

= Texas Revolution =

The Texas Revolution (October 2 , 1835 ? April 21 , 1836) began when colonists (primarily from the United States) in the Mexican province of Texas rebelled against the increasingly centralist Mexican government . After a decade of political and cultural clashes between the Mexican government and the increasingly large population of American settlers in Texas , hostilities erupted in October 1835 . Texians (English @-@ speaking settlers) disagreed on whether the ultimate goal was independence or a return to the Mexican Constitution of 1824 . While delegates at the Consultation (provisional government) debated the war 's motives , Texians and a flood of volunteers from the United States defeated the small garrisons of Mexican soldiers by mid @-@ December 1835 .

The Consultation declined to declare independence and installed an interim government , whose infighting led to political paralysis and a dearth of effective governance in Texas . An ill @-@ conceived proposal to invade Matamoros siphoned much @-@ needed volunteers and provisions from the fledgling Texas army . In March 1836 , a second political convention declared independence and appointed leadership for the new Republic of Texas .

Determined to avenge Mexico 's honor , President Antonio López de Santa Anna vowed to personally retake Texas . His Army of Operations entered Texas in mid @-@ February 1836 and found the Texians completely unprepared . Mexican General José de Urrea led a contingent of troops on the Goliad Campaign up the Texas coast , defeating all Texian troops in his path and executing most of those who surrendered . Santa Anna led a larger force to San Antonio de Béxar (or Béxar) , where his troops defeated the Texian garrison in the Battle of the Alamo , killing almost all of the defenders .

For the next month , a newly created Texian army under the command of Sam Houston steadily retreated towards the border with Louisiana ; terrified civilians fled with the army , in a melee known as the Runaway Scrape . On March 31 , Houston paused his men at Groce 's Landing on the Brazos River , and for the next two weeks , the Texians received rigorous military training . Becoming complacent and underestimating the strength of his foes , Santa Anna further subdivided his troops . On April 21 , Houston 's army staged a surprise assault on Santa Anna and his vanguard force at the Battle of San Jacinto . The Mexican troops were quickly routed , and vengeful Texians executed many who tried to surrender . Santa Anna was taken hostage ; in exchange for his life , he ordered the Mexican army to retreat south of the Rio Grande . Mexico refused to recognize the Republic of Texas , and intermittent conflicts between the two countries continued into the 1840s . The annexation of Texas as the 28th state of the United States , in 1845 , led directly to the Mexican ? American War .

= = Background = =

After a failed attempt by France to colonize Texas in the late 17th century , Spain developed a plan to settle the region . On its southern edge , along the Medina and Nueces Rivers , Spanish Texas was bordered by the province of Coahuila . On the east , Texas bordered Louisiana . Following the Louisiana Purchase of 1803 , the United States also claimed the land west of the Sabine River , all the way to the Rio Grande . Although the United States officially renounced that claim as part of the Transcontinental Treaty with Spain in 1819 , many Americans continued to believe that Texas should belong to their nation , and over the next decade the United States made several offers to purchase the region .

Following the Mexican War of Independence , Texas became part of Mexico . Under the Constitution of 1824 , which defined the country as a federal republic , the provinces of Texas and Coahuila were combined to become the state Coahuila y Tejas . Texas was granted only a single seat in the state legislature , which met in Saltillo , hundreds of miles away . After months of grumbling by Tejanos (Mexican @-@ born residents of Texas) outraged at the loss of their political autonomy , state officials agreed to make Texas a department of the new state , with a de facto capital in San Antonio de Béxar .

Texas was very sparsely populated , with fewer than 3 @, @ 500 residents , and only about 200 soldiers , which made it extremely vulnerable to attacks by native tribes and American filibusters . In the hopes that an influx of settlers could control the Indian raids , the bankrupt Mexican government liberalized immigration policies for the region . Finally able to settle legally in Texas , Anglos from the United States soon vastly outnumbered the Tejanos . Most of the immigrants came from the southern United States . Many were slave owners , and most brought with them significant prejudices against other races , attitudes often applied to the Tejanos , . Mexico 's official religion was Roman Catholicism , yet the majority of the immigrants were Protestants who distrusted Catholics .

Mexican authorities became increasingly concerned about the stability of the region . The colonies teetered at the brink of revolt in 1829 , after Mexico abolished slavery . In response , President Anastasio Bustamante implemented the Laws of April 6 , 1830 , which , among other things , prohibited further immigration to Texas from the United States , increased taxes , and reiterated the ban on slavery . Settlers simply circumvented or ignored the laws . By 1834 , an estimated 30 @, @ 000 Anglos lived in Coahuila y Tejas , compared to only 7 @, @ 800 Mexican @- @ born residents .

In 1832 , Antonio López de Santa Anna led a revolt to overthrow Bustamante . Texians , or English @- @ speaking settlers , used the rebellion as an excuse to take up arms . By mid @- @ August , all Mexican troops had been expelled from east Texas . Buoyed by their success , Texians held two political conventions to persuade Mexican authorities to weaken the Laws of April 6 , 1830 . In November 1833 the Mexican government attempted to address some of the concerns , repealing some sections of the law and granting the colonists further concessions , including increased representation in the state legislature . Stephen F. Austin , who had brought the first American settlers to Texas , wrote to a friend that " Every evil complained of has been remedied . " Mexican authorities were quietly watchful , concerned that the colonists were maneuvering towards secession .

Santa Anna soon revealed himself to be a centralist , transitioning the Mexican government to a centralized government . In 1835 , the 1824 Constitution was overturned ; state legislatures were dismissed , militias disbanded . Federalists throughout Mexico were appalled . Citizens in the states of Oaxaca and Zacatecas took up arms . After Santa Anna 's troops subdued the rebellion in Zacatecas in May , he gave his troops two days to pillage the city ; over 2 @, @ 000 noncombatants were killed . The governor of Coahuila y Tejas , Agustín Viesca , refused to dissolve the legislature , instead ordering that the session reconvene in Béxar , further from the influence of the Mexican army . Although prominent Tejano Juan Seguín raised a militia company to assist the governor , the Béxar ayuntamiento (city council) ordered him not to interfere , and Viesca was arrested before he reached Texas .

Public opinion in Texas was divided . Editorials in the United States began advocating complete independence for Texas . After several men staged a minor revolt against customs duties in Anahuac in June , local leaders began calling for a public meeting to determine whether a majority of settlers favored independence , a return to federalism , or the status quo . Although some leaders worried that Mexican officials would see this type of gathering as a step towards revolution , by the end of August most communities had agreed to send delegates to the Consultation , scheduled for October 15 .

