

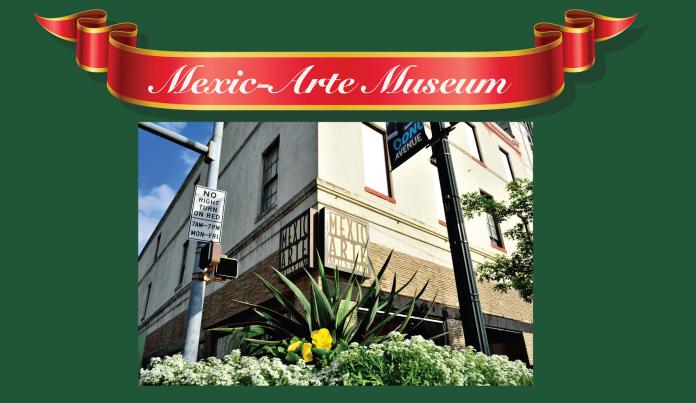
The Battle of Puebla and the legacy of

Cinco de Mayo



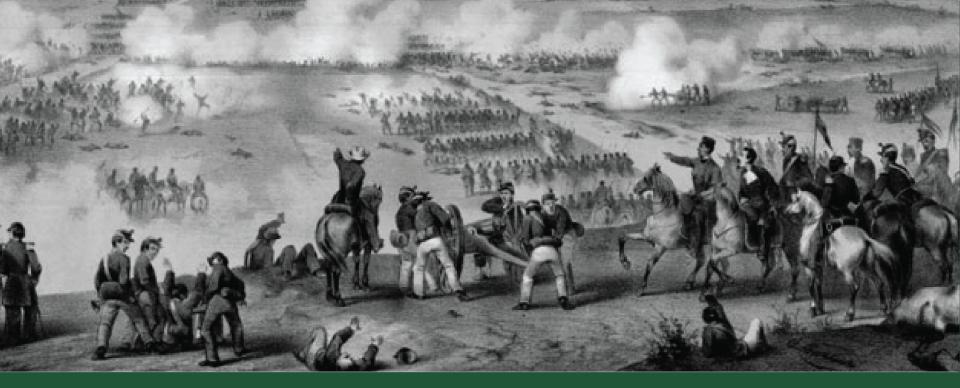






Dedicated to cultural enrichment and education through the collection, preservation, and presentation of traditional and contemporary Mexican, Latino, and Latin American art and culture to promote dialogue and develop understanding for visitors of all ages.







Cinco de Mayo is an annual celebration commemorating the Mexican Army's victory over the French Empire at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862. Although often confused with Mexican Independence Day, Cinco de Mayo celebrates a Mexican victory in battle that thwarted the French invasion for another year.





up to the



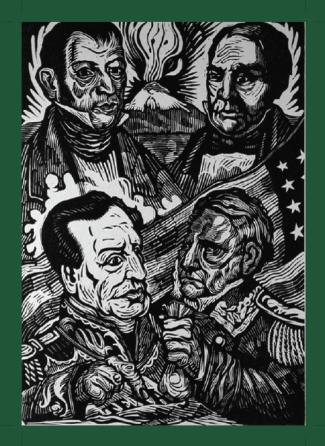




Ángel Bracho, *Grito de Independencia*, 1960 Mexic-Arte Museum Permanent Collection

Some La Guerra de la Independencia 1810–1821

- September 16, 1810, is the Mexican War of Independence Day.
- Celebrates the day Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla made the cry of independence (El Grito de la Independencia) in Dolores, Guanajuato to motivate people to revolt against the Spanish regime.
- Mexico's independence was not actually obtained until September 28, 1821.



Ángel Bracho, *Compraventa de Naciones*, Linocut Mexic-Arte Museum Permanent Collection



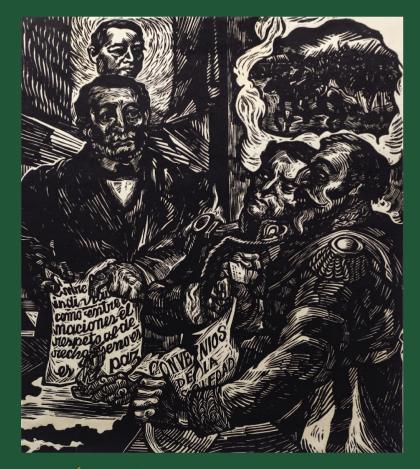
- Wanting to expand its territory in the west, the U.S. initiated the Mexican–American War against Mexico from 1846 to 1848.
- Mexico was politically and militarily unprepared, and the United States was expanding under the idea of "Manifest Destiny" which advocated that the U.S. was destined by God to spread democracy and capitalism throughout North America and later the rest of the Americas.
- After losing the war, Mexico was forced by the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo to sell 54% of its northern territories to the U.S. for \$15 million.
- The U.S. now controlled all or part of present-day Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming. Also, the Rio Grande became the new boundary line between Mexico and Texas.
- Gold was discovered in California just three days before Mexico ceded the territory.



