The Republic of Texas
1836-1845
Sam Houston
Chapter 11 section 1
Treaty of Velasco
THE TREATIES OF VELASCO

Public Terms

1. The war between Mexico and Texas was officially ended, and Texas was declared independent.
2. Santa Anna would not take up arms against Texas.
3. All Mexican forces would withdraw beyond the Rio Grande.
4. Prisoners would be exchanged.
5. Mexico would return all captured property.
6. Texas leaders would promptly return Santa Anna to Mexico.
THE TREATIES OF VELASCO

Secret Terms

1. Provided for Santa Anna’s immediate release

2. Santa Anna would try to persuade Mexican leaders to recognize the independence of Texas.

3. Santa Anna would push for the Rio Grande to be Mexico’s border with Texas.
RESPONSE TO THE TREATIES OF VELASCO

Texans Respond:
1. A small force stopped Santa Anna
2. David G. Burnet imprisoned him

Mexican Response:
1. Leaders did not recognize treaties or Texas independence
Treaties of Velasco

Public Terms

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Secret Terms

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Response to the Treaties

Texas

Mexico
The Republic of Texas
Republic of Texas Leaders

- **1st President - Sam Houston**
- Vice President - Mirabeau Lamar
- Secretary of State - Stephen F. Austin
- Secretary of Treasury - Henry Smith (ad interim governor)
- Secretary of War - Thomas J. Rusk
Problems in the New Republic

- Mexican government
- Financial problems
- Native Texans
A New Capital

• Brothers, John and Augustus Allen planned to build a new town and agreed to provide buildings in their town for the Texas government and name it after Sam Houston
• Many people complained about the log structures, muddy streets, heat, humidity, diseases, and mosquitoes
• The town of Houston remained the capital of Texas throughout Sam Houston’s first administration
Attempt at Annexation

• In the same election that made Houston the 1\textsuperscript{st} president, the majority of Texans also voted to seek annexation to the United States.

• Most Texans had immigrated from the United States, and the Texans’ language, customs, and ideas about government were similar to most Americans.

• \textbf{Annexation to the U.S. would help pay-off the debt the Republic of Texas was in and help in case of war with Mexico.}
Manifest Destiny

• The addition of Texas to the U.S. would allow for U.S. westward expansion
• Many Texans thought that the U.S. would be eager to accept Texas as a state
Manifest Destiny

- It took Texas ten more years to become a part of the United States because Texas would have been admitted as a slave state and because of the problems between Texas and Mexico.
- The U.S. government rejected Texas’s proposal in 1837 to become a state because it was afraid of starting a war with Mexico.
Financial Troubles

• When Houston began his presidency Texas was in debt over $1 million dollars
• Houston was a good money manager and kept government expenses to a minimum and tried to raise money for revenue
• To raise money the government began to collect customs duties and property taxes
• In 1837 the Texas Congress authorized Houston to issue about $600,000 in promissory notes, called Star Money
• However, Texas’ financial problems continued to increase and Star Money was refused by most people
Trouble in the Army

• The Mexican government refused to recognize Texas as being independent and accept the Treaties of Velasco
• Many people in Texas wanted to renew the war with Mexico
• President Houston sent home all but 600 soldiers on leave so that he didn’t have to worry about war and the government didn’t have to find the money to pay the soldiers
Troubles With Native Texans

- During the Texas Revolution Houston signed a treaty with the Cherokees so that the Texan army wouldn’t have to fight Santa Anna and Native Texans at the same time.
- In return after the war the Texas government would give the Cherokees titles to their land.
- However the Cherokees held very desirable land and most Texans wanted to rid the Republic of all Native Texans.
- Native Americans fought back and Houston enlisted the Texas Rangers to patrol the frontier and control the danger to the settlers.
- Houston was sympathetic to the Native Texans, but most Texans did not share his views.
Election of 1838

• The Texas Constitution limited the first president to a term of two years and no president could serve two times in a row.

• **In 1838, Vice-President, Mirabeau Lamar took over as 2nd president of Texas.**

• Lamar had a new vision for Texas, a vision that appealed to most Texans.
Summary

• Sam Houston worked to keep peaceful relationships with Native Americans and Mexico
• He spent little money and promoted the annexation of Texas to the United States
HOUSTON

• was bold
• liked flashy clothing
• worked on keeping peace with Mexico and the Native Texans.
• spent little money
• promoted annexation of Texas to the U.S.

LAMAR

• liked quiet reading
• did not shy away from conflicts with Mexico and the Native Texans.
• wanted to get rid Texas of ALL Native Texans
• spent LARGE sums of borrowed money on military expeditions
• wanted Texas to remain independent and expand its borders
• Lamar’s aggressive approach to Texas’s policies was obvious in his 1838 inaugural address:
– “If peace can be obtained only by the sword, let the sword do its work.”
Lamar’s Plan for the Republic

• Did not shy away from a renewal of conflict with Mexico
• Wanted to clear Texas of all Native Texans
• Spent large sums of money
• Wanted Texas to remain independent and expand its territory
Clashes with Native Americans

- Lamar wanted to kill or force all Native Texans out of Texas
- He led raids on the Cherokees and Comanches
- The Cherokees lost their chief, Chief Bowles and were forced into present-day Oklahoma
- This led to fewer raids by the Native Texans, but increased hostilities
Relations with Mexico

