

STEPPING TOWARD INDEPENDENCE

Learning Objectives: Students will

1. Understand the grievances felt by the Texas colonists towards the Mexican government.
2. Identify the correct paraphrase of the grievances listed in the Texas Declaration of Independence.

TEKS: 4.3A; 7.3

Materials: Copy the set of boot cards you have one set per pair of students; Score Card of Grievances; Texas Declaration of Independence, legal size paper, markers or crayons

Vocabulary: amenable: answerable, habituated, acquiesced, privations, incarcerated, zealous, endeavor, enthusiastic efforts, procure, palladium, axiom, arbitrary, defiance, confiscation, dictates, temporal, functionaries, formidable.

Teaching Strategy:

1. Copy enough boot card sets so that every pair of students will have a set. Cut the set of cards apart on the dotted line so you have one set of the actual list of grievances from the Texas Declaration of Independence and one set of boots with the paraphrased summary form. Provide a dictionary for students to use for difficult vocabulary words.
2. Introduce lesson by recounting the circumstances under which the Texas Declaration of Independence was written.
3. Compare format of the Texas Declaration of Independence with that of the United States Declaration of Independence. Summarize the rationale the colonists felt for declaring their independence from Mexico.
4. Distribute one set of boots that have the actual list of grievances from the Texas Declaration of Independence and one set of boots with the paraphrased summary form to each pair of students. Have the students match the actual grievance boots with its paraphrased counterpart.
5. After each group has completed the task, check their answers and have them try again for those who mismatch the boot cards. If the group has matched all of the boots correctly, then assign the group one of the grievances to illustrate on legal size paper. The grievance itself should be written on the back of the illustration.

6. When each group has completed their illustrated grievance, have them post the illustration along with a score sheet along the wall. Ask the students to review illustrations and have them mark on the score sheet which grievance is being illustrated. After everyone has voted, have each pair of students explain their illustration to the whole class. Ask the students if the score sheet reflects correctly what their illustration represents.
7. Conclude class discussion with the following questions:
 - Which of the grievances do you consider to be the most serious?
 - Do you think the colonists were looking for an excuse to be independent from Mexico, or would they have wanted to remain under Mexican rule if conditions had been different? Support your opinion.



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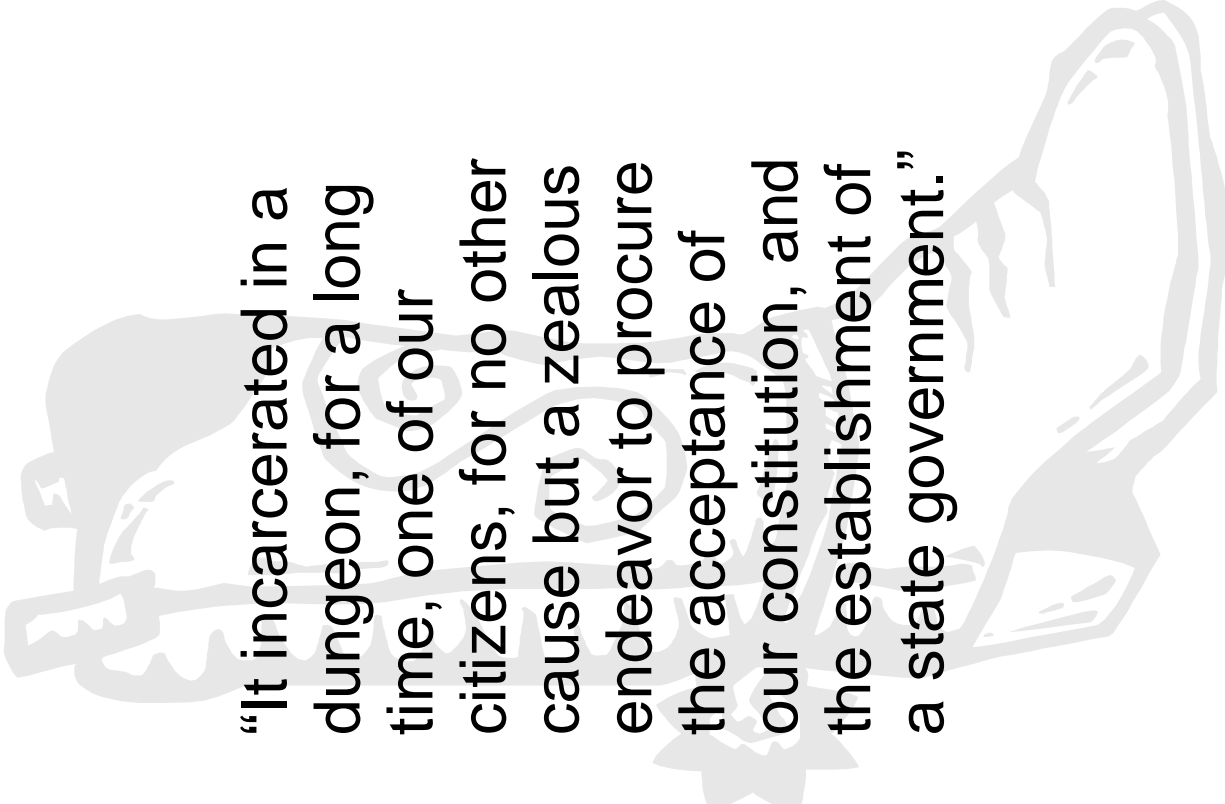
SCORE CARD

SUMMARY OF GRIEVANCES

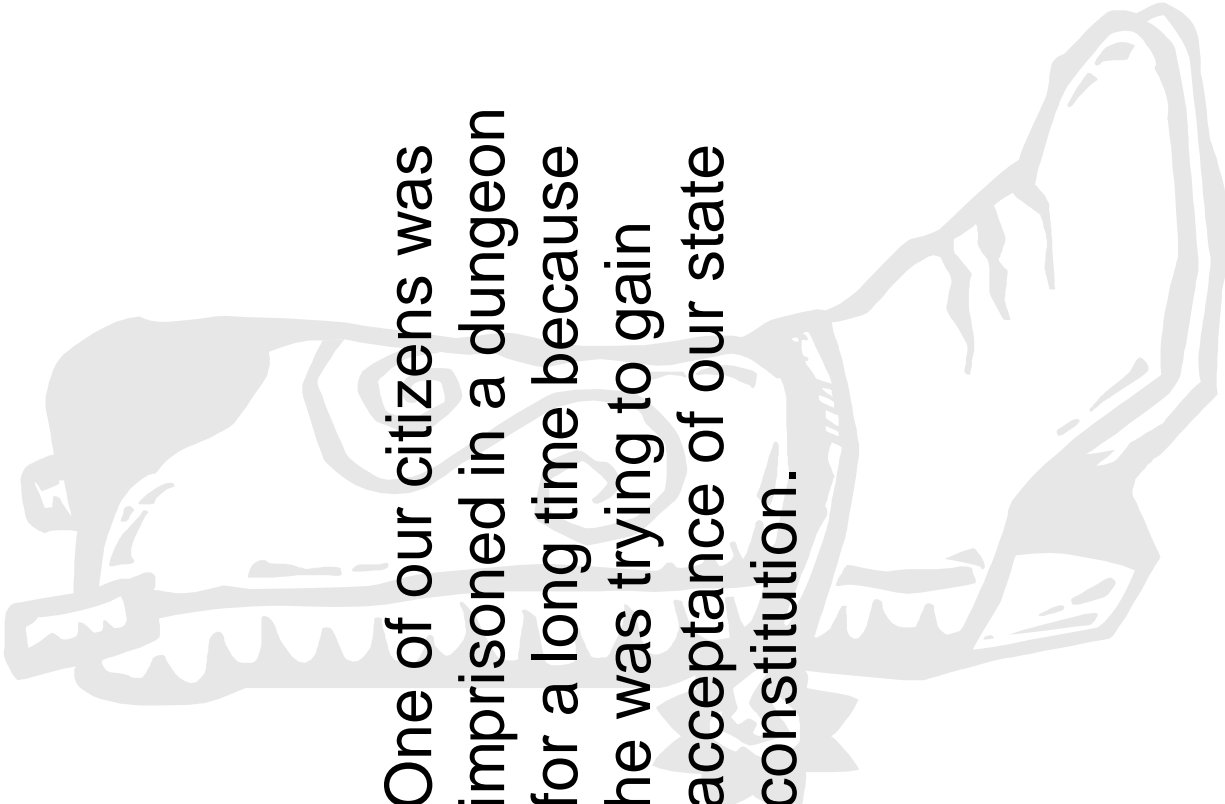
TEXAS DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Make a ✓ mark in the blank beside the grievance you think this illustration represents.

