

# Mexican Independence Movement (1810-1824)



Same idea, wrong country.

## *THE WAR*

September 16, 1810 to  
September 27, 1821

Mural Diego Rivera



# Quick Backstory



- Keen: Napoleon → Spain becomes “a helpless satellite” (160)
- And, also according to Keen: → “Among the causes of the revolutionary crisis that matured from 1808 to 1810, the decline of Spain under the **inept** Charles IV was certainly a major one” (159).
- 1793: Spain & England *vs.* France
- Post-1795: Spain & France *vs.* England
  - England cuts Spain off from Atlantic
  - Spain forced to allow neutral ships to sail from Spain to foreign ports in order to trade with its colonies

*Note to self:  
never mess  
with England*

# Casual Anarchy



1808: Napoleon forces Charles IV and Ferdinand VII to abdicate.

So, rich white males (Creoles and Peninsulares) decide to try to make their own governments...

# Causes of the Revolution

RADICAL AND OUTLANDISH DEMANDS ARE MADE!

Mexico's citizens (specifically Creole, originally) wanted to...

- Revamp society's views
- Improve political institutions



Prime examples of how nobody learns from history

# Revamping Society

- Redo land distribution policy
- Reduce Catholic Church's wealth and power
- Remove foreign control of economy





Due to strict, traditional societal views, Mexican nationalism is born amongst the middle and lower classes.

# What Does Burns Think?

An actual image of Burns (possibly):



His theses:

“The Mexican struggle for independence began as a major social, economic, and political revolution but ended as a conservative coup d’etat” (79)

AND

“Can fundamental societal changes occur rapidly, if at all?” (195).

# Keen?

In Keen's opinion:

- For a time there was an “incipient social revolution” (169).
- The war crossed more social boundaries.

# *Kirkwood?*

Who's this!? Another author dude with his own perspective!? WHAT!?

- “Mexico's independence from Spain [...] was not revolutionary” (75).

“The process reflected the conservative interests of the landed elite and their response to European events rather than specific actions in Mexico” (75).

# Very Important Figures of the Independence



# Padre Don Miguel Hidalgo



- Creole, Catholic priest
- Sympathized with Natives, according to Keen
- Middle class family, educated man
- Made the Grito de Dolores, 1810
- Bring King Ferdinand back!

Our Lady of  
Guadalupe



Sep 16, 1810: Grito de Dolores: “My children: a new dispensation comes to us today. Will you receive it? Will you free yourselves? Will you recover the lands stolen three hundred years ago from your forefather by the hated Spaniards? We must act at once... Will you not defend your religion and your rights as true patriots? Long live our Lady of Guadalupe! Death to bad government! Death to the gachupines [settlers from Spain]!”

# José María Morelos y Pavon

- Mestizo priest, succeeded Hidalgo post-mortem
- Established Congress and organized more independence
  - *Declaration of Rights and Independence*
    - Abolished slavery, classes now equal
- Captured escorting Congress, executed December 1815



That's no priest... it's a dictator!

# The Declaration of Rights and Independence

Acta de independencia del Imperio Mexicano, pronunciada por su Santa Soberana Congregación en la Capital de él en 28 de Setiembre de 1821.

La Nación Mexicana que, por trece siglos atrás, ni ha tenido voluntad propia, ni libre el uso de su soberanía, ha de la opresión en que ha vivido.

Los heroicos esfuerzos de sus hijos han sido coronados, y esta consumada la empresa, eternamente memorable, que un odio, superior a toda admiración y elogio, amor y gloria de su Patria, principia en España, prosigue y llega al cabo, arrojando al exterior con impetuosa

Atestiguada, pues, esta parte del Ayuntamiento al ejercicio de nuestros derechos y consorcio al Estado de la nación, y reconocen por inalienables y sagrados los derechos naturales de la tierra; en libertad de constituirse del modo que más convenga a su felicidad; y con representaciones que puedan transigir su voluntad y sus deseos, comienza a hacer uso de tan precioso don, y declara solemnemente, por medio de la Santa Synodo del Imperio, que es Nación Soberana, e independiente de la antigua España, con quien, en lo sucesivo, no mantendrá otra unión que la de una amistad estrecha, en las terminas que prescribieren los tratados que concluyera con las demás potencias americanas, respecto de ellas, cuando como pueblos y naciones en posesión de sus libertades las otras potencias soberanas que en el continente, con arreglo a los datos que en el Plan de España y tratado de Unión, confederación, alianza, el primer 12 de febrero del presente Imperial de las Tres Américas y en fin, que de ahora, a todo tiempo, y con el auxilio de los poderes y orden de sus individuos, (a fuer necesario) esta solemnemente declararon, hecha en la capital del Imperio a veinte y ocho de Setiembre del año de mil ochocientos veinti y uno, primero de la Independencia Mexicana.



What the Creoles were thinking...

