

Dear Delegates,

We are so happy to welcome you to the 27th annual Model United Nations conference here at the University of Georgia! Things are going to be a little different this year of course, but we still hope that your involvement in the conference is going to be a rewarding and great learning experience. This is an opportunity to debate with like-minded individuals about specific policy initiatives, learn about the time period of this committee, and work on your own skills that pertain to public speaking and writing! In La Batalla de Puebla, La Historia de Cinco de Mayo at UGAMUNC, you'll be delving deeper into the past and learning a bit more about the history of what happened on this historic day in México.

Your first crisis director is Sudhan Chitgopkar (sudhanchitgopkar@uga.edu). He is a second-year Computer Science and International Affairs double major at UGA. Sudhan loves working with organizations that are making a difference and is currently the outreach director for UGA MUN! Feel free to connect with Sudhan [here!](#)

Your second crisis director, Alexa Hernandez (agh56717@uga.edu), is a third-year student studying Political Science and International Affairs here at the University, while pursuing a certificate in Public Affairs. She has been involved with Model United Nations, both in college and in high school, and currently serves as one of the Head Delegates for the team. Alexa is interested in going to law school once she graduates and hopes to be an influential leader on the world stage!

Additionally, Nathan Yu (nathanyu98@uga.edu) will be your chair. He is a third-year Marketing and International Business major at UGA, with an immense passion for linguistics/learning languages that has led him to pursue minors in German and Spanish. Model United Nations has been a valuable learning experience for Nathan so far and has allowed him to meet many talented peers! Nathan's primary goal is to become a high-functioning polyglot through his current studies in German, Spanish, Korean, Portuguese, French, along with working knowledge in Russian, Italian, and Dutch.

Your co-chair for the weekend will be Sophia Kwan (sophiakwan@uga.edu). She is a first-year Advertising major with minors in Spanish and Business. Sophia has been involved in Model UN throughout high school and is excited to be part of the UGA team. She enjoys volunteering with the Guide Dog Foundation and is training to be a puppy raiser. In her free time, Sophia enjoys spending time with her friends, photography, trying new coffee shops, and traveling to other countries!

We know that you'll all do a fantastic job bringing your role to life in conference. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact us. Welcome to UGAMUNC XXVII!

Sincerely,

Alexa Hernandez and Sudhan Chitgopkar

Crisis Directors, La Batalla de Puebla, La Historia de Cinco de Mayo

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1 Rules and Procedure:

1.1 General Rules

While other delegates at UGAMUNC may be placed in traditional General Assembly-style Model United Nations committees, La Batalla de Puebla, La Historia de Cinco de Mayo committee at UGAMUNC will run as a crisis committee. While you should still familiarize yourself with the UGAMUNC Rules and Procedure document to brush up on parliamentary procedure, this committee will vary from the typical format. Please familiarize yourself with the following rules specific to this committee, and once again, if you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Sudhan or Alexa at (sudhanchitgopkar@uga.edu) or (agh56717@uga.edu).

