

## Section

# 4

## Spanish Rule Ends in Mexico

### Main Ideas

1. Mexico won its independence from Spain in 1821.
2. The Mexican War for Independence was very costly for Texas and its people.

### Why It Matters Today

The end of Spanish rule in Mexico led to great changes in the country. Use current events sources to find information about issues facing the government and people of Mexico today.



**TEKS:** 1B, 2D, 21B, 21C, 22D

### myNotebook

Use the annotation tools in your eBook to take notes on the end of Spanish rule in Mexico and its effects on Texas.

### Key Terms and People

- Agustín de Iturbide
- jacales

## *The Story Continues*

Early on July 19, 1821, the people of San Antonio de Béxar gathered in the town's plaza. They had only recently learned the news—the war was over, and Mexico had won its independence from Spain. Texas governor Antonio María Martínez stood solemnly with the others. Slowly, the Spanish flag in the plaza was lowered, and another flag was raised in its place. Standing before a crucifix, the group began reciting an oath of loyalty to Mexico.



## Mexico Wins Independence

While some people were trying to free Texas, others had continued to fight for Mexico's independence. After the Spanish captured and executed Father Hidalgo, a priest named José María Morelos y Pavón took control of the revolution. Morelos wanted to break away from the Spanish monarchy and establish a republic in Mexico. A strong military leader, he won numerous battles. Morelos and his troops gained control of much of Mexico. In 1815, however, the Spanish captured Morelos and executed him.

The death of Morelos was a blow to the revolution. Although a few bands of rebels led by Vicente Guerrero, Guadalupe Victoria, and others continued to harass the Spanish army, few people held out much hope. The struggle for Mexican independence seemed at its end.

Then in 1820 surprising events in Europe breathed new life into the uprising. A new group rose to power in Spain. This group held views with which many Spanish loyalists in Mexico did not agree. As a result, many of those loyalists changed sides. No longer supporters of the Spanish king, they joined the movement for independence instead.

Among those former loyalists who switched sides was **Agustín de Iturbide** (ee-toor-BEE-deh). Iturbide had been a leader of the Spanish forces trying to put down the revolution. In fact, he had led the forces that defeated and captured Morelos. Fearing that the new government in Spain would take away some of his power, Iturbide joined forces with Guerrero's rebels. He declared his three goals: Mexico would be free from Spain. All people in Mexico would be equal. And the Roman Catholic Church would be Mexico's official religion.

Together the armies of Iturbide and Guerrero defeated the Spanish in 1821. Mexico had won its independence. Now free from Spanish rule, Mexico needed a new government. Although they had planned to share power, Iturbide forced Guerrero aside and took power for himself. In 1822 he declared himself Emperor Agustín I. His reign would not last long, and the Mexican people soon turned against him. However, his position in Mexican history was secured.

**Reading Check Sequencing** Describe in order the final events leading to Mexican independence.

### KEY DATE 1821

Mexico, including Texas, wins independence from Spain.

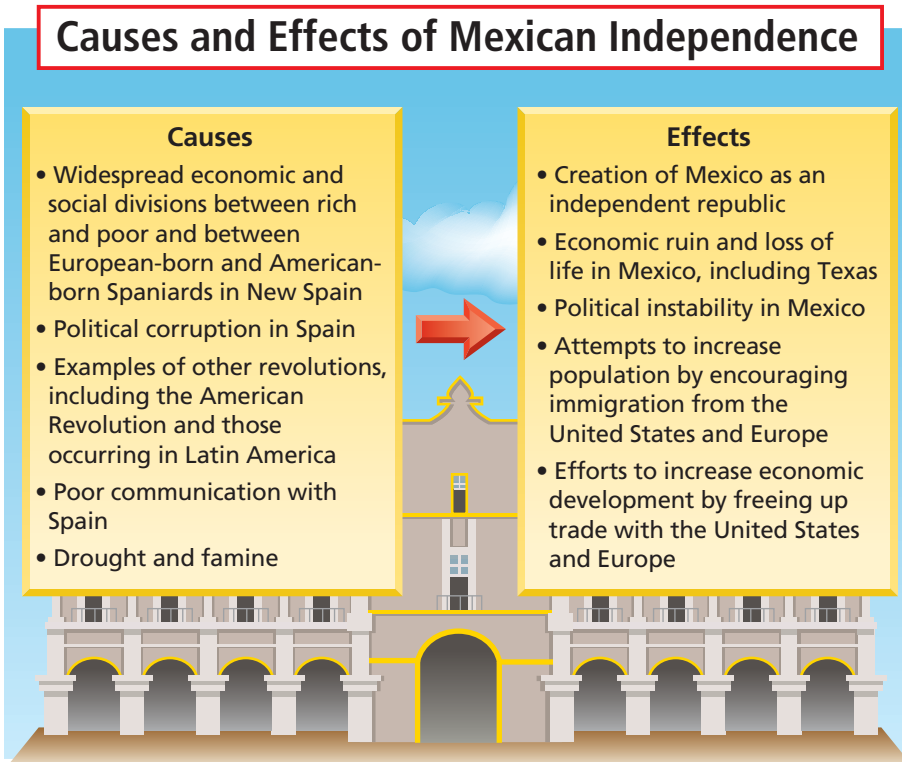
## Causes and Effects of Mexican Independence