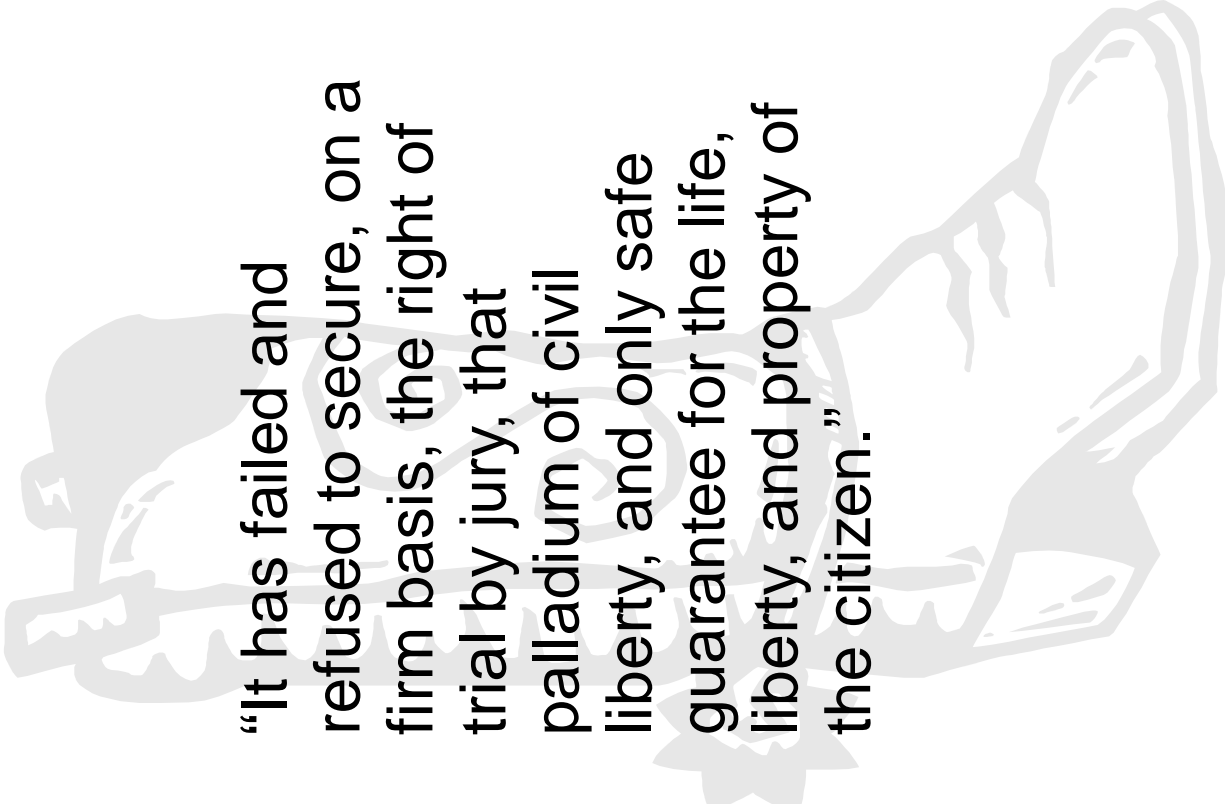
- 1. One of our citizens was imprisoned in a dungeon for a long time because he was trying to gain acceptance of our state constitution.
- 2. We have not been allowed the right of trial by jury, which protects the life, liberty, and property of the citizens.
- 3. The Mexican government has failed to establish any public education.
- 4. The soldiers stationed among us have committed acts of oppression and tyranny, making the military more powerful than the government.
- 5. The government has abolished our state legislature and our representatives had to flee. Thus we have no representation.
- 6. A number of our citizens were seized and taken to the interior of Mexico for trial, "in defiance of the laws and the constitution".
- 7. "Foreign desperadoes" were commissioned to attack our ships, confiscating our property.
- 8. We are not allowed to worship the Almighty " according to the dictates of our own conscience " because there is a national religion.
- 9. We are not allowed to own guns, which are essential to our defense.
- 10. Mexico has invaded our country by land and by sea with the intent of destroying our property and driving us from our homes, and now has an army advancing to wage a " war of extermination."
- 11. Mexico has incited (encouraged) the Indians to attack our defenseless frontiers.
- 12. The Mexican government has been involved in many military revolutions, showing that it is weak, corrupt and tyrannical.



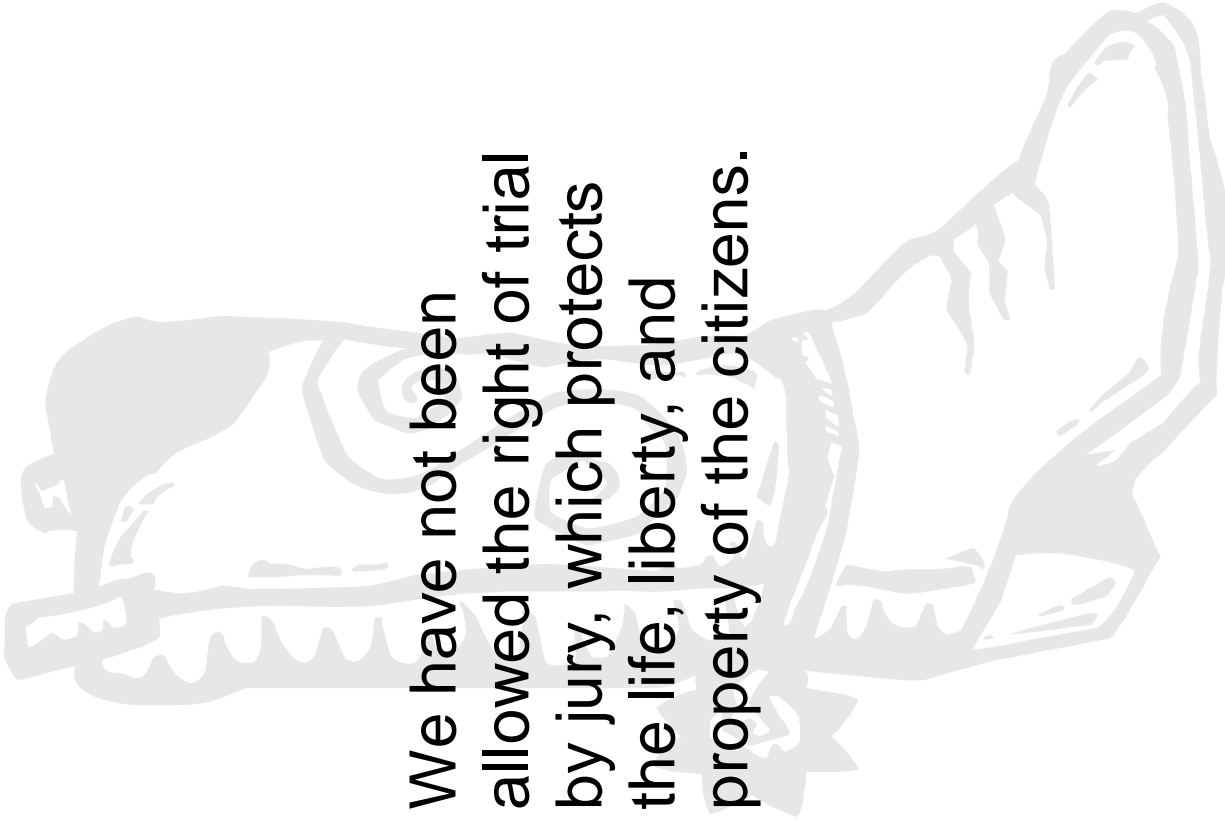
“It incarcerated in a
dungeon, for a long
time, one of our
citizens, for no other
cause but a zealous
endeavor to procure
the acceptance of
our constitution, and
the establishment of
a state government.”



