Extended Notes:

Unit 3: Testing the New Nation

Period 5: 1840-1877

“The American Pageant” Chapters 17-18

Underlined terms indicate previous vocabulary; **bolded** terms indicate new vocabulary.

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| Notes | Look here for extras! |
| RECAP: American culture, politics, and economics have changed greatly over the first portion of the 1800s. The country was starting to come into its own, but was had yet to tackle two major obstacles: land and slavery.  Early in his presidential term, the newly-elected William Henry Harrison contracted pneumonia and died. This left his Vice President, John Tyler, in charge. Tyler was another Virginian who was staunchly attached to principle, and highly opposed to Jacksonian tactics even though he was more Democrat than Whig.1  After winning the election, the Whigs started up their nationalist plans. Financial reform was first on the agenda. The independent treasury was ended, and a proposal for a new national bank was introduced. Tyler vetoed the bank, each time the Whig Congress brought up the issue. This set off a chain of events in which the Whigs politically disowned Tyler: he was formally expelled by a caucus of Whigs in Congress, his entire cabinet resigned en masse, and he received multiple death threats and was blamed for the flu epidemic that was sweeping the country. Tyler only signed the **Tariff of 1842** after heavy revisions by the Whigs and the need for extra revenue by the government.  Anti-British sentiment was also growing thanks in part to British criticism of the very “rustic” US. “British travelers, sniffing with aristocratic noses at the crude scene [that was America], wrote acidly of America tobacco spitting, slave auctioneering, lynching, eye gouging, and other unsavory feature of the rustic Republic.” In addition, the pro-British sentiments of the Federalists were largely gone, as were the Federalists. This literary war continued, thankfully, just on paper. Famous figures like Charles Dickens became involved on the side of the British as American copyright laws did not extend to foreign authors until the 1890s.  More serious struggles came a short time later as a minority uprising against the British in Canada was supported whole-heartedly by Americans.2 America again weakly upheld its self-professed neutrality by covertly sending supplies to Canada and individuals volunteering their service to the rebellion. In 1837, the American supply ship ***Caroline*** was sailing with supplies along the Niagara River when it was attacked by British ships and set on fire—on the American side of the Falls. This was a clear violation of neutrality, and another war with Britain seemed eminent. Tension was furthered in 1841 when the British Bahamas offered **asylum** to over a hundred Virginia slaves who had taken over the American ship ***Creole***.  Back north, a boundary dispute was rising. In the name of protecting the St. Lawrence River and Canada, the British were determined to build a road from Halifax to Quebec. This road would run through questionable territory. Only local militias were used in the **Aroostook War**, which was headed in part by, if you can imagine, lumberjacks. A compromise was reached over the boundary in 1842, which gave the Americans more land but also allowed for the desired road.  Conflicts with the British were not the only ones that existed in the early 1840s. Texas was considered a “province in revolt” by the Mexican government who refused to recognize their independence. Mexico also continually reminded America of its neutrality in regards to the situation and threatened military action should the US decide to get involved. Texas was then forced to look to foreign countries for assistance in its defense. Britain was extremely interested3 in acquiring Texas, as it would create a huge check on the US and its growing powers as a country while boosting their own trade, as well as threaten the institution of slavery in the American South. It was enough to make Texas a major issue in the Election of 1844.  While Tyler didn’t participate in that election, he saw it as an American mandate for Texas. “He therefore arranged for annexation by joint resolution [which] only required a simple majority in both houses of Congress.” This resolution passed in 1845, and Texas became the 28th state. Mexico immediately claimed a hostile takeover was in the works.  