

Assignment Title: _____

Source: John O'Sullivan, *The Great Nation of Futurity*, 1839.

"Our national birth (and the declaration of Independence) was the beginning of a new history, which separates us from the past and connects us only with the future.

We are a nation of progress, of individual freedom, of universal **enfranchisement**. Our future history will be to establish on earth the moral dignity and salvation of man - the undeniable truth and goodness of God. America has been chosen for this mission among all nations of the world, which are shut out from the life-giving light of truth. Her high example shall put an end to the **tyranny** of kings, and carry the happy news of peace and good will to millions who now **endure** existence hardly better than that of beasts of the field. Who, then, can doubt that our country is destined to be the great nation of the future."

1. What does John O'Sullivan think America stands for?

2. What, according to John O'Sullivan, is America's mission?

Source: John O'Sullivan, *Annexation*, 1845.

"It is time now for all opposition to annexation of Texas to stop...Texas is now ours. She is no longer to us a mere geographical space. She is no longer to us a mere country on the map...

The time has come for everyone to stop treating Texas as an alien, and to stop thwarting our policy and **hampering** our power, limiting our greatness and checking the fulfillment of our manifest destiny to overspread the continent **allotted** by **Providence** for the free development of our yearly multiplying millions."

3. What do you think John O'Sullivan means by "our manifest destiny to overspread the continent allotted by Providence for the free development of our yearly multiplying millions"?

4. Based on these two documents, how did Americans feel about expanding westward?

VOCABULARY

- enfranchisement: the right to vote
- tyranny: cruel and oppressive rule
- endure: suffer, to put up with
- thwarting: opposing, or limiting
- hampering: slowing down
- allotted: given
- Providence: God

Source: John Gast, *American Progress*, 1872



5. Describe in detail what you see in this painting.

6. The floating woman in this painting is heading west. What do you think she represents?