

Manifest Destiny

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1. The notion of a so-called “Manifest Destiny” characterized much American political discourse during the 1840s. First, discuss the major ideological components of “Manifest Destiny” and explain how each emerged out of U.S. historical developments. Note ideas from John O’Sullivan’s writings as well. Second, identify the major U.S. territorial acquisitions during the 1840s and relate them to this belief in a “Manifest Destiny.”

Many ideologists, including O’Sullivan held the view that it was necessary to expand in a bid to reach the destiny of America and protect the interests of America. More of a semi-religious call, Manifest destiny called for the spreading of democracy in addition to the push of settlers moving westward in their thousands. The initiators of Manifest destiny believed that the successful making of an agrarian republic that was democratic, would effectively save the world. (Locke & Bright, 2019)

The dream of establishing a utopian democracy in the West was an idea that rested on the migrants who moved with their families and possessions to the west. They migrated as families and settled along rivers, where settlements would coalesce on the basis of local traditions such as religion. These premise of common good or understanding set ground for a stronger sense of cooperation among these communities spreading west. (Locke & Ben, 2019).

Under the Monroe Doctrine, what now became an important factor for America, was the expansion of its territory and influence outside the continent going westward. It was the idea to keep European Nations out of the Western space and thus they invoked the manifest destiny principles to the rest of the Western hemisphere. Recognizing the aggressive incursions of these European nations, America acknowledged its need for a secure and robust foreign policy that in effect, protected and spurred the nation’s growth and its dynamic economy. The belief of

Manifest destiny, justified the displacement of Native Indians in the Westward expansion such as that of the Cherokee tribe. They relocated them with aim to enable their gradual transition into interesting and less savage people whilst fulfilling their expansionist agenda (Locke & Ben, 2019).

References

Locke L. Joseph, Ben, Wright. (2019). The American Yawp, A Massively Collaborative Open US History Textbook Vol 1: To 1877.