Oregon, another seemingly decided upon territory, was also a source of contention. Both Britain and America held claims to Oregon Country, and sought the area for themselves but agreed upon joint settlement in the Anglo-American Convention. However, “Oregon Fever” hit the US in the 1840s, and many restless pioneers began the trek west along the Oregon Trail.4 The combined territory of Oregon soon became populated by more Americans than British. A peaceful negotiation of Oregon’s boundaries became another election issue in 1844, even though Texas was the area more were concerned about.  The election saw another nomination for Henry Clay, and a new candidate on behalf of the Democrats, James K. Polk. Polk was incredibly unknown compared to Clay5, but the Tennessean was supported by former president Andrew Jackson and the rest of the Democrats. Polk became the country’s first “dark horse” presidential candidate, meaning he held more support than people thought. Expansion was a major issue in the election, between Texas and Oregon. “The mighty emotional upsurge known as **Manifest Destiny**” revived the malleable spirit of the nation with “a sense of mission…that Almighty God had ‘manifestly’ destined the American people for a hemispheric career.” When the intense campaigning from both sides came to an end, Polk emerged victorious. Polk received 170 electoral votes to Clay’s 105, with a new third party, the **Liberty Party**, gaining 16,000 popular votes.  Polk developed a four point plan for his time in office. The first of these points was to lower tariffs. While Polk found it difficult to delegate work, he handed a part of this task off to his Secretary of the Treasury. The **Walker Tariff** made its way through Congress supported by Southerners and hounded by New Englanders. Passed by 1846, it proved to be an excellent revenue producer. Polk meanwhile worked on the second point, restoring an independent treasury. If you’ve been paying attention, Van Buren first achieved this with the Divorce Bill, which was later overturned by the Whigs in Congress who opted to push President Tyler for a new national bank, so the treasury would be dependent again. The Whigs got their way in 1841, but Polk held firm during his administration and the independent treasury was restored in 1846.  The last two points of Polk’s plan dealt directly with Manifest Destiny. Polk planned heavily for the acquisition of California and the further settlement of Oregon. Polk forced both Britain and the Senate’s hand when it came to Oregon, allowing Britain to reconsider the old proposal of a boundary at 49’. Britain first rejected and then proposed that line themselves and Polk handed the decision directly to the Senate. In the end, an Oregon boundary was settled, and Polk “got neither ‘fifty-four forty’ nor a fight.”6  When it came to California, Polk first looked at buying the land from Mexico. However, Mexico still owed the US some $3M in damages from previous scuffles that they had yet to pay. Mexico had also withdrawn its foreign ambassador in Washington after the US began to take measure to annex Texas. In this respect, Texas was Mexico’s focus while the US was looking more at California. In 1845, Polk pulled a Thomas Jefferson and sent an ambassador to Mexico City to offer a maximum of $25 million for CA and some of the surrounding area. Mexico was not as receptive as Napoleon though, and the ambassador was refused.  Polk then discussed with his cabinet declaring war on Mexico. His proposal for war was based on the fact that Mexico still owed the US money and that they had refused a peaceful ambassador. His cabinet replied that a war with Mexico would only be justified if Mexico fired the first shot. While Polk had eagerly anticipated Mexican troops to attack troops he had sent with Zachery Taylor to the area, that fateful moment didn’t happen until April of 1846. Polk had technically baited Mexico into war, he further baited Congress into declaring war by stating that American efforts to avoid war—sending an ambassador, stationing “protective” troops—“hostilities had been forced upon the county.”  The American war effort was more than successful. The Santa Fe outpost was easily captured. US troops just happened to be near CA when war broke out as well. They helped overthrow Mexican rule there and establish the short-lived **Bear Republic**. Zachery Taylor fought Mexican retaliation everywhere in between. Taylor and his 5000 troops capped his series of victories with a decisive one at **Buena Vista**. The generals then turned their sights on Mexico City.  With the capital city captured, it was time to begin negotiations. The eventual result was the **Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo**, signed February, 1848. The treaty “confirmed the American title to Texas and yielded the enormous area stretching westward to Oregon and the ocean and embracing coveted California.” While this amounted to half of Mexico, the US agreed to pay $15 million for the land and another $3 million which would take over Mexican debt to the US. Polk wasted no time in presenting the treaty to the Congress, as other problems threatened the US if a treaty was not secured hastily.  