

Section

2

Tensions Grow

Main Ideas

1. Tension between officials and Texans at Anahuac led to conflict.
2. The Turtle Bayou Resolutions declared Texas support for the Mexican government.

Why It Matters Today

In the 1830s Texans were upset by the government's violation of the Constitution of 1824. Use current events sources to find information on constitutional issues today.

Key Terms and People

- resolutions
- Turtle Bayou Resolutions
- Antonio López de Santa Anna
- Battle of Velasco

The Story Continues

Although he had been born in the United States, Juan Davis Bradburn was a loyal soldier of the Mexican army. He had joined during the revolution, winning fame and forming a close friendship with Vicente Guerrero. As a former American living in Mexico, Bradburn was fluent in both Spanish and English. Therefore he seemed to be the perfect choice to command the first customs post established under the Law of April 6, 1830.



TEKS: 1B, 3A, 8A,
10B, 21A, 21B, 21C,

22D

myNotebook

Use the annotation tools in your eBook to take notes on growing tension between Texans and Mexican officials.



Tension at Anahuac

Colonel Juan Davis Bradburn arrived in Texas in the fall of 1830 to enforce the Law of April 6, 1830. His troops built a fort at the mouth of the Trinity River on Galveston Bay near an important trade route and immigration point. The settlement became known as Anahuac. At this key location, troops could enforce the new trade and immigration laws.

Bradburn soon clashed with another Mexican official, Francisco Madero. As general land commissioner, Madero had been sent by the state government to Texas to issue land titles to settlers who had arrived before 1830. However, Bradburn believed that the titles Madero issued violated the national government's authority over land grants along the coast. In February 1831 Bradburn arrested Madero.

Conflicts in Texas, 1825–1835

Interpreting Maps Conflicts between Texans and Mexican officials erupted during the 1830s. Many of these conflicts were over the placement of Mexican troops in Texas and the collection of taxes on imports.

1. **Locate** What settlements were sites of conflict?
2. **Evaluating** Why do you think conflicts broke out in ports along the Texas coast?



Many Texans became upset when Bradburn put Madero in jail. They became even more upset when Bradburn was ordered to disband the government of Liberty, a town that Madero had established. The government was moved to Anahuac instead. Local residents also complained that Bradburn used their slaves for projects without compensation.

The arrival of a new customs official in November 1831 further increased tensions. George Fisher demanded that all ships landing in Texas pay their customs duties at Anahuac. This rule required some shippers to travel overland from Brazoria to Anahuac to get the necessary paperwork. Stephen F. Austin, responding to complaints, wrote to Bradburn. He argued that the new customs rules were “utterly impracticable and their execution is impossible.”

The tension between Mexican officials and Texan settlers came to a head in the spring of 1832. Two recently arrived settlers, William B. Travis and Patrick Jack, antagonized Bradburn. Since their arrival in Texas, they had formed a citizen militia. Officially the militia was created to defend against Indian attacks, but Bradburn was concerned about the chance of violence. Travis and Jack also pestered the commander with false rumors of a possible invasion from Louisiana. Frustrated, Bradburn arrested the two men and held them for trial. Texas settlers were enraged over the arrest.

Reading Check Drawing Inferences and Conclusions How did the enforcement of the Law of April 6, 1830, lead to problems at Anahuac?

★ The Turtle Bayou Resolutions

Patrick Jack's brother, William, rallied the people of Anahuac to support his brother. Settlers at Liberty and Brazoria also loudly demanded the prisoners' release. Some even took direct action. A force of more than 150 people marched against the fort at Anahuac. The angry Texans exchanged gunfire with Mexican troops and even captured some soldiers. Bradburn agreed to release his prisoners if the Texans would release the captured soldiers and leave. The settlers agreed to the terms, and most left. A few remained behind, which Bradburn took as a violation of the agreement. He did not release his prisoners. Some angry Texans believed he had never intended to at all.

Withdrawing from Anahuac, the settlers went to Turtle Bayou. Fearing retribution from Anahuac, they sent John Austin to retrieve cannons from Brazoria. Those who stayed at Anahuac drew up a list of **resolutions**, or statements of a group's opinions. The **Turtle Bayou Resolutions** declared that the events at Anahuac were not a rebellion against Mexico. They stated that the people were defending their rights and the constitution. Although few of the Texans present at Turtle Bayou had any real understanding of Mexican politics, the resolutions also took sides in a civil war being fought in Mexico. The settlers expressed support for General **Antonio López de Santa Anna**, who was trying to overthrow President Anastacio Bustamante.

