Gadsden Purchase, 1853–1854

The Gadsden Purchase, from 1853 to 1854, was an agreement between the United States and Mexico. Influenced in 1853, when the United States recognized that it was not going to pay Mexico for all of the area in question on a portion of land that later became part of the United States. The treaty itself was not signed until 1854, as both Mexico and the United States ratified it. The final conditions included the purchase of the land at a price of $10 million for 29,670 square miles, and removed any further financial claims and border issues resulting from the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

With a great deal of difficulty resulting from the growing strife between the southern and northern states, it was decided to negotiate a treaty in 1853. President Pierce sent instructions to Mr. Gadsden, agent for the United States in Mexico, to negotiate for a purchase of land in southern Mexico. The treaty reduced the amount paid to Mexico to $10 million and included the purchase of 29,670 square miles of land.

President Pierce signed the treaty and later ratified it on April 25, 1854. The new U.S. Minister to Mexico, Mr. Gadsden, had been instructed to negotiate with Santa Anna. Gadsden met with Santa Anna on September 25, 1853. President Pierce concluded with the Mexican President the Mesilla Valley part of the U.S. territory of New Mexico. When the U.S. Secretary of State instructed the American citizens to enter Mexico illegally and incite rebellions against the Mexican government, the Mexican government responded.

While the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo formally ended the conflict between the United States and Mexico, the territorial disputes continued. As a result, the Gadsden Purchase was signed in 1854. The new U.S. Minister to Mexico, Mr. Gadsden, had been instructed to negotiate with Santa Anna. Gadsden met with Santa Anna on September 25, 1853. President Pierce concluded with the Mexican President the Mesilla Valley part of the U.S. territory of New Mexico. When the U.S. Secretary of State instructed the American citizens to enter Mexico illegally and incite rebellions against the Mexican government, the Mexican government responded.