Despite **Conscience Whigs** in Congress wanting a quick end to the war, the Mexican-American War proved a priceless training ground for the US Civil War. The army waged a war on land without any major blunders, and the navy blockaded Mexican ports. This led foreign powers to up their estimates of both the American and Mexican militaries, and changed the US-Mexican relationship forever.  Though the result of the Mexican-American War came out in the America’s favor, many questioned its relation to the expansion of slavery. As war raged in Mexico, Congress was at war with themselves over the slavery issue. Even as early on in the war as 1846, measures were being proposed that would limit the expansion of slavery after the war. The **Wilmot Proviso** stated that “slavery should never exist in any of the territory to be wrested from Mexico.” The Proviso never became law as it failed to pass through both houses of Congress, but was openly supported by all but on free state. Sectionalism, especially on the grounds of slavery and its expansion, became glaringly obvious. | 1. He agreed with many of the Democrats’ ideas, but disagreed with their way of seeing them through.  **Tariff of 1842:** protective measure passed by Congressional Whigs which raised tariffs to pre-compromise tariff of 1833 rates.  2. *Les rebellions de 1837* were largely motivated by political reforms taking place back in Great Britain, and as the French suggests there were actually two rebellions known in English as Lower Canadian Rebellion and the Upper Canadian Rebellion or the Patriot War.  ***Caroline*:** American steamship carrying supplies to Canadian insurgents during the Canadian rebellions that was attacked by British ships.  **(Right of) Asylum:** the protection granted by a nation to someone who has left their native country as a political refugee.  ***Creole*:** American slave ship captured by a group of rebelling VA slaves who successfully sought asylum in the Bahamas, raising fears among Southern planters that the British West Indies would become a safe haven for runaways.  **Aroostook War (1839-1842):** series of clashes between American and Canadian lumberjacks in the disputed territory of northern Maine, resolved when a permanent was agreed upon in 1842.  3. From an American perspective, this was and would create a similar situation to when France controlled Louisiana, only unlike the French, Britain was not as interested in being friends with the Americans.  4. Wagon trains averaged roughly 100 miles a week, making the entire journey between 5 and 6 months long. With no real stops to resupply or seek medical attention, there were also an average of 17 deaths per mile…which is why it’s so easy to die in [the game](https://archive.org/details/msdos_Oregon_Trail_The_1990).  5. This means unknown to the people. Polk had been involved in government at the national and state levels for a while. He had been Speaker of the House of Representatives, and TN state governor before becoming president.  **Manifest Destiny:** largely social belief that the US was destined by God to spread its “empire of liberty” across North America.  **Liberty Party (1840-1848):** Anti-slavery party that ran candidates in the 1840 and 1844 elections before merging with the Free Soil Party; sought the eventual abolition of slavery but had a short-term goal of halting the expansion of slavery into various territories and end the domestic slave trade.  **Walker Tariff (1846):** revenue-enhancing measure that lowered tariffs from 1842 levels, thereby fueling trade and increasing Treasury receipts.  POLK’S FOUR POINT PLAN:   1. Lower tariffs 2. Restore the Treasury’s independence 3. California 4. Oregon   6. “Fifty-four Forty” was the boundary line wanted by Americans as it would give them more land.  **California Bear Flag Republic (1846):** short-lived CA republic established by local American settlers who revolted against Mexico and later abandoned their republic in favor of joining the US after hearing of their war with Mexico.  **Battle of Buena Vista (1847):** Key American victory against Mexican forces in the Mex-Am War which elevated General Zachery Taylor to national prominence and helped secure his success in the 1848 presidential election.  **Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (1848):** ended the Mex-Am War in which Mexico ceded territory from TX to OR and the US agree to assume Mexican debts to the US and pay for part of the ceded land.  PROBLEMS THAT WOULD HAVE THREATENED THE US IF THE MEX-AM WAR CONTINUED:   * Conscience Whigs were poised to vote down continued support for the war, including sending supplies to forces. * An increasing group of expansionists were calling for all of Mexico to be open to the US.   **Conscience Whigs:** Northern Whigs who opposed slavery on moral grounds and sought to prevent the annexation of TX as a slave state in fear that it would expand Southern “slave power.”  **Wilmot Proviso (1846):** amendment to the US declaration of war that sought to prohibit slavery from territories acquired from Mexico that failed to become law but increased sectional tensions.  PRESIDENTS IN THIS CHAPTER:  Tyler 🡪 Polk 🡪 Taylor |

