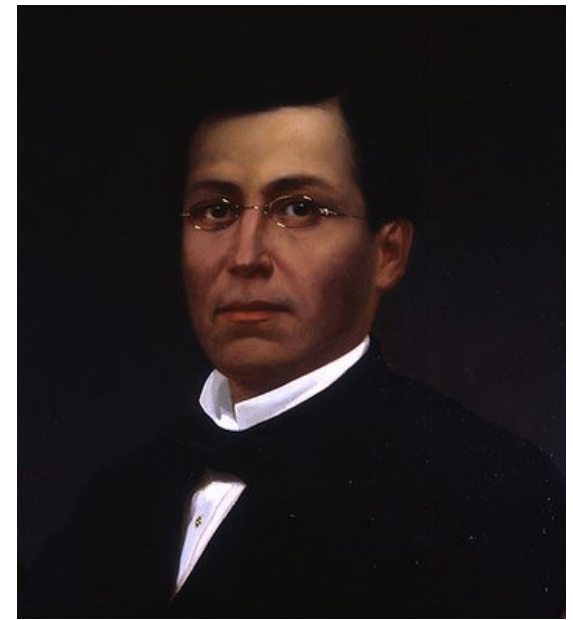


The Real History of Cinco de Mayo

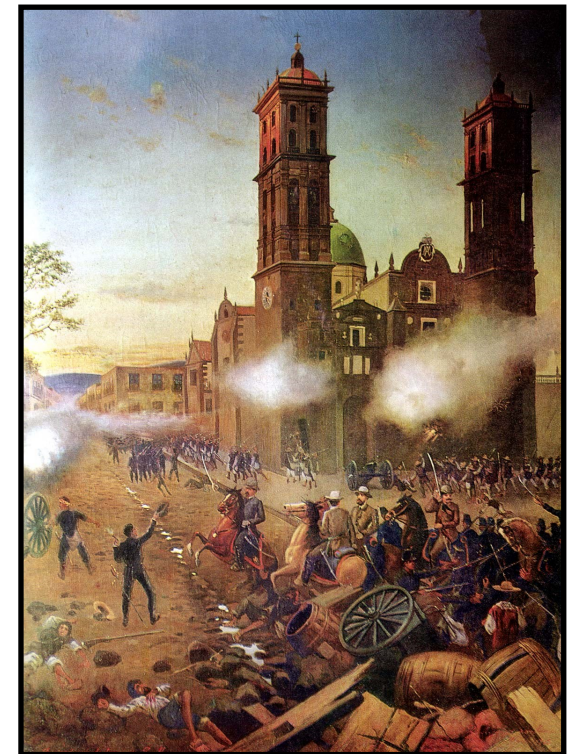
By LuLu Garcia-Navarro , May 5, 2019, NPR

In 1862, the French Army marched towards Mexico City. Emperor Napoleon III wanted to establish a second Mexican empire favorable to the French that would serve as a replacement for the French land his uncle sold to Thomas Jefferson in the Louisiana Purchase. He sent a fleet to attack Veracruz, land of force and head to Mexico City, but they were defeated before they could even get there - at the Mexican city of Puebla. A young Mexican general named Ignacio Zaragoza beat back the French troops in a bloody confrontation. The Mexican soldiers were outnumbered, but they fiercely fought back. By early evening, the French had retreated. Now the people of Puebla, Mexico, observe the holiday Cinco de Mayo to celebrate this victory. The holiday is also widely celebrated in the United States. (There was also a second battle of Puebla, which the French won. And Napoleon III did get his second Mexican empire, but it only lasted a few years.)

<https://www.npr.org/2019/05/05/720376183/the-real-history-of-cinco-de-mayo>



General Ignacio Zaragoza.
Oil on canvas,
Tejada. Collection /
archive: National Museum
of History INAH



Battle of Puebla, 1862.
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