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**This printable timeline provided by the Institute of Texan Cultures is a companion product to the Web site by Dr. John L. Davis, “Timeline: Spain and Texas”—**

[www.texancultures.utsa.edu/timeline](http://www.texancultures.utsa.edu/timeline)



We have included a variety of images from the collection of over 3.5 million maintained in the archives of the Institute of Texan Cultures.

The author provides a historical context for this timeline.

Contextual commentary from Dr. John L. Davis

Where appropriate, we have included “connectors” to assist in reading this timeline.



The timeline’s first entry is in 1479 and its last entry is in 1898. This file has 23 pages, the last page provides an installation guide.

1497—Amerigo Vespucci as he might have appeared during his voyages  
—Painting by Bruce Marshall  
Institute of Texan Cultures 74-1456

We have provided contextual captions for the images, and we include the reference number used by our Research Library for each image.

## Timeline: Spain and Texas

1479—The kingdoms of Aragon and Castile are united after the marriage (in 1469) of Ferdinand II (Fernando) of Aragon and Isabella (Isabel) of Castile.

1492—The last Moorish kingdom, Granada, is reconquered by a united Spain.

Christopher Columbus makes landfall in a New World.

Columbus establishes the post of La Navidad on the northern coast of La Isla Española.

1494—On January 2, noting the destruction of La Navidad, Columbus establishes the settlement of La Isabella during his second voyage.

1497—Amerigo Vespucci sails from Cádiz, Spain, to the New World and may have voyaged through the Gulf of Mexico.

Ship construction in Europe during the 15th century. This is not an engraving of the work that must have been done on Española to build caravels for one of Columbus's returns to Europe, but his workmen possessed the full skills to build entire vessels.—Woodcut produced for Bernhard von Breydenbach's *Peregrinationes in Terram Sanctam*, Mainz, 1486. From Jane, Cecil, tr. *The Journal of Christopher Columbus*. New York: Clarkson N. Potter, Inc., 1960.

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1498-1500—  
Third voyage  
of Columbus

1470

1480

1490

1500



A 15th century Spanish caravel, from Bernhard von Breydenbach's *Peregrinationes in Terram Sanctam*, Mainz, 1486.—Printed in Jane, Cecil, tr. *The Journal of Christopher Columbus*. New York: Clarkson N. Potter, Inc., 1960. Illustrated edition of Columbus's letters to Gabriel Sánchez, Basel, 1493.

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A very idealized engraving of Columbus's fort at Navidad, Española (now Haiti), after the wreck of the Santa María on December 25, 1492; the fort was destroyed, and the survivors who could not return to Spain were soon killed by natives. The illustration is labeled "Insula hispana," the Spanish Island. Columbus named the island for the beauty of Spain, and the name Española endured for many years.—First published in the illustrated edition of Columbus's letters to Gabriel Sánchez, Basel, 1493

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Woodcut of a 15th century Spanish caravel from the *Estoriador do emperador Vespesiano*.—Printed in Jane, Cecil, tr. *The Journal of Christopher Columbus*. New York: Clarkson N. Potter, Inc., 1960.

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1493—Pope Alexander VI divides the world with a north-south line separating the claims of Spain and Portugal and calls for the conversion of all infidels to be found in new lands. The line is moved somewhat west across the Atlantic by the Treaty of Tordesillas in the next year. No other country engaged in exploration accepts the dictates.



1496—Santo Domingo, oldest permanent European settlement in the New World, is founded on the south coast of Hispaniola by Bartolomeo Columbus, brother to Christopher Columbus. This becomes the capital city and port of the first Spanish colony in the New World.

Columbus ends his second voyage to the New World on June 11, at Cádiz; he arrives aboard one of two caravels built at Española, the first "American" ships to arrive in Europe; during this second voyage, Columbus has established Isabella (on the north coast of the present Dominican Republic).

### Rulers of Spain

Rulers of Spain while Texas—under a variety of names—was part of the Spanish empire:

#### The House of Habsburg

Charles (Carlos) I	1516-56	(Emperor Charles V)
Philip (Felipe) II	1556-98	(Philip I of Portugal)
Philip III	1598-1621	(Philip II of Portugal)
Philip IV	1621-65	(Philip III of Portugal)
Charles II	1665-1701	

#### The House of Bourbon (Borbón)

Philip V	1701-24	
Louis (Luis)	1724	
Philip V (2 <sup>nd</sup> reign)	1724-46	
Ferdinand (Fernando) VI	1746-59	
Charles III	1759-88	
Charles IV	1788-1808	
Ferdinand VII	1808	
Joseph (Bonaparte)	1808-13	(French occupation of Spain)
Ferdinand VII (2 <sup>nd</sup> reign)	1814-33	

Isabella (Isabel) II of Spain reigned 1833-1868 during the years of Mexican Texas, the Republic of Texas, the early statehood of Texas within the United States, and Texas's membership in the Confederate States of America. In these periods there were few direct emigrants from Spain but continuing influence to Texas in the fields of, for example, literature, art, music, and dance. Some commercial contacts were established and remain.

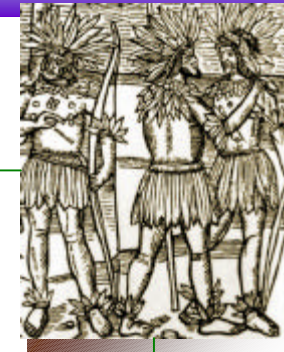
The House of Bourbon is represented, since 1975, in the present constitutional monarch of Spain, Juan Carlos.

1501—Queen Isabella I (Isabel la Católica) establishes the *encomienda* in New Spain, allowing the allotment of natives as slave workers to missions and to individual owners; the Queen also allows the first transport of African slaves to the West Indies.

1502-1504—Fourth voyage of Columbus. From about 1495 throughout the period of Spanish exploration, many unofficial and unsanctioned voyages take place to the New World; these are mainly known today through the complaints of voyagers with royal permission.

1507—The New World is named “America” by a group of scholars, mapmakers, and poets at Saint-Dié, Lorraine.

1508—The Spanish introduce sugarcane to the New World. By 1523 some 24 mills operate on Hispaniola, and the crop soon becomes a major export from the Caribbean.



1505—Reproduction of the earliest known European artist's conception of American Indians, c. 1505.—Arciniegas, Germain. *Amerigo and the New World*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1955.

Institute of Texan Cultures  
72-112 Detail

## Timeline: Spain and Texas

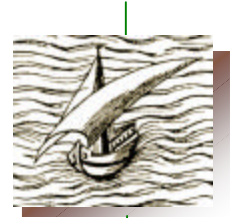
1516—Charles I, Habsburg ruler of the Netherlands, succeeds Ferdinand (and is elected Holy Emperor in 1519, becoming Charles V).

1519—On February 18, Hernán (or Hernando) Cortés (or Cortez) sails for Yucatán from Santiago, Cuba, with 11 ships, 508 soldiers, 100 sailors, and 16 horses. Alonso Álvarez de Pineda, sponsored by Francisco de Garay, sails on an exploring mission around the northern and western Gulf of Mexico.

1519—November 8: Ninth Aztec emperor, Moctezuma, meets Hernán Cortés within the capital city, Tenochtitlán.

1543—Woodcut of a Spanish ship, produced for Pedro Medina's *Arte de Navegar*, Valladolid, 1545.

