



| <i>Federalistas</i> | against | <i>Centralistas</i> |
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| <i>Valentín Gómez Farías was President in 1833 when he was overthrown by Santa Anna.</i> | | <i>Santa Anna overthrew the Constitution of 1824 in 1835.</i> |
| More power to the states | Locus of Power | Strong central government |
| Independently elected state officials | Power of the States | State officials appointed by the nation's President |
| Seize church lands, revoke church privileges | Religious policy | Support the Catholic Church |
| Widespread voting | Voting rights | Voting limited to property owners |
| Arm state militias | Military force | Powerful central army |

Centralist concerns

State government expenses were skyrocketing: Jalisco in the colonial era had been administered for 45,000 pesos a year; by 1834 the cost was more than 1,000,000 pesos a year.

The state militias were a problem: *The civic militia is a burden on the Treasury, damaging to those people in it, to their families and to society; it is useless in time of war and a danger in time of peace; it upsets public order, disturbs the peace and with the utmost certainty it may be stated that it is the clearest enemy of a well organized administrative system.*

Crime was increasing: *Nobody is safe on the streets even in broad daylight, nor in their homes at any time.*

Who could be counted on to straighten out the government and the economy? *It seems undeniable, therefore, that the government which offers the most guarantees is one in which property owners have influence because unlike non-property owners, they have an equal interest in freedom and individual security and, in addition, they have an eminent interest in order and good management of property. Certainly they do not form all of society but they are the trunk and the roots which must feed and direct the branches.*

References from Federalism to Centralism in Mexico: the Conservative Case for Change, 1834-35, by Michael Costeloe, in The Americas, vol. 45, no. 2 (October 1988), 173-85.