

Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria
Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific
Research

University of Oran Es - Senia
Faculty of Letters, Languages and Arts
Department of Anglo – Saxon Languages
Section of English

Magister Thesis in American Civilization

The American – Mexican War 1846 – 1848

Presented by: Mr. Samir AMIR

Members of the Jury:

President: Pr. Badra LAHOUEL	University of Oran
Supervisor: Pr. Fewzi BORSALI	University of Adrar
Examiner: Pr. Fewzia BEDJAOUI	University of Sidi Bel Abbes
Examiner: Dr. Leila MOULFI	University of Oran
Examiner: Dr. Belkacem BELMEKKI	University of Oran

2010 – 2011

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

In the Name of the Merciful and Compassionate God,
Peace and blessing be upon our Prophet Mohammed.

My efforts to complete this research work have been long and hard, but with the help and encouragement of many people for whom I am very grateful, I have been able to fulfil my dream. First and foremost, I am deeply indebted to my supervisor, Professor F. Borsali for his advice, for his patience, for his understanding and for his perpetual readiness to help me overcome the difficulties I faced. My deepest thanks also go to my teacher, Professor B. Lahouel for her moral support and kindness.

Special thanks are due to Dr. B. Belmekki, Mr. A. Benhattab, Mr. H. Benyamina, Dr. B. Ghassoul, Dr. A. Nait Brahim, Mrs. A. Dahmoune, and Dr. L. Mouffi, for their helpful advice, moral assistance, and for taking a keen interest in my progress.

I' am also very thankful to the staff of the library of the department of Anglo – Saxon Languages, at the University of Oran, especially to Mr Saffa and Mrs Hasnia. I' am also very grateful to Mr. K. Ouarras and the staff of the C.E.M.A Library.

Thank you all!

Table of Contents

	Page
<u>INTRODUCTION:</u>	1
<u>CHAPTER ONE: Historical Background</u>	4
I-American - Spanish Relations	5
II – Mexican Independence	24
III- American - Mexican Relations	33
<u>CHAPTER TWO: Causes of the American - Mexican War</u>	42
I- American Westward Expansion	43
II- Texas and the War of Independence	47
1- American Settlement in Texas	47
2- Early Clashes between the Settlers and the Mexican Government	52
3- The Road to Independence	57
4- Annexation to the United States	65
III- American Claims against Mexico	91
<u>CHAPTER THREE: The War and Its Aftermath</u>	101
I- Americans and Mexicans' War Preparations	101
1- The American Army	101
1-1- The Infantry: Organization, Weapons, and Tactics	103
1- 2- The Cavalry: Organization, Weapons, and Tactics	106
1- 3- The Artillery: Organization, Weapons, and Tactics	108
1-4- The Navy	111
1- 5- The Ordnance Department	111
1- 6- U.S. Company of Sappers, Miners and Pontoniers	111
1- 7- The Volunteers	112
2- The Mexican Army	114
2- 1- The Infantry: Organization, Weapons, and Tactics	116

2- 2- The Cavalry: Organization, Weapons, and Tactics	119
2- 3- The Artillery: Organization, Weapons, and Tactics	121
2- 4- The Navy	123
2- 5- The Corps of Engineers and Sappers	123
II- The Military Operations	124
1- Prelude to the War	124
2- Official Declaration	129
a) The Northern Campaign	131
b) Conquest of New Mexico and California	138
c) The Occupation of Mexico City	147
3- Reasons behind the Mexican Defeat and the American Victory	157
a) Mexico	157
b) The United States	160
III- The Aftermath of the War	162
1- The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo	162
2- Political Impact	166
3- Economic Impact	168
4- Social Impact	169
<u>CONCLUSION:</u>	171
Bibliographical List	174
Appendices	182

List of Maps

	Page
1- The United States and Her Neighbours in 1783.	11
2- The Treaty of San Lorenzo, or the Pinckney's Treaty, 1795	14
3- The Louisiana Purchase, 1803.	19
4- The Adams- Onis Treaty, or the Transcontinental Treaty of 1819	23
5- Mexican Land Grants to American Settlers.	51
6- The Texan Revolution: Movements of the Mexican and Texan Armies	63
7- Texas Annexed to the United States, 1845.	90
8- Taylor's Campaign	133
9- The Conquest of California	143
10- Stephen Kearney and Alexander Doniphan's Campaigns	146
11- Scott's Advance to Mexico City	154
12- The United States after the Mexican War	165