Institute of Texan Cultures  
74-631 Detail



1510

1520

1530

1540

1519-21—Cortés, with 200,000 Indian allies and one important translator, conquers the Aztec empire and wins the lands of the western Gulf of Mexico for Spain; contention begins about who will be governor of the lands between Florida and Mexico.

1528—Cabeza de Vaca, Alonso Maldonado, Andrés Dorantes, and Estevanico (Esteban) cross the Big Bend country in 1536.—Drawing by José Cisneros; Calleros Estate, El Paso, Texas

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1546—Silver deposits worked at Zacatecas, then discovered northwest through southern Chihuahua, result in settlements at the headwaters of the Rio Conchos; settlements established to 1575, notably Santa Bárbara, define the staging areas for church and colonization efforts into the New Mexico and Texas areas.

1523—Francisco de Garay, Governor of Jamaica, sails to Pánuco to establish himself as governor of the land between Florida and Mexico, a land called Amichel or La Provincia del Río de Pánuco e Victoria Garayana.

1524—Carlos I fully establishes the Council of the Indies, which will manage the administration of the New World colonies. Planning has taken since 1511 and will be reformed by law under King Philip II in 1571. In subsequent years the viceroyalties of the New World are created: New Spain in 1535; Peru in 1543; New Granada in 1717-21 and reinstated in 1739; and Río de la Plata in 1776.

1525—Nuño de Guzmán succeeds Garay as governor of the lands which will become Texas.

Woodcut of a Spanish caravel produced for the *Libre de cosolat tractat dels fets maritims*, Barcelona, 1502.

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1527—Pánfilo de Narváez leaves with his expedition from Spain in June.

1527—Signature of Pánfilo de Narváez—Gambrell, Herbert, and Virginia Gambrell. *A Pictorial History of Texas*. New York: Dutton & Co., 1960.

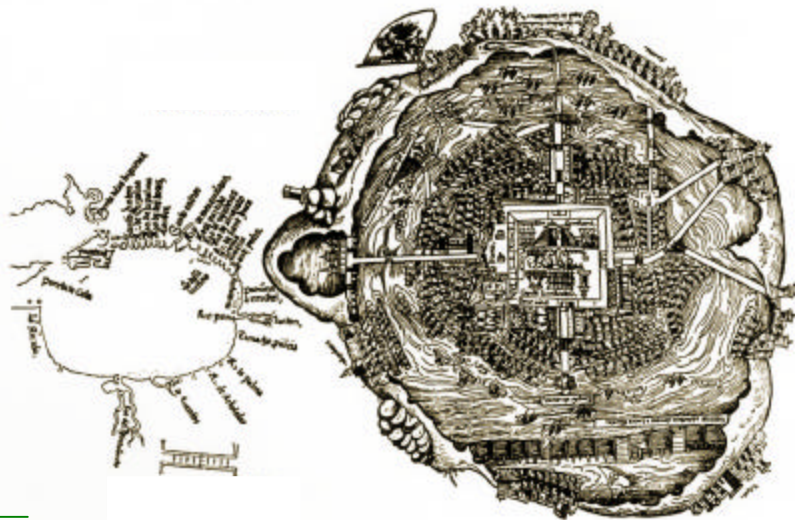
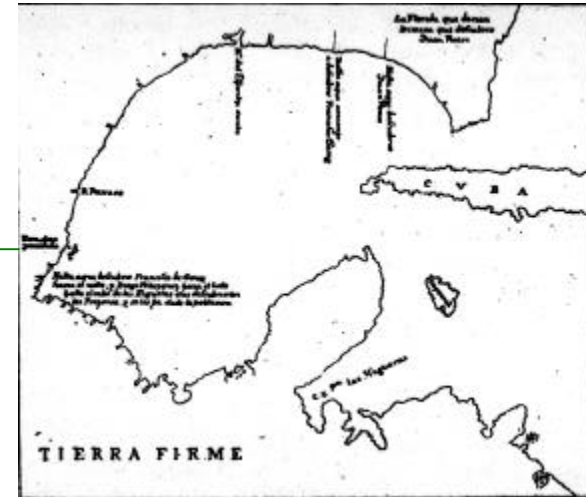
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1528—Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca and other survivors of the Narváez expedition are wrecked on the Texas coast; their overland journey to Mexico takes eight years (November 1528-1536).



1519—A copy of the so-called Pineda map of the Gulf of Mexico. This map, probably produced as a result of Pineda's voyage, is the first fairly accurate delineation of the Gulf. Pineda is often called the first known European voyager to sail the Gulf, although inaccurate depictions of the Gulf of Mexico appeared in European maps from a decade earlier. Unauthorized and secret voyages—undocumented today—were apparently common. The original of Pineda's map, reproduced many times, is in the Archive of the Indies in Seville.—Kretschmer, Konrad. *Historia de la Geographia*, Barcelona, 1942.

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1520—Maps of the Gulf of Mexico and Mexico City, sometimes attributed to Cortés.—Diaz-Alejo, R., y Gil Joaquin. *America y el Viejo Mundo*. Buenos Aires, 1942.

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1533—The first printing press, operated by Esteban Martín, comes to Mexico City, soon to be followed by six others.

1539—Fray Marcos de Niza, Esteban, and Brother Onorato leave Mexico in March to explore present New Mexico.

1540—Francisco Vázquez de Coronado leaves Compostela, Mexico, on his exploration to present New Mexico and the great plains.

1540—Signature of Vázquez de Coronado—Gambrell, Herbert, and Virginia Gambrell. *A Pictorial History of Texas*. New York: Dutton & Co., 1960.

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1541—Coronado explores the plains of the Texas Panhandle, Oklahoma, and Kansas (1541-1543); Fray Juan de Padilla, the Portuguese soldier do Campo, and two Indian “lay brothers” continue east until Padilla’s death; the three survivors return to Mexico across central Texas.

1541—“Coronado on the High Plains” by Frederic Remington, published in *Collier's Magazine*, December 9, 1905.

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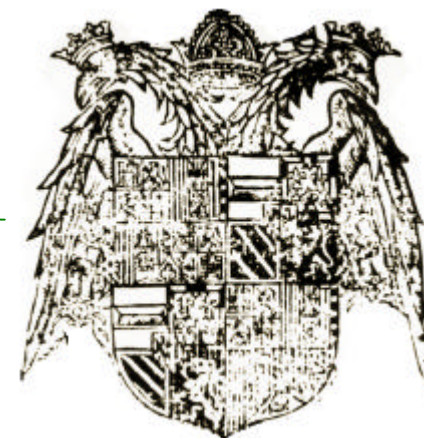
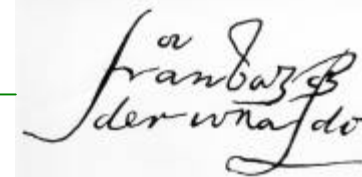
1542—Bartolomé de las Casas completes the famous and infamous *Brevísima relación de la destrucción de las Indias* (Brief Account of the Destruction of the Indies), which details Spanish mistreatment of New World natives.

1542—New Laws of the Indies are proclaimed by Carlos I. These put a stop to the slavery allowed by the *encomienda* system, although at this date, all Native Americans near Spanish settlements are reduced to forced labor with only theoretical rights as free people. The old form of conquest—exploration—is curtailed. In the next year, the crown bans circulation and publication of novels and works of imagination in the Americas on the grounds that such works of literature are profane and corrosive of spirituality.

