

Section

3

Unrest and Revolution

Main Ideas

1. The Spanish feared U.S. agents were active in Texas.
2. Mexico began a fight for independence in 1810.
3. Filibusters and rebels tried to take control of Texas.

Why It Matters Today

In the late 1700s some U.S. citizens fought to free Texas and Mexico from Spain. Use current events sources to find information about U.S. involvement in foreign conflicts today.

Key Terms and People

- Philip Nolan
- filibusters
- Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla
- José Gutiérrez de Lara
- Republican Army of the North
- siege
- Battle of Medina
- James Long

The Story Continues

To Philip Nolan, the mustangs roaming the Texas plains gleamed like gold. Horses were valuable items, and in Texas, they ran free. All you had to do was catch them. Nolan became a mustanger, capturing wild horses in Texas and driving them to Louisiana. There he sold them at a hefty profit. Then Spanish officials heard rumors of a U.S. plot to invade northern New Spain. Was Nolan a U.S. spy?



TEKS: 2D, 17C, 19A, 19B, 21B, 21D, 21E,

22D

myNotebook

Use the annotation tools in your eBook to take notes on the struggle for Mexican independence and its effects in Texas.



The Philip Nolan Expeditions

When they first heard of his actions, Spanish officials thought that **Philip Nolan** was searching for wealth. Nolan, a U.S. citizen, had first come to Texas in 1791 as a mustang trader. Three times Nolan entered Texas with the government's permission, but some Spanish leaders grew suspicious. They had heard rumors that Nolan was acting as a spy for General James Wilkinson, the U.S. commander in Louisiana and Nolan's former boss.

In late 1800 Nolan and some 20 men returned to Texas, this time without permission. Spanish soldiers sent to arrest Nolan found his camp about 40 miles northwest of Waco. Nolan, however, resisted arrest and was killed. Most of his men were captured, tried, and imprisoned. Whatever Nolan's motives may have been, his actions increased Spanish fears of U.S. expansion.



Father Miguel Hidalgo was a leader in the fight for Mexican independence.

The Spanish reaction to the presence of U.S. citizens in Texas was not unreasonable. For years to come, Texas would suffer raids by **filibusters**, military adventurers who tried to stir up rebellion in other countries. Some of these filibusters wanted to free Texas from Spanish rule, either to become an independent country or to join the United States. Others just hoped to profit by causing chaos in Texas. Some Spanish officials also believed that agents of the U.S. government were being sent specifically to cause trouble in Texas, as one Texas governor wrote.

TEXAS VOICES

“The king [of Spain] has been informed . . . that the United States has ordered emissaries to move here and work to subvert the population. . . . Avoid the entry of any foreigner or any suspected person.”

—Pedro de Nava, quoted in *Spanish Texas, 1519–1821*, by Donald E. Chipman

Reading Check Identifying Points of View Why did Spanish officials grow suspicious of Philip Nolan?



The Call for Mexican Independence

In 1808, Napoleon, the emperor of France, invaded Spain and removed the Spanish king from power. This conquest would have profound effects in Mexico. Nearly all Mexicans supported their deposed king. However, a struggle for power broke out between creoles—people of Spanish descent who had been born in Mexico—and *peninsulares*, who had been born in Spain. In 1808 the *peninsulares* overthrew the viceroy and took control of the country. In response, creole groups across Mexico began to talk of taking up arms against the government.

On September 16, 1810, Father **Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla** (ee-DAHL-goh ee kohs-TEE-yah), a creole priest in Dolores, Mexico, rang a church bell and called for an end to rule by the *peninsulares*. “Will you not defend your religion and rights as true patriots? Long live our Lady of Guadalupe! Death to bad government!” This passionate cry, called the Grito de Dolores or “Cry of Dolores,” sparked a war. What began as a revolt against the governing *peninsulares* became a war against Spain for Mexican independence.

Supporters flocked to Father Hidalgo’s cause. He soon led an army of more than 50,000. Support continued to grow as this army marched across Mexico. However, in 1811, Spanish soldiers captured and executed Father Hidalgo.

Still, the revolution did not end with Father Hidalgo’s death. Among those who rose up were many Texans. In January 1811 a group of Hidalgo supporters in San Antonio led by Juan Bautista de las Casas



VIDEO
Miguel
Hidalgo’s Call
to Arms.

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drove the Spanish governor of Texas from office. Their revolt did not last long, though. Rebels quarreled among themselves, and Spanish loyalists quickly took the city back.

Reading Check Analyzing Information How did the call for Mexican independence affect life in Texas?



The Green Flag over Texas

As Mexico was struggling to become independent, some people decided that Texas should be independent too. One of those was **José Gutiérrez de Lara**. When Hidalgo's revolution began, Gutiérrez de Lara, a native of Revilla on the Rio Grande, went to the United States to win support for the rebels. After Hidalgo's death, Gutiérrez decided to use Texas as a base from which to continue the fight.

With secret support from the United States, Gutiérrez raised an army in Louisiana. One of his recruits was a U.S. Army officer, Augustus William Magee, who became co-commander of the force. Gutiérrez and Magee named their army, which included both Mexicans and U.S. citizens, the **Republican Army of the North**.

Flying a solid green flag, the Gutiérrez-Magee expedition invaded Texas in August 1812. The army quickly took Nacogdoches. At La Bahía, though, the expedition had more difficulty. The rebels took control of the presidio, but Spanish soldiers laid **siege** to it. A siege is a military blockade of a city or fort.

Despite a four-month siege, the Spanish army failed to take the fort. In March 1813 the Spanish army, led by the governor, left La Bahía to return to San Antonio. Gutiérrez and his army followed and defeated the Spanish force just outside of San Antonio. Gutiérrez took the governor prisoner. On April 6, 1813, the rebels declared Texas independent.

