

Pupil Textbook • Lesson 14



Winfield Scott's entrance into Mexico City on September 14, 1847. The United States flag flew above the National Palace (the Halls of Montezuma) to welcome the American troops.

In California, American settlers led by Captain **John Frémont** had already revolted and established the Bear Flag Republic in June 1846. Then in July, two officers proclaimed American control and took over several Californian cities. By the time General Kearny arrived in December, the Mexicans in California had revolted against their new

American masters. With Kearny's aid the Americans defeated the Mexicans and took over California.

The Mexican Cession. When Mexico still refused to give in, President Polk ordered General **Winfield Scott** to invade the heart of the country and capture Mexico City. General Scott landed at Veracruz and fought his way inland, and at last his men raised the United States flag over Mexico City in September 1847. This was the first time the American flag fluttered in victory over a foreign capital.

Finally in February 1848, the Mexican government was ready to make peace. In the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (GWAHD uh loop hih DAHL goh), Mexico recognized the border of Texas at the Rio Grande and also gave about 525,000 square miles (1,360,000 km²) of land to the United States. This Mexican Cession included land in the present states of California, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Nevada, Colorado, and Wyoming. In return, the United States agreed to pay Mexico \$15 million and to reimburse American citizens the \$3.25 million that Mexico owed them.

Effects of the Mexican War. The Americans gained a vast stretch of land through the Mexican War, but they also gained the ill



The Mexican War and United States Acquisitions in the Southwest