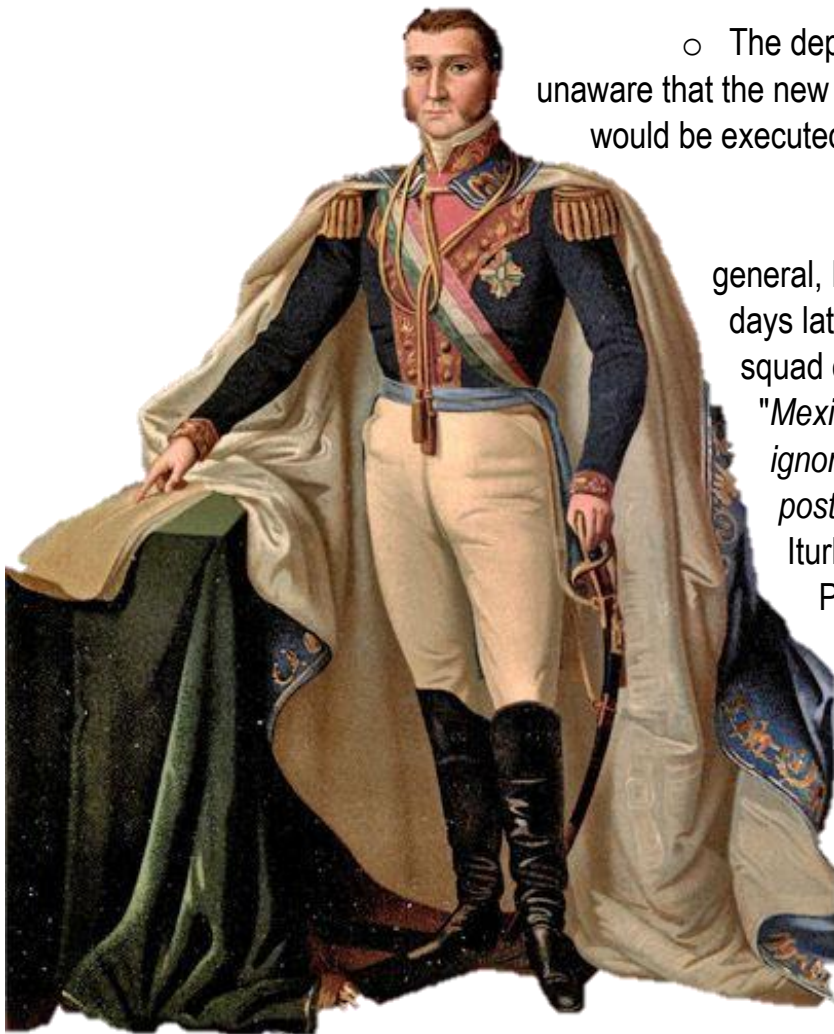


Mexican Independence & War with the United States

- After a series of revolts against Spanish rule in the early 19th century, Mexico erupts into the “Mexican War for Independence.”
- On February 24, 1821, a plan for independence is produced which offers three guarantees—preservation of the Catholic Church's status, the independence of Mexico as a constitutional monarchy, and equality of Spaniards and criollos (Latin Americans who are of full or near full Spanish descent, but not born in Spain).



- By July 1821, when Juan O'Donoju arrived from Spain to take over the reins of colonial government, the loyalists controlled only Mexico City and Veracruz. Recognizing that all was lost, O'Donoju met with Iturbide at the town of Córdoba, where on August 24, 1821, he signed a treaty granting Mexico independence.¹
- First Mexican Empire is established with Emperor Agustín I (a criollo from Mexico) as its (temporary) constitutional monarch until a European can be found. New Mexico becomes a province of the Empire. Fun Fact: Emperor Agustín I is credited with creating the tricolor Mexican flag consisting of green, white, and red, representing independence, religion (Catholicism), and union.
- The Empire collapses within a year, and the Emperor flees to Europe. A Mexican Republic is declared as “The United Mexican States” and New Mexico is declared a territory of the new republic.