1. **This committee is loosely based on the La Batalla de Puebla.** This is the general topic of our crisis committee, and as members of the acting countries involved or related individuals, this will be the focus of much of the conversation for the weekend. However, you are more than welcome to focus on related issues of the times or alter the path of history forever.
2. **While this is a historical committee, you have the freedom to alter history.** This committee is to be set in the city of Puebla and the surrounding area in the year 1862, where México is still reeling from the liberals being able to take back México City the previous year. While members of this body should consider any events that took place prior to May 3rd, 1862, as historical facts in this committee, any events that occurred after that date will not automatically occur. Characters in this body have a chance to rewrite fate in the manner they choose.
3. **Utilize crisis notes to accomplish your goals in committee and craft your crisis arc.** While the main method of negotiation in a typical General Assembly-style committee stems from typical speaking time work in committee, in a crisis committee, much of the work you do will be on your own through crisis notes. These are letters that your character will write to crisis, a body outside of the committee room, to accomplish something without the committee's knowledge. A good crisis note not only explains, in detail, what to do, but it also explains very specifically how to do it. These notes will be addressed to a fictional person that has some relation to your character. "Crisis" (UGAMUNC staff and your crisis director) will answer these notes as if they were this fictional person, responding as that person would under the circumstances from the context you set out. Only address a note to crisis if you have a question about the way the committee is going. There are many fantastic resources that better explain crisis notes in detail, but a starting point can be found here: <http://bestdelegate.com/the-three-crisis-notes-to-send-at-the-beginning-of-any-model-un-crisis-committee/>
4. **Because this is a crisis-style committee, write directives, not resolutions.** Although they are very similar, directives are the typical formal paper written in a crisis committee, not resolutions. Directives are less formal, are normally titled, and are generally more straightforward. They are intended to utilize the powers present in the committee to quickly address the crisis at hand or any related issues.
5. **Represent your understanding of your character.** This is a historical crisis committee, meaning that a few of these people actually existed and were somehow involved in la Batalla de Puebla. Use this to your advantage; do some research! Each character is unique, and therefore has unique goals and relationships among members of the committee. That said, be sure to represent your character's beliefs and not simply your own. While you may not be prepared for the updates which crisis will present to you, you can at least understand the character you have been assigned and react to crisis in the way they would.
6. **Be as historically accurate as possible.** Because this is a historical committee, it is expected that all delegates will act in a manner that suits the time period. We'd like you to understand the location and time period in which the committee is set, and this will require doing prior research. This also means that some convenient technologies may not have been invented yet, and are therefore not available in committee. For example, emailing a friend via a crisis note would be impossible, but sending them a letter via horseback would be fine.

7. **This committee is English only.** Even if you can speak Spanish, there will be no advantage given to any delegate who chooses to write crisis notes or give speeches in Spanish. While we certainly respect historical and cultural accuracy, we don't want to exclude other delegates in committee who may not speak Spanish (including your chairs).
8. **All position papers for this committee are due on February 7 by 11:59pm.** Please submit these position papers directly to the both of us at (sudhanchitgopkar@uga.edu) and (agh56717@uga.edu). A position paper is essentially a short letter outlining your character's position on the crisis at hand and your individual plans to accomplish those plans. We expect these papers to be around one (1) double-spaced page in length. We've attached some resources below to help you get started. Happy writing!

1.2 Position Paper Resources

- Best Delegate: <https://bestdelegate.com/how-to-write-a-winning-position-paper/>
- NMUN: <https://www.nmun.org/assets/documents/NMUNPPGuide.pdf>
- AMUN example papers: <https://www.amun.org/sample-paper-1/>

2 Background of Committee

2.1 The War of Reform



Figure 1: Soldiers of the Reformation, 1858

The War of Reform was a three-year-long, politically-founded civil war in México that would later set the stage for the election of president Benito Juárez and the events of May 5th, 1862. This war was fought primarily between the liberal and conservative political parties of México as a result of their separate beliefs regarding a set of new laws passed by the liberal individuals in the government. The liberals believed in increased separation of church and state in México, and they wanted a smaller military overall. As a whole, liberals saw the Catholic Church and the army to be antiquated institutions which had little place in México. The conservative politicians in Mexico had a different take, prioritizing strong central governments with traditional roles for the Catholic Church and military. Conservatives also largely aligned with the idea of maintaining racial hierarchies in México with the minority merchant elites being superior to the majority mixed-race and indigenous population.¹

The war began as a result of the Constitution of 1857 being passed by the liberals as it provided a constitutional basis for them to implement a series of laws that defunded and separated out much of the Catholic Church from the central government. The Conservatives, outraged by the new constitution, passed the Plan of Tacubaya in a closed Congress, which allowed them to oust the Liberals from México City, forcing them to reallocate to Veracruz.²

From there, the real fighting began. Some states decided to side with Félix Zuloaga, who was the “leader” of the conservatives. Others fought alongside Benito Juárez, leader of the liberals. Few stayed neutral.

While the liberals suffered heavy casualties and lost the vast majority of their early battles against the Conservatives, they were always able to ward off take-over attempts of Veracruz, the liberal capital and stronghold. Things seemed relatively bleak for the liberals. By a stroke of luck, though, the liberals went on to win repeated battles until the conservatives surrendered in December of 1860.