1542—Cabeza de Vaca makes his official report to the king; his book of travels, the *Relación*, is produced; Hernando de Soto’s successor, Luis de Moscoso Alvarado, enters Texas (August) from the east, going as far as the Trinity River before returning to the Mississippi River, descending to its delta, and then down the Texas coast to Pánuco in 1543.

1542—From the title page of Cabeza de Vaca’s *Relación*, 1542, probably the first book-length description of the land that would become Texas—Center for American History (Barker Texas History Center), The University of Texas at Austin.

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## Timeline: Spain and Texas

1565—August 28: Spain establishes Saint Augustine, Florida (the oldest permanent European settlement within the present United States). Moved to a better position in 1566, it survives storms, poor supply, and sacking by Francis Drake in 1586.

1563—The Cathedral of Mexico, largest such structure built by Spain in the New World, is begun.

1562—Bishop Diego de Landa commands that all Mayan codices (books of history, mathematics, science, and religion) be burned. The act effectively destroys detailed knowledge about what was probably the most advanced indigenous culture of the Americas.

**1550**

**1560**

**1570**

**1580**

1568—Bernal Díaz del Castillo completes the manuscript of *Verdadera historia de la conquista de la Nueva España* (True History of the Conquest of New Spain), which is published in Madrid in 1632.

1568—John Hawkins, commander of a defeated English fleet in the Gulf of Mexico, sets ashore English seamen on the Mexican coast rather than face starvation on a voyage home; most sailors continue south into Spanish capture; David Ingram, Richard Browne, and Richard Twide walk north across Texas and are eventually rescued by a French ship and returned to England.

1569—By crown command the Holy Office of the Inquisition is extended to the New World. Inquisitors are in Lima by the next year and in Mexico in 1571 to replace the duties of bishops to the church office. The Inquisition becomes important in Spain's colonies, although few records concerning Texas exist today.

1573—Franciscans establish missions in the Floridas.

1556—Charles V abdicates Spanish claims; his son, Philip II, becomes king.

1554—Wrecks of the *Santa María de Yciar*, *Espíritu Santo*, and *San Esteban* on Padre Island result in a disastrous attempt by some survivors to walk to Mexico and subsequent salvage efforts.

1551—Carlos I charts the first mainland universities for Mexico City and Lima, Peru. The University of Mexico opens in 1553 and the University of San Marcos in Lima in 1572. Previously, the Dominican college in Santo Domingo became a university in 1538.

1550—The *repartimiento*, another form of slavery, is reestablished to force Native Americans to labor for the Spanish. Importation of African slaves—whom the Spanish consider "natural slaves"—continues and increases. Slave rebellions increase.

1550-90—Chichimeca Wars in Mexico support the establishment of presidios and missions to the north.

1588—Defeat of Philip's Spanish Armada ends Spanish plans to invade England.

1582—Antonio de Espejo and Diego Pérez explore parts of New Mexico and return through southwest Texas on their way to Chihuahua.

1581—Francisco Sánchez Chamuscado and three Franciscans enter New Mexico; all the friars are killed within a year.

1580—Spain defeats Portugal and, until 1640, governs both countries and Portuguese colonial holdings around the world.



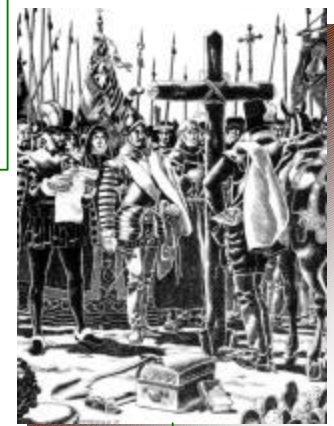
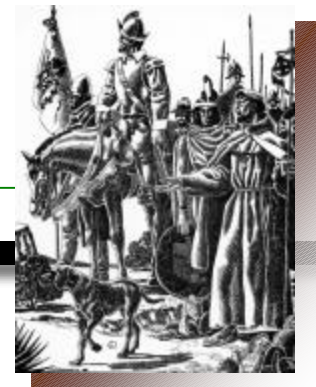
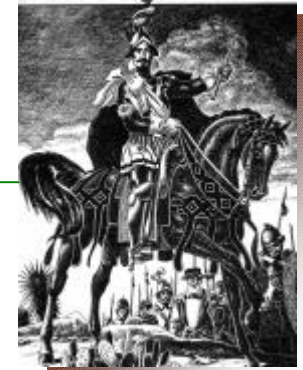
## Timeline: Spain and Texas

1596—France, England, and the Netherlands ally themselves through the Treaty of the Hague to oppose Spain commercially and militarily. Spain is severed from the New World for two years, but the alliance ends as France makes separate peace with Spain in 1598, England follows in 1604, and the Dutch in 1609. But the latter two reserve the right to ignore Spanish claims in all land not actually occupied by Spain.

1598—One of Oñate's captains, Marcos Farfán de los Godos, is an amateur playwright who writes a play performed at the westernmost part of present-day Texas by soldiers of the company. The military group was interested in drama and included a set of men who also were in the habit of performing an informal drama called *Los moros y los cristianos*, a play performed on horseback and outlining the expulsion of the Moors from Spain. Another of Oñate's force, Gaspar Pérez de Villagrà writes an epic poem, *La conquista de la Nueva Méjico*, which is published in Spain.

1598—Oñate occupies the upper Río Grande, what is to be called central New Mexico; by 1680 over twenty missions are established in the region; the usual route to New Mexico is established from the junction of the Río Conchos and the Río Grande at Presidio to El Paso.

1612—A Franciscan known as Pareja translates Spanish religious books into a native language (Timicuan) in present Georgia. Such translation of Spanish into native languages may have happened first in Mexico and is a tradition carried into Texas.



1590

1600

1610

1620

1595—Juan de Oñate obtains a contract for the “pacification” of New Mexico.

1600—By the turn of the century, mission schools are operated by the Spanish in present-day Florida, New Mexico, and Georgia.

1610—Santa Fe, New Mexico, is founded.

1598—Missionaries, soldiers, and natives at El Paso del Norte.—Drawing by José Cisneros; Calleros Estate, El Paso, Texas  
Institute of Texan Cultures 71-326

1598—Priest, soldiers, and natives arrive at El Paso del Norte to establish the first Spanish town in New Mexico.—Drawing by José Cisneros; Calleros Estate, El Paso, Texas  
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1598—Oñate claims the upper reaches of the Río Grande for Spain as part of his establishment of Spanish New Mexico, October 30, 1568.—Drawing by José Cisneros; Calleros Estate, El Paso, Texas  
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**Timeline: Spain and Texas**

If you are interested in “Timeline: Spain and Texas”—you might also enjoy *Exploration in Texas*

[www.texancultures.utsa.edu/exploration](http://www.texancultures.utsa.edu/exploration),

or you might also enjoy *Texans One and All*

[www.texancultures.utsa.edu/t1aa.htm](http://www.texancultures.utsa.edu/t1aa.htm).

