

Section

4

The Move toward War

Main Ideas

1. Under Santa Anna, the Mexican government began to tighten its control of Texas.
2. Frustrated, some Texans began to call for war.

Why It Matters Today

Part of the conflict between the Mexican government and the Texans was over the question of taxes. Use current events sources to find information on a debate over taxes today.

Key Terms and People

- Martín Perfecto de Cos
- faction

The Story Continues

Andrew Briscoe wanted to stir up trouble with the Mexican official at Anahuac. Briscoe loaded the front of his ship with bricks. He wanted it to look like it was weighed down with smuggled goods. He hoped to fool the commander at Anahuac into believing he was trying to avoid paying taxes on the goods. The commander was so irritated by the trick that he arrested Briscoe.



TEKS: 3A, 3B, 14A, 17C, 21B, 21C, 21E, 22D

myNotebook

Use the annotation tools in your eBook to take notes on the move toward war in Texas.



Mexico Tightens Control

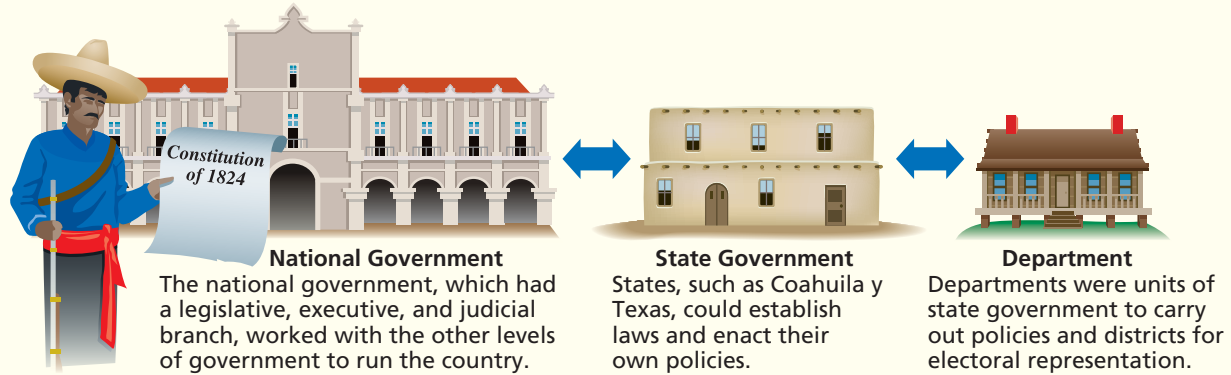
Briscoe's actions reflected the frustration many Texans had with the Mexican government's policies. In 1834 President Santa Anna declared that Mexico was not ready to be a republic. Despite what he had promised during the civil war, he began to strengthen the power of the central government. By creating a centralist government, he violated his pledge to restore the federal Constitution of 1824. This pledge was the reason that many Texans had supported him.

Santa Anna did honor some of the requests of the Convention of 1833. He legalized immigration from the United States and removed some customs duties. However, in January 1835 he sent more troops and customs collectors to Texas.

In the spring of 1835 Captain Antonio Tenorio began collecting customs duties at Anahuac, where taxes had not been collected since 1832. This angered Texans at Anahuac, who believed that they were paying a greater share of taxes than people at other Texas ports. Andrew Briscoe's arrest in June only increased tensions.

