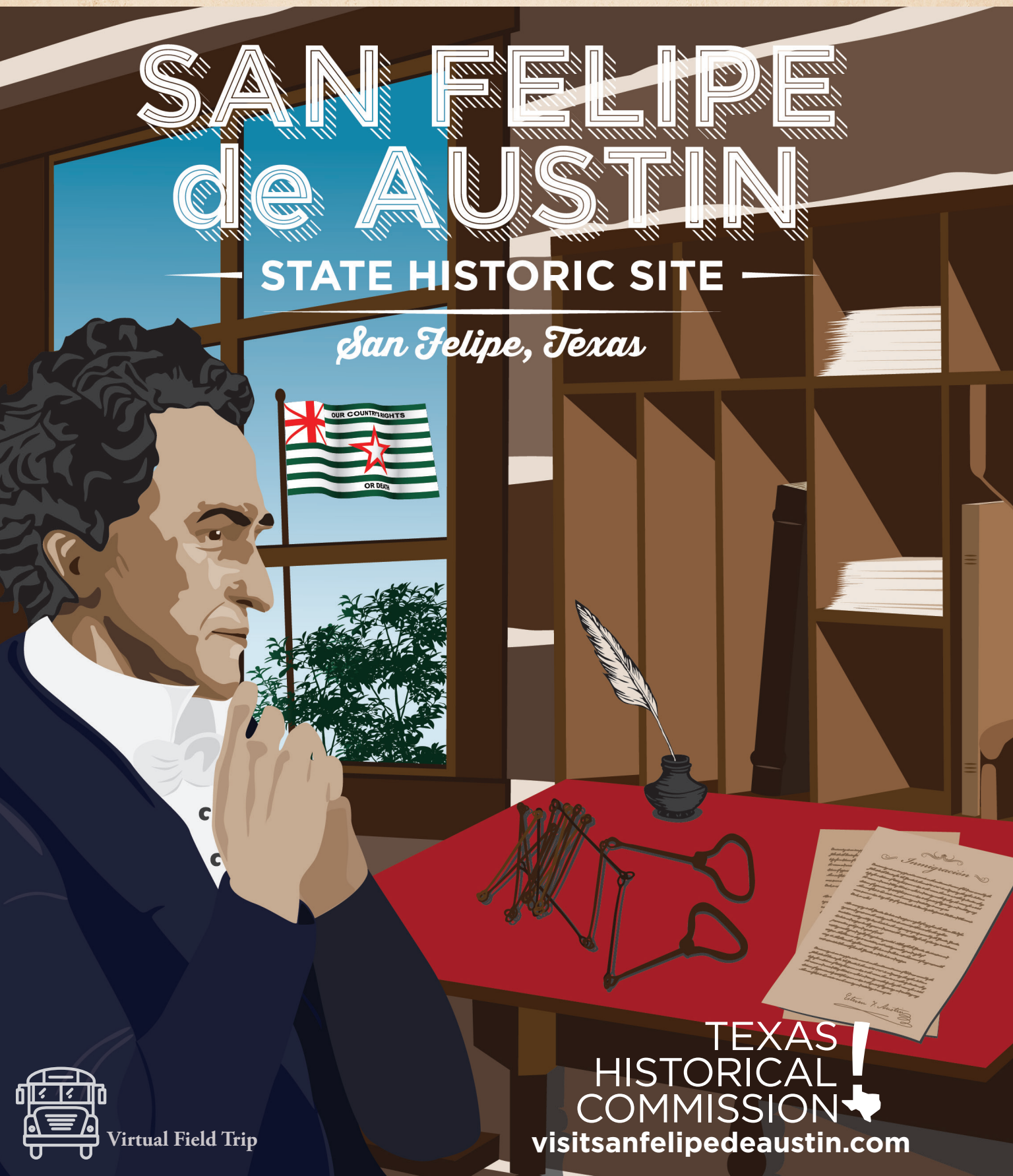
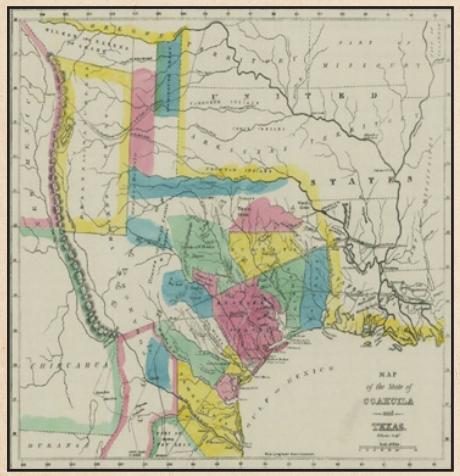
Texas Historical Commission

Why Invite Foreign Colonists?

