

Texas Study Guide

Texas by James A. Michener

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Plot Summary

Barlow is summoned to the office of the governor of Texas. He is in Austin to give a series of guest lectures at the University of Texas, which he graduated from. At the governor's office, he is introduced to a group of four people. Ransom Rusk, Lorenzo Quimper, Lorena Cobb, and Professor Efrain Garza. The governor enters and introduces everyone. The governor wants a report in time for the Sesquicentennial or 150-year anniversary of the state. The report is to include recommendations for the teaching of Texas history for schoolchildren, including what they already know and what they should know. The report must emphasize what makes Texas unique from other states and how to instill a love for Texas in the children.

The governor of Texas appoints a Task Force to prepare this report for the Sesquicentennial with Barlow as chairman of the committee. The other members are billionaires Ransom Rusk and Lorenzo Quimper, socialite Lorena Cobb and Professor Efrain Garza. All the members have long family histories in Texas and have contributed to the culture in different ways. The group will have three graduate students to help them. The group is to travel around the state and hold meetings in different areas.

Michener weaves his historical novel around the families of the Task Force members. Opening in 1535 in Vera Cruz, Mexico, the novel spans four centuries up to the 1980s. The reader sees how the Mexicans and white settlers lived peacefully until the battle for independence. Texas was a part of Mexico and the white settlers were subject to Mexican law, even though they established their own communities. This meant that they had to be Catholic and married to receive free land. Since many men left their wives behind, they married local women to obtain land.

The lack of freedom of religion and the influx of white settlers created tensions that led to the war for independence. The brutality of the war at Santa Anna led to intense hatred of Mexicans by the Texans, resulting in brutality toward the Mexicans in the Mexican War of 1846 to 1848. This hatred and distrust lasted for years after the war.

Michener also examines the different problems faced by Texans. These problems included the problem of the Indians, the problem of water, and the development of the cities. The discovery of oil and all the oil millionaires made people think that all Texans were rich, but this however was not true. There was also a great deal of poverty. Many people came to Texas to make a better life and most of them did just that.

The Governor's Task Force

The Governor's Task Force Summary

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Lorena says the report should emphasize the seven cultural inheritances that include Indian, Spanish-Mexican, Kentucky-Tennessee settlers, settlers from the Old South, the Blacks, Cowboys, German, and European settlers. Each of the members of the Task force has a long family history in Texas.

The Governor's Task Force Analysis

The Governor of Texas calls together a Task Force of the people to prepare a report on the history of Texas for the Sesquicentennial. He wants the report to emphasize the uniqueness of Texas and what makes it different from other states so that it arouses pride and love for Texas in the schoolchildren. Each of the five members has a long family history in Texas and will be able to make unique contributions. Barlow, who is the chairman of the Task Force, can see that there will be conflicts coming among the members in the future.

Chapter I, Land of Many Lands

Chapter I, Land of Many Lands Summary

Ten-year-old Garcilaco loads his mules with supplies from the ships at Vera Cruz and begins the journey to Mexico City in 1535. There is to be an auto-de-fe along with some public executions. The boy's master says they must deliver their goods to Guadalajara. A vendor tells the boy that he should run away. He and his master make the journey to deliver the supplies to the army and finally reach the Pacific Coast. At Cutiacan, he meets four men who travel back to Mexico City with them. Garcilaco likes listening to their stories.

The men tell the boy about their wanderings around the globe. One of the men, named Cabeza, tells of his own days as a slave, held by Indians. Esteban worked as a doctor even when he was a slave. Listening to their stories, Garcilaco decides he wants to travel through the lands that are now called Texas and the southern United States. He is interested in the Seven Cities of Cinbola.

After they separate from the men, Garcilaco continues to work for his master. He befriends Frey Marcos, a friar, who accompanies them on one of their journeys. The master sells the boy to the friar. When they go to see the bishop, he recognizes Esteban as one of the servants. Esteban tells the bishop that he has seen the Seven Cities, although Garcilaco remembered the four men had said they had been told of the Seven Cities. Frey Marcos, Esteban and Garcilaco are included in the expedition.

On the expedition, Esteban is killed. The others head back to Mexico where Marcos said that he saw Cibola from a distance. Garcilaco knew this was a lie that his father told to Viceroy Mendoza. The viceroy is sending Garcilaco with General Coronado on another expedition.

Marcos is disgraced and forced to leave the expedition. Garcilaco wants to leave with Marcos, but he tells the boy to stay with the army. They did not meet again until 1558. When Garcilaco is thirty-three years of age, Marcos arranges a marriage between Garcilaco and Maria Victoria and then dies. They find Marcos's hidden gold which allows them to buy land and lead a good life.

The Task Force invites a scholar to each of their meetings. Their February meeting is held in Corpus Christi. They are able to fly on the private planes of Rusk and Quimper. Dr. Placido Navarro Padilla is the scholar who addresses them there about how Texas was Spanish longer than it was American. His interest is the Spanish culture of Texas and he says the Spanish did the best job they could in their explorations.

Chapter I, Land of Many Lands Analysis

This chapter tells the story of Garcilaco, a young Indians boy in Mexico. He is a slave until his master sells him to Frey Marcos. He travels around delivering supplies around the country and talks and learns from the people he travels with. He watches as Frey Marcos and Estaban lie about the Seven Cities of Cibola and this eventually led to the destruction of Coronados army. But things turn out well for Garcilaco. Before dying, Frey Marcos arranges a marriage for Garcilaco and Maria Victoria. After he dies, they have his hoard of gold which allows them to buy land, become educated and lead a good life. They eventually take the surname of Garza.

The Task force, which appears at the end of every chapter, evaluates the role of the Spanish. Their guest scholar, Dr. Placido Navaro Padilla, specializes in the Spanish heritage and tells them that Texas is rich in Spanish culture and they should not ignore it. The Spanish were Europeans and they did the best job they could.

Chapter II, The Mission

Chapter II, The Mission Summary

In the early 1700s, the Franciscans build a teaching center in the Mexican town of Zacatecons. The town has dances called passeos but one of the young men, Simon Garza, is too shy to take part in. He wants to meet the young woman called Juana Munoz, and finally asks Frey Damian de Saldana for help. The friar introduces them and they eventually become engaged and are married in 1720. The friar is infatuated with Benita Linan for whom Juana works.

In 1721, the friar's brother Avara, arrives in Mexico. An officer in the army, he and his brother are sent on a tour of inspection. Alvares meets Benita at a dinner with Damian.

The tour of inspection has them cross the Rio Grande and enter Tejas. There were two missions, Mission San Jose and Mission San Antonio de Valero also known as San Antonio de Bexar. Damian wants to remain and work there but is not allowed to and they continue north. When they finish their duties, they return to Bexar where Avara finds a letter saying Benita will marry him and Damian finds he is appointed to build another mission at Bexar. Damian performs the marriage ceremony for Alvares and Benita.

The new mission is called the Mission Santa Teresa de Casaverte. Carpenter Simon Garza and his wife are sent to help construct the mission. They also build a canal to bring water to the mission. Damian's assistant, Friar Domingo, acquires one thousand long-horned cattle and other animals.

The land around Bexar is inhabited by Apache and by 1730, it is the leading town in Tejas. A group of people is bought from the Canary Islands to settle the area. Among them is Juan Leal Goras. Damian and Domingo help the islanders get settled and the islanders are allowed to be addressed as Don.

Benita and Alvares also live at Bexar. They are close to Damian. They have a son named Ramon, whom Damian wants to become a priest, and two other sons.

In September 1734, an Indian boy appears at the mission to tell them of a massacre at the ranch. They organize an expedition to find the Apaches but don't find them. Friar Domingo had been killed in the raid. Damian receives permission to try to convert the Apache. The Apache follow Damian back to Bexar and attack, using the guns they received from the French. Franquis is then appointed governor of Tejas. Damian is eventually killed.

The task Force holds its next meeting in San Antonio in April. Their speaker is Franciscan Friar Clarence Cummings who is an expert on the missions. He presents a slide show and after the presentation, they visit the five missions.