As early as April 1835 , military commanders in Texas began requesting reinforcements , fearing the citizens would revolt . Mexico was ill @- @ prepared for a large civil war , but continued unrest in Texas posed a significant danger to the power of Santa Anna and of Mexico . If the people of Coahuila also took up arms , Mexico faced losing a large portion of its territory . Without the northeastern province to act as a buffer , it was likely that United States influence would spread , and the Mexican territories of Nuevo Mexico and Alta California would be at risk of future American encroachment . Santa Anna had no wish to tangle with the United States , and he knew that the unrest needed to be subdued before the United States could be convinced to become involved . In early September , Santa Anna ordered his brother @- @ in @- @ law , General Martín Perfecto de Cos , to lead 500 soldiers to Texas to quell any potential rebellion . Cos and his men landed at the port of Copano on September 20 . Austin called on all municipalities to raise militias to defend

themselves .

= = Texian offensive : October ? December 1835 = =

= = = Gonzales = = =

In the early 1830s , the army loaned the citizens of Gonzales a small cannon for protection against Indian raids . After a Mexican soldier bludgeoned a Gonzales resident on September 10 , 1835 , tensions rose even further , and Mexican authorities felt it unwise to leave the settlers with a weapon . Colonel Domingo de Ugartechea , commander of all Mexican military forces in Texas , sent a small detachment of troops to retrieve the cannon . After settlers escorted the group from town without the cannon , Ugartechea sent 100 dragoons with Lieutenant Francisco de Castañeda to demand compliance , with orders to avoid force if possible .

Many of the settlers believed Mexican authorities were manufacturing an excuse to attack the town and eliminate the militia . Texians stalled Castañeda 's attempts to negotiate the cannon 's return for several days as they waited for reinforcements from other colonies . In the early hours of October 2 , approximately 140 Texian volunteers attacked Castañeda 's force . After a brief skirmish , Castañeda requested a meeting with Texian leader John Henry Moore . Castañeda revealed that he shared their federalist leanings , but that he was honor @-@ bound to follow orders . As Moore returned to camp , the Texians raised a homemade white banner with an image of the cannon painted in black in the center , over the words " Come and Take It " . Realizing that he was outnumbered and outgunned , Castañeda led his troops back to Béxar . In this first battle of the revolution , two Mexican soldiers were killed , and one Texian was injured when he fell off his horse . Although the event was , as characterized by historian William C. Davis , " an inconsequential skirmish in which one side did not try to fight " , Texians soon declared it a victory over Mexican troops . News of the skirmish spread throughout the United States , encouraging many adventurers to come to Texas to join the fight .

Volunteers continued to arrive in Gonzales . On October 11 , the troops unanimously elected Austin , who had no official military experience , the leader of the group he had dubbed the Army of the People . From the beginning , the volunteer army proved to have little discipline . Austin 's first official order was to remind his men that they were expected to obey their commanding officers . Buoyed by their victory , the Texians were determined to drive the Mexican army out of Texas , and they began preparing to march to Béxar .

= = = Gulf Coast campaign = = =

After learning that Texian troops had attacked Castañeda at Gonzales , Cos made haste for Béxar . Unaware of his departure , on October 6 , Texians in Matagorda marched on Presidio La Bahía in Goliad to kidnap him and steal the \$ 50 @,@ 000 that was rumored to accompany him . On October 10 , approximately 125 volunteers , including 30 Tejanos , stormed the presidio . The Mexican garrison surrendered after a thirty @-@ minute battle . One or two Texians were wounded and three Mexican soldiers were killed with seven more wounded .

The Texians established themselves in the presidio , under the command of Captain Philip Dimmitt , who immediately sent all the local Tejano volunteers to join Austin on the march to Béxar . At the end of the month , Dimmitt sent a group of men under Ira Westover to engage the Mexican garrison at Fort Lipantitlán , near San Patricio . Late on November 3 , the Texians took the undermanned fort without firing a shot . After dismantling the fort , they prepared to return to Goliad . The remainder of the Mexican garrison , which had been out on patrol , approached . The Mexican troops were accompanied by 15 ? 20 loyal centralists from San Patricio , including all members of the ayuntamiento . After a thirty @-@ minute skirmish , the Mexican soldiers and Texian centralists retreated . With their departure , the Texian army controlled the Gulf Coast , forcing Mexican commanders to send all communication with the Mexican interior overland . The slower land journey

left Cos unable to quickly request or receive reinforcements or supplies .

On their return to Goliad , Westover 's group encountered Governor Viesca . After being freed by sympathetic soldiers , Viesca had immediately traveled to Texas to recreate the state government . Dimmitt welcomed Viesca but refused to recognize his authority as governor . This caused an uproar in the garrison , as many supported the governor . Dimmitt declared martial law and soon alienated most of the local residents . Over the next few months , the area between Goliad and Refugio descended into civil war . Goliad native Carlos de la Garza led a guerrilla warfare campaign against the Texian troops . According to historian Paul Lack , the Texian " antiguerrilla tactics did too little to crush out opposition but quite enough to sway the uncommitted toward the centralists . "

= = = Siege of Béxar = = =

While Dimmitt supervised the Texian forces along the Gulf Coast , Austin led his men towards Béxar to engage Cos and his troops . Confident that they would quickly rout the Mexican troops , many Consultation delegates chose to join the military . Unable to reach a quorum , the Consultation was postponed until November 1 . On October 16 , the Texians paused 25 miles (40 km) from Béxar . Austin sent a messenger to Cos giving the requirements the Texians would need to lay down their arms and " avoid the sad consequences of the Civil War which unfortunately threatens Texas " . Cos replied that Mexico would not " yield to the dictates of foreigners " .

The approximately 650 Mexican troops quickly built barricades throughout the town . Within days the Texian army , about 450 strong , initiated a siege of Béxar , and gradually moved their camp nearer Béxar . On October 27 , an advance party led by James Bowie and James Fannin chose Mission Concepción as the next campsite and sent for the rest of the Texian army . On learning that the Texians were temporarily divided , Ugartechea led troops to engage Bowie and Fannin 's men . The Mexican cavalry was unable to fight effectively in the wooded , riverbottom terrain , and the weapons of the Mexican infantry had a much shorter range than those of the Texians . After three Mexican infantry attacks were repulsed , Ugartechea called for a retreat . One Texian soldier had died , and between 14 and 76 Mexican soldiers were killed . Although Texas Tech University professor emeritus Alwyn Barr noted that the battle of Concepción " should have taught ... lessons on Mexican courage and the value of a good defensive position " , Texas history expert Stephen Hardin believes that " the relative ease of the victory at Concepción instilled in the Texians a reliance on their long rifles and a contempt for their enemies " .

As the weather turned colder and rations grew smaller , groups of Texians began to leave , most without permission . Morale was boosted on November 18 , when the first group of volunteers from the United States , the New Orleans Greys , joined the Texian army . Unlike the majority of the Texian volunteers , the Greys looked like soldiers , with uniforms , well @-@ maintained rifles , adequate ammunition , and some semblance of discipline .

