

Section

1

Changes in Spanish Texas

Main Ideas

1. In the 1760s the Spanish abandoned much of Texas.
2. New settlements and new policies improved relations with American Indians in the 1770s.

Why It Matters Today

Settlers in East Texas migrated to new homes in the 1770s. Use current events sources to find information about migration between regions today.

Key Terms and People

- **cede**
- **Marqués de Rubí**
- **Tejanos**
- **Antonio Gil Ybarbo**



TEKS: 2C, 2F, 8A, 9C, 21A, 21B, 22D

myNotebook

Use the annotations tools in your eBook to take notes on changes in Texas in the 1760s and 1770s.

The Story Continues

At the San Sabá presidio, Colonel Diego Ortiz Parrilla was worried. War had broken out between British and French colonists northeast of Texas. Parrilla told Spanish officials that he had heard rumors about the fighting. Both the British and the French were giving guns to the Wichita in hopes of winning them as allies. However, American Indians with guns could pose a serious threat to Spain's hold on Texas. Already, armed Indians had attacked his fort. Parrilla urged officials to strengthen the weak Texas defenses.



The Marqués de Rubí Report

The war between France and Great Britain about which Parrilla was worried had begun in 1754. The war, fought for control of the Ohio River valley, was called the French and Indian War. In 1762 Spain joined the war as well, as allies of the French. Only one year later, though, the British forced the French to sign a peace treaty. The effects of this treaty greatly changed the map of North America.

The 1763 Treaty of Paris required France and Spain to **cede**, or officially give, territory to Britain. France gave up Canada and all its claims east of the Mississippi River. Spain ceded Florida. Under a separate treaty, Spain gained New Orleans and Louisiana, which included all French territory west of the Mississippi River. With the loss of this huge region, France no longer posed a threat to Texas. The French had no land left on the mainland of North America.

Although it had been on the losing side of the war, Spain's holdings in North America had grown. Curious about the state of his overseas territory, the king of Spain sent trusted officials to report on conditions in Spanish America. In 1766 the **Marqués de Rubí** began a tour of the presidios of New Spain.

As he traveled through Texas the next year, Rubí grew concerned about conditions there. Most of the presidios needed repairs and were staffed by soldiers who lived in poverty, often without decent uniforms or equipment. One soldier reported, "This company lacks arms, horses, coats, and in a word everything necessary to carry out its obligations [duties]." Of all the presidios in Texas, only La Bahía and San Antonio de Béxar were in decent shape. Rubí also noted that Spanish attempts to befriend and convert the Apaches had failed. Even worse, enemies of the Apaches, such as the Comanches, now saw the Spanish as enemies.

In all, Rubí spent some two years and traveled more than 7,000 miles touring northern New Spain. He understood—as did many Spanish officers stationed on the frontier—that Spain did not have the power, wealth, or people necessary to hold such a huge, remote region. In 1768 Rubí issued a report of his findings. He urged Spain to pull back to the "real" frontier, the borderlands just north of Mexico. To protect this frontier, he proposed a string of 15 forts, each about 100 miles apart, from lower California to southern Texas. Only San Antonio and Santa Fe would remain north of this line of forts. Rubí did not think that a Spanish presence in East Texas was needed because the area no longer bordered French land. He recommended the following policy changes for Texas.

1. Spain should abandon all missions and presidios except those at La Bahía and San Antonio.
2. San Antonio should replace Los Adaes as the capital of Texas.
3. The Spanish population in East Texas should be moved to San Antonio to strengthen its defenses.
4. The Spanish should befriend the Comanches and seek their help in fighting the Apaches.

Reading Check Summarizing Why did Marqués de Rubí recommend withdrawing from much of Texas?



European Land Claims in North America, 1763

Interpreting Maps During the 1700s several European powers claimed land in North America.

Locate Which country controlled the area of present-day Texas?



BIOGRAPHY

Antonio Gil Ybarbo

(1729–1809) Antonio Gil Ybarbo was born at Los Adaes. As an adult, he established a large and prosperous ranch, El Lobanillo, in present-day Sabine County. The ranch served as a center for trade with American Indians and residents of Louisiana. Ybarbo became an important leader. In recognition, Spanish officials made him lieutenant governor, chief justice, and captain of the militia at Nacogdoches.

