

Section

1

New Policies Toward Texas

Main Ideas

1. To protect the rest of the country, Mexico encouraged people to move to Texas and other frontier regions.
2. The Spanish, Mexicans, and Anglos who settled in Texas had different purposes and methods in doing so.

Key Terms

- frontier
- buffer
- Anglos
- secularize

Why It Matters Today

The Mexican government wanted to attract people to Texas to protect the rest of the country. Use current events sources to find information about why governments encourage immigration today.



TEKS: 1A, 2D, 2F, 11A, 21B, 21D, 21F, 22D

myNotebook

Use the annotation tools in your eBook to take notes on Mexico's policies regarding Texas.

The Story Continues

Miguel Ramos Arizpe wanted people to move to Texas. A high-ranking official in the state of Coahuila, he argued that Texas was important to the country's security. However, there were very few people living there. Somehow, the government needed to convince more people to move to Texas.



The Search for More Texans

The creation of independent Mexico in 1821 marked the beginning of the Mexican National period in Texas. During this period, which lasted until 1836, the Mexican government established new policies to deal with affairs in Texas. One of its major goals was attracting new settlers into the region, as Miguel Ramos Arizpe had recommended.

Like Ramos Arizpe, many Mexican officials viewed Texas and other northern frontier territories as vital in protecting the rest of the country. A **frontier** is a region marking the farthest edge of settlement by a country or group of people. Besides Texas, territories on the Mexican frontier included New Mexico, Arizona, and California.

The value of Texas and the other frontier territories was not in their resources or their people. Instead, it was based on their location. These frontier territories could serve as a **buffer**, or zone of protection, between Mexico and its northern neighbors. Officials in Mexico City were deeply concerned about attacks on their country. They feared that the United

States or American Indians could invade at any time. Before any attack could get to the heart of Mexico, though, it would have to pass through these frontier zones. This would give the Mexican army time to respond to the threat.

As you read in the previous chapter, the Texas population was greatly reduced by the Mexican War of Independence. As a result, there were not enough people living in Texas to make it an effective buffer. Invaders or attackers could pass through the territory with no resistance. The Mexican government therefore looked for ways to bring new settlers to the area. First, officials encouraged people from other parts of Mexico to move into Texas. However, few people were willing to make this move. Most Mexicans viewed the frontier as a harsh, distant land. They feared living too close to hostile Indian groups.

Mexico next turned to a new source of settlers—the United States. Many American farmers were eager to move into the rich prairies of Texas. The Mexican government agreed to give land to some of these farmers if they would bring settlers into Texas. To distinguish them from the Tejanos who already lived in Texas, historians refer to these new, mostly white, settlers from the United States as **Anglos**. Over the next several years, the Mexican government passed several sets of laws allowing and regulating Anglo settlement.

Reading Check Finding the Main Idea Why did the Mexican government want to encourage settlement in Texas?



VIDEO

Mexico: From Independence to the Alamo

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★ Different Views of Settlement

By the 1830s, three distinct groups had been involved in the settling of Texas: Spaniards, Mexicans, and Anglos. Each group had its own purposes for and methods of settling the region.



HISTORIC DOCUMENT

Colonization Law of 1824

In 1824 the Mexican Congress passed a law allowing Anglo settlers to move to Texas. The law set guidelines for new settlers.

“ART. 1.—The Mexican Nation offers to those foreigners who may be desirous of settling in her territory security for their persons and property, provided they obey the laws of the country.

ART. 2.—This law relates to those lands, national property, which, as belonging to no

individual, corporation or town, may be occupied by settlers. . . .

ART. 4.—No lands lying within 20 leagues of the boundaries with any foreign nation, nor within 10 leagues of the coast, can be occupied by settlers”

Analyzing Primary Sources

1. **Finding the Main Idea** What restrictions did this law place on potential settlers?
2. **Drawing Conclusions** Why do you think settlers were not allowed to live near national boundaries or the coast?

As you recall, when the Spanish arrived in Texas they built presidios, missions, ranches and towns throughout Texas. Each type of settlement had a unique purpose. The presidios were created to defend the northern borders of New Spain from attacks. The missions were intended to teach Christianity to the American Indians. The Spanish hoped that Indians would live in the missions and adopt the Spanish way of life. Then they could become Spanish subjects.

By the time Mexico won its independence, the presidios and missions of Texas were in decline. Many presidios had only a few soldiers, and some were falling apart. The missions, too, were in bad shape. Few Indians lived there. Not wanting to pay for failing missions, the government chose to **secularize** them, or move them from religious to civil control. By 1831, all Texas missions had been secularized.

Like the Spanish, the Mexicans sought to increase settlement in Texas for defense. Rather than building presidios, though, the Mexican government largely counted on settlers to defend themselves. Some soldiers were sent to Texas for defense against Indian attacks, but there were not enough to completely secure the land. The government hoped that free or cheap land would draw people willing to risk some danger.

Among those who accepted this risk were many Anglos. Unlike the Spanish and Mexican governments, Anglo settlers of Texas were mostly drawn there for economic reasons. As you will read in the next chapter, Anglo businessmen created settlements throughout Texas. They established farms and ranches and, along the coast, built ports to ship goods back to the United States. Unlike the Spanish, most Anglo settlers had little interest in sharing their culture with the Indians. Indeed, many sought to drive the Indians away from their settlements completely.

Reading Check Contrasting How were Anglo settlements in Texas different from earlier settlements?



Section 1 Review



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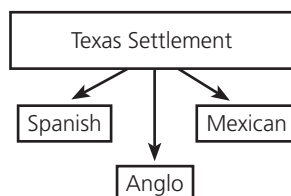
ONLINE QUIZ

1. Define and explain:

- frontier
- buffer
- Anglos
- secularize

2. Analyzing Information

Copy the graphic organizer below. Use it to compare each group's purposes for and methods of settlement in Texas.



3. Finding the Main Idea

- What event marked the beginning of the Mexican National period in Texas?
- Where did the Mexican government find settlers for Texas?

4. Writing and Critical Thinking

myWriteSmart

Evaluating Write a short entry on Mexican settlement in Texas for a Texas history book. Consider the following:

- the government's view of life on the northern frontier
- comparisons between Mexican and other patterns of settlement in Texas