Grade 4 & 7





Map of Coahuila y Tejas with land grants,1833.
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Why Invite Foreign Colonists?

Overview: A New Beginning for Texas

In Part 2 in the Empresario series from the Texas Historical Commission's **San Felipe de Austin** site, learners explore how the introduction of colonists from other nations impacted the development of Texas. The activities provide learners the opportunity to analyze primary source documents related to the settlement efforts. An introductory video is also included.

Objectives

- Identify reasons for and strategies used in developing colonization by foreign citizens in 19th century Texas.
- Demonstrate understanding of a filibuster expedition.
- Analyze primary source documents.
- Reflect on the 1825 laws of colonization.

Social Studies TEKS

4th Grade: 4.2 A E, 4.8 C, 4.12 C, 4.14 B, 4.15 A, 4.21 A B, 4.23
7th Grade: 7.2 D E F, 7.10 A B, 7.20 A B, 7.23

Resources

- Video: Why Invite Foreign Colonists? (THC YouTube) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D-jWBp6RG-0&feature=youtu.be
- Activity 1: Why Invite Foreign Colonists? video activity resource
- Activity 2: Coahuila y Tejas Colonization Law of 1825 activity resource (adapted and full versions)
- Activity 3: Journal Reflection activity resourcePrimary Source Document: Coahuila y Tejas Colonization Law of 1825 (transcription, adapted and full versions)

Vocabulary

ayuntamiento (ah yoon tah me EHN toh) noun: a city or town council

economy (ee KAHN uh mee) noun: the amount of money made or used in a region

filibuster expedition (FIL ih buh ster ex pih DIH shun) noun: a privately raised and funded army used to attack a foreign nation in order to take control of all or part of that nation

immigrant (IM uh grint) noun: a person who travels to a foreign country to live there permanently

import (IM port) verb: to bring in goods from a foreign country to sell

incentive (in SEN tiv) noun: something that encourages a person to try or work harder toward achieving a goal

Activity 1: Why Invite Foreign Colonists?

To introduce the concept of why the Spanish and Mexican Texas governments invited foreign colonists to settle in Texas in 19th century, have learners watch the **Why Invite Foreign Colonists? video** and use the **notes resource**.

Answer Key:

1. 2,500 to 5,000
2. economy, land, defense
3. Filibusters
4. Long
5. 1825
6. 25,000
7. Answers will vary.

Activity 2: Coahuila y Texas Colonization Law of 1825

In this activity, learners will interact with a transcription of a primary source document to analyze the strategies used to attract foreign nationals to settle in Texas. Preview the **transcription* of the Coahuila y Tejas Colonization Law of 1825** that states the requirements and incentives for colonization. Discuss any challenges in dealing with transcriptions of primary source materials.

Preview the comprehension questions at the bottom of the activity resource. Share responses when completed.

*There are two transcriptions of the document included for use: an adapted version with shorter articles, and the full transcription. The language of the text in both is the original in both. Assisting learners in understanding the meaning of the text may be helpful and/or necessary.

Answer Key:

Adapted version

- Read Article 5. Foreigners who wanted to live in Texas had to present a certificate proving two things about themselves. What were those two things? **1) They were Christians, and 2) They had good morals and habits.**

- Read Article 10. What type of colonists does this law prefer when giving out land? **Military veterans or people who had served in the Republic of Mexico's armed forces**

- Read Article 15. If a man married a "native Mexican," he received something extra. What was it? **an extra fourth of land, or "labor"**

- Read Article 19. Could members of Native American tribes receive lands in Coahuila y Tejas? Yes If yes, how much land could they receive? **They could receive the same amount of land as other colonists. Articles 14 and 15 state that this total amount of land, called a sitio or league, is 4,428 acres.**

Full version

- Colonists who wished to settle in Texas were required to present a certificate from a government authority where they previously lived. The certificate had to provide proof of what two things about the person? **(Article 5) That they were a Christian and had good morals and habits. This letter would later be called a "letter of introduction."**

- What type of colonists were preferred to receive land? **(Article 19) Military veterans or people who had served in the Republic of Mexico's armed forces**

- What extra provision did a man who married a "native Mexican" receive? **(Article 15) an extra fourth of land, or "labor"**

- If a colonist came to Texas but then decided to go live in another country, what happened to the land? **(Article 30) The colonist could sell their lands and take any property with them, but they were not allowed to live in another country and still own land in Texas.**

Activity 3: Journal Reflection

Using **the journal reflection activity resource**, learners will write in response to reading the articles in the Coahuila y Tejas Colonization Law of 1825. Were these laws fair? Why or why not? What should have been included or changed? How might these articles have helped or hindered the settlement of Texas?

