

Texas Faces Foreign Challenges

Section 3



MAIN IDEAS

1. Anson Jones was elected president of the Republic of Texas in 1844.
2. During Jones's presidency, Texans increased their calls for annexation with the United States.

Key Person

Anson Jones the fourth and last president of the Republic of Texas

Section Summary

PRESIDENT ANSON JONES

In the election of 1844, the Republic was divided. Newspapers printed harsh criticisms of the candidates for president, Vice President Edward Burleson and **Anson Jones**. Jones had served as secretary of state under Houston. Because of their shared views, Jones received Houston's support in the election. Mirabeau B. Lamar supported Burleson.

Jones easily defeated Burleson in the election. As president, Jones inherited the Republic's economic problems. He tried to control the debt by limiting government spending. He also continued to work for peace with Texas Indians, a policy that was also aimed at reducing spending. As annexation seemed more likely, the value of Texas currency began to climb. By 1845 the value of Texas currency in many parts of the Republic had become equal to that of U.S. currency.

Underline the names of the two presidential candidates.

How did Jones try to control the debt?

TEXANS DEBATE ANNEXATION

Although economic problems were a major concern, President Jones worried more about the prospects of annexation. At first, Jones kept silent on the issue. Many Texans urged Jones to take action on the issue. Jones wanted Texans to have the option of becoming part of the United States or of maintaining independence. Independence

What did Jones want for Texas?

Section 3, *continued*

depended on peaceful relations with Mexico, so he tried to obtain Mexico's recognition.

Few Texans were interested in negotiating with Mexico. As the demand for a convention to decide the issue of annexation grew stronger, word arrived that Mexico might soon recognize Texas. Texans debated whether their country should stay independent or continue to seek annexation.

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Evaluating Why did President Jones want to wait on the issue of annexation?

Section 3, *continued*

DIRECTIONS On the line provided before each statement, write **T** if a statement is true and **F** if a statement is false. If the statement is false, write a corrected statement on the line after the false statement.

_____ 1. Anson Jones won the presidential election in 1844.

_____ 2. Anson Jones received Houston's support in the election.

_____ 3. Jones wanted Texas to have the option of being independent.

_____ 4. Texans wanted Jones to be decisive on the issue of annexation.