After Austin resigned his command to become a commissioner to the United States , soldiers elected Edward Burleson as their new commander . On November 26 , Burleson received word that a Mexican pack train of mules and horses , accompanied by 50 ? 100 Mexican soldiers , was within 5 miles (8 @.@ 0 km) of Béxar . After a near mutiny , Burleson sent Bowie and William H. Jack with cavalry and infantry to intercept the supplies . In the subsequent skirmish , the Mexican forces were forced to retreat to Béxar , leaving their cargo behind . To the disappointment of the Texians , the saddlebags contained only fodder for the horses ; for this reason the battle was later known as the Grass Fight . Although the victory briefly uplifted the Texian troops , morale continued to fall as the weather turned colder and the men grew bored . After several proposals to take Béxar by force were voted down by the Texian troops , on December 4 Burleson proposed that the army lift the siege and retreat to Goliad until spring . In a last effort to avoid a retreat , Colonel Ben Milam personally recruited units to participate in an attack . The following morning , Milam and Colonel Frank W. Johnson led several hundred Texians into the city . Over the next four days , Texians fought their way from house to house towards the fortified plazas near the center of town .

Cos received 650 reinforcements on December 8 , but to his dismay most of them were raw recruits , including many convicts still in chains . Instead of being helpful , the reinforcements were mainly a

drain on the dwindling food supplies . Seeing few other options , on December 9 , Cos and the bulk of his men withdrew into the Alamo Mission on the outskirts of Béxar . Cos presented a plan for a counterattack ; cavalry officers believed that they would be surrounded by Texians and refused their orders . Possibly 175 soldiers from four of the cavalry companies left the mission and rode south ; Mexican officers later claimed the men misunderstood their orders and were not deserting . The following morning , Cos surrendered . Under the terms of the surrender , Cos and his men would leave Texas and no longer fight against supporters of the Constitution of 1824 . With his departure , there was no longer an organized garrison of Mexican troops in Texas , and many of the Texians believed that the war was over . Burleson resigned his leadership of the army on December 15 and returned to his home . Many of the men did likewise , and Johnson assumed command of the 400 soldiers who remained .

According to Barr , the large number of American volunteers in Béxar " contributed to the Mexican view that Texan opposition stemmed from outside influences " . In reality , of the 1 @, @ 300 men who volunteered to fight for the Texian army in October and November 1835 , only 150 ? 200 arrived from the United States after October 2 . The rest were residents of Texas with an average immigration date of 1830 . Volunteers came from every municipality , including those that were partially occupied by Mexican forces . However , as residents returned to their homes following Cos 's surrender , the Texian army composition changed dramatically . Of the volunteers serving from January through March 1836 , 78 percent had arrived from the United States after October 2 , 1835 .

= = Regrouping : November 1835 ? February 1836 = =

= = = Texas Consultation and the Matamoros Expedition = = =

The Consultation finally convened on November 3 in San Felipe with 58 of the 98 elected delegates . After days of bitter debate , the delegates voted to create a provisional government based on the principles of the Constitution of 1824 . Although they did not declare independence , the delegates insisted they would not rejoin Mexico until federalism had been reinstated . The new government would consist of a governor and a General Council , with one representative from each municipality . Under the assumption that these two branches would cooperate , there was no system of checks and balances .

On November 13 , delegates voted to create a regular army and named Sam Houston its commander @-@ in @-@ chief . In an effort to attract volunteers from the United States , soldiers would be granted land bounties . This provision was significant , as all public land was owned by the state or the federal government , indicating that the delegates expected Texas to eventually declare independence . Houston was given no authority over the volunteer army led by Austin , which predated the Consultation . Houston was also appointed to the Select Committee on Indian Affairs . Three men , including Austin , were asked to go to the United States to gather money , volunteers , and supplies . The delegates elected Henry Smith as governor . On November 14 , the Consultation adjourned , leaving Smith and the Council in charge .

The new Texas government had no funds , so the military was granted the authority to impress supplies . This policy soon resulted in an almost universal hatred of the Council , as food and supplies became scarce , especially in the areas around Goliad and Béxar , where Texian troops were stationed . Few of the volunteers agreed to join Houston 's regular army . The Telegraph and Texas Register noted that " some are not willing , under the present government , to do any duty ... That our government is bad , all acknowledge , and no one will deny . "

Leaders in Texas continued to debate whether the army was fighting for independence or a return to federalism . On December 22 , Texian soldiers stationed at La Bahía issued the Goliad Declaration of Independence . Unwilling to decide the matter themselves , the Council called for another election , for delegates to the Convention of 1836 . The Council specifically noted that all free white males could vote , as well as Mexicans who did not support centralism . Smith tried to

veto the latter requirement , as he believed even Tejanos with federalist leanings should be denied suffrage .

Leading federalists in Mexico , including former governor Viesca , Lorenzo de Zavala , and José Antonio Mexía , were advocating a plan to attack centralist troops in Matamoros . Council members were taken with the idea of a Matamoros Expedition . They hoped it would inspire other federalist states to revolt and keep the bored Texian troops from deserting the army . Most importantly , it would move the war zone outside Texas . The Council officially approved the plan on December 25 , and on December 30 Johnson and his aide Dr. James Grant took the bulk of the army and almost all of the supplies to Goliad to prepare for the expedition . Historian Stuart Reid posits that Grant was a British secret agent , and that his plan to take Matamoros , and thus tie Texas more tightly to Mexico , may have been an unofficial scheme to advance British interests in the region .

Petty bickering between Smith and the Council members increased dramatically , and on January 9 , 1836 , Smith threatened to dismiss the Council unless they agreed to revoke their approval of the Matamoros Expedition . Two days later the Council voted to impeach Smith and named James W. Robinson the Acting Governor . It was unclear whether either side actually had the authority to dismiss the other . By this point , Texas was essentially in anarchy .

Under orders from Smith , Houston successfully dissuaded all but 70 men from continuing to follow Johnson . With his own authority in question following Smith 's impeachment , Houston washed his hands of the army and journeyed to Nacogdoches to negotiate a treaty with Cherokee leaders . Houston vowed that Texas would recognize Cherokee claims to land in East Texas as long as the Indians refrained from attacking settlements or assisting the Mexican army . In his absence , Fannin , as the highest @-@ ranking officer active in the regular army , led the men who did not want to go to Matamoros to Goliad .

The Council had neglected to provide specific instructions on how to structure the February vote for convention delegates , leaving it up to each municipality to determine how to balance the desires of the established residents against those of the volunteers newly arrived from the United States . Chaos ensued ; in Nacogdoches , the election judge turned back a company of 40 volunteers from Kentucky who had arrived that week . The soldiers drew their weapons ; Colonel Sidney Sherman announced that he " had come to Texas to fight for it and had as soon commence in the town of Nacogdoches as elsewhere " . Eventually , the troops were allowed to vote . With rumors that Santa Anna was preparing a large army to advance into Texas , rhetoric degenerated into framing the conflict as a race war between Anglos defending their property against , in the words of David G. Burnet , a " mongrel race of degenerate Spaniards and Indians more depraved than they " .

