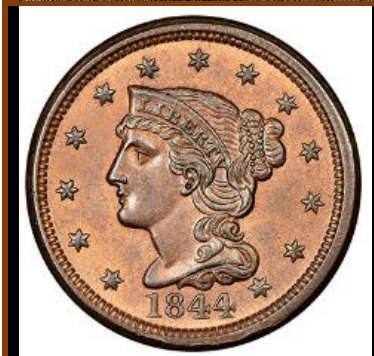


➤ Commerce in Conflict ◀

Conducting business with nations in conflict takes experience and skill. Manuel Alvarez understood the importance of diplomacy. His fluency in multiple languages gave him a distinct advantage as he negotiated for peaceful trade relations. Read how the nations below struggled with each other. In the blanks, write advice Alvarez could give so that trade continues fairly between them.



The Republic of Texas & Mexico - In 1821, Mexico declared its independence from Spain. In 1835, the Mexican state of Coahuila y Tejas declared its independence from Mexico during the Texas Revolution (later to form the Republic of Texas). Fighting ended in 1836, but the Mexican Congress still refused to recognize Texas sovereignty.



The Republic of Texas & America - In 1837, the U.S. recognized the Texas Republic, but did not annex the area until 1845. This left the territory in an uneasy condition from 1837-1845 until it finally became a part of the United States. During this period neither Mexico nor the U.S. could fully trust the Republic.



America & Mexico - Mexican and U.S. merchants regularly depended on each other's trade goods. After the Texas Revolution, political tensions increased. Mexico imposed especially high taxes and tariffs on imported American trade goods.

Manuel Alvarez, a Spanish- born merchant in New Mexico managed commerce using the same primary language spoken at Bent's Fort- Spanish. Appointed as U.S. consul in Santa Fe in 1839, Alvarez' job was to ease Mexican trade restrictions for the United States.