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POLK

THE MAN WHO TRANSFORMED THE PRESIDENCY AND AMERICA

Random House **In Polk, Walter R. Borneman gives us the first complete and authoritative biography of a president often overshadowed in image but seldom outdone in accomplishment. James K. Polk occupied the White House for only four years, from 1845 to 1849, but he plotted and attained a formidable agenda: He fought for and won tariff reductions, reestablished an independent Treasury, and, most notably, brought Texas into the Union, bluffed Great Britain out of the lion's share of Oregon, and wrested California and much of the Southwest from Mexico. On reflection, these successes seem even more impressive, given the contentious political environment of the time. In this unprecedented, long-overdue warts-and-all look at Polk's life and career, we have a portrait of an expansionist president and decisive statesman who redefined the country he led, and we are reminded anew of the true meaning of presidential accomplishment and resolve.**

THE PRESIDENCY OF JAMES K. POLK

American Presidency (University of K **James K. Polk was one of the strongest and most active presidents ever to occupy the office. In the nineteenth century only Jefferson, Jackson, and Lincoln matched his overall leadership and domination of national government. Bergeron's crisp, insightful narrative shows how and why Polk achieved such stature and yet failed to attract the kind of popular support or retrospective recognition granted other presidential luminaries. A native of North Carolina, Polk prepared for the presidency by honing his leadership skills as a seven-term congressman, speaker of the house, and governor of Tennessee.**

Bergeron's summary and analysis of those years shed light on the foundations of the presidency that followed. He provides fresh new perspectives on Polk's relationship with his cabinet, his skirmishes with Congress over domestic economic legislation, and the curse of presidential patronage. But perhaps the most fascinating portions of this study are devoted to Polk's role as the western expansionist. By the end of his term, the United States had acquired enormous territories in the Southwest and far West. Bergeron demonstrates that Polk adroitly used both war and diplomacy to acquire and protect these lands. When the annexation of Texas led to the outbreak of war with Mexico, Polk was forced to become commander-in-chief of the American forces. In contrast, the potentially explosive dispute with Great Britain over Oregon's borders was settled through purely diplomatic means. Norman A. Graebner, in *America's Top Ten Presidents*, declares, "Polk's achievements in diplomacy were among the most remarkable in American history." Drawing upon a careful review of the extensive literature on our eleventh president, as well as Polk's personal diary, Bergeron has written a significant and balanced reassessment of the Polk presidency. In the process, he has also created a revealing portrait of a complex man who led the nation with imperial determination tempered with compassion, generosity, and even humor.

POLK AND THE PRESIDENCY

University of Texas Press "Who is James K. Polk?" was a rallying cry of the Whigs during the campaign of 1844. Polk answered that question adequately by winning the election against his Whig opponent, Henry Clay. Today the question might be recast—respectfully, not derisively—"Who was James K. Polk?" Few persons could give more than a perfunctory answer, even though when he left office the United States was half again larger than it was when he became president. Polk, unlike his close friend Andrew Jackson, has been the subject of but few books. Stern and serious-minded, intent upon his work, he never caught the public's imagination as did some of the more magnetic personalities who filled the office of president. His lack of personal charm, however, should not hide from generations of Americans the great benefit he brought their country and his key role in developing the powers of the presidency. This book will be a revelation to readers who might be confounded, even momentarily, by the question "Who was James K. Polk?" It is based on the assumption that the presidential power-role, though expressed in the Constitution and prescribed by law, is not a static role but a dynamic one, shaped and developed by a president's personal reaction to the crises and circumstances of the times during which he serves. And Polk faced many crises, among them the Mexican War, the Oregon boundary dispute, the tariff question, Texas's admission to the Union, and the establishment by the United States of a more stable and respected position in the world of nations. Based on the dynamic power-role theory, the book analyzes its

theme of how and why James K. Polk, the eleventh president of the United States, responded to the challenges of his times and thereby increased the authority and importance of the presidential role for future incumbents. Charles McCoy became interested in writing this book after two of his friends, both informed historians, pointed out to him that James K. Polk was a neglected figure in American history. Preliminary research showed this to be true, but without reason—for, as the eminent historian George Bancroft said, “viewed from the standpoint of results, [Polk’s administration] was perhaps the greatest in our national history, certainly one of the greatest.” For his own astute appraisal of the Polk administration, McCoy emphasized the use of firsthand sources of information: the Polk Diary; newspapers of the period; the unpublished papers of Polk, Jackson, Trist, Marcy, and Van Buren; and congressional documents and reports.