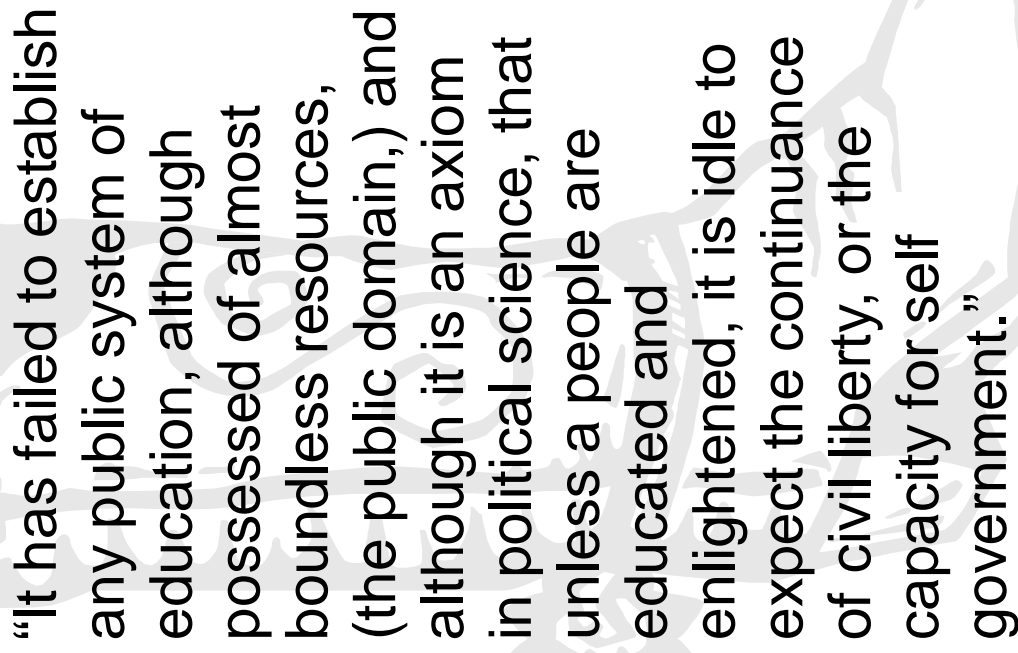
One of our citizens was
imprisoned in a dungeon
for a long time because
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constitution.



“It has failed and refused to secure, on a firm basis, the right of trial by jury, that palladium of civil liberty, and only safe guarantee for the life, liberty, and property of the citizen.”



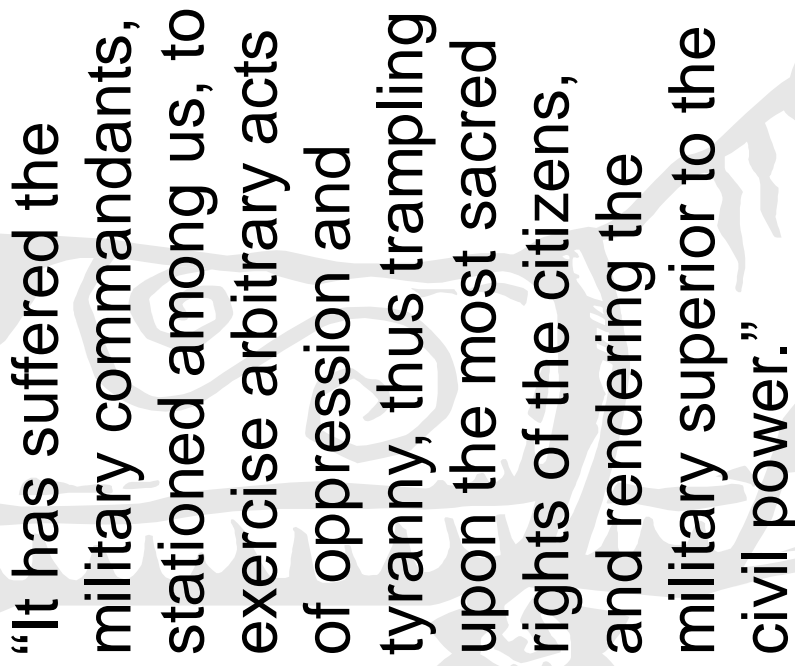
We have not been allowed the right of trial by jury, which protects the life, liberty, and property of the citizens.



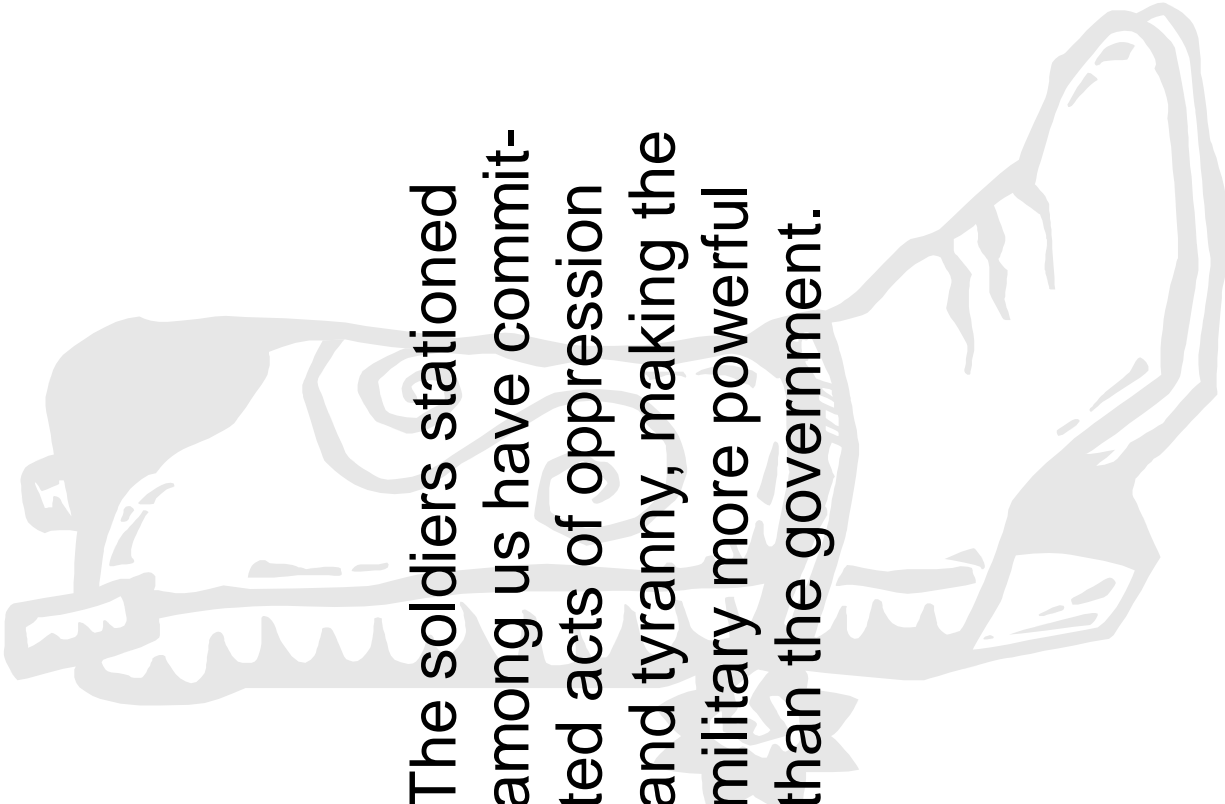
“It has failed to establish any public system of education, although possessed of almost boundless resources, (the public domain,) and although it is an axiom in political science, that unless a people are educated and enlightened, it is idle to expect the continuance of civil liberty, or the capacity for self government.”



