

A historical painting depicting a battle scene. In the foreground, a large cannon is being fired, with soldiers in blue uniforms and yellow accents. A Mexican flag is visible on the left, and an American flag is on the right. The scene is set in a field with a line of soldiers in the background.

# 13.3 - WAR WITH MEXICO

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THIS SET OF NOTES IS INTENDED TO SERVE AS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN A FORMAT THAT YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH.

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO WRITE DOWN THESE NOTES.

THEY ARE SIMPLY HERE FOR YOU TO REVIEW IF YOU NEED ADDITIONAL REVIEW MATERIAL.

# I. The New Mexico Territory

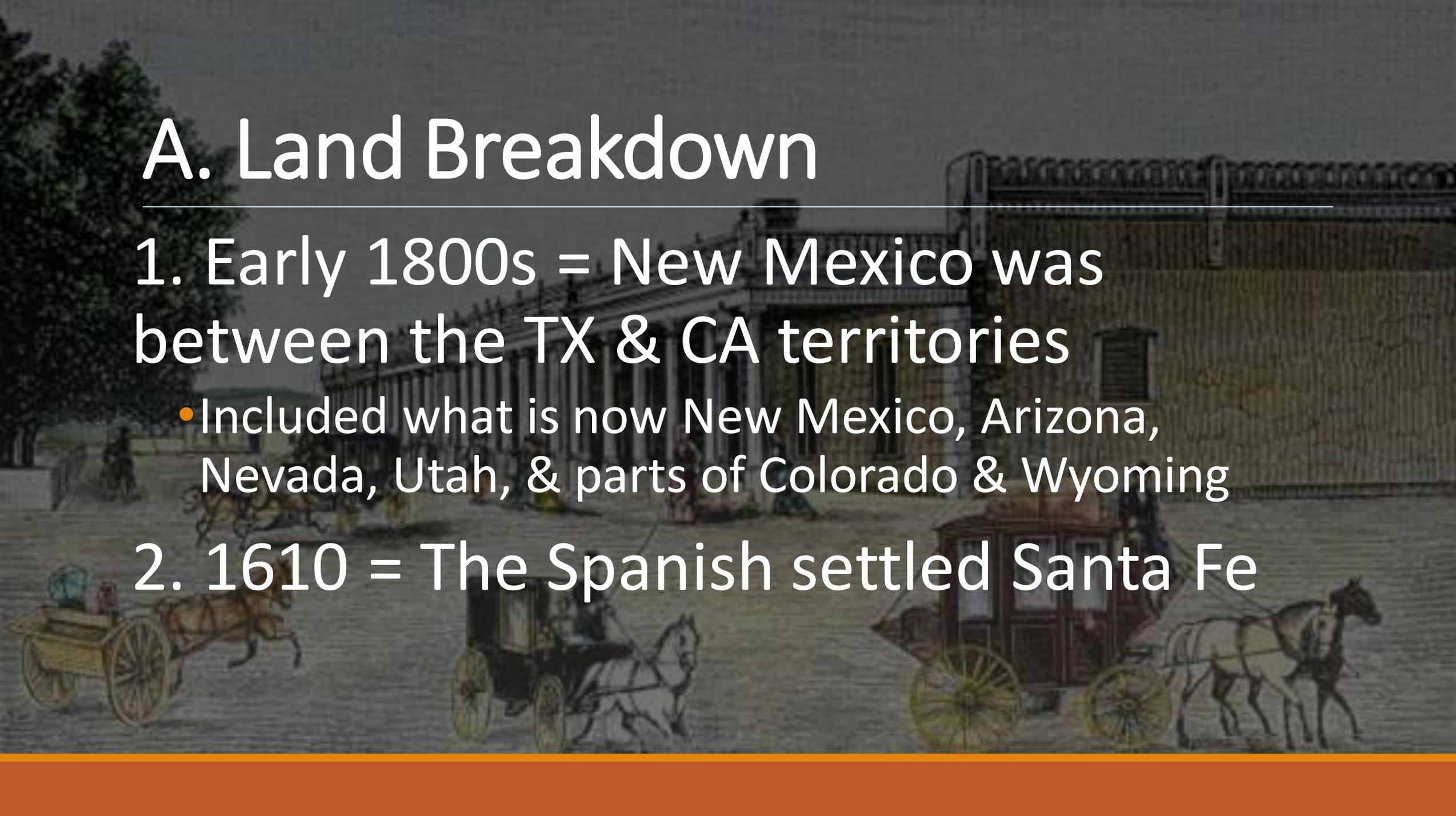
# A. Land Breakdown

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1. Early 1800s = New Mexico was between the TX & CA territories

