

Chapter 13 | Presidents of the Republic of Texas

PRESIDENT	ISSUE	GOALS	PROBLEMS	OUTCOMES
SAM HOUSTON (First Term) Years served: 1836-1838	Relations w/ Mexico	Mexico to recognize Texas as independent nation	No recognition; Santa Anna still captive	Santa Anna released; Córdoba defeated
	Native Americans	Wanted peace; honor Cherokee right to their land	Congress refused to honor land treaty; raids continue in west Texas (Co/Ki)	Very little—no treaty and Indian raids continue
	Annexation	Favored annexation to protect Texas	U.S. delay due to concerns over slavery and Mexico	U.S. first to recognize Republic of Texas in 1837
	Military	Gain control of the army and cut costs	New leaders wanted to invade Mexico	Sent most troops home; Texas Rangers to defend
	Economy	Improve the new nation's finances	No money in treasury; More than \$1 million debt	Cut government spending and increased taxes
MIRABEAU B. LAMAR Years served: 1838-1841	Education	To create a public school system and university	Government had very little money for funding	Endowment fund for university; land for schools
	Relations w/ Mexico	Wanted peace, risked war; tried to pay MX \$5 million	MX rejected all offers & refused to meet	Tried to annex Santa Fe & failed; no change
	Native Americans	To remove Indians from Texas frontier	Continuing Indian raids; Council House Fight	Cherokee forced out of TX; Comanche moved north
	Annexation	Opposed annexation; prefer to stay independent	Tried to convince Santa Fe to join Texas but failed	Britain & France recognize Texas and begin trading
	Military	Increase to secure borders and protect settlers	Government had very little money for funding	Increased size of army and navy with new recruits
	Economy	Rebuild treasury through trade & loans with Europe	France denied loan and European war limited trade	Very little—Texas dollar drops in value, debt lingers

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SAM HOUSTON (Second Term) Years served: 1841-1844	Relations w/ Mexico	Still desired peace and did not want to fight	Santa Anna returns & disputes increase; no standing army	MX invades many times: San Antonio & Salado Creek; Mier Expedition
	Native Americans	Renew peace efforts with Native Texans	Indian raids continue and very little trust	Peace with Caddoes leads to progress with others
	Annexation	Still favors annexation to protect Texas from Mexico	Continued U.S. concerns over slavery and Mexico	Black Bean Episode changed many minds about joining U.S.
	Military	Reduce the army; protect nation with Texas Rangers	Smaller army led to more attacks by Mexico & Santa Anna; Archives War	Not much—army cut but failed to sell off navy; Failure: Mier Expedition
	Economy	Decrease government spending; reduce debt	Smaller army leads to more invasions from Mexico	Spending reduced by debt keeps growing due to interest payments
ANSON JONES Years served: 1844-1846	Relations w/ Mexico	Attempt to make peace with Mexico & recognize TX independence	Mexico still refused to recognize TX independence	With help of Britain & France, MX recognized TX independence—April 1845
	Native Americans	Maintain Houston's peace policy w/ Native Texans	Little trust due to broken treaties by TX government	Mixed results—treaties made & broken
	Annexation	Convince the U.S. to allow Texas to join the Union	U.S. Senate rejects Treaty of 1844; Britain actively tries to stop annexation	Known as the "Architect of Annexation" for his efforts; Joint Resolution of 1845
	Military	Continued Houston's policies on small military	Smaller army meant continued concerns	Texas Rangers provided bulk of security
	Economy	Wanted to join U.S. in order to improve economy	Heavily in debt; current taxes were not enough	Sale of public lands used to pay down debt