

Conflict with Mexico

Main Ideas

- **1.** President Lamar hoped to add Santa Fe to Texas.
- 2. The Mexican army raided several targets in Texas.
- **3.** Mexico finally recognized the Texas Republic in 1845.

Why It Matters Today

Ongoing conflicts with Mexico made life in the Republic difficult for many people. Use current events sources to find more information about the effects of international conflicts today.

Key Terms and People

- Santa Fe expedition
- Edwin W. Moore
- Mary Maverick
- Jack Coffee Hays Archives War
- Mier expedition

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myNotebook

Use the annotation tools in your eBook to take notes on conflicts between the Republic of Texas and Mexico.

The Story Continues

After his capture at the Battle of San Jacinto, Mexican general Antonio López de Santa Anna was sent to Washington, DC, as a prisoner. He met President Andrew Jackson, who returned him to Mexico. Soon Santa Anna was back home at his estate in Manga de Clavo, Mexico. By 1839 he was once again running the country, and was eager to make up for the loss of Texas.

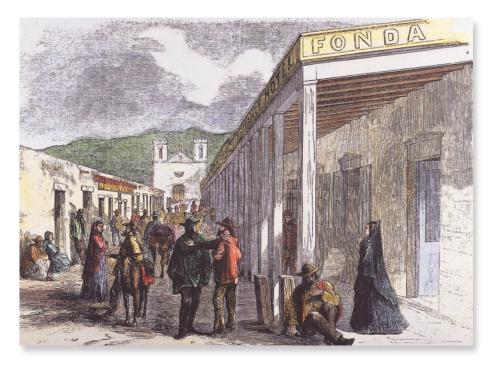
★ The Santa Fe Expedition

Because the Mexican government did not recognize Texas as a free country, there was no clear boundary between Texan and Mexican lands. In 1836 the Republic's Congress had established the Rio Grande as the southern and western boundaries of Texas. If you look at a map, you can see that this would mean Texas claimed about half of New Mexico, including Santa Fe. The people of New Mexico, however, remained loyal to Mexico.

When Mirabeau Lamar became president of the Republic, he wanted to secure the Republic's claim to land east of the Rio Grande. Lamar had visions of a much larger Texas than existed at the time. He also wanted access to the valuable trade moving along the Santa Fe Trail. In 1840 Lamar chose three residents of Santa Fe to act as commissioners for Texas. Their job was to convince the people of the town that they should join the Republic of Texas.

Interpreting Visuals

Santa Fe. Some Texans wanted to gain control of Santa Fe to gain valuable trade routes along the Santa Fe Trail. What does this image suggest about life in Santa Fe at that time?



As part of his plan, Lamar also wanted to create a trade route between Texas and Santa Fe. In June 1841 he launched the **Santa Fe expedition**. It consisted of about 320 people transporting about \$200,000 worth of trade goods. A number of well-known Texans, including José Antonio Navarro, accompanied the expedition, which was guarded by soldiers under the leadership of Hugh McLeod.

The expedition ran into trouble almost immediately. American Indians attacked as the Texans passed through their lands, and food and water were in short supply. When the exhausted Texans reached New Mexico in October 1841, Mexican troops were waiting for them.

The Texans were arrested and marched about 1,200 miles to Mexico City. One of the prisoners described the hardships of the march. "We had not proceeded far when some of the guard . . . shot one of the men who was lame." The Texans remained in jail until the following April.

As the only Tejano member of the expedition, José Antonio Navarro faced the worst treatment. He was a former Mexican official who had sided with the Texans in the Revolution. Therefore, he was seen as a traitor to his country. Navarro was sentenced to death and remained in prison even after the others had been released. Eventually, however, Navarro escaped and returned to Texas just in time to serve as the only Tejano delegate to the annexation convention in 1845.

