# **United States History Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Reading: John L. O’Sullivan on Manifest Destiny Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period:\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**From John L. O’Sullivan, "The Great Nation of Futurity," *The United States Democratic Review*, Volume 6, Issue 23: 426-430.**

Our national birth was the beginning of a new history, the formation and progress of an untried political system, which separates us from the past and connects us with the future only; and so far as regards the entire development of the natural rights of man, in moral, political, and national life, we may confidently assume that our country is destined to be the great nation of futurity.

Yes, we are the nation of progress, of individual freedom, of universal enfranchisement[[1]](#footnote-1). We must [march] onward to the fulfillment of our mission -- to the entire development of the principle of our organization -- freedom of conscience[[2]](#footnote-2), freedom of person, freedom of trade and business pursuits, universality of freedom and equality.

1. What elements of the American political and social order does O’Sullivan praise in this 1839 essay?
2. By using the term “mission,” what does O’Sullivan imply about America’s destiny?

John O'Sullivan, "Annexation," *United States Magazine and Democratic Review*, Volume 17, No.1 (July-August 1845): 5-10

Other nations have undertaken to intrude themselves into [the discussion of America’s annexation of Texas] for the avowed object of thwarting[[3]](#footnote-3) our policy and hampering[[4]](#footnote-4) our power, limiting our greatness and checking the fulfillment of our manifest destiny to overspread the continent allotted by Providence[[5]](#footnote-5) for the free development of our yearly multiplying millions.

1. Why does O’Sullivan think that America *must* expand to the West?

1. Enfranchisement: granting the right to vote. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Freedom of conscience: freedom of religion. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Thwarting: stopping [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Hampering: hindering or preventing. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Providence: God [↑](#footnote-ref-5)