Both of these are also available as books; call the Institute of Texan Cultures at 1-800-776-7651 to order. Our online catalog is at

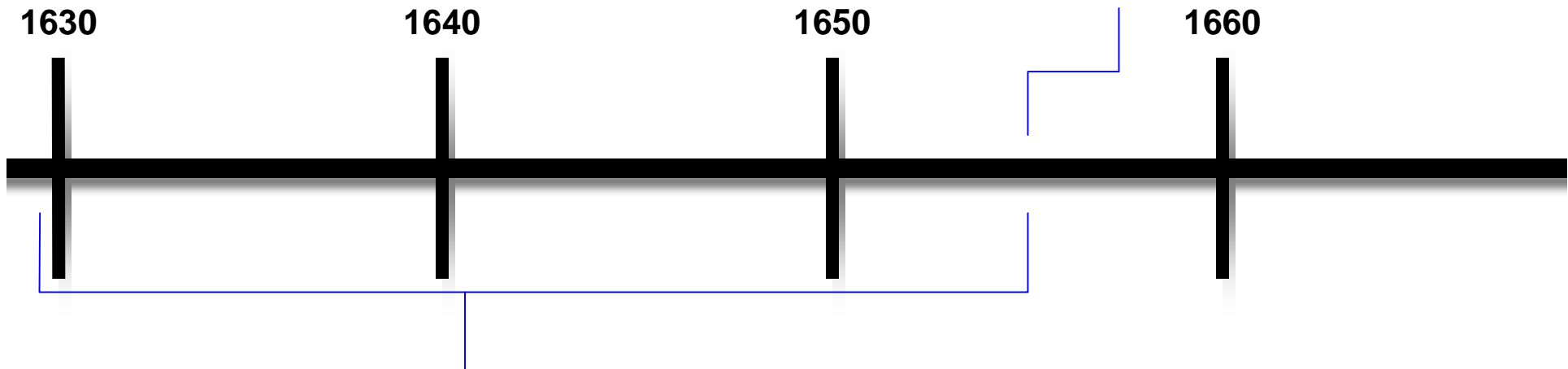
[www.texancultures.utsa.edu/pdf/catalog.pdf](http://www.texancultures.utsa.edu/pdf/catalog.pdf).

For three hundred years, 1519-1821, the land to the northwest of the Gulf of Mexico, the place to become Texas, was a possession of the Spanish Empire.

Sometimes owned in name only, the area was rarely high on Spain’s priority list. Most of the energy of the Spanish kings and the viceroys of New Spain—as far as North America went—supported activities in Florida and New Mexico and California.

After more than a century and a half of Spain’s partial exploration and lack of settlement in the Texas area, the French took the Spaniards by surprise. René-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle, bisected Spanish claims with a daring trip down the Mississippi in 1682. Three years later he landed a colonial effort at Espíritu Santo bay (also called Costa y Bahía de San Bernardo, today’s Matagorda Bay).

1655—Sparse settlement in the El Paso area



1629-55—Expeditions from New Mexico enter western Texas in search of evidence of the visits of María de Agreda, the bilocating “Woman in Blue”; trade with the Jumanos is a second motive.

The French colony—whether positioned by intent or accident and beset by fatal troubles—was soon extinct. The Spanish had little to fear from this effort, but, even before locating the colony, correctly surmised they had much to fear from the French in general. Immediate efforts were set in motion to find La Salle’s Fort St. Louis and to protect lands bordering the Mississippi. These motives initiated a hundred years of sporadic attempts at settlement and colonization by the Spanish—mostly defensive efforts to secure the Texas area.

**Timeline: Spain and Texas**

1675—The Bosque-Larios missionary expedition crosses the Río Grande near present-day Eagle Pass and moves somewhat past the Nueces in a two-month journey.



1689—Alonso De León's route to Fort St. Louis, 1689.  
—*Quarterly of the Texas Historical Association* viii, 1904-1905.  
Institute of Texan Cultures 71-12

1701-14—War of the Spanish succession results in the loss of many European Spanish claims.

**1670**

**1680**

**1690**

**1700**



1689—Discovery of Fort St. Louis by Alonso De León on April 22, 1689.  
—Watercolor by Bruce Marshall  
Institute of Texan Cultures 75-313

1630—August 9: Santa Fe is captured by a Pueblo native named Popé during one of many rebellions.

1680—Pueblo revolt in New Mexico, expulsion of Spanish settlers, missionaries, and military personnel; El Paso becomes the Spanish frontier for New Mexico as refugees from the areas of revolt on the upper Río Grande arrive in the area; Spain decides to establish missions and military presence from El Paso downriver to the Presidio/La Junta area.

1681—The Spanish government issues the Recopilación de las leyes de las Indias, a reworking of the laws and regulations governing Spanish colonies in the Americas. Nearly half a million laws, edicts, pronouncements, and regulations are reduced to a mere 6,400.

1682—Establishment of El Paso del Norte missions; René-Robert Cavalier, Sieur de La Salle, descends the Mississippi, effectively cutting Spanish claims in two at the Gulf of Mexico; he names the region Louisiana in honor of Louis XIV; the region becomes important in European politics.

1683—Establishment of La Junta missions

1684—Captain Juan Domínguez de Mendoza and Fray Nicolás López enter west-central Texas (1683-1684). La Salle, supported by the king, sails from France to establish a French presence in Louisiana.

1685—La Salle lands at Matagorda, either by intent or by accident, and establishes Fort St. Louis. Spain learns of the French presence and in subsequent years orders five sea and six land expeditions to rout the French.

1689—Land grants are initiated near Monclova south of the present Texas border in an attempt to provide food and livestock to nearby mining areas. The pattern will be repeated in Texas somewhat later.

1689—La Salle is killed by his own countrymen, and the Indians attack and destroy the French outpost.

1689—Alonso De León, governor of the Province of Coahuila, leaves Monclova (March 23) in his fourth attempt to find the French who are reported to have established a colony on the present Texas coast.

1689—April 16: Indians (perhaps Emet and Cava) encountered by the De León *entrada* greet the Spanish with a word sounding like “techas” or “tejas.” Fray Damián Massanet identifies the phrase as a common one used among enemies of the Apaches meaning “friends” or “friendship.” The word also could have meant alliance with the Tejas, a name given by the Spanish to certain East Texas natives.

1689—April 22: Alonso De León, with his force of some 85 armed soldiers and two Indian guides, finds the abandoned and destroyed Fort St. Louis on Garcitas Creek near Matagorda Bay.

The expeditions of Alonso De León, Governor of Coahuila, numbering five, named many of the major Texas rivers, more or less permanently, if not for the first time.; Nueces—pecan; Medina—named for Pedro de Medina, the governor’s mathematics teacher in Spain; Guadalupe—named for Our Lady of Guadalupe; Brazos—named Brazos de Dios, the arms of the crucified Christ; Trinity—Trinidad, three branches for the Christian Trinity; Sabine—the Sabinas, cypress. A great number of Texas rivers take their meaning directly from Spanish words: Colorado (red, although not appropriate), Hondo (deep), Salado (salty), Frio (cold)... Some, like the San Antonio, have saints’ names.

1690—Alonso De León begins his last *entrada* into the lands that would become Texas. The goals are to search for survivors of La Salle's colony and to make contact with the eastern Tejas Indians—if they desire missionary presence.

1690—May 22: Alonso De León and Fray Massanet reach a Tejas settlement (at San Pedro Creek in present Houston County) which they name San Francisco de los Tejas. A church and mission residences are constructed.

1690—A Spanish marine expedition, under Gregorio de Salinas Varona, surveys Matagorda Bay (then named Espíritu Santo).

1691—Domingo Terán de los Ríos becomes governor of the province of Texas. Spain, reacting to the presence of the French on lands considered Spanish, decides to explore Texas in detail and move toward settlement efforts.

