



The end of Mexican Empire of Iturbide

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General Echavarri was at that time commander of the southern division of the empire, including Vera Cruz, and Santa Anna was in command of the town. These two officers quarrelled, and Echavarri preferred charges against Santa Anna. The latter, who had been a great friend to Iturbide, and had aided him in the revolution, immediately repaired to the court of the emperor, at Jalapa, to answer the charges of Echavarri. To his surprise, Iturbide treated him harshly, and dismissed

H.K. Yoakum. *History of Texas: from its first settlement in 1685 to its annexation to the United States in 1846*, Vol. 1 (NY: Redfield, 1855)
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The end of Emperor
Iturbide and
Santa Anna's roll in the
revolt.

him from his command at Vera Cruz. This fatal step ruined the emperor. Santa Anna suddenly departed for Vera Cruz, and reached there before the news of his dismissal. He paraded his troops, denounced the emperor, and raised the standard of revolt. The people and troops, wearied with the oppression of the usurper, and disgusted with his treachery, soon joined in the insurrection. Guadalupe Victoria, Guerrero, and Bravo, all distinguished in the wars of the revolution, took their places as leaders of the populace. Iturbide, alarmed, and seeing the army and people all arrayed against him, returned to the city of Mexico, and on the 8th of March, 1823, called together as many as he could of the old Congress, and tendered his resignation as emperor; but a quorum of that body not being present, they refused to act. At length, on the 19th of March, seeing himself totally abandoned, Iturbide sent in a letter of abdication to the Congress, and retired to Tula-cingo. The Congress, which by this time had assembled, refused to accept his resignation (as that would legalize his usurpation), but permitted him to leave the country, upon an annual allowance of twenty-five thousand dollars. He accordingly embarked, with his family, for Leghorn, and thus left the republicans of Mexico to manage the government of their country as they chose.*

* Iturbide, not satisfied to remain in Italy, proceeded to London; and thence, in the summer of 1824, he set out on his return to Mexico. Although the Mexican Congress had passed a decree of outlawry against him, he landed in disguise at Soto la Marina on the 14th of July (1824); but he was betrayed and taken by his old friend Don Felipe de la Garza, and delivered up to Bernardo Gutierrez, who executed him at Padillo, on the 24th of the same month. — *Kennedy* vol. i, p. 305; *Forbes's Notes*, MS.

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A Mexican passport



Passport signed by Lorenzo de Zavala. 18 November 1832. Dallas Historical Society.

Permalink: <http://texashistory.unt.edu/permalink/meta-ptb-3003>



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Larry Wheeler. Portrait of Lorenzo de Zavala. 1980. San Jacinto Museum of History.
Permalink: <http://texashistory.unt.edu/permalink/meta-ptb-3002>



Santa Anna and Lorenzo de Zavalla heading a revolutionary movement to place Guerrero as president of Mexico.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION — REVOLUTION. 265