- The deposed Emperor Agustín I returns to Mexico, unaware that the new republican Congress had issued a decree that he would be executed if he ever returned to the country.

- Under orders of his former friend and general, Filipe de la Garza, Iturbide was arrested several days later in the town of Padilla and executed by firing squad on July 19, 1824. His final words that day were, *"Mexicans! I die with honor, and not as a traitor! That ignominy I shall not leave to my children nor to their posterity. No, I am not a traitor, no!"* Agustín de Iturbide's remains were buried at the church in Padilla, and later reinterred at the metropolitan cathedral in Mexico City.²

- In 1827, Mexico expelled remaining peninsular-born Spaniards. In 1829, a Spanish expeditionary force was launched from Cuba, with the expectation that many Mexicans would support it (which they didn't).

¹ de la Teja, J. (2018). MEXICAN WAR OF INDEPENDENCE | The Handbook of Texas Online | Texas State Historical Association (TSHA). [online] Tshaonline.org. Available at: <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/qdmcg> [Accessed 11 Nov. 2018].

² Legacy.lib.utexas.edu. (2018). *Collection of Agustín de Iturbide papers A Guide to the Collection*. [online] Available at: <https://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/taro/smu/00127/smu-00127.html> [Accessed 11 Nov. 2018].

- The republic would largely adopt Spanish colonial policy with regard to the Indigenous Peoples of New Mexico, including the Apache Nation. The United Mexican States offered an insufficient defense network against the Comanches and Apaches in the Northern Territories with an inadequate infrastructure.
- American merchants began supplying the Apache with guns (and shoes) which was soon discovered by Mexican authorities.
- In 1835 the Texas Revolution breaks out as American colonists and Tejanos (Mexican Texans) rebelled against Mexican rule. Texas succeeds in declaring independence, becoming the Republic of Texas in 1836. Mexican authorities blamed the loss of Texas on United States intervention. Although the United States remained officially neutral, 40 percent of the men who enlisted in the Texan army arrived from the United States after hostilities began.³