1691—Governor Domingo Terán de los Ríos leaves the Presidio of Coahuila for the new Province of Tejas. Terán, first governor of the province, shares leadership of the expedition with Fray Damián Massanet.

1691—June 13: Governor Terán and Fray Massanet arrive at a location they name San Antonio de Padua on the saint's day.

1691—A maritime expedition is sent by the Spanish in support of Governor Terán's land *entrada*. Captain Gregorio de Salinas Varona sails from Mexico to attempt to make contact at Matagorda Bay. Contact is finally made in September with Salinas, who had waited since July.

1693—Carlos de Sigüenza y Góngora joins a scientific expedition into the southeastern United States. Sigüenza y Góngora was a prominent Jesuit, philosopher, mathematician, historian, publisher, astronomer, poet, and professor in Mexico City. He published what might be called the first newspaper, *El Mercurio Volante*, in the city; he was a Royal Cosmographer and a teacher of science and philosophy at the University of Mexico. Among his many works in later years was the *Historia de la provincia de Tejas*.

1693—As the French threat fades, Spain decides to abandon the missions and military efforts in eastern Texas and present western Louisiana.

1693—Gregorio de Salinas Varona, governor of Coahuila, leaves Monclova in support of the east Texas missions. Supplies reach the San Pedro area on June 8.

1693—Fray Massanet abandons the East Texas missions.

1699—The French establish a fort at Biloxi Bay with Pierre Le Moyne d'Iberville in command; accompanying him is a young relative by marriage, Louis Juchereau de St. Denis.

1700—The House of Bourbon gains the Spanish throne. Changes in administration and policies are instigated concerning the Americas: an increase of commercial trade, tax reduction, support of agricultural and livestock programs, and enlargement of local militias. The Jesuits are expelled (1767), and some efforts are made at reducing what was considered corruption under the Habsburg regime.

1700—Mission San Juan Bautista is founded January 1 at Guerrero, Coahuila; the area becomes the entryway to the province of Texas.

1709—Captain Pedro de Aguirre, Fray Isidro de Espinosa, and Fray Antonio de Olivares, with a small group, enter the largely abandoned Province of Texas on reconnaissance. They leave from the new Presidio San Juan Bautista. The expedition (reaching the Colorado River near present Austin) does not encounter the Tejas in that area.

**Timeline: Spain and Texas**



1722—Matagorda Bay, showing the location of Presidio Nuestra Señora de Loreto (La Bahía Presidio).—Newberry Library, Boston  
Institute of Texan Cultures 87-326

1740-48—War of the Austrian Succession in Europe; Spain considers the Costa del Seno Mexicano between Tampico and Matamoros to be unprotected against possible threat from other European countries.

1710

1720

1730

1740

This hotly contested (by later historians) report attests to a colony of African blacks living somewhat upriver on the Río Grande at a time when they could have been escaped Caribbean slaves or the remnants of an independent voyage from Africa. See Chapter 9, *Exploration in Texas*, or visit [www.texancultures.utsa.edu/exploration](http://www.texancultures.utsa.edu/exploration).

1749—Spanish “peace” with the Apaches; increased ranching from Béxar to Goliad; Captain Carlos Cantú reports the presence of a colony of African settlers near the mouth of the Río Grande.

1747—San Xavier missions, near present Rockdale, established

1745—Rancho de las Cabras is established by Espada (and owned later, 1828, by María del Carmen).

1720—Fray Antonio Margil establishes Mission San José y San Miguel de Aguayo in San Antonio; the mission is named in part for the new governor of Coahuila y Texas.

1720—Governor Marqués de San Miguel de Aguayo is directed by the king to reestablish Spanish settlement and presence in the Province of Texas, definitely and permanently.

1721—Marqués de San Miguel de Aguayo, a landowner of huge estates in northeastern New Spain, crosses the Río Grande (January through March) with a large expedition of settlement, slowed by snowstorms, which were normal at the time.

1721—Reestablishment of the east Texas missions by Governor Marqués de San Miguel de Aguayo, who with the support of the estate of his wife, Xaviera de Echeverez, privately pays for the renewed east Texas missions and the military stabilization of all of Texas. The huge Aguayo expedition brings hundreds of soldiers and settlers to Texas with large herds of cows, horses, sheep, and goats; a new presidio at Los Adaes, Nuestra Señora del Pilar, is founded; all the east Texas missions are reestablished; peace is made with the new French commander at Natchitoches, St. Denis.

1721—Governor Aguayo reaches San Antonio on April 4; troops from there under Captain José Domingo Ramón were already ordered to secure Matagorda Bay.

1721—In July, before crossing the Trinity River, Governor Aguayo is met by Indians carrying a French flag. The commander asks that the French flag be displayed below the Spanish; this request is carried out without incident.

1721—In July the Aguayo expedition arrives at the San Pedro Creek location and is welcomed in a friendly manner by the Tejas. Captain Louis Juchereau de St. Denis from Natchitoches visits to enquire about the Spanish presence. Aguayo tells the French they must leave the Los Adaes area. On August 29 the Spanish occupy the abandoned San Miguel de los Adaes. The French remain some eighteen miles away at the Natchitoches fort. In October a Spanish supply ship arrives at Matagorda Bay from Vera Cruz in support of the Spanish efforts.

1721 (April)—Presidio Nuestra Señora Santa María de Loreto de la Bahía del Espíritu Santo (known as La Bahía) is founded on Garcitas Creek on the ruins of Fort St. Louis. Substantial construction starts the next year. The mission called La Bahía (Nuestra Señora del Espíritu Santo de Zúñiga) is established the next year. Both presidio and mission are eventually moved to the San Antonio River at the present site of Goliad (1749).

1722—January 23: Aguayo returns to the San Antonio area.

1722—April 6: Aguayo outlines the foundations for a presidio over the ruins of the Fort St. Louis site on Garcitas Creek.

1724—Brigadier General Pedro de Rivera y Villalón begins a military tour of inspection of all of northern New Spain. He enters the future Texas in 1727. After visiting all significant sites in Texas, he returns to Mexico in 1728 to write his report, which is not entirely favorable toward the potential of the province.

1727—Frontier inspection of Brigadier General Pedro de Rivera y Villalón, sent to recommend economic cutbacks for the frontier of Spain's empire; Presidio Dolores subsequently abandoned; troops reduced at Los Adaes.

1730—Apache raids, beginning in the 1720s, increase in the San Antonio area. French traders operate on the Red River and to the south across the Sabine to the San Jacinto and Trinity drainages.

1731—East Texas Querretarán missions are moved to San Antonio. On March 9 fifty-five Canary Islanders arrive in San Antonio, the only arrivals of an almost-failed colonial plan to increase the number of settlers in Texas; the Villa de San Fernando de Béjar is instituted.

1739—War between England and Spain (in part over the Spanish and English colonial efforts in Georgia)

1713—Antoine de La Mothe, Sieur de Cadillac, arrives in Louisiana in May to take charge of France's colony as a private, proprietary colony; Cadillac receives a message from Father Hidalgo of Mexico, who asks assistance in reestablishing missions among east Texas Indians; Cadillac, wanting also to establish illegal trade relations with New Spain, quickly agrees; St. Denis is dispatched to the west in September.