= = = Mexican Army of Operations = = =

News of the armed uprising at Gonzales reached Santa Anna on October 23 . Aside from the ruling elite and members of the army , few in Mexico knew or cared about the revolt . Those with knowledge of the events blamed the Anglos for their unwillingness to conform to the laws and culture of their new country . Anglo immigrants had forced a war on Mexico , and Mexican honor insisted that the usurpers be defeated . Santa Anna transferred his presidential duties to Miguel Barragán in order to personally lead troops to put an end to the Texian revolt . Santa Anna and his soldiers believed that the Texans would be quickly cowed . The Mexican Secretary of War , José María Tornel , wrote : " The superiority of the Mexican soldier over the mountaineers of Kentucky and the hunters of Missouri is well known . Veterans seasoned by 20 years of wars can 't be intimidated by the presence of an army ignorant of the art of war , incapable of discipline , and renowned for insubordination . "

At this time , there were only 2 @, @ 500 soldiers in the Mexican interior . This was not enough to crush a rebellion and provide security ? from attacks by both Indians and federalists ? throughout the rest of the country . With funds loaned by the Roman Catholic Church specifically to finance the war in Texas , Santa Anna began to assemble a new army , which he dubbed the Army of Operations in Texas . A majority of the troops had been conscripted or were convicts who chose service in the military over jail . The Mexican officers knew that the Brown Bess muskets they

carried lacked the range of the Texian weapons , but Santa Anna was convinced that his superior planning would nonetheless result in an easy victory . Corruption was rampant , and supplies were not plentiful . Almost from the beginning , rations were short , and there were no medical supplies or doctors . Few troops were issued heavy coats or blankets for the winter .

In late December , at Santa Anna 's behest , the Mexican Congress passed the Tornel Decree , declaring that any foreigners fighting against Mexican troops " will be deemed pirates and dealt with as such , being citizens of no nation presently at war with the Republic and fighting under no recognized flag . " In the early nineteenth century , captured pirates were executed immediately . The resolution thus gave the Mexican army permission to take no prisoners in the war against the Texians . This information was not widely distributed , and it is unlikely that most of the American recruits serving in the Texian army were aware that there would be no prisoners @-@ of @-@ war .

By December 1835 , 6 @,@ 019 soldiers had begun their march towards Texas . Progress was slow . There were not enough mules to transport all of the supplies , and many of the teamsters , all civilians , quit when their pay was delayed . The large number of soldaderas ? women and children who followed the army ? reduced the already scarce supplies . In Saltillo , Cos and his men from Béxar joined Santa Anna 's forces . Santa Anna regarded Cos 's promise not to take up arms in Texas as meaningless because it had been given to rebels .

From Saltillo , the army had three choices : advance along the coast on the Atascocita Road from Matamoros to Goliad , or march on Béxar from the south , along the Laredo road , or from the west , along the Camino Real . Santa Anna ordered General José de Urrea to lead 550 troops to Goliad . Although several of Santa Anna 's officers argued that the entire army should advance along the coast , where supplies could be gained via sea , Santa Anna instead focused on Béxar , the political center of Texas and the site of Cos 's defeat . His brother @-@ in @-@ law 's surrender was seen as a blow to the honor of his family and to Mexico ; Santa Anna was determined to restore both . Santa Anna may also have thought Béxar would be easier to defeat , as his spies had informed him that most of the Texian army was along the coast , preparing for the Matamoros Expedition . Santa Anna led the bulk of his men up the Camino Real to approach Béxar from the west , confounding the Texians , who had expected any advancing troops to approach from the south . On February 17 , they crossed the Nueces River , officially entering Texas .

Temperatures reached record lows , and by February 13 an estimated 15 ? 16 inches (38 ? 41 cm) of snow had fallen . A large number of the new recruits were from the tropical climate of the Yucatán and had been unable to acclimate to the harsh winter conditions . Some of them died of hypothermia , and others contracted dysentery . Soldiers who fell behind were sometimes killed by Comanche raiding parties . Nevertheless , the army continued to march towards Béxar . As they progressed , settlers in their path in South Texas evacuated northward . The Mexican army ransacked and occasionally burned the vacant homes . Santa Anna and his commanders received timely intelligence on Texian troop locations , strengths , and plans , from a network of Tejano spies organized by de la Garza .

= = Santa Anna 's offensive : February ? March 1836 = =

= = = Alamo = = =

Fewer than 100 Texian soldiers remained at the Alamo Mission in Béxar , under the command of Colonel James C. Neill . Unable to spare the number of men necessary to mount a successful defense of the sprawling facility , in January Houston sent Bowie with 30 men to remove the artillery and destroy the complex . In a letter to Governor Smith , Bowie argued that " the salvation of Texas depends in great measure on keeping Béxar out of the hands of the enemy . It serves as the frontier picquet guard , and if it were in the possession of Santa Anna , there is no stronghold from which to repel him in his march towards the Sabine . " The letter to Smith ended , " Colonel Neill and myself have come to the solemn resolution that we will rather die in these ditches than give it up to the enemy . " Few reinforcements were authorized ; cavalry officer William B. Travis arrived in Béxar

with 30 men on February 3 and five days later , a small group of volunteers arrived , including the famous frontiersman Davy Crockett . On February 11 , Neill left to recruit additional reinforcements and gather supplies . In his absence , Travis and Bowie shared command .

When scouts brought word on February 23 that the Mexican advance guard was in sight , the unprepared Texians gathered what food they could find in town and fell back to the Alamo . By late afternoon , Béxar was occupied by about 1 @, @ 500 Mexican troops , who quickly raised a blood @- @ red flag signifying no quarter . For the next 13 days , the Mexican army besieged the Alamo . Several small skirmishes gave the defenders much @- @ needed optimism , but had little real impact . Bowie fell ill on February 24 , leaving Travis in sole command of the Texian forces . The same day , Travis sent messengers with a letter To the People of Texas & All Americans in the World , begging for reinforcements and vowing " victory or death " ; this letter was reprinted throughout the United States and much of Europe . Texian and American volunteers began to gather in Gonzales , waiting for Fannin to arrive and lead them to reinforce the Alamo . After days of indecision , on February 26 Fannin prepared to march his 300 troops to the Alamo ; they turned back the next day , having traveled less than 1 mile (1 @. @ 6 km) . Fewer than 100 Texian reinforcements reached the fort .

Approximately 1 @, @ 000 Mexican reinforcements arrived on March 3 . The following day , a local woman , likely Bowie 's relative Juana Navarro Alsbury , was rebuffed by Santa Anna when she attempted to negotiate a surrender for the Alamo defenders . This visit increased Santa Anna 's impatience , and he scheduled an assault for early on March 6 . Many of his officers were against the plan ; they preferred to wait until the artillery had further damaged the Alamo 's walls and the defenders were forced to surrender . Santa Anna was convinced that a decisive victory would improve morale and sound a strong message to those still agitating in the interior and elsewhere in Texas .