gel Bracho, Estandarte Constitucionalista, Linocut •) **Mexic-Arte Museum Permanent Collection**



- During the Second Federal Republic of Mexico, violent political struggles occured.
- Three-year civil war (War of Reform) between the Liberal Party attempting to implement democracy and members of the Conservative Party resisting the legitimacy of that government and its radical restructuring of Mexican laws known as "La Reforma" (The Reform).
- The Conservatives controlled the capital and much of central Mexico; the rest of the states had to choose whether to side with the government of Benito Juárez and Mexican Army General Ignacio Zaragoza.
 - Conservative forces lost the war, but guerrillas remained active in the countryside for years after.
 - Conservatives in Mexico would conspire with French forces to install Maximilian I as emperor during the following French Intervention in Mexico.
- Mat the end of this war Mexico's army and economy was left depleted.



Mexico's Post-War "Debt" 1861

- The fleeing Conservative officials had emptied the treasury, and they also seized foreigners' property, and taken out loans with foreign banks in Spain, England, and France.
- In December of 1861, the governments of France, Great Britain, and Spain landed with the allies at the port of Veracruz after the convention of London.
- Benito Júarez negotiated with the allies, and the British and Spanish troops began to withdraw from Mexico.
- Napoleon III, however, had decided to conquer Mexico for France and re-establish an Empire in the west while simultaneously stopping American westward expanison.
- Among the motivations of the French was to weaken the United States by supporting the Confederacy with their first class army after gaining a foothold in Mexico.
- In a letter to his superiors, French Army General Lorencez boasted that, "The French soldiers enjoy such racial and organizational superiority over the Mexicans that with my 6,000 men, I will control all of Mexico."

Ángel Bracho, *Convenios de la Soledad*, Linocut Mexic-Arte Museum Permanent Collection

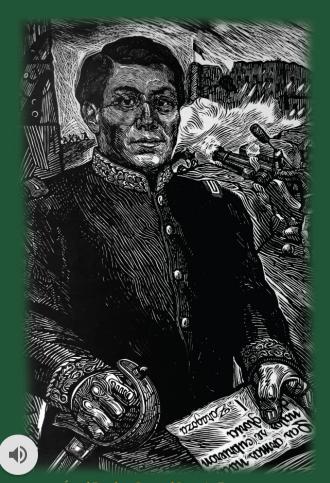




Sarah Jiménez, *Leyes de Reforma.* 1954, Linocut Mexic-Arte Museum Permanent Collection



- Mexican lawyer and president of Mexico of Zapotec origin from Oaxaca.
- He was of poor, rural, indigenous origin, but he became a well-educated, urban professional, and politician.
- Juárez's political rise was a continual struggle to transform his liberal ideas of economic capitalism and separation of church and state into a political reality.
- His domestic Laws of Reform set the stage for Mexico's remarkable modernization in the last quarter of the 19th century.
- His leadership against the French earned Juárez his place as a national hero.



Ángel Bracho, *General Ignacio Zaragoza.* 1960, Linocut Mexic-Arte Museum Permanent Collection



- He had been born into the army, though not into one of the criollo (Mexico-born Spanish) military families, rather his father had been a sergeant in the garrison at Presidio La Bahía del Espíritu Santo; his mother was a San Antonio native.
- Fought in the War of Reform, In 1861, Juárez named him Secretary of War and Navy.
- In preparation for the famous Battle of Puebla, Gen. Zaragoza recruited around 500 Tejano cowboys from the Jim Wells County area of South Texas.
- Texas cemented his memory as an iconic transborder and transnational hero against foreign aggression by establishing the General Zaragoza State Historic Site near Goliad, Texas, in 1976.
- Soon after the Battle of Puebla and before the French had advanced on Mexico City, President Juárez hosted a celebration of Zaragoza as a national hero. The president also declared May 5, 1862, a national holiday and changed the name of Puebla de Los Angeles to Puebla de Zaragoza.









