



MANIFEST DESTINY

American Territorial Expansion

U3A American History - August 2020

The Start...

- The idea of westward expansion existed with the early colonialists
- Beyond the borders of the early colonies lay wilderness and it was their right to go there and “tame” it
- Native Americans / Indians living further west didn’t factor into this “right” as they did not **own** the land: Generally, the idea of owning the land was not a concept held by Indians.
- As early as the 16th century, cattle brought over by the Spanish and initially raised in Mexico began to be driven northwards to the great plains.
- Main activities westward during the 17th and 18th centuries were hunting and trading

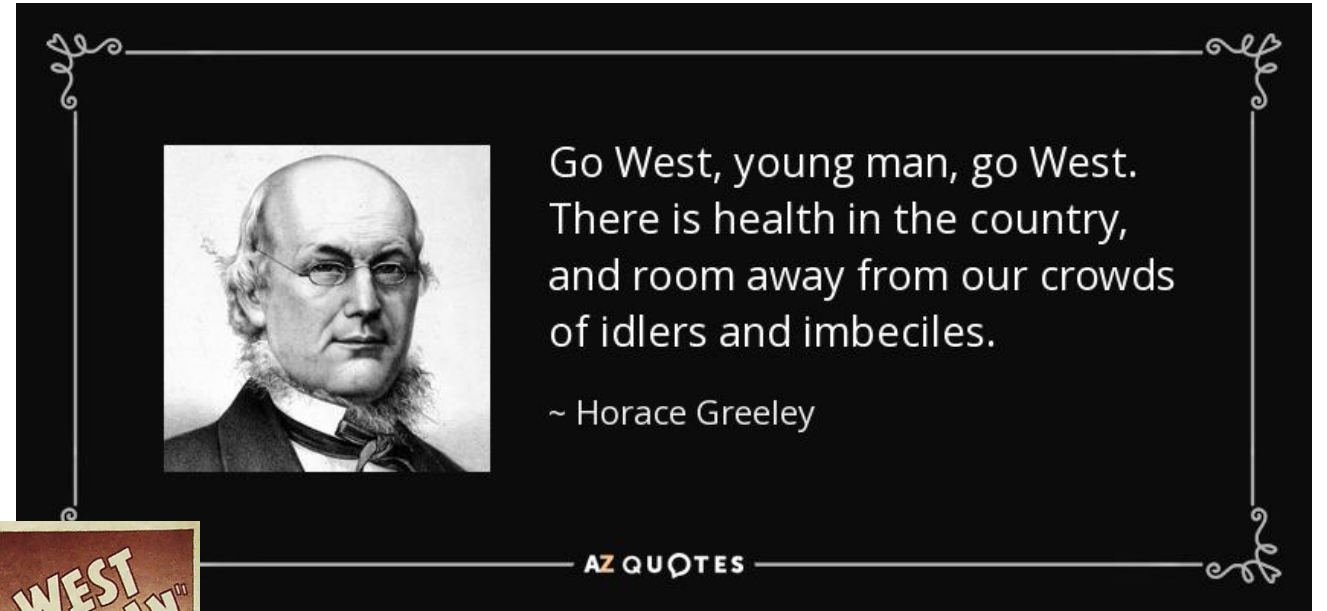
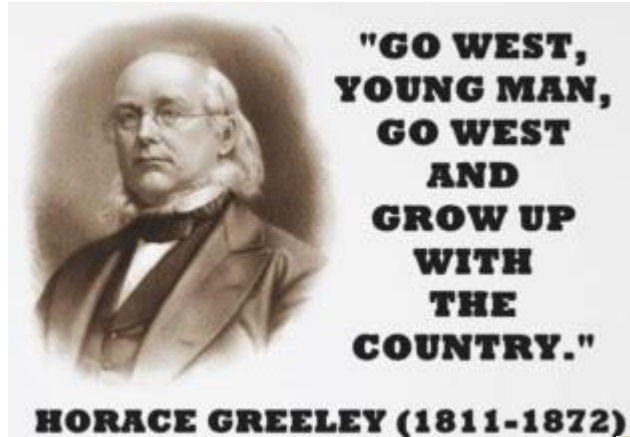
Moving West - American Tradition and Frontier Myth



Expansion West – A Political Strategy....

- Cotton expansion in the South is matched by the lure of the Ohio Country
- Jefferson doubles the size of the United States with the Louisiana Purchase 1803
- War of 1812 is driven partially by expansionists to acquire Spanish Florida
- Gen. Andrew Jackson invades Florida 1818 → Transcontinental Treaty (1819) settles southern borders with Spain, who renounce its claim to the Oregon Country, which enables US to claim Pacific Northwest
- The Monroe Doctrine 1823 warns European nations that the United States would not tolerate further colonization or puppet monarchs.
- Southeast Indians succumb to pressure of spreading settlements by ceding their lands to the US
- Jackson's implements removal policy of the 1830s that pushes (relocates) Indians west of the Mississippi → Cherokees Trail of Tears excites protests

Moving West becomes an Imperative



Expansion as Sentiment and Destiny

- *Manifest Destiny* appears as a term first used in 1845 by John L O'Sullivan, editor of *The United States Magazine and Democratic Review* regarding the necessity of annexing Texas and the inevitability of American Expansion
- Sullivan was protesting European meddling especially France and England ..who were acting
 - *“for the avowed object of thwarting our policy and hampering our power, limiting our greatness and checking our fulfilment of our manifest destiny to overspread the continent allotted by Providence for the free development of our yearly multiplying millions.”*
- And again in *The New York Morning News* regarding a dispute with Great Britain over the Oregon Country cited the claim to:
 - *“The right of our manifest destiny to overspread and to possess the whole of the continent which Providence has given us for the development of the great experiment of liberty and federated self-government entrusted to us”*

Image created by Udo J. Kepler for Puck Magazine -the first successful humour **magazine** in the United States of colourful cartoons, caricatures and political satire of the issues of the day. It was founded in 1871



B-b-but... what about manifest destiny?



"THEY SAY THEY'RE BUILDING A WALL BECAUSE TOO MANY OF US ENTER ILLEGALLY AND WON'T LEARN THEIR LANGUAGE OR ASSIMILATE INTO THEIR CULTURE..."