

Texas Faces Foreign Challenges**Section 1****MAIN IDEAS**

1. The Republic of Texas sought foreign recognition in part to ease the threat of war with Mexico.
2. Many Texans favored joining the United States.
3. Several countries recognized Texas independence.

Key Terms

foreign relations dealings with other countries

diplomatic recognition the acknowledgment by one government that another government exists

Section Summary**THE QUEST FOR TEXAS STATEHOOD**

One of the Republic's greatest challenges in **foreign relations**—official dealings with other countries—was its relationship with Mexico. Mexico did not accept Texas independence. Texas was therefore eager to have other nations recognize, or officially accept, its status as an independent country. This would lessen the chance of another war with Mexico, and it would also encourage immigration to Texas. Recognition would also lead to increased foreign trade and loans. Some Texans hoped that recognition from the United States might pave the way for annexation of Texas. But U.S. officials were hesitant to recognize Texas.

Leaders, including Sam Houston, wanted more than just **diplomatic recognition**. They hoped Texas could join the United States as a new state. Diplomatic recognition is the acknowledgement by one government that another government exists.

But U.S. officials were hesitant to recognize Texas. In 1836 a U.S. agent wrote that the Republic had too much debt, too small a population, and too powerful an enemy—Mexico.

Why was it important that Mexico recognize Texas as an independent country?

Section 1, *continued*

Slavery was another obstacle to annexation. In the United States, northerners who were opposed to slavery argued against statehood for Texas, refusing to add another state that allowed slavery.

FOREIGN RECOGNITION

In his last official act as president, Andrew Jackson appointed a minister, Alcée Louis La Branche, to Texas in 1837. The Republic sent Memucan Hunt as its first official representative to Washington.

However, U.S. recognition did not lead to annexation. Texas leaders withdrew their request for annexation. In 1837 Houston sent James Pinckney Henderson to Europe to try to gain recognition for Texas. Because of concerns about U.S. expansion, many European nations wanted Texas to stay independent.

In September 1839 France became the first European nation to recognize Texas. Recognition from Great Britain, Belgium, and the Netherlands followed. Mexico continued to refuse to recognize Texas.

Why did many European nations want Texas to remain independent?

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Evaluating What were the main factors that stood between Texas and foreign recognition?

Section 1, *continued*

DIRECTIONS Read each sentence below and circle the term from the word pair that best completes each sentence.

1. The Republic's relationship with Mexico was a key issue in its early (foreign relations/diplomatic recognition).
2. The Republic's leaders were hoping for (foreign relations/diplomatic recognition) by the United States and other countries.

DIRECTIONS Write two adjectives or descriptive phrases that describe each term given.

3. foreign relations _____
4. diplomatic recognition _____