

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Manifest Destiny on Trial: Your 11th Grade Historiography Challenge

Synthesize primary sources and deconstruct the Turner Thesis to evaluate the socio-economic friction of 19th-century American expansionism.

1. Which 1845 ideological framework, coined by John O'Sullivan, argued that American expansion was not merely a political choice but a divinely ordained necessity?

Answer: C) Manifest Destiny

John O'Sullivan used the term 'Manifest Destiny' in the Democratic Review to justify the annexation of Texas and Oregon, suggesting a providential mission to spread republican institutions.

2. The 1848 Treaty of ___ formally ended the Mexican-American War, ceding over 500,000 square miles of territory to the United States and intensifying the domestic debate over the expansion of slavery.

Answer: B) Guadalupe Hidalgo

The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo resulted in the Mexican Cession, which forced the U.S. to grapple with the Wilmot Proviso and the eventual Compromise of 1850.

3. Frederick Jackson Turner's 'Frontier Thesis' argued that the encounter between 'civilization and savagery' at the frontier was the primary driver of American democratic identity.

Answer: A) True

Presented in 1893, Turner's thesis posited that the frontier acted as a 'safety valve' and shaped American character, prioritizing individualism and democracy.

4. Assess the primary motivation behind the Gadsden Purchase of 1853. What specific economic infrastructure did it aim to facilitate?

Answer: B) A flat southern route for a transcontinental railroad

The U.S. paid \$10 million for land in present-day Arizona and New Mexico primarily to secure a southern geographic route for a railroad to the Pacific.

5. The 1851 Treaty of ___ represented a shift in federal policy toward Native Americans, moving from total removal to defining specific tribal boundaries and allowing the construction of government forts.

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Answer: A) Fort Laramie

The first Treaty of Fort Laramie attempted to establish peace by defining territories for Great Plains tribes for the first time, though these boundaries were often ignored by settlers.

6. Examine the role of the 'Exodusters' during the post-Civil War era. Who were these individuals and what was their primary destination?

Answer: C) African Americans migrating from the South to Kansas

Led by figures like Benjamin 'Pap' Singleton, Exodusters were Black migrants seeking freedom from the Jim Crow South in the 'promised land' of Kansas.

7. The 'Petaluma and Santa Rosa' decision paved the legal way for the Chinese Exclusion Act by defining Chinese laborers as 'aliens ineligible for citizenship.'

Answer: B) False

While nativism was high, the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 was a federal legislative act, not a specific court case by that name, marking the first time a specific ethnic group was barred from entering the U.S.

8. Helen Hunt Jackson's 1881 book, 'A Century of Dishonor', was significant because it:

Answer: B) Chronicled the history of broken treaties and injustices against Native Americans

Jackson's work was a seminal piece of muckraking that challenged the ethics of U.S. Indian policy, eventually leading to the (flawed) reforms of the Dawes Act.

9. The ___ movement, a spiritual revival among the Lakota and other tribes in the late 1880s, promised a return to traditional ways of life but was misunderstood by the U.S. military as a prelude to armed uprising.

Answer: B) Ghost Dance

The Ghost Dance movement spread hope among displaced tribes; the fear it instilled in federal agents directly contributed to the tensions leading to the Wounded Knee Massacre.

10. Which specific environmental challenge led to the development of 'Bonanza Farms' in the late 19th century?

Answer: B) The need for massive capital to implement irrigation and machinery in arid climates

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Bonanza farms were large-scale commercial operations that used expensive machinery and hired labor to combat the harsh, unpredictable conditions of the Great Plains, signaling the start of agribusiness.