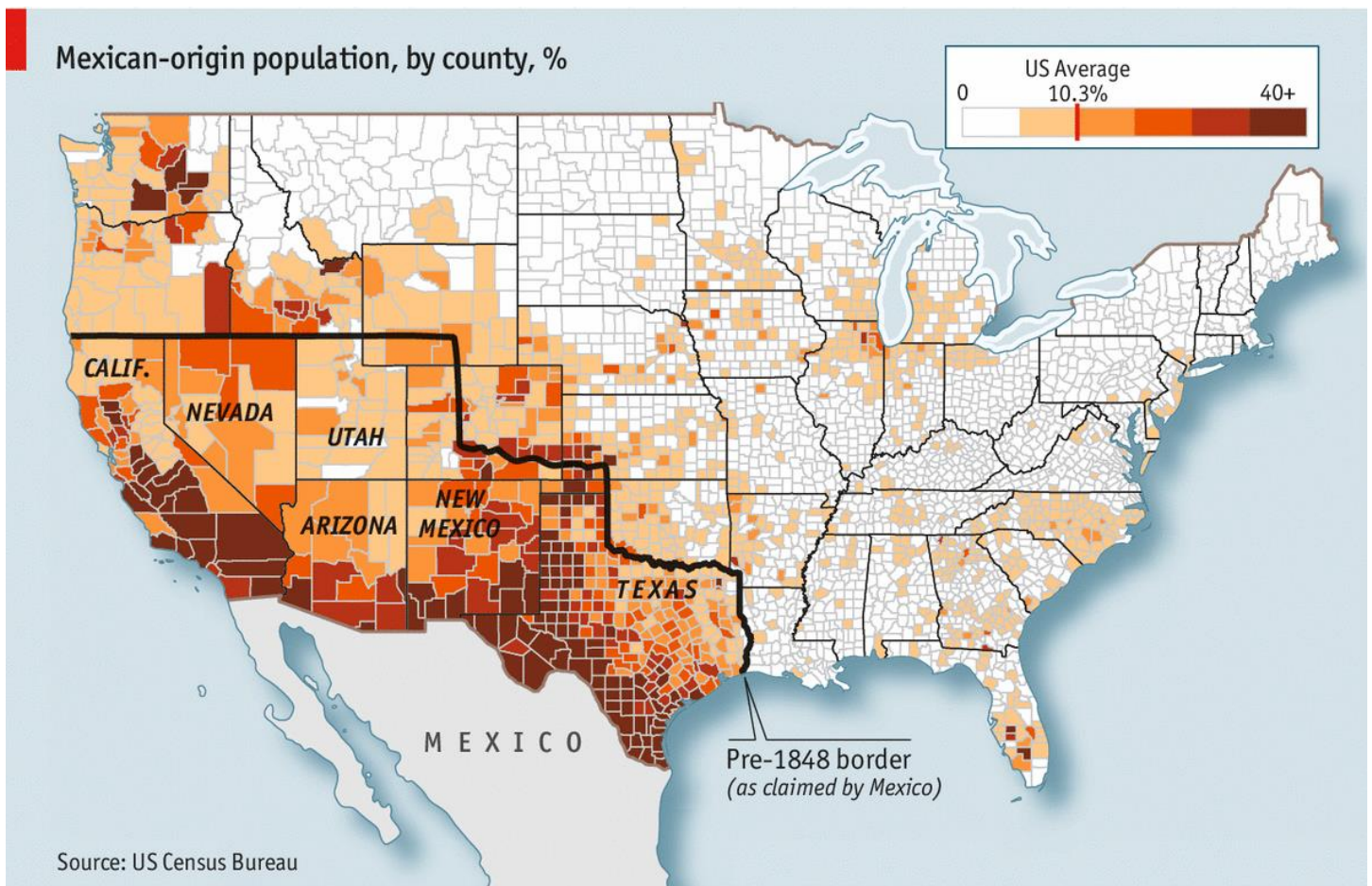


- The United States recognizes the Republic of Texas in 1837. France follows in 1839.
- The United States voted to annex Texas as the 28th state in March 1845 - two months later, Mexico agreed to recognize the Republic of Texas as long as there was no annexation to the United States.
- On July 4, 1845, Texans voted for annexation, triggering the Mexican-American War.⁴
- Mexico refused to recognize Texan independence, sending troops to the north and declaring a “defensive war” against American expansion. The American President James Polk responded by sending troops south. When Mexican troops open fire on US soldiers President Polk uses this as justification for Congress to issue a declaration of war.
- American forces immediately occupy New Mexico and General Stephen W. Kearny annexes the territory on August 15th, 1845, without firing a shot.
 - Following Kearny's departure, dissenters and numerous Indigenous allies, including Puebloan peoples, worked to push the Americans from the territory. Revolts and conflicts ensued, but were ultimately put down by American authorities.

³ Lack, Paul D. (1992). *The Texas Revolutionary Experience: A Political and Social History 1835–1836*. College Station, TX: Texas A&M University Press. ISBN 0-89096-497-1.

⁴ Henderson, Timothy J. (2008). *A Glorious Defeat: Mexico and Its War with the United States*. New York, NY: Macmillan. ISBN 1-4299-2279-6.

- The Mexican military ultimately collapsed after American forces occupied Mexico City. In 1848 the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed by Mexico and the United States, ending the war. Mexico was given \$15 million dollars in exchange for recognizing Texan independence, as well as the present-day states of California, Nevada, and Utah, most of New Mexico, Arizona and Colorado, and parts of Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Wyoming. The losses amounted to one-third of Mexico's territory.
 - Although some Indigenous people relocated farther south in Mexico, the great majority remained in what was now considered U.S. territory.
 - The Mexican government collapsed following the end of the war, establishing the Second Mexican Republic in 1846.



The Economist, 2014