

“The War with Mexico (1846-1848)”

*Through the mountains to Monterrey through the desert to Buena Vista, there's a hundred thousand Americans comin this way
They raised a Bear Flag in California and captured Santa Fe, and in every town their long-range artillery blew us away.*

(Chorus)

*Oh, Oh, Mexico; keep your eyes on Rio Bravo
Oh, Oh, Mexico; so close to God and so far from San Antone*

*You can hear the big American guns from a hundred miles away
And thousands of marines on ships are getting ready to invade.
They'll march from Vera Cruz into Montezuma's Halls,
And like Cortes, they'll take our land, when Mexico City falls.*

(Chorus)

Historical Background:

Mexico never acknowledged that Texas was an independent nation; they still viewed Texas as a Mexican province in rebellion. Another major point of dispute was the southern border of Texas: Texans claimed that the Rio Grande was the border, whereas Mexico believed the border was well to the north, at the Nueces River.

War erupted between the two nations in 1845 when the United States annexed Texas and stationed troops south of the Nueces River. The war with Mexico, which began in 1846, was fought in several locations over a vast amount of territory. The U.S. Army met with little resistance, capturing all of California and the New Mexico territory. Under the command of Zachary Taylor, the army invaded northern Mexico and won several battles, including a major victory at Buena Vista in 1847. The United States also launched a massive naval invasion into central Mexico, landing 14,000 marines at the port city of Vera Cruz. The troops, led by Winfield Scott, marched from the Gulf of Mexico to Mexico City, and, after a series of fierce battles, they captured Mexico's capitol and won the war.

Technological advancements in weaponry were one of the main reasons the United States was so successful in this war. The use of easily maneuverable flying artillery guns gave the United States a huge advantage in the battles fought throughout all of Mexico. As a result of the war, the United States acquired an expanse of land larger than the Louisiana Purchase—virtually all western territory stretching to the Pacific. The new land acquired also reignited a sectional dispute in the U.S. regarding the expansion of slavery into this new territory: This debate escalated throughout the 1850's and erupted into Civil War in 1861.

