

# American History Module 2

Talk	Title	Time Period	Date of Talk
8	The early Republic	1792-1800	October 30th
9	Jefferson's America	1800-1808	November 6th
10	War of 1812 and its impact	1808-1815	November 20th
11	The Era of Good Feelings	1816-1828	December 4th
12	Jacksonian 'democracy'	1828-1836	January 15h
13	New Spain, Mexico and the Texas Republic	1819-1846	January 29th
14	Manifest Destiny and the Mexican War	1836 -1846	February 5th
14	California and the Gold Rush	1700-1850	February 19th



# American History

Talk 13: New Spain, Mexico, the rise of Texas  
(1800-1846)



# Overview

- 
- 
- New Spain
  - Spanish Texas
  - Mexican Texas
  - Texas war of Independence
  - Texas Republic



# New Spain

# Spain and the America's 1800



# Large Indigenous population (20 million vs 3-5 million across entire North America)



Aztec Empire Central Mexico, 3,000,000 people, established 1350 by Mexica from north

King, bureaucracy, priesthood, army, books, roads, slaves. Use of terror and human sacrifice...fragile control

Capital Tenochtilan (pop 400,000), Built on and around lakes, temples, palaces, apartment blocks

Spanish demolished city in 1521 rebuilt as European city...cathedrals on temples  
Obliterate books, evidence of past

# New Spain 1800

Indigenous population declined from 25 million to 2 million

Population 1819 5.5 million (same as USA )

20% European

25% Mestizo (mixed)

55% Indian

..Less than 10,000 Africans

95% Population in Central Mexico  
...silver mines



# Mexico City 1690



Capital of New Spain

Population 250,000 1820  
(New York 120,000)

Largest City in North  
America till 1840's

# 'New Spain' a culture of 5 Classes



Top tier: 15,000 'Peninsularies' Spanish born whites, Viceroy, senior officers, judges, tax collectors

2<sup>nd</sup> tier: 1,000,000 'Creoles', whites born in New Spain: Merchants, mine owners, land owners, junior officers, minor civil servants,

3<sup>rd</sup> tier: 1,500,000 White/Indian 'Mestizos' Soldiers, shop keepers, clerks,

4<sup>th</sup>: 3,500,000 Indians 3.500,000...free from taxation and slavery, menial jobs only. No vote

5<sup>th</sup>: 15,000 Mulattos & blacks (mixed race black Slaves...menial jobs only..

# Coexistence of the unequal

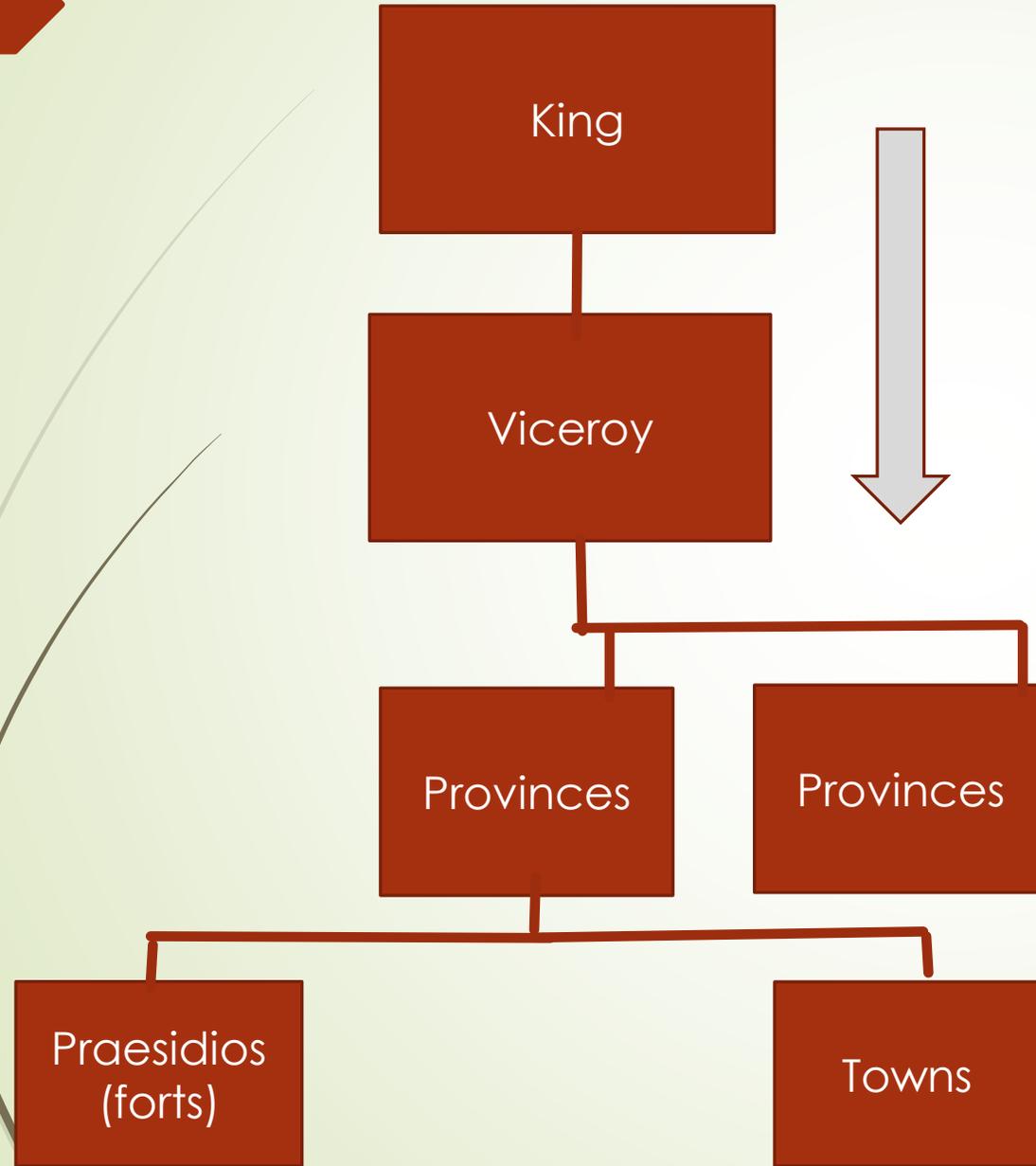


Inter racial relations accepted as normal...unlike US

Upward movement possible by Purchase/ behaviour

Enforced by tradition and a strong state....multiple cultures coexisting but limited mixing ..not one society ...as in British Colonies