Activity 1 Resource: Why Invite Foreign Colonists?

As you watch the video, **write answers** to complete the sentences.

1. The estimated population of Spanish Texas in 1821 was _____ .

2. The Spanish and Mexican governments wanted to increase the number of colonists in Texas in order to help rebuild the _____, fill empty _____, and provide _____ from hostile private armies.

3. _____ is the name given to a private army that enters a country in order to defeat the local government and form a new republic.

4. The _____ Expedition tried to take over Spanish Texas in 1819.

5. The state of Coahuila y Tejas completed their colonization laws in _____.

6. By 1834, the population of Texas had grown to _____ people.

7. Write **two** additional facts you learned in this video.

★ _____

★ _____

Activity 2 Resource: Coahuila y Tejas Colonization Law of 1825 (adapted)

Believed to be the state flag of Coahuila y Tejas, 1824-1836. Wiki Creative Commons.

Read the **Primary Source transcript** of the articles of law that stated the requirements and incentives for colonists who wanted to settle in Texas in the 19th century.

- Read **Article 5**. Foreigners who wanted to live in Texas had to present a certificate proving two things about themselves. What were those two things?

- Read **Article 10**. What type of colonists does this law prefer when giving out land?

- Read **Article 15**. If a man married a "native Mexican," he received something extra. What was it?

- Read **Article 19**. Could members of Native American tribes receive lands in Coahuila y Tejas? Circle yes or no. If yes, how much land could they receive?

Activity 2 Resource: Coahuila y Tejas Colonization Law of 1825 (full)

Believed to be the state flag of Coahuila y Tejas, 1824-1836. Wiki Creative Commons.

Read the **Primary Source transcript** of the articles of law that stated the requirements and incentives for colonists who wanted to settle in Texas in the 19th century.

- Colonists who wished to settle in Texas were required to present a certificate from a government authority where they previously lived. The certificate had to provide proof of what two things about the person?

- What type of colonists were preferred to receive land?

- What extra provision did a man who married a "native Mexican" receive?

- If a colonist came to Texas but then decided to go live in another country, what happened to the land?

Activity 3 Resource: Journal Reflection

Write a reflection about the articles in the Coahuila y Tejas Colonization Law of 1825. Some questions to respond to might include: Were these laws fair? Why or why not? What should have been included or changed? How might these articles have helped or hindered the settlement of Texas in the 19th century?

Primary Resource: Coahuila y Tejas Colonization Law of 1825 (adapted)

This is a transcription of some of the articles in the primary source document, Coahuila y Tejas Colonization Law of 1825. All articles are numbered. The language is the original version

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Law of Colonization For the State of Coahuila y Tejas

"Article 1. All Foreigners, who in virtue of the general law, of the 18th August, 1824, … wish to remove to any of the settlements of the state of Coahuila and Texas, are at liberty to do so; and the said State invites and calls them."

"Art. 2. Those who do so … shall be admitted by the local authorities of said settlements, who shall freely permit them to pursue any branch, of industry that they may think proper, provided they respect the general laws of the nation, and those of the state."

"Art. 3. Any foreigner, already in the limits of the state of Coahuila and Texas who wishes to settle himself in it, shall make a declaration to that effect, before the Ayuntamiento of the place, which he selects as his residence; the Ayuntamiento in such case, shall administer to him the oath which he must take to obey the federal and state constitutions, and to observe the religion which the former prescribes; the name of the person, and his family if he has any, shall then be registered in a book kept for that purpose, with a statement of where he was born, and whence from, his age, whether married, occupation, and that he has taken the oath prescribed, and considering him from that time and not before, as domiciled."

"Art. 4. From the day in which any foreigner has been enrolled, as an inhabitant … he is at liberty to designate any vacant land, and the respective political authority will grant it to him …, as to a native of the country, in conformity with the existing laws of the nation… ."

"Art. 5. Foreigners of any nation, or a native of any of the Mexican states, … who present themselves for admission, must prove their Christianity, morality and good habits, by a certificate from the authorities where they formerly resided."

"Art. 8. The projects for new settlements in which one or more persons offer to bring at their expertise, one hundred or more families, shall be presented to the government, and if found comformable with this law, they will be admitted; and the government will immediately designate … the land where they are to establish themselves, and the term of six years, within which, they must present the number of families they contracted for, under the penalty of losing the rights and privileges offered… ."

"Art. 9. Contracts made by the contractors or … Empresarios, with the families brought at their expense, are guaranteed by this law, so far as they are comformable with its provisions."