Chapter II, The Mission Analysis

This chapter examines the setting of what was to become San Antonio. It begins as a Franciscan mission, established by Frey Damian who arranges a marriage between carpenter, Simon Garza and Juana Munoz, in 1721. Garza goes to Bexar to help build the mission. Damian's brother, Alvava, marries Benita Linan and also lives at Bexar.

At this time in history, communities are established by bringing settlers from the home country. A group of settlers from the Canary Islands is brought to Bexar, with the approval of the King of Spain for this purpose.

The Task Force learns that the missions in San Antonio differ architecturally from those in California because they had to be fortified against attacks by the Indians. Rusk is impressed by Friar Clarence's lecture, that he wants it printed as a book.

Chapter III, El Camino Real

Chapter III, El Camino Real Summary

Ramon de Saldano, son of Alvara and Benita, is now sixty-six years old and the owner of Rancho El Codo, located outside Bexar. He has seen sons and a granddaughter named Trinidad. All of his sons had died and Ramon wants his granddaughter to marry a Spaniard. His friend, Don Lararo Veramidi, doesn't think it is important for their granddaughter to marry Spaniards, pointing out that their lives are in Tejas and not in Spain. There are plenty of fine young men, even if they are mestizos.

When Ramon learns that Trinidad talks of Domingo, one of the Garzas, he gives the Garzas land in a far away on the banks of the Rio Grande so they will leave the area. He then begins the trip to Mexico City with Trinidad.

In the town of Saltillo, Trinidad wants to take part in the paseo and Don Ramon makes the arrangements. She meets a blond man named Rene-Claude d'Ambreuze, who is in the mining business. He travels to Potosi with the Saldanas and Don Ramon notices that Trinidad is spending all of her time with d'Ambreuze. He finally talks to him about it and suggests that he leave their party. The group finally reaches Mexico City. They accompany D'Ambreuze on a trip to Puebla at Trinidad's insistence. Don Ramon finds that D'Ambreuze is from a very respectable family. Trinidad and D'Ambreuze become engaged in Saltillo. D'Ambreuze is killed protecting Trinidad from an Apache attack.

Trinidad then meets a man named Mordacai Marr. While she is not actively looking for a husband, she is aware that Don Ramon is aging and she would someday have to manage El Coda on her own. He does not like Mordecai, who is an americano, and is still determined to find a husband for Trinidad.

Don Ramon learns that Trinidad has been dishonored by Marr and sets out to kill him, but Marr kills him first. Marr then marries one of the Veramidi girls. Upon Don Ramon's death, the El Coda property reverts to the mission. They give it to the Veramidis who give it to their granddaughter when she marries Marr. When the Comanche attack, there are few survivors of which Trinidad is one.

Several months later, Domingo Garza arrives in town. Marr suggests that he marries Trinidad. Marr would give him work. Trinidad has nine children with Garza, all of whom would distinguish themselves.

The Task force meets in El Paso and the speaker is Dr. Herman Carter. He speaks about problems along the border which he presents as a conflict of cultures. He discusses the differences in terms of weapons, music, games, names, government, and the future.

Chapter III, El Camino Real Analysis

This chapter continues the story of the Garzas and the Saldanas. The eldest son of Alvara and Benita is Ramon, and he owns the Rancho El Coda. Since all of his sons died, he has only his granddaughter, Trinidad who is thirteen years of age. She is interested in Domingo Garza and Don Ramon gives the Garza family land in a remote part of the ranch along the Rio Grande to get Domingo out of the area.

Don Ramon is a bit of a snob who wants his granddaughter to marry a Spaniard from Spain. He feels that that is the only way his family will regain its glory and respect. He is not willing to let his granddaughter marry whom she wants for love and is constantly interfering. Don Ramon is eventually killed by Mordecai Marr who dishonored Trinidad, who eventually marries Domingo.

The Task Force contains only five people but they have distinct personalities. Quimper and Rusk and quarrelsome and more or less anti-Catholic. Barlow has to assure the graduate students that he and Garza will be able to offset the views of Rusk and Quimper when they write their report.

Chapter IV, The Settlers

Chapter IV, The Settlers Summary

The family of three is originally from Tennessee and is heading for Texas. It is known as a welcoming place or anyone who wants to begin life over. The man is Jubal Quimpers with his son Yancey and wife Mattie. They meet a priest named Father Francis Xavier Clooney who tells them they will get no land in Texas unless they convert to Catholicism. They convert and then travel with the priest.

At Ayish Bayou, the priest officiates at a wedding and they all join in the feast. They have it in writing from Clooney that they are entitled to land but when they reach Nacogdoches, they find that it isn't true from the official, Victor Ripperda. The Quimpers wait several weeks for Ripperda to make a decision. When they decide to leave, Clooney secures a cart for them and goes with them. They travel to the lands of Stephen F. Austin and find a settlement with six cabins. Clooney performs the ceremony for the marriages of the seven couples.

As they travel, they explore the growth in the area. They find a bee tree and take the honey. Oats and rye grow wild. This is the place they want to settle, along the S-bend of the Brazos Rier. They select the place where they will build their house and Mattie plants her corn. Jubal builds a raft for moving people and things across the river and names the place Quimper's Ferry. Stephen Austin comes to visit and legalizes their land holding.

A young man named Benito Garza appears and gathers mules. He is on his way to New Orleans. The Quimpers make friends with a Karankawa Indian

named The Kronk. He lives in a hut next to their cabin and he helps with the chores and hunting. They easily survive the flood with his assistance. When Mattie has saved enough money, she purchases the supplies she needs to build a house.

One day Clooney and Protestant minister Harrison arrive at the same time. They tell the Quimpers that the Spanish have been expelled from Mexico City. They discuss the new proposed constitution of 1824. They find it outlaws slavery.

When the Karankawa attack the San Felipe settlement, the settlers send an expedition to attack them . The Indians retreat from Texas. The expedition then returns home and kills The Kronk.

Jubal travels to Tennessee to settle their affairs. Benito Garza travels to New Orleans with him. On the way back to Texas, Quimper dies of cholera.

The October 1983 meeting of the Task Force is held in Tyler. The subject is religion. Their speaker is Joel Job Harrison VI from Abilene Christian College. He discusses the religious conflicts in Texas in terms of his own family history of ministers.

Chapter IV, The Settlers Analysis

This chapter examines the Quimpers settling in Texas. They arrive from Tennessee where they fled legal problems and established themselves at Quimper's Ferry, along the Brazos River. They are Methodists and are told they have to be Catholics to own land in Texas. The Quimpers exemplify the religious conflict that existed in Texas where the settlers did not really have religious freedom as settlers in other areas had. Texas was a part of Catholic Mexico where slavery was outlawed and Catholicism was a state religion. The conflict that Mattie experiences is the conflict experienced by many people who settled in Texas.

The Task Force examines the role of religion in Texas in terms by having Joel Job Harrison VI as a speaker at their Tyler meeting. He explains the religious conflict in Texas in terms of his own family of ministers, the first of whom met the Jubal Quimper family in Texas.

Chapter V, The Trace

Chapter V, The Trace Summary

Many ethnic groups settle in Texas. Among them is Finlay McNab of Scotland. Finlay had studied at St. Andrews, then decided he wanted to be a merchant husbandman. He found a position with Angus MacGregor near Belfast, Ireland. When he got into trouble, he fled to Bristol, England, and, with the law after him, on to Baltimore. In Baltimore, he married and when he got into trouble again, he and his son, Otto, headed West.

In Cincinnati, Finlay finds work with a merchant of livestock. He learns from a riverboat owner of how to obtain land. He writes to Stephen Austin about acquiring land in Texas. He and his son cross into Kentucky and begin their hike to Nashville. As they travel, they meet Francis Xavier Campbell, who travels to Texas with them. On the way, they meet Benito Garza.

