



THE MIER Y TERAN REPORT

Because so many people had come to Texas from the United States, Mexican officials feared that the settlers had secret ties with the United States. These fears increased when the United States offered to purchase Texas in 1826, but the offer was never accepted by Mexico.

The increasing number of settlers from the United States in Texas, the Fredonian Rebellion, and the offer by the United States to purchase Texas fueled concerns of Mexican nationalists.

In 1828 government leaders sent General Manuel Mier y Teran, a respected commander, to investigate the conditions in Texas. He spent almost a year touring the area and then wrote a report about his findings.

In his report Mier Y Teran expressed concern about the Anglo American colonists. He claimed that they outnumbered Mexican settlers by 10 to 1. Though this figure may have been exaggerated, there were far more Anglos than Mexicans in Texas, especially in East Texas.

Mier y Teran also noted that the influence of the United States was growing in Texas and that many settlers ignored laws against trading with the United States. In his report he made it clear that Mexico must gain control of Texas.

Thus, I tell myself that it could not be otherwise than that from such a state of affairs should arise an antagonism between Mexicans and foreigners which is not the least of the smoldering fires which I have discovered. Therefore, I am warning you to take timely measures. Texas could throw the whole nation into revolution.

-Manuel Mier y Teran

Mexican officials wanted to make Texas less attractive to current or future colonists from the United States. So in 1829 nationalists persuaded the president of Mexico to abolish slavery in Mexico. Since Anglo Texans held most of the slaves in Mexico, the officials thought that this act would slow immigration from the United States.

1. List 3 findings of Mier's report:

2. What did Mexico do to slow immigration into Texas from the United States?