# New Spain Governance Structure



Top Down hierarchical structure  
Appointed officials

All appointees rotated (3-5 years) and  
30 day 'review' at end of office

Catholic church empowered to  
And denounce rulers with impunity

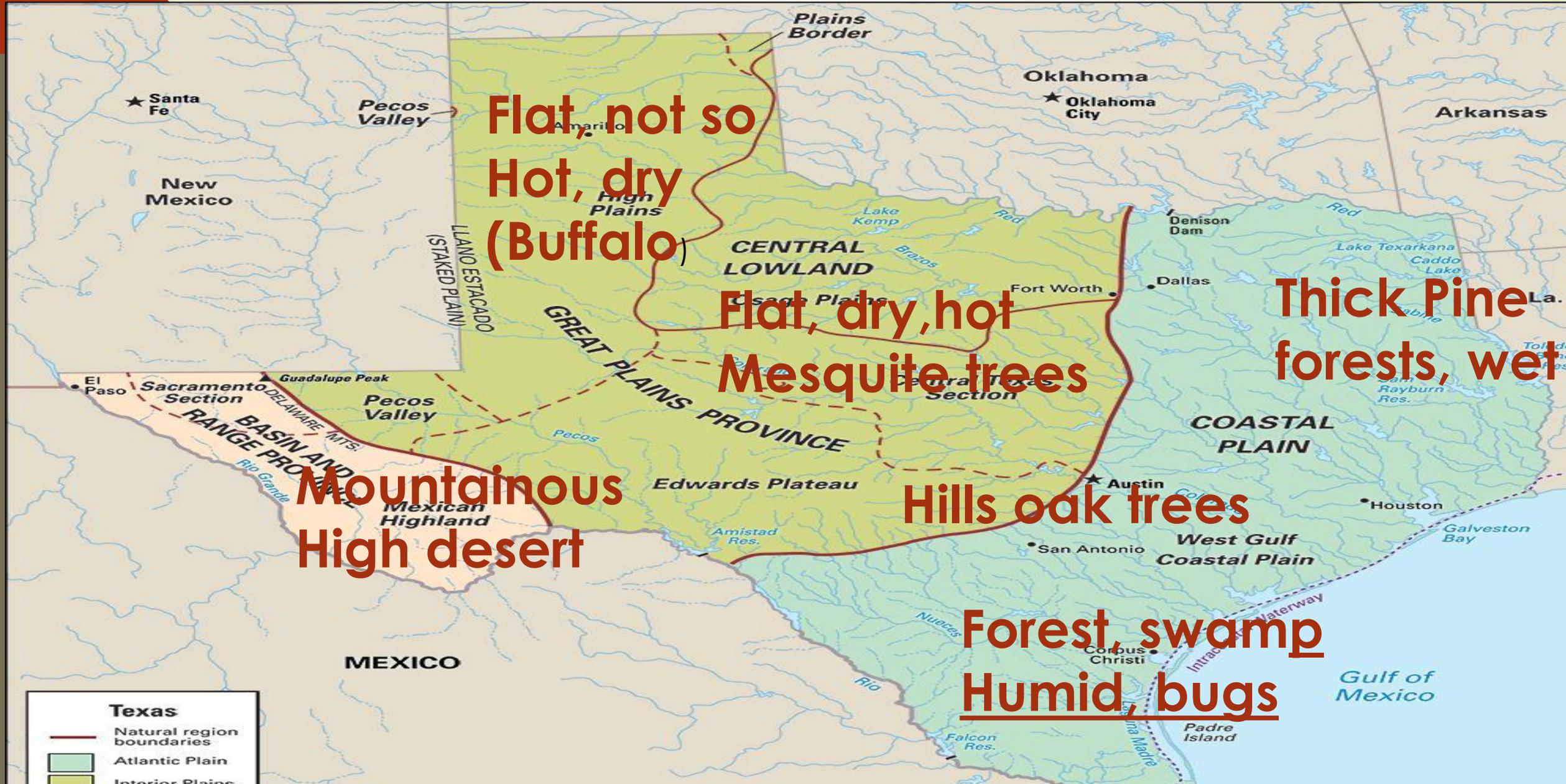
Principales and wealthy Creoles  
Vote for town government but no  
Legislative resolving issues without  
resort to violence

Military control remote areas  
(Texas, California)



# Spanish Texas

# Texas: Hot, flat, and very big



# South/ East Texas Pine forest



# Great Plains



# West Texas Desert



# Hill country



# Indigenous people of Texas

## Coddas

- Descendants of “Mississippi Mound culture
- Sedentary farmers East Texas, villages of 1-2,000
- Welcome missions.....Hispaniolised ,

## ➤ Cohaliticans

- Migrate annually from coast inland plains
- Bands of up to 100
- Attend Missions, become as Spanish

## ➤ Apaches

- Inhabit lower plains, hunt buffalo, plant crops, temporary housing
- Multiple small groups of up to 20, each distinct, constant warfare
- Become raiders and prey on sedentary Indians....and Spanish settlers.

