

Repressing the Oppressed: How Polk's Successful Manifestation Negatively
Impacted the Mexican and Native American Civilizations

Madeline Goodman

Senior Division

Historical Paper

Paper Length: 2,302 words

Entry ID: 20010

“Peace, plenty, and contentment reign throughout our borders, and our beloved country presents a sublime moral spectacle to the world.”¹

-James Knox Polk

Napoleon of the Stump

James Knox Polk, an unfamiliar name in the public sphere, accepted the Democratic Party’s presidential nomination in the election of 1844.² He was reluctantly chosen by the Democrats following the political demise of their first choice, Martin Van Buren.³ After Van Buren outwardly took a position against expeditious annexation, he was rebuffed by the southern Democrats, as well as the expansionist Democrats.⁴ At 49, Polk was not only the first dark horse candidate to appear on a presidential ballot, but the youngest.⁵ His obscurity was sharply contrasted by the well-known Henry Clay, nominated by the Whig Party.⁶ Clay had a previously-established platform as a statesman, U.S. congressman, and U.S. senator.⁷ He was thus able to lead the Whigs in a berating campaign chant, “Who is James K. Polk?” referring to the former

¹ *Counsel for the New President*. New York: Center for the Study of the Presidency, 1989.

² Boyer, Paul S. *The Enduring Vision: A History of the American People*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 2013.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ Merry, Robert W. *A Country of Vast Designs: James K. Polk, the Mexican War, and the Conquest of the American Continent*. New York: Simon & Schuster Paperbacks, 2011.

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ "James K. Polk: Campaigns and Elections." Miller Center. June 26, 2017. Accessed February 25, 2019. <https://millercenter.org/president/polk/campaigns-and-elections>.

Tennessee governor's insignificance.⁸ However, the major topic of discussion was not the candidates' prior fame, but their stances on expansionism.⁹ Polk was able to secure the presidency after a narrow defeat against Clay due to his aggressive campaign advocating for land acquisition.¹⁰ U.S. citizens rallied behind Polk's "Fifty-Four Forty or Fight!" chant, referring to the northern boundary of the Oregon Territory.¹¹ The campaign earned Polk his nickname "Napoleon of the Stump."¹² The election of 1844 and the unexpected outcome reflected America's desire to fulfill their "manifest destiny," which would influence the country's choices, as well as its identity, for years to come.

From Sea to Shining Sea: The Pursuit of a Multi-Oceanic America

During James K. Polk's tenure, the United States' territory increased by over one-third of its original size, extending from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean for the first time.¹³ As a goal-driven man, Polk ambitiously assigned himself four major goals while serving as President: cut tariffs, reestablish an independent treasury, secure the Oregon Territory, and obtain the

⁸ *ibid.*

⁹ "James K. Polk: Campaigns and Elections." Miller Center. June 26, 2017. Accessed February 25, 2019. <https://millercenter.org/president/polk/campaigns-and-elections>.

¹⁰ *ibid.*

¹¹ Boyer, Paul S. *The Enduring Vision: A History of the American People*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 2013.

¹² Greenstein, Fred I. "The Policy-Driven Leadership of James K. Polk: Making the Most of a Weak Presidency." *The Canadian Journal of Chemical Engineering*. October 05, 2010. Accessed February 25, 2019. <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1741-5705.2010.03808.x/full>.

¹³ PBS. Accessed February 25, 2019. https://www.pbs.org/kera/usmexicanwar/aftermath/was_the_war_necessary.html.

California and New Mexico Territory from Mexico.¹⁴ To add to the degree of such an undertaking, Polk promised to do so in one Presidential term, as he foreswore reelection.¹⁵ A believer in Jacksonian-democracy, James K. Polk sought to revive the Jacksonian Era by reinstating institutions that had been ejected by the Whig-dominated Congress.¹⁶ Thus, his focus was centered around Jacksonian foreign policy, strengthening the Executive branch, internal economic improvements, and territorial expansion.¹⁷ Polk desired the California and New Mexico territory, as well the establishment of a border at the Rio Grande, which would consequently cede Texas to the United States.¹⁸ He also sought to settle an Oregon border just past the 49th Parallel, which had been disputed by the British.¹⁹ The President's land aspirations would prove to be immensely impactful for America, as well as for those who stood in his way.