"Art. 10. In the distribution of lands, a preference shall be given to the Military…, and to Mexican citizens who are not Military, … the quantity of land which may be granted, is designated in the following articles."

"Art. 11. A square of land, which on each side has one league or five thousand varas … shall be called a sitio … one thousand varas on each side, which shall compose a labor. The vara for this measurement shall be three geometrical feet."

"Art. 14. To each family comprehended in a contract, whose sole occupation is cultivation of land, one labor shall be given; should he also be a stock raiser, grazing land shall be added to complete a sitio…."

"Art. 15. Unmarried men shall receive the same quantity when they enter the matrimonial state, and for foreigners who marry native Mexicans, shall receive one fourth more; those that are entirely single, or who do not form a part of some family whether foreigners or natives, shall content themselves with the fourth part of the above mentioned quantity, which is all that can be given them until they marry. "

"Art. 18. The families who emigrate … shall immediately present themselves to the political authority of the place which they may have chosen for their residence, who, finding in them the requisites … shall admit them, and put them in possession of the corresponding lands, and shall immediately give an account thereof to the government…"

"Art. 19. The Indians of all nations, bordering on the state, as well as wandering tribes that may be within its limits, shall be received in the markets, without paying any duties whatever for commerce, in the products of the country; and if attracted by the moderation and confidence, with which they shall be treated, any of them, after having first declared themselves in favor of our Religion and Institutions, wish to establish themselves in any settlements that are forming, they shall be admitted, and the same quantity of land given them, as to the settlers spoken of in the 14th and 15th articles…"

"Art. 25. Until six years after the publication of this law, the legislature of this state, cannot alter it as regards the acknowledgement, and price to be paid or land, or as regards the quantity and quality, to be distributed to the new settlers, or sold to Mexicans. "

"Art. 26. The new settlers, who within six years from the date of the possession, have not cultivated or occupied the lands granted them… shall be considered to have renounced them…"

"Art. 30. The new settler, who wishing to establish himself in a foreign country, resolves to leave the territory of the state, can do so freely, with all his property; but after leaving the state, he shall not any longer hold his land … it shall become entirely vacant."

"Art. 32. During the first ten years, counting from the day on which the new settlements may have been established, they shall be free from all contributions, … new settlers, shall be free from excise duty, Alcabala "(sales tax)", or other duties, throughout every part of the state, … after the termination of that time, the new settlements shall be on the same footing as to taxes with the old ones, and the colonists shall also in this particular, be on the same footing with the other inhabitants of the state. "

"Art. 33. From the day of their settlement, the new colonists shall be at liberty to follow any branch of industry, and can also work mines of every description…."

"Art. 46. The new settlers as regards the introduction of slaves shall subject themselves to the existing laws, and those which may hereafter be established on the subject."

Note on Article 46: Slavery had been abolished in the Republic of Mexico in 1829.

This is a transcription of some of the articles in the primary source document, Coahuila y Tejas Colonization Law of 1825. All articles are numbered. The language is the original version.

Law of Colonization For the State of Coahuila y Tejas

"Article 1. All Foreigners, who in virtue of the general law, of the 18th August, 1824, … wish to remove to any of the settlements of the state of Coahuila and Texas, are at liberty to do so; and the said State invites and calls them."

"Art. 2. Those who do so … shall be admitted by the local authorities of said settlements, who shall freely permit them to pursue any branch, of industry that they may think proper, provided they respect the general laws of the nation, and those of the state."

"Art. 3. Any foreigner, already in the limits of the state of Coahuila and Texas who wishes to settle himself in it, shall make a declaration to that effect, before the Ayuntamiento of the place, which he selects as his residence; the Ayuntamiento in such case, shall administer to him the oath which he must take to obey the federal and state constitutions, and to observe the religion which the former prescribes; the name of the person, and his family if he has any, shall then be registered in a book kept for that purpose, with a statement of where he was born, and whence from, his age, whether married, occupation, and that he has taken the oath prescribed, and considering him from that time and not before, as domiciled."

"Art. 4. From the day in which any foreigner has been enrolled, as an inhabitant … he is at liberty to designate any vacant land, and the respective political authority will grant it to him …, as to a native of the country, in conformity with the existing laws of the nation… ."

"Art. 5. Foreigners of any nation, or a native of any of the Mexican states, … who present themselves for admission, must prove their Christianity, morality and good habits, by a certificate from the authorities where they formerly resided."

"Article 8. The projects for new settlements in which one or more persons offer to bring at their expertise, one hundred or more families, shall be presented to the government, and if found comformable with this law, they will be admitted; and the government will immediately designate to the contractors, the land where they are to establish themselves, and the term of six years, within which, they must present the number of families they contracted for, under the penalty of losing the rights and privileges offered in their favor, in proportion to the number of families which they fail to introduce, and the contract totally annulled if they do not bring at least one hundred families."

