

Texas Wins Independence

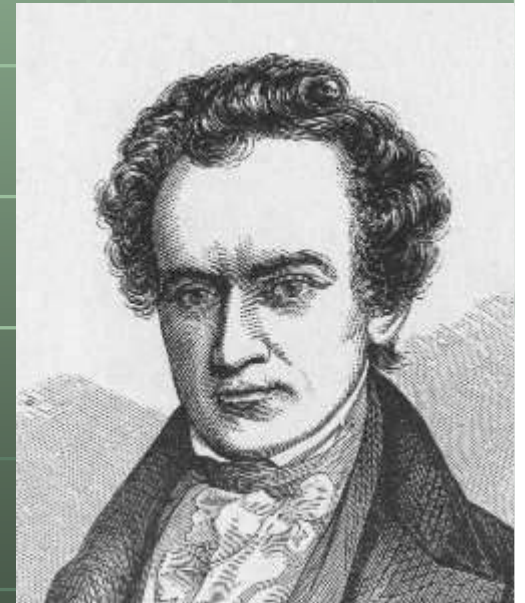
Chapter 13 Section 2

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I. Americans in Mexican Texas

A. Since the early 1800s the Spanish colony called **Texas** was longed after by many Americans for its rich farming and grazing lands.

B. After **Mexico** gained its independence in **1821** from **Spain**, **Stephen Austin** led about 300 American families into the area known as Texas hoping to develop the area and control against **Native American** attacks. The land was given as a grant from the Spanish prior to Mexican independence. By 1830, 20,000 Americans had settled in the area.



II. Conflict with Mexico

A. As part of the agreement to obtain the lands, all American settlers had to:

1. Become citizens of Mexico
2. Could not hold slaves
3. Worship in the Roman Catholic Church.

As more settlers came to the area many refused to accept these requirements creating conflict with the Mexican government.

II. Conflict with Mexico (con't)

B. Mexico feared that the U.S. was trying to take over Texas. To ensure settlers would remain loyal Mexico, under the leadership of [Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna](#), sent in troops to enforce the laws.

C. Settlers feared that Santa Anna wished to remove all American settlers from Texas.



II. Conflict with Mexico (con't)

- D. Texans felt that the time had come to take action against the Mexican government to protect their land claims.
- E. The Texans forced Mexican troops to withdraw in a confrontation at **Gonzales** and then took **San Antonio**.
- F. On **March 2, 1836** Texas declared itself independent calling it the Republic of Texas and appointed Sam Houston as its leader of the army.

II. Conflict with Mexico (con't)

G. Santa Anna vowed to regain San Antonio and sent in troops to confront the Texan rebels at the Alamo.



III. Siege at the Alamo

- A. By the time Santa Anna arrived in San Antonio only 200 Texan fighters remained.

- B. Refusing to give up the fighters moved back to an old Spanish mission called the Alamo.

III. Siege at the Alamo

C. The Texans faced great obstacles in their fight with the rebels including:

1. Shortness of ammunition and medicine.
2. A limited food and fresh water supply.
3. Heavily outnumbered fighters.
4. No reinforcements

III. Siege at the Alamo (con't)

- D. The Mexican army, under Santa Anna, began laying siege on the Alamo on **February 23, 1836**.
- E. The siege lasted 12 days until the Mexican army poured through the Alamo walls. In the end, 183 Texans were killed to 1500 Mexican soldiers.
- F. Although the Texans lost the **Battle of the Alamo**, it served as a rally call for more people to join the Texan Army.
"Remember the Alamo!"

IV. Texan Independence

A. Volunteers from Texas and the United States poured into help support the Texan's cause. Factors that caused this included:

1. The loss at the Alamo
2. The killing of surrendered Texan soldiers at **Goliad** three weeks later.

IV. Texan Independence (con't)

- B. Houston and the Texans surprised the Mexican troops with an attack on their camp at the **San Jacinto River**.
- C. The **Battle of San Jacinto** lasted 18 minutes and resulted in the Texans killing 630 and capturing 700.
- D. The following day they captured Santa Anna and forced him to grant Texas independence.

V. The Lone Star Republic

- A. Following the treaty with Santa Anna the Texans formed their own country called the **Lone Star Republic**.
- B. Settlers drew up a constitution the resembled that of the U.S. Constitution.
- C. **Sam Houston** was elected the first president of the Lone Star Republic.

V. The Lone Star Republic (con't)

D. The new nation had severe financial hardships and hoped the U.S. would annex it. This was not easy because:

1. Northerners did not want to admit a slave holding state.
2. Fear of creating another war with Mexico.

V. The Lone Star Republic (con't)

E. Over the next ten years the Lone Star Republic prospered.

F. Thousands moved to Texas during the **Panic of 1837** to find land and start businesses.

G. By the 1840's population in Texas had exploded to 140,000.