**The Birth of the Texas Republic**

* After the LA Purchase, the W. border of the territory was disputed
* Spain insisted the border the was Sabine River (TX/LA border)
* Jefferson wished that the Rio Grande River was the border
* In the Adams-Onis Treaty of 1819 the Sabine was recognized as the border



* Mexico gained independence from Spain in 1821
* The revolution lasted from 1810-1821, ruining Mexico’s economy
* Tensions between Americans living in Texas and Mexico increased

Early Settlers

* Spanish gov’t had originally let Missourian Moses Austin set up a colony
* They wished to stabilize the border
* Stephen F. Austin came to build the settlement



* He swore loyalty to the new Mexican gov’t
* Austin became an *Empresario:* agent getting a land grant in return for organizing settlements
* Few Euros or Mexicans moved into TX
* People of Spanish or Mexican descent born in TX were known as *Tejanos*



* Americans came in large numbers
* By 1830 20,000 American settlers came w 2,000 slaves
* Mexico had abolished slavery in 1829
* TX was officially ruled by Mexico, but lived by American rules due to an unstable Mexican gov’t
* American immigration into TX was ended in 1830
* Mexico also insisted that all trade had to go through established ports in Mexico
* By 1833 Americans in TX wished to have autonomy from Mexico
* An army under the control of Sam Houston was raised
* Texan independence really began in 1835



* The Alamo was captured by American forces late in 1835
* Mexican forces regained the Alamo in March of 1836, with 200 defenders being killed
* “Remember the Alamo!” became a rallying cry for Texan independence
* A constitution was drafted in 1836 with Sam Houston being elected president



* Houston wished for TX to be annexed into the United States
* Some in Washington DC were worried about adding a large slave state
* TX was officially recognized as an independent republic