Many other small tribes/bands. No government or common languages

Indigenous population dominated by newcomers.....the Comanche

# Comanche



Minor semi nomadic tribe of Great Plains till arrival of horse late 1600's

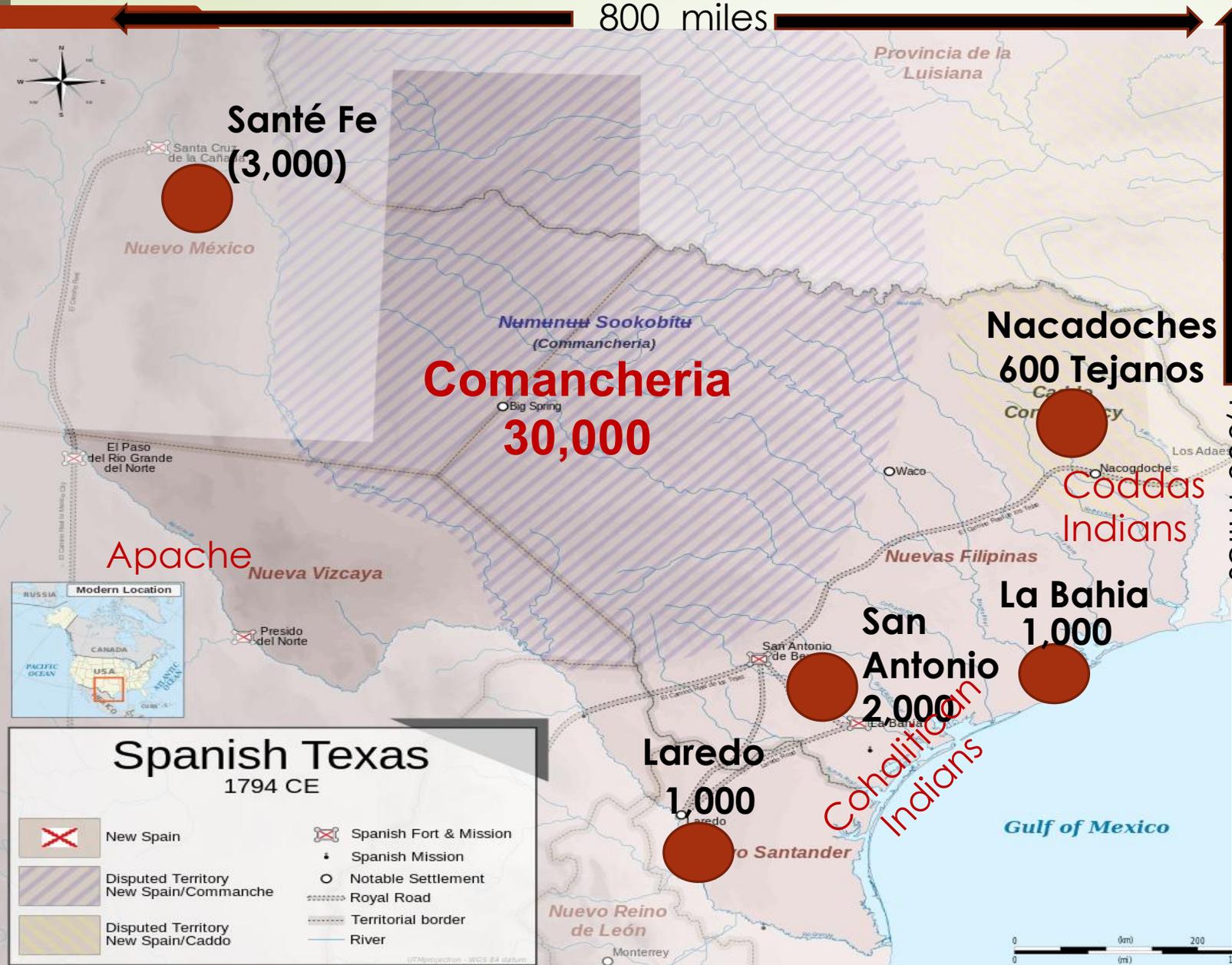
Abandon agriculture become people Of horse. Hunting and raiding culture ....population increase to 30,000

Invade Texas 1750's

- exterminate several indigenous tribes
- drive Apache South
- Every surviving tribe their enemy
- force Spanish to seek peace

Central Texas becomes Comanche Empire.....Comancheria

# Spanish Tejas 1800 : Considered a failed Colony



Attempts to settle between 1600-1700 abandoned due to Comanche & remoteness

Scattered Praesidios, Missions and villages annual tribute paid to Comanche.

Trade banned with French & US ...all goods to from Mexico City

“Tejas” considered useful only as buffer” to protect silver from Comanche, French & USA

Cattle only ‘industry’ 1800s

# Missions

Purpose to convert Coddas & Cohaliticans into Spanish subjects : offer protection from Comanche and Salvation ...in exchange for labour...voluntary. But could not leave

Secularised 1780 by Spanish Enlightenment Reforms  
Converted Into army barracks/  
warehouses

Coddas and Cohaliticans  
Considered 'Hispanicised'  
....released to farm, cowboys  
for cattle industry.





# Spanish soldiers in Texas



1,000 strong army policing  
800,000 square miles

Poorly paid, ill equipped (all  
Supplies sent from Mexico City.  
And frequently stolen`

Many criminals “sentenced”  
to garrison Texas

Isolated, poorly equipped,  
intermarry with local Indians,  
survive by smuggling

# Spanish change policy 1800's

- ▶ Texas becomes valuable to Spain
  - ▶ Cotton industry in US booming due to Cotton Gin.. East Texas perfect for cotton
  - ▶ France (then allied with Spain) sells Louisiana to USA
  - ▶ Spain consider Americans more aggressive as
    - ▶ Settlers move west, cross border to trade with Indians, steal horses and cattle
- ▶ Viceroy in Mexico City decides Texas must be kept...attempts to increase population
  - ▶ Entice settlers from Mexico ...no one interested
  - ▶ Develops plan to Secure 10,000 Catholic settlers from Spain and Swiss
  - .....British sink Spanish fleet at Trafalgar 1805

**Napoleon invades Spain 1808 ...government in chaos...creoles revolt**



# Mexican War of Independence

# Trigger: collapse of Spanish authority

- ▶ France invades Spain 1808
  - ▶ Napoleon wants to destroy British ally Portugal
  - ▶ Spanish agree to let French army cross Spain
  - ▶ Napoleon decides to seize Spanish throne
  - ▶ Spanish people revolt vs French
- ▶ Power vacuum
  - ▶ Viceroy seen as agent of 'godless French'
  - ▶ Peninsularies overthrow Viceroy and seize power
  - ▶ Creoles revolt

# Miguel Hildalgo y Costilla (1753-1811)



Son of Basque mother, Spanish father  
Born in Mexico...educated by Jesuits

Enlightenment inspired, large library  
Prolific writer, admired by all classes

Enraged by condition of Indians  
and power of Peninsularies...sees  
Coup as opportunity to speak out

# “Cry of Dolores” ...starts revolution



Hidalgo delivers “Cry of Dolores” to ‘protect the King’ and unite Creoles, Metizos and Indians to create ‘good government’ And unity

Followers grow... Asks 600 followers to join him on march to Mexico City: “Catholicism, King, Mexico”

No plan how new society will be created... Indians see Hidalgo as ‘saviour’

# Hidalgo's army on the march



Followers grow to over 100,000  
No structure, chain of command  
Small Royalist army resists  
and massacred...Hidalgo pleads  
for peace ignored