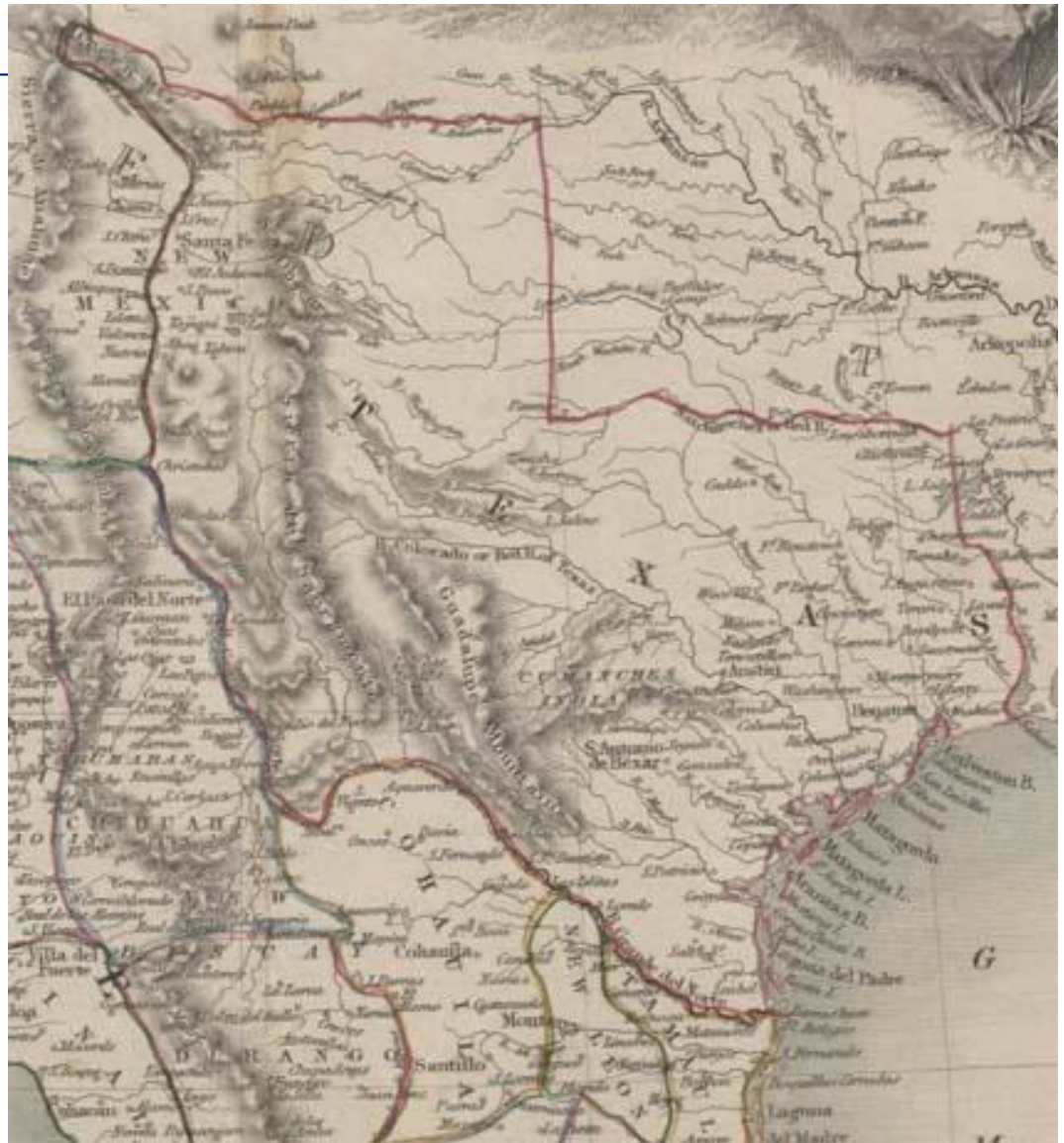
As the president elect was not to be installed until the following April, the liberal party determined to place Guerrero in the presidential chair. The movement was revolutionary, and Santa Anna and Zavalla† were at the head of it. Santa Anna *pronounced* at Xalapa, and Zavalla raised an army in the capital. After a bloody battle of some days, the party of Guerrero triumphed, and he was installed as president. The state of Coahuila and Texas, had been favorable to Guerrero, and approved of the plan of Xalapa; but when the revolution was over, they recommended a perfect oblivion of passed political differences, declaring that they would not be parties to a system of revenge.‡

H.K. Yoakum. *History of Texas: from its first settlement in 1685 to its annexation to the United States in 1846, Vol. 1* (NY: Redfield, 1855)
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A map of the states of
Coahuila and Texas



Mexico, California and Texas. Drawn & engraved by J. Rapkin; illustrations by H. Warren & engraved by J. Rogers (London: J & F. Tallis, 1851) Permalink: <http://texashistory.unt.edu/permalink/meta-ptb-2430>



The Bustemente government's policies against Texas

IT was evidently the intention of Bustemente to thoroughly Mexicanize the population of Texas. On the 6th of April, 1830, he issued a decree prohibiting any further immigration into Texas from the United States. This was followed by another, and still more odious one, directing that Mexican *convicts* should be transported to Texas, thus virtually converting the province into a penal colony. Teran, an uncompromising centralist, was appointed commander of the eastern internal provinces. Custom houses were to be established at San Antonio, Nacogdoches, Copano, Velasco and Anahuac, at the head of Galveston Bay.

To effect the complete subjugation of the colonists, about a thousand soldiers were sent to the province, and distributed at such points as their services might be needed. These soldiers were many of them discharged convicts, and enlisted vagabonds, and were to be supported by the money collected from customs, and by taxation.

Homer S. Thrall. *A pictorial history of Texas, from the earliest visits of European adventurers, to A.D. 1879.*
(St. Louis: N.D. Thompson, 1879)



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The reaction
to Bradburn's
actions against
Texans

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His next act of oppression was to send a file of soldiers and arrest and imprison certain citizens—among them Patrick C. Jack, William F. Travis, Monroe Edwards and others; and though there were no formal charges against them, he threatened to send them to Vera Cruz for trial. Tidings of these outrages flew through the country, producing the most profound alarm and indignation. Numbers flocked towards Anahuac, both from the Brazos and the Trinity rivers. They met, to the number of about sixty, and effected a military organization; Frank W. Johnson being elected first, and Warren D. C. Hall second in command. When approaching Anahuac, a small party of Bradburn's soldiers were encountered and made prisoners. This was early in June. A deputation of the citizens was sent to Anahuac, to intercede for the release of the prisoners. At first this failed, and when a collision between the citizens and soldiers seemed inevitable, a liberal Mexican officer, Colonel Souverin, proffered his services as mediator. The Texans then had nineteen of Bradburn's soldiers, and Bradburn had seventeen citizens under arrest.

