

Why Americans Should Remember the Alamo

In 1836, Mexico concluded its seven months of resistance against rebelling Texians with total surrender. Thus, the Republic of Texas was born, to be annexed then absorbed eight years later as the twenty-eighth state in the union. During the conflict, a thirteen-day battle at the Alamo ended with vastly outnumbered volunteer U.S. and Texian soldiers finally overwhelmed and slaughtered by thousands of sieging troops led by General Antonio López de Santa Anna. "Remember the Alamo" was a popular battle cry during the subsequent two-year conflict.

That war, which was the young nation's first on foreign soil, ended with Santa Anna's decisive defeat. The treaty of 1848 signed in present-day Mexico City (village of Guadalupe Hidalgo) ceded Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah to the U.S.A. for mere pennies.

Despite his repeat military failures including tens of thousands dead under his command and loss of over half his country's territory, the general was allowed to serve out twelve presidential terms, retaining power many more years until finally overthrown by liberal ousters and exiled.