The Republican Army's military success was soon overshadowed by problems, though. After the rebels' *peninsular* prisoners, including the governor, were brutally executed, many soldiers became upset and left the army. Many who remained were unhappy with Gutiérrez's leadership. They forced him from power and replaced him. .

Meanwhile, a royalist army under General Joaquín de Arredondo moved into Texas from the south. On August 18, 1813, his army met the smaller Republican Army of the North, now composed mostly of Mexican rebels, in the **Battle of Medina**. Arredondo won a decisive victory. More than 1,000 rebels lay dead. He then led a campaign of revenge across Texas, executing or arresting hundreds of Tejanos.

Reading Check Identifying Cause and Effect What problems arose for the Republican Army of the North, and how was the army affected by them?



Diez y Seis de Septiembre

On September 16, 1810, Father Hidalgo delivered his historic Grito de Dolores. Today many Texans celebrate Diez y Seis de Septiembre, or the "Sixteenth of September." Festivities include speeches, parades, and traditional Mexican foods, music, and dancing. Some Texas towns also hold *charreadas*, Mexican-style rodeos exhibiting skilled horse riding. These celebrations honor an important day in Mexican and Texas history. **What event does Diez y Seis de Septiembre honor?**



Interpreting Visuals

Galveston. Based on this image, why do you think Galveston was a popular base for pirates and rebels?



Pirates and Rebels on the Coast

Despite General Arredondo's punishing actions, filibuster and revolutionary activity continued in Texas. Henry Perry, a veteran of the Gutiérrez-Magee expedition, gathered a force of about 300 soldiers on Galveston Island. Before long another filibuster force under Spaniard Francisco Xavier Mina also came to Galveston. They were joined there by Louis Michel Aury, a French pirate-adventurer. Aury was working with Mexican rebels and raiding Spanish ships in the Gulf of Mexico. He hoped to use the Mexican struggle for independence as a way to make a profit for himself.

Perry, Mina, and Aury planned to work together to invade Mexico. In April 1817, though, Perry broke away from the others and took a small force into Texas. They attacked La Bahía, where Perry demanded the surrender of the Spanish garrison. When the Spanish refused and prepared to attack, Perry and his men fled. Spanish forces soon surrounded the group, killing or wounding most of them. Perry later died after being wounded in the fighting. The planned invasion of Mexico never happened.

Aury was not the only pirate to operate from Galveston at this time. French pirate Jean Lafitte also had a base there. Lafitte had been a pirate and smuggler in Louisiana for many years. He had also fought for the United States at New Orleans in the War of 1812. To thank him, the U.S. president had given Lafitte a pardon for his crimes. Like Aury, Lafitte raided Spanish ships in the Gulf. Although he too claimed to be fighting for Mexican independence, he most likely was interested only in Spanish treasure. After Lafitte began to attack American ships, though, the U.S. Navy forced him to leave Galveston Island in 1820.

Reading Check Finding the Main Idea Where was filibuster activity based after the Gutiérrez-Magee expedition?

★ The Long Expeditions

Perhaps the best known of all filibusters in Texas was **James Long** from Natchez, Mississippi. Long was not happy with the way the United States had settled the boundaries of Louisiana. He thought that Texas was part of the Louisiana Purchase and should have become U.S. territory. Determined to do something about the situation, Long organized an army to invade Texas.

In 1819 Long and his army invaded Texas and captured Nacogdoches. He declared Texas independent, stating that the people of Texas had wanted to join the United States. Long won the support of a few Tejanos, but it was not enough to preserve his claim. Long and his army were soon driven out of Texas by Spanish forces.

Refusing to give up, Long planned a second invasion. In 1820 his new army sailed for Texas, landing at Point Bolivar. In late 1821 he captured La Bahía, but Spanish forces quickly took it back and forced Long to surrender. While awaiting trial, Long was shot and killed by a Spanish soldier. Officials claimed the death was accidental, but Long's friends called it murder. His death ended the early filibuster period in Texas.

Long's wife Jane had accompanied him to Texas and awaited his return at Point Bolivar. With her were two young girls—her daughter, Ann, and a slave named Kian. When the army failed to return, the Longs struggled through a difficult winter. At one point, several Karankawa Indians appeared, but Long fired a cannon and scared them away. Eventually, Jane Long learned of her husband's death. She traveled back to the United States, hoping one day to return to Texas.

Reading Check Identifying Points of View Why did James Long decide to invade Texas?

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

Revolutions in Latin America

The Mexican rebellion was part of a revolutionary wave that swept Latin America in the early 1800s. These revolts led to the creation of several nations, including Argentina, Brazil, Peru, and Venezuela. Simon Bolívar, nicknamed the Liberator, led many of these struggles for independence. The nation Bolivia is named in his honor. By 1830 Spain had lost all of its American empire except the islands of Cuba and Puerto Rico. **Who was "the Liberator"?**



Section 3 Review



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ONLINE QUIZ

1. Define and explain:

- filibusters
- siege

2. Identify and explain:

- Philip Nolan
- Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla
- José Gutiérrez de Lara
- Republican Army of the North
- Battle of Medina
- James Long

3. Categorizing

Copy the graphic organizer below. Use it to identify the filibusters and to describe their actions and goals.

Filibuster Expedition	Actions	Goals

4. Finding the Main Idea

- What goal did José Gutiérrez de Lara hope to achieve in Texas?
- What was the outcome of the Battle of Medina?

5. Writing and Critical Thinking

myWriteSmart

Supporting a Point of View Imagine that you live in San Antonio de Béxar. Write an article either supporting or opposing the Republican Army of the North's activity.

Consider the following:

- the reasons the army was fighting
- the events that occurred during and after the army's expedition in Texas