On January 15, 1858, Benito Pablo Juárez Garcia, President of the Supreme Court of Justice and Vice President, assumed presidency following Ignacio Comonfort fleeing to the United States. Comonfort was the previous, unpopular President of México: he fled to the United States because he was unsupported by both parties and hated by the public. Despite the order of succession, the conservative forces did not acknowledge his presidency and named Felix Maria Zuloga as the interim president in México City.³ The struggle for power between the conservatives and liberals continued throughout Juárez’s interim presidency. Juárez established a liberal government in Queretaro, later moving it to Veracruz. He issued various decrees known as the Reform Laws which included separating church and state, nationalization of church property, and establishing a civil registry for births, marriages, and deaths. The Reform Laws would limit the power of the Catholic Church guaranteeing freedom of religion, they were later approved by congress in May of 1861.⁴

¹Hamnett, Brian. “Mexican Conservatives, Clericals, and Soldiers: the ‘Traitor’ Tomás Mejía through Reform and Empire, 1855–1867.” *Bulletin of Latin American Research* 20, no. 2 (2001): 187–209. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1470-9856.00010>.

²Hamnett, Brian. “The Comonfort Presidency, 1855–1857.” *Bulletin of Latin American Research* 15, no. 1 (1996): 81–100. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1470-9856.1996.tb00023.x>.

³Coerver, Don M., Suzanne B. Pasztor, and Robert M. Buffington. 2004. *México: An Encyclopedia of Contemporary Culture and History*. Santa Barbara, California: ABC-CLIO. <https://books.google.com/books?id=YSred4NyOKoC&printsec=frontcover#v=onepage&q&f=true>

⁴Lee, Stacey. 2003. *México and the United States*. Tarrytown, New York: Marshall Cavendish. https://books.google.com/books?id=DSzyMGh8pNwC&printsec=frontcover&source=gbg_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false.

2.2 The Election of Benito Juárez

Following the war in 1861, Juárez called for a referendum, which formally elected him as president: giving him control of México City. He entered office facing a crippled economy and a heavily divided country. Additionally, he faced strong criticism within his own party. A resolution in the lower house of Congress called for his resignation, and it was defeated by only one vote.

The treasury was exhausted following the war, and there was little trade. Foreign powers such as England, France, and Spain were demanding repayment of their loans, which México did not have the funds to do so.⁵ This caused a lot of issues within México, as the government was trying its best to stay stable with pressures from outside powers and an economy that was in shambles. Additionally, México was unable to turn to the United States for financial assistance, as they were entering their own civil war. Tensions were mounting between these two countries, as the annexation of Texas happened a few years prior in 1845. This annexation led to the Mexican-American war, which began in 1846, and lasted two years. While this conflict started over a disagreement of México's true northern border, the war allowed for the United States to exert power over the newly independent México. Due to this turmoil, Juárez declared a two year suspension on foreign debt repayments, furthering the tensions at home and abroad.



Figure 2: Map of French Intervention Routes

2.3 The Stirrings of War (Part I)

Angered by Juárez's refusal to make good upon foreign debt interest payments, a tripartite alliance was formed by France, Spain, and the United Kingdom with the sole intention of invading México as a mechanism to enforce interest payments. It is important to note that the United Kingdom specifically opposed using this as an attempt to incite regime change in México, fearing encroaching on American influence in the region. Spain and France disagreed, noting that if the Mexicans wanted regime change, the European powers should help them bring that about. While these differences were put aside during the signing of the tripartite alliance, they still existed as the invasion of México would begin. For Spain and the United Kingdom, this was simply a means to coerce back payments on interest. The French, however, had other plans.

2.4 France under Napoleon III

Napoleon III had a successful, if controversial, time as ruler of France. He began as the elected President of France, eligible for a single, four year term.⁶ The French Constitution, as a means of preventing abuse of power, capped the maximum term limit for presidents at this aforementioned one, four-year term. This wasn't enough for Napoleon III, and he spent the third year of his four years in office attempting to pass an amendment that would allow him a second term. This amendment failed due to concerns about Napoleon's unchecked power should he receive a second term. As a result, Napoleon spent time gaining as much popularity as possible in France and ended his final year of presidency by declaring himself Emperor of France.

⁵Library of Congress. 1997. "México: A Country Study." Fourth Edition:435-436.

⁶Delage, Irène, and Nebiha Guiga. "Napoleon III, Emperor of the French (1808-1873)." *napoleon.org*. Fondation Napoléon 2020, 2016. <https://www.napoleon.org/en/young-historians/napodoc/napoleon-iii-emperor-of-the-french-1808-1873/>.