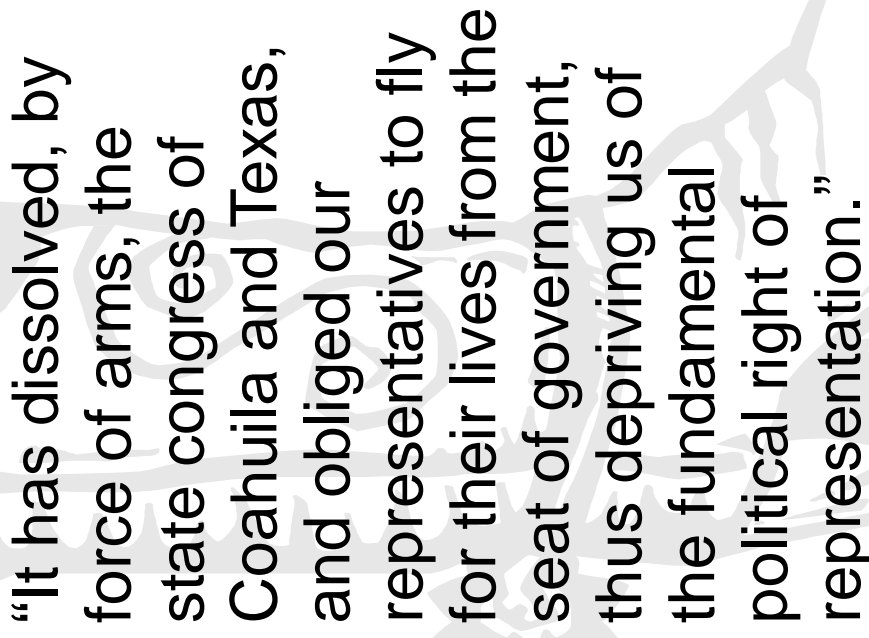
The Mexican government has failed to establish any public education.



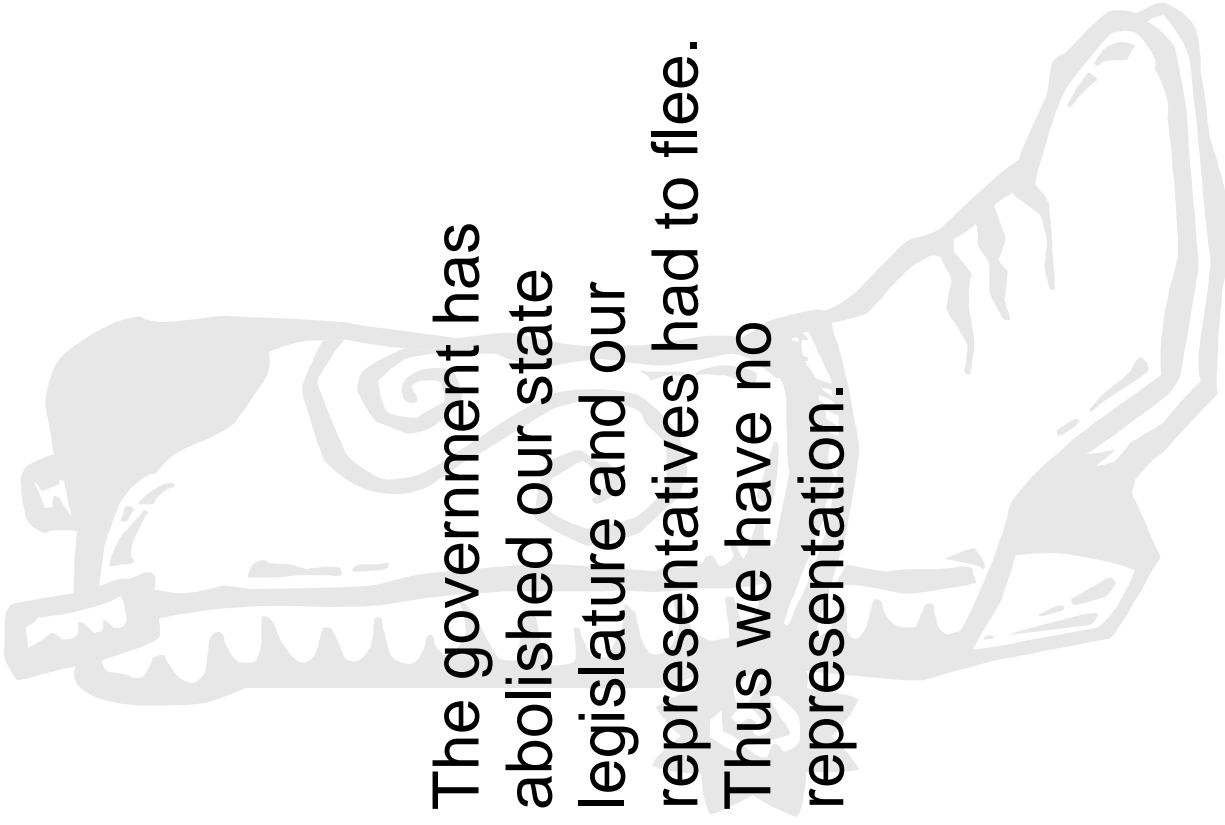
“It has suffered the military commandants, stationed among us, to exercise arbitrary acts of oppression and tyranny, thus trampling upon the most sacred rights of the citizens, and rendering the military superior to the civil power.”



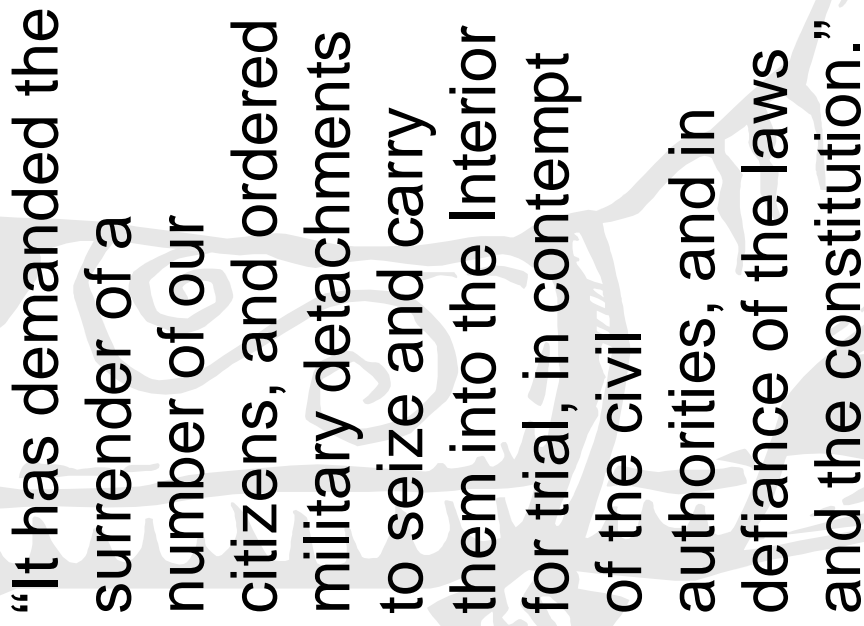
The soldiers stationed among us have committed acts of oppression and tyranny, making the military more powerful than the government.



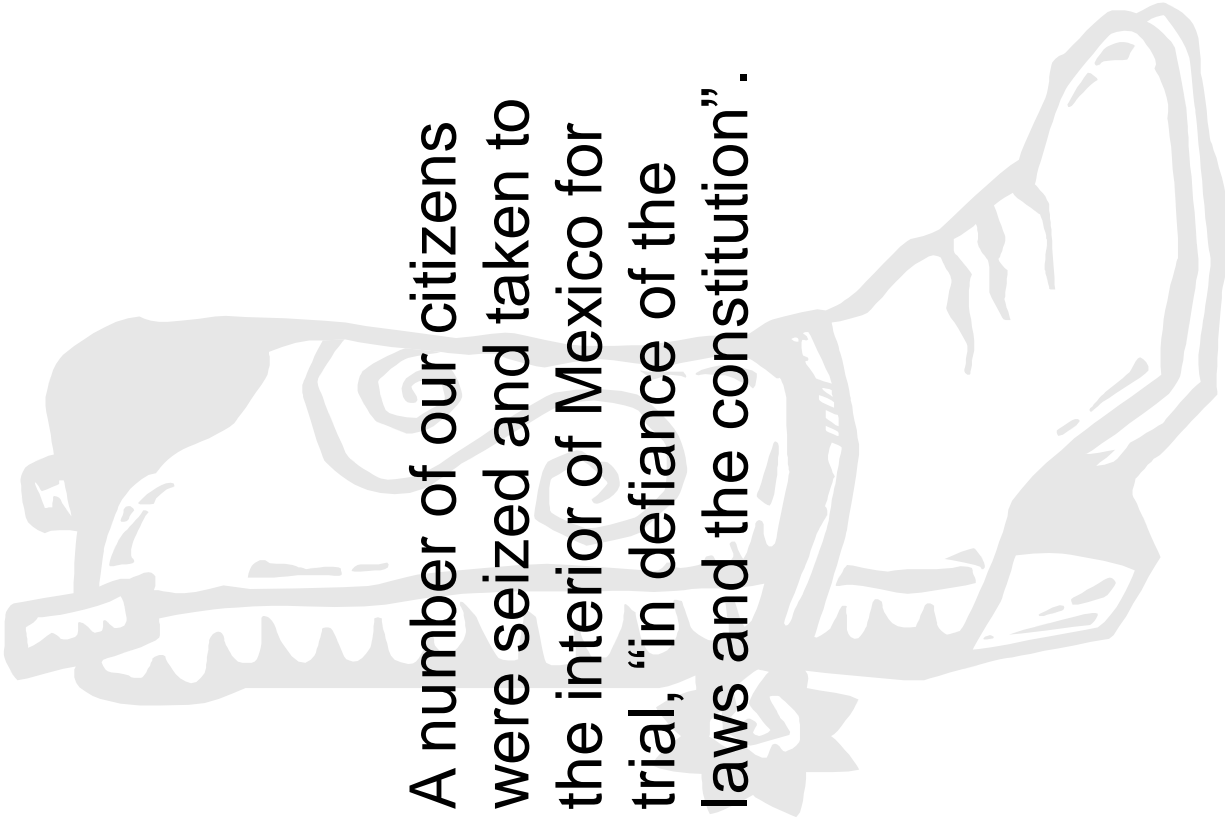
“It has dissolved, by force of arms, the state congress of Coahuila and Texas, and obliged our representatives to fly for their lives from the seat of government, thus depriving us of the fundamental political right of representation.”