What role did Ybarbo play in Spain's colonization of Texas?



Changes in Texas Policies

The government approved Rubí's recommendations. In 1773 officials ordered the Spanish withdrawal from East Texas. This was not an easy task. Several hundred people lived in the region in and around Los Adaes. Among the American Indians and French residents were many **Tejanos** (teh-HAH-nohs)—Texas settlers of Spanish descent. They had established homes, farms, and ranches in the area and did not want to leave. However, the Spanish were insistent. One man recalled how an official "went from house to house, driving the people from them." Some settlers died during the hard, three-month trek to San Antonio.

Once in San Antonio—now the capital of Texas—many of the newcomers were unhappy. They found that the best farmland around the settlement was already taken. Many grew homesick and began asking to go home. In 1774 they were given permission to return east, but only to the Trinity River. Led by **Antonio Gil Ybarbo** (ee-BAHR-boh), the group founded Bucareli in present-day Madison County. At first, Bucareli prospered. Comanche raids, disease, and flooding soon became serious problems, however, as Ybarbo described in a letter.

TEXAS VOICES



"On the night of February 14, the river went out of its banks and inundated [flooded] everything on both sides. . . . [The women and children] were got out on boards and doors and taken to the highest point in the vicinity, where a few days later Comanches fell upon us."

—Antonio Gil Ybarbo, quoted in *Documents of Texas History*

In 1779 Ybarbo and the others decided to move farther east. They founded the town of Nacogdoches on the site of an old mission and an even older Caddo settlement. The town prospered. Deep in the Piney Woods, it was not as exposed to attack from hostile Indians as other towns. In addition, the Tejanos who lived in the area were friendly to the Spanish. Nacogdoches developed a brisk trade with Louisiana and nearby Indians. Although Spain officially prohibited such trade, Nacogdoches was far from officials in San Antonio. The town soon became the main gateway for people and goods entering Texas from Louisiana.

Relations between the people of Nacogdoches and the Tejanos reflect a new Spanish attitude toward Texas Indians. Although some Coahuiltecas and other Indians had adapted to life at La Bahía and San Antonio, few other missions had achieved their goal of making Indians into Spanish citizens. Officials therefore decided to adopt a new policy of befriending American Indians whenever possible by trading with them and giving them gifts. The French had successfully used such an approach in their colonies for years.

A former French commander named Athanase de Mézières (mayz-yehr) was chosen to direct the new Texas Indian policy. Mézières was a good choice. He had several years of experience dealing with Indians and spoke several Indian languages. He lost no time in contacting Texas



Indians. During the 1770s he established peace with several northern Indian groups.

Overall, Spain's new policy seemed successful. In 1785 the Spanish signed a peace treaty with the Comanches. The Comanches agreed to stop raiding Spanish settlements in return for yearly gifts, including such items as beads, clothes, mirrors, and shoes. After a while, the Spanish even gave the Comanches guns. The treaty maintained a degree of peace with the Comanches for some 30 years.

Apache attacks in Texas continued, however. In 1790 a large Spanish army joined with Comanches, Wichitas, and others. At Soledad Creek west of San Antonio, this force won a major victory over the Apaches. This loss weakened Apache strength in Texas for many years.

In 1785 the Spanish signed a peace treaty with the Comanches.

Reading Check Sequencing List in order what happened to the East Texas settlers from 1773 to 1779.



Section 1 Review



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ONLINE QUIZ

1. Define and explain:

- cede
- Tejanos

2. Identify and explain

the significance of each of the following:

- Marqués de Rubí
- Antonio Gil Ybarbo

3. Locate on a map:

- Nacogdoches

4. Identifying Cause and Effect

Copy the graphic organizer below. Use it to identify the problems Rubí found in Texas and the actions Spanish officials took to address them.

Problems	Rubí's Report	Actions
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5. Finding the Main Idea

- What led to the Rubí inspection tour?
- How did Spanish relations with Texas Indians change in the late 1700s?

6. Writing and Critical Thinking

myWriteSmart

Sequencing Write a paragraph describing in order the movement of Spanish settlers from and back to East Texas.

Consider the following:

- why the East Texans had to move
- the events of the move