Indians attack landowners  
Killing families....army rampages  
towards Mexico city

Creole Officer (Bernardo Gutierrez)  
sees chance to spread revolution  
in Tejas ...goes to US for aid

# Hidalgo Revolution (1810-1811)

- Attack on Mexico City
  - Hidalgo's 'army' surrounds Mexico City....then retreats
  - Hidalgo see army out of control wants to stop bloodshed
- Spanish army recovers and goes on attack
  - Hidalgo's army disintegrates...mass executions
  - Hidalgo captured, put on trial, stripped of priesthood ...and shot
- More revolts break out across New Spain

# Revolution spreads to Texas: First “invasion”

## Battle of Medina 1812



Madison refuses direct help  
Allows Gutierrez to recruit  
American mercenaries

Joint army of 1,400 American  
and Tejanos “invade” Texas  
declare Independence  
from Spain

Spanish General Redondo  
tricks rebels into attack

Battle of Medina, rebels  
annihilated

Spanish Army execute 50%  
of Tejas population.....

Revolt ends in Texas

# Mexican revolution 1811-1824

- Warlords emerge across Mexico
- 600,000 dead, mass executions, total destruction of infrastructure
- Indian leader Vincente Ramon Guerrero secures control of southern Mexico resistance

Spanish send sends its most trusted and brutal general, Augustin Irbide to destroy him

# Mexican Independence

Augustin Iterbide 1783 -1824



Creole who rises up ranks of Royalist army (cousin of Hidalgo) spurns offer to join revolt, captures Hidalgo and has him shot

Crushes rebellion Central Mexico, hangs 300 rebels to “celebrate good Friday” has leader (another priest)...shot. Sent to finish Guerrero

Changes loyalty allies with Guerrero. Joint army captures Mexico City declares independence

Spain gives up...Principales leave country

Two Revolutionary factions emerge:

Centralists...strong central government

Federalists...like USA, strong states

Iterbide supports Centralists...decides to be King

# New Mexican Government (s)



Iturbide has himself crown  
Augustine 1st and wife  
Empress 1823 ...Monarch  
Catholicism, Social Equality

Federalist Revolt 1824

Iturbide exiled: law written  
To be shot if returned  
...goes to Italy

Returns 1824 on learning  
Spanish about to invade  
.....and is shot

Chaotic politics:  
75 governments/ 50 years



# Mexican Texas



# Mexico and Tejas 1824

- ▶ Mexican government bankrupt, unstable, expecting Spanish to return
- ▶ Aware of Tejas potential and need income....fast
  - ▶ Area depopulated ..only 2,000 'Tejanos' left (6,000 before war)
  - ▶ Threatened by rising population in American Louisiana (100,000 by 1820's) and Comanche (Mexico now has no money to pay tribute)
- ▶ Need people in Texas...and fast ....Spain depopulated by wars

Enter Stephen Austin ('father of Texas') with a deal

# Stephen Austin (1796-1836)



Born Virginia to lead mining family, attends College in Kentucky learns law...goes into Business.....bankrupted during panic of 1819 ...moves to Arkansas to escape creditors

Father has proposed "Colonisation Contract" Spanish but deal collapses with revolution

Stephen Austin goes to Mexico City to negotiate with 'King Iturbide

# Stephen Austin's Deal

- Mexico gives land grants to Austin sufficient to support settlers
  - 4,000 acres per settlers plus additional land for wives and slaves
- Austin to deliver 300 settlers with their families and slaves who must
  - Become Catholic
  - Learn Spanish
  - Pledge loyalty to Mexico
  - Pay Austin 12 ½ cents per acre
- Austin to
  - Handle Comanche
  - Ensure new settlers of 'good character' and comply with rules

# Mexican Texas 1824-1826

## Austin deal 'works'

- Each settler met and interviewed personally by Austin
- Population Tejas rises to 5,000 300 families & slaves
- Austin creates Texas 'Rangers' ...vigilante groups established to handle 'Indians'
  - 'Hispanicised' Cohalitan Indians exterminated...land converted to cotton plantations
  - Other tribes herded into reservations
  - Comanche raids intercepted...stop paying annual Tribute
- Change of government in Mexico....new rules
  - Federalist take power (Irbide shot)
  - Write Mexican Constitution which abolishes slavery
  - Invite Austin to Mexico in 1826 to expand contract... under new conditions

# The New Deal

## Tejanos loses power to run themselves

- Each Mexican state to establish its own laws
- Texas population too small to be 'state' absorbed by nearby state of Cahui (100,000 plus)
- Mexican government builds to collect taxes and reduce smuggling
  
- Slavery to be gradually abolished
  - Children of slaves free at maturity
  - No new slaves allowed
  
- Contract doubled... competition from European Catholics

**The problem: American settlers want control and slaves**

# Mexican Texas 1826-1830: Austin's

- Austin introduces “Debt Peonage” ....slavery in all but name
  - Persuades Cahuilla Legislature that contracts made in USA valid in Mexico
  - All new slaves to be given 99 year employment contract
  - Children to be looked after till 24 but must then work off cost.. forever
  - Bribes Cahuilla politicians
- Tejas population increases to 30,000 (20,000 Americans, 5,000 Catholic Europeans & Tejanos (Hispanic Texans) ,5,000 slaves,
  - Violent incidents.....escaped slaves from US returned, tax fort attacked

**Cahuilla Government concerned by rumours of slavery & white persecution of Tejanos .....sends virtuous man to investigate**

# Manual de Mier y Teran (1789-1832)

Creole....mining student fights in war of dependence



Tours Tejas and makes report  
Prosperous economically  
Americans terrorising Tejanos, Catholic in name only, many illegal settlers  
Slavery rampant... Constitution ignored

Chaos in Mexico Centralist replace Federalists Spanish invade (and repulsed)

Centralists review report, approve  
.....issue new "Law of 1830"

# Path to War 1830-1836

- ▶ Centralist government passes “Law of 1830”
  - ▶ No new American (black or white) immigrants (Catholic Europeans only)
  - ▶ Impose taxes on cotton exports, build forts on coast to collect tax
  - ▶ Government in chaos and cannot enforce
- ▶ Austin and new settlers ignore law
  - ▶ Settlers and slaves pour into Texas
  - ▶ Violent incidents (slaves returned to USA, Mexican fort attacked)
  - ▶ Anglos and Tejanos establish “Consultation” government October 1835
- ▶ Mexican government collapses ...again. Dictator assumes power...invites Austin to renegotiate Colonisation Contract...again

# Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna (1794-1876)



Born to wealthy Peninsulare family

Fights for both Royalist and Revolution, then for both Federalists and Centralists!

