

U.S. Mexican War Information and Sites

Brief Introduction

In 1845, President Polk sent a diplomat to Mexico and offered to purchase California and New Mexico. Polk also wanted to establish the Rio Grande as a border between the U.S. and Mexico. However, the Mexican government thought of Texas as a rebellious territory over which it would eventually regain control and the deal was refused. This angered Polk and he sent troops to the Rio Grande. Of course, skirmishes broke out. When the first encounter took place north of the Rio Grande, Polk considered it an act of aggression against the United States and asked that Congress declare war against Mexico.

For a brief period, California was an independent republic. The people of California, primarily of Mexican, Spanish and Indian descent, wanted to rule themselves rather than be part of Mexico or the U.S. However, after only 19 days, U.S. forces took over Los Angeles and gained control of the region.

In 1846, the U.S. and Mexico went to war over a vast amount of terrain that each country wanted to control. Mexico was a vast new nation, not yet well-established and the central government of Mexico was quite weak. The annexation of Texas by the United States was the “spark” that is generally given credit for igniting the war.

More information can be found at:

http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/ops/mexican_war.htm

http://www.historyguy.com/Mexican-American_War.html

<http://www.history.vt.edu/MxAmWar/INDEX.HTM>

http://www.pbs.org/keras/mexicanwar/prelude/jp_james_k_polk.html

<http://www.dmwv.org/mexwar/chrono1845-6.htm>