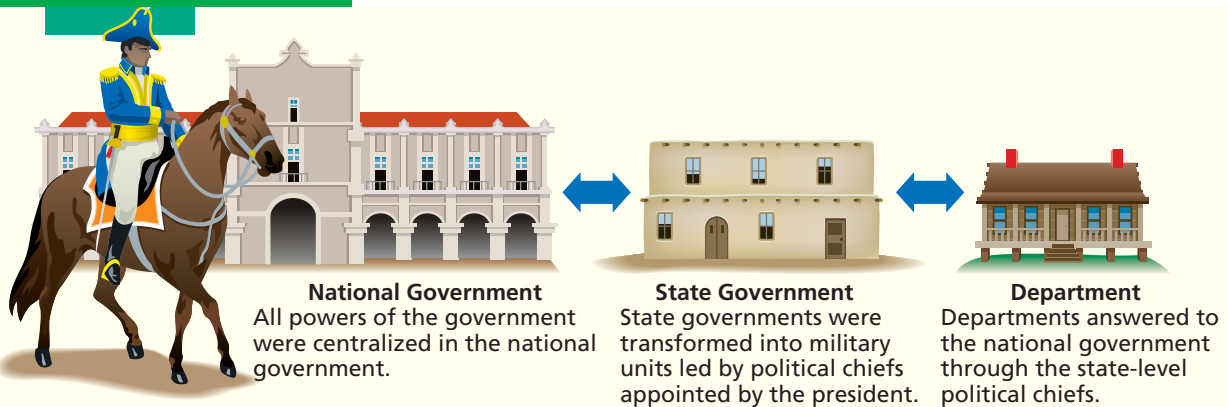
Federalism

The Constitution of 1824 gave states a great deal of freedom to dispose of public lands and set their own immigration policies, except with regard to areas along the coast and along the border with the United States.



Centralism

President Santa Anna led the Centralists in an effort to replace the federal system with one in which most authority rested with the national government, mostly in the hands of a powerful president elected from a small pool of property-owning voters.



Visualizing History

1. Government Why do you think many Texans supported the Constitution of 1824?

2. Connecting to Today What type of government does Texas have today?

In response to Briscoe's arrest, William Travis and several supporters sailed to Anahuac. There the group fired one shot and demanded Tenorio's surrender. When he refused, Travis ordered an attack. Tenorio quickly surrendered and agreed to leave Texas.

Travis's actions disturbed many Texans, who feared that the conflict would cause problems with the Mexican government. They were right. General **Martín Perfecto de Cos**, the military commander of Texas, ordered the arrest of Travis and several other men, including Lorenzo de Zavala. Zavala was a former Mexican cabinet member and governor. He had resigned from his position and moved to Texas in 1835 after Santa Anna abandoned federalism. Cos also ordered more troops into Texas to better control the region.

Reading Check Analyzing Information How did Santa Anna's policies and his refusal to follow the Constitution of 1824 increase tension in Texas?

★ Debating War and Peace

General Cos's orders greatly concerned Texans. A military man, he planned to try his prisoners in military courts. This was legal under Mexican law, but it was unacceptable to many Anglo citizens of Texas. They had lived in the United States, where the law guaranteed trial by jury. In fact, they had successfully won the right to jury trials in 1834. But their protests did not change Cos's mind. The arrival of more troops also upset Texans.

Frustrated, Texans began debating how to respond to the growing problems with the Mexican government. One **faction**, or group, argued that Texans should remain calm. This faction wished to keep peaceful relations with the government. Another group, the war faction, argued that Texans should take action. Some members of the war faction wanted Texas to declare its independence from Mexico.

Meanwhile, the Tejanos of Texas were having debates of their own. Most Tejanos shared Anglos' frustrations with the Mexican government because they were federalists who opposed Santa Anna's centralist policies. However, some were equally frustrated with the Anglos. They felt the Anglos were less concerned with restoring federalism in Mexico than in furthering their own interests.

While the debates continued, Stephen F. Austin returned from his imprisonment in Mexico. Austin's views on the conflict with the Mexican government had changed because of his arrest. He had gone to Mexico City to work for peace. Upon his return, though, Austin urged Texans to unite against Santa Anna and declared his support for action. Austin warned that Texans had no choice but to go to war. "There is no other remedy but to defend our rights, ourselves, and our country by force of arms."

Reading Check Evaluating Why do you think the arrest of Austin and the conflicts in Texas led some Texans to call for war?



Section 4 Review



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ONLINE QUIZ

1. Define and explain:

- faction

2. Identify and explain

the significance of the following in Texas history:

- Martín Perfecto de Cos

3. Analyzing Information

- Copy the graphic organizer below. Use it to explain how the Mexican government's actions led many Texans to call for war.



4. Finding the Main Idea

- a. What is federalism, and what role did it play in the call for war in Texas?
- b. How did the events at Anahuac and Austin's advice lead to a push for war with Mexico?

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5. Writing and Critical Thinking

Supporting a Point of View Write a statement supporting or opposing war with Mexico.

Consider the following:

- the policies of the Mexican government
- the arrest of Stephen F. Austin and other Texans