



Why Do People Celebrate Cinco de Mayo?

By History Channel

Cinco de Mayo—or the fifth of May—is a holiday that celebrates the date of the Mexican army's 1862 victory over France at the Battle of Puebla during the Franco-Mexican War (1861-1867). A relatively minor holiday in Mexico, in the United States Cinco de Mayo has evolved into a commemoration of Mexican culture and heritage, particularly in areas with large Mexican-American populations.

Benito Juárez

In 1861, Benito Juárez—a lawyer and member of the indigenous Zapotec tribe—was elected president of Mexico. At the time, the country was in financial ruin after years of internal strife, and the new president was forced to default on debt payments to European governments.

In response, France, Britain, and Spain sent naval forces to Veracruz, Mexico, demanding repayment. Britain and Spain negotiated with Mexico and withdrew their forces.

France, however, ruled by Napoleon III, decided to use the opportunity to carve an empire out of Mexican territory. Late in 1861, a well-armed French fleet stormed Veracruz, landing a large force of troops and driving President Juárez and his government into retreat.

The Battle of Puebla

Certain that success would come swiftly, six thousand French troops under General Charles Latrille de Lorencez set out to attack Puebla de los Angeles, a small town in east central Mexico. From his new headquarters in the North, Juárez rounded up a ragtag force of two thousand loyal men—many of them either indigenous Mexicans or of mixed ancestry—and sent them to Puebla.

The vastly outnumbered and poorly supplied Mexicans, led by Texas-born General Ignacio Zaragoza, fortified the town and prepared for the French assault. On May 5, 1862, Lorencez gathered his army—supported by heavy artillery—before the city of Puebla and led an assault.

The battle lasted from daybreak to early evening, and when the French finally retreated,



they had lost nearly five hundred soldiers. Fewer than one hundred Mexicans had been killed in the clash.

Although not a major strategic win in the overall war against the French, Zaragoza's success

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2021

SBA and SOS Monthly Webinar
Thursday, May 6, 2021, 9:00 am–11:00 am
Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration, New Hampshire Secretary of State Corporation Division
Contact: Miguel Moralez, 603-225-1601, miguel.moralez@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required
Starting a new business? Looking for capital and finance options? Looking for general advice on starting or maintaining your business? Hear from representatives from the local SBA office and the New Hampshire Secretary of State Corporation Division. This workshop (currently held online during the pandemic) is offered on the first Thursday of every month. To join this free webinar, copy and paste the link below into your browser, then register for tickets for the date of your choice to receive the access code. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/monthly-workshop-on-sba-programs-resources-at-sos-tickets-138501643143>

PPP Forgiveness Webinar
Tuesday, May 18, 2021, 11:30 am–1:00 pm
Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: Susan Mazza, 802-828-4422, susan.mazza@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required
The SBA Vermont District Office hosts a free

weekly webinar from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm Tuesdays to discuss Paycheck Protection Program forgiveness. Topics include criteria, the process, changes, and more. To access the webinar by phone, call 1-202-765-1264 and enter the code 986 011 495#. For more information, email susan.mazza@sba.gov. Webinar direct link (copy and paste link into browser address bar): <http://ow.ly/uj2850DRyxt> The SBA Vermont District Office provides financial services, consulting, and educational assistance to the small business community throughout the state.

Selling to the Federal Government Webinar
Thursday, May 27, 2021, 1:00 pm–4:00 pm
Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: George Tapia, 610-382-3086, george.tapia@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required
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