

## **CQ: In 1846, should the United States wage war in Mexico?**

The answer from the **Mexican government**: **No**

Read the following documents, answer the questions presented, and then begin to build a rationale to explain why the **Mexican government** believed the war was unjust on the part of the United States, and their perspectives regarding the United States' actions.

*José Joaquin de Herrera, acting President of the Republic of Mexico. A proclamation denouncing the United States' intention to annex Texas:*

### **PROCLAMATION**

The minister of foreign affairs has communicated to me the following decree: José Joaquin de Herrera, general of division and president ad interim of the Mexican Republic, to the citizens thereof.

Be it known: That the general congress has decreed, and the executive sanctioned, the following:

The national congress of the Mexican Republic, considering:

That the congress of the United States of the North has, by a decree, which its executive sanctioned, resolved to incorporate the territory of Texas with the American union;

That this manner of appropriating to itself territories upon which other nations have rights, introduces a monstrous novelty, endangering the peace of the world, and violating the sovereignty of nations;

That this usurpation, now consummated to the prejudice of Mexico, has been in preparation for a long time; at the same time that the most cordial friendship was proclaimed, and that on the part of this republic, the existing treaties between it and those states were respected scrupulously and legally;

That the said annexation of Texas to the U. States attacks all the rights that Mexico has to that territory, is an insult to her dignity as a sovereign nation, and threatens her independence and political existence;

That the law of the United States, in reference to the annexation of Texas to the United States, does in no way destroy the rights that Mexico has, and will enforce, upon that department;

That the United States, having trampled on the principles which served as a basis to the treaties of friendship, commerce, and navigation, and more especially to those of boundaries fixed with precision, even previous to 1832, they are considered as inviolate by that nation.

And, finally, that the unjust spoliation of which they wish to make the Mexican nation the victim, gives her the clear right to use all her resources and power to resist, to the last moment, said annexation;

## IT IS DECREED

1st. The Mexican nation calls upon all her children to the defense of her national independence, threatened by the usurpation of Texas, which is intended to be realized by the decree of annexation passed by the congress, and sanctioned by the president, of the United States of the north.

2d. In consequence, the government will call to arms all the forces of the army, according to the authority granted it by the existing laws; and for the preservation of public order, for the support of her institutions, and in case of necessity, to serve as the reserve to the army, the government, according to the powers given to it on the 9th December 1844, will raise the corps specified by said decree, under the name of "Defenders of the Independence and of the Laws."

MIGUEL ARTISTAN, President of the Deputies.

FRANCISCO CALDERON, President of the senate.

Approved, and ordered to be printed and published.

JOSÉ JOAQUIN DE HERRERA.

A. D. LUIS G. CUEVAS

Palace of the National Government,

City of Mexico, June 4, 1845.

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*Francisco Mejia was a Mexican General during the Mexican-American War. The following excerpt comes from a proclamation delivered almost two months before the first major battle of the war at Palo Alto.*

"Fellow-countrymen: With an enemy which respects not its own laws, which shamelessly derides the very principles invoked by it previously, in order to excuse its ambitious views, we have no other resource than arms."---March 18, 1846.

Citation: Steven R. Butler, ed. A Documentary History of the Mexican War (Richardson, Texas: Descendants of Mexican War Veterans, 1995), p. 25.

1. According to President Herrera, what action of the United States threatens Mexican independence?

4. Based on his quote, does General Mejia seem to agree with President Herrera? Do you agree that there was no choice but arms?