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Texas Invades Mexico

Lead: After independence the new Republic of Texas experienced some acute growing pains.

Intro.: *A Moment in Time* with Dan Roberts.

Content: Texas won its independence from Mexico in 1836. The disaster of the Alamo was soon followed by the defeat of Mexican General Santa Anna at San Jacinto. Sam Houston's experience as Governor of Tennessee and popularity as the architect of Texas' victory

carried him into the Presidency of the New Republic.

The leaders of Texas found that winning independence was much easier than establishing a successful nation. Serious disputes arose between those like President Sam Houston who wished to swiftly join the United States and those who wanted Texas to go it alone. One of the difficulties facing Houston was that the government in Washington was a reluctant suitor. President Martin Van Buren did not want Texas because undoubtedly it would enter as a slave state. Besides, the United States had a treaty with Mexico which renounced claim to territory west of the Sabine River on

the border between Texas and Louisiana.

With a marriage to the United States out of the picture for the time being, those who advocated an independent and expanding Texas rose to power. Houston's successor, Mirabeau Lamar, was among those who wished to expand by invading Mexican territory. He planned a military expedition to claim the lands east of the Rio Grande River in what is now New Mexico. The Texas Congress would not vote the money for this scheme, but he sent the troops anyway. On June 21, 1841, a ragtag collection of soldiers, merchants and adventurers left to claim Santa Fe for Texas. They ran out of food with six weeks left in

the journey and when they got there, the locals remained loyal to Mexico and the men were captured without a shot.

Sam Houston returned to the Presidency in late 1841, interest in annexation revived, and Texas, its plans for a western empire in shambles, joined the United States in 1845.

At the University of Richmond, this is Dan Roberts.

Resources

Hogan, William Ransom. *The Texas Republic*. Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1946.

Nance, Joseph Milton. *After San Jacinto: The Texas-Mexican Frontier, 1836-1841*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1863.

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