SPEECH OF MR. CORNW. IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE MEXICAN WAR.

SPEAKER. Mr. President, I am about to deliver a speech on the Mexican War. I fully appreciate the gravity of the situation and the importance of the matter at hand. The United States finds itself embroiled in a conflict that has far-reaching implications for its sovereignty and national interests.

The recent events in Mexico have caused considerable concern among the American people. The President has declared war, and the country is now at war with Mexico. I believe it is essential to address the reasons behind this conflict and to consider the potential consequences of our actions.

The origins of the conflict can be traced back to the annexation of Texas by the United States in 1845. The annexation of Texas was a controversial decision that led to tensions with Mexico. This, in turn, contributed to the outbreak of the Mexican War.

The Mexican government refused to recognize the legality of the annexation, asserting that it was a violation of its sovereignty. The United States, in turn, claimed that Mexico's refusal to recognize the annexation was an act of hostility.

The conflict escalated with the outbreak of hostilities in 1846, following an incident in which an American militia was fired upon by Mexican troops in the town of Mesilla. The President declared war soon after.

The first phase of the war took place in the western territories of California and New Mexico, where the United States sought to expand its territory. The American forces were initially successful, capturing key points such as San Diego and San Francisco.

However, the second phase of the conflict, which took place further east, was more challenging. The American forces faced a well-organized and determined Mexican army under the command of General Antonio López de Santa Anna. The Battle of Buena Vista, fought in February 1847, was a significant engagement in this phase.

Despite the initial setbacks, the American forces eventually emerged victorious, leading to the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which was signed on February 2, 1848. The treaty ceded large areas of Mexican territory to the United States, including California, New Mexico, and Arizona.

The political and economic implications of the war were significant. The expansion of the United States had a profound impact on its geography and economy. The new territories brought new lands to settle, new resources to harness, and new markets to develop.

American public opinion was divided on the war. While some celebrated the expansion of the country, others criticized the war for its cost and its moral implications. The war also had a lasting impact on American foreign policy, setting a precedent for future interventions in Latin America.

In conclusion, the Mexican War was a complex and multifaceted conflict that shaped the American experience in the 19th century. Its legacy continues to be a source of national pride and a subject of debate and reflection.

The debate on the Mexican War is ongoing, with different perspectives and interpretations. Some argue that the war was justified as a means of expansion and national growth, while others view it as a unnecessary and costly venture.

As we commemorate the anniversary of the Mexican War, it is important to reflect on its implications and to consider the lessons that can be learned from this historical event.