

Post Revolution/Pre Civil War Treaties of Expansion

Louisiana Purchase

In 1795 the United States negotiated the Pinckney Treaty with Spain, which provided the right of navigation on the Mississippi River and the right of deposit of U.S. goods at the port of New Orleans. The treaty was to remain in effect for three years, with the possibility of renewal. By 1802, U.S. farmers, businessmen, trappers and lumbermen were bringing over \$1 million worth of produce through New Orleans each year. Spanish officials were becoming concerned, as U.S. settlement moved closer to their territory. Spain was eager to divest itself of Louisiana, which was a drain on its financial resources.

Napoleon's ambitions in Louisiana involved the creation of a new empire centered on the Caribbean sugar trade

Thomas Jefferson, third President of the United States, was disturbed by Napoleon's plans to re-establish French colonies in America. With the possession of New Orleans, Napoleon could close the Mississippi to U.S. commerce at any time. Jefferson authorized Robert R. Livingston, U.S. Minister to France, to negotiate for the purchase for up to \$2 million

Napoleon's plans in the Caribbean were being frustrated by Toussaint L'Ouverture, his army of former slaves, and yellow fever. During ten months of fierce fighting on Santo Domingo, France lost over 40,000 soldiers. Without Santo Domingo Napoleon's colonial ambitions for a French empire were foiled in North America. Louisiana would be useless as a granary without sugar islanders to feed and the sale of the now-useless Louisiana would supply needed funds to wage war in Europe. Napoleon directed his ministers, Talleyrand and Barbe-Marbois, to offer the entire Louisiana territory to the United States - and quickly.

On April 11, 1803, Talleyrand asked Robert Livingston how much the United States was prepared to pay for Louisiana. Livingston was confused, as his instructions only covered the purchase of New Orleans and the immediate area, not the entire Louisiana territory. James Monroe agreed with Livingston that Napoleon might withdraw this offer at any time. To wait for approval from President Jefferson might take months, so Livingston and Monroe decided to open negotiations immediately. They bought the Louisiana territory for 60 million Francs (approximately \$15 million).

The Adams Onís Treaty

The Adams Onís Treaty sometimes referred to as The Florida Treaty was signed in Washington on February 22, 1819 and ratified by Spain October 24, 1820 and entered into force February 22, 1821. It terminated April 14, 1903 by a treaty of July 3, 1902. The treaty was named for John Quincy Adams of the United States and Louis de Onís of Spain and renounced any claim of the United States to Texas. It fixed the western boundary of the Louisiana Purchase as beginning at the mouth of the Sabine River and running along its south and west bank to the thirty-second parallel and thence directly north to the Río Rojo (Red River). This agreement, also called the Transcontinental Treaty, was made during the administration of President James Monroe and settled long-standing disputes between the United States and Spain. Madrid ceded East Florida to the Americans, while Washington surrendered its claims to Texas and agreed to assume payment of American financial claims against the Spanish up to \$5 million.

The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo

In November 1835, the northern part of the Mexican state of Coahuila-Tejas declared itself in revolt against Mexico's new centralist government headed by President Antonio López de Santa Anna. By February 1836, Texans declared their territory to be independent and that its border extended to the Rio Grande rather than the Rio Nueces that Mexicans recognized as the dividing line. Although the Texans proclaimed themselves citizens of the Independent Republic of Texas on April 21, 1836 following their victory over the Mexicans at the Battle of San Jacinto, Mexicans continued to consider Tejas a rebellious province that they would reconquer someday.

In December 1845, the U.S. Congress voted to annex the Texas Republic and soon sent troops led by General Zachary Taylor to the Rio Grande (regarded by Mexicans as their territory) to protect its border with Mexico. The inevitable clashes between Mexican troops and U.S. forces provided the rationale for a Congressional declaration of war on May 13, 1846.

Hostilities continued for the next two years as General Taylor led his troops through to Monterrey, and General Stephen Kearny and his men went to New Mexico, Chihuahua, and California. But it was General Winfield Scott and his army that delivered the decisive blows as they marched from Veracruz to Puebla and finally captured Mexico City itself in August 1847.

Mexican officials and Nicholas Trist, President Polk's representative, began discussions for a peace treaty that August. On February 2, 1848 the Treaty was signed in Guadalupe Hidalgo, a city north of the capital where the Mexican government had fled as U.S. troops advanced. Its provisions called for Mexico to cede 55% of its territory (present-day Arizona, California, New Mexico, and parts of Colorado, Nevada and Utah) in exchange for fifteen million dollars in compensation for war-related damage to Mexican property.

