

# Primary Sources: The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo

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"Mapa de los Estados Unidos de Méjico" by John Distrunell, the 1847 map used during the negotiations for the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. Library of Congress

*Editor's Note: The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed on Feb. 2, 1848. It marked the end of the Mexican-American War. As a result of the treaty, Mexico gave more than half of its territory to the United States. This included parts of present-day California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Nevada, Utah and Colorado. Parts of the treaty follow. Roman numerals were used to number the articles.*

In the name of Almighty God: The United States of America and the United Mexican States are moved by a sincere desire to put an end to the calamities of the war which unhappily exists between the two Republics. They wish to establish upon a solid basis relations of peace and friendship, which shall offer benefits upon the citizens of both. They wish to assure the unity, harmony and shared confidence wherein the two peoples should live, as good neighbors. Therefore, they have for that purpose appointed their own representatives to sign this treaty.

## **Article I**

There shall be firm and universal peace between the United States of America and the Mexican Republic. This peace will exist between each of their countries, territories, cities, towns and people, without exception of places or persons.

## **Article V**

The boundary line between the two Republics shall commence in the Gulf of Mexico, 3 leagues, or 9 miles from land, opposite the mouth of the Rio Grande. From there, it goes up the middle of that river. The line shall follow the deepest channel, where there is more than one, to the point where it strikes the southern boundary of New Mexico. Then it goes westwardly, along the whole southern boundary of New Mexico to its western termination. From there it goes northward, along the western line of New Mexico, until it intersects the first branch of the river Gila. Then it goes down the middle of the first branch of the river, until it empties into the Rio Colorado. Then it goes across the Rio Colorado, following the division line between Upper and Lower California, to the Pacific Ocean.

## **Article VIII**

Mexicans now established in territories previously belonging to Mexico shall be free to continue where they now reside. If they choose, they can move at any time to the Mexican Republic. They shall retain their own property if they choose to move. Those who shall prefer to remain in the territories previously belonging to Mexico may either retain the title and rights of Mexican citizens, or acquire those of citizens of the United States. But they are obligated to choose within one year from the date that this treaty is ratified. Those who shall remain in these territories after the expiration of that year shall be considered to have elected to become citizens of the United States. They may not declare their intention to retain the character of Mexicans.

## **Article IX**

The Mexicans who, in the territories previously belonging to Mexico, shall not preserve the character of citizens of the Mexican Republic, shall be incorporated into the Union of the United States. They shall be admitted at the proper time to the enjoyment of all the rights of citizens of the United States. They will do so

according to the principles of the Constitution. In the meantime, they will be able to keep their liberty and property. They shall be secure in the free exercise of their religion without restriction.

### **Article XI**

A great part of the territories that will soon be within the limits of the United States is now occupied by savage tribes. These territories will hereafter be under the exclusive control of the Government of the United States. So it is solemnly agreed that any movement by the tribes within the territory of Mexico shall be forcibly restrained by the Government of the United States. When these incursions cannot be prevented, they shall be punished by the said Government of the United States. They will be punished as if the same incursions were being committed within its own territory.

### **Article XII**

All of the land being acquired by the United States is defined in the fifth article of the present treaty. For this land, the Government of the United States agrees to pay to that of the Mexican Republic the sum of 15 millions of dollars.

Immediately after the treaty is ratified by the Government of the Mexican Republic, the sum of three millions of dollars shall be paid to the said Government by that of the United States. The business will occur in the city of Mexico, in the gold or silver coin of Mexico. The remaining 12 millions of dollars shall be paid at the same place, and in the same coin. It will be paid in annual installments of three millions of dollars each. An annual interest at a rate of 6 percent will also be paid on this 12 million dollar sum.

### **Article XIII**

The United States agrees, moreover, to assume and pay all the amounts now due by Mexico and those due in the future. As a result, the Mexican Republic shall be absolutely exempt, for the future, from all expense whatever on account of the said claims.

### **Article XVI**

Each of the contracting parties reserves the right to fortify any point within its territory. It may do so if it deems the action proper for its security.

## Quiz

- 1 According to the treaty, Mexicans living in the territories could become full U.S. citizens with the same rights as other U.S. citizens.

Which section BEST supports the idea outlined above?

- (A) Article I
- (B) Article V
- (C) Article VIII
- (D) Article IX

- 2 Which of the following excerpts from Article XI is the STRONGEST piece of evidence to support the claim that Native Americans were seen as different from other people?

- (A) A great part of the territories that will soon be within the limits of the United States is now occupied by savage tribes.
- (B) any movement by the tribes within the territory of Mexico shall be forcibly restrained by the Government of the United States.
- (C) When these incursions cannot be prevented, they shall be punished by the said Government of the United States.
- (D) They will be punished as if the same incursions were being committed within its own territory.

- 3 The central idea of the treaty is MOSTLY developed by:

- (A) dictating the rules for treatment of Native American tribes
- (B) defining the boundary lines and citizenship rules for the territories given to the U.S.
- (C) stating that each country has the right to secure its own border
- (D) explaining the details of where and when the U.S. will pay the Mexican government

- 4 Which detail would be MOST important to include in an objective summary of this treaty?
- (A) The U.S. was required to pay off Mexico's debts from the war.
  - (B) The boundary line began 9 miles from land in the Gulf of Mexico.
  - (C) The treaty was signed in order to end the Mexican-American war.
  - (D) The U.S. acquired half of Mexico for the price of \$15 million.