JAMES K. POLK

THE AMERICAN PRESIDENTS SERIES: THE 11TH PRESIDENT, 1845-1849

Times Books The story of a pivotal president who watched over our westward expansion and solidified the dream of Jacksonian democracy James K. Polk was a shrewd and decisive commander in chief, the youngest president elected to guide the still-young nation, who served as Speaker of the House and governor of Tennessee before taking office in 1845. Considered a natural successor to Andrew Jackson, "Young Hickory" miraculously revived his floundering political career by riding a wave of public sentiment in favor of annexing the Republic of Texas to the Union. Shortly after his inauguration, he settled the disputed Oregon boundary and by 1846 had declared war on Mexico in hopes of annexing California. The considerably smaller American army never lost a battle. At home, however, Polk suffered a political firestorm of antiwar attacks from many fronts. Despite his tremendous accomplishments, he left office an extremely unpopular man, on whom stress had taken such a physical toll that he died within three months of departing Washington. Fellow Tennessean John Seigenthaler traces the life of this president who, as Truman noted, "said what he intended to do and did it."

JAMES K. POLK

A CLEAR AND UNQUESTIONABLE DESTINY

Rowman & Littlefield When he was elected President in 1845, James K. Polk was only 49 years old—at that time the youngest president ever to be elected. He faced a conflicted nation on the verge of tremendous territorial expansion. James K. Polk's four years in office marked the greatest period of territorial acquisition in the history of the country—what New York journalist John O'Sullivan termed as the 'Manifest Destiny' of the United

States to expand across the continent. By the end of Polk's presidency in 1849, U.S. possessions included the California, Oregon, and New Mexico territories. In addition, Texas had become part of the Union. This book analyzes Polk's political career and his role in each of these territorial expansions. James K. Polk: A Clear and Unquestionable Destiny shows that they were far more complex than the moral crusade that had been labeled 'Manifest Destiny.' Southern planters wanted to protect their 'peculiar institution' of slavery by adding new territories from which slave states would be carved. Commercial interests feared that war with England over any of these territories would adversely impact upon the nation's trade. Although the Oregon boundary dispute was settled with little friction, the Mexican War erupted after the annexation of Texas. This fascinating biography of our eleventh president and his successful efforts for expansion of U.S. territory will be of interest to students studying United States history, foreign policy, and the massive territorial expansion in the 1840s known as Manifest Destiny.

THE DIARY OF JAMES K. POLK DURING HIS PRESIDENCY

"There are three key reasons why James K. Polk deserves recognition as a significant and influential American president," Polk biographer, Walter Borneman, wrote. "First, Polk accomplished the objectives of his presidential term as he defined them; second, he was the most decisive chief executive before the Civil War; and third, he greatly expanded the executive power of the presidency, particularly its war powers, its role as commander-in-chief, and its oversight of the executive branch." President Harry S. Truman summarized this view by saying that Polk was "a great president. Said what he intended to do and did it." The ramifications of Polk's presidency resound down to our own day. The most controversial action he took was the invasion of Mexico. Criticism by a young congressman by the name of Abraham Lincoln's hurt Lincoln's re-election to the congress. It was a war that saw action by Robert E. Lee, Ulysses S. Grant, and many others who would later fight in the Civil War. Polk's decision is still debated on ethical grounds. Grant later wrote, "I was bitterly opposed to the [Texas annexation], and to this day regard the war, which resulted, as one of the most unjust ever waged by a stronger against a weaker nation." Polk was a fervent believer in Manifest Destiny and is the president considered most influential in expanding the U.S. across the continent. He was a lifelong slave-holder and was considered by abolitionists to be a tool of the pro-slavery powers.

JAMES K. POLK

AMERICA'S 11TH PRESIDENT

Childrens Press A biography of the eleventh president of the United States, with information on his childhood, family, political career, presidency, and

legacy.

POLK AND THE PRESIDENCY

THE DIARY OF JAMES K. POLK DURING HIS PRESIDENCY, 1845 TO 1849 ..

