

**Grievances – Historical and Modern Language  
KEY**

Grievance	1836	Modern
1	<p>The Mexican government, by its colonization laws, invited and induced the Anglo-American population of Texas to colonize its wilderness under the pledged faith of a written constitution, that they should continue to enjoy that constitutional liberty and republican government to which they had been habituated in the land of their birth, the United States of America.</p>	<p>The Mexican government invited us to come and settle Texas, promising that we would have a written constitution much like we did in the United States.</p>
2	<p>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 Antonio 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.</p>	<p>The Mexican government promised us a constitution, but Santa Anna refuses to acknowledge the constitution he showed us and ordered us to either leave Texas, or stay and tolerate his military and religious dictatorship.</p>
3	<p>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 was, without just cause, contemptuously rejected.</p>	<p>Mexico made Coahuila the boss of Texas and they have taken advantage of that situation. The state capital is too far for Texans to have a reasonable say in the laws we are made to live by. The government in the state capital of Coahuila is also ruled by a majority who doesn't speak our language. We have asked the Mexican government repeatedly to allow us to be a separate state and they have rejected the petition each time.</p>
4	<p>It incarcerated in a dungeon, for a long time, one of our citizens, for no other cause but a zealous endeavor to procure the acceptance of our constitution, and the establishment of a state government.</p>	<p>The Mexican government put one of our most respected citizens in prison just for asking that we be allowed to become our own Mexican state.</p>
5	<p>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.</p>	<p>The Mexican government has denied us the right for a jury trial before we are punished or thrown into prison.</p>

6	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.	The Mexican government has not provided us with any public education system, even though they have the resources to do so. It has been proven that if people are to maintain the ability to be self-governed, they need to be educated.
7	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 citizens, and rendering the military superior to the civil power.	The Mexican government has completely ignored our rights by randomly sending their military troops to our homes and towns. This has made our city governments practically powerless against their military forces.
8	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.	The Mexican government brought their army into our state capital and did away with our state legislature by using force. This military action forced our representatives to leave the capital or possibly face death by the army.
9	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.	The Mexican government has ordered that we give up several of our most important leaders to the Mexican army. The army took our leaders to Mexico City for trial even though the constitution they promised us said they couldn't do that.
10	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.	The Mexican government hired foreign pirates to attack our ships and steal the goods meant for Texans. They then sold these goods to others.
11	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.	The Mexican government forces us to join their national religion and does not let us choose which religion we want to follow.
12	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.	The Mexican government forced us to give up our weapons so that we would not be able to defend ourselves.

13	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.	The Mexican government has invaded Texas in order to destroy our land and kick us out of our homes. In fact, they have a large army advancing on us right now in order to kill us all.
14	It has, through its emissaries, incited the merciless savage, with the tomahawk and scalping knife, to massacre the inhabitants of our defenseless frontiers.	The Mexican government has sent Mexican officials to Texas to talk to the Native Americans and try to get the Natives to massacre us with their tomahawks and scalping knives.
15	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.	The Mexican government, for the entire time that we have had to deal with them, has shown over and over how they cannot even keep a stable government. Their government has suffered several takeovers by the military and has shown themselves to be weak, corrupt and tyrannical.