As a result of his emperorship becoming initially contingent upon his popularity, Napoleon III took significant steps to center his domestic policy around maintaining popularity in France. To that end, he promoted construction and industry projects, promised better conditions for the poor, and specifically provided many benefits to workers in the industry sector.

Internationally, Napoleon III was adamant upon restoring the empire of France. As such, his imperialist tendencies had few bounds. The establishment of the tripartite alliance and the inability for México to pay back foreign debt interests opened the door for Napoleon III to begin military conquest in México. Such conquest was driven by two factors: (1) a general ability to advance French influence across all corners of the globe and (2) the ability to counterbalance the United States which was, at this time, moving into the first tides of civil war: threatening the influence that France had in Europe.

2.5 The Stirrings of War (Part II)

On November 11th, 1861, Napoleon III instructed his vice admiral to not only capture the ports of México but to hold them until the debt issues had been resolved. It is unclear whether the other members of the tripartite alliance knew about this, but it is unlikely. Alongside the rest of their tripartite alliance, France began their invasion of México. Spanish forces were the first to land in the city of Veracruz on December 8th, 1861. These some 6,000 troops gave the governor of Veracruz a final opportunity to surrender, which was ignored. Three days after this surrender opportunity, the Spanish conquered Veracruz. In doing so, they violated the tripartite agreement, which stipulated that all actions would be conducted by all three countries in the agreement.⁷

Shortly after this, French and British forces landed in México, in close proximity to the Spanish forces at Veracruz. At this point, one final ultimatum was given out by the tripartite alliance to México. This ultimatum demanded twelve million francs from the Mexican government as repayment of all debts and debt interests accrued by México. México refused this ultimatum, so on April of 1862, the first battles began. France officially declares war on México on April 20th, after a military skirmish between French and Mexican forces a day earlier resulted in casualties on the Mexican side. Skirmishes and small wars keep occurring through April, getting larger and larger with each passing day until the 28th when the French army reaches Puebla. The French have 5,000 troops, 10,000 fewer than they were promised. As such, they were vastly outnumbered by the 12,000 Mexican troops holding Puebla.



Figure 3: Mexican Army Repels French Forces

As such, the Battle of Puebla began.

⁷“The Cinco De Mayo and French Imperialism.” [napoleon.org](https://www.napoleon.org/histoire-des-2-empires/articles/the-cinco-de-mayo-and-french-imperialism/). Fondation Napoléon 2020. Accessed October 20, 2020. <https://www.napoleon.org/histoire-des-2-empires/articles/the-cinco-de-mayo-and-french-imperialism/>.

3 Starting Scenario

May 3rd, 1862, the City of Puebla in East-Central México:

Tensions have begun to rise as the quest for new land continues to bring the world together, and drive it further apart. As a newly independent country from Spain, México is in the process of fighting for legitimacy on the world stage, and pushing for a solid authority figure to lead the country further away from the shadow of Spanish rule. With the continued rule of weak and bankrupt governments, a recent crippling civil war, as well as the unwise economic decisions made by said governments, México is struggling to stay footed as a republic. Additionally, pressures from the United States over the borders of Texas have left the country more scattered than before, with Texas formally becoming annexed by the United States in 1836. In 1861, after the election of President Benito Juárez, México was in a state of economic turmoil due to years of payment mishandling and corruption within the government. Creditors France, Spain, and the United Kingdom met in London to form an alliance with the sole purpose of launching an invasion into México to demand repayment. While the United Kingdom and Spain quickly withdrew from this deal, France is continuing on the path of war against México.

While this is not canon, you all will be meeting in Puebla to discuss avenues at a jointly-called peace summit. Tensions have not yet risen past the point of no return, so it is in all of your best interests to come to a solution that benefits all of the parties involved.

However, as members of these warring parties, you each have goals of your own. The path toward peace is not going to be an easy one, and it is pertinent that you all work together to achieve a common goal for the sake of both France and México, as well as all other actors who may arise as time moves on. However, this is happening during a time where economic turmoil is not only occurring in México. The entire world is fighting to become more prominent than their allies and adversaries. Debts must be repaid, and in whatever way that is done, each country is going to be expecting something at the pinnacle of debate. The group of politicians, generals, and leaders of their respective fields in this committee are the most prepared to undertake this challenge of what is sure to be war if tensions do not settle. Although you each know what your respective goals are, you are more than ready to fight to the end for justice, and for your country.