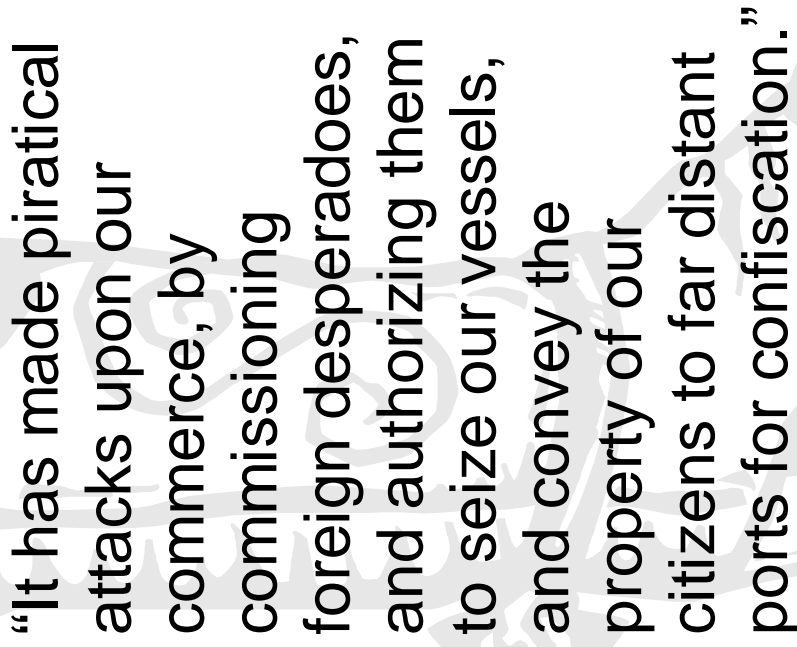
The government has abolished our state legislature and our representatives had to flee. Thus we have no representation.



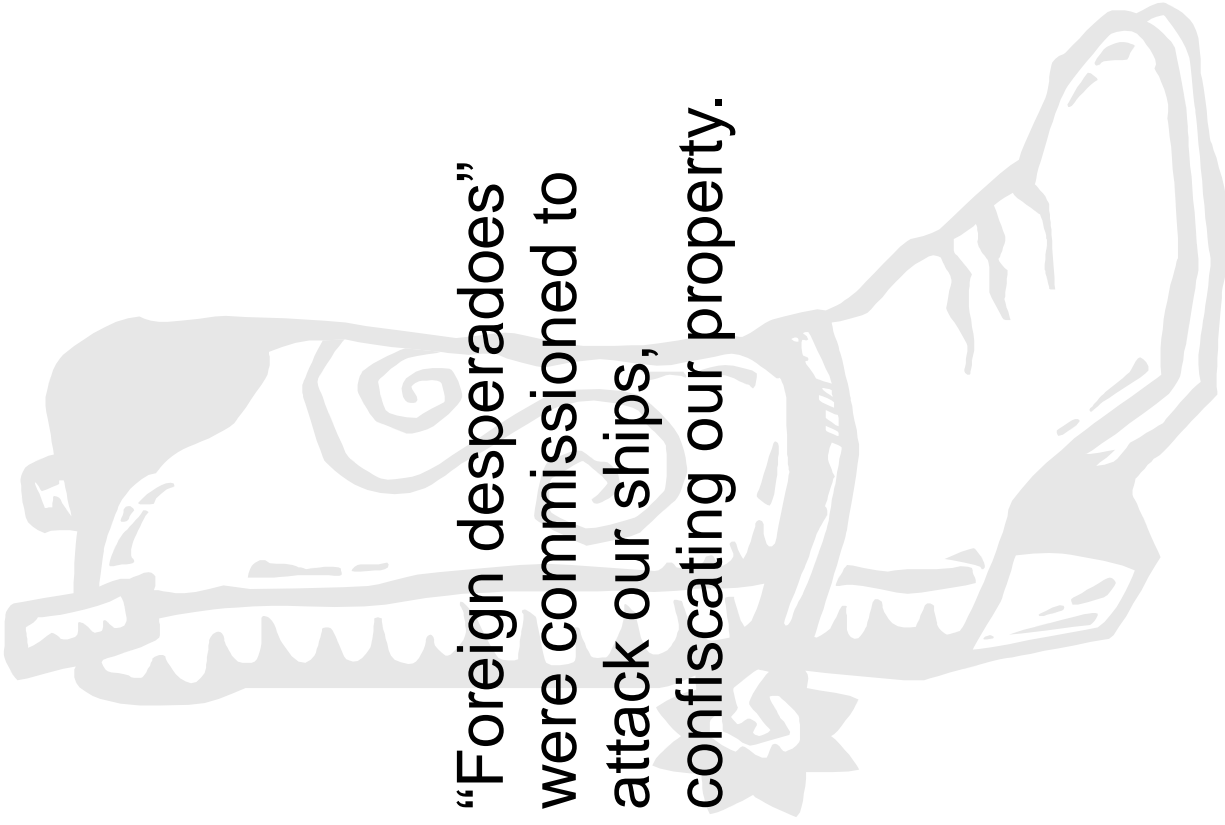
“It has demanded the surrender of a number of our citizens, and ordered military detachments to seize and carry them into the Interior for trial, in contempt of the civil authorities, and in defiance of the laws and the constitution.”



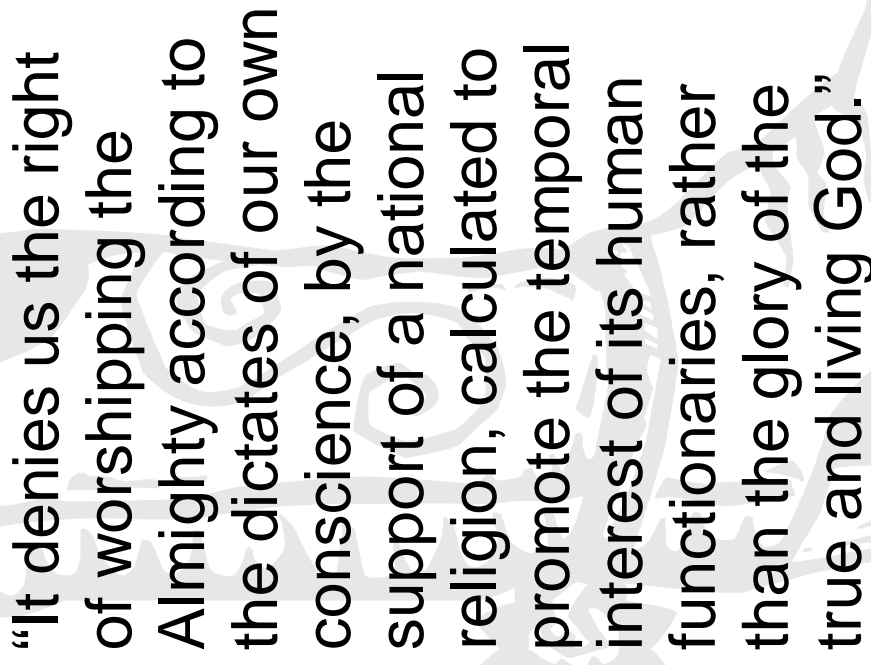
A number of our citizens were seized and taken to the interior of Mexico for trial, “in defiance of the laws and the constitution”.