THE DIARY OF JAMES POLK DURING HIS PRESIDENCY 1845-49

THE DIARY OF JAMES K. POLK DURING HIS PRESIDENCY, 1845 TO 1849, NOW FIRST PRINTED FROM THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT IN THE COLLECTIONS OF THE CHICAGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY; VOLUME 3

Best Books on

PRESIDENT JAMES K. POLK

THE DARK HORSE PRESIDENT

Nova Publishers **The First Men, America's Presidents** series explains the personal and public life of each President of the United States. Their qualities of character and leadership are aptly interpreted and offer strong role models for all citizens. Presidential successes are recorded for posterity, as are the pitfalls that should be guarded against in the future. This series also explains the domestic reasons and world backdrop for the expansion of the Executive Office of the President. The President of the United States is perhaps the most coveted position in the world and this series reveals the lives of all those successfully elected, how each performed as president, and how each is to be measured in history. The collective life stories of the presidents reveal the greatness that America represents in the world.

A COUNTRY OF VAST DESIGNS

JAMES K. POLK, THE MEXICAN WAR AND THE CONQUEST OF THE AMERICAN CONTINENT

Simon and Schuster **A New York Times Bestseller and New York Times Notable Book** Robert Merry's brilliant and highly acclaimed history of a crucial epoch in U.S. history—the presidency of James K. Polk, "our most underrated president" (Walter Isaacson, author of *Einstein*). In a one-term presidency, James K. Polk completed the story of America's Manifest Destiny—extending its territory across the continent by threatening England with war and manufacturing a controversial and unpopular two-year war with Mexico. "A crucial architect of modern America, James K. Polk deserves to be elevated out of the mists of history" (Jon Meacham, author of *American Lion*).

THE DIARY OF JAMES K. POLK DURING HIS PRESIDENCY, 1845 TO 1849

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THE DIARY OF JAMES K. POLK DURING HIS PRESIDENCY

1845 TO 1849, NOW FIRST PRINTED FROM THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT IN THE COLLECTIONS OF THE CHICAGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE DIARY OF JAMES K. POLK DURING HIS PRESIDENCY, 1845 TO 1849

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A COUNTRY OF VAST DESIGNS

**JAMES K. POLK, THE MEXICAN WAR AND THE CONQUEST OF THE
AMERICAN CONTINENT**

Simon and Schuster Explores the one-term presidency of James K. Polk, during which the United States extended its territory across the continent by threatening England and manufacturing a controversial war with Mexico that Abraham Lincoln opposed.

**THE DIARY OF JAMES K. POLK DURING HIS PRESIDENCY, 1845 TO
1849: NOW FIRST PRINTED FROM THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT
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**THE DIARY OF JAMES K. POLK DURING HIS PRESIDENCY, 1845 TO
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JAMES K. POLK

Checkerboard Library A biography of the eleventh American president, whose term in office saw many western states added to the United States.

THE DIARY OF JAMES K. POLK DURING HIS PRESIDENCY, 1845 TO 1849

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THE DIARY OF JAMES K. POLK DURING HIS PRESIDENCY, 1845 TO 1849

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SLAVEMASTER PRESIDENT

THE DOUBLE CAREER OF JAMES POLK

[Oxford University Press](#) **James Polk was President of the United States from 1845 to 1849, a time when slavery began to dominate American politics. Polk's presidency coincided with the eruption of the territorial slavery issue, which within a few years would lead to the catastrophe of the Civil War. Polk himself owned substantial cotton plantations-- in Tennessee and later in Mississippi-- and some 50 slaves. Unlike many antebellum planters who portrayed their involvement with slavery as a historical burden bestowed onto them by their ancestors, Polk entered the slave business of his own volition, for reasons principally of financial self-interest. Drawing on previously unexplored records, Slavemaster President recreates the world of Polk's plantation and the personal histories of his slaves, in what is arguably the most careful and vivid account to date of how slavery functioned on a single cotton plantation. Life at the Polk estate was brutal and often short. Fewer than one in two slave children lived to the age of fifteen, a child mortality rate even higher than that on the average plantation. A steady stream of slaves temporarily fled the plantation throughout Polk's tenure as absentee slavemaster. Yet Polk was in some respects an enlightened owner, instituting an unusual incentive plan for his slaves and granting extensive privileges to his most favored slave. Startlingly, Dusiaberre shows how Polk sought to hide from public knowledge the fact that, while he was president, he was secretly buying as many slaves as his plantation revenues permitted. Shortly before his sudden death from cholera, the president quietly drafted a new will, in which he expressed the hope that his slaves might be freed--but only after he and his wife were both dead. The very next day, he authorized the purchase, in strictest secrecy, of six more very young slaves. By contrast with Senator John C. Calhoun, President Polk has been seen as a moderate Southern Democratic leader. But Dusiaberre suggests that the president's political stance toward slavery-- influenced as it was by his deep personal involvement in the plantation system-- may actually have helped precipitate the Civil War that Polk sought to avoid.**

