

READING/STUDY GUIDE: SECTIONS I-III OF “MANIFEST DESTINY”

1. Know the controversies (both Mexican and American) surrounding the Republic of Texas, including (but NOT limited to):
 - a. What was the source of the Mexican controversy?
 - b. What was the source of the American controversy?
 - c. Political support/opposition to the war: who supported it and why; who opposed it and why?
 - d. For what reason did Santa Anna claim that the treaty granting Texas independence was null and void?
 - e. By what method was John Tyler able to circumvent expansionist opposition in Congress and annex Texas?
2. The Mexican War:
 - a. Why was this war regarded as an anomaly to the American legacy of war?
 - b. For what reason was this war unpopular?
 - c. What was the greatest advantage that American forces possessed over the Mexican Army?
 - d. What was the Bear Flag Republic and why was it characterized as a “a Texas-style” republic?
 - e. Know the provisions of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. (Speed Bump)
 - f. It is important to know the territories which comprised the Mexican Cession.
 - g. For what reason did anti-war factions support American annexation of the whole of Mexico?
3. Oregon
 - a. Upon what problem did the Oregon Territorial dispute center?
 - b. What agenda was James K Polk able to pursue that his mentor Andrew Jackson could not?
 - c. What is the significance of “54°40” Or Fight?”
 - d. Know who John O’Sullivan was, and what his concept of Manifest Destiny entailed.
4. The Mexican Cession
 - a. In what ways was the Wilmot Proviso the legacy of the Northwest Ordinance of 1787?
 - b. What constituted the sectional aspect of congressional voting on the Wilmot Proviso?

- c. What was the core philosophy of the Calhoun Resolutions, and what was its ultimate effect?
- d. What philosophy lie behind Lewis Cass' and Stephen Douglass' concept of popular sovereignty?

5. The Compromise of 1850

- a. **BE ADVISED: KNOW THE FREE SOILERS. KNOW THEM WELL.**
 - i. **They will become the party of northern yeomen.**
- b. Sectional-factional reactions:
 - i. What was Calhoun's intention behind the Calhoun Compromise? What does it reveal about the evolution of the Southern embrace of the Jeffersonian philosophy regarding states' rights?
 - ii. What was William Seward's reaction to the potential passage of the Compromise of 1850?
- c. Know the provisions of the Compromise of 1850 (speed bump) . . . note that they are a true compromise in that each provision counter-balances another.
 - i. Take note of the Fugitive Slave Act . . . this will become the most controversial; aspect of the Compromise.

6. Cuba and Central America

- a. What was the primary American interest in Cuba and Central America? How did this reflect sectional attitudes in the US?
- b. Know what a filibuster is, as evidenced by the saga of William Walker.
- c. What was the intent of the Ostend Manifesto?

7. The Pacific

- a. How did Matthew Perry's mission reflect the tenets of Manifest Destiny?
- b. You don't need to specifically know the treaties and Harris Convention, but do know what they have in common.