Dominates Mexican politics till 1860's .Leads 5 coups to take po  
Unsurpassed in venality, cruelty  
duplicity....and.....charisma

# Negotiation collapse

Austin 'requests:'

- ▶ Tejas to be a separate State
- ▶ Slavery and American immigration allowed
- ▶ New Texas Constitution
- ▶ Promises loyalty to Mexico
  
- ▶ Santa Anna response
  - ▶ Demands payment to accept
  - ▶ Delays response
  - ▶ Departs with army to crush Federalist revolts across Mexico
- ▶ Austin gives up and returns to Convention
- ▶ Convention declares alliance with Federalists and joins revolts

Santa Anna crushes revolts (mass executions)....declares Austin and Convention traitors and leads army North to execute them all



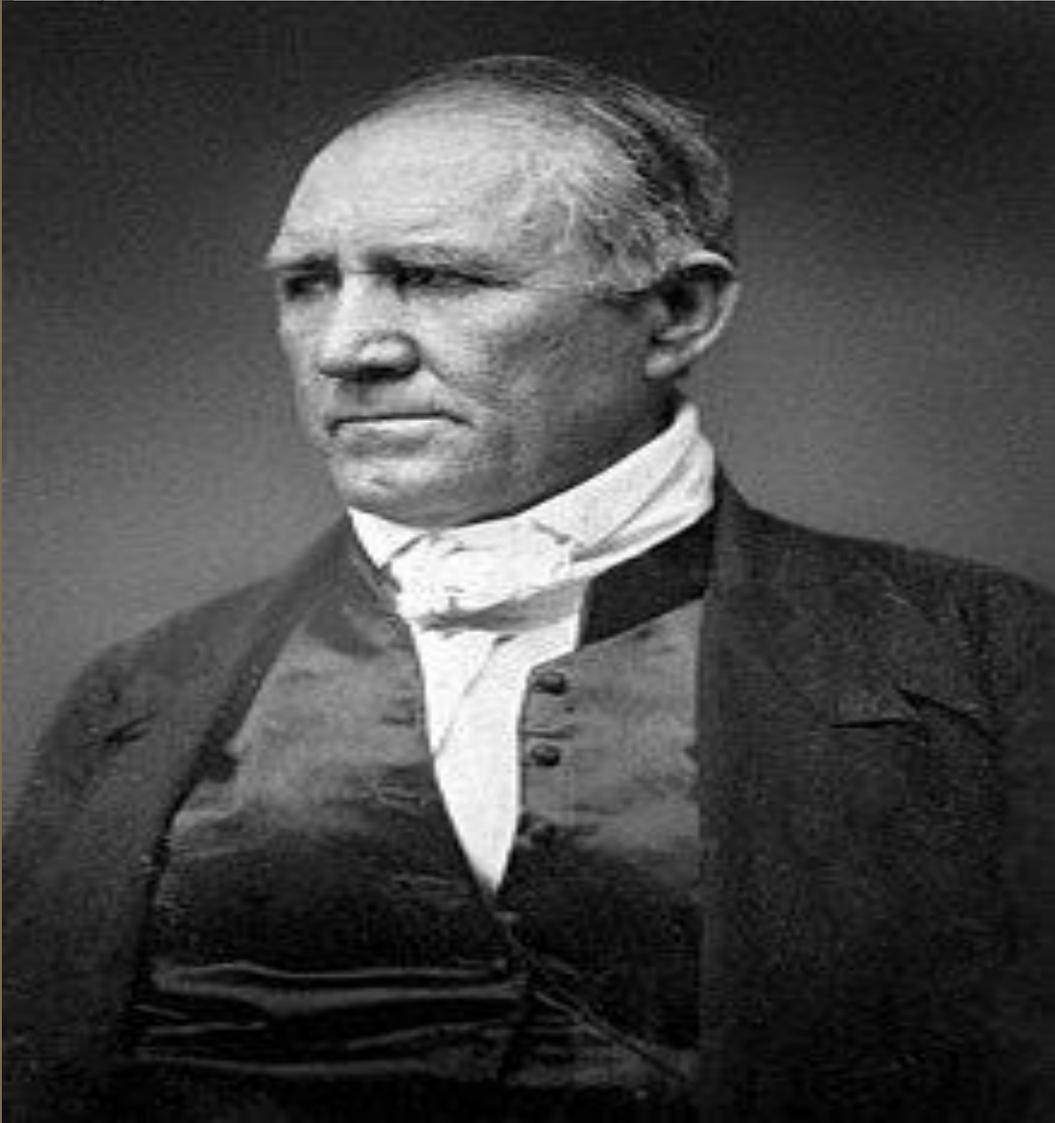
# Intermission



# Texas War of Independence

# Sam Houston (1793-1863)

Sam Houston in 1850



Born Virginia, family moved to Tennessee self taught, studies classics Leaves home at 16 to live with Cherokee