THE DIARY OF JAMES K. POLK DURING HIS PRESIDENCY, 1845 TO 1849; NOW FIRST PRINTED FROM THE ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT OWNED BY THE SOCIETY VOLUME 7

[Theclassics.Us](#) **This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can usually download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1910 edition. Excerpt: ...with Brigadier Gen'l's Quitman 6: Marshall' was slight, and that I did not know Brigadier Gen'l Lane2 personally. I asked him, from the number of volunteer forces he would have with him, if he would not require the services of both the Maj'r Generals. He said he thought he**

would and also of 4 of the Brigadiers. In this I concurred with him, and he decided to take that number. He decided also to take Gen'l Worth with the Division of regulars. Gen'ls Twiggs 6: Wool 6: two of the Brigadier Gen'ls of Volunteers would remain with Gen'l Taylor. I told him that for the new requisition of 9 Regiments lately made, I would probably appoint one Maj'r Gen'l 6: one Brigadier Gen'l, 6: that if he deemed it proper they also could be attached to Gen'l Taylor's column. To all this he agreed. He was in a very fine humour, appeared to be free and open in his conversation 6: was very communicative. This was reception evening. Quite a number of persons, ladies 6: gentlemen, called. SATURDAY, 21st November, 184().--The Cabinet met at the usual hour to-day, all the members present except the P. M. Gen'l, who is indisposed as I learn. Despatches were received last night from Gen'l Taylor, which the Secretary of War produced and they were read. They gave a more detailed account of the battle of Monterey, but contained no explanation of the reasons which induced him to agree to the armistice. A separate despatch was in answer to the despatch from the Secretary of War of the 22nd of September last, in relation to the proposed expedition into the interior of Tamaulipas and against Tampico. It was written in bad temper, and was wholly unwarranted by the despatch of the Secretary...

JAMES K. POLK

TERRITORIAL EXPANSIONIST AND THE EVOLUTION OF PRESIDENTIAL POWER

This thesis argues that through President James K. Polk's leadership style (micro-managing domestic/foreign issues), his understanding of bureaucracy, and dominating his Cabinet, enabled Polk to achieve what his predecessors could not. Furthermore, Polk's leadership and administrative style foreshadowed, and perhaps provided a precedent for the modern American presidency. To demonstrate Polk's leadership style, two areas must be examined. First, explain Polk's keys to success while in office, in particular his leadership style in relation to his policies. President Polk's direct involvement in domestic and foreign issues enabled him to achieve his four administrative goals: tariff reduction, creation of an Independent Treasury, settlement of the Oregon Territory between the U.S. and England, and acquiring California. For example, he pushed economic legislation in Congress (Independent Treasury), and micro-managed the Mexican War to accomplish territorial objectives. Secondly, examine the departure that President Polk made from previous administrations in regards to administrative skill. Compared to preceding administrations, President Polk was an excellent leader who firmly managed his Cabinet. He consulted his Cabinet on policy questions, but the final decision was his to make. Furthermore, he knew precisely what he wanted to accomplish as president, and he understood the political channels he needed to consult to achieve his goals.

THE DIARY OF JAMES K. POLK DURING HIS PRESIDENCY, 1845 TO 1849

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THE DIARY OF JAMES K. POLK DURING HIS PRESIDENCY, 1845 TO 1849

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MET HIS EVERY GOAL?

JAMES K. POLK AND THE LEGENDS OF MANIFEST DESTINY

Univ. of Tennessee Press Soon after winning the presidency in 1845, according to the oft-repeated anecdote, James K. Polk slapped his thigh and predicted what would be the "four great measures" of his administration: the acquisition of some or all of the Oregon Country, the acquisition of California, a reduction in tariffs, and the establishment of a permanent independent treasury. Over the next four years, the Tennessee

