Westward Movement
Louisiana Purchase

--1800 Napoleon Bonaparte secured the territory from the Spanish

--1790s black revolt in French Saint Domingue (later Haiti)

--forced Napoleon to give up his "Continental System"

--total price of $15 million
Lewis and Clark

--1803 Jefferson asks Congress for money
--“colonialism” as “exploration” and scientific interest
--traveled up the Missouri River, across the rocky Mountains, and down the Columbia River to the Pacific Ocean and back
--report back to Washington
--reports of: --friendly Indians
  --abundant pelts
--journals made accessible to any literate American a full account of the knowledge available on a large section of the West
--gave U.S. claim to Oregon country by ‘right of discovery and exploration’
--inaugurated a whole new age of exploration
--water route across the continent
---in 1790, populations of North and South about equal
---by 1820 states that rely on slave labor have 42% of votes in House of Reps.
---parity maintained in Senate
---declining southern political power = white southern migration

Frontier Life
---large numbers of single men
---characterized by:
  ---eye-gouging contests
  ---ear biting and teeth bashing
---squatters
---simply staked claims to that they considered empty acreage
"improvements"--building a rough cabin, clearing the land, planting crops

'regularizing' land ownership
  --land titles and payments to assure occupancy

Improvements in communication/transportation:
--1812 Massachusetts 105 turnpike roads; New York, 57
--ex. between 1817 and 1825 the Erie Canal stretched 364 miles
Ante-bellum West

Post War of 1812 peace
--Indian concerns allayed
--post war nationalism
--Louisiana became a state in 1812
--cotton and sugarcane profitable crops
--Mississippi, 1817
--Alabama, 1819
Population in Area

1810--40,000

1820--200,000

1834:

---coastal states 160 million pounds

---Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and other newly settled areas produced 297.5 million pounds

---demand for slaves increased and prices went up

---committed the Gulf (of Mexico) region to a regime of slavery

---unified the South against group or section perceived as a threat

---Florida acquisition, 1819

---Missouri statehood, 1821
--Texas acquisition, 1845

Ideology:

--extension of democracy?

--Main Point: there was a preoccupation with extending slavery, not freedom
Growth Domestic Slave Trade

--1808, African trade officially closed
--domestic trade becomes more profitable
--increased institutionalization
--business firms that dealt in farm supplies expanded to include Africans
--auctioneers disposed of real estate, personal property and slaves
--benevolent organizations sold slaves by lottery
--newspapers as intermediaries: posted adds for sales and runaways
--slave traders ubiquitous
--general stores, taverns county fairs, plantations, estate sales--all participated
--upper South looks for options
--exhausted soil
--turned to slave rearing to supplement loss
--one of the most approved methods of increasing agricultural capital
--slave traders not looked upon highly
--slave-breeding owners were far more common and much more highly esteemed
--bounties and prizes offered for fecundity
--some instances freedom granted to mothers who had enriched masters with 10-15 children
Main Point: slavery directly tied to westward expansion; slavery was BIG BUSINESS; slavery traveled west with southerners
Spanish Colonial Texas
Northern Province of New Spain (Mexico)
Sparsely Populated:
By the 1700s only 3,000 colonists
By the early 1800s 7,000 colonists
Annexing Texas

--more Americans were resident than in all the other coveted regions combined

--quickly turning into an American province, for Mexico welcomed American settlers there

--Stephen Austin: began a colony on the lower Brazos River late in 1821 and by 1824 had more than 2,000 settlers on his lands

--1825, state of Coahuila-Texas offered land to *empresarios*--people who promised to sponsor immigrants
Mexico alarmed

--new edict forbade further immigration, and troops moved to the frontier to enforce the law

illegal immigration

"illegal immigrants moved across the long border as easily as illegal Mexican immigrants would later cross in the other direction."

Melvin Yazawa

--by 1835 American population at 30,000--about ten times the number of Mexicans in Texas

--General Santa Anna dissolved the national congress

--Texans rose in rebellion

--1836--Texans declared their independence and Santa Anna approached with an army of conquest
Manifest Destiny: the ideological motivation for expansion

--American exceptionalism

"Our manifest destiny is to overspread the continent allotted by Providence for the free development of our yearly multiplying millions." John L. O'Sullivan, newspaper editor
"Remember the Alamo"

Texas Annexation(?)
--the republic of Texas drafted a constitution, made Houston its first president and voted for annexation to the United States
--a new slave state?

James K. Polk
--determined to expand westward
--wanted Oregon, Cali., New Mexico, especially
--annexation of Texas by simple joint resolution
--1821-1822 American traders began to make their way to a newly independent Mexico
--American goods traded for gold, silver and furs
--showed that heavy wagons could cross the plains and ‘penetrate’ the mountains
--developed a technique of organized caravans for mutual protection
--began to discover the weakness of Mexico's control over its northern borderlands
--began to implant in American minds their contempt for what some called the "mongrel" population of the region
Constitution of the Republic of Texas

--Slavery legalized; head of each household was given a sizable land grant.

--citizenship denied to African-Americans and Native Americans

--made it illegal for slaveowners to emancipate their own slaves without the consent of Congress
Benito Juárez

--resisted French occupation
--restored the Republic
--modernized the country
Main Points:

Westward expansion a racist, sexist affair that was sold to the American public as a mission to spread civilization and to uplift those who needed "civilization" and democracy.