USDL1) Intro - Perry’s mission and Mexican war

American empire or not? - America as an empire is completely counter intuitive to what America stands for
Bush and Obama in their speeches evoke widely held ideals about American beliefs

- Military power -
  - 700 overseas American bases in over 70 countries
  - Which is not exact it could be up to 1000
  - In 2011 the US spent roughly 40% of the world's total military spending
  - In 2012 6 of the world's 10 largest corporations were America
  - It still maintains the world's largest economy being in 2011 twice the size of the Chinese

Cultural power -
- Television
- Music
- Fashion
- The image that America presents through its entertainment industry, its fast food, its products and material abundance, pursuit of happiness is one of the most seductive and far reaching aspects of American power
- Democracy, individualism, freedom - real cultural power

American continental expansion
- Isolationism - America was never isolated from the outside world, it is a poor choice of description, America was tightly integrated into the world economy and depended on international trade
- Very early on it was a highly neutral power for economic reasons but not isolated
- American imperialism and expansionism - began as 13 colonies in the north east section of the country, expanded westward - Land purchase (Louisiana from France) - negotiation with Britain in 1846 for the north west - Florida and span reclaimed - outright conquest of the Mexican cession in 1848
- Of all these areas it was the question of appropriation of Native American lands - warfare and outright conquest (imperialism?)
- Justification of aggression to native Americans and neighbors
- MANIFEST DESTINY (John L. O'Sullivan) - Non appropriation, the right to own America - more advanced, unoccupied, better use of the land

The Mexican America war (1846-48)

The US and Mexico fought a war resulting in the acquisition of California and