- Included what is now New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, & parts of Colorado & Wyoming

2. 1610 = The Spanish settled Santa Fe





## B. People

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1. Native Americans lived in the area for thousands of years prior
2. Spanish Conquistadors arrived in the late 1500s
  - Make region a part of Spain's American colonies
  - Spanish Missionaries soon followed



# C. Mexican Independence

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1. Mexico gained independence from Spain in 1821
2. Before independence, Spain kept Americans away from Santa Fe = feared Americans would take over
  - The New Mexican govt. however welcomed American traders



# D. William Becknell

1. 1821, first American trader to reach Santa Fe
2. Becknell's route known as "Santa Fe Trail"

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- Started new Independence, Missouri
  - Crossed prairies to Arkansas River
  - Followed to the Rocky Mtns. before turning South
  - Mostly flat, became busy route for trade
  - Some believe acquiring NM was part of Manifest Destiny



# II. California's Spanish Culture



# A. People

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1. Spanish explorers

2. Missionaries

- Captain Gaspar de Portolá & Father Junípero Serra began a chain of missions
- Aimed to convert Native Americans to Christianity & Spanish way of life
  - Learned to farm, weaving, & other crafts



# B. Post Mexican Independence

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1. California became a Mexican state
2. Mexicans set up ranches (ranchos)
  - Natives worked the land for food & shelter
  - Rancheros (ranch owners) treated Natives poorly



# C. John C. Fremont

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1. 1840s more Americans reach CA
2. Fremont = army officer
  - Wrote about climate = mild with vast natural resources
    - Got Americans interested in CA as a state
    - Argued boarding Pacific Ocean (instead of a foreign country) would be safer
    - Shippers hoped to build ports to trade with East Asia

# III. Conflict



# A. California

1. President Polk determined to get CA & NM territories
2. Mexico refused to give US land = Polk plans for war
3. Already on bad terms
  - Disagreed on Texas/Mexico border
    - US claimed it as the Rio Grande
    - Mexico claimed the Nueces River