1714—In July St. Denis arrives at San Juan Bautista after conducting trade in eastern Texas; he is arrested by presidio commander Diego Ramón; under house arrest, St. Denis courts and wins a promise of marriage from Ramón's granddaughter, Manuela Sánchez; St. Denis is sent to Mexico City, where he gains the confidence of the viceroy and returns as a Spanish commissary agent and guide for Spanish expeditions.

1716—Spanish concerns over the French cause a renewed interest in Texas, including the establishment of settlements, missions, and presidios over the next six decades.

1716—St. Denis marries Manuela and departs for east Texas with Captain Domingo Ramón, a son of the presidial commander, on April 27, 1716, with a substantial expedition of priests, civilians, soldiers, lay brothers, Indians, supplies, and cattle; the group establishes the Camino Real across Texas, essentially from Mexico to the French military center of Natchitoches.

1716—Marqués de Valero, the new viceroy, arrives in Mexico City, a friend to the ideas of provincial expansion in New Spain; the viceroy is soon to approve a "halfway" support station for the Spanish between northern Mexico and settlement areas in eastern Texas.

1716—Captain Domingo Ramón leaves the Río Grande on April 27 in charge of a military and civilian expedition to reestablish Spanish presence in east Texas.

1716—On May 5 a day of rest is taken by Captain Ramón and the *entrada* to celebrate the marriage of a soldier, Lorenzo Mercado, to Ana Guerra. Impromptu horse races between the French guides and Spanish soldiers lead to several serious falls, also necessitating a day of recovery.

1716—Spain's first presidio in eastern Texas, then the Spanish frontier, is established: Nuestra Señora de los Dolores de los Tejas, near the Neches. Soon five mission sites are selected. Nuestro Padre San Francisco de los Tejas mission is established as the first of four new missions in the area with Presidio Dolores to the west. By mid-July the sites are lightly settled.

1718—Martín de Alarcón crosses the Río Grande (April 9) with the intent to establish a "halfway" station between present northern Mexico and Spain's frontier just east of the Sabine. Father Antonio de Olivares is to help select a settlement and mission site; the expedition is ordered to be alert for any French trading along Texas rivers.

1718—Martín de Alarcón, Governor of Coahuila y Tejas, and Father Olivares arrive at the San Antonio River to establish a presidio and mission; San Antonio de Valero Mission is established on May 1; San Antonio de Béjar Presidio is established on May 5; a few civil settlers and families of soldiers settle in the area called the Villa de Béjar.

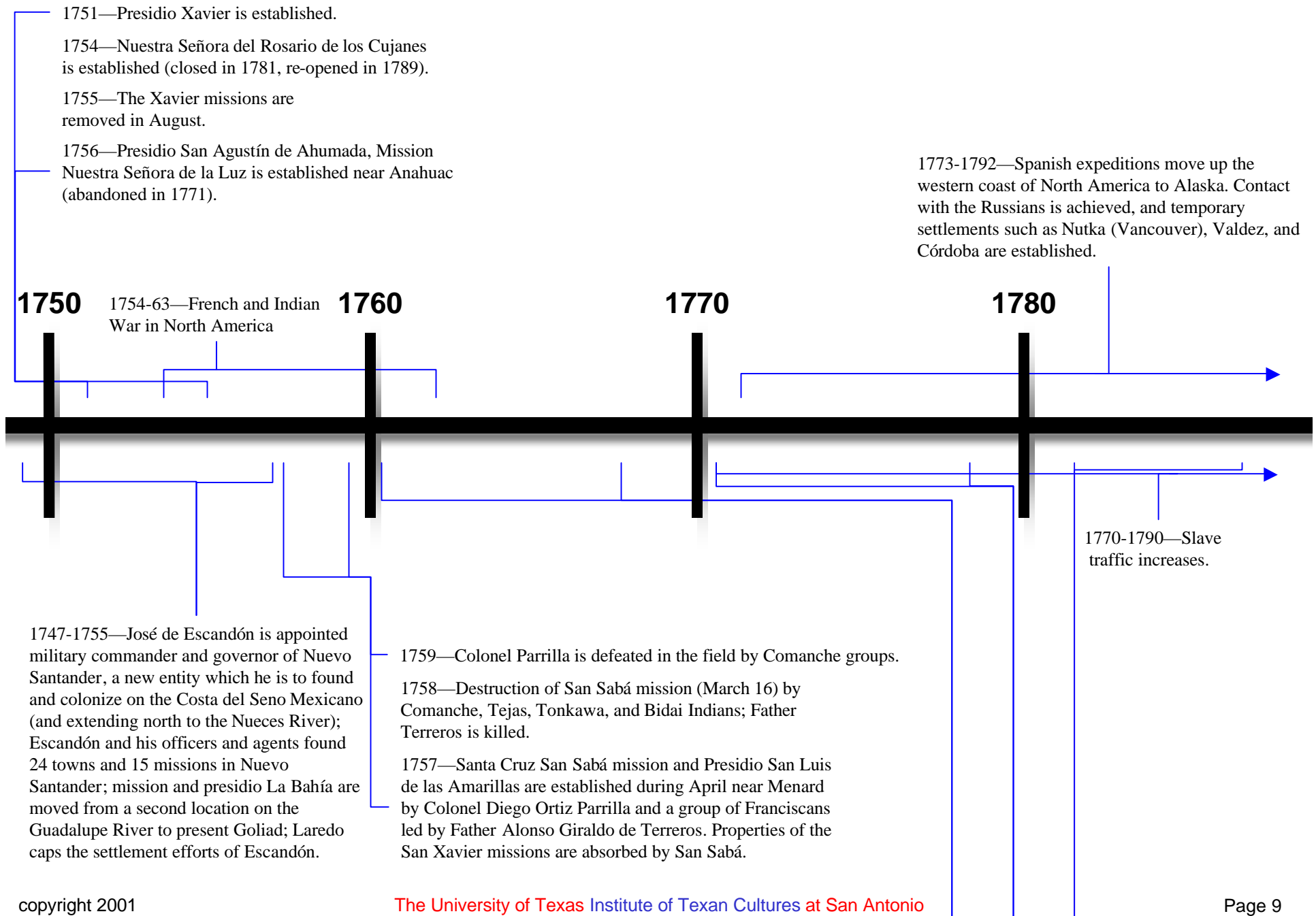
1718—May 16: Governor Alarcón almost drowns crossing the Guadalupe River. His horse, faltering or being reined back, is caught by the current, and both the governor and a sergeant escort are swept downstream. Alarcón, losing the buttons on his pants, is almost drowned when the wet material slips down around his legs underwater. Both sergeant and governor are rescued with ropes as they manage to grab cypress limbs. For several years the stretch of the Guadalupe near the Comal junction is known as the "Alarcón."

1718—By October Governor Alarcón arrives at the East Texas missions and presidio. On November 10 he arrives at San Miguel de los Adaes and remains for a month.

1719—The European War of the Quadruple Alliance; The Chicken War in Texas: Lt. Philippe Blondel of Natchitoches, leading a French assault force of seven men in mid-June, is unhorsed while raiding the henhouse at Spain's San Miguel de Linares de los Adaes mission; Captain Ramón subsequently orders the abandonment of six east Texas missions and the presidio; the Spanish fall back to San Antonio.



## Timeline: Spain and Texas



1760s—Comanche raids begin at San Antonio; many Apaches are displaced to the west.

1762—France cedes Louisiana to Spain; French continue to trade in the area.

1763—Treaty of Paris ends Europe's Seven Years' War; Spanish Florida is ceded to Britain.