In the early hours of March 6 , the Mexican army attacked the fort . Troops from Béxar were excused from the front lines , so that they would not be forced to fight their families and friends . In the initial moments of the assault the Mexican troops were at a disadvantage . Although their column formation allowed only the front rows of soldiers to fire safely , inexperienced recruits in the back also discharged their weapons ; many Mexican soldiers were unintentionally killed by their own comrades . As Mexican soldiers swarmed over the walls , at least 80 Texians fled the Alamo and were cut down by Mexican cavalry . Within an hour , almost all of the Texian defenders , estimated at 182 ? 257 men , were killed . Between four and seven Texians , possibly including Crockett , surrendered . Although General Manuel Fernández Castrillón attempted to intercede on their behalf , Santa Anna insisted that the prisoners be executed immediately .

Most Alamo historians agree that 400 ? 600 Mexicans were killed or wounded . This would represent about one @- @ third of the Mexican soldiers involved in the final assault , which historian Timothy Todish remarks is " a tremendous casualty rate by any standards " . The battle was militarily insignificant , but had an enormous political impact . Travis had succeeded in buying time for the Convention of 1836 , scheduled for March 1 , to meet . If Santa Anna had not paused in Béxar for two weeks , he would have reached San Felipe by March 2 and very likely would have captured the delegates or caused them to flee .

The survivors , primarily women and children , were questioned by Santa Anna and then released . Susanna Dickinson was sent with Travis 's slave Joe to Gonzales , where she lived , to spread the news of the Texian defeat . Santa Anna assumed that knowledge of the disparity in troop numbers and the fate of the Texian soldiers at the Alamo would quell the resistance , and that Texian soldiers would quickly leave the territory .

= = = Goliad Campaign = = =

Urrea reached Matamoros on January 31 . A committed federalist himself , he soon convinced other federalists in the area that the Texians ' ultimate goal was secession and their attempt to spark a federalist revolt in Matamoros was just a method of diverting attention from themselves . Mexican double agents continued to assure Johnson and Grant that they would be able to take Matamoros

easily . While Johnson waited in San Patricio with a small group of men , Grant and between 26 and 53 others roamed the area between the Nueces River and Matamoros . Although they were ostensibly searching for more horses , it is likely Grant was also attempting to contact his sources in Matamoros to further coordinate an attack .

Just after midnight on February 27 , Urrea 's men surprised Johnson 's forces . Six Texians , including Johnson , escaped ; the remainder were captured or killed . After learning of Grant 's whereabouts from local spies , Mexican dragoons ambushed the Texians at Agua Dulce Creek on March 2 . Twelve Texians were killed , including Grant , four were captured , and six escaped . Although Urrea 's orders were to execute those captured , he instead sent them to Matamoros as prisoners .

On March 11 , Fannin sent Captain Amon B. King to help evacuate settlers from the mission in Refugio . King and his men instead spent a day searching local ranches for centralist sympathizers . They returned to the mission on March 12 and were soon besieged by Urrea 's advance guard and de la Garza 's Victoriana Guardes . That same day , Fannin received orders from Houston to destroy Presidio La Bahía (by then renamed Fort Defiance) and march to Victoria . Unwilling to leave any of his men behind , Fannin sent William Ward with 120 men to help King 's company . Ward 's men drove off the troops besieging the church , but rather than return to Goliad , they delayed a day to conduct further raids on local ranches .

Urrea arrived with almost 1 @, @ 000 troops on March 14 . At the battle of Refugio , an engagement markedly similar to the battle of Concepción , the Texians repulsed several attacks and inflicted heavy casualties , relying on the greater accuracy and range of their rifles . By the end of the day , the Texians were hungry , thirsty , tired , and almost out of ammunition . Ward ordered a retreat , and under cover of darkness and rain the Texian soldiers slipped through Mexican lines , leaving several severely wounded men behind . Over the next several days , Urrea 's men , with the help of local centralist supporters , rounded up many of the Texians who had escaped . Most were executed , although Urrea pardoned a few after their wives begged for their lives , and Mexican Colonel Juan José Holzinger insisted that all of the non @- @ Americans be spared .

By the end of the day on March 16 , the bulk of Urrea 's forces began marching to Goliad to corner Fannin . Still waiting for word from King and Ward , Fannin continued to delay his evacuation from Goliad . As they prepared to leave on March 18 , Urrea 's advance guard arrived . For the rest of the day , the two cavalries skirmished aimlessly , succeeding only in exhausting the Texian oxen , which had remained hitched to their wagons with no food or water throughout the day .

The Texians began their retreat on March 19 . The pace was unhurried , and after travelling only 4 miles (6 @. @ 4 km) , the group stopped for an hour to rest and allow the oxen to graze . Urrea 's troops caught up to the Texians later that afternoon , while Fannin and his force of about 300 men were crossing a prairie . Having learned from the fighting at Refugio , Urrea was determined that the Texians would not reach the cover of timber approximately 1 @. @ 5 miles (2 @. @ 4 km) ahead , along Coleta Creek . As Mexican forces surrounded them , the Texians formed a tight hollow square for defense . They repulsed three charges during this battle of Coleta , resulting in about nine Texians killed and 51 wounded , including Fannin . Urrea lost 50 men , with another 140 wounded . Texians had little food , no water , and declining supplies of ammunition , but voted to not try to break for the timber , as they would have had to leave the wounded behind .

The following morning , March 20 , Urrea paraded his men and his newly arrived artillery . Seeing the hopelessness of their situation , the Texians with Fannin surrendered . Mexican records show that the Texians surrendered at discretion ; Texian accounts claim that Urrea promised the Texians would be treated as prisoners @- @ of @- @ war and granted passage to the United States . Two days later , a group of Urrea 's men surrounded Ward and the last of his group less than 1 mile (1 @. @ 6 km) from Victoria . Over Ward 's vehement objections , his men voted to surrender , later recalling they were told they would be sent back to the United States .

On Palm Sunday , March 27 , Fannin , Ward , Westover , and their men were marched out of the presidio and shot . Mexican cavalry were stationed nearby to chase down any who tried to escape . Approximately 342 Texians died , and 27 either escaped or were spared by Mexican troops . Several weeks after the Goliad massacre , the Mexican Congress granted an official reprieve to any

Texas prisoners who had incurred capital punishment .

= = = Texas Convention of 1836 = = =

The Convention of 1836 in Washington @-@ on @-@ the @-@ Brazos on March 1 attracted 45 delegates , representing 21 municipalities . Within an hour of the convention 's opening , George C. Childress submitted a proposed Texas Declaration of Independence , which passed overwhelmingly on March 2 . On March 6 , hours after the Alamo had fallen , Travis 's final dispatch arrived . His distress was evident ; delegate Robert Potter immediately moved that the convention be adjourned and all delegates join the army . Houston convinced the delegates to remain , and then left to take charge of the army . With the backing of the Convention , Houston was now commander @-@ in @-@ chief of all regular , volunteer , and militia forces in Texas .