## B. Deal Talks

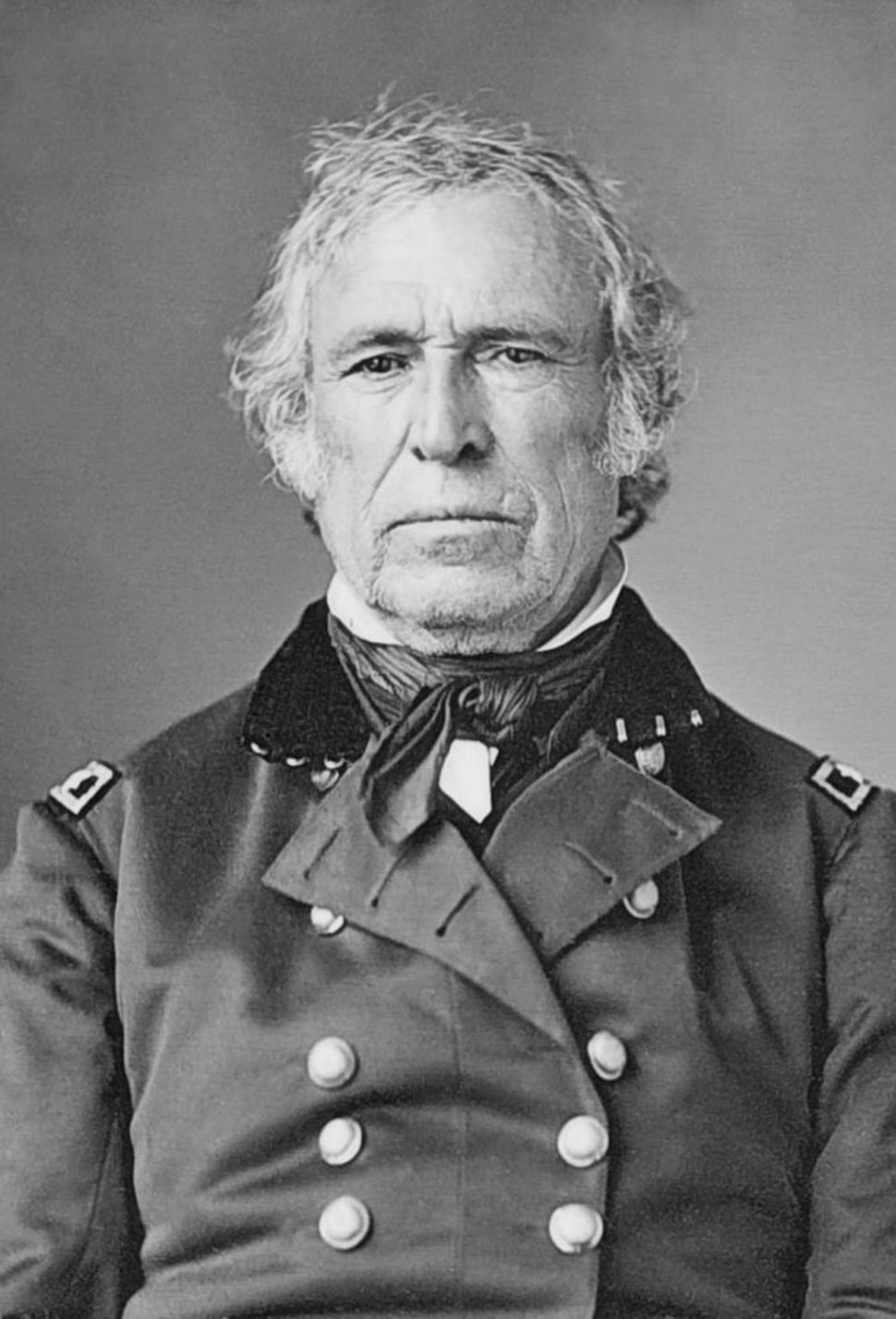
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1. John Slidell (US) sent to propose deal

- \$30 million for CA & NM
- Mexico must accept Rio Grande as TX border
- US would pay what Mexico owed Americans

2. Mexico refuse to discuss offer

- Intended to reclaim TX for Mexico



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### 3. General Zachary Taylor lead US forces into Rio Grande

- Mexico sees this as an invasion of their country

### 4. April 25, 1846

- Mexican troops attacked Taylor's forces
- By May 13, Congress passed a declaration of War against Mexico

# C. War Plan

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## 1. President Polk's 3 Goals

- The US would drive Mexican forces out of TX
- It would seize NM and CA
- American forces would advance into Mexico & capture the capital (Mexico City)



## 2. American Progress

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- Goal 1 accomplished
- General Stephen Kearny made progress towards Goal 2
  - Marched troops down Santa Fe Trail
  - Captured NM's capital (Santa Fe) in 1846
  - Mexican governor fled

# D. California Uprising

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1. Encouraged by John C. Fremont
2. June 14, 1846 = Americans declared CA independent
3. Rebels renamed territory the Bear Flag Republic
  - Did not exist for long
  - American warships arrived in San Francisco to claim republic for the US



## 4. Mexico STILL refused to surrender

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- President Polk sent General Winfield Scott & his troops to Mexico City
  - Landed in Veracruz & captured it after 3 weeks of fighting
  - 300 miles to Mexico City (fighting along the way)
  - September 1847 = Mexican capital captured

# E. Peace Terms

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1. Mexico defeated on February 2, 1848
2. Mexican leaders signed the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo
  - Gave the US 500,000+ square miles of territory
    - Now states known as California, Nevada, & Utah (parts Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Arizona, Colorado, & Wyoming)
  - Accepted Rio Grande as border
  - US paid Mexico \$15 million but assumed \$3.25 million in debts to Americans