Lamar's Santa Fe expedition was a failure. At least 60 Texans died, and the expedition cost Texas a great sum of money. In addition, the expedition renewed Mexican interest in Texas. It set the stage for years of conflict between the two countries.

Reading Check Identifying Cause and Effect What prompted Lamar to send the Santa Fe expedition, and why was it a failure?

★ The Texas Navy

In 1840 rebels in the Mexican state of Yucatán rebelled against the government. Hearing about the rebellion, President Lamar saw both a chance to hurt Mexico and a possible source of income. Late in 1841 he sent the Texas Navy under Edwin W. Moore to the Yucatán coast. Commodore Moore helped the Yucatán rebels win several battles against the Mexican government. In return, they agreed to pay Texas \$8,000 a month for the use of the navy.

When Sam Houston's second term began in 1841, though, he ordered the navy home. Houston was determined to cut spending, and he ordered that the navy ships be sold at auction in Galveston. But the people of Galveston opposed the sale and would not allow people to place bids. Although the ships were not sold, they were no longer in operation.

Reading Check Analyzing Information Why did Lamar send the navy to Mexico?

The Archives War

Upset by Lamar's actions, the Mexican government sent armies into Texas. In March 1842, a force under General Ráfael Vásquez attacked San Antonio, Goliad, Refugio, and Victoria. In September of the same year, General Adrián Woll and 1,400 soldiers captured San Antonio. Resident Mary Maverick described the morning invasion in her diary, a major source of information about life in Texas during this time.

TEXAS VOICES

"We were aroused . . . by the firing of a . . . cannon [and the] tramp of a body of men. A dense fog obscured them from actual observation until they had advanced into the public square . . . when the fog disappeared discovering to us that we were surrounded on all sides by the bodies of regular [Mexican] troops."

—Samuel Maverick, quoted in Memoirs of Mary A. Maverick

Woll took a few dozen Texans captive and headed farther into San Antonio. A volunteer force under Ranger Jack Coffee Hays met Woll at Salado Creek and forced him to retreat back to Mexico. Hays is remembered today as the ideal Texas Ranger: fearless, capable, and loyal. He would later become a hero in the Mexican-American War.

President Houston took advantage of the insecurity along the frontier to call Congress into session in Washington-on-the-Brazos. In December 1842 he ordered Texas Rangers to bring the government archives there. Austin residents opposed the move, suspecting it meant their city would no longer be the capital. Led by Angelina Eberly, they fired at workers loading the documents onto wagons. This conflict, called the Archives War, ended with the documents back in Austin.

Reading Check Drawing Inferences and Conclusions What did the Mexican raids on Texas demonstrate about the Republic's security?

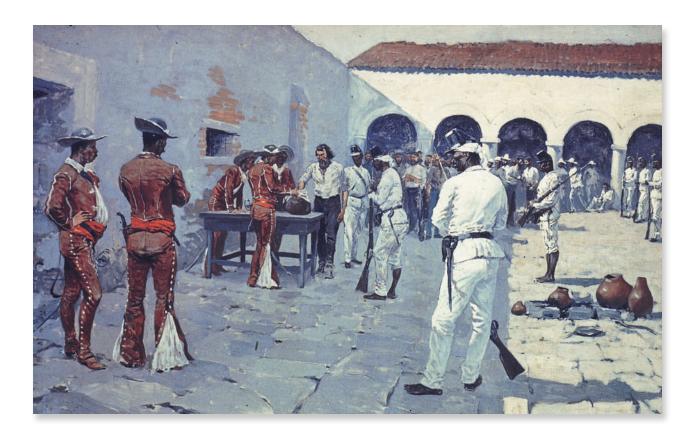
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Daily Life

Mary Maverick's Diary

Much of what we know about life in San Antonio in the 1800s is thanks to one woman, Mary Maverick. Mary and her husband Samuel lived in San Antonio with their 10 children, four of whom would fight in the Civil War. Maverick dedicated much of her life to preserving Texas history. She published her journal as a record of her lifetime and joined both the San **Antonio Historical Society** and the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. How did Mary Maverick help preserve Texas history?