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| Notes | Look here for extras! |
| RECAP: The US and its population are caught up in expansion, coining the term “Manifest Destiny.” With its borders fully expanded from the Atlantic to the Pacific, it can only turn inward and/or vastly outward.  With much of the expansion issues settled, the only major issue left in the country was slavery. Neither major political party wanted to touch the issue, instead opting to enjoy national support rather than benefitting solely from sectionalism. The election of 1848 would be a testing ground for new issues and candidates as Polk said he would not run again. At their national convention in Baltimore, the Democrats nominated the aging General Lewis Cass. Although he was knowledgeable, experienced, and well-respected, the Democratic platform made no mention of slavery. Cass, on a personal level, ignored this by sharing his belief in **popular sovereignty** when it came to slavery in the new territories. The Whigs held their convention in Philadelphia, and nominated a general of their own, Zachery Taylor.  Die-hard abolitionists in the North were wary of both candidates. They found popular sovereignty to be a cop-out at best, and steps backwards at worst. They showed this view publicly by forming the **Free-Soil Party**. The Free-Soilers refused to hide behind the façade of popular support, clearly stating their opposition to slavery as a whole institution, and even “advocating federal aid for internal improvements and by urging free government homesteads for settlers.” The party appealed to more than expected, drawing in a fair number of Democrats who had grown tired of Polk-esque policies, and plenty of Conscience Whigs as well. However, this was not enough to overshadow the two major parties; Taylor won 1.3 million of the popular vote and 163 electoral votes, Cass won 1.2 million of the popular vote and 127 electoral votes, while the Free-Soil Party candidate Martin Van Buren managed just under 300K of the popular vote.  Taylor would have had a fairly quiet presidency if the issue of slavery had not been exacerbated by other events. In early 1848, gold was discovered near **Sutter’s Mill** in California. As news of the discovery spread, many headed west to mine for riches in the **California Gold Rush**. The **forty-niners**, and those that traveled with them created a series of western towns as they searched for gold in the new western territory. However, the new population included “a distressingly high proportion of…lawless men [and] virtueless women” and those were really making money were the ones “who mined the miners, notably by charging outrageous rates for laundry and personal services.”1 Crime rates soared, and without being a state, residents of the CA Territory had no means of protection. Under advice from President Taylor, they boldly applied for statehood after drafting a state constitution in 1849. Their constitution did not allow for slavery in the new state, so Southern politician’s adamantly opposed CA’s entry into the union.  It wasn’t that people doubt slavery in the South, but that they feared for its expansion; the North feared that it would spread to new territories, while the South feared that it wouldn’t. The South was as well-off in 1850 as it had been for years. Yet, the political balance was slipping out of their favor. The admission of CA as a state challenged the precarious balance of slave- to free states. Further upsetting was the fact that many of the territories formed by the Mexican Cession had been largely won by Southern soldiers and now they were pushing to deny the expansion of slavery.2 Northerners were also pushing for the abolition of slavery in Washington, DC, which would create a ten-square mile free “state” in between slaveholding VA and MD. But most upsetting to the South was the loss of runaway slaves. The incident with the *Creole* had set a strange and dangerous example, but the many slaves chose to escape over land with the help of the **Underground Railroad**.  