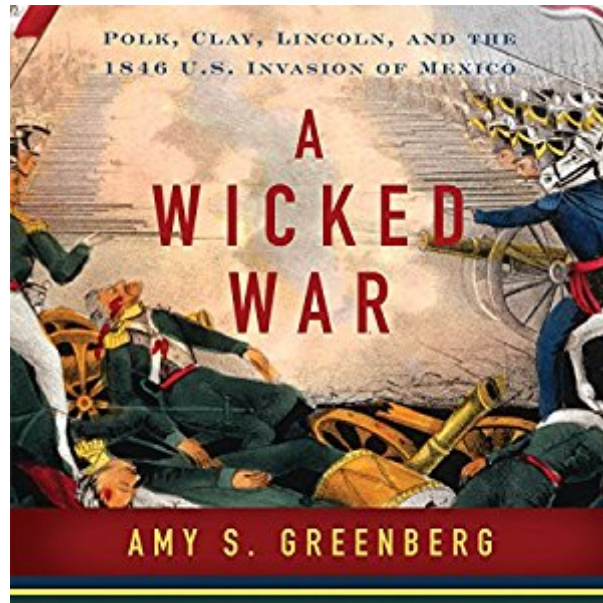


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# A Wicked War: Polk, Clay, Lincoln And The 1846 U.S. Invasion Of Mexico



## Synopsis

A Wicked War presents the definitive history of the 1846 war between the United States and Mexico - a conflict that turned America into a continental power. Amy Greenberg describes the battles between American and Mexican armies, but also delineates the political battles between Democrats and Whigs - the former led by the ruthless Polk, the latter by the charismatic Henry Clay and a young representative from Illinois named Abraham Lincoln. Greenberg brilliantly recounts this key chapter in the creation of the United States with authority and narrative flair.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A Wicked War" by Historian Amy S. Greenberg details her view of the circumstances of the United States of America's first war against another republic: the war with the Republic of Mexico from 1846 to 1848. The word "Wicked" comes from Ulysses S. Grant's own negative description of the manner in which we waged war on the opposing Mexican military personnel and civilians, saying that as a youthful soldier he should have had the courage to resign because of it. But there is some blame to be shared on both sides as the author shows but mainly from an American viewpoint. It also details the key roles of five men: the well known trio of the sage Henry Clay, President James K. Polk, and a young Whig named Abraham Lincoln, and the lesser known duo of Colonel John J. Hardin who was killed at Buena Vista and the complex, cagey Nicholas Trist, in the run up to and the actual conduct of the war from 1844-48. The victory led, in one fell swoop, to the annexation of half of Mexico's land that eventually became the complete states of California, Utah, and Nevada,

and portions of the states of Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. The army encountered uncouth behavior mainly from the volunteers, disease, the existence of unspeakable atrocities, high desertion rate where some deserters fought against the US, and death in the forbidding desert and beyond, which later included an encounter with a repatriated General Santa Ana. The uniqueness of this book comes from the personal perspectives by way of letters, newspaper articles, other historical books, diaries, and other sources used by author Greenberg to flesh out the political maneuvers and grisly wartime circumstances encountered by both sides in this almost inevitable war.

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