Reading Check Finding the Main Idea Why did the settlers create the Turtle Bayou Resolutions, and what did they declare?



HISTORIC DOCUMENT

Turtle Bayou Resolutions

On June 13, 1832, Texans at Turtle Bayou wrote a document explaining their actions at Anahuac. These statements are called the Turtle Bayou Resolutions.

“RESOLVED [It is determined] That we view with feelings of the deepest regret, the manner in which the Gover’t [government] of the Republic of Mexico is **administered**¹ by the present **dynasty**²—The repeated violations of the constitution—the total disregard of the law—the entire **prostration**³ of the civil

authority; and the substitution in the **stead**⁴ of a military **despotism**⁵ are **grievances**⁶ of such a **character**⁷, as to **arouse**⁸ the feelings of every freeman, and **impel**⁹ him to resistance. . . .

RESOLVED That the people of Texas be invited to cooperate with us, in support of the principles **incorporated**¹⁰ in The **foregoing**¹¹ resolutions. — 13th June 1832. . .”

Analyzing Primary Sources

1. **Finding the Main Idea** Why were these resolutions written?
2. **Evaluating** How does this document show the importance of freedom of speech?

¹administered: managed

²dynasty: ruling government

³prostration: collapse

⁴stead: place

⁵despotism: unjust government

⁶grievances: sufferings

⁷character: nature

⁸arouse: excite

⁹impel: force

¹⁰incorporated: included

¹¹foregoing: previous



BIOGRAPHY

Antonio López de Santa Anna

(1794–1876) Antonio López de Santa Anna's long military career began in 1810. At first, he fought for Spain against Mexican independence. In 1821, though, he switched sides and supported the rebel forces. In 1832 Santa Anna led a successful revolt, and in 1833 he was elected president of Mexico. He promised to restore the Constitution of 1824. But he did not fulfill his promise, and war soon erupted. **How did Santa Anna's policies affect Texas?**

★ The Battle of Velasco

Soon after the fight at Anahuac, a Mexican force led by Colonel José de las Piedras arrived from Nacogdoches. Piedras blamed Colonel Bradburn for the conflict with the U.S. settlers. To restore the peace, Piedras recommended removing Bradburn from his post. Bradburn then resigned. With Bradburn gone, the settlers felt that the threat to their freedoms was removed. Piedras also agreed to release Travis, Jack, and other prisoners.

Unaware that the conflict at Anahuac was over, John Austin's group loaded their cannon on a ship at Brazoria. They soon reached Velasco near the mouth of the Brazos River. Colonel Domingo de Ugartechea, commander of the Mexican troops there, refused to let the rebels pass. On June 26, 1832, fighting broke out. After three days, the Mexican soldiers ran out of ammunition and had to surrender. The colonists had won the **Battle of Velasco**. However, men on both sides had been killed and wounded during the battle. After the battle, the Texans continued their journey to Anahuac. They triumphantly arrived with the cannon, only to find the conflict there settled.

However, resistance to central Mexican authority grew stronger in Texas every day. At the same time, most of the Mexican troops left the region. They went to take sides in the civil war between Santa Anna and President Bustamante. Texans anxiously waited for news from Mexico City. They hoped Santa Anna would win the fighting and restore the Constitution of 1824.

Reading Check Making Generalizations and Predictions How do you think events at Velasco would have been different had John Austin and his group known about the Turtle Bayou Resolutions and Piedras's trip to Anahuac?



Section 2 Review



hmhsocialstudies.com

ONLINE QUIZ

1. Define and explain:

- resolutions

2. Identify and explain

the significance of each of the following:

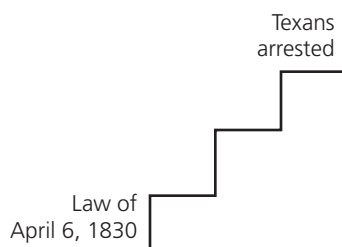
- Turtle Bayou Resolutions
- Antonio López de Santa Anna
- Battle of Velasco

3. Locate on a map:

- Anahuac
- Brazoria

4. Sequencing

- Copy the graphic organizer below. Use it to show in order the steps that led to conflicts at Anahuac and Velasco.



5. Finding the Main Idea

- Based on the map in this section, in what part of Texas did early conflicts take place?
- What led some Texans to write the Turtle Bayou Resolutions?

6. Writing and Critical Thinking

myWriteSmart

Analyzing Information Imagine that you are at Velasco during the battle. Write a letter informing a friend of the causes of the conflict.

Consider the following:

- the events at Anahuac
- events in other parts of Mexico