The passage north that was the Underground railroad “consisted of an informal chain of ‘stations’ (anti-slavery homes) through which scores of ‘passengers’ (runaway slaves) were spirited by ‘conductors’ (usually white and African-American abolitionists).” Southern politicians and slave-owners alike fought Congress for a tougher fugitive-slave law as the original had proven ineffective: while abolitionists who worked as part of the Underground Railroad gained nothing from it, the South was losing a major source of labor, money, and products. “The moral judgement of the abolitionists seemed, in some ways, more galling than outright theft. They reflected not only a holier-than-thou attitude but a refusal to obey the laws solemnly passed by Congress.”  Something else not working in the South’s favor was the dwindling numbers of the Congressional “old guard.” Henry Clay, John C. Calhoun, and Daniel Webster were all in their late-60s/early 70s at this point. Clay, at 73, made a rousing speech in the Senate that both the North and South would have to make concessions if anything about slavery were to be decided. His proposals were seconded by a then relatively unknown senator from Illinois Stephen Douglas. Calhoun’s view was vastly different.3 He “championed the South in his last formal speech,” though at 68 and suffering from tuberculosis he was not the one who read it aloud. “Although approving the purpose of Clay’s proposed concessions, Calhoun rejected them as not providing adequate safeguards for Southern rights.” Webster, at this time, was also 68, and also promoted Clay’s compromises. His **Seventh of March Speech** was one of his finest and help push the North toward compromise though it was not without argument. Webster’s arguments were largely unfounded, and relied heavily on the moral aspect within the term Manifest Destiny.  The “new guard” of Congress now had their opportunity to speak. This group “had not grown up with the Union” and were therefore “more interested in purging and purifying it than in patching and preserving it.” They were not interested in compromise or concession, and President Taylor was on their side. But after his death in office in 1850, his VP Millard Fillmore became president.4 Fillmore had heard all arguments from the Senate House, and gladly signed their series of compromises into law. Despite this, the **Compromise of 1850** was a very fragile one.  The North got the better deal in the Compromise of 1850. The slave vs. free state balance was tipped to favor free states. The updated **Fugitive Slave Law** was harsh to say the least and favored the South’s wishes a little too much according to some. The law coerced many Northern moderates into action, creating new abolitionists that joined the ranks of those against slavery, and the Underground Railroad became evermore utilized. Some Northern states (\*cough\* Massachusetts \*cough\*) even took a stance similar to SC in the nullification days. This law was the one true gain for the South in the Compromise of 1850, and again, the North was choosing to ignore it.  The election of 1852, similar to those of its day, saw multiple new candidates take the stage. The Democrats nominated Franklin Pierce, a hardly-known lawyer-politician from NH. Their platform went back to the old standard of expansionism, and was highly accepting of the Compromise of 1850 in its entirety. The Whigs, failed to capitalize on their success with the Compromise of 1850, and instead of nominating the supportive President Fillmore or architect Daniel Webster, they chose General Winfield Scott. At the end of the day, the Whigs—much like the rest of the population—were split on Scott: Northern Whigs liked him but hated the party’s platform, while Southern Whigs questioned his loyalty and rallied behind the platform. The Free-Soil candidate did nothing to help in the North, as he took many Northern Whig votes that could have gone to Scott. Pierce won in a landslide with 254 electoral votes.  With the Democratic win in 1852, US expansion continued. The US became particularly concerned about Central America as it contained a land-and-sea route that connected the Atlantic to the Pacific and could be used to create a fully water-based route to do the same. Whoever controlled this route would control essentially all trade in the area, including that of the US. Britain had just made moves to seize ports in Nicaragua, which prompted a treaty between the US and Colombia (then New Grenada), which granted right of transit across Central America to the US in return for the maintenance of neutrality over the route. While this would have political consequences later, it created a transcontinental railroad in the are to further trade. Formal confrontation with Britain was avoided with the **Clayton-Bulwer Treaty** which stated “that neither American nor Britain would fortify or seek exclusive control over any future isthmian waterway.”  