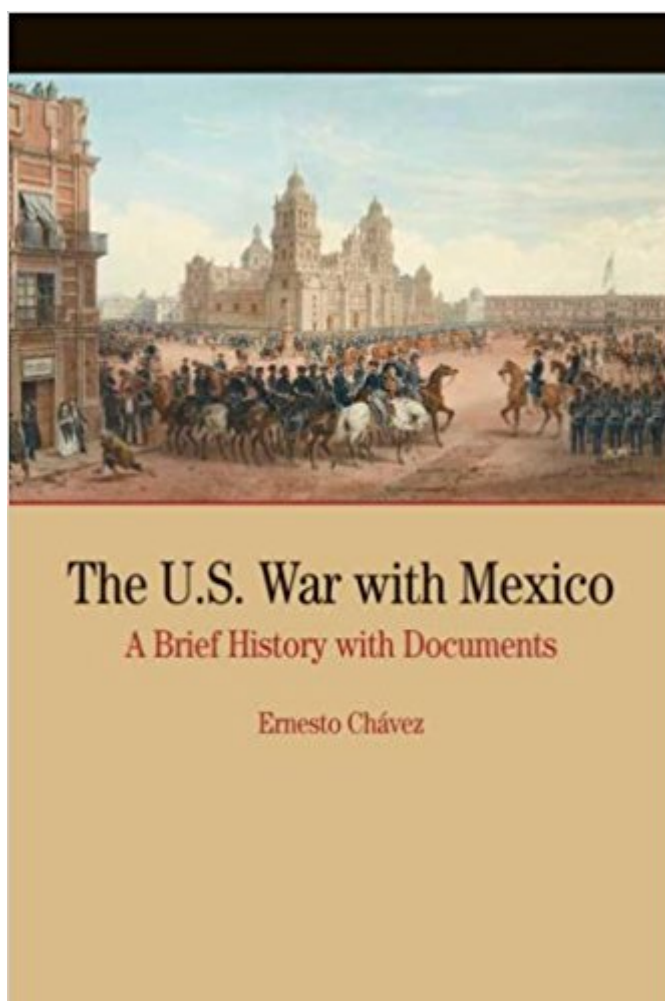


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The U.S. War With Mexico: A Brief History With Documents (Bedford Series In History & Culture)



Synopsis

The U.S. war with Mexico was a pivotal event in American history, it set crucial wartime precedents and served as a precursor for the impending Civil War. With a powerful introduction and rich collection of documents, Ernesto Cházvez makes a convincing case that as an expansionist war, the U.S.-Mexico conflict set a new standard for the acquisition of foreign territory through war. Equally important, the war racialized the enemy, and in so doing accentuated the nature of whiteness and white male citizenship in the U.S., especially as it related to conquered Mexicans, Indians, slaves, and even women. The war, along with ongoing westward expansion, heightened public debates in the North and South about slavery and its place in newly-acquired territories. In addition, Cházvez shows how the political, economic and social development of each nation played a critical role in the path to war and its ultimate outcome. Both official and popular documents offer the events leading up to the war, the politics surrounding it, popular sentiment in both countries about it, and the war's long-term impact on the future development and direction of these two nations. Headnotes, a chronology, maps and a selected bibliography enrich student understanding of this important historical moment.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

ERNESTO CHAVEZ (Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles) is Associate Professor of History at the University of Texas at El Paso. Dr. Chavez's research interests center on the Mexican and Mexican American past. His first book, *Mi Raza Primero! (My People First): Nationalism, Identity,*

and *Insurgency in the Chicano Movement in Los Angeles, 1966-1978*, was published in 2002 and focused on the rise of the Chicano movement in this California city. At present, he is working on a biography of Mexican-born, silent film star Ramón Novarro, tentatively titled *Crossing the Boundaries of Race, Religion, and Desire: The Life of Ramón Novarro*. "

Documents of the Mex-Amer War - essential info for the more serious history buff.

good condition

Great reference book to important documents and the summary in layman's terms is easy to understand. Love the style of writing

The book arrived very promptly and was in brand new condition. I wasn't expecting it to be that nice for the price I paid!

The 1846-1848 Mexican-American War may be interpreted as a bald-faced adventure in conquest; it may also be interpreted as an unfolding of "Manifest Destiny" in which the U.S. is bringing the "blessings of liberty" to the benighted peoples of the American Southwest. There are a range of interpretations in between and beyond these two poles. This short general history emphasizes the racism of American invaders over the Mexican people and the imperialism that the author believes motivated the war. Ernesto Chavez, a professor of history at the University of Texas at El Paso, offers a brief introduction that ranges widely in time and space to fashion a narrative that suggests the racist tendencies in American society as predominant in this war. One example of this is in the discussion of the manner in which the Polk administration dealt with the British in negotiating the Oregon boundary at 49 degrees latitude when the president had campaign on the slogan "49 or 40" or "fight or compromise." They didn't fight and ended up compromising. Not so with Mexico; the U.S. went to war and conquered that nation. It imposed its own settlement annexing what is now the American Southwest, including parts of California, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, and New Mexico. Chavez insists that this was because of the U.S.'s "racialized outlook" (p. 15). I would never conclude that the U.S. is not a racist nation, clearly it is, but fighting Mexico is quite a lot different than fighting the greatest empire on Earth at the time. It would be an easy decision in 1846 not to fight a two front war, and to negotiate a settlement with the

stronger of the two antagonists regardless of a racialized outlook. I'm not sure I would assign racism as the fundamental reason for these divergent ways of dealing with Great Britain and Mexico. Moreover, the U.S. had already gone to war twice since 1776, so it's not like the two nations' Anglo heritage kept them from fighting. After a short introduction there is a selection of interesting documents that offering unique perspectives on the story, as well as a timeline, and an annotated bibliography. These are all useful attributes of this fine short introduction to a very complex topic.

in my family it is necessary, this price is valuable. will buy next time. Great product, most impressive was the follow up and consideration given for my purchase from Blue Key World the seller. Outstanding. very fast, receive it next day,

Since there aren't any reviews at all - the introductory essay really emphasizes racism and imperialism as factors in the war, so its not the most original or groundbreaking interpretation. The documents are well selected, though, and many aren't available elsewhere (or are very hard to find). The Plan of Iguala, pro-war journalism by Walt Whitman, an "I-told-you-so" article by Pena y Pena, and others are included. It was a very useful source for a term paper I wrote and, beyond that, was an interesting read. I would recommend it to anyone interested in the history of US expansion, US-Mexico relations or Mexican history.

Uno! This is a great learning resource, only a few pages in and I find myself, a Mexican-American, already discovering amazing facts I have never known before. The product was new and on time purportedly

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