Re-annexation of the Oregon Territory

Oregon was desirable because the land had been contested by both the United States, as well as Britain.²⁰ Polk, ever the nationalist, was undoubtedly intolerant of sharing fertile land

¹⁴ "Polk's 4 Goals." James Knox Polk Was an Effective President. Accessed February 25, 2019. <https://jamesknoxpolkeffectiveness.weebly.com/polks-4-goals.html>.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Sellers, Charles Grier. *James K. Polk, Vol 1. Jacksonian*. Place of Publication Not Identified: Princeton University Press, 2016.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ "Polk's 4 Goals." James Knox Polk Was an Effective President. Accessed February 25, 2019. <https://jamesknoxpolkeffectiveness.weebly.com/polks-4-goals.html>.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ U.S. Department of State. Accessed February 25, 2019. <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1830-1860/oregon-territory>.

with the British. He presumptuously referred to the expansion into the area as the “re-annexation of Oregon”.²¹ The President maintained this attitude during negotiations with Britain. After a compromise was rejected by Britain, Polk abrogated the Treaty of 1818, which had set the original boundaries of Oregon. This was a warning to the British: America would settle the land with or without compliance.²² Polk remarked that, “The only way to treat John Bull was to look him straight in the eye.”, referring to the derogatory personification of Britain. His assertion proved to work in America’s favor. On July 15, 1846, the Treaty of Oregon was signed at Washington D.C.²³ The boundary was set between the United States and Canada at the 49th Parcel West of the Rocky Mountains, giving the U.S. modern-day Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and parts of Montana and Wyoming.²⁴

The Mexican-American War

Mr. Polk, unlike many of his predecessors, was unafraid of conflict. For better or for worse, he desired the disputed land of Texas, as well as much of Northern Mexico.²⁵ The territory was valuable to the United States because the pursuit of such land encompassed the American fulfilment of Manifest Destiny, the justifiable and inevitable spread of U.S. influence.²⁶ Tensions were high when the newly-independent Texas, led by Sam Houston, was

²¹ Ibid.

²² "HistoryLink.org." Prohibition in Washington State. Accessed February 25, 2019. <https://www.historylink.org/File/5103>.

²³ "HistoryLink.org." Prohibition in Washington State. Accessed February 25, 2019. <https://www.historylink.org/File/5103>.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Porterfield, Jason. *The Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo, 1848: A Primary Source Examination of the Treaty That Ended the Mexican-American War*. New York: Rosen Central Primary Source, 2006.

²⁶ Ibid.

annexed by the U.S. Prior to the annexation, Texas had been controlled by Mexican dictator, Lopez de Santa Anna.²⁷ Another contributor to the Mexican-American conflict was the border dispute between Texas and Mexico.²⁸ According to Texans, their land extended to the Rio Grande River.²⁹ The Mexicans claimed the border extended only to the Nueces River, just North of the Rio Grande. Polk originally intended to purchase the unsettled land, so he dispatched John Slidell to Mexico in order to negotiate.³⁰ Slidell was given a budget of twenty-million dollars for the area, not including Texas. Mexico dismissed the offer as an insult. Polk was swift to dispatch troops across the Nueces border, just as Santa Anna moved his army past the Rio Grande.³¹ When American soldiers were killed defending against Mexican soldiers at Fort Texas, the President saw this as an opportunity to justify invasion of Mexico. His appeal to Congress for a declaration of war was approved and Polk's army, led by future President Zachary Taylor, moved hastily onto foreign soil. As witnessed in major battles such as the Battle of Palo Alto, as well as the Battle of Chapultepec (in which Zachary Taylor captured Mexico City), Polk's brilliant battle strategy paired with Taylor's extraordinary general skills demolished the ill-prepared Mexican army.³² On February 2, 1847, following the capture of Mexico City, Nicholas Trist (America's chosen diplomat) and Mexican diplomats agreed on the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.³³ The terms of the treaty gave the U.S. New Mexico, California, and a larger-than-

²⁷ Hine, Robert V. *American West: A New Interpretive History*. Yale University Press, 2017.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ Ibid.

³¹ Merry, Robert W. *A Country of Vast Designs: James K. Polk, the Mexican War, and the Conquest of the American Continent*. New York: Simon & Schuster Paperbacks, 2011.

³² Ibid.

