

Political and eminently social plan: proclaimed in Río Verde by the Army of Regeneration of the Sierra Gorda

14 March 1849

[A transcription of this document in Spanish is available at <https://arts.st-andrews.ac.uk/pronunciamientos/regions.php?r=34&pid=1203>.
Translation by Timo Schaefer.]

1. The Army of Regeneration recognizes the Federal Constitution of 1824 and the Reform Act of 1847.
2. It also recognizes the General Government of the nation, and the high functionaries who currently form it, as legitimately constituted.
3. The order of things in San Luis Potosí will return to the state of things of before 6 January 1848, and in consequence the excellent gentlemen Ramón Adame, Mariano Ávila, and all the other public functionaries of that epoch will return to their posts, for having been thrown out of the employments they had legitimately gained by revolutionary means.
4. The permanent army will be completely dissolved within a month of today, and the armed force of the republic will consist of the National Guard [a kind of non-professional citizen militia].
5. The legislators will reward the chiefs, officials, and permanent troops who have rendered good services to the Nation, to be designated by a committee of notables that will be formed for this purpose.
6. The Church will be reformed in accordance with the demands of the good of the republic, in order to moralize its officials and to take out of their hands that formidable political power, so harmful to public liberties, that they have always had on account of their large incomes and the lack of illustration of the masses.
7. No religion will be tolerated in the republic except for the Apostolic Roman Catholic one.
8. The [state] legislatures will abolish all special jurisdictions [i.e. the legal privileges of the Church and the army] and they will establish trials by jury.
9. In order to stop the desire for public employments that is so common among Mexicans, all public posts filled by popular election will have the form of council posts [i.e., will not be remunerated].
10. The General Congress will as a matter of priority dictate laws that are truly just and wise, that will assure a good distribution of territorial property, so that the needy classes of the countryside will improve their situation.
11. All haciendas [agricultural estates] and farms with more than 1,500 inhabitants and the necessary elements for prosperity will become towns [with municipal governments]; the

legislators will arrange the terms by which the land will be distributed and the owners indemnified.

12. The tenants of haciendas and farms will cultivate the land for a moderate rent, and will under no circumstance work as sharecroppers, and the proprietors will be required to distribute those lands they do not themselves cultivate between their tenants.

13. The said tenants will not have to pay rent for their house plots, for the pasture of their draught animals, and for the collection of firewood, *maguey*, *tuna*, *lechugilla*, and other fruits of the countryside they consume with their families.

14. The tenants will provide no service [to the landowners] that will not be properly paid.

15. The workers or renters employed by the owners will be paid either in money or in goods of good quality at current market prices.

16. The inhabitants of the Sierra Gorda who with their arms have defended and are defending this political and eminently social plan will remain exempt of all direct or indirect taxes and of the Church tithe, in just compensation for their good services.

17. The said inhabitants of the Sierra Gorda will receive a report from the General Government stating in which function they have served at the orders of Eleuterio Quiroz, chief of the Army of Regeneration, so it will serve them as a credential to enjoy the exemptions of which the previous article speaks.

18. The said chief Eleuterio Quiroz will be given the office of Colonel of the National Militia from the General Government, which employment he will have 'ad honorem,' and he will receive a monthly pension of 100 pesos during his lifetime, in the war ministry of Guanajuato, and for no reason will he not be paid this amount, even if the treasury will lack funds, for in that case he will be paid from any other public fund.

19. The subordinate officers of Mr. Quiroz will receive a monthly pension of 60 pesos during their lives and will be paid in the same terms as the principal chief.

20. Officials with the rank of captain and below will receive 30 pesos per month and will be paid with the same exactitude as Mr. Quiroz.

21. The troops, from the rank of sergeant and below, will enjoy complete liberty and not be molested by any authority, and they will enjoy the privileges and exemptions which this plan concedes to the proletarian classes.

22. As soon as the General Government fulfills the obligations this plan imposes, the inhabitants of the Sierra Gorda will pacifically retire to their homes and they will hand over their firearms to the same Mr. Quiroz, who will put them in the hands of the government or the commissioner named by the Government, and with that the present revolution will come to its end.

Rioverde. March 14th 1849

Eleuterio Quiroz

[What follows is not in the text of the document available in the Colegio de México]

ADDITIONAL ARTICLES

1. The third article of the present plan is removed, and consequently the honorable congress of the state of San Luis Potosí will name don Pedro Zamano as interim governor while all other current public functionaries will remain in their posts.
2. By no means will the general don Antonio López de Santa Anna, principal cause of the evils suffered by the mexicans, be allowed to return to the Republic.
4. [sic] All land custom duties in the republic will be eliminated, and only the maritime ones will remain.

Río Verde, San Luis Potosí, 18 March 1849, Eleuterio Quiroz