ABOLISHED:

- Slavery
- Imprisonment for debt
- Collection of tithes for more property

CREATED:

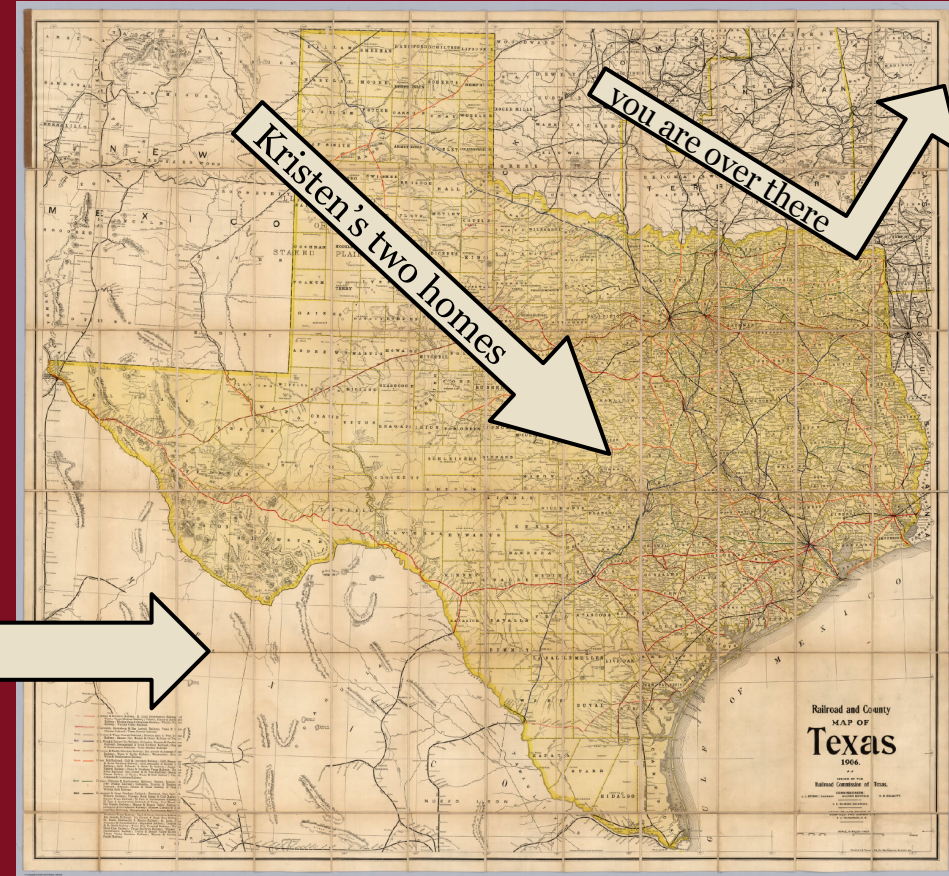
- Executive Council (Poder Ejecutivo)
- Constitutional monarchy

...what the Creoles did.

# Results

- Money!? Not really
- Terrible administration near Texas
- Still fighting politically

bad government



# Government Established Post-Revolution



# A Sneak Peek at the Future: Manuel de Mier y Terán

- Creole, military guy, took over post-Morelos
- Dissolved Congress because of corruption
  - Caused leadership to go to pieces

■ The  
born!



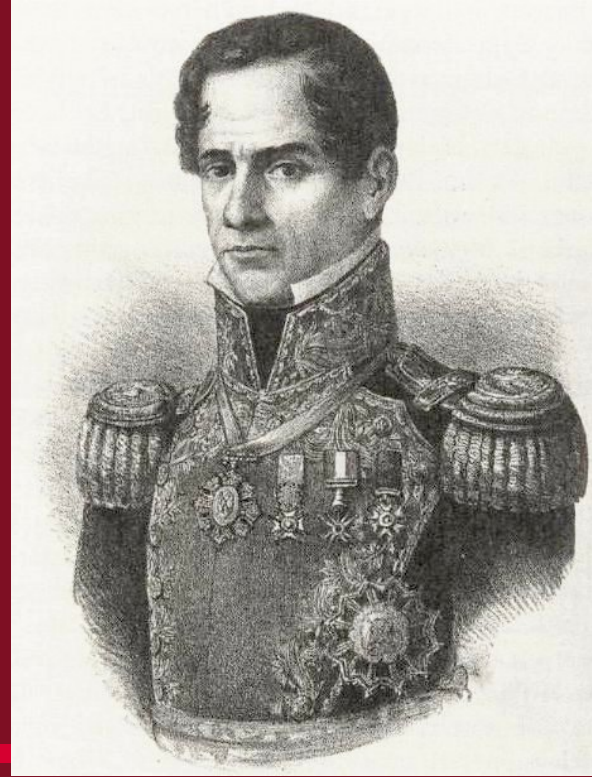
Empire of Mexico was

# Antonio López de Santa Anna



“I’m gonna need that  
guy’s leg.”

Santa Anna =  
the leg guy



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