Democrat achieved all four goals. And those milestones—along with his purported enunciation of them—have come to define his presidency. Indeed, repeated ad infinitum in U.S. history textbooks, Polk's bold listing of goals has become U.S. political history's equivalent of Babe Ruth's called home run of the 1932 World Series, in which the slugger allegedly gestured toward the outfield and, on the next pitch, slammed a home run. But then again, as Tom Chaffin reveals in this lively tour de force of historiographic sleuthing, like Ruth's alleged "called shot" of 1932, the "four measures" anecdote hangs by the thinnest of evidentiary threads. Indeed, not until the late 1880s, four decades after Polk's presidency, did the story first appear in print. In this eye-opening study, Tom Chaffin, author, historian, and, since 2008, editor of the multi-volume series *Correspondence of James K. Polk*, dispatches the thigh-slap anecdote and other misconceptions associated with Polk. In the process, Chaffin demonstrates how the "four measures" story has skewed our understanding of the 11th U.S. president. As president, Polk enlarged his nation's area by a third—thus rendering it truly a coast-to-coast continental nation-state. Indeed, the anecdote does not record, and effectively obscures complex events, including notable failures—such as Polk's botched effort to purchase Cuba, as well as his inability to shape the terms of California's and the New Mexico territory's admission into the Union. Cuba would never enter the federal Union; and those other tasks would be left for successor presidents. Indeed, debates over the future of slavery in the United States—debates accelerated by Polk's territorial gains—eventually produced perhaps the central irony of his legacy: A president devoted to national unity further sectionalized the nation's politics, widening geopolitical fractures among the states that soon led to civil war. Engagingly written and lavishly illustrated, *Met His Every Goal?*—intended for general readers, students, and specialists—offers a primer on Polk and a revisionist view of much of the scholarship concerning him and his era. Drawing on published scholarship as well as contemporary documents—including heretofore unpublished materials—it presents a fresh portrait of an enigmatic autocrat. And in Chaffin's examination of an oft-repeated anecdote long accepted as fact, readers witness a case study in how historians use primary sources to explore—and in some cases, explode—received conceptions of the past. Tom Chaffin is research professor at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, for which he directs and edits the multi-volume series *Correspondence of James K. Polk*. He lives in Atlanta and is the author of, among other books, *Giant's Causeway: Frederick Douglass's Irish Odyssey* and *The Making of an American Visionary, Pathfinder: John Charles Frémont and the Course of Empire*, and *Sea of Gray: The Around-the-World Odyssey of the Confederate Raider Shenandoah*.

"YOUNG HICKORY,"

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF PRESIDENT JAMES K. POLK

A biography of our eleventh President, who previously served as a U.S. Congressman and a Governor of Tennessee.

CORRESPONDENCE OF JAMES K. POLK

JANUARY-JULY 1847

Volume 12 of the Correspondence of James K. Polk documents a critical seven months in one of America's most transformational presidencies. Polk was the eleventh U.S. president (1845-49). Many of this volume's letters chronicle the Tennessean's prosecution of the Mexican War, a conflict that, along with his 1846 acquisition of what is today's Pacific Northwest, increased by one-third the size of the United States. The letters, most of them until now unpublished, also lift the veil on the personal life and business affairs of one of the most private men ever to occupy the presidency. Between January and July 1847, the Democratic president and his supporters celebrated American military triumphs at Buena Vista, Sacramento, Veracruz, and elsewhere. In July, the war's final engagements lay months away. The lines of authority between Polk and his generals and diplomats in Mexico were almost as muddled as those among officials of the rivalry-ridden Mexican state. Yet the administration, as the letters document, already was pondering the size of the war's territorial spoils for the United States. The letters also reveal often-overlooked foreign-policy interests under Polk, including Hawaii and Cuba, as well as the administration's concern with European affairs. Polk took a personal interest in the famine ravaging Ireland and in March 1847 placed two naval ships into civilian hands to transport to Ireland foodstuffs donated by private charities. The correspondence also documents Polk's concerns with domestic politics. He had arrived at the White House having forsworn a second presidential term. Even so, he and his Democratic supporters kept a wary eye on the party's fortunes—from the 1848 presidential race to elections for state houses and Congress. Political-patronage appointments also won his attention. The letters reveal a party leader determined to use the spoils of office to reward allies and deny political opponents berths in the federal bureaucracy. Correspondence concerning business affairs of his Mississippi plantation documents Polk the businessman, intimately involved in the trading of slaves. Other letters, to family members and old schoolmates, reveal the publicly hard-nosed president as a doting husband, son, uncle, and friend.

