

# The pronunciamiento in independent Mexico, 1821-1876

A research project at the University of St Andrews

## Pronunciamiento del general José Urrea

22 January 1839

Tampico, Tamaulipas

### Content:

Pronunciamiento del general Urrea que declara nulas las contrataciones del gobierno general en nombre del gobierno federal, dado en Tampico; 22 de enero, 1839

3ª División del Ejército Libertador

Por extraordinario [ilegible] de Tampico a esta división, he recibido la siguiente protesta:

El ciudadano José Urrea, general en jefe del Ejército Libertador. Teniendo en consideración que mientras no se restablezcan los poderes federales, yo que por las circunstancias de haber merecido la confianza de mis conciudadanos para conducirlos a obtener el fin que se proponen de restablecer el sistema federal debo vigilar sus intereses y neutralizar los medios que el gobierno actual de México pongan en acción para hacer la guerra a los federalistas, he creído de mi deber la siguiente protesta a nombre de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos:

Tan luego como la federación se reorganice, someteré al congreso las razones que me obligan a dar este paso, y la soberanía nacional dispondrá aquello que la sabiduría de los representantes del pueblo tengan a bien:

1°. La nación no reconoce ni garantiza el pago de ninguna cantidad o cantidades que con el título de préstamo o bajo cualquiera otra denominación haya contratado o contrate con el gobierno actual de México algún particular, campaña, corporación ni individuo cualquiera que sea con objeto de pagar tropas, hacer alistamientos, proveerse de recursos u otros actos que hayan tenido o que tengan el conocido y exclusivo objeto de sofocar, contrariar o resistir a los ciudadanos pronunciados por el restablecimiento de la federación cuyo sistema han pedido y piden los pueblos.

Dado en el cuartel general del Ejercito Libertador en Tampico el 22 de enero de 1839.

José Urrea

### 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. The pronunciamiento of 22 January was, more than a follow-up pronunciamiento, an expression of a commitment on his part not to pay any debts the government might acquire in attempting to crush the pronunciados once he succeeded in overthrowing Bustamante. 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. However, by then he was forced to accept that the 1837-39 cycle of pronunciamientos he had worked so hard to keep alive was over. His next federalist pronunciamiento would come in July 1840 when, together with Valentín Gómez Farías, he would briefly take over the National Palace in Mexico City with President Bustamante captive inside.  
WF

<https://arts.st-andrews.ac.uk/pronunciamientos/database/index.php?id=160>