

1821 – Mexican Independence from Spain

1836—Texas declares Independence from Mexico—leads to Alamo (Feb) and later defeat of Santa Anna by Sam Houston's forces at Battle of San Jacinto (April)

1845—Texas becomes a state—relations break off between U.S. and Mexico—border set at Rio Grande River

1846—1848 MEXICAN-AMERICAN WAR

1848—Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo

- Rio Grande River becomes border
- Mexico receives \$15 million compensation for ...
- California, New Mexico and additional Texas territory which is lost

1850's – Era of Reform – “La Reforma” - Benito Juarez

1857 – New Constitution – embodies liberal reforms

1862 – 1867 – Intervention by the French under Emperor Napoleon III

- Result of the reaction to the era of reform – Mexican conservatives appeal to the French – France sees economic opportunity, possible empire, and desire to appease French Catholics
- Mexico City taken by French in 1862 and Maximilian is installed to rule as Mexico's Emperor
- Maximilian is executed in 1867 when the French withdraw troops

1876 – 1911 – Rule of Porfirio Diaz

1911 – 1920 – MEXICAN REVOLUTION

- Revolution is led by the middle class who are joined by the peasants (95% are landless!)
- Largely guerilla war fought against government forces
- Major leaders of the revolution
- Emilio Zapata = “tierra y libertad” = (Land and Liberty) – took over much hacienda land and gave to the peasants
- Pancho Villa – crossed US border and killed Americans because of US support of Mexican government
- Neither leaders, although they were very popular, could take the major cities – not enough resources or money

1917 – MEXICAN CONSTITUTION – major features =

1919 – Zapata killed in a government ambush

1923 – Villa assassinated at his ranch