

ABSTRACT

JAMES K. POLK AND THE MEXICAN WAR

The Mexican War can be called America's forgotten war. It has been relegated to a place of minor historical importance in our nation's history because of its close proximity to the outbreak of the American Civil War. The importance of the Mexican War is the impact it had upon the political and military leaders of the Civil War, and how it shaped the nation's political and geographic landscape.

The focus of this paper is to look at the origins of the Mexican War. A secondary purpose is to conduct a contemporary assessment of President Polk's role in the conflict as viewed by the leading political leaders and American historians of his era. Finally, I will look at how the war was covered by the newspaper war correspondents who brought it home to the American people.

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