McNab learns that the papers for the land he paid one thousand dollars for are not legitimate. They continue their trip by boat and eventually arrive at Quimper's Ferry. When Yarrow, who is traveling with Finlay, tells Mattie he will stay and help out with the ferry. Harrison is there and Mattie tells Yarrow that he wants to marry her. Yarrow is on his way to California. Finlay needs to convert to Catholicism and marry in order to obtain land.

Father Clooney arrives with three young clerics. They are on their way to Nacogoches where they have been assigned. He performs several marriages and talks to Mattie about Harrison who favors revolution. Before leaving, he converts Finlay and Otto to Catholicism. Clooney dies in his sleep that night.

Benito Garza arrives and learns that Finlay is looking for a wife. The men accompany Garza to Victoria, where they are introduced to his sisters. They begin to build a house for all of them to live in. Zave Campbell marries Benito's sister, Maria and Finlay eventually marries the younger sister, Josefina. Finlay and Zave both receive their land. They live and work together as a group. They run an inn for travelers and market their output. They bring their livestock to New Orleans and deposit money in a bank where it would earn interest. Finlay sends money to his daughters in Baltimore. Berthe, tired of living alone, travels to Victoria. Otto goes to see them and tells them to return to Baltimore but they refuse and learn of the marriage to Josefina. Finlay sends them back to Baltimore.

The November meeting of the Task Force is held in Amarillo. Rusk does not attend because he is on an African safari. The speaker is Professor Helen Smeadon of Texas Tech who addresses the issue of the collapse of the social structure in Texas at this time.

Chapter V, The Trace Analysis

Many people of different nationalities come to Texas. Some like Finlay McNab are European, He comes to America to escape the law in Ireland and England. When he gets into trouble in Baltimore, he leaves his wife and daughters and goes to Texas with his son. Many men left their families to seek their fortunes in Texas but Mexican law required that they had to be Catholic and married to receive land. They married local women to secure the land. This requirement of Mexican law led to many bigamist marriages as were Zave and Finlay's. But this was the only way they could receive land.

The Task Force lecture describes the kind of people that came to Texas. Some of these people are average people like Jubal and Mattie. Others are criminals who left their families and married local women to obtain land. Zave and Finlay are in this category. The people who migrated left their familiar surroundings. Their values changed and they adopt a new way of life consistent with the newly changed values.

Chapter VI, Three Men, Three Battles

Chapter VI, Three Men, Three Battles Summary

General Santa Anna begins his march from Saltillo on January 26, 1836. Men like Benito Garza have mixed feeling about an independent Texas. He decides to side with Santa Anna to preserve the old order. Others supported the Texans. Those who support revolution are more or less newcomers.

Benito and some others go to Bexar, the site of the Alamo. He feels that the Alamo will only last three or four days if it is under siege and rides on to Saltillo where he meets with Santa Anna. He then marches with Santa Anna's army to the Alamo. The people in the Alamo are given the choice of surrendering. They refuse which begins the siege. There are to be no prisoners.

Mordecai and Amalia Marr decide to join their relative, Jim Bowie at the Alamo. In addition to Bowie, they meet Davy Crockett, Colonel William Travis and James Bonham. They need reinforcements in order to survive.

Zave, in Gonzales to take cattle to New Orleans, finds the men forming a force to support the Alamo. Zave joins them where they depart. In Victoria, Finlay and Otro also decide to fight with the Texans. They join Fannin's forces at Goliad and march to the Alamo, but then return to Goliad to fortify the city.

Zave's group arrives at the Alamo. By March 4, Santa Anna's reinforcements arrive. The attack on the Alamo begins on March 6. Colonel William Travis is one of the first men killed. Most of the men are killed.

Instead of joining forces with Houston, Fannin decides to stay to defend Goliad. On March 18, Fannin decides to retreat to Victoria, since he has reports of General Urrea heading toward Goliad. when the retreat begins, they find they have no food or water. Fannin's troops eventually surrender to Urrea. Benito carries the message from Santa Anna to execute the prisoners at Golia, which they did. During the march to execution, Benito spots Otto and tells him to run. Otto watches the massacre from his hiding place in the woods. Injured during his escape, he arrives at home, where Maria and Josefina care for him. After two weeks of mending, Otto departs to join Houston's forces.

Volunteers come from around the national to help the Texans fight the brutality of Santa Anna. They are enraged by the slaughter of prisoners.

When the Texan soldiers pass through Quimper's Ferry, Mattie destroys the ferry and prepares to burn her home. Yancey goes with the soldiers, but Mattie remains behind. When the Mexicans arrive, she is killed, over Benito's protests.

Otto meets the unit Yancey is with and they join Houston. They meet Santa Anna at St. Jacnto. The Texans attack the Mexicans while they are resting. Yancey is instrumental

in the capture of Santa Anna. Benito Garza is also captured and held as a prisoner of war.

The December Task Force meeting is held near Houston. Barlow selects a different format for this meeting, with each member reading a prepared statement. They then answer questions from the audience.

Chapter VI, Three Men, Three Battles Analysis

As more people settle in Teas, the pressures for rebellion and a break with Mexico mount. The American and European settlers don't want to be under Mexican rule. Many of those supporting rebellion are relative newcomers to Texas, while the old-time settlers had lived under Mexican rule for many years. People like Benito Garza, Zave Campbell and Finlay McNab have to determine where their loyalties are. Even though they have Mexican wives, Zave and Finlay fight against the Mexicans. Benito decide that he favors the old order and finds with Santa Anna. From the point of view of Maria and Josefina, their husbands are fighting against their people. Each person has to follow his or her own conscience.

Chapter VII, The Texians

Chapter VII, The Texians Summary

Otto is fourteen when Sam Houston becomes the first president of Texas. He settles in Xavier County with Maria and Josefina and then travels to Houston to marry Betsy Belle. Yancey goes with and both receive land for having fought in the army. Otto and a man named Martin Ascot decide to work together. They have adjoining land. Yancey buys the land rights of those who don't want them.

While the group works at their homestead, Martin studies law. At this time the Texans vote to join the United States but are rejected. There are schools but the young nation is in debt. They establish a currency system where private firms issue currency.

Benito Garza becomes a bandit and word comes around that he is in the area. Otto belongs to a police-like unit that is supposed to capture him. The units are called ranging companies and they don't find him.

Otto's superiors question him about his relationship with Benito and he is honest in his answers. They fight the Cherokee and win. The new capital is moved to Austin.

Otto's unit then fights the Comanche and wins. The Comanche retreat for five months, then reappear en masse at San Antonio. They burn and kill anything in their path, including Maria and Josefina. Otto buries them. While there, Benito arrives and the two men sit and talk at the graves of the women. Afterward, Otto lives in the house with Betsy. All the others have been killed. After Betsy's marriage, Otto lives alone at the cabin.

Yancey has given himself the military title of general and taken to wearing a uniform which he ordered from New Orleans. When he learns that the ten thousand acres owned by the Garza women couldn't be inherited by Benito because he is an enemy of the nation, he goes to see the judge and obtains the land as well as the land that Trinidad had owned.

In Germany, a man named Ludwig Allerkamp and his family decide to go to America. They settle near Victoria, in Hardwork. Otto McNab, now called a Texas Ranger, comes to see the Allerkamps, looking for volunteers. The middle son, Ernst, decides to go. When Ernst returns, he finds a German family has purchased slaves. Yancey Quimper eventually buys the Allerkamp land when they move to Fredericksburg.

The Republic of Texas comes to an end in February 19, 1846 when Texas becomes a state. The February meeting of the Task Force is in Abilene in West Texas. They invite Diamond Jim Bradin, a former football player to be their speaker.

Chapter VII, The Texians Analysis

This chapter covers the period of the Republic of Texas, the period of time between Texas becomes independent of Mexico and when it becomes a state on February 19, 1846. During this period, the capital is moved from Houston to Austin. Otto becomes a member of the Texas Rangers who are in pursuit of the bandit, Benito Garza. Yancey Quimper is active in real estate, acquiring any land that he could.