³³ Ibid.

expected Texas. Most importantly, the 500,000 square mile area stretched all the way to the Pacific Ocean, giving North America access to vast oceanic opportunities.³⁴

Expansionism and the Nationalist Effect Introduction

The notion that Americans have a divine right, a Manifest Destiny, to impose its ideals on liberty, government, and democracy on other civilizations has existed since the founding of the colonies in the 17th century. “We shall be a city upon a hill!” declared future governor of Massachusetts Bay, John Winthrop.³⁵ The Puritans, the first settled people of New England, were told that their ability to civilize around a unique combination of Christianity and liberty should be shared with the rest of the world.³⁶ Over 200 years later, America’s leaders continued to exude a prophetic-like superiority over any other nation. However, prior to James K. Polk’s presidency, the United States was not considered a world power. It was Polk’s territorial gain that substantiated America’s claim that they were a force to be reckoned with.

Expansionism and the Nationalistic Effect

In a documentary by Ken Burns entitled “The West”, respected historian Richard White was interviewed on American ideology during the U.S. expansionist era.³⁷ White says, “Americans’ reach exceeds their grasp. Americans can’t do what they might like to do; but the

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ Gustave Courbet. Accessed February 25, 2019.
<https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/winthrop.htm>.

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ Burns, Ken. "The West." IMDb. September 15, 1996. Accessed February 25, 2019.
<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0115418/>.

time is coming. This is a country that will grow more and more powerful, its ambition is already there; and there is going to come a time by mid-century where in-fact it can fulfill its ambitions. When that time comes the West will be an entirely different place.”³⁸ The President’s triumphs are not just denoted by land gain. Polk’s time in office, as an Executive leader and military hero, marks a pivotal shift in the American mindset.³⁹ His administration brought forth an ideological revolution. The re-instilled confidence inspired innovation and new technology, which only strengthened the United States’ power.⁴⁰ Those born in the 1840’s and 1850’s would see their horses turn to automobiles; they would see their candles turn to light bulbs; and they would see the railroad carry American products across the continent.⁴¹ The young North America housed the “American Dream”; millions of immigrants traveled far and wide to experience the rapid growth of such a powerful nation.⁴² This triumphant climb to power was ignited by Polk’s expansionist campaign.

Mr. Polk’s War

To many, James K. Polk was a brilliant patriot who was responsible for the fulfilment of the United States’ manifest destiny, and with that, established a justifiable confidence in American exceptionalism. However, the United States faced several repercussions of Polk’s imperial policies. Firstly, the United States’ deaths casualties strictly from battle summed to over

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ Olson, James Stuart. *Encyclopedia of the Industrial Revolution in America*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2002.

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² https://www.pbs.org/kera/usmexicanwar/aftermath/was_the_war_necessary.html.

5,800. The number of soldiers who died from disease was approximately 11,000.⁴³ While Mexican soldiers were desperately defending their land from an imperialistic America, one ponders what exactly American soldiers were dying for. Did they die for the conquest of Mexico and California? Or did they feel the same burning desire to fulfill America's manifest destiny? Polk had also anticipated an expeditious victory in the Mexican-American War, but the countries battled for two years before signing the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.⁴⁴ Costs are estimated at \$75 million dollars for the U.S., discounting the \$15 million paid to Mexico for war damages.⁴⁵ Most importantly, newly-gained territory resulted in a divisive America. Polk had sufficiently split the White House by declaring war.⁴⁶ The Whig party was adamantly opposed to the war as they feared the extension of slavery.⁴⁷ As well, the Whig party had moral implications with taking land by conquest.⁴⁸ In July 1847, former Whig Senator William Cabell Rives delivered a speech on the immorality of declaring war on Mexico.⁴⁹ He emphasized that the US had no

⁴³ "Mexican-American War Soldier Records & Military Casualty Lists." GenealogyBank Blog. Accessed February 25, 2019. <https://blog.genealogybank.com/mexican-american-war-soldier-records-military-casualty-lists.html>.

⁴⁴ Porterfield, Jason. *The Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo, 1848: A Primary Source Examination of the Treaty That Ended the Mexican-American War*. New York: Rosen Central Primary Source, 2006.