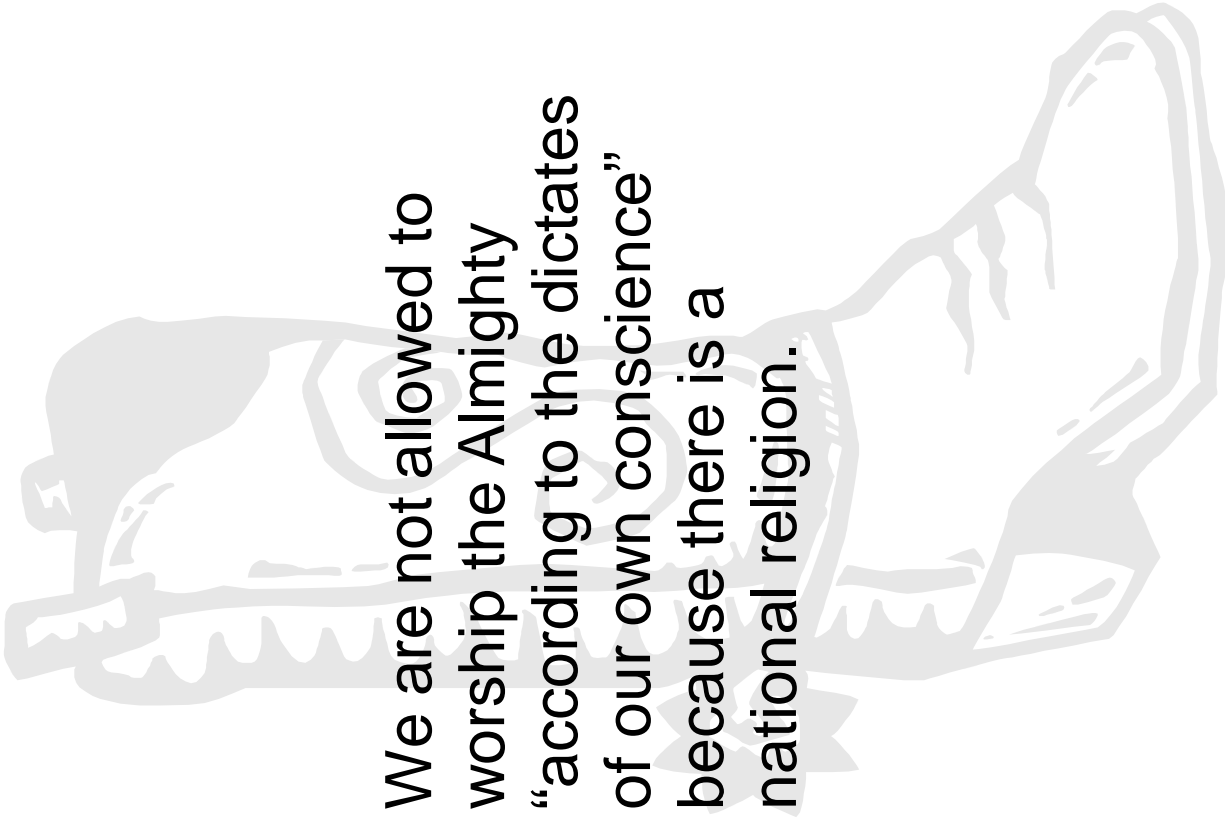
“It has made piratical attacks upon our commerce, by commissioning foreign desperadoes, and authorizing them to seize our vessels, and convey the property of our citizens to far distant ports for confiscation.”



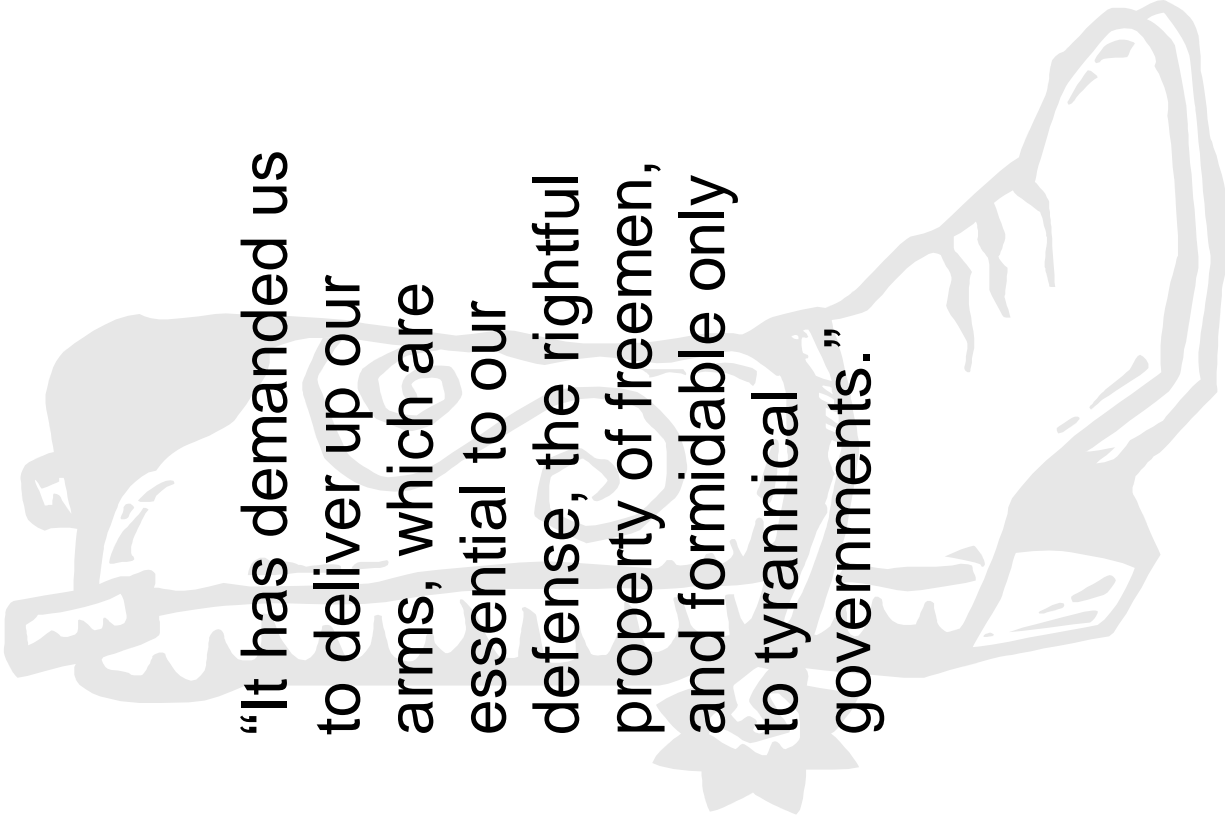
“Foreign desperadoes” were commissioned to attack our ships, confiscating our property.



