

9 COMPARE THE THEME MANIFEST DESTINY TO THE EVENTS OF THE 1840'S AND 1890'S.

Manifest Destiny, a theory that roughly mirrors a nationalistic mood, or patriotic feeling (God ordained) that American ideals, institutions and traditions are superior and should be extended beyond our borders.

Americans are a restless migratory people seeking new lands and Opportunities. The fear that some other power will get there first.

Examples: Ohio River Valley, Great Lakes Region, Mississippi R. Florida, Louisiana, Texas, Oregon, California, Alaska.

Pre concepts: Imperialist Thrust-Louisiana Purchase-War of 1812, Monroe Doctrine, Indian Removal.

1840's

This theme extended to California and the Mexican Territories for a number of reasons.

- Power Vacuum Theory
- need to extend slavery (Texas)
- need for a door to the Pacific (Jackson's Farewell Address)
- basic need to extend democracy/freedom and superior American values.
- need to expand American power and prestige.

Result:

We beat up on an obviously weak neighbor with trumped charges to obtain Texas, New Mexico and California. (Later paid \$ for it anyway)

1890's

This Theme extended to Cuba primarily and to the Phillipines and other island territories secondarily.

reasons:

- our transcontinental expansion is complete.
- we were # 1 in world trade and have a need to extend our commercial empire to new markets.
- belief in American superiority of values and institutions.
- competition with other world powers for control of world markets and resources. (Keep Phillipines, join other nations in China)
- expansionism a natural way to demonstrate a nations vitality and greatness. Failure a sign of weakness (Spain) T. Roosevelt, " Pursuit of National Honor".
- Frederick Jackson Turner thesis: Frontier Closed 1890 no place to go but outside our borders.

Result:

We beat up on a relatively defenseless and deteriorating old Spanish empire on supposed human rights violations in Cuba.

Gained Cuba, Puerto Rico, Phillipines and other Pacific islands

*Achieved World Power Status

Sources/Name drop: Alfred Mahan, Influence of Sea Power Upon History

Rudyard Kipling Take up the white mans burden

Howard Zinn Peoples History of the United States

Alexander De Conde The Imperial Thrust