The Indian uprisings have been put down and many settlers arrive in Texas. Among them is the Allerkamp family which came from Germany. Yancey becomes active in politics and becomes a state senator. He is active in the movement for annexation to the United States. The Task Force speaker has lived in Mexico, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Louisiana and says that Texas contains a uniqueness that the other places don't have.

Chapter VIII, The Ranger

Chapter VIII, The Ranger Summary

Soon after Texas becomes a state, the Mexican War occurs in 1846-1848. Men from the other twenty-eight states come and serve in Texas. President Polk wants to add California and New Mexico to the union and offers to buy them from Mexico, who refuses. General Zachary Taylor is sent to Texas to protect the Texas border. When Taylor moves along the Rio Grande, land that Mexico claimed, this provokes war.

Benito Garza, preparing for war, meets Maria de la Luz, called Lucha Lopez, and falls in love. He had dreams of Mexico recapturing Texas and Lucha shares many of his views. They want to marry but her parents oppose the match. They marry anyway just as news arrives about the Americans near the Rio Grande and Benito leaves to ride with General Arista. They go to scout the Americans. They kill several of the soldiers, thus beginning the war.

The Texas Rangers join the army of General Taylor. This includes Otto McNab, who takes leave because he wants to marry one of the Allerkamp girls, Franziska.

The Polk administration meets with the exiled Santa Anna in Cuba. He convinces them that if they give him one half million dollars in gold and transport him to Vera Cruz, that he could end the war. They believe him. Santa Anna uses the money to develop an army which includes Benito Garza.

When General Taylor is told to remain in Monterrey, the Texans return home. Otto learns of the increased threat of the Comanche. He also learns that Franza's brother has been trying to negotiate a peace with the Indians.

By the time Otto returns to the army, Santa Anna has a large fighting force. While scouting the Mexican camp, Otto sees Benito with Lucha. After a few battles at Buena Vista, the Mexican army retreats.

Otto returns to Fredericksburg to find that the peace treaty with the Comanche had been negotiated. When General Scott takes over the army, the Rangers return to the war at Vera Cruz. On the way to Mexico City, they are attacked by Benito Garza's troops and their captain is killed. They kill many villages in Avila in retaliation. The war ends with Santa Anna being exiled from Mexico. Benito and Lucha Garza leave Mexico City with them.

The April meeting of the Task force is held in Alpine in West Texas, a place of large ranches. There, the members meet Texas Ranger Cletus McNab, who takes them on a sightseeing tour of the area.

Chapter VIII, The Ranger Analysis

This chapter covers the period of the Mexican War from 1846 to 1848. By this time there is intense hatred between the Texans and the Mexicans over the brutality of Santa Anna from the Texas War For Independence. The Texans had seen their family and friends killed by Santa Anna's troops in the war for independence and have more motivation to kill and see Mexico defeated than other Americans did. This accounts for the brutality of the Texans during the war.

The hatred is also felt by Benito Gara. He wants to see the Americans defeated and Texas recaptured by Mexico. He had lost his home, family, and way of life due to the War For Independence and now hates the Americans. His wife shares his feelings.

Chapter IX, Loyalties

Chapter IX, Loyalties Summary

Colonel Persifier Cobb decides to leave the army after the Mexican War. He returns to his Louisiana cotton plantation on Edisto Island. He and his brother, Somerset, sail their boat to Charleston where they visit their father. Their father tells them that Persifier will inherit all of his property and he hopes Somerset will stay and help him with the plantation. However, Persifier's wife, Tessa Mae, wants Sett and his wife Millicent, known as Lissa, to leave.

Sett and Lissa explore their options. Lissa tries to find out how much money they will have from Sett's father but he refuses to answer. They have his uncle, Reuben Cobb and his wife, Petty Prue, come to Charleston from Georgia. The uncle advises the brothers to move to Texas where the yield per acre is much better. Persifier and Tessa Mae agree to give them four slaves to take to Texas. They leave at the end of September in 1849.

They brought with them most of their belongings, including a disassembled cotton gin. They arrive in Jefferson, Texas on January 24, 1850 and purchase land. Both plantations combined are called Lakeview Plantation. Each family builds their own house and the outlook for their plantation is good.

Further south, Yancey Quimper is courting the widow of Texas Ranger Garner and acquires control of a boot making business.

Yancey and the Cobbs first meet around Christmas of 1850. Yancey leads a movement to make Kansas a slave state. Even though there is little slave ownership in Texas, many Texans are from Southern states and vote to secede over the issue of slavery. Sam Houston, the Texas governor, refuses to accept the Confederacy and resigns.

The Germans at Fredricksburg decide that they cannot support the war and leave the area. This includes the Allerkamps. They are captured by Yancey Quimper and Cobb who have them hanged. Reuben and Sett then decide to serve with General Lee. Otto McNab is in the same unit. They first meet the Northern troops at Vicksburg.

When the Emancipation Proclamation is signed in 1863, the Cobb women do not tell their slaves, like many others. If the slaves left, the cotton crop would rot. The slave, Trajan, sells their crop in Mexico, and receives a letter of credit in his name. He buys land with the money.

The Task Force meeting is in Dallas where their speaker is a professor from Texas Christian University. She discusses the impact of the South on Texas.

Chapter IX, Loyalties Analysis

This chapter covers the years of the Civil War. Slavery is not prevalent in Texas. Only one in ten Texans owns slaves. But many Texans are from Southern states where the economy depended on slavery. The Cobbs are in this category. They brought many slaves with them when they came to Texas. Because of this, they side with the South. Texas votes for succession and joins the Confederacy, with Sam Houston, the governor of Texas, resigning over the issue.

The Task Force speaker basically agrees that Texas was greatly influenced by the South. Many of the settlers came from there. The influence of the south is obvious in the language and foods of the Texans, as well as in their treatment of women.

Chapter X, The Fort

Chapter X, The Fort Summary

Under President Grant, a new Peace Policy regarding the Indians is implemented in 1864. Missionaries are allowed to convert the Indians. Earnshaw Rusk is named as United States Indian Agent at Camp Hope. Rusk is a Quaker from Pennsylvania. The Larkins are Baptists who move onto Comanche land. Comanche Chief Matarik holds a war council and decides to attack the settlement. Most of the people in the three hut settlement are killed, but others are taken prisoner. Captain George Reed is sent to erect a fort on the territory. The fort is named Fort Sam Garner.

The fort consists of a group of buildings. Many men bring their families with, such as Reed and Wetzel. The blacks in the unit are known as Buffalo Soldiers and there is some discontent among the wives because of them.

Rusk has the job of trying to get the Indians to move to reservations. He feels that he is helping both the white settlers and the Indians. The troops battle Chief Matarik at Three Cairns and then pursue the Indians. The Indians seek refuge at Camp Hope with Earnshaw Rusk, where the troops can't go. But they did. Rusk would not allow their arrest.

The Texas Rangers are reactivated to find Benito Garza, who is raiding settlements along the Rio Grande. The troops would stay on the American side while the Rangers would follow them into Mexico. Otto McNab is with them and kills Benito when they raid his ranch.

Colonel Lewis Renfro is assigned to Fort Sam Garner and leads several raids against the Comanche while his wife tries using her contacts to have him reassigned to Washington. In one battle, they rescue Emma Larkin, who had been captured by the Indians. This rescue results in his reassignment to Washington.

In violation of the Peace Policy, troops storm Camp Hope and captured Chief Matarik and others. The courts freed them and the Indians raids continue. A major attack is mounted and the different tribes fight as a combined force. The troops kill the animals of the Indians who eventually begin to surrender and move to the reservations.

Yancey Quimper, now sixty-two years old, had married Garner's widow and adopted her children. They come to visit Fort Same Garner before it is abandoned. He tries to buy Emma Larkin's land, but she refuses. She and Rusk live at the fort.