Other provisions stipulated the Texas border at the Rio Grande (Article V), protection for the property and civil rights of Mexican nationals living within the new border (Articles VIII and IX), U.S. promise to police its side of the border (Article XI), and compulsory arbitration of future disputes between the two countries (Article XXI). When the U.S. Senate ratified the treaty in March, it deleted Article X guaranteeing the protection of Mexican land grants. Following the Senate's ratification of the treaty, U.S. troops left Mexico City.

Oregon Treaty 1846

This agreement set the boundary between the United States and Canada at the 49th parallel west of the Rocky Mountains, veering around Vancouver Island and then proceeding through the Strait of San Juan de Fuca. The Oregon Treaty settled the dispute between the United States and Great Britain over the area in Oregon located between the Columbia River and the 49th parallel. In 1818, both countries had agreed to a joint occupation of Oregon, and this agreement had been renewed by treaty in 1827.

Elected in 1844 on an expansionist platform that included the acquisition of the entire Oregon Territory, which extended to 54 degrees, 40 minutes to the north, President James K. Polk had to satisfy the demands of his countrymen for the region. After a compromise proposal was rejected in July 1845, Polk acquired congressional authority in December to abrogate the 1827 treaty. On 15 June 1846, the Senate ratified a treaty that established the boundary at the 49th parallel. Deteriorating relations with Mexico and favourable public opinion made the compromise acceptable to the United States, while Britain was likewise interested in a peaceful solution because it had more pressing domestic and foreign issues to consider.

Wars that weren't

The Pork and Beans War

When two neighbours are as close as Canada and the U.S., there is bound to be a little pushing and shoving over the lines in between, especially when those lines are a bit blurry. In the winter of 1838-39, the Aroostook or Pork and Beans war, between the state of Maine (then part of Massachusetts) and the British territory of New Brunswick (a province of Canada) occurred. It seems the 1789 Treaty of Paris, failed to firmly define the boundary between the two and when Maine became its own state in 1820, and started granting land in the Aroostook valley, which the British considered theirs, tempers flared and panic buttons were pushed. The United States Congress authorized a force of 50,000 men, and set aside \$10 million dollars for the anticipated long haul. Maine itself contributed between three and ten thousand troops, which likely gave the entire episode its gustatory name, for the pork and beans eaten by the idle soldiers. Not a shot was fired and everybody hung around, arguing about how best to settle the whole thing. The matter was referred to a boundary commission in 1842, which utilized a map with a red line on it, drawn up in Paris in 1782, reportedly by Benjamin Franklin, to prove where the intended boundary was to have been. There is only one known casualty of the war, and it was not combat-related. While others died of illness, the cause of death for Pvt. Hiram T. Smith, a Maine soldier, went unrecorded. He is buried on the side of the Military Road (U.S. Highway 2), in the middle of the Haynesville Wood

The Pig War

The Oregon Treaty of 1846 established the boundary between Canada and the United States from the Rocky Mountains westward to the coast. Unfortunately, the provision extending the boundary line through the offshore Gulf Islands was poorly worded. The document stipulated that the boundary in this area was to run down the middle of the channel separating Vancouver Island from the mainland. In truth, several channels existed, including two major ones, Haro Strait and Rosario Strait. This distinction mattered because it would determine ownership of the prized San Juan Island.

During the 1840s and 1850s, the Hudson's Bay Company established a number of facilities on the disputed island. American settlers established homes and farms there and the Washington territorial legislature made a formal claim to the area in 1853.

This tense, but manageable, situation spun out of control in June 1859 when a pig owned by the Hudson's Bay Company wandered into an American farmer's garden and began to feast on the array of vegetables. The farmer defended his property by shooting the pig. HBC officials were outraged and sought the farmer's arrest. American citizens on the island sent a plea to the mainland for military assistance. In July, George E. Pickett (later of Pickett's Charge fame) was dispatched to San Juan with a small contingent of soldiers. The British reacted by sending three warships into the harbor to encourage Pickett to withdraw. The American force remained in place and on two occasions was supplemented with additional soldiers. The British countered by sending two more warships.

When President Buchanan learned of these developments, he was displeased. General Winfield Scott was sent to salvage the situation and quickly managed to arrange a mutual reduction in military presence. Later, an agreement for the island's joint military occupation was reached. The United States soon became embroiled in its civil war and neglected for a number of years to push for the dispute's permanent solution.

In 1871, the matter was referred to an arbitration panel under the auspices of Kaiser Wilhelm I. A ruling was handed down the following year, which established the boundary through Haro Strait and made San Juan Island a possession of the United States.