

Manifest Destiny & The Oregon Territory

I. America Seeks Its Manifest Destiny

- Since colonial times many Americans believed their nation's mission should be to serve as a model of freedom and democracy
- By the 1800s that belief had changed - Americans now wanted to spread their form of government and ideas of freedom across the continent to the Pacific Ocean
- The term 'Manifest Destiny' was first used by a New York newspaper editor in the 1840s named John O'Sullivan
- Manifest Destiny means it is the United States' duty and responsibility to expand to the Pacific Ocean.
- Manifest Destiny will become an important topic in the 1840s

II. Fifty-Four Forty or Fight"

- Many Americans wanted the U.S. to take over all of Oregon
- The Oregon Territory, Manifest Destiny and the westward expansion became important issues in the Election of 1844.
- Two candidates ran for President in 1844
 1. James K. Polk (Democrat) - supported Manifest Destiny and westward expansion
 2. Henry Clay (Whig) - didn't take a strong stand on Manifest Destiny and westward expansion
- Polk wins the election of 1844 because he supported Manifest Destiny & westward expansion
- In 1846 the United States and Great Britain agreed to a treaty in which the United States got the southern half of the Oregon territory
- The United States is one step closer to fulfilling its goal of Manifest Destiny