Over the next ten days , delegates prepared a constitution for the Republic of Texas . Parts of the document were copied verbatim from the United States Constitution ; other articles were paraphrased . The new nation 's government was structured similarly to that of the United States , with a bicameral legislature , a chief executive , and a supreme court . In a sharp departure from its model , the new constitution expressly permitted impressment of goods and forced housing for soldiers . It also explicitly legalized slavery and recognized the people 's right to revolt against government authority . After adopting the constitution on March 17 , delegates elected interim officers to govern the country and then adjourned . David G. Burnet , who had not been a delegate , was elected president . The following day , Burnet announced the government was leaving for Harrisburg .

= = Retreat : March ? May 1836 = =

= = = Texian retreat : The Runaway Scrape = = =

On March 11 , Santa Anna sent one column of troops to join Urrea , with instructions to move to Brazoria once Fannin 's men had been neutralized . A second set of 700 troops under General Antonio Gaona would advance along the Camino Real to Mina , and then on to Nacogdoches . General Joaquín Ramírez y Sesma would take an additional 700 men to San Felipe . The Mexican columns were thus moving northeast on roughly parallel paths , separated by 40 ? 50 miles (64 ? 80 km) .

The same day that Mexican troops departed Béxar , Houston arrived in Gonzales and informed the 374 volunteers (some without weapons) gathered there that Texas was now an independent republic . Just after 11 p.m. on March 13 , Susanna Dickinson and Joe brought news that the Alamo garrison had been defeated and the Mexican army was marching towards Texian settlements . A hastily convened council of war voted to evacuate the area and retreat . The evacuation commenced at midnight and happened so quickly that many Texian scouts were unaware the army had moved on . Everything that could not be carried was burned , and the army 's only two cannon were thrown into the Guadalupe River . When Ramírez y Sesma reached Gonzales the morning of March 14 , he found the buildings still smoldering .

Most citizens fled on foot , many carrying their small children . A cavalry company led by Seguín and Salvador Flores were assigned as rear guard to evacuate the more isolated ranches and protect the civilians from attacks by Mexican troops or Indians . The further the army retreated , the more civilians joined the flight . For both armies and the civilians , the pace was slow ; torrential rains had flooded the rivers and turned the roads into mud pits .

As news of the Alamo 's fall spread , volunteer ranks swelled , reaching about 1 @, @ 400 men on March 19 . Houston learned of Fannin 's defeat on March 20 and realized his army was the last hope for an independent Texas . Concerned that his ill @-@ trained and ill @-@ disciplined force would only be good for one battle and aware that his men could easily be outflanked by Urrea 's forces , Houston continued to avoid engagement , to the immense displeasure of his troops . By

March 28 , the Texian army had retreated 120 miles (190 km) across the Navidad and Colorado Rivers . Many troops deserted ; those who remained grumbled that their commander was a coward .

On March 31 , Houston paused his men at Groce 's Landing , roughly 15 miles (24 km) north of San Felipe . Two companies that refused to retreat further than San Felipe were assigned to guard the crossings on the Brazos River . For the next two weeks , the Texians rested , recovered from illness , and , for the first time , began practicing military drills . While there , two cannon , known as the Twin Sisters , arrived from Cincinnati , Ohio . Interim Secretary of War Thomas Rusk joined the camp , with orders from Burnet to replace Houston if he refused to fight . Houston quickly persuaded Rusk that his plans were sound . Secretary of State Samuel P. Carson advised Houston to continue retreating all the way to the Sabine River , where more volunteers would likely flock from the United States and allow the army to counterattack . Unhappy with everyone involved , Burnet wrote to Houston : " The enemy are laughing you to scorn . You must fight them . You must retreat no further . The country expects you to fight . The salvation of the country depends on your doing so . " Complaints within the camp became so strong that Houston posted notices that anyone attempting to usurp his position would be court @-@ martialed and shot .

Santa Anna and a smaller force had remained in Béxar . After receiving word that the acting president , Miguel Barragán , had died , Santa Anna seriously considered returning to Mexico City to solidify his position . Fear that Urrea 's victories would position him as a political rival convinced Santa Anna to remain in Texas to personally oversee the final phase of the campaign . He left on March 29 to join Ramírez y Sesma , leaving only a small force to hold Béxar . At dawn on April 7 , their combined force marched into San Felipe and captured a Texian soldier , who informed Santa Anna that the Texians planned to retreat further if the Mexican army crossed the Brazos River . Unable to cross the Brazos due to the small company of Texians barricaded at the river crossing , on April 14 a frustrated Santa Anna led a force of about 700 troops to capture the interim Texas government . Government officials fled mere hours before Mexican troops arrived in Harrisburg , and Santa Anna sent Colonel Juan Almonte with 50 cavalry to intercept them in New Washington . Almonte arrived just as Burnet shoved off in a rowboat , bound for Galveston Island . Although the boat was still within range of their weapons , Almonte ordered his men to hold their fire so as not to endanger Burnet 's family .

At this point , Santa Anna believed the rebellion was in its final death throes . The Texian government had been forced off the mainland , with no way to communicate with its army , which had shown no interest in fighting . He determined to block the Texian army 's retreat and put a decisive end to the war . Almonte 's scouts incorrectly reported that Houston 's army was going to Lynchburg Crossing , on Buffalo Bayou , in preparation for joining the government in Galveston , so Santa Anna ordered Harrisburg burned and pressed on towards Lynchburg .

The Texian army had resumed their march eastward . On April 16 , they came to a crossroads ; one road led north towards Nacogdoches , the other went to Harrisburg . Without orders from Houston and with no discussion amongst themselves , the troops in the lead took the road to Harrisburg . They arrived on April 18 , not long after the Mexican army 's departure . That same day , Deaf Smith and Henry Karnes captured a Mexican courier carrying intelligence on the locations and future plans of all of the Mexican troops in Texas . Realizing that Santa Anna had only a small force and was not far away , Houston gave a rousing speech to his men , exhorting them to " Remember the Alamo " and " Remember Goliad " . His army then raced towards Lynchburg . Out of concern that his men might not differentiate between Mexican soldiers and the Tejanos in Seguín 's company , Houston originally ordered Seguín and his men to remain in Harrisburg to guard those who were too ill to travel quickly . After loud protests from Seguín and Antonio Menchaca , the order was rescinded , provided the Tejanos wear a piece of cardboard in their hats to identify them as Texian soldiers .

