

Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna

"That man may consider himself born to no common destiny who has conquered the Napoleon of the West. And now it remains for him to be generous to the vanquished."

-Santa Anna to Sam Houston after his defeat at the Battle of San Jacinto



Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna was born February 21, 1794, in Veracruz, New Spain. Santa Anna began his military career at the age of 16 fighting for Spain in Mexico's war for independence from Spain. In 1821, Santa Anna changed sides and fought for Mexican independence.

In 1824, Santa Anna repealed, or recalled, the Mexican Constitution. New settlers were no longer allowed to enter Texas. Santa Anna also abolished, or removed, the State Legislature and gave himself complete control. The Texas Declaration of Independence made Santa Anna form a large army and marched north into Texas to bring the area back under his control. With the Battle of the Alamo on March 6, 1836, and the Goliad Massacre on March 27, 1836, Santa Anna wanted the Texas Army to know he would not be stopped. Santa Anna's army was defeated at the Battle of San Jacinto on April 21, 1836. But Mexico was not done with Santa Anna. He was elected President of Mexico eleven times between 1833 and 1853.