• The Treaties of Velasco set the Texas-Mexico boundary at the Rio Grande
• Lamar assumed that this included all of the Rio Grande including as far north as its headwaters in Colorado
• This would make Santa Fe, New Mexico part of Texas
Rio Grande River

In 1841, President Lamar sent an expedition to Santa Fe to convince the New Mexicans that they were now part of Texas. When they arrived, the New Mexicans refused to become part of Texas. The troops did not have the necessary supplies to return home and surrendered to the Mexican authorities, and were jailed until 1842. This only served to increase tensions with Mexico.
A New Capital

• Lamar moved the capital of Texas from Houston to a small community along the Colorado River, about 100 miles north of San Antonio.

• He felt the capital of Texas should be more centrally located.

• This new capital was named Austin, in honor of Stephen F. Austin.
Austin, Texas
Education Under Lamar

• Mirabeau Lamar is best known for his contributions to education, and is often referred to as the “Father of Education in Texas”
• He believed that a strong system of education could make Texas a great nation
• He and the Texas Congress set aside 18,000 acres of land in each county for public schools
• They also set aside over 220,000 acres for two universities
Financial Difficulties

• The financial situation in Texas worsened under Lamar’s direction
• Lamar expanded the use of “redbacks”, which bought only about 12 U.S. cents of goods and services, per Texas dollar
• He also spent a lot of money on battles with Native Americans and the Santa Fe Expedition
• Texas’s public debt rose to $7 million by the end of Lamar’s term
Houston’s Return Leads to Annexation

Chapter 11, Section 3
He’s Baaaaaack!!

- Sam Houston ran for president of the Republic of Texas again in 1841 and *won*, with Edward Burleson as vice-president.
- He still wanted to prevent war with Mexico, spend little money, and join the United States.
Back in Action

• Houston wasted no time in putting his plans back in action
• First he worked to reduce government spending, cutting back on Lamar’s expansion policy, and reducing the army and the navy
• As a result he spent less than $600,000 in his three-year term
The Mier Expedition

• Twice Mexico sent expeditions into Texas and captured San Antonio
• After the second expedition the Mexican troops retreated with 67 hostages
• President Houston sent a militia of 300 men under General Alexander Somervell to pursue the Mexican troops
• The Mexican troops crossed the Rio Grande into Mexico and Somervell stopped because he believed that his orders did not allow him to cross into Mexico
The Mier Expedition

• Somervell’s decision upset many in the militia—about half of them refused to leave without a fight and argued that they did not have enough supplies to return across South Texas
• In revolt they elected William S. Fisher to lead them into Mexico
• One in Mexico the Texans demanded that the citizens of Mier, a small Mexican town, provide them with the supplies they needed
The Mier Expedition

- While they waited, Mexican troops arrived and captured the Texans, who were marched to Mexico City.
- Some escaped at Salado, but few made it back to Texas.
- The Mexican troops recaptured 176 Texans and made it to Mexico City.
- Santa Anna ordered one of every 10 prisoners to be put to death.
The Mier Expedition

- Each prisoner was to select a bean from a mug
- Those who drew a black bean were shot by a firing squad and the others were imprisoned
- The survivors were eventually released in 1844
Efforts to Gain Annexation

• President Houston tried once more to get Texas accepted as a state in the United States
• In April 1844 U.S. President John Tyler’s Secretary of State agreed to a treaty that would accept Texas as a state in the U.S.
• The U.S. Senate rejected the treaty—the Senate ballot fell one vote short of a 2/3’s majority
Election of 1844

• In 1844 Texans elected Dr. Anson Jones as the Republics 4th president

• In the U.S., annexation of Texas became a key factor during the presidential election

• Two leading candidates decided not to discuss the issue of Texas in their campaign, but Democratic nominee, James K. Polk, publically supported annexation of Texas and won the election
Texas Becomes A State

- The U.S. Congress approved a **joint resolution** on February 26, 1845, agreeing to accept Texas as the 28th state.
- **Many citizens of the United States were not happy with Texas being annexed because Texas was a slave state and change the balance of power in Congress.**
- Pressured by French and British diplomats, the Mexican government offered to recognize Texas’s independence if the Texas Congress would reject annexation.
Texas Becomes A State

- President Jones presented both offers to the Texas Congress.
- Members of the Congress voted for annexation and proceeded to draft a state constitution.
- The constitution was ratified by the Texas Congress in October 1845 and the U.S. Congress in December 1845.
- The U.S. Congress admitted Texas into the Union as the 28th state after Texas voters approved the state’s new constitution and annexation ordinance.
- On February 19, 1846 President Jones announced the annexation of Texas.
Speech by Anson Jones

• “I, as President of the Republic, with my officers, am now present to surrender into the hands of those whom the people have chosen…The lone star of Texas, which ten years since arose amid clouds over fields of carnage, and obscurely shone for a while, has culminated, and, following an inscrutable destiny, has passed on and become fixed forever in that glorious constellation which all freemen and lovers of freedom in the world must reverence and adore-the American Union…”

• In your journal tell me what you think Anson Jones is talking about?