

The Córdova Rebellion Extension Foundations

Unit 6: The Republic of Texas

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Growing Tension in East Texas

During the Texas Revolutionary era, there were many different points of view about Texas independence. Within the Tejano population of Texas, **some Tejanos supported Texas independence during the revolution, while others had opposed independence**. Some Tejanos who had opposed independence wanted Texas to remain part of Mexico and feared that the rights they had enjoyed under Mexico might not be respected in the new Republic of Texas.

After Texas won its independence in 1836, **American immigration into east Texas increased significantly.** At times, this brought **conflict** between the **new Anglo arrivals** who were seeking to settle in the newly independent republic and members of **the local Tejano population** who sometimes felt they were being pushed out by newcomers.

In addition to the Anglo and Tejano residents, **Texas Indians** were a third important group living in east Texas after the war. One tribe in particular, the **Cherokee**, **had been working for a long time to gain titles, or official ownership, of their land.** During the Texas Revolution, leaders like Sam Houston had promised the Cherokee tribe titles to their land, but after the war the Republic of Texas government refused to honor the agreement.

Growing tension in east Texas between **the new Anglo settlers**, **some Tejano residents who had opposed independence**, and **several Indian tribes working toward ownership of their land** led to a conflict known as the **Córdova Rebellion** in August, 1838, led by a Tejano named **Vicente Córdova**.

What was the Córdova Rebellion, and what was its primary cause? Choose the correct answer below.

The Córdova Rebellion was **(A)** a political conflict in east Texas between an alliance of Tejanos and Indians against the Anglos in the region **(B)** an economic conflict between various groups in east Texas including Tejanos, Cherokees, and Anglos over Texas' use of slave labor **(C)** a military campaign carried out against the people of Nacogdoches to enforce the laws and constitution of the Republic of Texas.





The Córdova Rebellion Primary Source #1

The following primary source excerpt was taken from an article in the *Telegraph and Texas Register* of Houston printed on August 25, 1838. The article published an account of events leading to the Córdova Rebellion.

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- 1. According to the account published in the newspaper, what happened when the Texan militia arrived near Nacogdoches?
 - a. Generals Rusk and Douglass ordered their militia to attack the Cherokees.
 - b. The Mexican and Indian rebels took shelter with the Cherokees.
 - c. The Texan militia began a siege of the Mexican and Indian rebels.
 - d. The Mexican and Indian rebels successfully attacked the militia.
- 2. What was Chief Bowles' response to Rusk's request to hand over the rebels?
 - a. Chief Bowles immediately turned the rebels over to the militia.
 - b. Chief Bowles helped the rebels escape the militia.
 - c. Chief Bowles launched an attack against Rusk's militia.
 - d. Chief Bowles asked for time to hold a meeting, but did not respond after.
- 3. From whose point of view was this article written? How might this article be different if it were written from a different point of view?
 - a. An Anglo point of view
 - b. An Indian point of view
 - c. A Tejano point of view
 - d. An American point of view



¹ Biloxies refers to a tribe of American Indians that migrated into Texas in the early 1800s.

² *Effusion*: (n) spilling of a liquid. The effusion of blood refers to causing bloodshed.

³ Precipitate: (adj) Describing something that is hasty or rash, an action made without careful thought.

⁴ **Deluded**: (adj) Believing something that is not true.

⁵ **Discomfiture:** (n) a feeling of unease or embarrassment.



The Córdova Rebellion Primary Source #2

The following primary source excerpt was taken from an article in the Houston *Telegraph* and *Texas Register* published on September 29, 1838, nearly a month after the article on the previous page. This article gave an account of the events of the rebellion, including the following brief description of the motivations and goals of the rebels.

- 4. The excerpt states that some Mexican rebels were "disavowing all allegiance and respect to the constitution and laws of this republic." Which statement below best paraphrases the meaning of that statement?
 - a. The rebels were stating that they did not support the Republic of Texas, they were not loyal to the Republic, and would not follow its laws.
 - b. The rebels were stating that they would not agree to negotiations with the Republic of Texas without guarantees of their constitutional rights.
 - c. The rebels were stating that they willingly entered into an allegiance with several east Texas Indian tribes and would fight for their own independence.
 - d.—The rebels were stating that they were willing to establish a treaty of commerce and diplomatic relations with the Republic of Texas.
- 5. What was one goal the rebels had, according to the excerpt?
 - a. They hoped to take over the political leadership of east Texas, specifically the town of Nacogdoches.
 - b. They wanted to return Texas to Mexican control under the Constitution of 1824 before the centralists took over Mexico City.
 - c. They wanted to overthrow the government of the Republic of Texas and annex the territory to the United States.
 - d. They planned to form a confederation with the Indian tribes of east Texas and abolish immigration from the United States.

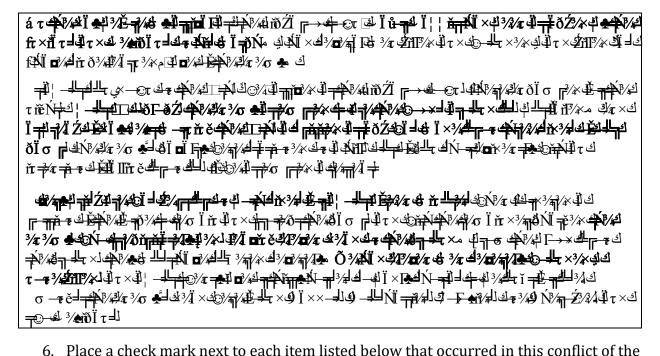




The Córdova Rebellion Primary Source #3

The following primary source excerpt was taken from an article in the Houston *Telegraph* and *Texas Register* published on November 3, 1838. The article published a letter from Major General Thomas J. Rusk, who led the Texan militia during the Córdova Rebellion. His letter gave an account of the conflict and its outcome. The rebellion would end shortly after the events described here.

There are several misspellings and grammar errors in the original text. The excerpt is included here with the original errors.



Place a	check mark next to each item listed below that occurred in this conflict of the
Córdova	a Rebellion as described in the passage above.
	Sam Houston deployed the army, militia, and rangers with orders to forcefull

Sam Houston deployed the army, militia, and rangers with orders to forcefully remove all rebels from the area when he learned of the rebellion.
Before Rusk and his men arrived, another militia leader had been attacked by members of Córdova's Rebellion.
The rebels tried to set fire to the woods where the militia were camping at
night on August 15, 1838.
In the morning of August 16, 1838, the rebels attacked three sides of the
militia's camp.
The fight on August 16 lasted more than 3 hours before the rebels were able
to drive the militia out of the area.
The militia forced the rebels to retreat with both sides suffering casualties.

