

Name:

Date:

Class/Period:

The Big Picture

The Constitution of 1824 vs. San Jacinto Resolutions

Comparing the Claims of the Texians against the Mexican Constitution of 1824

Instructions: Read the background information and analyze the various articles of the Mexican constitution. Answer the document analysis questions below.

Background Information:

After Mexico defeated Spain in the Mexican War for Independence, they established a new government and a new set of laws known as the Federal Constitution of the United Mexican States (more commonly referred to as the Constitution of 1824). Early *Anglo-American* colonists settled in Texas under the newly established laws of the Republic of Mexico. However, the laws changed rapidly over the span of about 10 years and resulted in major conflict between two main groups: government officials who wanted all the power in the central government, known as Centralists, and government officials (including the Texians) who wanted the power to remain divided between states or provinces, known as the Federalists. On August 8, 1825 a group of Texians in San Jacinto met together to document the changes in the Mexican government. During their meeting, they wrote a letter of warning to all Texans titled “San Jacinto Resolutions” and published it in *The Texas Republican* (the local newspaper; the most modern form of media during that time). Compare and contrast the select articles of the Mexican Constitution below to the claims Texans made against the Mexican government in the San Jacinto Resolutions.

Document A, The Mexican Constitution of 1824

Article	What it says:
Article 1 Established Mexico as a free nation.	The Mexican nation is forever free and independent of the Spanish government and of every other power.

Article	What it says:
<p>Article 2 Established provinces (or state borders) within Mexico in order to establish federalism, or shared powers, among the states.</p>	<p>Its territory comprehends the former vice-royalty of New Spain, the captain-generalship of Yucatan, the former commandancies of the internal provinces of the East and West and Upper and Lower California with the lands annexed and the adjacent islands in both oceans. A constitutional law will be made for designating the boundaries of the Federation as soon as circumstances will permit.</p>
<p>Article 3 Established Catholicism as the official religion of Mexico.</p>	<p>The religion of the Mexican nation shall perpetually remain the Roman Catholic and Apostolic. The nation protects it by wise and just laws and prohibits the exercise of any other.</p>
<p>Article 4 (1) Established a <i>democratic</i> form of government giving power to the people through voting rights. (2) Divided power among the states and National government.</p>	<p>The Mexican nation adopts for the form of its government a popular representative and federal republic.</p>
<p>Article 6 Created a checks and balances system</p>	<p>The Supreme power of the Federation as to its exercise, is divided into the legislative, executive and judicial powers.</p>

Document B, San Jacinto Resolutions, August 8, 1835

(Section 1)

Whereas, we have heard with profound regret, that the federal republican government of Mexico, has been violently dissolved' that the constitutions of the several free and independent States, composing that confederation, have been declared abrogate, and void; that the late President of the Republic, General Santa Ana, has been invested with extraordinary, dictatorial powers, and a central consolidated government has been established at the city of Mexico; that the civil militia of the nation has been disarmed and disbanded that some of our Sister States have been invaded by a military force and the blood of their citizens profusely shed [to] coerce them into submission to the new administration; and that a similar invasion is contemplated, and is now in preparation to be made upon Texas; therefore the citizens of the precinct of San Jacinto assembled to deliberate upon the solemn crisis in our public affairs, have adopted the following resolutions, as indicative of our views and feelings; and we do earnestly recommend the mature consideration of the same subject to our fellow citizens of Texas generally.

(Section 2)

Resolved, That the original, proper, and legitimate objects of Government, are the convenience, the happiness, and the prosperity of the people. . . That the dissolution of the government is virtually a dissolution of the political union . . .

(Section 3)

Resolved, that confiding in the correctness of the information we have received from various quarters, we consider the federal Republican Government of the United Mexican States, as, subverted, dissolved, annihilated; and that the allegiance of every citizen to that Government, is, necessarily, absolved, and of no more political or moral obligation.

(Section 4)

Resolved, that in these painful and embarrassing circumstances, it becomes the duty of every citizen to deliberate calmly, dispassionately, and with a full knowledge of facts, and to scrutinize with a zealous caution, the present condition, and the prospective well being of Texas, before he resolved to precipitate himself and his country in all the multiplied and tremendous horrors of a civil war.

The Texas Republican. September 19, 1835, Volume 1, Edition 1, Number 53.

<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph80271/m1/1/?q=Whereas>

Analysis Questions:

1. Based on the information in document A, which article gave states power? Support your answer with text evidence.

2. Compare the form of government outlined by the articles in document A to the United States government. Provide two examples below, one similarity and one difference.

3. In your opinion, do you think Anglo-American Colonists liked or disliked the similarities between the American government and the Mexican government? Explain your answer.

4. Using the information from Section 1 in Document B answer the following question: The Texians state that the “federal republican government of Mexico, has been violently dissolved.” What other evidence from Section 1 supports that statement?

5. Compare the two excerpts below and answer the question that follows:

Document A

Article 4: (1) Established a democratic form of government giving power to the people through voting rights. (2) Divided power among the states and National government.

The Mexican nation adopts for the form of its government a popular representative and federal republic.

Document B

“the late President of the Republic, General Santa Ana, has been invested with extraordinary, dictatorial powers, and a central consolidated government has been established”

Based on the claim in document B, is Santa Anna following the laws of the constitution from Article 4 in document A? Why or why not?

6. In Document “B,” Section 4, the writers of the San Jacinto Resolutions charge every citizen of Texas with duties. In your opinion, which of the duties listed is most

important? Explain your reasoning.

7. In your opinion, were the Texian claims in the San Jacinto Resolutions against the Mexican government justified? Explain your reasoning.