The July meeting of the Task Force is held in Beaumont, located near the Gulf. The speaker is Professor Garvey Jaxifer from Red River State College. Before the meeting, Rusk flies them to his New Mexico ranch and Quimper gives each member a custom made pair of boots. Jaxifer speaks of the role of the Indians and Blacks in Texas history.

Chapter X, The Fort Analysis

This chapter describes the problems with the Indians in the years following the Civil War. The Peace Policy instituted by President Polk in 169 called for missionaries to go among the Indians and for the Indians to be relocated on reservations. The Indians did not accept this and continued their raids on white settlements. The first Indian Agent is Eanshaw Rusk, who eventually settles with Emma Larkin who had been captured and abused by the Indians.

The move to the reservation is accomplished by the troops killing the animals of the Indians, giving them no choice but to surrender and move to the reservation. The Indians had always roamed the lands before the white settlers appeared and viewed them as theirs. They had a difficult time accepting the new way of life and the ways of the white man. Jaxifer feels that sending the Indians out of Texas robbed the state of the contributions the Indians could have made to the culture.

Chapter XI, The Frontier

Chapter XI, The Frontier Summary

Earnshaw Rusk marries Emma Larkin, who tames wild horses and sells them. They have people move into the abandoned houses of the fort to build a town. The first is the Frank Yeager family and others follow. They work to round up and sell horses and cattle and hire R.J. Poteet to take them to Dodge City for shipment to the East.

Somerset Cobb is running against Yancey Quimper for the United States Senate. Earnshaw, who usually avoids politics, wants to expose the fraud and deceit practiced by Quimper. He finds an ally in State Senator Earnst Allerkamp. Quimper withdraws from the race and Cobb goes to Washington.

The Rusk settlement gives the remaining Comanche permission to hunt buffalo. Emma again rejects the son she bore to a Comanche. They continue to develop the community at Larkin. The Rusks mortgage their property.

Otto McNab is the Texas Ranger in the area. He will not allow Peavine to stay in the county because he and Rattlesnake are trouble makers. When McNab leaves the area, Peavine returns and kills a lawyer named Parmenter which leads to a lot of shooting.

When the Rusks can't make a mortgage payment, the bank threatens to foreclose. Poteet gives them the money to payoff the banker.

Three weeks after Otto McNab's death, Franza's brother, Ernst dies in 1886. She goes to visit her brother Theo in Indianola. While she is there, a hurricane strikes and Theo is killed.

Emma's son Floyd, on the trail with Poteet, participates in a killing. Poteet protects him only because he promised Emma that he would do so, but Floyd is arrested. They try to teach him a lesson with a mock hanging. Poteet retires at the end of this drive. Soon there is talk of a railroad coming through the area. Once that is accomplished, Rusk begins to lobby for a courthouse, which is built. Rusk finally succeeds in having the town renamed Larkin.

The Task Force held its August meeting in Galveston where Dr. Lewis Clay is the speaker. Three protesters appear and the Task Force members try to understand their position. Dr. Clay lectures on the Texas climate along with a slide show.

Chapter XI, The Frontier Analysis

The chapter examines the settlement and development of the Fort Sam Garner area. When Earnshaw Rusk first marries Emma Lakin, they are the only two residents at Fort Sam Garner. They need a way to survive and Earnshaw wants to develop a community

which would develop into a town. Because of Emma's skill with animals, they develop a cattle and horse racing business. Little by little they attract residents, first by offering free housing in the abandoned building of the fort. The people work together to build a business and a town . Rusk decides what the community needs and when it needs it, such as a bank, store, etc and is instrumental in securing it for the town. The town is eventually officially renamed Larkin, in honor of Emma's family.

The Task Force is confronted with three protesters who feel that the essential character of Texas was formed by 1844 and that there is no need to concentrate on events prior to that time.

Chapter XII, The Town

Chapter XII, The Town Summary

The time is now 1900. San Antonio is the largest city in Texas with most of the state being rural. Earnshaw drinks too much on New Year's Eve and is stomped by a horse. He dies a few days later. Four Comanche attend the funeral.

Laurel Cobb, son of Senator and Peety Prue finds that his cotton crop is ruined by the weevil. He offers the land to Devereaux Cobb, son of Reuben. Laurel's wife, Sue Beth, introduces Devy to his future wife, before moving to Waxahachie, where they open a new cotton plantation.

Hector Garza, is the grandson of Benito. He is a United States citizen. He helps to influence a local election by spreading rumors about one of the candidates.

Laurel and Sue Beth allow a revival meeting to be held on their land. There is some dissension over the role of women in the church. Laurel is accused of encouraging women to dance and faces trial within the church.

The Ku Klux Klan appear in Larkin County in December 1919. The two black families living there quickly move away from the town. Three Jewish families also leave when the bank refuses to make any more loans to them. Catholics are also not welcome. The Klan member sought to uphold a high level of morality in Larkin, and tar and feather Jake and Nora who live together. Jake is found shot. Floyd Rusk is one of the Klan leaders in Larkin.

From Larkin, they spread to other parts of Texas and help elect Earl B. Mayfield to the United States Senate. The Senate refused to seal him and two years later, he is denied re-election.

When the Klan whips a man named Kimbro, he comes to visit Floyd the next day. The man has stayed at the Larkin place many years ago and tells Floyd that there is coal and oil on the land. They become partners. They drill two wells which Kimbro says indicate that there is oil, but they need money for the third. The men receive financing at the last minute and find oil with the third well. As a result of the oil, there are seven millionaires in Larkin.

The October meeting of the Task Force is held in Waco. Their speaker is a writer on high school football named Pepper Hatfield.

Chapter XII, The Town Analysis

This chapter concentrates on the town of Larkin. The town which formed from the original Fort Sam Garner becomes a Ku Klux Klan stronghold. The Klan first appears in

December 1919 and forces out the two Black families and the three Jewish families. They also make Catholics unwelcome. People who live together without the benefit of marriage also have problems. One of the local leaders is Floyd Rusk. After the Klan group beats a man named Kimbro, the man comes to see him the next day. Kimbro feels there is oil on land that Floyd owns the mineral rights to. The two men become partners and millionaires in a town where no one would have thought to drill for oil. They both needed each other in the deal.

Chapter XIII, The Invaders

Chapter XIII, The Invaders Summary

In the years 1928 - 1968, Texas becomes important in the nation. To some, Texas is more important than the nation. Cactus John Garner and Sam Rayburn become Speakers of the House and Lyndon Johnson becomes Vice President and then President. People move to Texas because of the jobs and the weather.

There is a problem with illegal Mexican immigration to Texas. Eloy Muzquiz is one such illegal in 1961. He buys food and slips across the border when the guards are occupied. He is caught by Border Patrol Agent Ben Talbot and returned to Juarez. Muzquiz promptly crosses the border and jumps on a freight train. He gets off in Fort Stockton and sleeps in an abandoned car. He then walks and hitchhikes the rest of the way and reports for work. He is well thought of in the community where he works in the Levelland area. When his wife dies, one of the women gives him money to bring his three children to the country. Talbot warns him that if he comes back again, he will be arrested.

Muzquiz and his children cross the border and jump the train, following the same route to Levelland. Muzquiz is successful because Talbot calls off the Border Patrol Agent who is about to arrest them.

Talbot is not so kind to El Lobo, who would take pregnant women to the United States for a fee so their baby would be born in the United States and be a United States citizen. Todd and Maggie Morrison live in Detroit where both have lost their jobs. They move to Houston in July 1968.

In Larkin, Ransom Rusk runs his oil business. He marries Fleurette. When their lawn is torn up by armadillos, Rusk buys ammunition to shoot them.

Beth Morrison has problems in school where she is constantly reminded that she is not a native born Texan. Her teacher feels she makes fun of Texas history. Beth comes to love Texas.

Hector Garza lives in an area where eighty five percent of the population is Hispanic. He feels that they should have a say in how things are run. They campaign against Norman Vigil but lose. Hector vows to fight in the next election but dies before it is held in 1970.

