

# MANIFEST DESTINY

**Introduction:** The term “manifest destiny” first appeared in print in 1839, where it was used by a New York journalist, John O’Sullivan to urge for the annexation of Texas. Thereafter, it was used to encourage American settlement of Spanish, French, and Mexican lands and Indian areas in the Great Plains and the West. Following is a portion of O’Sullivan’s writing.

The American people having derived their origin from many other nations, and the Declaration of Independence being entirely based on the great principle of human equality, demonstrates at once our [unique] position [compared to] any other nation. Our national birth was the beginning of a new history, the formation and progress of an [improved] political system, which separates us from the past and connects us with the future only. Thusly, we may confidently assume that our country is destined to be THE great nation of [the future].

This far-reaching, the boundless future will be the era of American greatness. In its magnificent domain of space and time, the nation of many nations is destined to manifest to mankind the excellence of divine principles; to establish on earth the noblest temple ever dedicated to the worship of the Sacred and the True, governed by God’s natural and moral law of equality.

We are the nation of progress, of individual freedom, of universal [rights]. And so we must [move] onward to the fulfilment of our mission This is our [great] destiny, and in nature’s eternal, inevitable decree of cause and effect we must accomplish it. All this will be our future history, to establish on earth the moral dignity and salvation of man -- the immutable truth and [blessings] of God. For this blessed mission — to deliver the life-giving light of truth to the nations of the world — has America been chosen; and her high example shall carry the glad tidings of peace and good will where myriads now endure an existence scarcely more enviable than that of beasts of the field.

Who, then, can doubt that our country is destined to be The Great Nation of the world?