- In 1862, over 6,000 French troops landed at Veracruz intending to capture the capital of Mexico City.
- On May 5th 1862, near the city of Puebla, the outnumbered Mexican Army held their ground defending two forts (Guadalupe and Loreto), resulting in over 500 French deaths and a retreat.
- The Mexican victory at Puebla against a much better equipped and larger French army provided a significant morale boost to the Mexican Army and also helped slow the French Army's advance to Mexico City.
- Some of the first battles to be telegraphed not only domestically in "real time" but even going so far as the United States.
 - Zaragoza's success at the Battle of Puebla represented a great symbolic victory for the Mexican government and bolstered the resistance movement.
 - An important significance of the Battle of Puebla is that up until this point in history there had been no official National Mexican Army.
 - Before battle Gen. Zaragoza told them simply: "Our enemies may be the world's best soldiers, but you are the best sons of Mexico, and they want to seize our country from you. Today, you are going to fight for a sacred objective; you are going to fight for the motherland and I promise that this day we shall triumph in a day of eternal renown. I see victory in your faces. Let us have faith! "*¡Viva la independencia nacional! ¡Viva México!*" The soldiers enthusiastically echoed the call.





Emperor Maximiliano and Empress Carlota 🛛 栏 1829-1862

- The following year the French returned with a much larger army of 40,000.
- Under a new commander, France took Puebla in a three-month siege, and marched unopposed into Mexico City to seat Maximilian on his long-anticipated throne.
- Zaragoza did not live to see it, having died of typhoid four months after the Battle of Puebla.
- Maximilian and his wife Carlota arrived in Mexico, believing that they had the support of the Mexican people, but nationalism in Mexico was running high.
- Maximilian was too liberal for the conservative Mexicans who supported the monarchy, and lost the support of the papal nuncio (the envoy representing the Pope) when he declared freedom of religion.
- 🌭 In the summer of 1867, after heavy American diplomatic and military pressure, Napoleon III brought his last troops home, consigning Maximilian to a Mexican firing squad.



Alberto Beltran, El Pueblo Responde. Linocut Mexic-Arte Museum Permanent Collection



Solution The French Society of Remembrance 1896

- In 1896, under a petition started by the French Society of Remembrance, the bodies of all French and Mexican soldiers who fought in the Battle of Puebla and later during the French Intervention were relocated and buried with honors at the French Cemetery in Puebla City.
- At the top of the mausoleum is a bronze sculpture by a French master, which depicts the Angel of Peace flanked by a French soldier and General Porfirio Diaz shaking hands; the Angel holds an olive branch of peace above the General's head.
- This gift from the French was a symbolic restoration of the bonds of friendship between countries as well as a symbol of healing for the Republic of Mexico



The French Society

of Remembrence

Marcel Desbois, *Monumento a la Paz y Reconciliación Franco-Mexicana.* 1896, bronze statue on French Pantheon (Architect, Auguste Leroy) French Cemetery Puebla City, Puebla



🌑 Cinco De Mayo Celebrations *«*

Within Mexico, Cinco de Mayo is primarily observed in the state of Puebla, where Zaragoza's unlikely victory occurred.



- Traditions include military parades, recreations of the Battle of Puebla, and other festive events.
- In the United States, Cinco de Mayo is widely interpreted as a celebration of Mexican culture and heritage, particularly in areas with substantial Mexican American populations.



- Chicano activists raised awareness of the holiday in the 1960s, in part because they identified with the victory of indigenous Mexicans (such as Juárez) over European invaders during the Battle of Puebla.
- Today, revelers mark the occasion with parades, parties, mariachi music, Mexican folk dancing, and traditional foods such as tacos and mole poblano.







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Puebla City donated a bust and monumental plaque to Zaragoza and recreational center in Austin, Tx.



^a The park was established in 1931 to be a community and social center for Mexican and American people to come together and celebrate "las fiestas patrias."



- In 1996, Austin artist, Fidencio Duran was comissioned to paint murals inside the rec-center depicting Hispanic culture both in Mexico and Texas.
- Duran chose to focus on patriotic Mexican heroes and Ignacio Zaragoza, whom the park is named for is a central image.













EL CINCO DE MAYO DEL 1862

DONACION DEL PUEBLO Y GOBIERNO DEL ESTADO DE PUEBLA, MEXICO, A LA CIUDAD DE AUSTIN, TEXAS, ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMERICA.

CONSULADO GENERAL DE MEXICO AUSTIN, TEXAS 5 DE MAYO DEL 1996

GENERAL IGNACIO ZARAGOZA 1829 - 1862

HERO OF THE BATTLE OF PUEBLA MAY 5, 1882

DONATION FROM THE PEOPLE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF PUEBLA, MEXICO, TO THE CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

CONSULATE GENERAL OF MEXICO AUSTIN, TEXAS MAY 5, 1996





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Any Questions?

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Thank You to our Generous Sponsors









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