* 1821: Mexico gains independence from Spain
  + September 16th gained its indepdence
* After gaining its indepdence, economic state of Mexico is extremely horrible
  + Needs to generate some revenue. Seeing the jealous America eyeing territory in Mexico, it wants to create a buffer zone from the United States ( to settle in Tejas)
  + Many disgruntled Americans ( south) fear that they are loosing their voice in the American system
* Factors that affect the South
  + Missouri Compromise: Upsets southerns. It essentially puts a land limitation on slaver, becoming the first step in eradicating slavery.
* Americans emigrate to Mexico ( tens of thousands) in massive numbers with their slaves
  + Mexico however hated slavery and was made illegal. Slavery reminded them of the Spanish regime
  + Oath of Allegience to convert to Roman Catholicism was mandatory. Majoriy of Americans were however Protestant
  + Mexico doesn’t enforce its slave policy for it needed money.
* Anthony Lopez Santa Anna becomes President of Mexico.
  + Uses government money lavishly while the Vice President does all the work
  + Collects Napoleonic items and becomes obsessed with it
* The institution of democracy brings reform movements.
  + Santa Anna wants to maintain power in the government for one of the reforms is targeted towards him. He conducts a coup r otat ( quick violent overthrow of the government)
    - Clever scheme to prove that the people aren’t ready for democracy and makes himself empire
* Anna rules with an iron first
  + Sends military to Texas to enforce neglected laws
  + Prohibits futher emigration into Mexican territory
  + Stops importation of slaves
  + Dictates which crops to grow, regardless of profit
  + Large tariffs on American goods
  + Enforces a 10% tide to the Roman Catholic church
  + Makes military present in Tejas
* Mexican Military: Works on the principle of overwhelming with numbers, not with school
  + Anna gives options to violent criminals to either join the army or to go to jail
  + Army is comprised of violent criminals who , during the war, steal, loot and rape women.
* Steven Austin is the leader of the Texas colony and talks to Santa Anna but has to wait for months
  + When he finally gets his turn he is ignored and rejected. Anna however sense dissent in Tejas and arrests Austin for months. This incites Austin to fight out against the regime of Anna
* 1st battle: Battle of Gonzales: An attempt to acquire military supplies. The Texans steal a cannon and a Mexican army has a skirmish. It leads to the a series of bloody battles afterwards
* Battle of the Alamo- Fought at an old Spanish missionary church ( San Antonio de Vallero). All of the male defenders of the Alamo were killed in a 13 day battle. 180 Texans had to fortify and fight against an army of 1000’s
  + Febuary 23rd: Mexican government finally, after giving a great time of compromise, attacks the fort and bombards them
  + “Remember Golrad, Remember the Alamo”
* Battle of San Jacinito
  + Texas army under Sam Houston ( who was trailed by Anna)
  + Houston knows that the Spanish Army settles for fiestas everyday around lunchtime. In 18 minutes, he attacks, slaughters, and captures Santa Anna
    - Houston gives Anna the option to either sign a treaty declaring Texas free or to die.
* Texas though is seen as a rebellious place in Mexico, not its own country, whereas America sees it as free.