The Texas Revolution and the American Revolution

Directions: Use the following reading passage and video clip to create a venn diagram comparing and contrasting the Texas Revolution to the American Revolution.

Many Anglo Texians were the children or grandchildren of patriots who had fought in the American Revolution. Now they, too, took up arms against their rulers. In 1775, Americans had rebelled against a distant ruler in Great Britain. Now, Texians were rebelling against control by faraway rulers - this time in Mexico City.

Comparing Revolutions: Many of the issues that led to the Texas and American Revolutions were the same. For example, Great Britain left its colonies alone at first. The developed on their own. Then Britain became concerned about losing control over its colonies and cracked down. The British enforced old tax laws and passed new ones. The colonists resented these changes.

The situation was similar in Texas. Unrest at home led Mexican leaders to enforce old ignored laws and pass new ones. Texians reacted to Mexico’s policies in the same way that American colonists had reacted to British measures.

The goals of both groups of colonists changed as time passed. The American Revolution grew out of the colonists’ wish for more self-government. Only after Britain cracked down on the colonies did the revolt become a fight for independence. Ben then, some colonists continued to support Britain. Others just wanted peace.

The Texas Revolution followed much of the same pattern. While some Texas colonists called for war, others opposed it. At first, even those who favored war did not know exactly what they were fighting for. Were Texians fighting for a separate state within Mexico or independence?

Both the American colonists and the Texians fought against unjust rulers. In the American Revolution, the colonists saw King George III as an autocrat (dictator). He denied the colonists the rights of people in Great Britain. Texians saw Santa Anna in the same way. He ignored the Mexican Constitution of 1824. This denied Texas settlers the rights they believed they deserved.

Those who took part in the American Revolution and the Texas Revolution were patriots. Each group fought to protect their way of life. This helped them to defeat larger armies of trained soldiers who did not have a personal stake in the outcome of the war. In each revolution, acts of great bravery and great cruelty took place on both sides.

Contrasting Revolutions: The two revolutions differed. For example, the American Revolution lasted six years. The American patriots fought many battles before the defeated the British. In contrast, the fighting in Texas lasted just seven months and few battles took place.

Another important difference between the two revolutions involves culture. In the American Revolution, both sides had the same basic British culture. In the Texas Revolution, the cultures of the two sides were different. Most (but not all) of the rebels were Anglos. Their foes were Mexican. Neither side really understood the other.

Although Tejanos shared Mexico’s culture, some Tejanos, such as Juan Seguin, opposed Centralists. Others realized that the Anglos outnumbered them, but did not want to leave their homes. Instead, they joined the fight.

Anglo settlers were used to the liberties enjoyed by Americans. Mexico did not guarantee those same liberties to its people. That is why Anglos refused to follow Mexican rule. In the American Revolution, however, the patriots rebelled in part because they wanted the same liberties that British citizens enjoyed.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IJmN1B9ncmY