

## **Early Documents of Mexican Independence**

### **Speech by Miguel Hidalgo to the Town of Dolores, September 16, 1810: the Cry of Dolores**

My friends and compatriots:

There is no longer for us neither the King nor tribute. This shameful tribute that only suits slaves, we have overcome it three centuries ago as a sign of tyranny and servitude; terrible stain that we will know how to wash with our efforts.

The moment of our emancipation arrived; the hour of our freedom has sounded; and if you know their great value, you will help me to defend it from the ambitious grip of tyrants....

I invite you to fulfill this duty. So that without country or freedom we will always be a long way from true happiness.

It has been necessary to take the step that you already know, and to start with something has been necessary.

The cause is holy and God will protect it.....

Live, then, the Virgin of Guadalupe!

Long live America, for which we are going to fight!

### **Declaration of Independence, by the Congress of Chilpancingo (1813)**

The Congress of Anahuac, legitimately installed in the city of Chilpancingo of North America, by its provinces, solemnly declares, in the presence of the Lord God, moderator of empires and author of the society, who gives and removes them according to the inscrutable designs of his providence, which by the present circumstances of Europe has regained the exercise of its sovereignty, usurped; which, in such a concept, is broken for ever and dissolved dependence on the Spanish throne; Who is the arbiter to establish the laws that are suitable for the best arrangement and interior happiness, to make war and peace, and to establish alliances with the monarchs and republics of the old continent, no less than to conclude concordats with the Roman pontiff for the Regime of the Catholic Church, Apostolic, Roman, and to send ambassadors and consuls; which neither professes nor recognizes any religion other than Catholic religion, nor permit or tolerate the public or secret use of any other religion; which will protect with all its power and watch over the purity of faith and its dogmas and conservation of regular bodies; declares for high treason anyone who opposes, directly or indirectly, their independence, whether by protecting oppressive Europeans, by word of mouth or by writing, and by refusing to contribute expenses, subsidies and pensions to continue the war until their independence is recognized by foreign nations; reserving to the Congress to present to them by means of a ministerial note, circulated by all the cabinets, the manifesto of their complaints and justice of this resolution, already recognized by Europe itself.