= = = San Jacinto = = =

The area along Buffalo Bayou had many thick oak groves , separated by marshes . This type of terrain was familiar to the Texians and quite alien to the Mexican soldiers . Houston 's army ,

comprising 900 men , reached Lynch 's Ferry mid @-@ morning on April 20 ; Santa Anna 's 700 @-@ man force arrived a few hours later . The Texians made camp in a wooded area along the bank of Buffalo Bayou ; while the location provided good cover and helped hide their full strength , it also left the Texians no room for retreat . Over the protests of several of his officers , Santa Anna chose to make camp in a vulnerable location , a plain near the San Jacinto River , bordered by woods on one side , marsh and lake on another . The two camps were approximately 500 yards (460 m) apart , separated by a grassy area with a slight rise in the middle . Colonel Pedro Delgado later wrote that " the camping ground of His Excellency 's selection was in all respects , against military rules . Any youngster would have done better . "

Over the next several hours , two brief skirmishes occurred . Texians won the first , forcing a small group of dragoons and the Mexican artillery to withdraw . Mexican dragoons then forced the Texian cavalry to withdraw . In the melee , Rusk , on foot to reload his rifle , was almost captured by Mexican soldiers , but was rescued by newly arrived Texian volunteer Mirabeau B. Lamar . Over Houston 's objections , many infantrymen rushed onto the field . As the Texian cavalry fell back , Lamar remained behind to rescue another Texian who had been thrown from his horse ; Mexican officers " reportedly applauded " his bravery . Houston was irate that the infantry had disobeyed his orders and given Santa Anna a better estimate of their strength ; the men were equally upset that Houston hadn 't allowed a full battle .

Throughout the night , Mexican troops worked to fortify their camp , creating breastworks out of everything they could find , including saddles and brush . At 9 a.m. on April 21 , Cos arrived with 540 reinforcements , bringing the Mexican force to 1 @,@ 200 men , which outnumbered the Texians . Cos 's men were raw recruits rather than experienced soldiers , and they had marched steadily for more than 24 hours , with no rest and no food . As the morning wore on with no Texian attack , Mexican officers lowered their guard . By afternoon , Santa Anna had given permission for Cos 's men to sleep ; his own tired troops also took advantage of the time to rest , eat , and bathe .

Not long after the Mexican reinforcements arrived , Houston ordered Smith to destroy Vince 's Bridge , 5 miles (8 @.@ 0 km) away , to slow down any further Mexican reinforcements . At 4 p.m. the Texians began creeping quietly through the tall grass , pulling the cannon behind them . The Texian cannon fired at 4 : 30 , beginning the battle of San Jacinto . After a single volley , Texians broke ranks and swarmed over the Mexican breastworks to engage in hand @-@ to @-@ hand combat . Mexican soldiers were taken completely by surprise . Santa Anna , Castrillón , and Almonte yelled often conflicting orders , attempting to organize their men into some form of defense . Within 18 minutes , Mexican soldiers abandoned their campsite and fled for their lives . The killing lasted for hours .

Many Mexican soldiers retreated through the marsh to Peggy Lake . Texian riflemen stationed themselves on the banks and shot at anything that moved . Many Texian officers , including Houston and Rusk , attempted to stop the slaughter , but they were unable to gain control of the men . Texians continued to chant " Remember the Alamo ! Remember Goliad ! " while frightened Mexican infantry yelled " Me no Alamo ! " and begged for mercy to no avail . In what historian Davis called " one of the most one @-@ sided victories in history " , 650 Mexican soldiers were killed and 300 captured . Eleven Texians died , with 30 others , including Houston , wounded .

Although Santa Anna 's troops had been thoroughly vanquished , they did not represent the bulk of the Mexican army in Texas . An additional 4 @,@ 000 troops remained under the commands of Urrea and General Vicente Filisola . Texians had won the battle due to mistakes made by Santa Anna , and Houston was well aware that his troops would have little hope of repeating their victory against Urrea or Filisola . As darkness fell , a large group of prisoners were led into camp . Houston initially mistook the group for Mexican reinforcements and shouted out that all was lost .

= = = Mexican retreat = = =

Santa Anna had successfully escaped towards Vince 's Bridge . Finding the bridge destroyed , he hid in the marsh and was captured the following day . He was brought before Houston , who had been shot in the ankle and badly wounded . Texian soldiers gathered around , calling for the

Mexican general 's immediate execution . Bargaining for his life , Santa Anna suggested that he order the remaining Mexican troops to stay away . In a letter to Filisola , who was now the senior Mexican official in Texas , Santa Anna wrote that " yesterday evening [we] had an unfortunate encounter " and ordered his troops to retreat to Béxar and await further instructions .

Urrea urged Filisola to continue the campaign . He was confident that he could successfully challenge the Texian troops . According to Hardin , " Santa Anna had presented Mexico with one military disaster ; Filisola did not wish to risk another . " Spring rains ruined the ammunition and rendered the roads almost impassable , with troops sinking to their knees in mud . Mexican troops were soon out of food , and began to fall ill from dysentery and other diseases . Their supply lines had completely broken down , leaving no hope of further reinforcements . Filisola later wrote that " Had the enemy met us under these cruel circumstances , on the only road that was left , no alternative remained but to die or surrender at discretion " .

For several weeks after San Jacinto , Santa Anna continued to negotiate with Houston , Rusk , and then Burnet . Santa Anna suggested two treaties , a public version of promises made between the two countries , and a private version that included Santa Anna 's personal agreements . The Treaties of Velasco required that all Mexican troops retreat south of the Rio Grande and that all private property ? code for slaves ? be respected and restored . Prisoners @-@ of @-@ war would be released unharmed , and Santa Anna would be given passage to Veracruz immediately . He secretly promised to persuade the Mexican Congress to acknowledge the Republic of Texas and to recognize the Rio Grande as the border between the two countries .

When Urrea began marching south in mid @-@ May , many families from San Patricio who had supported the Mexican army went with him . When Texian troops arrived in early June , they found only 20 families remaining . The area around San Patricio and Refugio suffered a " noticeable depopulation " in the Republic of Texas years . Although the treaty had specified that Urrea and Filisola would return any slaves their armies had sheltered , Urrea refused to comply . Many former slaves followed the army to Mexico , where they could be free . By late May the Mexican troops had crossed the Nueces . Filisola fully expected that the defeat was temporary and that a second campaign would be launched to retake Texas .

= = Aftermath = =

= = = Military = = =

When Mexican authorities received word of Santa Anna 's defeat at San Jacinto , flags across the country were lowered to half staff and draped in mourning . Denouncing any agreements signed by a prisoner , Mexican authorities refused to recognize the Republic of Texas . Filisola was derided for leading the retreat and quickly replaced by Urrea . Within months , Urrea gathered 6 @, @ 000 troops in Matamoros , poised to reconquer Texas . His army was redirected to address continued federalist rebellions in other regions .

Most in Texas assumed the Mexican army would return quickly . So many American volunteers flocked to the Texian army in the months after the victory at San Jacinto that the Texian government was unable to maintain an accurate list of enlistments . Out of caution , Béxar remained under martial law throughout 1836 . Rusk ordered that all Tejanos in the area between the Guadalupe and Nueces Rivers migrate either to east Texas or to Mexico . Some residents who refused to comply were forcibly removed . New Anglo settlers moved in and used threats and legal maneuvering to take over the land once owned by Tejanos . Over the next several years , hundreds of Tejano families resettled in Mexico .

