The Invisible Wall

Since the beginning of their history the United States of America and Mexico were two nations headed in opposite directions. The United States was a young strong country that had many technological advantages while Mexico had just obtained its independence from Spain. Mexico was still suffering from its long war of independence and was trying to establish a new government and failed to maintain control over its massive territory. On the other hand, the United States inspired by the concept of “Manifest Destiny” confidently expanded its territories.

During President Polk's government the United States declared war to Mexico in 1846. The war was a defining event for both nations. As a result of the war, the continent was transformed and forged a new identity for its people. Mexico lost half of its territory including the states of California, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and parts of Utah, Wyoming, and Colorado. This expansion provided continental power to the United States.

What ended the war was The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo signed in 1848. The United States gained more than half of Mexico’s territory. From one day to another, all the people living in the territory that the United States had gained had two options. The first one was to move south to be in Mexican territory or stay in their homeland and become Americans and had the right to their land. Many decided to go to Mexico but many others stayed in their land. Those that stayed suffered many discrimination and were not giving the rights the treaty stated. The American government didn’t recognize their land titles since they were given by Spain. As a result many Mexicanos now Americans lost their lands unjustly.

Mexicanos continue to suffer discrimination by the dominant race. For example, President Trump’s campaign during the presidency election stated, "When Mexico sends its people, they're not sending their best. They're not sending you. They're not sending you. They're sending people that have lots of problems, and they're bringing those problems with us. They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists. And some, I assume, are good people." During his campaign he also promised to build a border in the south to try to stop immigrants from entering the United States and that Mexico was going to pay for it. Mexico announced that its government was not going to pay no wall and President Trump, continues to affirm that the wall is going to be built and American taxpayers will pay for it.

The wall President Trump wants to build for many Mexican families is a wall that already exist. I interviewed a couple of people of my community on the topic. Sra. Cruz stated that the wall is more like a physical image President Trump wants to build. She stated that for years she hasn’t being able to see her loved ones that stayed in Mexico. For her the wall is there that deprives her of going to her homeland. She got to the United States twenty five years ago and has not being able to return to see her love ones. She stated “no he podido ir, porque aunque aun no esta el muro, existe invisiblemente” ("I have not been able to go, because although the wall is not yet there, it exists invisibly"). During her interview, I was able to detect how much she suffers for not being able to go to her country and visit her love ones.

I also interviewed one of my school classmates. She believes that President Trump is not going to be able to build the wall during his presidential term. But she thinks that it’s sad how he’s dividing the country and how much racism exists. She also stated that she’s second generation, and that her mother used to talk to her about how much her grandmother wanted to visit her homeland and she was never able to do it.

In conclusion both families had suffered from not being able to return to their country. They both have suffered discrimination in this country just like the Mexicanos that decided to stay after the Mexican American War. The wall is invisible and it has already divided families since the signing of The Treaty of Guadalupe.