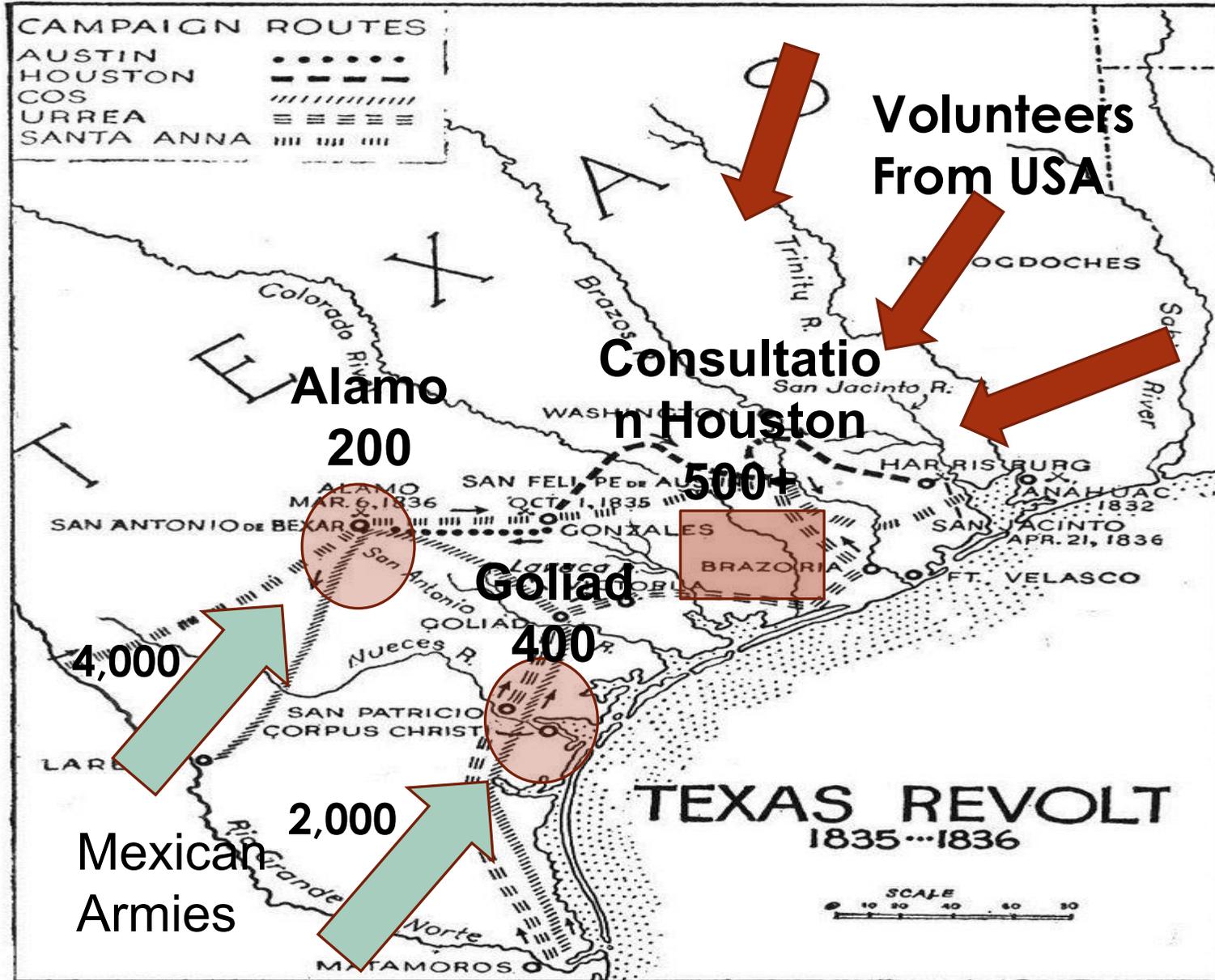
Joins Jackson army.. wounded battle of Horseshoe Bend...becomes Congressman then Governor..marries well secures plantation and slaves....divorced

Re joins Cherokee becomes their agent to negotiate removal with Jackson

Accused of fraud, beats Congressman with cane Reprimanded...fights corruption

Advised to “start again” .....and join Texas Consultation.....elected Head of Texas Army

# Texas Invaded February 1836



Houston assembles Army...do not expect Invasion...joint army of Tejanos & Texans....  
..debate Independence &  
...don't expect invasion  
...ask for help from USA

Send troops to Alamo & Goliad plan to raid Mexican coast

Santa Ann leads north army  
Surrounds Alamo Feb 1836

# Battle of the Alamo



Joint Commanders  
Jim Bowie, W Travis  
ignore orders to leave  
...expect reinforcements

Davy Crocket and 20  
Volunteers show  
up...more expected

Santa Anna does not wait  
& orders attack

Mexicans lose 400-600  
All 187 defenders killed  
except cook and slave

# Alamo Myths (John Wayne 1960)

Defenders fighting for 'freedom' and independence

- ▶ Not true... fighting for Federalist Mexico and retain slavery

- ▶ Defenders knew they were going to die

- ▶ Probably not....expected reinforcements

- ▶ Defenders all white heroes

- ▶ 20 Tejanos included in killed

- ▶ Mexicans barbaric....custom of time to kill all defenders if no surrender

- ▶ Dave Crocket died fighting to the last

....(letter validated found From Mexican officer), surrendered with 6 others and sh

# Goliad

## Massacre at Goliad



American troops & Goliad  
Attempt raid to Mexico

Intercepted by southern  
Mexican army...fighting  
Retreat back to Goliad

Americans surrounded &  
surrender ..on terms

Santa Anna overrules “term”  
orders their execution

Mexicans march unsuspecting  
Americans out of fort...line  
up....300 shot..30 escape

# Aftermath

Texas Consultation declares Independence (4 days after fall of Alamo)

- News of battle and massacre at Goliad creates panic
- American settlers and Tejano flee east
- Houston retreats east to forest, army grows to 1,000
- Santa Ana divides army again to prevent escape
  - Makes camp in open field....tall grass April rain
  - Wants army to rest ...and (according to legend) time alone with Emily Worth (African American woman) ...”Yellow Rose of Texas”

# Battle of San Jacinto April 1836



Houston surprise attacks  
Resting Mexican army  
“Remember the Alamo”

Mexican army annihilated  
700 dead, 500 captured  
...many executed. 9 Texans  
killed...Houston wounded,  
Santa Anna captured

# 'Treaty of Velasco'



Santa Anna captured. Dressed as soldier...President & Leader

Houston persuades Santa Anna to 'sign' Treaty of Velasco (or get shot) grant 'Texas' independence.

Santa Anna 'agrees' to get Mexican Congress to 'approve' treaty if Released. Sent to Washington to Meet President Jackson

Santa Anna returns to Mexico, repudiates treaty and overthrown ...goes into exile. With gov funds,

# Texas Republic 1836



Sam Houston

1836 - 1845

"Texas" Mexican/Spanish

Tejas

Arkansas R.

Dispute  
Territory

Rio  
Grande

TEXAS

S. Antonio

Washington

Medina R.  
Nueces R.

