

THE MOTIVATION BEHIND THIS EXPANSION

Variety of factors :

- search for fertile land
- natural resources
- new economic opportunity
- natural and divine right



American Progress by John Gast, 1872

TERRITORIAL IMPERIALISM AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNISM

- The United States exercised its power and influence over the newly acquired territories, often at the expense of the indigenous populations and other nations

THE KEY STAGES OF WESTWARD EXPANSION

- 1803 -> Louisiana Purchase
- 1845 -> Texas was annexed by the United States
- 1848 -> Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo

AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM AND DEMOCRATIC EXPANSION

- Territorial expansion seen as a natural extension of American democracy
- New economic and political opportunities for Americans

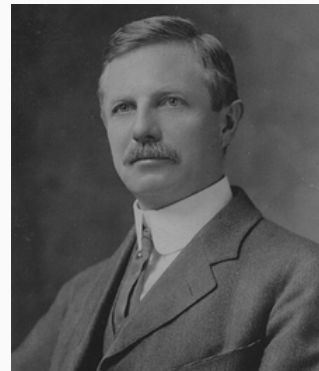
Manifest Destiny

"THE FRONTIER"

- Zone of transition and interaction between American civilization and the unsettled or less developed regions to the west of the American territory
- Helped to reinforce the idea of America as a land of opportunity

JACKSON TURNER'S THEORY

- Hypothesized that the frontier had shaped the American spirit by fostering democracy, individualism, innovation, and by helping to forge a sense of equal opportunity and social mobility
- theory of the "closed frontier"



Frederick Jackson Turner (1861-1932)