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| The Independence of Texas.  The events that occurred in Texas as Mexico gained their independence from Spain changed the relationship between the government of Mexico and the people living in Texas. The change in the relationship created issues and events that eventually led to the desire for independence from Mexico in Texas. | |
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| As time passed, the settlers in Texas no longer wanted to follow the Mexican law. The Texas settlers wanted to become independent. To gain their independence, the Texans and Mexicans fought several battles. Some of these battles were the:  **Battle of Gonsales -** Texans refused to return a cannon to Mexican soldiers in the city of Gonsales. Famous Quote, ‘Come and take it” was written on a flag hung on top of the cannon. Mexican soldiers lost the fight and left without the cannon  **Battle of the Alamo** – In this 1836 battle, William B. Travis was the commander of the army soldiers at the Alamo. They were hopelessly outnumbered by Santa Anna's Mexican forces but fought bravely to the end. Travis wrote a famous letter stating that they would fight to the death.  **Battle of Goliad -** Goliad massacre - many Texan prisoners were shot on orders of Santa Anna  **Battle of San Jacinto** The Battle of San Jacinto was the most decisive battle of the Texas Revolution. It occurred on April 21, 1836. The Texas forces easily defeated the Mexican forces in an 18 minute surprise attack. General Santa Ana was captured and was forced to sign the Treaty of Velasco. It was a huge step toward Texas independence from Mexico  The Republic of Texas  The Texas Revolution led to the formation of the Republic of Texas - Texas became an independent republic for almost 10 years with its own government. | |
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After the Texas Revolution, Texas claimed the Rio Grande as the boundary between Texas and Mexico. However, Mexico insisted that the Nueces was the border. The issue was important, because a great deal of land and the claim on Santa Fe ( New Mexico capital) depended on the border lines.

During its short existence, the government of the Republic of Texas had little money and no real way to earn money. What little money it had was spent on wars against Native American tribes or paying for other government expenses. Because the government did not have a workable taxation system and was spending more than it took in, Texas faced serious financial problems. The country's debt was around $12 million by 1845.

Presidents of the Texas Republic

* **Sam Houston** was the first elected president of Texas in September 1836. Houston was a commander in the battle of San Jacinto. He had strong leadersip qualities. He believed that Texas settlers and Native Americans should try and remain peaceful. Therefore, Native American groups signed treaties that resulted in several years of peace.
* **Mirabeau B. Lamar** was vice president to Houston. He later became the second president of Texas in 1838. Though not many public schools were actually built during his term, some of his policies helped establish public education in Texas. So, he is considered the "Father of Education in Texas." Lamar, unlike Houston, tried to kick Native Americans out of their land and deal with them with violence.
* **Dr. Anson Jones** was the last elected president of Texas in 1844 after the second term of Sam Houston. Like Houston, Jones supported annexation, and he was finally successful. Previously, he had fought in the Texas Revolution, served in congress, and served on Houston's cabinet as secretary of state.

Migration to Texas

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| People who migrated to Texas made many contributions to the development of Texas. Many immigrants came to Texas looking for cheap land and a better way life. They had a spirit of adventure, and were hopeful and excited about the opportunities that were to come their way. Some of the different cultural groups in Texas were :  The Mexicans/ Spanish  African Americans  Germans (Europeans)  French (Europeans)  Texas was one of the fastest growing regions in the United States making progress in the building of farms, towns, roads, schools, churches, and a thriving agricultural economy. | |
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| Texas Joins the United States   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Most Texas settlers were from the United States and for that reason, Texans had strong ties with the U.S. and favored, or wanted annexation. However, some people in the United states did not want Texas to join them. One reason was that they did not want to hurt relations with Mexico. However, the slavery issue was a bigger reason. Texas was a state that supported slavery and many people in the united states did not want the addition of another slave state. When Texas was finally annexed in 1845, it became the 28th state, making 14 free states and 14 slave states. |  | | |
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The Mexican American War. The conflict between the United States and Mexico was a disagreement over boundary lines that would change Texas into what it is today. This disagreement started as far back as the Texas Revolution and continued as part of America’s quest to fulfill the goals of:

Manifest Destiny or Westward Expansion

There were many reasons behind the Mexican-American War. The main reason was that Mexico was upset that the United States annexed Texas. Mexico said it would recognize Texas independence if Texas would reject annexation. However, Texas voted in favor of annexation after approval by the United States.