

**THE TERRITORIAL
ACQUISITIONS OF THE
UNITED STATES: AN
HISTORICAL REVIEW**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649719211

The Territorial Acquisitions of the United States: An Historical Review by Edward Bicknell

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

EDWARD BICKNELL

**THE TERRITORIAL
ACQUISITIONS OF THE
UNITED STATES: AN
HISTORICAL REVIEW**

THE
TERRITORIAL ACQUISITIONS
OF THE UNITED STATES

THE
Territorial Acquisitions
of the United States

An Historical Review
BY
EDWARD BICKNELL



BOSTON
SMALL, MAYNARD & COMPANY
1899

PREFACE

Because all the world is discussing the results of the war of 1898, this historical review, which recites in detail all the precedents established by the United States since the beginning of its government, should aid very greatly the intelligent comprehension of the subject.

It is evidently the author's intention to avoid partisanship or controversy. He has told the whole truth, in simple graphic language, concerning every event that has occurred which has any relation to the gradual growth of a small, scattered group of States into the magnificent domain which is now the United States of America; and he has left the reader to his own conclusions as to the propriety and wisdom of extending the national control to lands beyond the sea.

W.

CONTENTS

Chapter I. The Northwestern Territory. 1787 Page	3
Extent of the thirteen original States—The Northwestern Territory the first national domain—Organised before the adoption of the Constitution—An additional bond of union and an incentive to a needed national feeling—Its organization the foundation of our system of territorial government—Slavery within it forbidden, but tacitly permitted south of the Ohio—To be held under territorial government only temporarily—The same theory in regard to all the territories until 1898.	
Chapter II. Louisiana. 1802. . . Page	11
First acquisition of foreign land—The Louisiana Purchase—The region explored and occupied first by the French—La Salle—Ceded to Spain in compensation for land lost by her in aiding France—Early quarrels between the United States and Spain—Navigation of the Mississippi in question—Its importance to the Western country—The treaty with Spain under Washington's administration—Difficulties created by Spain in John Adams's administration—Spain's agreement to restore Louisiana to France—French possession a political and commercial danger to the United States.	
Chapter III. Louisiana (concluded) Page	21
Jefferson's position—Monroe and Livingston exceed their authority and grasp the great opportunity—Treaty made selling Louisiana to the United States—Its further provision that States	

CONTENTS

should in time be formed from the territory ceded — The opposition of the Federalists — Their allegations as to the incompatibility of the population with our institutions and the unconstitutionality of the annexation — The treaty ratified, however, with little effective opposition — Prophecies of ill to follow not fulfilled — No especial benefit to the South more than to the North — Free States as well as slave States formed within the territory — The Constitution stretched, but not amended — First precedent as to the power of annexation established — Consent of people not deemed necessary, another precedent.

Chapter IV. Florida. 1819 . . Page 31

Owned by Spain — Ceded to England and then restored to Spain — West Florida "annexed" to the Union — Another step in the development of the power of the national government — Jackson's invasion in 1814 — Our possession in 1818 — Troubles with the Seminoles — Jackson's second invasion — The whole territory finally bought by the United States under a species of duress — Boundary line between Mexico (Spanish) and the United States fixed at same time — Little question as to the constitutional power to acquire Florida — The Louisiana precedent strengthened — Louisiana and Florida a benefit to the whole Union.

Chapter V. Oregon. 1846 . . Page 40

Acquired through discovery and by occupation — The fur trade — Captain Gray and the Columbia — Jefferson's encouragement — Lewis and Clark's expedition — John Jacob Astor's enterprise — Dispute with England — The "Oregon Question" in politics — "Fifty-four forty or fight" — Convention with England concluded — Boundary fixed by compromise.

CONTENTS

Chapter VI. Texas, 1845 . . . Page	50
Slavery potent in the acquisition of territory from Mexico—Early occupation by the Spanish of what is now our Southwest—Less conspicuous in Texas—Contraband trade—Dissatisfaction in the United States with the boundary line fixed in 1819—Henry Clay's opposition.	
Chapter VII. Texas (concluded) . Page	56
Mexican independence gained—Stephen F. Austin—Early settlers of Texas—Texas joined in one Mexican State with Coahuila—Injustice of the Mexican authorities—Texas American in its people and habits of thought—Two attempts on the part of the United States to buy Texas from Mexico—Texas petitions the Mexican government to be allowed to become a separate Mexican State—Revolts from Mexico—Sam Houston's victory—Texas independent—Polk's election—Annexed to the United States by joint resolution—Annexation not to be condemned <i>per se</i> , but because of manner and time—Clay's views.	
Chapter VIII. The Mexican Cessions, 1848; 1853 Page	67
The Mexican War—Apparently a war of conquest—Santa Anna—The Wilmot Proviso—Scott's victory—A large amount of territory ceded to the United States by the Treaty of Peace, and compensation given to Mexico—States to be formed from the ceded territory—The party responsible for the war defeated at the next national election—The Gadsden purchase—Last acquisition of contiguous territory by the United States—Results of the Mexican War—Beginning of the end of slavery—Texas the last slave State admitted to the Union.	