MEXICO

"Texas" 'agreed' at Velasco  
Triple size of Mexican Tejas

New Mexican government  
Rejects treaty. Spanish  
invasion prevents war

Santa Anna recalled from exile  
Defeats Spanish, wants revenge

Sam Houston voted  
President of Texas. Holds  
vote: 97% of Texans vote to  
join USA

# Sam Houston & Texas Republic 1836-1838

Imposes austerity Budget...Texas close to bankruptcy

- ▶ cuts army, government..
- ▶ Imposed Property Tax on Land & Slaves...and personal property ....watches, carriages,
- ▶ Seeks peace with Indians,
  - ▶ Attempts good relations Anglos and Tejano
  - ▶ Agrees to allow Cherokee to settle in Texas...gives chief his hat as token of trust
  - ▶ Resumes tribute payments to Comanche
- ▶ Crushes Mexican inspired revolt by Cherokee and Tejanos...and forgives
- ▶ Seeks annexation with new US President ...rejected: fear of war and slavery issue

# Mirabeau Leemar (1798-1859)



Georgian born plantation family lawyer,  
romantic (and appalling) poet, and  
...White Supremacist

Moves to Texas. Joins war, hero at  
San Jacinto, elected VP to Houston  
...partnership of opposites

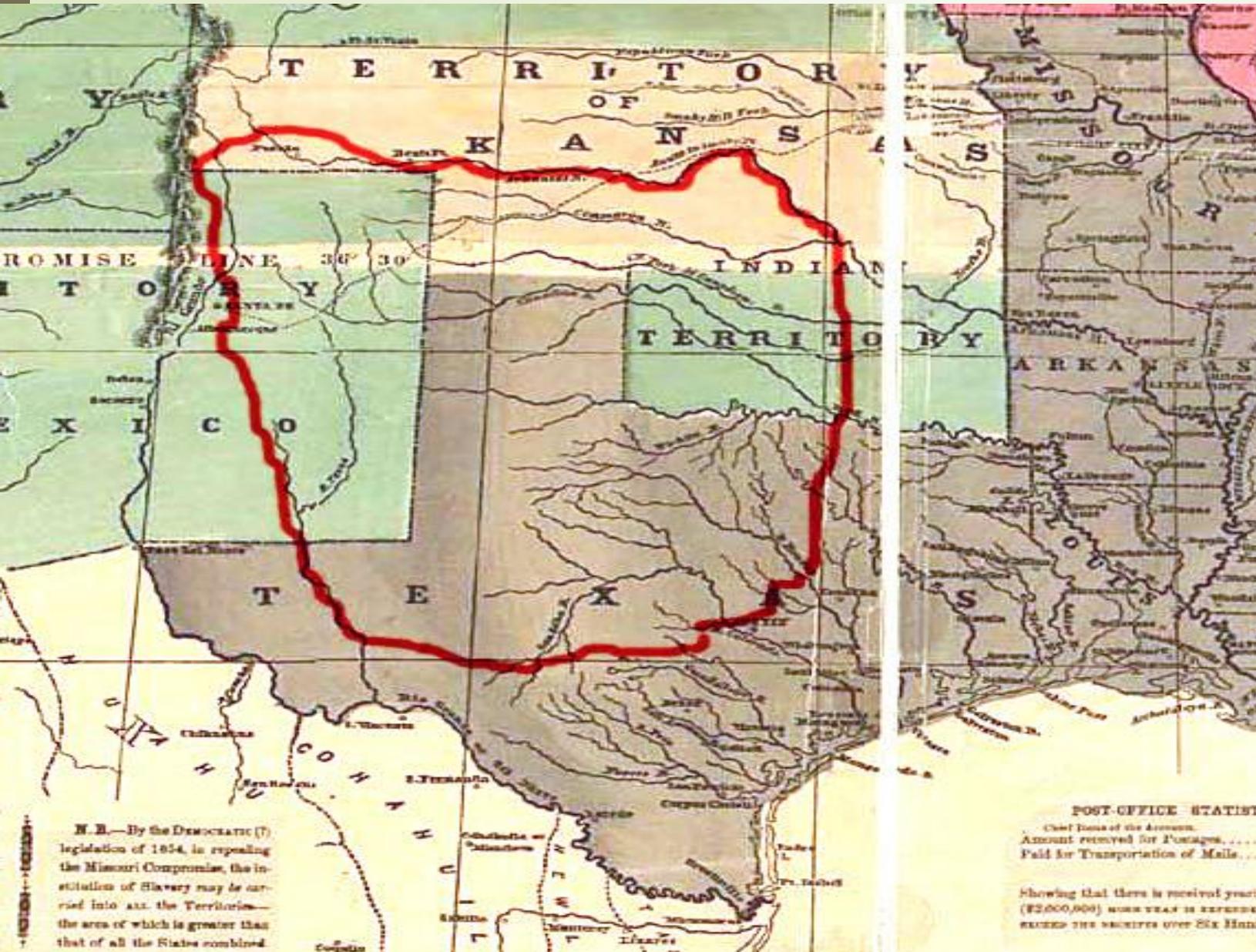
Elected Vice President....opposes  
Houston policy re Indians & Tejanos,

Elected President 1838 when Sam Houston  
Term retires....change in policies...

# Texas Republic 1838-1841

- ▶ Population rises to 100,000 as Settlers and slaves move into state ...many debtors escaping 'Panic of 1837" in US
- ▶ Leemar invests in public schools, reduces property taxes, increases tariffs
- ▶ War with Mexico.
  - ▶ support rebels,
  - ▶ creates navy to attack Yucatan
  - ▶ Sends army of 300 to invade New Mexico...army defeated and captured
- ▶ Indian Removal Policy: Cherokee (Houston's tribe) forcibly evicted, chief killed. Hat sent to Sam Houston.....
- ▶ Launches war with Comanche...

# Comanche



Dominate lower Plains since 1750's..dominate/exterminate Rival tribes...Apache to Mountains & North Mexico

“Comancheria Empire”

35,000-50,000 by 1830's  
...multiple bands  
...annual Council

Policy of extermination  
Or enslavement vs other Texas Indian tribes...join Texans to fight them

# Comanche Raiding Parties



Bands of warriors up to 500 strong terrorised Texas and Northern Mexico ...culture of buffalo hunting and raiding ...cattle. Carbohydrates, slaves. Manhood

Prisoners ritually tortured & mutilated...family affair those not screaming released, children adopted

Leemar forms 800 strong 'Texas Rangers' destroy Them....

# The Great Raid 1840



Comanche raids intercepted  
By Rangers. Raid

Comancheria

Comanche offer peace exchange  
prisoners Peace

20 prisoners returned, many  
Mutilated. Texans lock up  
Comanche Emissaries.  
Gunfight ..most killed.