After his divorce from Fleurette, Ransom moves his base of operation to Fort Worth. The Morrisons are both active in real estate. Todd becomes involved in real estate investments syndicates. The way they did it was legal but not very ethical but Todd becomes a multimillionaire.

The Task Force holds their June meeting in Fredericksburg. They spent a night at Quimper's Austin area ranch. They return to the ranch after the meeting.

Chapter XIII, The Invaders Analysis

This chapter looks at the migration to Texas, both legal and illegal. Many Mexican immigrants cross the border into Texas for work. Eloy Muzquiz is an example of this. He crosses from Juarez and travels to the Lubbock area to work. He is known and respected in the community and when his wife dies, they give him money to bring his children to the area. Ben Talbot, the Border Patrol Agent, has caught Muzquiz several times and sent him back. When Muzquiz crosses with his children, Talbot looks the other way.

Talbot is not that bothered by people like Muzquiz crossing the border. What bothers him is the El Lobo, the entity that brings people to the United States for money. Many people do not survive the trip. Those who do find jobs.

Other people, like the Morrisons, came to Texas because of the job opportunities. They acclimate to the people and culture and become Texans. Todd becomes a multimillionaire in real estate investment deals. The people migrate to Texas because they want better lives.

Chapter XIV, Power and Change

Chapter XIV, Power and Change Summary

Most people who came to Texas were poor. The discovery of oil in 1901 led to tremendous wealth for some people. The conspicuous display of the wealth of some camouflaged the poverty of the many.

In November 1980, Rusk is at his Larkin estate for the weekend and returns to Fort Worth on Monday. His accountant's tell him that he is officially a billionaire. He is now officially Texas rich.

The oilmen are quietly involved in politics to protect their own interests and the interests of Texas. Because of this, they back or fight against different candidates in different states.

The Sherwood Cobbs still have their cotton plantation in Levelland. Eloy Muzquiz works there. This is the best cotton land in America. A problem with a water well pump indicates that all of the wells must be deepened to provide the required water.

The devaluation of the peso affects business in Texas. American prices are higher so fewer Mexicans cross the border to shop. Real estate investments are in trouble and hotel occupancies are down. The Texas economy is hard hit and even the oil industry suffers. Rusk experiences huge losses but remains optimistic.

The Muzquiz family are now citizens and Enriqueta is a teacher in Dallas. She preaches social change and a better life for Hispanics.

Todd Morrison and Roy Bub Hooker come to own the Allerkamp Rance which they stock with exotic animals. Beth attends the University of Texas and marries Wolfgang McNab who goes onto play for the Dallas Cowboys. The Morrisons enter into a real estate deal with Ransom Rusk during the recession of 1982.

Simon Garza is mayor of Bravo and a member of the University Board of Regents. He is the first Mexican American to be appointed.

Wolfgang McNab spends a day with his brother, Cletus, the Texas Ranger, and learns how things work on both sides of the border. They confiscate a plane filled with drugs in exchange for a group of illegal aliens being allowed to enter the United States.

Todd Morrison is killed by his partner Bub when he brings Ransom Rusk to the game ranch to kill a sable and Roy finds out that the ranch is in Morrison's name. Rusk is trying to buy the ranch. Rusk pays for Bub's defense to guarantee he is found not guilty. Maggie Morrison sells the Allenkamp property to Rusk after the trial and then begins a real estate deal in Austin with him.

The Task Force compiles its final report. There are minority reports by both Garza and Rusk which the other members would not co-sign. They all agreed on the recommendations for the teaching of Texas history.

Chapter XIV, Power and Change Analysis

This chapter looks at the situation in 1980s Texas and how intertwined the economies of both countries along the border are. The recession affects both sides of the border. Even Ransom Rusk and the oil industry are affected. Rusk and Maggie Morrison become business partners in various real estate deals that made Maggie very wealthy.

The Mexican immigrants that cross illegally, the Muzquiz family and Candido are now United States citizens with good jobs. Simon Garza, descendant of Benito Garza is mayor of Bravo.

Beth Morrison marries Wolfgang McNab and is a solid Texan. Ransom Rusk, who has been divorced and a bachelor for many years, marries Maggie Morison. The two have been business partners and work well together. Barlow and Quimper suggest that Rusk should do something with his money. Barlow suggests a museum and Rusk decides on an art museum dedicated to sports.

Working on the Task Force with the group also changes the life of Travis Barlow. It gives him a new appreciation of Texas and also introduces him to the society of billionaires like Rusk and Quimper. These billionaires finance a one-million dollar endowed chair for him in Texas Studies at the University of Texas.

Characters

Benito Garza

Benito Garza is from the town of Victoria and is the son of Domingo and Trinidad Garza. Since his father has died, he is responsible for seeing to the marriage of his sisters. Maria marries Zave Campbell and Josefina marries Finlay McNab. When rebellion begins in the 1830s, Benito joins the forces of Santa Anna to preserve the old order in Texas. After Mexico lost the war, Benito becomes a famous bandit and is wanted by the Texas Rangers. Just as the Mexican War of 1846 - 1848 is to begin, he meets and falls in love with Maria de la Luz Lopez, known as Lucha. He is forty at the time and her parents oppose the marriage, but they marry anyway. As soon as they are married, he goes to General Arista's headquarters since they had word that the Americans were at the Rio Grande. He is a part of the search party that kills a group of Americans that led to the outbreak of the war. Benito wanted Mexico to recapture Texas. He does not fight in the battle for Monterrey, since he is went further south and meets Santa Anna at Vera Cruz and then remains with the army Santa Anna amassed. Lucha is with him. Garza leads the attack on the Rangers at Avila and kills their captain. This results in a massacre in the small village. The war ends with Santa Anna going into exile in disgrace. Benito and Lucha are with him in the carriage as they leave. As the carriage is driving by, he recognizes Otto McNab but neither one acknowledges the other. Benito and Lucha remain in Mexico, both filled with hatred for the Americans. He is eventually killed by Otto McNab.

Don Ramon du Saldana

Don Ramon du Saldana is the owner of the Rancho El Coda, a twenty-five thousand acre spread located near Bexar. He is the oldest son of Alvara and Benita Saldana, both of Spanish descent. He grew up in Bexar where his father served in the military and his uncle, Frey Damian, is the Franciscan friar who established the mission at Bexar. He had seven sons, all of whom were dead. Two were tortured to death by the Apache. One died of cholera and four died in the line of service to the king, two of them serving in Spain and two in Mexico.

Don Ramon also has a thirteen-year-old granddaughter named Trinidad whom he dotes on. Trinidad and her mother, Engracia, live at the ranch with him. Ramon believes in preserving the Spanish heritage in Teas and his home reflects this belief but he had been born in Texas and not in Spain. This made him a criollo. The only way he could reestablish the glory of being a peninsulares was to have Trinidad marry a Spaniard from Spain and this is his goal. Engracia supported this goal as it is the only way back into the mainstream of Spanish life. They both fear intermarriage with a mestizo or Indian. Since they know of no one in Spain who would accept Trinidad, Don Ramon decides they will go to Mexico City to find a Spanish officer to marry Trinidad. He gives the Garza family land on the Rio Grande to get them out of the area when Trinidad

expresses an interest in their son, Domingo. In the end, Don Ramon is killed by Mordecai Marr who dishonored Trinidad and Trinidad marries Domingo Garza.

Dr. Travis Barlow

Dr. Travis Barlow is a native Texan. He works for a Boulder organization, the Institute for Cultural Studies, even though he is a resident of Texas. He has been on leave from his job working in Geneva and returned to Austin to deliver a series of lectures at the University of Texas. While there, he is called to the governor's office and asked to chair a special task Force on Texas history for the Sesquicentennial. Barlow, who did his undergraduate work at Texas received his doctorate at Cambridge and received a Pulitzer Prize for a book that he wrote. Barlow's forebearers, Moses Barlow, first arrived in Gonzales on February 24, 1836 and volunteered to fight at the Alamo. Barlow is touched at the slide show of the Alamo, where his ancestor died. As chairman of the Task force, Barlow has to deal with the different personalities of the other four people. There is the conservatism and anti-Catholic views of the billionaires, Rusk and Quimper, which he must deal with and try to offset. Barlow grew up in a small town in the Texas panhandle as a Lutheran and is caught in the middle of the anti-Catholic views of Rusk. As a result of the publicity as chairman of the Task Force, Barlow is considered for a position at the Smithsonian. At the end of the study, Barlow resigns his position in Boulder to teach at the University of Texas. Rusk and Quimper endowed a chair of one million dollars for him to teach Texas Studies.