⁴⁵ Ibid

⁴⁶ Borneman, Walter R. "Polk: The Man Who Transformed the Presidency and America." Amazon. Accessed February 25, 2019. <https://www.amazon.com/Polk-Man-Transformed-Presidency-America/dp/1400065607>.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ "William C. Rives Papers,." Planning D-Day (April 2003) - Library of Congress Information Bulletin. Accessed February 25, 2019. <https://www.loc.gov/item/mm77037937/>.

right to “interfere with the institutions of other countries' and maintained that other people in other countries should be free to pursue their own happiness and destiny, just as we are able to enjoy these pursuits without interference.”⁵⁰ The split in America is also evident through the slavery dispute. The acquired land upset the balance of slavery, splitting the North and the South even further. One can see the exponential conflict that follows James K. Polk’s presidency. For example, “Bleeding Kansas” was a sort of miniature Civil War in 1854 which consisted of violent confrontations over whether slavery should be instituted in Kansas.⁵¹ Polk’s administration was thus a prelude to America’s bloodiest war.

Expansion of an Empire

The Mexican population was a victim of James K. Polk’s administrative goals. They experienced tragedy in all its forms. Ulysses S. Grant called Polk’s war “the most unjust war ever undertaken by a stronger nation against a weaker one.” Statistics-wise, Mexico lost approximately 25,000 soldiers in battle.⁵² They lost thousands more due to illness.⁵³ But there is more tragedy in the moralistic aspects of the war. While Americans refer to the war as the

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ MateBookCrocodile8546. "Polks War Message Declaration of Sentiments on Civil." The Logistic Model Has Good and Bad Features PROS CONS Mathematically Tractable. Accessed February 25, 2019. <https://www.coursehero.com/file/p5tv64b/Polks-War-Message-Declaration-of-Sentiments-On-Civil-Disobedience-Thoreau/>.

⁵² "Mexican-American War Soldier Records & Military Casualty Lists." Genealogy Bank Blog. Accessed February 25, 2019. <https://blog.genealogybank.com/mexican-american-war-soldier-records-military-casualty-lists.html>.

⁵³ Ibid.

“Mexican-American War”, Mexicans refer to it as the “U.S. Invasion”.⁵⁴ The actions taken by Polk’s army on Latin soil were the epitome of racism. While the President envisioned a vast Atlantic-Pacific empire to rule over, he could not simply suggest the subjugation of Mexico. No, he instead used religion and Thomas Jefferson’s “Empire of Liberty” ideology (America’s responsibility to spread liberty across the world) to gain the support of his people.⁵⁵ War propogandists assisted Polk’s racist attitude by framing the conquest of Mexico as a sort of charity. They labeled the victims as a “savage and uncivilized people” who needed rescuing by the United States.⁵⁶ Mexicans were also said to have been instigators of the conflict.⁵⁷ There were many skeptics of the supposed instigation, including Abraham Lincoln.⁵⁸ In his *Spot Resolutions* speech, Lincoln “demands to see the spot where American blood was supposedly spilled on American soil.”⁵⁹ As well, the Native American population faced times of despair following Polk’s reign. With the rapid Mexican Secession, all territories and tribes on such land

⁵⁴ "The Occupation of Mexico, May 1846-July 1848: Carney, Stephen A : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming." Full Text of "Passing". January 01, 1970. Accessed February 25, 2019. <https://archive.org/details/occupationofmexi00carn>.

⁵⁵ "Thomas Jefferson's Monticello." Thomas Jefferson, a Brief Biography | Thomas Jefferson's Monticello. Accessed February 25, 2019. <https://www.monticello.org/site/jefferson/empire-liberty-quotations>.

⁵⁶ Hine, Robert V. *American West: A New Interpretive History*. Yale University Press, 2017.

⁵⁷ "Lincoln's Spot Resolutions." National Archives and Records Administration. Accessed February 25, 2019. <https://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/lincoln-resolutions>.

⁵⁸ *Ibid.*

⁵⁹ *Ibid.*

was placed under federal jurisdiction.⁶⁰ A government report which discussed the Indians of Southern California asserted that if the Indians “interfered with progress they should be pushed aside.”⁶¹ Several Southwest tribes were forcibly removed to remote desert locations so that gold-hungry whites could mine the land.⁶² Tragically, the dismantlement of Native American tribes put an abrupt end to much of their independence and autonomy.