Homer S. Thrall. *A pictorial history of Texas, from the earliest visits of European adventurers, to A.D. 1879.* (St. Louis: N.D. Thompson, 1879)

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Texans take a stand

SANTA ANNA.

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But Bradburn, having heard of the approach of Piedras from Nacogdoches, violated his plighted faith and kept his prisoners. The citizens then resolved, at all hazards, to take the fort, and dispatched John Austin and William J. Russel to Brazoria for a cannon.

Homer S. Thrall. *A pictorial history of Texas, from the earliest visits of European adventurers, to A.D. 1879.* (St. Louis: N.D. Thompson, 1879)



A mission from Mexican-governed Texas



Mission Dolores about 1833. Laredo Public Library.

Permalink: <http://texashistory.unt.edu/permalink/meta-pt-13233>



Santa Anna, defender of Texas

WARLIKE COMMOTIONS ENDED.

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During the month of July, succeeding these events, Colonel Jose Antonio Mexia, one of Santa Anna's officers, arrived with four vessels at the mouth of the Brazos, bringing with him our member of Congress, Stephen F. Austin. The object of Mexia's visit was to place Texas in thorough accord with the new Republican departure of Santa Anna. At the same time, the political chief of the department, Don Ramon Musquez, visited San Felipe. At a session of the Ayuntamiento, after a full canvassing of the subject, that body, while denouncing "the tyrannical and illegal acts of Colonel Bradburn," solemnly declared their adherence to the principles of the Republican party headed by Santa Anna, and disclaimed having in view any other object than to contribute in sustaining the constitution, and the true dignity and decorum of the national flag.

Homer S. Thrall. *A pictorial history of Texas, from the earliest visits of European adventurers, to A.D. 1879.*
(St. Louis: N.D. Thompson, 1879)



Santa Anna's support of the Mexican Republic

SANTA ANNA.

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At this juncture of affairs, news arrived that Santa Anna had pronounced against Bustamente, and in favor of the abrogated constitution of 1824. On the 13th of June, 1832, a meeting of about one hundred citizens was held at Taylor White's, on Turtle Bayou. This meeting declared for the new movement of Santa Anna, looking upon him as the representative of Republicanism and popular liberty. No doubt the influence of Santa Anna's agent, Souverin, was felt at this meeting.

Homer S. Thrall. *A pictorial history of Texas, from the earliest visits of European adventurers, to A.D. 1879.*
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The status of Texas in 1834

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In 1834, Santa Anna sent his trusted lieutenant, Almonte, to examine Texas and report upon its progress. This report furnishes the most reliable data we have of the wealth and population at that time. Kennedy says of this report:

“The statistics of Almonte form the proudest testimonial to the labors of those fearless and persevering spirits who first rendered the golden glebe of Texas tributary to the enjoyments of civilized man.”

We give some extracts from Almonte's report:

“In 1806 the department of Bexar contained two municipalities; San Antonio, with a population of 5,000 souls, and Goliad with 1,400—total 6,400. In 1834 there were four municipalities, with the following population respectively:—San Antonio, 2,400; Goliad, 700; Victoria, 300; San Patricio, 600—total 4,000. Deducting 600 for the municipality of San Patricio, an Irish settlement, the Mexican population had declined from 6,400 to 3,400 between 1806 and 1834. The department of the Brazos, (Austin's and De-Witt's colonies) have the following municipalities: San Felipe, 2,500; Columbia, 2,100; Matagorda, 1,400; Gonzales, 900; Mina, 1,100—total 8,000; 1,000 of whom are negroes.”

Homer S. Thrall. *A pictorial history of Texas, from the earliest visits of European adventurers, to A.D. 1879.*
(St. Louis: N.D. Thompson, 1879)



An example of an 1830s log church



The Old Pilgrim Church – Elkhart, TX. Oliver McReynolds. Anderson Country History Commission. 1979.
Permalink: <http://texashistory.unt.edu/permalink/meta-ptb-25802>.



