

In this project, the *American Whig Review*, published in March 1848, will be reviewed. First of all, there will be a brief introduction about the magazine. Then this essay will briefly go over the issues in the magazine published in March 1848 and go specifically into one article, “Calhoun Speech against the Conquest of Mexico.” The *American Whig Review* is a magazine that deals with politics, literature, art and science. It was published in New York from 1845 to 1848 by Wiley, Putnam, and others. The magazine’s reader is mostly the Whig Party. The *American Whig Review* published in March 1848 has several editorials and poems. The first article to appear in the magazine was “Calhoun Speech against the Conquest of Mexico.” It critically analyzes Calhoun’s Speech against the Conquest of Mexico and defended the political stance that the Whig Party took.

Following that is a sonnet titled, “Midnight.” In the next article “China,” Mr. William, who stayed in China for 12 years as the Printer to the American Board of Foreign Mission, describes China. He describes the agriculture, manufacture, government and daily patterns of China. “John Bull the Compassionate” sarcastically calls the British John Bull, and claims that the British is condescending to give economic advices to America, which are in fact, not at all helpful to the Americans. Then follows, “the Angels, Epigram,” which are poems. The next article “Charles Brockden Brown” tries to explain why Brockden Brown, a novelist who is highly praised by

Britain and known well to the current people was not highly recognized by the ancestors. “The Life and Public Services of the Hon. Robert Charles Winthrop” writes on Mr. Winthrop’s (the descendent of John Winthrop) personal life, such as marriage and describes his political achievements and his fidelity as a Whig. The article ends with a hope that Mr. Winthrop, who is the present speaker of the House of Representatives, would also thrive later in his life with his

admirable characteristics. The next article, “The Representative Government” claims that the electoral sovereignty is and should be paramount to the governing sovereignty. The article “New Edition of the Webster’s Dictionary” introduces some added traits to the new edition of the Webster’s Dictionary, including the lowered price. The next article, “Adventures in Mexico,” writes about an adventurer’s book, which the author writes about his travel through Mexico in a flattering, confident and yet fascinating manner. The writer of the article, “Calhoun Speech against the Conquest of Mexico” begins by introducing to the readers the benefits of the Whig Party. Then it explains the vulnerable disposition of Americans and the need for the law. The author urges the Americans to hear the voice of the experienced men such as Clay, Webster, Calhoun and others. The major issue the article deals with is the question of what to do with Mexico. Three distinct plans have been suggested. The author focuses on Calhoun’s suggestion and refutes it. The Whig party holds at present a better position because they have predicted the results of the policy that the opposite party held. They defend Americans and their neighbors’ rights. Particularly, they have opposed the annexation of Texas. That was for moral and constitutional reason. Another reason was a belief that a free institution can only be maintained by a just and equitable policy.

The Americans, if left without law, would be warlike people. They would oppress weaker people with harsh restrictions. Therefore, they must fear the overgrowing of their own passions and revere free opinion and the law. Because Americans constitute the government, they should frequently refer back to the Constitution and find what is the best for the good of the whole. Differences may rise as to what is the best for the nation. Parties are formed as a result. In those tumultuous differences in opinion, they should hear the voice of the great minds.

False enthusiasm about war has led the Americans to a situation where some measures must be taken about Mexico. There are three suggestions. First, persevere in conquest until the Mexico is able to receive the offer the liberty of forming a state and enter the Union. Second, fix upon a new boundary. Those who agree with the second solution, including Calhoun, think that peace is impossible, with the Mexicans in the Union. They think they should withdraw troops in Mexico and set a new boundary, or entirely conquer Mexico. Third, retire behind old boundary. Those who believe in the third option do not believe in the ability of the Union to maintain itself bigger than the present state. The writer of the article contends that the likeness of character is what makes the Union together, not the size of it. The writer also argues that purchase of property, including land, is possible as long as it is lawful, based on liberty and equality.

Then why does Mr. Calhoun buy into the second option? Mr. Calhoun opposes incorporating Mexico and gives three main points. The author argues with the each points made. First, Calhoun maintains that incorporating Mexico is in conflict with free popular institution. The adoption of Mexico, thence, will ruin present institution. He gives an example of countries which tried this, such as Greek and Romans. None of those countries succeeded in uniting with other race and accepting the diversity. This challenge led to the downfall of these nations. Calhoun also predicts that the executive power will grow out-of- controllably in the process of incorporating Mexico. The out-grown executive power is highly likely to lead to despotism or anarchy. However, the author maintains that it was not because those nations tried the systems (incorporating other races) that they were ruined. It is because they failed to adhere to, and cherish their law that they failed. Corrupt men and their manners lead to the downfall of a nation, not the system. The author argues that the executive power is checked by several systems of the nation, including the Constitution. Second, Calhoun claims that the Constitution is made by a

fortunate combination of circumstances. It is therefore harder to maintain the Constitution than to make one. He believes that Americans are pursuing military glory too much, while they have neglected to preserve liberty, which is more important than. The author of the article is angered by Calhoun's statement that the Constitution is a consequence of fortunate circumstances. He firmly asserts that it is not the fortune, but the agents of affairs of men and the passion and reason of men that led to the formation to the Constitution. He, however, agrees with Mr. Calhoun that people are neglectful in preserving liberty.

The last point Calhoun makes is that the American government is a government of white men. Colored people cannot share the same rights and society that present America is enjoying. He believes that the power of the Spanish Empire declined due to the mixture of races within the nation. On the other hand, the article thinks that it was not the matter of it the ethnicity was same or diverse. Only thing that matters is if a citizen is educated to organize a society. If, a Mexican, is educated enough to be a constituent of a society, incorporating Mexico would not be a problem. Moreover, Calhoun's assertion that the law is not open for the colored people is unsound. This is because the Constitution did not expand its right in deciding the liberty of colored people. It gave the states the freedom to decide. Some states in the Union have already given the colored people the rights. Then, Calhoun is opposing the decision of those states

In 1846, Congress declared war against Mexico. Through several battles and victories, on February 2, 1848, Mexican government reached an agreement with the United States. "Calhoun Speech against the Conquest of Mexico" was published in March 1848, right after the war with Mexico. The question left was what to do with Mexico. Before reading the article, I thought that one could say yes or no on this issue. Reading this, I realized that either side, whether agreed or opposed with incorporating some parts of Mexico, had complex reason for their opinion. The

word “law, justice, morality” came out very frequently in the article. More than economic and political reasons, the Whig party is trying to focus on human reason and what is justice. When the Whig party logically refuted Calhoun’s speech, I could not disagree with the Whig Party’s reasoning. The Whig Party did a fabulous work in analyzing the current situation and opposing the present suggestions. However, I wondered what the Whig Party’s opinion was. I know that they were against some ideas, but I could not find their suggestion, nor their distinct opinion in the article. These articles published in March 1848 are about 100 pages long. All these would have been written in two sentences or one paragraph in my textbook. Since the articles described in detail, I was more personalized about things happening in that time, while reading the articles. I felt like I was sneaking into the minds of people living in that time. After this project, I got closer to the faraway characters and events of 1848, a year of confusion after the war, which was fascinating.