Polk’s Tragically Triumphant Reign

Perhaps James Knox Polk was a man that envisioned a bountiful land for the ever-expanding America. Maybe Polk saw no other alternative to war after the alleged skirmish on American soil. It is plausible that he believed he was fulfilling his divine duty by imposing the American system on independent civilized nations. Or, did the President see a weak people with land that he could easily exploit? The President was aware of the superiority of his army compared to the previously-weakened Mexican army. One leading Democrat declared that “The Mexican population can offer but a slight resistance to the North American race.”⁶³ Present-day Mexico recalls the Mexican-American War as a truly despotic time in their history. The United States lives with the guilt of the violence committed on Mexico. Families were literally driven apart by an artificial border. The war encompassed more than just land, the Pacific, and gold; it was about a language, a race, and a culture. James K. Polk is credited with the 500,000 square

⁶⁰ Native American Netroots. Accessed February 25, 2019.
<http://nativeamericannetroots.net/diary/1320>.

⁶¹ Ibid.

⁶² Ibid.

⁶³ Arnoldo. "MEXICAN AMERICANS." The Handbook of Texas Online | Texas State Historical Association (TSHA). June 15, 2010. Accessed February 25, 2019.
<https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/pqmue>.

miles, but he is also responsible for the oppression of an entire nation.⁶⁴ It is true that the land acquisition spurred a sense of patriotism and laid the grounds for economic and industrial growth.⁶⁵ However, as an evolved people, Americans must recognize that Polk's tenure was truly a tragedy. Mexico must continuously prove that they survived the U.S. Invasion by affirming their histories as one culture, which depicts how the war has resonated with the Hispanic people. To summarize, James Knox Polk's administration is triumphant in that he acquired a massive sum of land which substantiated America's claim to power, while also tragically setting the stage for the Civil War and subjugating the Mexican and Native American populations.

⁶⁴ Merry, Robert W. *A Country of Vast Designs: James K. Polk, the Mexican War, and the Conquest of the American Continent*. New York: Simon & Schuster Paperbacks, 2011.

⁶⁵ *Ibid.*

Annotated Bibliography

Primary Sources

Counsel for the New President. New York: Center for the Study of the Presidency, 1989.

This book was helpful in that it gave me first-hand accounts from James K. Polk.

Gustave Courbet. Accessed February 25, 2019.

<https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/winthrop.htm>.

This source was a great primary source for my use of contextualization. I introduced Polk's Manifest Destiny by talking about John Winthrop's "City Upon A Hill" speech.

Hietala, Thomas R. *Manifest Design: American Exceptionalism and Empire*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2003.

This source was beneficial to my research because it discussed Mexican-American diplomacy leading up to the war and included interesting campaign quotes.

"Lincoln's Spot Resolutions." National Archives and Records Administration. Accessed February 25, 2019. <https://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/lincoln-resolutions>.

This source was extraordinarily helpful in that the website included Lincoln's Spot Resolutions speech as well as an explanation and analysis of his speech.

Merry, Robert W. *A Country of Vast Designs: James K. Polk, the Mexican War, and the Conquest of the American Continent*. New York: Simon & Schuster Paperbacks, 2011.

I very much enjoyed reading excerpts of this book because it focuses on Polk's rise to office despite being an unknown "Dark Horse".

"Mexican-American War Soldier Records & Military Casualty Lists." Genealogy Bank Blog. Accessed February 25, 2019. <https://blog.genealogybank.com/mexican-american-war-soldier-records-military-casualty-lists.html>.

This website was very useful in my research pertaining to the negative impacts in America following the Mexican American War. I got many useful statistics from newspapers from the war decade, mostly including numbers related to deaths.

Porterfield, Jason. *The Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo, 1848: A Primary Source Examination of the Treaty That Ended the Mexican-American War*. New York: Rosen Central Primary Source, 2006.

This book was a very beneficial primary source as it contained a very descriptive narrative of the Mexican-American War and the effects of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

Pratt, Julius W. "James K. Polk and John Bull." *Oral History Review*. April 05, 2017. Accessed February 25, 2019. <https://muse.jhu.edu/article/624450/pdf>.

I enjoyed reading this account from James K. Polk because it encompassed his assertiveness over Britain. This was a very useful primary source because the depiction of Polk was aggressive, yet it worked in his favor. This was effective evidence for my analysis of Polk's character.

Sellers, Charles Grier. *James K. Polk, Vol 1. Jacksonian*. Place of Publication Not Identified: Princeton University Press, 2016.

