

Section

2

Disputes with the United States

Main Ideas

1. Some Spanish officials saw the growth of the United States as a threat to their land in North America.
2. Disputes arose over the border between Texas and Louisiana.

Why It Matters Today

Spain and the United States could not agree about the border between their territories. Use current events sources to learn about border disputes in the world today.



TEKS: 1B, 2C, 8A, 9C, 21B, 21C, 21E, 22D

myNotebook

Use the annotation tools in your eBook to take notes on disputes between Spain and the United States.

Key Terms and People

- Louisiana Purchase
- Neutral Ground
- diplomats
- Adams-Onís Treaty

The Story Continues

Bernardo de Gálvez eyed the British fort in Pensacola, Florida, determined to take it. If he did, Spain would regain control of Florida. Gálvez directed the 7,000 soldiers and 35 ships at his command to attack. Inside the fort, though, the 1,600 British troops were not easily defeated. They held out for two months. Then on May 9, 1781, a huge explosion ripped through the fort—a Spanish shell had hit the main gunpowder site. Florida was Spanish once more.



The Growing U.S. Threat

Bernardo de Gálvez became the governor of Spanish Louisiana in 1777. As governor, he often came into conflict with the British over trade issues. Several years after American Patriots in the 13 British colonies declared independence from Great Britain, Spain declared war on the British. Gálvez led Spanish forces in retaking Florida, winning victories against the British in the Bahamas and Louisiana. While fighting in Louisiana, Gálvez ordered officials in Texas to send him cattle to feed his troops. Between 1779 and 1782, Tejanos drove some 10,000 cattle into Louisiana. These were some of the earliest Texas cattle drives.

In 1783 the United States officially won its independence. Though Spain had helped win that independence, the new nation grew so quickly that some Spanish officials began to see it as a threat.

U.S. settlers pushed west as far as the Mississippi River. Without seeking permission, some continued into Spanish Louisiana to the Red River. Although this region belonged to Spain, few Spanish settlers lived there. Nor did many Spaniards live in East Texas, as one Spaniard noted.

TEXAS VOICES

"All the souls, which on our part, populate such a rich and vast province, are to be found in one villa, two presidios, . . . six ranches, seven missions and . . . Bucareli. . . If one thinks about the millions of souls who could maintain themselves there, . . . the fertility of the land . . . one would not see this abandon without indifference."

—Father Juan Agustín Morfi, quoted in *Spanish Texas, 1519–1810*, by David M. Vigness

Despite some misgivings, Spanish leaders in Louisiana decided to allow U.S. immigration to boost the population. But officials in Texas put troops at Nacogdoches to keep unwanted foreigners out. As the U.S. population grew, Texans watched anxiously. Their anxiety increased in 1800 when Spain returned Louisiana to France. Just three years later, France sold the territory to the United States for \$15 million. The deal, known as the **Louisiana Purchase**, doubled the size of the young nation.

Reading Check Finding the Main Idea Why did some Spanish officials see the United States as a threat to Spain's colonies?

That's Interesting!

Bernardo de Gálvez

Bernardo de Gálvez's contributions during the Revolutionary War did not end with the fighting. Gálvez represented Spain in negotiating the peace treaty. The U.S. Congress later honored him for his help in gaining U.S. independence. In addition, the region's largest bay was named Galveston in his honor.



The Louisiana Purchase and the Adams-Onís Treaty

Interpreting Maps The Adams-Onís Treaty defined the border of the Spanish territory.

Places and Regions What rivers helped define the boundaries set by the Adams-Onís Treaty?



Border Disputes in Texas

Many Spanish were alarmed that New Spain now shared a border with the rapidly growing United States. To make matters worse, that border was not clearly defined. According to U.S. officials, the Louisiana territory extended as far west as the Rio Grande. Spanish officials disagreed. They claimed that Louisiana ended at the Arroyo Hondo, known today as the Calcasieu River. Fearing that the disagreement could lead to violence, the Spanish brought troops to East Texas.

Meanwhile even more Americans moved west. In 1806 a U.S. army captain named Zebulon Pike set out to explore the Louisiana territory for the government. Spanish soldiers captured him in New Mexico and accused him of spying. In time, the Spanish commander agreed to release Pike. He went home by way of northern Mexico and Texas, which he later described in a book as full of game, herds of mustangs, and wild cattle. His book added to U.S. interest in the region.

In late 1806 Spanish and U.S. military leaders met to discuss the disputed boundary. To prevent violence, they declared the area between the Sabine and the Arroyo Hondo neutral, meaning it did not belong to either side. This territory became known as the **Neutral Ground**. Both countries would remain out of the area until **diplomats** set the official border. Diplomats are officials who represent countries in foreign affairs.

Despite the agreement, settlers and many outlaws entered the Neutral Ground. In 1819 Spain and the United States signed the **Adams-Onís Treaty**, which set the boundary between their territories. Under the treaty, the United States gave up all claims to Texas in exchange for the Neutral Ground and Florida.

Reading Check Making Generalizations and Predictions Do you think conflict continued between New Spain and the United States? Why?



Section 2 Review



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ONLINE QUIZ

1. Define and explain:

- Louisiana Purchase
- diplomats

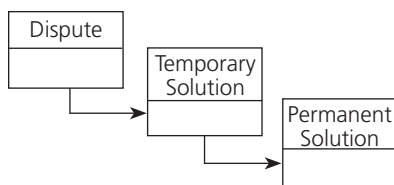
2. Identify and explain

the significance of each of the following in Texas history:

- Neutral Ground
- Adams-Onís Treaty

3. Sequencing

Copy the graphic organizer below. Use it to describe in order the series of events in the border dispute that occurred after the Louisiana Purchase.



4. Finding the Main Idea

- a. How did the Louisiana Purchase affect Texas?
- b. Look at the map. What did Spain gain and lose under the Adams-Onís Treaty?

5. Writing and Critical Thinking

myWriteSmart

Drawing Inferences and Conclusions Imagine that you are a diplomat helping to resolve the Texas-Louisiana border. Write journal entries describing some of your experiences. Consider the following:

- issues involved in the border dispute
- your personal point of view about where the border should be located