



## Living in a globalised world

*Borders do move*

### **Narrator:**

In 1821 Mexico won independence from Spain. Its territory including most of what is today America's west. But in the Mexican state of Texas, ideas of independence were brewing.

In 1836 American's revolted against their Mexican masters, and 209 made a stand at a mission station in San Antonio, at a place that became known as 'The Alamo'.

The Alamo's Historian in Residence is Dr Richard Winders.

### **Dr Richard Winders, Historian, The Alamo:**

One of the concepts we have as modern people is that borders are stagnant, that they don't move. But throughout history, what we can see is that borders do move. That's one of the constants. If you live in an area such as the American southwest in the 1840s, what you would find is that the borders constantly moving. From the Texas revolution and certainly in 1848 with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, where not only has Texas changed hands from Mexico to the United States, but what becomes Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, California changes borders. So here you have people who because there's a shifting border changed nationalities. So that happens all the time in history.

### **Narrator:**

Before the treaty, the frontier was constantly shifting and porous. There was little to impede movement from one territory to another. When the 1848 treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo fixed the frontier, the United States doubled its size. By contrast, Mexico lost half of its lands. And 100,000 Mexicans became foreigners in what was previously their own country.

When the border moved across the people, the Mexican ancestors of Aminte Zarate lost their land.

Today she is a leading claimant demanding reparations for land taken away from her family when the Americans annexed Texas in 1848.

Her many filing cabinets are filled with documents that Aminte believes will prove her title to 20,000 acres taken from her forebears, given away by the treaty.

### **Aminte Zarate, Land Grant Descende:**

I knew about this as a young girl. Because my father used to know that they had taken the properties away from us. And I am sure that my dad is seeing me over there in the sky and telling me continue with it, because you are doing a good job. Because I have been fighting for this for 27 years already. And I am not going to give up until we get back.