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The economic power of Texas

DISTURBING ELEMENTS. 175

Almonte estimates that the department of the Brazos had 25,000, and that of Nacogdoches 50,000 head of cattle. The amount of the whole trade of Texas for the year 1834, he estimates as follows :

DEPARTMENTS.	IMPORTS.	EXPORTS.	TOTAL.
Bexar.....	40,000	20,000	60,000
Brazos.....	325,000	275,000	600,000
Nacogdoches.....	265,000	205,000	470,000
Contraband trade by water..		270,000	1,400,000

Mr. Almonte estimated the whole population in 1834, at 36,300 ; of whom 21,000 were civilized and 15,300 Indians. Of the latter, 10,800 were represented as hostile and 4,500 friendly. Mr. Kennedy suggests that Almonte's estimate was too low, and that the Anglo-American population at that time amounted to 30,000, exclusive of the negroes.

Homer S. Thrall. *A pictorial history of Texas, from the earliest visits of European adventurers, to A.D. 1879.* (St. Louis: N.D. Thompson, 1879)



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Robinson Fayette. *Mexico and her military chieftains, from the revolution of Hidalgo to the present time.* Philadelphia: E. H. Butler & Co. 1847. Permalink: <http://texashistory.unt.edu/permalink/meta-ptb-29779>



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HISTORY OF TEXAS.

To lighten the public burden, the army was reduced; and, to raise further means to meet the public wants, a part of the revenues of the church were appropriated. These admirable decrees of the Congress were duly approved by Farias. The church was thereupon aroused, and, uniting with those opposed to the federal form of government, poured in their petitions for the repeal of these laws. Santa Anna, while in his retirement, meditating on his ambitious projects, had determined in his mind to abandon the republican party, overturn the constitution, and establish an absolute government. His instruments to be used for the accomplishment of these ends were the church and the army—acting at once on the superstitions and fears of the people. Hence he gave countenance and encouragement to these petitions, and openly expressed his dislike for Farias and his administration.

While Santa Anna was thus fanning the flame of a civil war,

Santa Anna makes his
grab for power

H.K. Yoakum. *History of Texas: From its First Settlement in 1685 to its annexation to the United States in 1846.* (NY: Redfield, 1855). Permalink: <http://texashistory.unt.edu/permalink/meta-ptb-2385>.



Santa Anna's shift from defender of
the Mexican Republic to dictator.

Newell, Chester. *History of the revolution in Texas, particularly of the war of 1835 & '36; together with the latest geographical, topographical, and statistical accounts of the country, from the most authentic sources.* (NY: Wiley & Putnam, 1838).

Permalink: <http://texashistory.unt.edu/permalink/meta-ptb-6109>

In 1834, Santa Anna, who had been of the Republican party, joined that of the church and the aristocrats, and set himself in opposition to the cause he had hitherto sustained. On the 13th of May he dissolved the Mexican Congress before its term had expired, issued an order for the assembling of another, and dissolved the Council of Government, which he took into his own hands.

On the 1st of January, 1835, a new Congress met. Contrary pronouncements, petitions, and protests, were sent in by the military and the people. Those of the latter were disregarded, and their authors persecuted; those of the former received as the voice of the nation. The Vice-President, Gomez Ferias, was deposed, and Gen. Barragan elected in his place. In April, Alvarez, Governor of Zacatecas, revolted against the acts of the Congress, which, under Santa Anna and the church, was issuing decrees subversive of the Republic, and preparing the way for a despotic Government. In May, the hopes of the Federal party were nearly extinguished by a victory gained by Santa Anna over Alvarez. Gutierrez and Victoria took the field against the victor, but the latter was invariably successful. In June the plan of Toluca was adopted and published, by which the Government became Central and consolidated.



Mexican Officer's Sword. Star of the Republic Museum.

Permalink: <http://texashistory.unt.edu/permalink/meta-ptb-31564>



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Santa Anna, the
dictator, crushes
the Zacatecas revolt.

REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENTS.

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In April, Santa Anna, at the head of an army of nearly five thousand men, started toward Zacatecas to reduce that Republican State to submission. Governor Francisco Garcia was a pure Republican and a civilian of considerable experience, but with no military reputation. With troops in number about equal to those under Santa Anna, he marched out of the city and occupied the Guadalupe plains. Here, on the morning of May 11th, was fought a most bloody and, to the Republicans, a most disastrous battle. Two thousand of their number were killed or wounded, and the remainder taken prisoners.

The situation was briefly this: The governor was a prisoner; and the Legislature had been dispersed by the military under General Cos, who assumed dictatorial powers, subordinate only to his master, Santa Anna. At the Federal capital, the Congress had been dissolved; the constitution overthrown; the civil power annihilated;

Homer S. Thrall. *A Pictorial history of Texas, from the earliest visits of European adventurers, to A.D. 1879.*
(St. Louis: N.D. Thompson, 1879)