Lorenzo Quimper

Lorenzo Quimper is a wealthy Texan who is also a member of the Task Force. He owns nine ranches and is active in oil, real estate, and other business activities. He is in his fifties and some newspapers refer to him as Lorenzo il Magnifico. Among other things, he owns a company that makes boots and his boots are one of the first things that Barlow notices about him. His forebearers came from Tennessee and arrived in Texas in 1822. He owns two airplanes, which he makes available for use by the Task Force. His ancestors were Jubal, Mattie, and Yancey Quimper who immigrated to Texas from Tennessee to find a better life. His early ancestor was Yancey who married the widow of Sam Garner.

Otto McNab

Otto McNab is the son of Finlay McNab. His father Finlay was in trouble in Baltimore and left his wife and daughter and fled to Texas with Otto. Finlay marries Josefina Garza and Otto is treated as a son by the Garza sisters. Otto and his father fight against Santa Anna. Finlay is executed by the Mexican troops whereas Otto escape with Benito's help. Otto becomes a Texas Ranger and serves with General Taylor during the Mexican War of 1846 - 1848. He marries Franziska Allerkamp. They have a son named Hamish. On a

mission with the Ranger into Mexico, he kills Benito Garza. His descendants are Cletus, the Texas Ranger, and Wolfgang, who marries Beth Morrison.

Ransom Rusk

Ransom Rusk is one of the wealthiest men in Texas and is a member of the Task Force. He is in his late fifties. He forebears first arrives in Texas in the 1870s, coming from Pennsylvania. He owns three airplanes which he makes available for use by the Task Force. His early ancestor was Earnshaw Rusk, a Pennsylvania Quaker who became the United States Indian Agent at Camp Hope and eventually stayed at the former Fort Sam Garner with Emma Larkin. His family established the town of Larkin. He divorces his wife, Fleurette, and after several years of bachelorhood, marries Maggie Morrison.

Garcilaco

Garcilaco is the illegitimate son of an Indian woman and a Spanish soldier. He lives in Vera Cruz and after his mother's death, he becomes the slave of a muleteer at the age of eight. He is eventually sold to a friar, Frey Marcos, who treats him well. Marcos and Garcilaco are sent on an expedition to find the fabled Seven Cities of Cibola, when he was separated from Marcos. He meets Marcos again when he is thirty three years of age. He marries Maria Victoria and receives Marcos's gold after he dies. They eventually adopt the surname of Garza.

Professor Efrain Garza

Professor Efrain Garza teaches sociology at Texas A & M. He is in his late thirties and is a member of the governor's Task Force. His people have been in Texas for four hundred fifty years. One of his ancestor's was the slave boy Garcilaco who inherited the gold from Frey Marcos. They eventually took the surname of Garza. Their descendant, Simon Garza, helped build the mission at Bexar, which became San Antonio.

Earnshaw Rusk

Earnshaw Rusk is a Pennsylvania Quaker who is appointed as United States Indian Agent at Camp Hope. After the Indians move to reservations, he marries Emma Larkin. Their first son is named Floyd and they develop a horse and cattle ranch business. Earnshaw develops the former Fort Sam Garner into the town of Larkin. He is an ancestor of Ransom Rusk.

Lorena Cobb

Lorena Cobb is another wealthy member of the Task force. Her relatives include two United States senators. In her sixties, she is active in Texas society and involved with

many charities. She is not married. Her early ancestors were Georgia and Louisiana cotton plantation owners who moved to Texas with their slaves.

Objects/Places

Austin

Austin is the capital of Texas, located in the south central part of the state.

Vera Cruz

Vera Cruz is a Mexican seaport located on the Gulf of Mexico in southern Mexico.

Zacatecans

Zacatecans is a town in central Mexico where the Franciscans build a teaching center in 1707.

Bexar, Tejas

Bexar, Tejas was the site of the missions that eventually became San Antonio.

Scotland

Scotland is a country north of Great Britain.

Victoria

Victoria is the town in northern Texas where Benito Garza lived.

San Jacinto

San Jacinto is located near Houston and was the site of the decisive battle in Texas's battle for independence from Mexico.

Houston

Houston is a city in southern Texas where the Morrisons eventually migrated.

Dallas-Fort Worth

Dallas-Fort Worth are twin cities in southern Texas where Ransom Rusk relocated his headquarters.

Themes

Opportunity

Opportunity is a dominant theme of the book. Many people came to Texas for the opportunities that it offered. In the early days, Texas was the place where people could start new lives. The early settlers could receive free land if they were Catholic and married. The work was hard and the risks were great, but most liked the lives they carved out for themselves. Very few chose to return to the places they came from. Texas grew by attracting settlers and it attracted many kinds. Some were average people looking for a better life like the Quimpers. Others were fleeing from trouble, like Finlay McNab. Some like the Cobbs, came for economic reasons. They all made their existence in Texas.

One and two hundred years later, people are still coming to Texas for the opportunities. The Morrisons are unemployed and looking for work in Detroit. They come to Houston because of the availability of jobs and eventually become millionaires by being risk takers and being willing to take advantage of good opportunities.

Others, like the Muzquiz family and Candido, enter the United States illegally from Mexico looking for a better life. Eloy Muzquiz made the trip several times and was well thought of in the Levelland community where he worked. When his wife dies in Mexico, the people there give him money to bring his three children to Levelland. Candid found employment with Lorenzo Quimper. Texas represents the opportunity of a better life to all of these people.

Historical Significance

Another major theme of the book are events of historical significance. Michener discusses the major events in the book. The obvious events are the clashes with the Indians, the war for independence, the Mexican War, and the Civil War. Michener examines these events within the framework of the novel. But there are also lesser events that are of historical significance such as the movement of people. People moved in and around Texas when it was still part of Mexico. The movement of people from Mexico resulted in the rich Spanish culture and traditions in Mexico. Settlers came from the different states and countries and brought their cultures and traditions with them. This is evident in the food and language in Texas which are rich in their Southern roots. There are also the Indians which contributed to the culture in Texas. All of these different events and people contributed to the unique blend that is Texas and Texans have an intense pride in their state.

The purpose of the governor's Task Force is to decide what aspects of Texas history are important and should be taught to school children. For this, the Task Force members traveled around the state viewing different sites and meeting with different people. They

hear from different people on different aspects of Texas history. From this, they have to decide what should be covered in history classes for school children, being aware of the limited time frame and the fact that so many children are not native-born Texans.

Relationships Between Peoples

Relationships are a third theme of the novel. Relationships can be on different levels. They can be between people or between groups of people. This analysis will focus on the relationship between groups of people, namely the Mexicans and the whites.

People moved freely around Mexico which included Texas until 1846. Any whites that moved into the country were subject to Mexican law and many came for the free land they could receive if they were Catholic and married, and many men married local women. Those who lived under Mexican law for a substantial number of years were content. It was the relative newcomers to the area that clamored for independence. The war for independence and the Mexican War of 1846-1848 affected the relations between the Americans and the Mexicans. The brutality of Santa Anna in the war for independence resulted in the hatred and grudges in the Texans who witnessed it. In the Mexican War which quickly followed it, it was the Texans that acted out of hatred and this led to the slaughter of many people.

In modern day Texas, the economies along the border are dependent on each other. People on both sides of the border cross to shop. Mexicans illegally cross the border to work at jobs in Texas which kept the economy going during period of labor shortage. The years have lessened the intense hatred that both groups felt during the 1840s.