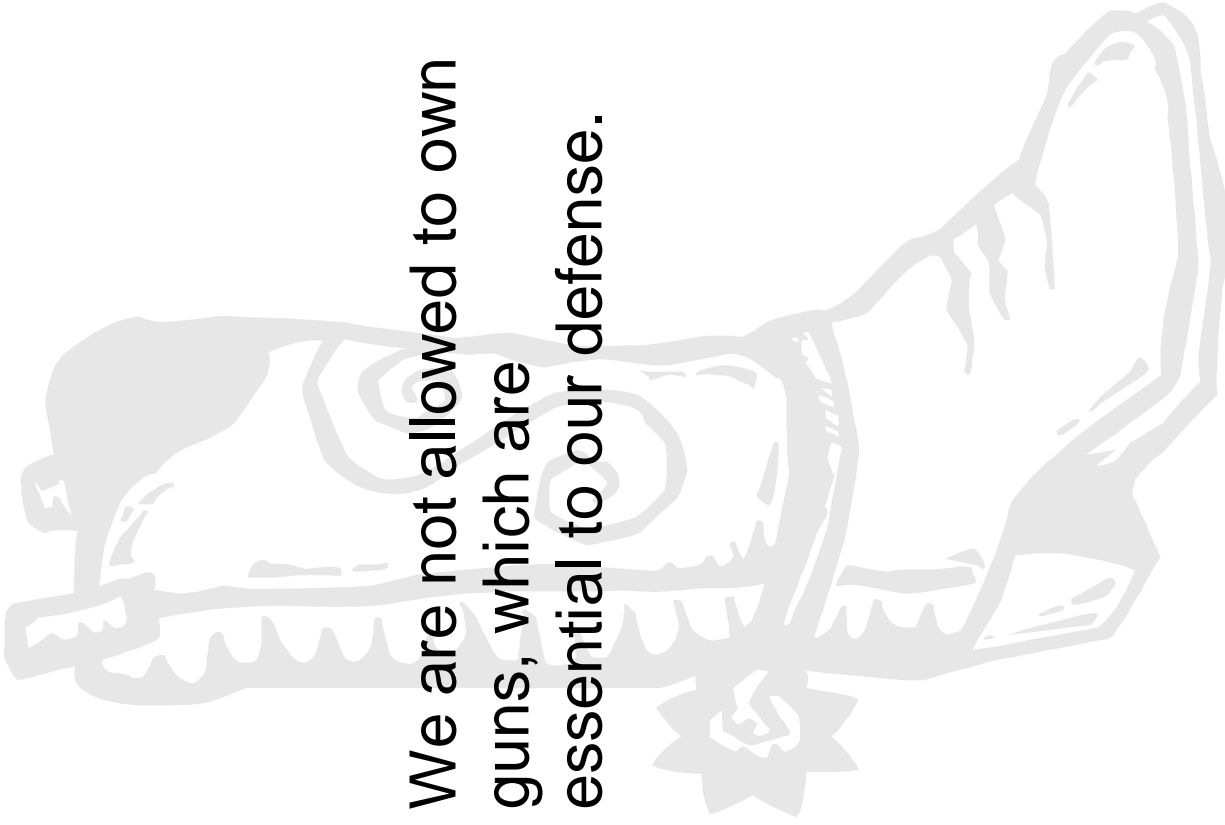
“It denies us the right of worshipping the Almighty according to the dictates of our own conscience, by the support of a national religion, calculated to promote the temporal interest of its human functionaries, rather than the glory of the true and living God.”



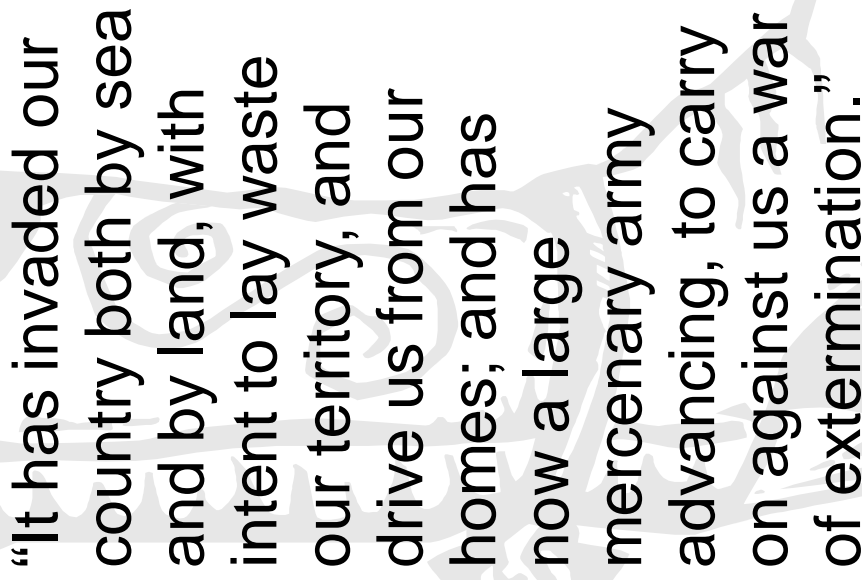
We are not allowed to worship the Almighty “according to the dictates of our own conscience” because there is a national religion.



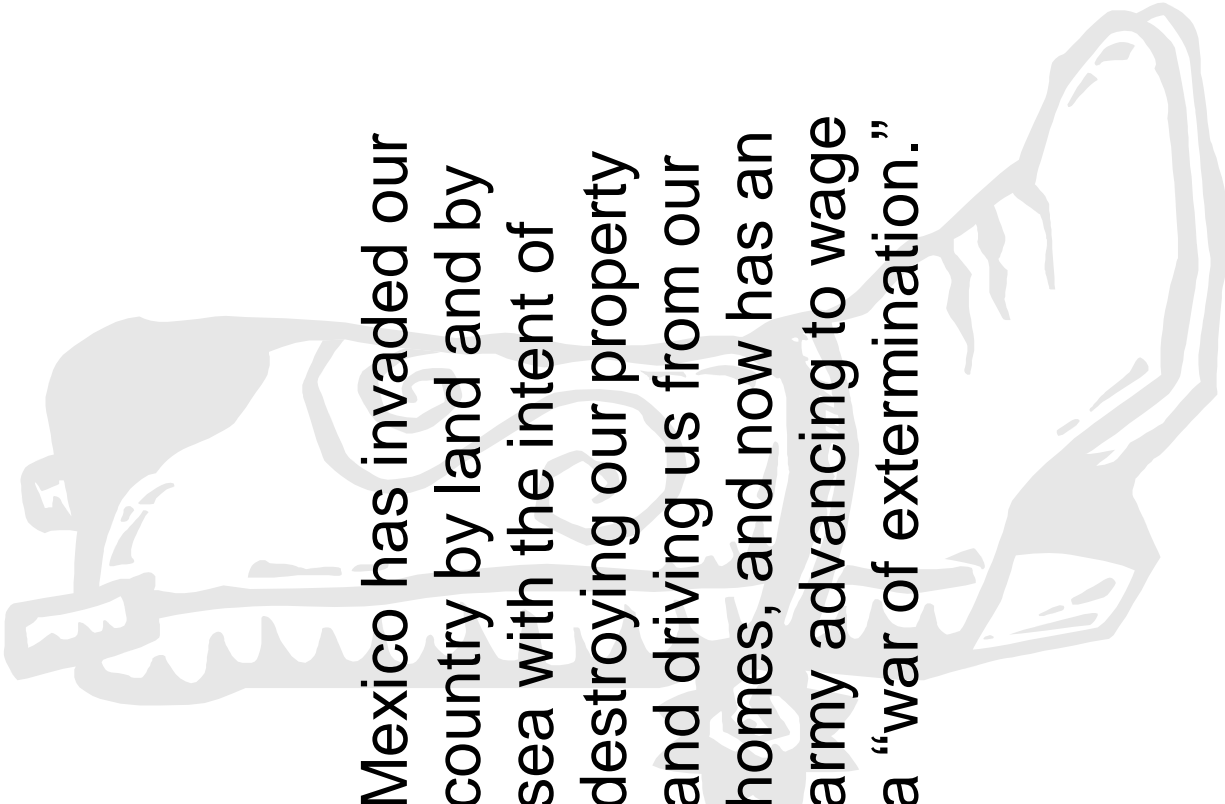
“It has demanded us to deliver up our arms, which are essential to our defense, the rightful property of freemen, and formidable only to tyrannical governments.”



