

Answers Chapter 10

Sam Houston's Republic

1. slavery
2. slave
3. because otherwise he would look stupid
4. Houston
5. because of his convictions in relation to the rule of law (obedience to gov't)
6. health/ to preach the gospel
7. because then there would be no leverage to cause the Mexican gov't to ratify the treaty
8. Secretary of State
9. north or northwest
10. once the promise had been made(in the treaty of Velasco), Houston believed it was right (the principle of the rule of law or just good faith)
11. Stephen F. Austin
12. to appoint a charge d'affairs to Texas (recognition)

Discussion/Essay:

1. Texas was important to Jackson, but the Union was more important. The annexation of Texas might cause the Union to break in two over the issue of slavery/states' rights. So Jackson moved slowly, hoping for compromise along the way. He saw the strategic importance of Texas and the West, wanting to prevent another major power from obtaining an influence there, and he knew that others saw that too.
2. Sam Houston used every opportunity to bolster the principle of the rule of law in the minds of Texans, some of whom were governed by expediency, adventure, or the spoils of war. Houston took office according to the Constitution of Texas, not because of the sword he wore. As President, his authority derived solely from the law, not from the sword (force). This can be contrasted to the dictatorship of Santa Anna, which at times presented a superficial appearance of legitimacy but which was ultimately supported by the sword.

3. Sam Houston was a strong leader in a situation where men were very independent, self-reliant, and often ambitious. He stood for certain principles and preserved a reputation for being an honorable man. In this kind of situation, ambitious or envious men might easily be tempted to find fault -- either out of jealousy, or to bolster their own power and influence. And Houston had enough faults (drinking, swearing) for people to "pick on" if they wanted to tear him down. Also, the sudden victory at San Jacinto put some men in a difficult position if they had opposed Houston's decisions. It is very clear that most enmity was rooted in envy, since many of the criticisms contain statements like, "He got too much credit" for the successes he had.

4. Santa Anna was in danger in Texas, and Houston was committed to upholding the agreements made by Burnet and his government with the dictator, which included the promise to send him home. Ostensibly, Santa Anna was sent to Washington, D.C. for diplomatic purposes, but the real reason was just so Jackson could get him on a boat and send him home.

5. Houston sent orders to San Antonio to furlough the army (except for 600 men). He included the instructions to be ready to work when they came back, since there were numerous public works that needed to be accomplished. This had the effect of causing many of the "adventurers" from the states to pack up and leave Texas altogether. Houston was disgusted when he realized that the rug had been pulled out from under his feet -- his army was dissolving. So he left for New Orleans.