This book was very insightful in that its focus surrounds Polk's presidency and his party affiliation's effect on his policies. It also illustrated James Polk's life as Andrew Jackson's protégé, which would later influence his stances on the extension of slavery and his imperial tendencies.

Secondary Sources

Arnoldo. "MEXICAN AMERICANS." The Handbook of Texas Online| Texas State Historical Association (TSHA). June 15, 2010. Accessed February 25, 2019. <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/pqmue>.

This source contained a primary account of a governmental official's account of Polk's "bullying" of the Mexicans and Native Americans.

Borneman, Walter R. "Polk: The Man Who Transformed the Presidency and America." Amazon. Accessed February 25, 2019. <https://www.amazon.com/Polk-Man-Transformed-Presidency-America/dp/1400065607>.

This book was beneficial to my research as it contained information on Polk's policies pertaining to expansion and slavery and the governmental split as a result.

Boyer, Paul S. *The Enduring Vision: A History of the American People*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 2013.

This book spans American's expansionist history from the rise of the colonies to the Civil War; I found multiple first-hand accounts from the 1840's.

Burns, Ken. "The West." IMDb. September 15, 1996. Accessed February 25, 2019. <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0115418/>.

Ken Burns' documentary did an amazing job of encompassing the American ideology surrounding the Era of Expansion. I particularly enjoyed the interview with Richard White and his comments on American Exceptionalism.

Full Text of "Passing". Accessed February 25, 2019. https://archive.org/stream/jstor-30234620/30234620_djvu.txt.

This was an interesting source in that it was a sentiment written in 1914 pertaining to the United States' acquisition of the Oregon and California territories.

Hine, Robert V. *American West: A New Interpretive History*. Yale University Press, 2017.

This was a very beneficial secondary source because the book examines the history of the American West on multiple fronts including the Native American tribulations.

"HistoryLink.org." Prohibition in Washington State. Accessed February 25, 2019.
<https://www.historylink.org/File/5103>.

This website was helpful to my research on the U.S.'s acquisition of the Oregon Territory as it gave insight to the abrogation of the Oregon Treaty of 1818.

MateBook. "Polk's War Message Declaration of Sentiments on Civil." The Logistic Model Has Good and Bad Features PROS CONS Mathematically Tractable. Accessed February 25, 2019.
<https://www.coursehero.com/file/p5tv64b/Polks-War-Message-Declaration-of-Sentiments-On-Civil-Disobedience-Thoreau/>.

This source analyzes the connection between Polk's extension of slavery and ensuing conflicts that followed, such as Bleeding Kansas.

Native American Netroots. Accessed February 25, 2019.
<http://nativeamericannetroots.net/diary/1320>.

This source analyzes the despair faced by Native American's following Polk's forced removal of their tribes.

Olson, James Stuart. *Encyclopedia of the Industrial Revolution in America*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2002.

I was able to use this condensed history of industrial revolution in America which helped me to analyze Polk's positive impact on America following his war with Mexico.

PBS. Accessed February 25, 2019.
https://www.pbs.org/kenan/usmexicanwar/aftermath/was_the_war_necessary.html.

This secondary source was very informational on the aftermath of the Mexican-American War. I appreciated that the site showed the effects of war not only the United States, but Mexico, as well.

"Polk's 4 Goals." James Knox Polk Was an Effective President. Accessed February 25, 2019.
<https://jamesknoxpolkeffectiveness.weebly.com/polks-4-goals.html>.

This website effectively discusses Polk's goals for his term in office, as well as the governmental drama that ensues because of Polk's campaign.

"The Occupation of Mexico, May 1846-July 1848: Carney, Stephen A : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming." Full Text of "Passing". January 01, 1970. Accessed February 25, 2019. <https://archive.org/details/occupationofmexi00carn>.

This secondary source was useful in analyzing the Mexican casualties from the war with the United States.

"Thomas Jefferson's Monticello." Thomas Jefferson, a Brief Biography | Thomas Jefferson's Monticello. Accessed February 25, 2019. <https://www.monticello.org/site/jefferson/empire-liberty-quotations>.

This source was helpful to the section of my paper pertaining to the Jeffersonian "Empire of Liberty" and how Polk used Jefferson's ideology to justify invasion of Mexico.

U.S. Department of State. Accessed February 25, 2019. <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1830-1860/oregon-territory>.

This source was beneficial to my research because it encompassed Polk's aggression and assertiveness over Britain during his pursuit of Oregon.

