown (I)** is killed—the site becomes Brownsville, Texas.
- Taylor marches to relieve Fort Texas (I); Major General **Mariano Arista (I)** intercepts.
- **Battle of Palo Alto**—May 8, 1846.(I) (I) Arista: 3,400. Taylor: 2,400. "Flying Artillery." (I)
- **Battle of Resaca de la Palma**—May 9, 1846.(I) (I)
- Polk's Message to Congress, May 11, 1846. "*Mexico has passed the boundary of the United States, has invaded our territory and shed American blood upon American soil.*"(I)