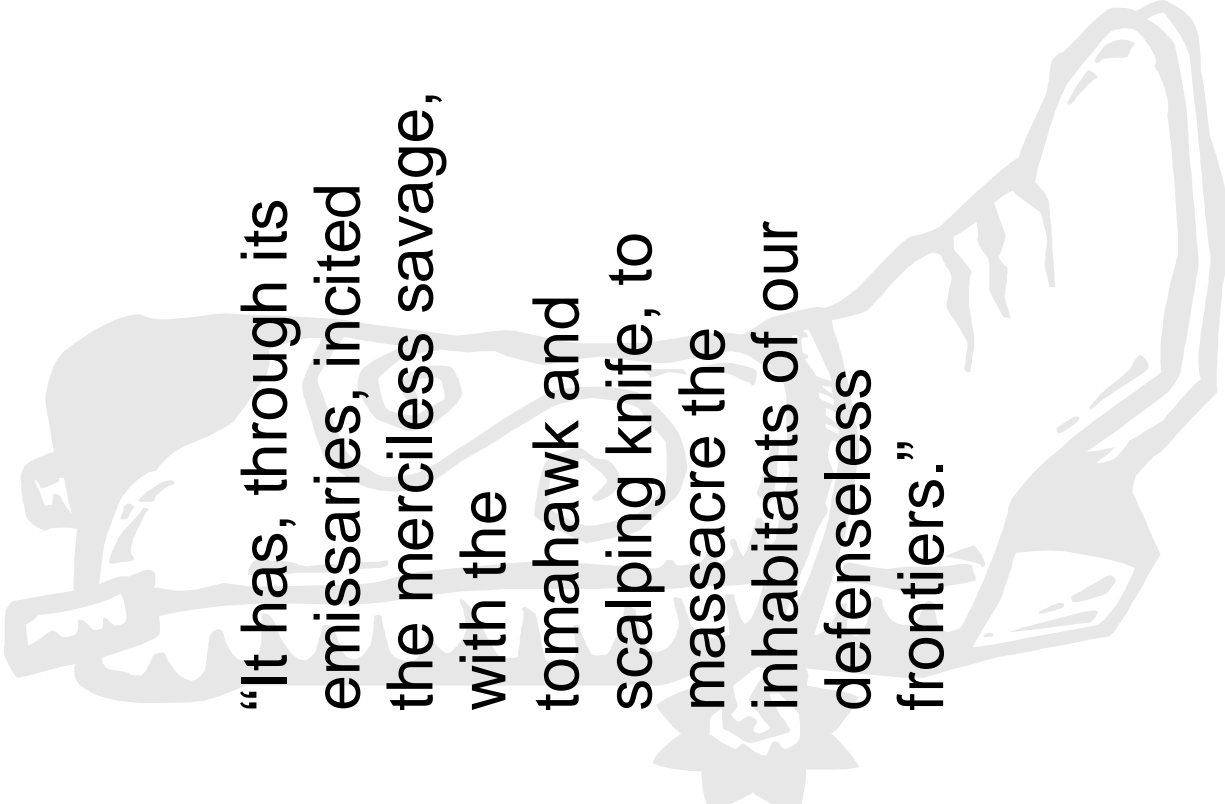
We are not allowed to own guns, which are essential to our defense.



“It has invaded our country both by sea and by land, with intent to lay waste our territory, and drive us from our homes; and has now a large mercenary army advancing, to carry on against us a war of extermination.”



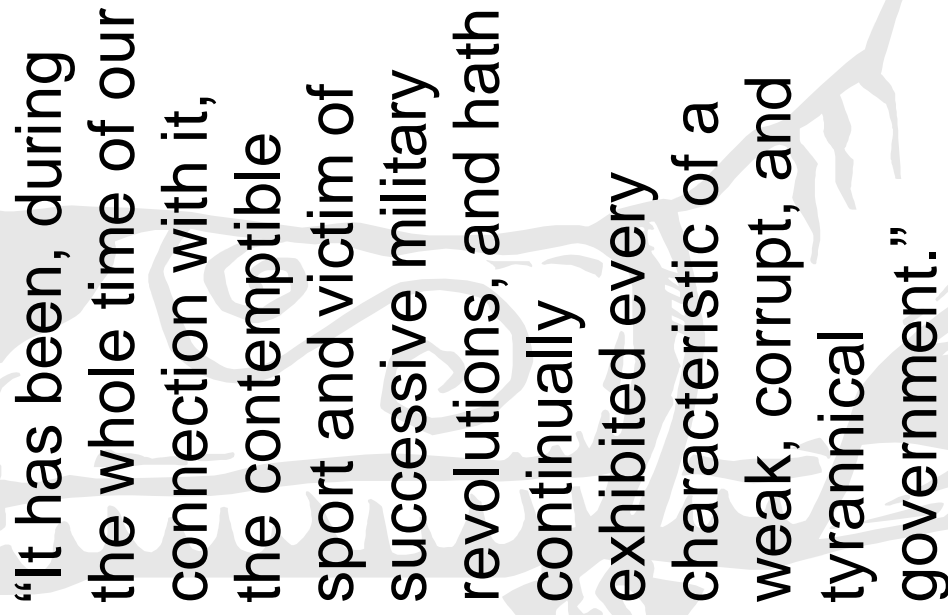
Mexico has invaded our country by land and by sea with the intent of destroying our property and driving us from our homes, and now has an army advancing to wage a “war of extermination.”



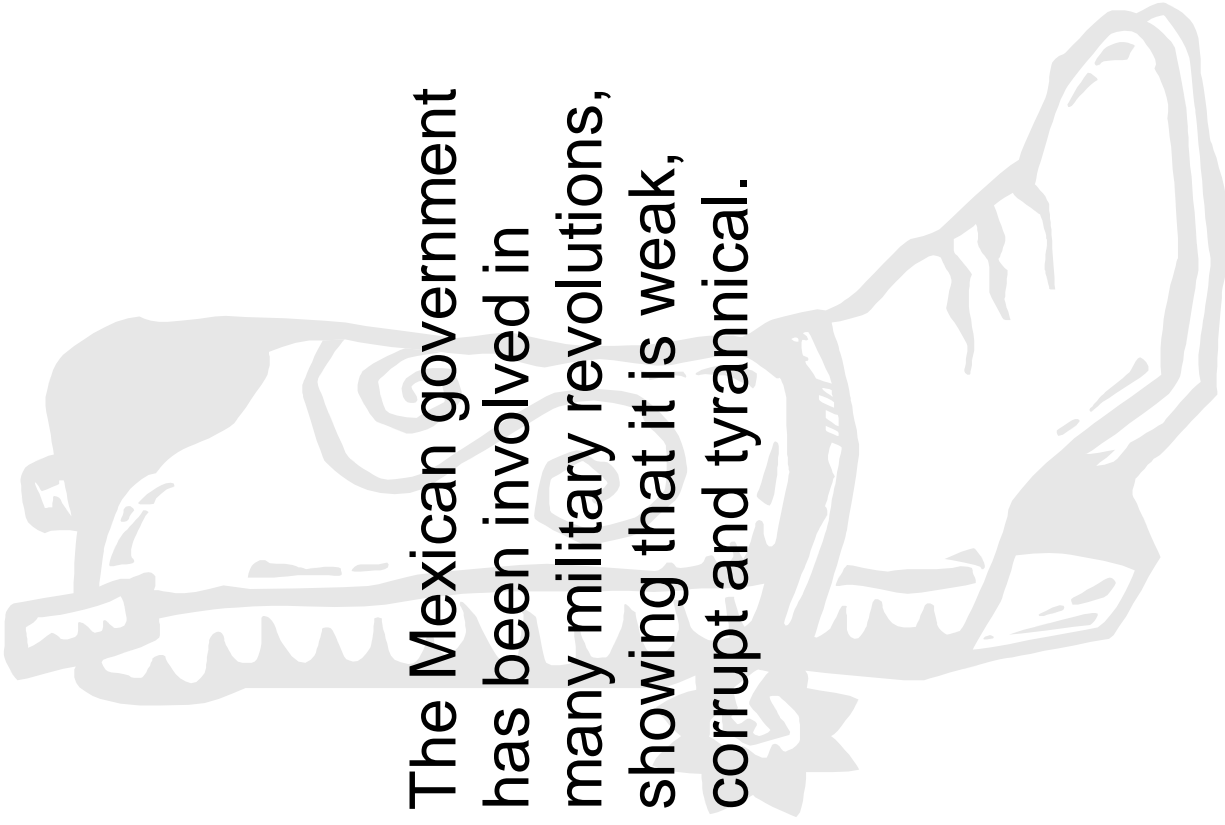
“It has, through its emissaries, incited the merciless savage, with the tomahawk and scalping knife, to massacre the inhabitants of our defenseless frontiers.”



Mexico has incited (encouraged) the Indians to attack our defenseless frontiers.



“It has been, during the whole time of our connection with it, the contemptible sport and victim of successive military revolutions, and hath continually exhibited every characteristic of a weak, corrupt, and tyrannical government.”



The Mexican government has been involved in many military revolutions, showing that it is weak, corrupt and tyrannical.