

The Final Days of the Mexican War

The following is a quote from a U.S. History textbook that was used in schools near my hometown.

“Meanwhile, General Winfield Scott had landed another American army at the Mexican port of Veracruz. After a long battle, the Americans took the city. Scott then marched west toward the capital, Mexico city. ...

The final battle

By 1847, the United States controlled all of New Mexico and California. Meanwhile, General Scott had reached the outskirts of Mexico City.

Before they could take the Mexican capital, Scott's troops faced a fierce battle. Mexican soldiers made a heroic last stand at Chapultepec (chah POOL tuh pehk), a fort just outside Mexico City. Like the Texans who died at the Alamo, the Mexicans at Chapultepec fought to the last man. Today, Mexicans honor these young soldiers as heroes.

Achieving Manifest Destiny

With their capital in American hands, the Mexican government had no choice but to make peace. In 1848, Mexico signed the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo (gwah duh LOOP ay0ih DAHL goh). The treaty forced Mexico to cede, or give all of California and New Mexico to the United States. These lands were called the Mexican Cession. In return, the United States paid Mexico \$15 million. Americans also agreed to respect the rights of Spanish-speaking people in the Mexican Cession.

A few years after the end of the Mexican War, the United States completed its expansion across the continent. In 1853, it agreed to pay Mexico \$10 million for a strip of land in present-day Arizona and New Mexico. The Americans needed this land to complete the building of a railroad. The land was called the Gadsden Purchase. The dream of Manifest Destiny was now complete.”¹

¹Davidson, Castillo & Stoff, *The American Nation*, Prentice-Hall Inc., 2000, New Jersey.