

The Road to Revolution

Part Two

The Law of April 6, 1830

In response to Manuel y Teran's report, the Mexican government passed the **Law of April 6, 1830**. It banned U.S. immigration to Texas and made it illegal for settlers to bring more slaves into Texas. Furthermore, the law suspended unfilled empresario contracts. The government hoped to issued new contracts to bring more Mexicans and Europeans rather than U.S. families to Texas. The government also began to tax all U.S. imports coming to Texas. These **customs duties**, or import taxes, raised money for the government.

Texans React

This law angered many Tejanos and U.S. settlers. They feared that the new restrictions would hurt the growing Texan economy. Many U.S. settlers were also upset that their relatives and friends in the U.S. could not move to Texas. Stephen F. Austin disliked the new law, but he tried to work with Mexican officials and encouraged the colonists to respect the new law. Austin realized that relations with the government in Mexico City had been badly damaged.

Conflicts at Anahuac

In the fall of 1830, troops built a fort at the mouth of the Trinity River near an important trade route and immigration point. The settlement became known as **Anahuac**. At this key location, troops could enforce the new law. **Colonel Juan Davis Bradburn** commanded the troops stationed at the fort. In February 1831 Bradburn arrested Francisco Madero for approving land titles for settlers in the area. This angered many Texans. In November 1831 tensions increased. **George Fisher** demanded that all ships landing in Texas pay their customs duties at Anahuac. When several ship captains ignored Fisher's rules, he sent soldiers after them. Bradburn arrested several citizens and held them for military trial. Texas settlers were enraged over the vents in Anahuac.

The Turtle Bayou Resolutions

After the conflict at Anahuac, the settlers withdrew a few miles to Turtle Bayou. There, the settlers drew up several **resolutions**, or statements of a group's opinions. Others left to retrieve cannon for protection in case of a Mexican attack. The **Turtle Bayou Resolutions** declared that the events in Anahuac were not a rebellion against Mexico. The settlers were defending their rights and the Constitution of 1824, basically the way it was before. They also expressed their support for General **Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna**, who was trying to overthrow President **Anastacio Bustamante**.

The Battle of Velasco

Unaware that the conflict in Anahuac was over, John Austin's group loaded their cannon on a ship at Brazoria. After they reached Velasco, near Anahuac, **Colonel Domingo Ugartechea**, commander of the Mexican forces their, refused to let the rebels pass. On June 26, 1832, fighting broke out. The Mexican soldiers soon ran out of ammunition and had to surrender on June 29. The colonists had won the **Battle of Velasco**.