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978-0-521-44121-6 - The Central Republic in Mexico, 1835-1846: Hombres de Bien in The Age of Santa Anna

Michael P. Costeloe

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Much of the so-called Age of Santa Anna in the history of independent Mexico remains a mystery – no decade is as poorly understood as the years from 1835 to 1846. In 1834, the ruling elite of middle-class *bombres de bien* concluded that a highly centralized republican government was the only solution to the turmoil and factionalism which had characterized the new nation since its emancipation from Spain in 1821. The central republic was thus set up in 1835, but once again civil strife, economic stagnation and military coups prevailed until 1846, when a disastrous war with the United States began, a war in which Mexico was to lose half of its national territory. This study explains the course of events and analyses why centralism failed, the issues and personalities involved and the underlying pressures of economic and social change.

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