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In 1807 Napoleon invaded Spain and installed his brother, Joseph Bonaparte, as ruler, thus presenting already disgruntled colonials in Spanish America with an opportunity to initiate challenges to colonial rule. On September 16, 1810, Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, a liberal parish priest from Dolores in the intendancy of Guanajuato, initiated Mexico’s earliest insurrection with his Grito—a cry for independence from the exploitation of colonial rule. Economic grievances and social discrimination against the masses to join Hidalgo’s movement, but these concerns varied widely from those of wealthier criollos (American-born Spaniards), who sought...
The History of Mexico

In the plan of revolution, Hidalgo followed the same ideas as the buccaneers of independence in Yucatan's councils. He proclaimed allegiance to King Fred


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The remaining groups of Hidalgo's foot soldiers were heavily outnumbered, and the mounted guerrillas were unable to disperse the enemy. The infantry, composed of Mexican soldiers and a few indios, was forced to retreat. The French, who outnumbered them significantly, moved in to take advantage of the situation. The battle was a complete victory for the French, who captured the town and burned it to the ground.

In the aftermath, the French occupied the town and began to organize the local population. They divided the town into districts and appointed French officers to oversee them. The French also began to implement a program of education and religious instruction, which they hoped would convert the local population to Catholicism.

For the next few years, the French continued to occupy and control the town. They built fortifications to protect the town and established a garrison to guard it. The French soldiers also began to interact with the local population, learning their customs and languages. This led to a period of cultural exchange between the French and the local population.

As the years went on, the French began to face resistance from the local population. The mestizos and indios were increasingly resistant to the French presence, and there were occasional uprisings against the French. However, the French were able to maintain control over the town through a combination of force and diplomacy.

The town of Hidalgo eventually became a center of French colonial administration. It was a hub for trade and administration, and it served as a base for French forces in the region. The French colonial administration in Hidalgo continued for several decades, during which time the town grew and prospered.

In 1821, the Mexican War of Independence began, and the French were forced to retreat. The town was taken by the Mexican forces, who began to implement their own administration. This led to a period of conflict between the French and Mexican administrations, which lasted for several years. In 1822, the Mexican forces finally took control of the town, and the French administration came to an end.
at the Hacienda of Dolores tried to save themselves through a back door that opened upon the log bridge over the Cata River, but they found that the assailants had already taken that bridge. They then retired to the well, where—since it was a high, strong spot—they defended themselves until the last of their ammunition ran out, causing much carnage among the insurgents. . . . The few Europeans who remained alive at the end fell or were thrown into the well, and they drowned.

Central Themes

Indigenous people, state formation, land and labor, religion, race and ethnicity

Suggested Reading


Related Sources

27. The 1692 Mexico City Revolt (1692)
33. José María Morelos’s National Vision (1813)
35. Address to the New Nation (1824)
41. Mexico in Postwar Social Turmoil (1852)

33. José María Morelos’s National Vision (1813)*
MEXICAN HISTORY

A Primary Source Reader

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