

The pronunciamiento in independent Mexico, 1821-1876

A research project at the University of St Andrews

Acta de Misantla

1 June 1839

Misantla, Veracruz

Content:

Acta celebrada en Misantla, 1 de junio 1839

Reunidos en esta sala consistorial la mayor parte del pueblo en vista del arrebató que ha habido de gente y sabedor que en otros pueblos no se ha perjudicado ninguna persona ha pedido a sus autoridades el cambio de gobierno. Lo que ellos no admitieron y en virtud de esta resistencia procedió a nombrar sus autoridades interinamente y juran sostener y derramar la última gota de su sangre en defensa de los artículos siguientes:

1°. Que se reponga la constitución del año de 1824 poniéndose de acuerdo con el general en jefe del ejército libertador D. José Urrea, mandándoseles una copia de esta acta.

2°. Que igual copia se le expida al supremo gobierno.

Context:

Since September 1837, when the Sonoran-Sinaloan cycle of federalist pronunciamientos began, José Urrea had led and orchestrated a series of follow-up pronunciamientos whilst showing a disposition to fight the government forces that were sent to crush him. Albeit defeated in a number of engagements that took place in the west of the country in the autumn of 1838 he had managed to make it to Tampico in December. There, having joined Longinos Montenegros' pronunciados as well as José Antonio Mejía, who arrived from New Orleans with a batch of foreign troublemakers, Urrea launched the Plan adoptado por el Ejército Libertador of 16 December 1838. What becomes clear is that by January 1839, what had started over a year before as a movement to put pressure on Bustamante to back the restoration of the 1824 Constitution, had become an insurrectionary movement committed to overthrowing Bustamante and his government. With the French blockade of the Atlantic ports of Mexico still in force, Urrea controversially entered into correspondence with Admiral Baudin to work together to bring down Bustamante. He also put into action, on 1 February 1839, a three-pronged stratagem that consisted of sending one army of pronunciados, under Mejía's orders, to take Mexico City, a second army, under his orders, to take over San Luis Potosí, Zacatecas and their neighbouring states, and a third and last force, to be led by Pedro Lemus, to attack Monterrey and Saltillo. The result of such endeavours would prove disastrous for the pronunciados. After a series of minor clashes in San Luis Potosí, Urrea joined forces with Mejía, and was defeated at the battle of Acajete in Puebla on 3 May. Unlike Mejía who was taken prisoner and executed, Urrea managed to escape and return to Tampico. Although he was hoping to regroup there, he discovered on arrival that the port was no longer willing to support him. One community that came out in his support at the time was Misantla as may be seen in this pronunciamiento de adhesión.

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