

The Córdova Rebellion Extension *Advanced*

Unit 6: The Republic of Texas

Name:

Date:

Period:

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.

According to the reading passage, what was the Córdova Rebellion, and what was its primary cause? Write a two- to three- sentence response in your own words.

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.

“Since the reception of the following intelligence, a messenger has arrived from Nacogdoches, who states that on the approach of generals Rusk and Douglass with a large division of the militia of that section, the Mexicans and their allies the *Biloxies*¹, fled from their encampment on the Angelina and took refuge in the Cherokee village.”

“They were pursued by Gen. Rusk, who in order to avoid the *effusion*² of blood, and prevent a *precipitate*³ Indian war; halted his division a few miles from the village and sent a messenger to Bowles, the principle chief, requesting him to give them up. - Bowles desired permission to hold a council of his nation, and agreed to send an answer on the following Saturday. No intelligence has been received from them since.”

“We believe that this transaction will be attended with beneficial consequences, as the overwhelming force that will be assembled in that quarter, will impress upon the *deluded*⁴ creatures a full sense of their inferiority, and show them that any further excesses on their part, may lead to their complete *discomfiture*⁵ if not to their extermination.”

1. According to the account published in the newspaper, what happened when the Texan militia arrived near Nacogdoches?
2. What did General Rusk request of Cherokee Chief Bowles? What was the Cherokee response?
3. How did the author of this account characterize the rebelling Texas Indians and Tejanos?
4. 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?

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 Córdoba 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.

“On the 10th, the Mexicans sent a letter from their camp to the president at Nacogdoches, signed by Cordova, Norris, Cruz’s, and others, disavowing all allegiance and respect to the constitution and laws of this Republic, and expressing their preference and determination to fight for the Mexican constitution of ‘24.”

5. According to the excerpt, how did many of the rebels feel about the Republic of Texas government? Use evidence from the primary source excerpt to support your claim.
6. What was one goal the rebels had, according to the excerpt?

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.

On the day before my arrival at [the Kickapoo town] Major Mabbitt had been attacked by the Indians and Mexicans on his march... – had several men killed and wounded – and killed (as I have since learned;) five of the enemy...

At about sun-down on the 15th, [we] arrived at the Kickapoo Town. I here encamped for the night. About 10 o'clock, the enemy attempted to fire the woods around us, but failed... end at break of day next morning the 16th, a spirited attack was made upon three sides of our camp. The enemy's cavalry were stationed on a hill, out of gun shot evidently with an intention of falling upon us, if we attempted a retreat.

A very brisk fire was kept up on both sides for about fifteen minutes when I ordered a portion of the force to remain and protect the camp, and with the remainder charged the enemy, who precipitately fled, leaving eleven dead on the ground... From the blood upon the ground, they must have suffered severely...We had eleven men severely wounded – none killed, and about twenty five or thirty horses so badly shot as to be unfit for use. Amongst the enemy's dead were found Caddos, Coushatties, Boloxies, one Cherokee, and two Mexicans.

7. Based on the excerpt, describe three to five significant events or actions that occurred in chronological order during the conflict.