**WESTWARD EXPANSION OF THE UNITED STATES  (1803-1890)**

*What are the key aspects of the Westward Expansion in the United States and why is this period still relevant nowadays ?*

**Part I: What is the Westward Expansion?**

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*Timeline of the significant events throughout the Westward Expansion*

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*Map of the United States in 1890*

**Westward Expansion:** it is a significant chapter in the nation's history that occurred in the **nineteenth century**. During the Westward Expansion, the United States acquired more than **1 million square kilometers of land** west of the Mississippi River.

This acquisition sparked a **large-scale movement of people migrating from the eastern regions of the United States towards the western territories** and states, commonly known as Westward Expansion.

**Part 2: Manifest Destiny or how the US justified the Westward Expansion**

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**Manifest destiny:** American ideology according to which the American Nation would have the divine mission of expanding « civilization » towards the East of the country, and to the whole world starting from the 20th century. European settlers believed that God, by geographically separating the U.S. from Europe, had given them the right to settle the North American continent in order to spread Christianity.

**Why?** --> higher birth rate, higher migration, economic depressions, new available and vast territories

in the West, new discoveries (gold, petrol).

**Modern- day examples of Manifest Destiny in the U.S Policy:**

Manifest destiny did not disappear, but evolved (less religious than before but is still relevant to

understand the American spirit nowadays):

- Woodrow Wilson, “The U.S. would " make the world safe for democracy. " (19﻿ 17)

- The Bush Era: policies of Georges W. Bush toward Iraq --> spread American Democracy

*“American Progress” Painting by John Gast, 1872*

**Part 3: The role of the « frontier thesis » in the Westward Expansion**

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*“Westward the Course of Empire Takes its Way” By Emmanuel G. Leutz*

Une image contenant drapeau, Police, symbole, Drapeau des États-Unis

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