1767-1768—Visit of Inspection by Fray Gaspar José de Solís

1767—The Marqués de Rubí, at the command of Charles III, visits the presidios in northern New Spain as the result of the end of the European Seven Years' War in 1763. Spain now controls territory west of the Mississippi, and—in theory—the French threat has evaporated. Rubí crosses the Río Grande in July, visits the presidios and some settlement areas, and moves as far as Natchitoches just past Los Adaes. Rubí finds the fort of San Juan Bautista de Natchitoches still held by French soldiers but of little concern. The diarist of the trip, Nicolás de Lafora, registers the opinion that Texas is not worth much. A reduction in Spanish forces is called for.

1768—The “twenty-day siege” of San Antonio by the Comanches.

1768—Gaspar José de Solís is sent by the Council of the College of Our Lady of Guadalupe to inspect the Franciscan missions. Solís, thus, arrives to inspect missions rather than making a tour of the presidios. Delighted by many things in Texas, Solís turns in a report that ranges from poetic description and vague generalities to accurate statistics and interesting detail.

1770—Presidio San Luis de las Amarillas is evacuated and abandoned by the Spanish

1773—Baron Juan María de Ripperdá, governor of Texas, follows royal orders and abandons the east Texas missions and orders the removal of Spanish citizens to the San Antonio area; San Antonio is named capital as Los Adaes is abandoned.

1774—East Texas settlers, after petitioning the government, are allowed to return, but not to their former lands; they establish Bucareli on the Trinity.

1776—The more-or-less United States declare their independence from England and engage in a conflict that is not resolved by treaty until 1783; for a time, Spain finds itself on the side of the new nation; Spain regains ground in the New World. The Provincias Internas administration is instituted, which includes Texas, with a government that fluctuates from being directly responsible to the king, then to the viceroy of New Spain, then ruled as a military district.

1778—Teodoro de Croix, new commandant general, visits Texas.

1779—The east Texas settlers at Bucareli, without authorization, move east to settle at Nacogdoches. Athanase de Mézières (son-in-law of St. Denis, former French agent, and frontier trader) is appointed governor of Texas by the Spanish; he dies in San Antonio just before taking office.

1781—General Bernardo de Gálvez captures Mobile and Pensacola from the English, forcing the English to divide their forces in the Americas between the British colonials' revolution and the Spanish capture of the coast of the Gulf of Mexico. A route of supply is opened to the United Statesians, and the province of Texas helps with cattle for Gálvez's forces.

1783—Eastern Florida is returned to Spain by Great Britain as part of the Treaty of Versailles, which also ends conflict for a time between England and the young United States. Spain retains control of the land until 1821, when the area is surrendered to the United States.

1785—Treaty between the Spanish and Comanches institutes nearly thirty years of relative peace.

1786—New Mexico's governor, Don Juan Bautista de Anza, officially approves Comanche trade, much of it to the east on the high plains of Texas's future Panhandle; confirmed by later governor Fernando de la Concha.

1788—(1786-88) Frenchman Pedro Vial and Spanish Captain José Mares establish San Antonio de Béxar-Santa Fe trade.

**Timeline: Spain and Texas**



Artist's reconstruction of the Battle of the Medina, 1813. The Republican Army of the North (foreground) was defeated by the Spanish Army, the Royalists (background) under the command of Arredondo.

—Painting by Bruce Marshall  
Institute of Texan Cultures  
72-1797

**1790**

**1800**

**1810**

**1820**

1821—Mexico's independence from Spain is achieved.

1819—Florida is sold to the United States

1795—February 21: Birth of Antonio López de Santa Anna Perez de Lebrón.

1794—Refugio mission moves to near present town of Refugio (operational in January of 1795 to 1830). Secularization of San Antonio missions under way (to 1824).

1793—Nuestra Señora del Refugio, the final Texas mission, is established, moved, and re-established near present Refugio in 1795. The effort is considered disappointing.

1793—November 3: Birth of Stephen F. Austin

1821—July 19: Governor Antonio Martínez and local officials in San Antonio (the *ayuntamiento* of San Fernando) conclude an orderly and peaceful transition from Spanish rule to that of newly independent Mexico and to Colonel Augustín Iturbide, *jefe superior*.

1822—Iturbide is crowned Emperor Agustín I; the Mexican Empire is recognized by the United States of America.

1823—General Antonio López de Santa Anna proclaims the Mexican Republic (December 2).

1823-1830—The Mexican government allows immigration from the United States, in various forms, into Texas.

1824—The Mexican Republican Constitution is adopted; Nuevo Santander is changed to Tamaulipas (as a Mexican state).

1819-20—Adams-Onís negotiations and treaty between Spain and the United States, effectively defining the eastern borders of the Spanish empire and the western reach of the Louisiana purchase by the United States. Under the terms of the Transcontinental, or Adams-Onís Treaty, the United States buys Florida for \$5 million and takes control of the territory two years later. Spain's ownership of Texas is confirmed.

1820—Moses Austin arrives in San Antonio de Béxar to seek approval for a colonial effort. Agustín de Iturbide and Vicente Guerrero bring about the independence of Mexico. The Plan de Iguala is announced by Agustín de Iturbide and Vicente Guerrero; the Spanish Captain General Juan O'Donojú arrives in Mexico and signs the Treaty of Córdoba (August 24) which officially severs New Spain from Old Spain; the Mexican Empire is created.

1800—The French receive Louisiana back from Spain as part of European political turmoil. (Confirmed by Treaty on March 21, 1801)

1801—Philip Nolan is killed by Spanish troops near Waco; his ears are delivered to Spanish authorities.

1803—France, breaking an agreement, sells Louisiana to the United States.

1804—First comprehensive census is completed in Spanish Texas; 3,605 citizens are counted. Spain again attempts to establish military presence in the Sabine area.

1805—October 21: At the Battle of Trafalgar, the English navy destroys the combined navies of France and Spain. Spain, in alliance with France and Napoleon, has been forced to put its fleet under French command. After the defeat Spain can neither protect nor coordinate administration among its American colonies.

1806—October 27: Birth date of Juan N. Seguín.

1806—Agreement is reached by Spain and the United States concerning the Neutral Ground east of the Sabine.

1808—Napoleon Bonaparte occupies Spain and attempts to place his brother, Joseph, on the throne of Spain; the events in Napoleonic Europe set the stage for revolution in Spain's American colonies.



The capture of Juan Bautista de las Casas in San Antonio. Las Casas was the military commander and leader of the revolt in 1811. Standing to the left is Juan Zambrano, as Spanish rule is re-instituted in the province.

—Painting by Bruce Marshall  
Institute of Texan Cultures  
72-1796

Some 26 missions and 8 presidios were positioned in Spanish Texas by the middle of the 18th century. The province, from the Nueces River to just beyond the Sabine, was alternately managed by New Spain, the crown itself, administrations such as the Provincias Internas, or military or civil governors jointly with Coahuila or separate. But the empire lacked the finances or the citizens to colonize such an area. Nearly always, inadequate numbers of soldiers were garrisoned at the presidios. The total of missionaries and soldiers in the province never numbered more than in the lower hundreds.

The coast of Texas—in fact the coast between Galveston and Vera Cruz—held no convenient, safe, easily entered harbors, so no Spanish ports were established, and movement into the province was overland. But, although the Spanish disliked the coast, many inland areas were suitable for ranching and limited settlement.

