

Questions related to Calhoun's Speech on the Conquest of Mexico

1. Senator John C. Calhoun wants the United States to keep possession of western Texas, New Mexico, and California, which constituted the northern half of Mexico, but he does not want the United States to keep possession of the southern half of Mexico. Why is that?
2. Calhoun claims ours is "the Government of a white race." Does Calhoun view Mexicans as being part of the white race, and why does that matter to him?
3. What does Calhoun believe would happen if Mexicans were incorporated into the United States as equals?
4. According to Calhoun, if the United States held Mexico as a "subjected province," in what two ways would power shift in the United States?
5. Calhoun refers to Manifest Destiny as a mistake. How is it mistaken?
6. What does Calhoun's speech reveal about the scope and depth of racism in 19th century America?