# The Unanimous

# Declaration of Independence

## made by the

# Delegates of the People of Texas

## in General Convention

at the Town of Washington

on the 2nd. day of March 1836

When a government has ceased to protect the lives, liberty and property of the people, from whom its legitimate powers are derived, and for the advancement of whose happiness it was instituted; and so far from being a guarantee for the enjoyment of those inestimable and inalienable rights, becomes an instrument in the hands of evil rulers for their oppression: When the Federal Republican Constitution of their Country, which they have sworn to support, no longer has a substance of existence, and the whole nature of their government has been forcibly changed without their consent, from a restricted federative republic, composed of sovereign states, to a consolidated

Central, military despotism in which every interest is disregarded but that of the army and the priesthood – both the eternal enemies of civil liberty, the ever ready minions of power, and the usual instruments of tyranty: When, long after the Spirit of the Constitution has departed, Moderation is, at length, so far lost, by those in power, that even the semblance of freedom is removed, and the forms, themselves, of the Constitution discontinued; and so far from their petitions and remonstrances being regarded The agents who bear them are thrown into dungeons, and mercenary armies sent forth to force a new Government upon them at the point of the bayonet: When in consequence of such acts of Malfeasance and abdication, on the part of the Government, Anarchy prevails, and Civil Society is dissolved into its original elements. In such a crisis, the first law of nature, the right of self-preservation – the inherent and inalienable right of the people to appeal to first princi-

=ples and take their political affairs into
their own hands in Extreme cases – before
it as a right towards themselves and a sa=
=cred obligation to their posterity to abol=
=ish such Government and create
another in its stead, calculated to secure
them from impending dangers, and to
secure their future welfare and happiness.

Nations, as well as individuals, are amenable for their acts to the public opinion of mankind. A Statement of a part of our grievances is, therefore, submitted to an impartial World, in justification of the hazardous but unavoidable Step now taken of severing our political Connection with the Mexican people, and assuming an independent attitude among the nations of the earth.

The Mexican government, by its Colonization laws, invited and in=
=duced the Anglo-American population of Texas to colonize its wilderness under the pledged faith of a written Constitu=
=tion that they should continue to enjoy that Constitutional liberty and repub=
=lican government to which they had

ben habituated in the land of their birth, the United States of America. In this expectation they have been cruelly disappointed, inasmuch as the Mexican nation has acquiesced in the late changes made in the Government by General Antonia Lopez de Santa Anna, who, having overturned the Constitution of his Country, now offers us the cruel alternative either to abandon our homes, acquired by so many privations, or Submit to the most intolerable of all tyranny, the Combined despotism of the Sword and the Priesthood.

It has sacrificed our welfare to the State of Coahuila, by which our interests have been Continually depressed through a jealous and partial Course of legislation Carried on at a far distant Seat of Government, by a hostile Majority, in an unknown tongue; and this too, notwithstanding we have petitioned in the humblest terms, for the establishment of a separate State Government, and have, in accordance with the provisions of the national Constitution, presented

to the general Congress a republican Constitution which to us without just cause contemptuously rejected.

It incarcerated in a dungeon, for a long time, one of our citizens, for no other cause but a Zealous endeavour to procure the acceptance of our Constitution and the establishment of a State Government.

It has failed and refused to secure on a firm basis, the right of trial by jury; that palladium of civil liberty, and only safe guarantee for the life, liberty, and property of the citizen.

It has failed to establish any public System of Education, although possessed of almost boundless resources (the public domain) and, although, it is an axiom, in political science, that unless a people are educated and enlightened it is idle to expect the Continuance of Civil liberty, or the Capacity for self Government.

It has suffered the Military Commandants Stationed among

us to exercise arbitrary acts of oppression and tyranny; thus trampling upon the most sacred rights of the citizen and rendering the military superior to the civil power.