The Arts

Frederic Remington

Artist Frederic Remington painted many scenes of the American West. In this painting, he shows Texans captured during the Mier expedition picking beans to determine who would be executed. How did Remington portray the drama of the event?

★ The Mier Expedition

The Mexican attack on San Antonio angered Texans. "To arms! should be shouted throughout the Republic," one newspaper declared. Many people did in fact demand war against Mexico. In November President Houston ordered General Alexander Somervell to the Rio Grande. He was to recapture the prisoners taken by General Woll.

When Somervell reached the Rio Grande, though, he realized that he did not have enough supplies or troops to complete his mission. He ordered his soldiers home, but about 300 of them disobeyed orders. They decided to invade Mexico. Led by Colonel William S. Fisher, the Texans headed toward the small Mexican town of Mier. Their action became known as the **Mier expedition**.

The Texans entered Mier on December 23 and demanded supplies, which the townspeople agreed to deliver the next day. When the supplies did not arrive, the Texans stormed the town. There, some 900 Mexican soldiers were waiting for them. After a daylong battle, about 100 Mexicans and 30 Texans were killed or wounded. Because they were running out of supplies, the Texans surrendered.

The captured Texans began a long march toward Mexico City. Almost 200 of the prisoners escaped during the march south. Wandering in the mountains without food and water, most of them either died or were recaptured. Santa Anna, who once again ruled Mexico, ordered every 10th person to be shot. The 176 prisoners drew beans from a jar

to see who would would be among the 10 percent executed. A prisoner described the scene. The beans were drawn from "a small earthen mug. The white ones signified *exemption* [no punishment], the black, *death*." The prisoners who drew the black beans were blindfolded and then shot. Of the remaining captives, 18 eventually managed to escape. At least 20 died in prison, and others were pardoned. In September 1844, Mexican officials released the last of the prisoners of the Mier expedition.

The Mier expedition was the last conflict between Mexico and the Republic of Texas. Through the efforts of Great Britain and France, peace was slowly restored between the two nations. The European countries had a specific motive in aiding Texas. They wanted the Republic to remain independent rather than join the United States, which they viewed as a rival. As a result, they were furiously trying to block any attempt to add Texas to the United States. If the Europeans could get Mexico to recognize Texas independence, they believed that the people of Texas would be less likely to seek annexation.

Great Britain and France put great diplomatic pressure on Mexico to recognize Texas. In the spring of 1845, a British diplomat presented a document to the Mexican government. By accepting the document, the government would formally acknowledge the independent Republic of Texas. In return, Texas would not join the United States.

Mexican leaders eventually decided to agree to the terms of the proposal. Like the Europeans, Mexico wished to prevent U.S. annexation of Texas. The Mexican government did not want to share a border with the rapidly growing United States. By the time it agreed to recognize Texas independence, though, it was too late. The Texans had decided in favor of annexation.

Reading Check Finding the Main Idea Why was the Texas agreement not to be annexed by any nation critical to Mexico?

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Section 2 Review

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1. Identify and explain

the significance of each of the following in Texas history:

- Santa Fe expedition
- Edwin W. Moore
- Mary Maverick
- Jack Coffee Hays
- Archives War
- Mier expedition

2. Sequencing

Copy the time line below. Use it to place the events of the Mier expedition in the order in which they occurred.

Sam Houston Mexican sends soldiers officials to the Rio release Grande. the Mier prisoners.

3. Finding the Main Idea

- **a.** How did the Santa Fe expedition increase hostilities with Mexico?
- **b.** How did the Republic achieve peace with Mexico?

4. Writing and Critical Thinking

Identifying Points of View Write an article explaining the points of view of the Texas and Mexican governments on recognition.

Consider the following:

- views of the Texas Revolution
- foreign recognition of Texas

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