"Art. 9. Contracts made by the contractors or undertakers, Empresarios, with the families brought at their expense, are guaranteed by this law, so far as they are comformable with its provisions."

"Art. 10. In the distribution of lands, a preference shall be given to the Military entitled to them, by the diplomas issued by the supreme executive power, and to Mexican citizens who are not Military, among whom there shall be no other distinction, than that founded on their individual merit, or services performed for the country, or in equal circumstances, a residence in the place where the land may be situated; the quantity of land which may be granted, is designated in the following articles."

"Art. 11. A square of land, which on each side has one league or five thousand varas, or what is the same thing, a superficies of twenty-five million varas, shall be called a sitio, and this shall be the unity for counting one, two, or more sitios; and also the unity for counting one two or more labors, shall be one million square varas, or one thousand varas on each side, which shall compose a labor. The vara for this measurement shall be three geometrical feet."

"Art. 14. To each family comprehended in a contract, whose sole occupation is cultivation of land, one labor shall be given; should he also be a stock raiser, grazing land shall be added to complete a sitio, and should his only occupation be raising of stock, he shall only receive a superficies of grazing land, equal to twenty-four million square bars."

"Art. 15. Unmarried men shall receive the same quantity when they enter the matrimonial state, and for foreigners who marry native Mexicans, shall receive one fourth more; those that are entirely single, or who do not form a part of some family whether foreigners or natives, shall content themselves with the fourth part of the above mentioned quantity, which is all that can be given them until they marry."

"Art. 18. The families who emigrate in conformity with the 16th article shall immediately present themselves to the political authority of the place which they may have chosen for their residence, who, finding in them the requisites, prescribed by this law for new settlers, shall admit them, and put them in possession of the corresponding lands, and shall immediately give an account thereof to the government; who of themselves, or by means of a person commissioned to that effect, will issue them a title."

"Art. 19. The Indians of all nations, bordering on the state, as well as wandering tribes that may be within its limits, shall be received in the markets, without paying any duties whatever for commerce, in the products of the country; and if attracted by the moderation and confidence, with which they shall be treated, any of them, after having first declared themselves in favor of our Religion and Institutions, wish to establish themselves in any settlements that are forming, they shall be admitted, and the same quantity of land given them, as to the settlers spoken of in the 14th and 15th articles, always preferring native Indians to strangers."

"Art. 21. If by error in the concession, any land shall be granted, belonging to another, on proof being made of that fact, an equal quantity shall be granted elsewhere, to the person who may have thus obtained it through error, and he shall be indemnified by the owner of such land, for any improvements he may have made; the just value of which improvements, shall be ascertained by appraisers."

"Art. 25. Until six years after the publication of this law, the legislature of this state, cannot alter it as regards the acknowledgement, and price to be paid or land, or as regards the quantity and quality, to be distributed to the new settlers, or sold to Mexicans."

"Art. 26. The new settlers, who within six years from the date of the possession, have not cultivated or occupied the lands granted them, according to its quality, shall be considered to have renounced them, and the respective political authority, shall immediately proceed to take possession of them, and recall the titles."

"Art. 30. The new settler, who wishing to establish himself in a foreign country, resolves to leave the territory of the state, can do so freely, with all his property; but after leaving the state, he shall not any longer hold his land, and if he had not previously sold it, or the sale should not be in conformity with the 27th article, it shall become entirely vacant."

"Art. 32. During the first ten years, counting from the day on which the new settlements may have been established, they shall be free from all contributions, of whatever denomination, with the exception of those which, in case of invasion by an enemy, or to prevent it, are generally imposed, and the produce of agriculture or industry of the new settlers, shall be free from excise duty, Alcabala" (sales tax)", or other duties, throughout every part of the state, with the exception of the duties referred to in the next article; after the termination of that time, the new settlements shall be on the same footing as to taxes with the old ones, and the colonists shall also in this particular, be on the same footing with the other inhabitants of the state."

"Art. 33. From the day of their settlement, the new colonists shall be at liberty to follow any branch of industry, and can also work mines of every description, communicating with the supreme government of the confederation, relative to the general revenue appertaining to it, and subjecting themselves in all other particulars, to the ordinances or taxes, established or which may be established on this branch."

"Art. 46. The new settlers as regards the introduction of slaves shall subject themselves to the existing laws, and those which may hereafter be established on the subject."

Note on Article 46: Slavery had been abolished in the Republic of Mexico in 1829.