It has dissolved by force of arms, the State Congress of Coahuila and Texas, and obliged our representatives to fly for their lives from the Seat of Government; thus depriving us of the fundamental political right of representation.

It has demanded the surrender of a number of our citizens, and ordered military detachments to seize and carry them into the Interior for trial, in Contempt of the Civil authorities, and in defiance of the laws and the Constitution.

It has made piratical attacks upon our Commerce, by Commissioning foreign desperadoes, and authorizing them to seize our vessels, and Convey the property of our citizens to far distant ports for Confiscation.

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It denies us the right of worshipping the Almighty according to the dictates of our own conscience, by the support of a National Religion calculated to promote the temporal interest of its human functionaries rather than the glory of the true and living God.

It has demanded us to deliver up our arms, which are essential to our defence, the rightful property of freemen, and formidable only to tyrannical Governments.

It has invaded our Country both by sea and by land, with intent to lay waste our territory and drive us from our homes; and has now a large mercenary army advancing to carry on against us a war of extermination.

It has, through its emissaries, incited the merciless Savage, with the tomahawk and Scalping knife, to massacre the inhabitants of our defenceless frontiers.

It hath been, during

the whole time of our Connection with it, the Contemptible Sport and victim of successive military Revolutions; and hath continually Exhibited every Characteristic of a Weak, Corrupt, and Tyrannical Government.

These, and other Grievances, were patiently borne by the people of Texas until they reached that point at which forbearance ceases to be a virtue. We then took up arms in defence of the National Constitution. We appealed to our Mexican Brethren for assistance. Our appeal has been made in vain. Though months have elapsed, no Sympathetic Response has yet been heard from the Interior. We are therefore forced to the Melancholy Conclusion that the Mexican People have acquiesced in the destruction of their liberty, and the substitution therefor of a Military Government—that they are unfit to be free and incapable of Self Government.

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The necessity of self-preservation, therefore, now decrees our eternal political separation.

We, therefore, the delegates, with plenary powers, of the people of Texas, in solemn convention assembled, appealing to a candid world for the necessities of our condition, do hereby resolve and declare that our political connection with the Mexican nation has for-ever ended; and that the people of Texas do now constitute a free sovereign and independent republic, and are fully invested with all the rights and attributes which properly belong to independent nations; and, conscious of the rectitude of our intentions, we fearlessly and confidently commit the issue to the decision of the Supreme Arbiter of the destinies of nations.

Richard Ellis President
of the Convention & Delegate
from Red River
J. A. Collinsworth

Charles B. Stewart

Edwin Waller

Thos. Barnett

Asa Brigham

John S. McByron

Franco Ruiz

J. Antonio Navarro

Jessi B. Badgett

Wm D. Lacey

William Menefee

Jno Fisher

Mathew Caldwell

William Mottley

Lorenzo de Zavala

Stephen H. Everitt

Geo W. Smyth

Elijah Stapp

Claiborne West

Wm B. Scates

M. B. Menard

A. B. Hardin

J. W. Hunter

Thos P. Gazley

R. M. Coleman

Hunting C. Robertson

Geo C. Childress

Bailey Hardeman

Rob. Potter

Thomas Jefferson Rusk

Chas. S. Taylor

John S. Roberts

Robert Hamilton

Collen W. Kinney

Albert H. Latimer

James Bowen

Sam Houston

David Thomas

Edw. Conrad

Austin Parmer

Edwin O. LeGrand

Stephen W. Blount

Jas Guinn

Wm Clark Jr

Sydney S. Penington

Wm Carrol Crawford

Jno Turner

Benj.a Briggs Goodrich

G. W. Barnett

James G. Swisher

Jesse Grimes

S. Rhoads Fisher

John W. Moore

John W. Bowers

Sam.e A. Maverick (from Bejar)

Sam.l P. Carson

A. Briscoe

W. B. Woods

Test. H. S. Kimble Secretary

Left at the Department
of State May 28. 1836. by
Mr Wharton.

The original.