**MANIFEST DESTINY (1840-1853)**

 This is defined as the belief that the US was destined to expand as far as it wanted on the North American continent.  This aggressive desire for land, belonging to other nations, will threaten war with England, cause a war with Mexico and cause much hardship for thousands of Native Americans.

**OREGON COUNTRY (1846)**

 Between 1818-1846 the Oregon Country was shared by the United States and England.  But, as thousands of Americans moved to Oregon via the Oregon Trail, The United States government demanded all of Oregon for itself.  President James Polk's slogan of " 54'40 or Fight", was a threat to go to war with England over Oregon. War never happened and the TREATY OF 1846 settled this dispute by giving England the northern part of Oregon and the United States got the southern part.

**TEXAS REVOLUTION (1836)**

 Texas was a province of the new independent nation of Mexico.  In the 1820's, Mexico hoped for great economic growth by inviting thousands of Americans to settle in Texas, with the expectation that they would become Mexican citizens.  Several years under the Mexican government, the Texans felt that their rights were denied, and the Mexican government was run by a dictator.  This led to a revolution movement led by Sam Houston.  It lasted less than one year and after the Battle of San Jacinto, Texas declared its independence and became the REPUBLIC OF TEXAS also called the "Lone Star Republic"

**ANNEXATION OF TEXAS (1845)**

 The Republic of Texas wanted to become part of the United States, but because of the issue of slavery spreading to new states it took 9 years.

 In 1845, the United States Congress annexed (added) Texas to the United States, but when it did it also took additional land that was viewed as part of Texas.  This plus the fact that Mexico never gave Texas its independence would lead to the Mexican War 1846-1848.

**MEXICAN WAR (1846-1848)**

 The main cause for this war was the United States annexation of Texas with the disputed borders of Texas.The war lasted less than 2 years because Mexico was a young unorganized nation not ready for war.  The **TREATY OF GUADALUPE HIDALGO** 1848 officially ended the war, but Mexico was forced to give up almost half of its land to the United States in the **MEXICAN CESSION.**  This included the huge Mexican provinces of California and New Mexico.  The United States now stretched from the Atlantic Ocean to The Pacific Ocean.

**GADSDEN PURCHASE TREATY (1853)**

 United States diplomat James Gadsden negotiated this agreement in which the United States gave Mexico $10 million for a strip of land on present day Arizona and New Mexico that would allow the United States to construct a railroad to the west coast.

The expansionist vision of those who believed in Manifest Destiny led to the growth of one of the greatest nations in the history of the world.  Critics of Manifest destiny claim that it led to unnecessary war and unfair displacement of Native Americans, but also was a main cause of the United States Civil War because as the country grew, the slavery issue divided the country more and more.