While your goals in this committee may overlap, you should make it a point to increase your overall power in committee by accumulating friends and resources to better prepare yourself and your allies for what is to come. Additionally, working with other committee delegates to create a deal, or perhaps requesting aid from foreign countries in the fight against aggressors, may be necessary. You'll have to take into account other societal problems of the era, seeing as to the North there is a Civil War going on, as well as pressures coming from European powers. It is up to you to work diligently despite the state of the world, and come up with a comprehensive solution. *Al mal paso, darle prisa.*

4 Character Descriptions

1. **Napoleon III, Empereur-** As the founder, first, and only emperor of the Second French Empire, Charles-Louis Napoleon Bonaparte cemented himself as one of the most important figures in the 19th century. He is the nephew of Napoleon I, and inherited the immense craving for power and dominance that his uncle had. He takes great pride in his mustache, and has the reputation of being protective of it at all times.
2. **Félix María Zuloaga, General** - Félix is a Conservative leader first, and a general second. Despite his influence within the Conservative party, Félix has trouble keeping a footing within the new government under Benito Juárez. Additionally, although he was the President before Juárez, he has become a political outcast. Shaken from the loss of power, he is looking for a new movement to follow. *Pouvez-vous parler français?*
3. **General Charles de Lorencez, Chef de la force expéditionnaire française** - As Napoleon's favored general, Charles is an experienced strategist and influence on the French's battle plans. As well as being Napoleon's favored general, he also is in a competition against Napoleon for the greatest mustache in France. His newest assignment seems to be taking him to a country near the United States, but he knows that whoever they are, they better be ready for the mighty armies of France.
4. **Ignacio Zaragoza, Comandante-General** - Although Ignacio comes from a simple background, this does not detract from the mastermind that this general is. As the previous Secretary of War, Zaragoza understands the pressures México is under and the best ways to solve them. Most of the armies are loyal to him as well, seeing as he is a benevolent leader. He may be misguided at times, but has a heart of gold.
5. **Porfirio Díaz, Brigadier General** - As a war veteran from the War of Reform, Porfirio is a well-respected general throughout México with an adamant dislike of everything French. Since his first enrollment in the army as a teenager in 1846, he has moved through the ranks quickly. However, he did not always want to become a fighter: his plans to become a priest halted when recruits were needed for the War of Reform. He still is a deeply religious man, seeking council from the Pope when needed.
6. **Élie Frédéric Forey, Commandant-Général** - Élie is a man of honor, as he is very loyal to the French crown. Having served in 3 or so wars thus far, he is not worried about his new assignment as commanding general of the French expeditionary corps to México. He is excited for the opportunity to gain new distinctions in the French military, and hopes to continue climbing the ranks until he can no longer do so. He has heard a lot about México, and is excited to make some money off of its government.
7. **Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian** - As a highly charismatic Austrian, Ferdinand knows how to work a crowd; he is well educated, joyful, but also a little bit undisciplined. Although these traits are working against him, he has the opportunity to become the emperor of México. He turned down the first proposal to explore the beautiful forests of Brazil (he's a huge botany nerd), and now is working on behalf of the Mexicans to help in their fight against tyranny.
8. **Ignacio Comofort, Vigésimo Quinto Presidente de México-** After the ratification of the Constitution of 1857, many anti-constitutional forces, including General Zuloaga, were not happy with their president. Comonfort resigned as President and fled to the United States, seeking asylum from México's neighbors to the North. Upon hearing about the trouble in his home country, he has put aside all past grievances and has returned to México to fight for his country again. With a war brewing, and past trauma holding him back, what will he do?
9. **Manuel Dublán, Abogado** - Brother-in-law to Benito Juárez, Dublán is a leading figure in Mexican politics, supporting liberal ideology through his law practice. He helped draft the "Ley Juárez," the first of the Reform Laws setting the stage for his brother's presidency. He is fearlessly loyal to his brother and México, and he is an aggressive litigator. Don't get into a legal argument with him!

