

How do we know what we know? *Advanced*

Unit 5: The Texas Revolution

Name:

Date:

Period:

Primary Source #1: The Arrest of Lorenzo de Zavala

In August of 1835, two months before the Battle of Gonzales, Santa Anna's centralist troops in Texas set out to arrest Lorenzo de Zavala. Zavala had worked in the federalist government, but resigned when Santa Anna and the centralists took control. After his resignation, he moved to Texas.

The excerpt below was written by an Anglo colonist named John W. Smith. Smith translated General Cos' arrest warrant. In this portion of the excerpt, Smith is giving his own opinion about the order for arrest.

<p>"[Zavala] wrote a very spirited letter to the Dictator, in which he told him that "formerly he had owed his success in arms to the justice of his cause, but now his cause was a bad one, liberal principles would put him down."</p> <p>This is the only charge which they can prefer against [Zavala], is this sufficient to cause the march of cavalry to his arrest? No, it is not for that purpose they intend to come, it is for the purpose of subjecting us to the new form of government, we have only to look at the intrigues which were used to subdue Zacatecas, to convince us that we have nothing to expect from them. Let Texas be united and take a firm stand and she has nothing to fear.</p>	<p>Dictator: An all-powerful leader.</p> <p>Liberal principles: Ideas like federalism and individual rights</p> <p>Cavalry: A branch of military on horseback.</p> <p>Subjecting: Forcing people to experience something</p> <p>Intrigues: Secret and/or negative actions</p> <p>Subdue: To put down or control</p>
--	---

1. What does the author think about the arrest order for Lorenzo de Zavala? Provide evidence from the excerpt to support your claim.

Primary Source #2: Sam Houston's Army Orders

<p>Army Orders Convention Hall, Washington, March 2, 1836</p> <p>War is raging on the frontiers. Bejar is besieged by two thousand of the enemy, under the command of general [Joaquín Ramírez y Sesma]. Reinforcements are on their march, to unite with the besieged army.</p> <p>By the last report, our force in Bejar was only one hundred and fifty men strong. The citizens of Texas must rally to the aid of our army, or it will perish... Independence is declared, it must be maintained. Immediate action, united with valor, alone can achieve the great work...</p> <p>SAM HOUSTON, Commander-In-Chief of the Army.</p> <p>P. S. It is rumored that the enemy are on their march to Gonzales, and that they have entered the colonies. The fate of Bejar is unknown. The country must and shall be defended. The patriots of Texas are appealed to, in behalf of their bleeding country. S. H.</p> <p>- Transcript of army orders made by Sam Houston, March 2, 1836 The Portal to Texas History</p>	<p>Bejar: San Antonio de Bexar</p> <p>Besieged: Under siege – totally surrounded by the enemy</p> <p>Reinforcements: Additional back-up soldiers</p> <p>Rally to the aid of: Come help</p> <p>Perish: Be destroyed or die</p> <p>Valor: Courage</p> <p>Appeal: an urgent or serious request</p>
--	--

2. Describe three to five pieces of information about the war in Texas that we can learn from this source.

3. Does this author support or oppose the war in Texas? Explain your answer.

Primary Source #3: “A Lady of Texas”

The following excerpt is from an article in the *Telegraph and Texas Register* from February 27, 1836. It was submitted anonymously by a Texas woman who referred to herself simply as “A Lady of Texas.”

<p><i>“...at this important crisis, the ladies of Texas can render some service to their threatened country, by making up clothing for her army... I am sure there can, in this way, be clothes made for a thousand men, which, at the lowest prices, would save the state several thousand dollars... During the last war between the United States and Great Britain, when the venerable Shelby was governor of Kentucky, the ladies of that state supplied the Kentucky troops with clothing which did not cost the government one cent. And why cannot the ladies of Texas do the same? Have we not as much patriotism as our mothers and grandmothers?”</i></p> <p>- Telegraph and Texas Register, Saturday, February 27, 1836 The Portal to Texas History</p>	<p>Crisis: A time of great difficulty, trouble, or danger</p> <p>Render: Give or provide</p> <p>War between the United States and Great Britain: The American Revolution</p> <p>Venerable: Respectable</p>
--	--

1. Were soldiers the only people who were involved in or affected by the war in Texas? Explain your answer. What other groups were likely also affected by the war?
2. What are three things you can infer or observe about the era from this excerpt?