THE DIARY OF JAMES K. POLK DURING HIS PRESIDENCY, 1845 TO 1849. NOW FIRST PRINTED ... EDITED AND ANNOTATED BY M. M. QUAIFFE ... WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY A. C. MCLAUGHLIN

JAMES K. POLK

ABDO The United States president preserves, protects, and defends the U.S. Constitution. Each president's term influences events in America and around the world for years to come. This biography introduces young readers to the life of James K. Polk, beginning with his childhood in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, and Columbia, Tennessee. Information about Polk's education at the University of North Carolina and his early career as a lawyer and clerk in the Tennessee state senate is discussed. In addition, his family and personal life, as well as his retirement to Polk Place is highlighted. Easy-to-read text details Polk's political career as a member of the Tennessee House of Representatives, a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, and Speaker of the House. Finally, students will explore key events from Democratic president Polk's administration, including the passage of the Independent Treasury Act, the Oregon Treaty, as well as the Mexican War and the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, from which the Mexican Cession was gained. Beautiful graphics showcase the primary source documents and photographs. A timeline, fast facts, and sidebars help put essential information at students' fingertips. In addition, a quick-reference chart provides easy access to facts about every U.S. president. Checkerboard Library is an imprint of ABDO Publishing Company.

THE DIARY OF JAMES K. POLK DURING HIS PRESIDENCY, 1845 TO 1849

CORRESPONDENCE OF JAMES K. POLK VOL 14, APRIL 1848-JUNE 1849, VOLUME 14

Univ Tennessee Press In the second half of 1845 the focus of Polk's correspondence shifted from those issues relating to the formation of his administration and distribution of part patronage to those that would give shape and consequence to his presidency: the admission of Texas, preparation for its defense, restoration of diplomatic relations with Mexico, and termination of joint occupancy of the Oregon Country. For the most part the incoming letters tended to urge rather more militancy on the Texas and Oregon questions than Polk would adopt, and notions of national destiny registered a singular theme of buoyant confidence in taking on both Mexico and Great Britain if military action should be required. President Polk and Secretary of State James Buchanan succeeded in both using and controlling the surge of nationalism that heightened expectations for expansion westward. Polk and Buchanan agreed on the importance of reestablishing diplomatic relations with Mexico, but the President chose to take a personal hand in managing the selection and instruction of John Slidell, whose departure for Vera Cruz would not be made public until he had arrived in Mexico. Polk wanted to give the fledgling Mexican administration of Jose Joaquin Herrera a chance to

compose Mexico's differences with Washington free of contrary pressures from Great Britain and France; and he fully understood the price that Herrera might pay for a peaceful settlement of the Texas question. If Mexico required more than \$6 million for the purchase of their two most northern provinces, as provided in his instructions, Slidell might agree to any reasonable additional sum. Slidell's mission probably never had much chance of success, for without control of his military the Herrera administration could neither give up its claim to Texas nor overcome British opposition to the sale of New Mexico and Upper California. Within but a few days of Slidell's arrival in the Mexican capital, Mariano Paredes y Argilla organized a military coup, put the Herrera government to flight, and on January 2, 1846, declared himself interim president of Mexico. Polk left on the table his predecessor's initiative to divide the Oregon Country at the 49th parallel with all of Vancouver Island going to the British. The summary rejection of that offer by the British minister to Washington, Richard Packenham, so angered Polk that on August 30th he formally withdrew all prior offers to settle the dispute. The British foreign secretary, Lord Aberdeen, disavowed and assured the U.S. minister to Britain, Louis McLane, that no ultimatum had been sanctioned by his government. Buchanan tried in vain to soften Polk's decision to initiate further negotiations, but he had determined to give the required one year advance notice prior to abrogating the treaty of joint occupancy. Accordingly, in his First Annual Message to Congress Polk asked for a joint resolution terminating Oregon agreements with Great Britain. Polk received high praise for his Message and its hard line on Texas and Oregon. In addition to the texts, briefs, and annotations, the editors have calendared all of the documents for the last six months of 1845. Entries for unpublished letters include documents dates, addresses, classifications, repositories, and precis. The Polk Project is sponsored by the University of Tennessee and assisted by grants from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, the Nations Endowment for the Humanities, and the Tennessee Historical Commission. The Authors: Wayne Cutler is research professor of history at the University of Tennessee. He earned his bachelor's degree at Lamar University and his master's and doctor's degrees and University of Texas at Austin. Professor Cutler became director of the Polk Project in 1975, served as associate editor in the fourth volume of the correspondence, and headed the editorial team in the preparation of the series fifth and subsequent volumes. He began his professional career in 1966 as an editorial associate of the Southwestern Historic Quarterly and moved to the assistant editorship of the Henry Clay Project in 1970. James L. Rogers II, the Project's associate editor from 1995 until 2002, received both his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Louisiana at Monroe and his doctor's degree from the University of Tennessee. He joined the Polk staff in 1991 as graduate research assistant and became associate editor following completion of the series ninth volume. "

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