I. Creating a Myth: American Exceptionalism and Manifest Destiny

1. Origin: Mid-Nineteenth Century

1. Definition: Myth

a. it is the destiny of the new American nation and the Anglo-Saxon race to spread across the continent and dominate it.

b. its institutions and values are superior to those "others" that

it will encounter and inevitably assimilate, conquer, and/or eliminate

c. God has ordained the above and will guide it.

d. it is divine progress

2. John Gast's American Progress 1872

<https://www.google.com/search?q=john+gast+painting+american+progress&rlz=1C1GMIN_enUS697US697&tbm=isch&source=iu&ictx=1&fir=b_Aqk6owGtb0hM%253A%252Cle8GUO1mv67AdM%252C_&vet=1&usg=AI4_-kQ763aBGg372ZbBn18xMS_qMTHPcw&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjbmISY37PnAhXrmq0KHWosDr4Q9QEwAHoECAYQAw&biw=1366&bih=663#imgrc=b_Aqk6owGtb0hM:>

"Texas has been absorbed into the Union **in the inevitable fulfillment of the general law which is rolling our population westward.**... (its) incorporation into the Union was not only **inevitable**, but **the most natural, right and proper thing in the world**.... California will, probably, next fall away from...Mexico.... Imbecile and distracted, Mexico never can exert any real governmental authority over such a country.... The Anglo-Saxon foot is already on its borders. Already the advance guard of the irresistible army of Anglo-Saxon emigration has begun to pour down upon it **armed with the plow and the rifle, and marking its trail with schools and colleges, courts and representative halls, mills and meeting houses**. A population will soon be in actual occupation of California, over which it will be idle for Mexico to dream of dominion... All this **without agency of our government, without responsibility of our people-** -**in natural flow of events, the spontaneous working of principles, and the adaptation of the tendencies and wants of the human race to the elemental circumstances** in the midst of which they find themselves placed." ([Blum](http://www.let.rug.nl/usa/essays/1801-1900/manifest-destiny/references-cited.php#blum) 277)

Mythology

As identity: special peoples (white race), w/ God.

Institutions are superior

As justification: removal, taking land, enslaving, removing and killing peoples, and “war with nature.”

Mismeasure of Man Stephen Jay Gould Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee

3. Manifest Destiny, Spanish American War and the Philippines

a. McKinley

I walked the floor of the White House night after night until midnight; and I am not ashamed to tell you, gentlemen, that I went down on my knees and prayed Almighty God for light and guidance more than one night. And one night late it came to me this way—I don’t know how it was, but it came:

(1) That we could not give them back to Spain—that would be cowardly and dishonorable;

(2) that we could not turn them over to France and Germany—our commercial rivals in the Orient—that would be bad business and discreditable;

(3) that we could not leave them to themselves—they were unfit for self-government—and they would soon have anarchy and misrule over there worse than Spain’s was; and (4) that there was nothing left for us to do but to take them all, and

to educate the Filipinos, and uplift and civilize and Christianize them,

and by God’s grace do the very best we could by them,

as our fellow-men for whom Christ also died. And then I went to bed, and went to sleep. . .

b. Above is basis of Benevolent" Assimilation Proclamation

i. which included below

"To effect this "mission and vision," the United States must subdue any form of Filipino resistance, after all they were deemed "ignorant, uneducated, and uncivilized."

iii. resistance

\*\*Identity and the Other: other is inferior, and needs to be uplifted, white man's burden. The uplifting might need to be violent because the people are so ignorant.

4. Manifest Destiny and Latin America

a. Monroe Doctrine

b. Roosevelt Corollary

5. American Century

Overthrow –Stephen Kinzer