1810—Father Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla (a parish priest of Dolores, Michoacán) raises the Grito de Dolores on September 16, calling for the end of rule by the Spanish peninsulars (the *gachupines*), for racial equality, and for land distribution reform. Father Hidalgo also claims that Spain would sell Mexico to the “godless” French. Hidalgo chooses Our Lady of Guadalupe as the spiritual icon of revolution.

1811—Juan Bautista de las Casas's brief revolt in San Antonio; Father Hidalgo's forces are defeated; Hidalgo, stripped of priesthood, is executed.

1813—José Bernardo Gutiérrez de Lara and Augustus W. Magee launch their invasion of Spanish Texas; Nacogdoches, La Bahía, and San Antonio (and the local government) fall to the revolutionaries; the Declaration of the Independence of the State of Texas is issued; for a few months, the area is independent; the Royalist army under Joaquín de Arredondo (in which Santa Anna was a junior officer) defeats the republicans at the battle of the Medina on August 18, 1813. Under military rule, Texas is decimated; population falls and makes only a slight recovery after reestablishment of royal control of San Antonio.

1814—British and Spanish forces defeat Bonaparte and restore Spain's Bourbon monarchy; revolution is encouraged in many of Spain's New World colonies.

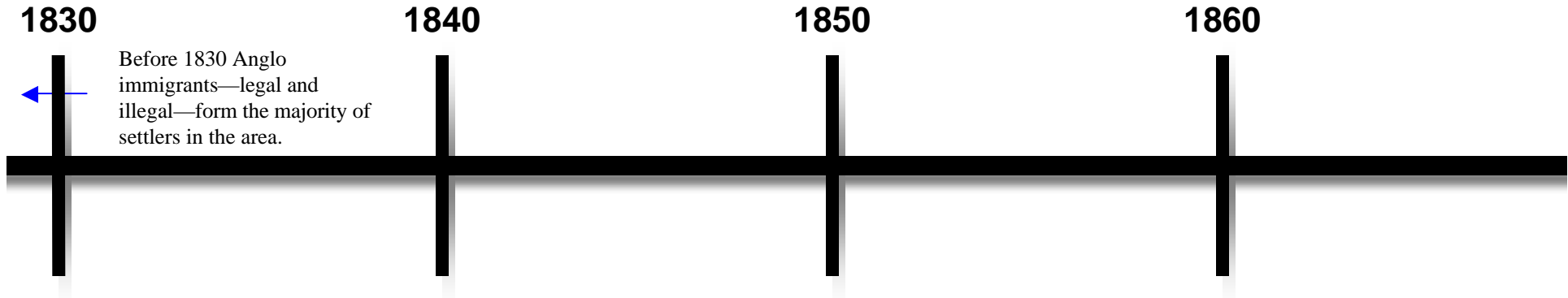
1817—The Spanish government outlaws the slave trade in all colonies (north of the equator) and agrees, with England, to suppress all slave trade. Smuggling of slaves increases and, because of the needs of the sugar industry, continues to Cuba until 1865. (A similar law applies to lands south of the equator in 1820.)

**Timeline: Spain and Texas**

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Spanish colonial areas flickered briefly as a few resolute families moved north. Areas of civil settlement were established at Nacogdoches to the east, San Antonio near the western border of Texas, the La Bahía-Victoria ranching area, and at Laredo. The missions of the San Antonio area were known for years as having the most extensive farming and ranching lands, but these activities waned by the later 18th century.

In 1804 a comprehensive census of Spanish Texas was completed. It showed a total of 3,605 citizens, soldiers, missionaries, and mission Indians. Of these, the San Antonio area (Villa San Fernando de Béjar, the missions, and the military) accounted for nearly 1,900; the La Bahía area, over 800; and Nacogdoches, just under 800. The numbers did not, of course, count nonmission Indians.



By 1810 Texas may have had nearly 5,000 Hispanic residents, but times were to change. The revolutionary desires of Mexican citizens were focused by Father Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla. As the Spanish empire weakened, the fires of independence grew in New Spain. Many of such feelings were fueled by open hostility between classes of people both economic and social. Spaniards—those born in Spain and considering themselves of “pure blood”—reserved the highest political, military, and economic positions for themselves, by law and custom. *Criollos* (born of Spanish parents but in the New Spain) were next in social line, followed by those who were soon called *mestizos*—a biological mix of Spanish and Native Americans. Lowest were the Indians, blacks, and slaves. Mulattos often blended into the *mestizo* class. In frontier provinces such as Texas, the *mestizos* soon became the dominant class.

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## Timeline: Spain and Texas



Private Gordon Johnston, mounted orderly to Col. Theodore Roosevelt, hands the commander a dispatch during training of the Rough Riders in San Antonio, 1898.

—The *San Antonio Light* Collection

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0225-A

Theodore Roosevelt and two of the Rough Riders pose in front of Concepción Mission, San Antonio, during training in 1898.

—The *San Antonio Light* Collection

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0066-B



1898—Theodore Roosevelt's "Rough Riders" train in San Antonio for the assault on Cuba.

1898—April 19: The United States declares war on Spain. For political reasons the United States supports Cuba's independence and has been given a pretext for war after the bombing of the battleship U.S.S. Maine in Havana harbor, sent there to protect U.S. citizens.

1870

1880

1890

1900

The lower classes of New Spain, including many *criollos*, wished for—and won—political freedom.

In Texas the transition from Spain's rule to Mexico's was orderly and peaceful, although the previous decades had seen revolutions and even, for a few months in 1813, an independent state. Texas's short-lived revolution of 1813 ended in a brutal reestablishment of Royalist rule after perhaps the largest land battle in Texas at the Nueces. Thereafter, both the population and resources of Texas were decimated.

1898—August 12: Armistice is signed between the United States and Spain following the destruction of the Spanish navy and land battles in Cuba.

1898—December 10: The Treaty of Paris frees Cuba from Spanish rule and transfers Puerto Rico and the Philippines to United States control in exchange for \$20 million. Spain forfeits its last remaining overseas colonial possessions.

## Timeline: Spain and Texas

On July 21, 1821, Texas came under the new rule of Mexico.

By this time, Spain had put several thousand settlers into the province, instituting a huge cultural change regardless of the small numbers. The empire had established the ways of Europe, although incompletely, into a huge area and had begun the process of displacing and replacing Native American cultures...a common process worldwide, if brutal in today's terms. Pieces of law, names, architecture, beliefs, foods, music, and customs endure to the present day...along with an entire language, although, as with all languages, somewhat changed from its original *peninsular* Spanish.

And not only languages change. Spanish-European cultures had long before metamorphosed into New World cultures, at least in detail. Everything—through intermarriage, frontier necessities, and sheer distance from Europe—had shifted.

The customs, laws, and sciences of Europe tended to be imported in fairly stable form, but changes soon crept in. What people called “races” were different; the topics and styles of literature were new; music and celebrations altered; new foods were on the tables; laws altered; architecture and building materials were a bit different; occupations from farming to cooking, mining to investment were stable but often carried out in somewhat new ways. Even religions changed. Native American belief systems often became openly syncretic, combining elements of European Christianity and local beliefs. Christianity—as it always has and does—shifted in a new setting, notably with the appearance of Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, who would successfully rival the Virgins of the Old World and who would become nothing less than the symbol of revolution in Mexico.

And Texas—as a small part of all this—became part of Mexico.

### Installation Guide