For years , Mexican authorities used the reconquering of Texas as an excuse for implementing new taxes and making the army the budgetary priority of the impoverished nation . Only sporadic skirmishes resulted . Larger expeditions were postponed as military funding was consistently diverted to other rebellions , out of fear that those regions would ally with Texas and further fragment the country . The northern Mexican states , the focus of the Matamoros Expedition , briefly

launched an independent Republic of the Rio Grande in 1839 . The same year , the Mexican Congress considered a law to declare it treasonous to speak positively of Texas . In June 1843 , leaders of the two nations declared an armistice .

= = = Republic of Texas = = =

On June 1 , Santa Anna boarded a ship to travel back to Mexico . For the next two days , crowds of soldiers , many of whom had arrived that week from the United States , gathered to demand his execution . Lamar , by now promoted to Secretary of War , gave a speech insisting that " Mobs must not intimidate the government . We want no French Revolution in Texas ! " , but on June 4 soldiers seized Santa Anna and put him under military arrest . According to Lack , " the shock of having its foreign policy overturned by popular rebellion had weakened the interim government irrevocably " . A group of soldiers staged an unsuccessful coup in mid @-@ July . In response , Burnet called for elections to ratify the constitution and elect a Congress , the sixth set of leaders for Texas in a twelve @-@ month period . Voters overwhelmingly chose Houston the first president , ratified the constitution drawn up by the Convention of 1836 , and approved a resolution to request annexation to the United States . Houston issued an executive order sending Santa Anna to Washington , D.C. , and from there he was soon sent home .

During his absence , Santa Anna had been deposed . Upon his arrival , the Mexican press wasted no time in attacking him for his cruelty towards those executed at Goliad . In May 1837 , Santa Anna requested an inquiry into the event . The judge determined the inquiry was only for fact @-@ finding and took no action ; press attacks in both Mexico and the United States continued . Santa Anna was disgraced until the following year , when he became a hero of the Pastry War .

The first Texas Legislature declined to ratify the treaty Houston had signed with the Cherokee , declaring he had no authority to make any promises . Although the Texian interim governments had vowed to eventually compensate citizens for goods that were impressed during the war efforts , for the most part livestock and horses were not returned . Veterans were guaranteed land bounties ; in 1879 , surviving Texian veterans who served more than three months from October 1 , 1835 through January 1 , 1837 were guaranteed an additional 1 @, @ 280 acres (520 ha) in public lands . Over 1 @. @ 3 million acres (559 thousand ha) of land were granted ; some of this was in Greer County , which was later determined to be part of Oklahoma .

Republic of Texas policies changed the status of many living in the region . The constitution forbade free blacks from living in Texas permanently . Individual slaves could only be freed by congressional order , and the newly emancipated person would then be forced to leave Texas . Women also lost significant legal rights under the new constitution , which substituted English common law practices for the traditional Spanish law system . Under common law , the idea of community property was eliminated , and women no longer had the ability to act for themselves legally ? to sign contracts , own property , or sue . Some of these rights were restored in 1845 , when Texas added them to the new state constitution . During the Republic of Texas years , Tejanos likewise faced much discrimination .

= = = Foreign relations = = =

Mexican authorities blamed the loss of Texas on United States intervention . Although the United States remained officially neutral , 40 percent of the men who enlisted in the Texian army from October 1 through April 21 arrived from the United States after hostilities began . More than 200 of the volunteers were members of the United States Army ; none were punished when they returned to their posts . American individuals also provided supplies and money to the cause of Texian independence . For the next decade , Mexican politicians frequently denounced the United States for the involvement of its citizens .

The United States agreed to recognize the Republic of Texas in March 1837 but declined to annex the territory . The fledgling republic now attempted to persuade European nations to agree to recognition . In late 1839 France recognized the Republic of Texas after being convinced it would

make a fine trading partner .

For several decades , official British policy was to maintain strong ties with Mexico in the hopes that the country could stop the United States from expanding further . When the Texas Revolution erupted , Great Britain had declined to become involved , officially expressing confidence that Mexico could handle its own affairs . In 1840 , after years in which the Republic of Texas was neither annexed by the United States nor reabsorbed into Mexico , Britain signed a treaty to recognize the nation and act as a mediator to help Texas gain recognition from Mexico .

The United States voted to annex Texas as the 28th state in March 1845 . Two months later , Mexico agreed to recognize the Republic of Texas as long as there was no annexation to the United States . On July 4 , 1845 , Texans voted for annexation . This prompted the Mexican ? American War , in which Mexico lost almost 55 percent of its territory to the United States and formally relinquished its claim on Texas .

= = Legacy = =

Although no new fighting techniques were introduced during the Texas Revolution , casualty figures were quite unusual for the time . Generally in 19th @-@ century warfare , the number of wounded outnumbered those killed by a factor of two or three . From October 1835 through April 1836 , approximately 1 @, @ 000 Mexican and 700 Texian soldiers died , while the wounded numbered 500 Mexican and 100 Texian . The deviation from the norm was due to Santa Anna 's decision to label Texian rebels as traitors and to the Texian desire for revenge .

During the revolution , Texian soldiers gained a reputation for courage and militance . Lack points out that fewer than five percent of the Texian population enrolled in the army during the war , a fairly low rate of participation . Texian soldiers recognized that the Mexican cavalry was far superior to their own . Over the next decade , the Texas Rangers borrowed Mexican cavalry tactics and adopted the Spanish saddle and spurs , the riata , and the bandana .

The Texas Veterans Association , composed solely of revolutionary veterans living in Texas , was active from 1873 through 1901 and played a key role in convincing the legislature to create a monument to honor the San Jacinto veterans . In the late 19th century , the Texas Legislature purchased the San Jacinto battlesite , which is now home to the San Jacinto Monument , the tallest stone column monument in the world . In the early 20th century , the Texas Legislature purchased the Alamo Mission , now an official state shrine . In front of the church , in the center of Alamo Plaza , stands a cenotaph designed by Pompeo Coppini which commemorates the defenders who died during the battle . More than 2 @. @ 5 million people visit the Alamo every year .

The Texas Revolution has been the subject of poetry and of many books , plays and films . Most English @-@ language treatments reflect the perspectives of the Anglos and are centered primarily on the battle of the Alamo . From the first novel depicting events of the revolution , 1838 's Mexico versus Texas , through the mid @-@ 20th century , most works contained themes of anticlericalism and racism , depicting the battle as a fight for freedom between good (Anglo Texian) and evil (Mexican) . In both English- and Spanish @-@ language literature , the Alamo is often compared to the battle of Thermopylae . The 1950s Disney miniseries Davy Crockett , which was largely based on myth , created a worldwide craze for everything Alamo @-@ related . Within several years , John Wayne directed and starred in one of the best @-@ known and perhaps least historically accurate film versions , The Alamo (1960) . Notably , this version made the first attempt to leave behind racial stereotypes ; it was still banned in Mexico . In the late 1970s , works about the Alamo began to explore Tejano perspectives , which had been all but extinguished even from textbooks about the revolution , and to explore the revolution 's links to slavery .