Style

Point of View

The book is written in two different points of view. The body of the chapters is written in the third-person point of view. James Michener functions as the narrator of these sections. The third-person point of view allows the author to provide the historical, background, and other information that makes the novel more complete for the reader. This is especially important in a historical novel of the type that Michener writes and the amount of detail and information that he provides.

The Task Force sections are written in the first person point of view with the narrator being Dr. Travis Varlow, the chairman of the Task Force. The use of the first-person point of view limits the reader to events that occur in the presence of the narrator. In this scenario this is fine. There are no events or information that is not available to the reader since the narrator is a part of the Task Force meetings and able to provide all of the information that is necessary to the reader. This approach, using both points of view, works very well for this book.

Setting

There are quite a few places for the action of this novel, even though most of the action takes place in Mexico and Texas. There are scenes in Europe, notably Scotland, Ireland, and England where Finlay McNab is from. There are also scenes in Germany where the Allerikamps are from.

There are also scenes in different states. The Cobbs are from Georgia and Louisiana. McNab used to live in Baltimore before moving to Texas. Many of the characters traveled through or to New Orleans in the course of their business.

The story begins in Vera Cruz as the Indian boy Garcilaco travels around to Mexico City, and other places delivering supplies. Zacatcans is a town in central Mexico where the Franciscans build a teaching center. Avilia is the Mexican village where a massacre occurred. There are scenes in various other parts of Mexico as the characters move around.

Austin is the capital of Texas and the site where the Task Force convenes. Bexar, which became San Antonio, is where the Franciscans build a mission. Victoria is the small town where Benito Garza lived. Fort Sam Garner was built near the Red River and later became the town of Larkin. Houston is a major city in southern Texas where the Morrison's moved. Dallas-Fort Worth are cities in southern Texas where Ransom Rusk lived.

Language and Meaning

The language of Texas is not difficult. There are a few words that the reader may want to look up. There are no terms with hidden meanings, although there are some foreign language terms and phrases, mostly Spanish and Latin. They are not translated but are not necessary to the reader's understanding of the novel. There is nothing in the language or meaning of the novel to slow the reader down. The book is a typical Michener historical novel where it is very lengthy and over thirteen hundred pages long. Michener provides a lot of historical and background information in his novels, some of it fact and some of it fiction, and this contributes to the length of the book. Some of the sentences are long and wordy, but this is the typical Michener style, as any reader of Michener novels is aware of. The length of the novel is the reason for the amount of time required to read the book and not the wording. There are several places where the dialogue is in broken English, but not very many for a novel of this kind. Aside from this, the reader can read at an even pace.

Structure

The structure of the book is not very complicated. The body of the novel begins with a section entitled "The Governor's Task Force" at which the members of the Task Force are introduced and told what their assignment is. The rest of the novel is divided into fourteen chapters, most of which are quite lengthy. Each chapter is numbered with a Roman numeral and has a title which relates to the topic of the chapter. There is a Task Force meeting at the end of each chapter.

There is a Table of Contents at the beginning of the novel and preceding that is a section entitled Fact and Fiction. In this section, Michener explains which parts of his historical novel are fictional and which parts are based on fact. There is also a section on Acknowledgements. Maps appear at the front of the book and at the beginning of each chapter. These maps are helpful in orienting the reader to the geography of the different locations, although the reader may still want to consult an atlas.

The novel is well structured with the story of Texas being told in Terms of the ancestors of the Task force members.

Quotes

"As a main feature of our Sesquicentennial, I want you to place before our citizens a comprehensive report on two important questions; 'How should our schoolchildren and college students learn about Texas history?' And 'What should they learn?'" (Task Force, pg. 7.)

"Before Zumarraga could question further, Esteban broke in with the start of the great deceit which would engulf many men and color the early history of Texas: 'Excellency, I saw the Seven Cities. They were glorious, and Cabeza de aca saw them, too'" (Chapter I, pg. 34.)

"Missions are thrust into locations to establish a foothold, no more. Pacify the Indians, start a community, and when things are stable, invite the civil government to take over. The mission closes, job done. The buildings gradually fall apart. And you friars move along to your next obligation" (Chapter II, pg. 95.)

"In Tejas it had always been war, threat of war against the French, real war against the Apache, comic war against the pirates who tried to infiltrate from the Caribbean, unending war against nature itself" (Chapter III, pg. 157.)

"The paper he signed still exist in the archives of Texas. It is rain-spotted and not legally binding but its import is unquestioned, and was the foundation of everything good that was to happen to the Quimpers in Texas" (Chapter IV, pg. 238.)

"Of the various national groups that settled in Texas, and there were more than twenty - Germans, Czechs, Poles, Wends - the one which gave the area its basic character came from Ireland. They arrived in great numbers, filtering down the famed Natchez Trace from Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee (Chapter V, pg. 319.)

"War forces men to make moral choices, and the stronger the man, the more difficult it can be for him to make the right choice" (Chapter VI, pg. 423.)

"It was a natural affiliation, Otto and Texas, because the two had much in common. Both were self-reliant, both tended to solve problems with the gun, both believed in simple, forward action rather than in philosophical speculation, both were suspicious of Mexicans and despised Indians, and both vaguely wanted to do the right thing. Most important, both entertained lofty aspirations they could not always voice or define. It would be a lively decade as these two matured" (Chapter VII, pg. 515.)

"It was an interlude, a tragicomic interruption which few in Texas sought but much more later accepted as turning point in their history. At a time when the newly approved state should have been paying attention to the building of governmental process and the sorting out of priorities, it found itself enmeshed in the Mexican War of 1846-1848, a minor affair militarily, a major event diplomatically" (Chapter VIII, pg. 621.)

"The tally provided an interesting insight into Texan attitudes, because only one person in ten owned a slave, but nearly eight in ten of those who voted defended Southern rights, and when the test of battle came, nine in ten would support the war" (Chapter IX, pg. 745.)

"To their astonishment, Grant initiated a thoughtful, humane and revolutionary Peace Policy, which he believed would lure the warring Indians into some kind of harmonious relationship with the white settlers who were increasingly invading their plains" (Chapter X, pg. 801.)

"It was paradoxical. After the United States Army abandoned Fort Garner, the real battle for this area began, the contest between the primeval frontier and the settled town. The struggle led a significance greater even than the one between white man and Indian" (Chapter XI, pg. 901.)

"The woods of East Texas contained as many failed plantations as the plains and prairies of West Texas displayed the charred roots of what had once been farmhouses and ranch headquarters. Some said: 'The armorial crest of Texas should be an abandoned house whose root stumps barely show'" (Chapter XII, pg. 1003.)

"Equally important was the emergence of Texas politicians as powers in Washington, because previous Texans with leadership possibilities had usually seen Texas politics as more important than national" (Chapter VII, pg. 1093.)

"That was the condition of Texas: plenty of land, a niggardly existence, a dream of better days. However, with the 1901 discovery of limitless petroleum deposits at Spindletop near Beaumont, some Texans began to accumulate tremendous riches, and by the 1920s even families as far west as the Rusks in Larkin County shared in the bonanza. In Texas one could leap from land-poor to oil-rich in one generation...or one weekend" (Chapter XIV, pg. 1197.)

Topics for Discussion

What is the purpose of the governor's Task Force? Who is on it and what contribution can each member make? What procedure are they supposed to follow?

What is the significance of the missions in the San Antonio area? How do they differ from the missions in California? Why?

Why was there so much religious conflict in Texas in the late 1700s and early 1800s? What provision in the Mexican constitution contributed to this problem? How do Jubal and Mattie Quimper exemplify this conflict?

What is anomie? How does this apply to those who settled in Texas? How are Finlay McNab and Zave Campbell examples of this?

Slavery was not dominant in Texas. Why then did Texas vote to secede from the union and fight for the South?

Each of the Task Force members has a family history in Texas. What is the significance and contribution of each family?

Both legal and illegal immigration are big factors in Texas. Why are people drawn to Texas? Why are the illegal Mexican workers a benefit?