In order to bypass the Compromise of 1850’s exclusion of slavery from the Mexican Cession, the South looked, well, south. In the early 1850s, their eyes landed on Cuba. Polk had offered to buy the island, with its rich soil, sugar plantations, and large population of slaves, from Spain for $100M. Spain replied that they would rather sink the island. The South continued to push for Cuba to come under their control, while Spanish officials did their best to resist. The conflict almost spiraled out of control in 1854 when the American ship *Black Warrior* was seized. The South viewed this as the best time to go to war with Spain over the island as the rest of Europe was preoccupied with another conflict. Pierce instructed ambassadors in Spain, Britain, and France to write down their recommendations. These three met in Belgium and created what became known as the **Ostend Manifesto**. They wrote that the US should be willing to offer $120M for Cuba, and if Spain’s continued ownership of the island threatened American interests it would only make sense to fight for it. The issue was quickly dropped when the contents of the document leaked, enraging Northerners.  American eyes then turned again west. With CA and OR now a part of the US, they could easily navigate the Pacific. This opened routes to Asia, but would again mean meeting the British. The recently fought **Opium Wars** had seen Britain create treaty ports in China, as well as exude heavy influence over the Chinese government and gain complete ownership of Hong Kong. Then president John Tyler, sent and ambassador to secure a fair trade deal with the Chinese. This ambassador landed in Macao, and while the Chinese were impressed by his charm, they were more in want of a means to anger the British. Thus, the **Treaty of Wangxia** was signed in 1844, and showed China that the US was interested in trade, not colonies, which gave them “most favored nation” status. Significantly, this treaty opened China to trade with the US, but also US missionaries. Missionaries from all Western countries “chronically menaced China’s cultural integrity,” which prove a horribly wrong move.  In 1852, President Fillmore sent ships to Japan, led by Commodore Matthew Perry—brother of Oliver Hazard Perry of Lake Erie fame. While America’s intent with Japan was to request a similar trade set-up to what they had gained with China, Perry’s attempt to impress the Japanese with technology nearly backfired, as he “threatened to blast his way ashore” when he was making negotiations to land. On shore, Perry presented letters “requesting free trade and friendly relations” before withdrawing and promising to return in a year. He returned after seven months with a larger fleet and persuaded the signing of the **Treaty of Kanagawa**. The treaty established American rights to coal in Japan and diplomatic relations.4  Domestic westward expansion prompting increased transportation west. Railroad promoters in both the North and the South saw railways as the best way, but no one could agree whether it should have its terminus in the North or the South. The cost to build the railway was also a huge obstacle to overcome. The South was the first to take steps in creating it though with the **Gadsden Purchase**, which would allow a southern rail route from Houston west through the now extended New Mexico Territory to Los Angeles. Northerners instead sough to organize more territory with the creation of Nebraska. These moves were cut down by Southerners in Congress as they refused to “create new free-soil states” when they were working on their own railway west.  Stephen Douglas, supporter of the Compromise of 1850, then came up with a plan that would in Southern support for Nebraska. His plan ultimately involved splitting the proposed NE Territory into two pieces, NE and KS, and their status regarding slavery would be left to popular sovereignty. The **Kansas-Nebraska Act** passed through Congress while blatantly defying the MO Compromise.  The 1850s in many ways started the US down the slop to civil war, with Congress all but legislating it into being. The election of 1852 was the beginning of the end for the Whigs, and the Fugitive Slave Law split the country in a way no piece of law had before. Though Douglas championed both the Compromise of 1850 and the KS-NE Act, he failed to recognize the feelings of his constituency in the North, as many of them had begun to feel slavery was not a political or economic issue but a moral one. Douglas didn’t care which way the issue of slavery ended, and even with that in mind historians have continued to argue that if he hadn’t presented a bill like this, someone else would have. | **Popular sovereignty:** leaving the decision of the expansion of slavery up to a popular vote.  **Free-Soil Party (1848-1854):** anti-slavery party that opposed the expansion of slavery into the territories, arguing that its presence would limit the opportunities for free laborers.  **Sutter’s Mill:** mill compound where gold was first discovered by workers crafting a new water-powered mill.  **California gold rush (1849-1855):** inflow of miners to CA after reports of gold discoveries, including migrants from around the world; prompted CA to apply for statehood early.  **Forty-niners:** popular nickname given to those moving to CA to mine for gold in 1849.  1. Imagine your typical saloon town with all the fabulous characters.  2. Let me rephrase this to make it even more clear why the South was upset. It was *their* sons, brothers, fathers, nephews, uncles that had fought in the Mex-Am War to win all this land with the goal in mind of expanding slavery to it, and now a bunch of Northern morally-elite yuppies were refusing to allow that to happen.  **Underground Railroad:** informal network of volunteers that helped runaway slaves escape from the South to as far north as Canada.  3. Ladies and gentlemen, John C. Calhoun  Related image  **Seventh of March Speech:** Daniel Webster’s address which urged Northern support for the Compromise of 1850; Webster argued that topography and climate would keep slavery from the territories included in the Mexican Cession and that reasonable concessions should be made to prevent disunion.  4. The jury’s is still out on whether Taylor was assassinated. Here’s what we know for sure, he consumed a large portion of fruit and iced milk at a July 4th party. Shortly thereafter, he became ill. Now, most sewers were open back then so there’s a high chance the food somehow got contaminated or, you know, someone could’ve poisoned it. It doesn’t seem like his doctors helped much by using treatments that would have induced vomiting and caused him to be dehydrated for an extended period of time. His official COD is labeled as “cholera morbus” a generic term for what amounts to death by indigestion. While initial exhumation reports don’t suggest poisoning, 2010 reports say don’t rule it out.  **Compromise of 1850:** compromised which again delayed real discussion about slavery, made CA a state, and instituted a harsher fugitive slave law; widely opposed by both the North and the South.  **Fugitive Slave Law (1850):** a bolster to the original and passed as part of the Compromise of 1850, set high penalties for anyone who aided escaped slaves and compelled law enforcement to participate in retrieving runaways.  STIPULATIONS OF THE COMPROMISE OF 1850:  For the North:   * CA admitted as a free state * Territory disputed between TX and NM would go to NM (\*tiny NM flag emoji\*) * Abolition of slave trade (but not slavery) in DC   For the South:   * Territories of NM and UT carved from the Mexican Cession and would have slavery based on popular sovereignty * TX would receive $10M in compensation for land from the federal government * The Fugitive Slave Law of 1850   **Clayton-Bulwer Treaty (1850):** treaty between Britain and the US which stated that both would jointly protect the neutrality of Central America  **Ostend Manifesto (1854):** secret proposal from the Pierce administration to purchase Cuba or, upon refusal of purchase, militarily take Cuba from Spain.  **Opium Wars (1. 1839-1842; 2. 1856-1860):** wars between Britain and China over trade rights, particularly those for opium that resulted in increased indirect ownership of China by Britain.  **Treaty of Wangxia (Wanghia) (1844):** treaty between the US and China which assured the US the same trading concessions that had been granted to other powers and expanding American trade with the Chinese. (Psst, it’s pronounced Wahng-SHA.)  **Treaty of Kanagawa (1854):** treaty between the US and Japan which granted the US a consulate in Japan, opened Japan economically, and secured American coaling rights in Japanese ports.  4. This also, in essence, created the Meiji Restoration, an attempt to combine traditional Japanese political tactics with outside-influence technology to create a position of strength.  **Gadsden Purchase (1853):** acquired additional land from Mexico for $10M to facilitate the construction of a southern-based nearly transcontinental railroad.  **Kansas-Nebraska Act (1854):** revoked the MO Compromise by calling for decisions on slavery in KS and NE based on popular sovereignty. |