

- The independent Mexican government was unstable because of the residual effects of Spanish colonial strategy. Discuss differences between French, British and Spanish colonial strategies. The French built small wilderness forts and concentrated on trapping, with very little direct involvement. The British colonies established farming towns and were allowed self-government with Parliamentary approval. The Spanish settlers were looking for gold and Catholic conversions, retaining very centralized power/authority in the Spanish crown. As such, the existing Mexican infrastructure was not strong enough to withstand the pressures of independence.

- The type of Christianity espoused by the Americans and Mexicans also contributed to a lack of cohesion: Americans with loose Protestantism and Mexicans with strict Catholicism. These traditions resulted in very different cultures, leading to unrest as the Texas territory filled with more Americans than Catholics.

- Discuss how Santa Anna's dictatorial approach to government was an immediate solution to stabilizing the Mexican position.

- Discuss reasons why Andrew Jackson was unsure about annexing Texas:

- He was not certain it would be best for the rest of the Union (he was a populist).

- He wanted to avoid the inevitable war once Mexico and the US found themselves neighbors once again due to US-controlled Mexican territory only recently seceded.

- He wanted to avoid the slavery issues that were bound to erupt since Texas would want to enter as a slave state. The culture was extremely volatile at this point, as we have already seen.

- The unavoidable drift towards Westward expansion inevitably led to the need for full annexation of Texas. Worries about foreign affairs with Britain and Texas as its own nation also stimulated political motivations. Four years after incorporating Texas to the Union (1844), acquisition of more Mexican Cession territory materialized through a Treaty in 1848, bringing fulfillment to the dream of Manifest Destiny.