

Name:

Date:

Class/Period:

The Big Picture: Taking Up Arms - Accommodated

Instructions: Analyze the primary source document titled "Texas Declaration of Causes for Taking Up Arms Against Santa Anna" and answer the document analysis questions below.

Texas Declaration of Causes for Taking Up Arms Against Santa Anna

November 7, 1835

Whereas, Gen. Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, and other military chieftains, have by force of arms, overthrown the federal institutions of Mexico, and dissolved the social compact which existed between Texas and the other members of the Mexican Confederacy, now the good people of Texas, availing themselves of their natural rights, SOLEMNLY DECLARE,

1st. That they have taken up arms in defense of their rights and liberties, which were threatened by encroachments of military despots, and in defense of the republican principles of the federal constitution of Mexico, of 1824.

Summary: The people have taken up arms because they are defending their rights granted under the constitution of 1824.

2nd. That Texas is no longer morally or civilly bound by the compact of union; yet stimulated by the generosity and sympathy common to a free people, they offer their support and assistance to such of the members of the Mexican Confederacy as will take up arms against military despotism.

Summary: Texans no longer have to support the Mexican government and will instead support those who take up arms against the Mexican government.

3rd. That they do not acknowledge that the present authorities of the nominal Mexican Republic, have the right to govern within the limits of Texas.

Summary: The Texans do not support the current Mexican government to govern Texas.

4th. That they will not cease to carry on war against the said authorities, whilst their troops are within the limits of Texas.

Summary: The Texians will fight against the Mexican government while they are in Texas.

5th. That they hold it to be their right, during the disorganization of the federal system, and the reign of despotism to withdraw from the union, to establish an independent government, or to adopt such measures as they may deem best calculated to protect their rights and liberties; but that they will continue faithful to the Mexican government so long as that nation is governed by the constitution and laws, that were framed for the government of the political association.

Summary: It is the Texians' right while the Dictator Santa Anna is in power to make their own government that will uphold their rights and liberties. The Texians will continue to be loyal to the Mexican government as long as they follow the original constitution of 1824.

6th. That Texas is responsible for the expenses of her armies, now in the field.

Summary: Texas will pay for their own army.

7th. That the public faith of Texas is pledged for the payment of any debts contracted by her agents.

Summary: Texas will pay back any debts [money that they owe].

8th. That she will reward by donations in land, all who volunteer their services in her present struggle, and receive them as citizens.

Summary: Texas will give land to those who help in the Revolution.

These declarations we solemnly avow to the world, and call God to witness their truth and sincerity, and invoke defeat and disgrace upon our heads, should we prove guilty of duplicity.

Summary: We make these statements publicly and if we are wrong, we will lose.

"Declaration of the People of Texas in General Convention Assembled." Journals of the Consultation Held at San Felipe de Austin, October 16, 1835, pp. 21-22. Order of Congress. Houston, Texas., 1838.

Analysis Questions:

1. Define the phrase “taking up arms.” Use context clues from the document to support your explanation.

Taking up arms means

2. What claims are made against Santa Anna in the first paragraph?

The Texians claim that Santa Anna

3. In your opinion, are the claims (listed above in question 2) against Santa Anna enough to declare war against Mexico? Explain your reasoning.

*I think that the Texians **are/are not** (circle one) fair with declaring war against Santa Anna because*

4. In your own words, summarize the 2nd declaration.

The 2nd declaration means that

5. Analyze the excerpt below and answer the questions that follow:

5th. That they hold it to be their right, during the disorganization of the federal system, and the reign of despotism to withdraw from the union, to establish an independent government, or to adopt such measures as they may deem best calculated to protect their rights and liberties...

Summary: It is the Texians right while the Dictator Santa Anna is in power to make their own government that will uphold their rights and liberties. The Texians will continue to be loyal to the Mexican government as long as they follow the original constitution of 1824.

- a. In the excerpt above, the Texians state that they "...hold it to be their right...to withdraw from the union, to establish an independent government..." Why must they "withdraw from the union" first?

They must withdraw from the Union first because

6. If they had not received support from the United States, do you think the outcome of the Texas Revolution would have been different?

*In my opinion, the Texians **did/did not** (circle one) clearly state what they are fighting for in the declaration because*