Comanche seek revenge

500 Comanche capture city and  
train carrying clothes...murder  
settlers, take captives..

# Texas Rangers: Battle of Plum Tree



Texas Rangers & Indian allies attack Comanche in the open

Running gun and lance battle

Comanche lose 80 with 20 captives... Indian allies Kill...and eat captives

Raids stop.....Comanche Make peace with tribes And raid Mexico instead

# The tale of Rachel Plummer



Moved to Texas with family group of 50.. Settled in 'Comancheria 1835), pregnant + 1 son

Husband, father most men in fields. Comanche attack cabins and kill grandparents take Rachel and son  
Son becomes Comanche...does not see him again

About treatment: "anyone who said that a good woman died before being violated had not been forced to run naked tied by a rope to a horse for a day or two in the sun, and further"

Adapts to life, kills woman made her master  
...Comanche agree she was

Father searches for her and buys her back from Comanche... reunited with husband, 2 years later...writes memoir ....dies

# Cynthia Anne Parker (1827-1871)



Captured as 10 year old child  
By Comanche, parents killed

Lived with Comanche 24 years  
Married. Given name 'Naduah';  
...someone found

'Rescued" with baby son by Texas  
Rangers in 1871...who kill all her  
Comanche Family

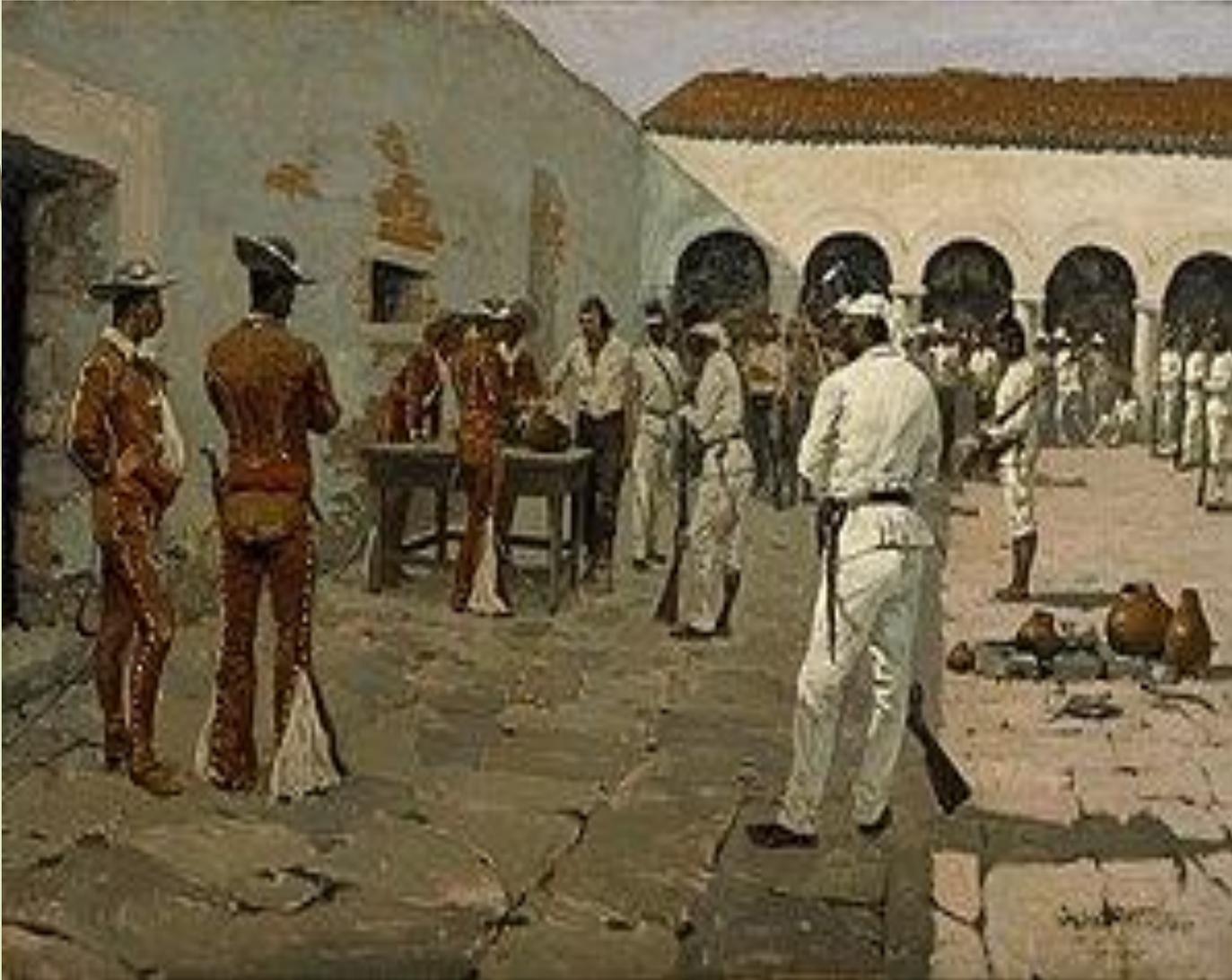
Forcibly united with extended family  
Unable to adapt ....starves herself to  
death

# Sam Houston 2<sup>nd</sup> Presidency 1842-1845

- ▶ Retains Ranger and Comanche war policy...provides weapons to Comanche....as long as they raid Mexico only
- ▶ Santa Anna launches “Revenge” raids vs Texas 1842
  - ▶ Captures San Antonio
  - ▶ Army defeated by Texans
  - ▶ Returns to Mexico....massacres pursuing Texan company
- ▶ Houston sends army of 1,000 to retaliate...Mior Expedition

# Mior Expedition 1843

## Black Bean Incident



Texan Army of 1,000 seizes port but Sam Houston orders return

400 refuse to go...want more loot

Mexican army arrives, Texans  
Surrender sent to march to Mexico City

200 escape...recaptured. Santa Anna  
Orders them all shot

Mexican general chooses to kill  
1 in 10...black and white beans  
selected. Black bean takers shot

# Aftermath

- ▶ Houston and his successor recognise Texas must join USA
- ▶ Negotiations resume 1845.

The US has changed and more receptive  
...gospel of “Manifest Destiny” dominates US politic  
....US will want more than Texas

To be continued at next talk