10. **Miguel Negrete Novoa-** Originally part of the military under Comonfort's rule, he believes in conservative principles and takes pride in his country. With the impending French invasion, Novoa decided to put his country before his ideology stating "Tengo una patria antes que un partido político," meaning "I have a country before a party." He joins the liberal forces commanded by Ignacio Zaragoza and is ready to fight for his country!
11. **Tomás O'Horán Escudero, General-** Not to be confused with his father, Tomas Antonio O'Horan y Agüero, Escudero is a loyal fighter for México, participating in every battle throughout his lifetime. Known throughout México as the "the Immortal of Atlixco," he seems to have a lucky streak when he fights in battle. He stands by Benito Juárez and the liberals, and loves his home country more than anything. Will his "immortality" hold up in what could be México's historic battle?
12. **Juan Nepomuceno Méndez, General-** Méndez once lived a simple life as a working-class citizen of México, but when soldiers were needed in the Mexican-American War, he enlisted and has not looked back since. He worked his way through the ranks, and now serves as a General. Ready to defend his country from the French, he stands by his close friend, a fellow liberal, Portfolio Diaz.
13. **Francisco Lamadrid, General -** Lamadrid has loved México ever since he was a young child. Rumor has it, his first words were "amo México" (though this can't be confirmed). A good friend to Juárez, Lamadrid has worked his way up through the army ranks, and now sits as General with an "in" to the President. He has a well-founded political opinion on everything in the world and is widely considered to be one of the best academics in his community. On the side, Carlos has an affinity for chess, something that may give him an upper hand in battle-planning.
14. **Jean Danjou, Capitaine -** As an expert military man and distinguished graduate of France's premiere military academy, Jean has a reputation that precedes him. His recent call to action was to command a unit of mercenaries and degenerates: individuals who respect and obey Jean's orders despite their instincts to rebel. Many years ago, his left hand was lost during a battle, and now he sports a fake wooden hand that he uses as a personal club. Don't get too close when he's in a bad mood.
15. **John Waigne -** As a gun-toting, horse-riding renegade from the US, John Waigne cares very little about the politics behind the la Batalla de Puebla. He's an expert marksman and a charismatic (if sometimes apathetic) leader that is renowned for his dueling and fighting abilities. He's always saving the world, chasing the girls, and just happened to get caught up in the middle of this standoff.
16. **Henry Seward, Nomad/Salesman-** Seward, an American, comes from an eccentric French heritage: his grandfather, a French noble, decided to give up his riches in pursuit of the fountain of youth. His journey took him to the United States where he became an inventor and developed a miraculous snake oil medicine, as well as a popular line of weaponry. These inventions earned Seward's grandfather the millions he had left behind in France. Armed with his grandfather's inheritance and an inventive mind of his own, Seward set off in pursuit of the fountain of youth that his grandfather was never able to find. His journeys landed him in Puebla amidst the stirrings of war.
17. **Javier Philip II-** As a member of the French army, Javier Philip II was excited to finally step into battle and expand his country's empire as much as possible. He comes from a family of means and received a proper education during his early years: he's a master swordsman! Despite being issued a musket by the French, he prefers to do battle with a sword that he created himself (which he affectionately calls a "Hattori Hanzō"). He despises the hack-and-slash nature of war, preferring to be a smart, cunning, and stealthy assassin instead. Enchanted by Mexican culture and bored of French imperialism, he surrendered himself to Benito Juárez, who saw him fit to be an important part of the Mexican army.
18. **Emile Marty-** Despite being one of the strongest, most brutish fighters for the French, Emile was forced to surrender himself to the Mexican army during one of the early skirmishes. He was kept as a prisoner by the Mexican army, but escaped his cell and slipped out under the cover of darkness. During his time as a prisoner, Marty learned a lot about the plans of the Mexican army and their battle structure. His information could be of great use to the French army, but he feels somewhat

betrayed by their lack of an attempt to save him. Is this enough to make him sway sides? For now, though, he's just an angry, strong, and vengeful man with a loyalty only to himself.

19. **Maria Fermina Rivera, Veterana de guerra** - Coming from a background of insurgence fighting in the Mexican War of Independence, Maria knows her way around a battlefield. Alongside her husband, she fought in Vicente Guerrero's small force in 1821, and now lives a quiet life in the Mexican countryside with her family. Having received pensions from a lawsuit in 1823 against the Mexican government, she has plenty of wealth to spare. Don't be fooled by her withering frame though, she can still kick it!