### Causes

- Widespread economic and social divisions between rich and poor and between European-born and American-born Spaniards in New Spain
- Political corruption in Spain
- Examples of other revolutions, including the American Revolution and those occurring in Latin America
- Poor communication with Spain
- Drought and famine

### Effects

- Creation of Mexico as an independent republic
- Economic ruin and loss of life in Mexico, including Texas
- Political instability in Mexico
- Attempts to increase population by encouraging immigration from the United States and Europe
- Efforts to increase economic development by freeing up trade with the United States and Europe





### Interpreting Visuals

**Ranchos.** Ranching in early Texas was often hot, dusty work. What does this painting suggest about ranchers of this period?



## The War's Impact on Texas

Although many Texans had supported Mexican independence, few were prepared for the costs of the fight. Years of fighting in Texas and by Texans in Mexico proved to be costly for the people of Texas.

One of the greatest costs of the war was the loss of people. Many Tejanos had been killed in the fighting, and many more had fled from the violence. By 1821 only about 3,000 Tejanos remained in Texas, about two-thirds of the population in 1810.

Most of the remaining Tejanos were grouped in two settlements. The largest group, about 1,500 people, lived in San Antonio, the capital. Among those living in San Antonio were two men who would later play key roles in Texas history. They were Erasmo Seguín and José Antonio Navarro. Both men had been forced to flee Texas during the Gutiérrez-Magee expedition, and Seguín had lost all his property. Later, both men returned to San Antonio. Seguín served as San Antonio's postmaster and, later, in city government.

To the southeast, about 500 Tejanos lived in Goliad, which was then known as La Bahía. Later, in 1829, the settlement was renamed in honor of Father Hidalgo. The name *Goliad* came from rearranging the letters in the name *Hidalgo*, minus the silent *H*.

Nacogdoches in East Texas had been one of the largest settlements in Texas before the revolution. After the war, however, the town was almost deserted. Many people there had been killed during Arredondo's campaign of revenge, and many more had fled to Louisiana.

To the south and west—an area that is part of Texas today but was not at the time—several thousand people lived along the Rio Grande. They were grouped mostly around El Paso del Norte and Laredo. Unlike the people in East Texas, however, they lived in small settlements. Many lived on isolated ranches. The scrub and semi-arid grasslands along the lower Rio Grande helped the region develop into a major ranching area. Livestock included cattle, horses, mules, sheep, and goats.

Ranching was not easy after the war. The fighting had left the Texas economy in ruins, with livestock lost and crops destroyed. Governor Antonio María Martínez expressed his sorrow.

### TEXAS VOICES



“[The armies] have drained the resources of the country, and laid their hand on everything that could sustain [support] human life. [Texas] has advanced at an amazing rate toward ruin and destruction.

—Antonio María Martínez, quoted in *The Mexican Frontier, 1821–1846*, by David Weber

The ranching industry recovered quickly, however. A steady horse trade developed between Texas and markets in the United States.

The Tejanos were not the only residents in Texas after the War of Independence. About 30,000 American Indians also lived in the region. However, events during the war had caused strain between Tejanos and Indians. As a result, the years following the fighting saw an increase in American Indian attacks on Texas settlements.

To guard against such attacks, wealthy ranchers built stone houses that resembled small forts. They put bars and shutters over their windows, and some built watchtowers. Others built homes of adobe. Less fortunate Tejanos lived in **jacales** (hah-KAH-lehs), one-room huts made of sticks and mud. These structures provided little safety from attacks.

**Reading Check Analyzing Information** How did Tejanos adapt to their environment?



## Section 4 Review



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ONLINE QUIZ

### 1. Define and explain:

- jacales

### 2. Identify and explain

the significance of the following in Texas history:

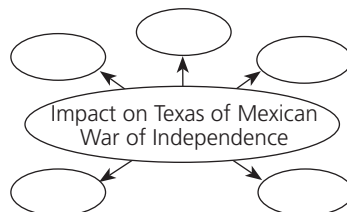
- Agustín de Iturbide

### 3. Locate on a map:

- San Antonio
- Goliad
- Nacogdoches

### 4. Summarizing

Copy the graphic organizer below. Use it to summarize how the Mexican War of Independence affected Texas.



### 5. Finding the Main Idea

- What was ranch life like in Texas?
- What was the impact of Mexico's War of Independence on Texas?
- What is the significance of the year 1821 in Texas?

### 6. Writing and Critical Thinking

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**Sequencing** Write a paragraph describing in order the final events of the Mexican War of Independence.

Consider the following:

- the rise of new leaders
- the effects of the war on Texas