

Manifest Destiny

"The whole continent of North America appears to be destined by Divine Providence to be peopled by one nation, speaking one language, professing one general system of religious and political principles" -John Quincy Adams 1811

[The US has] "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" -John O'Sullivan, 1845

Questions:

What do these quotes mean?

What is "manifest destiny"? What happened historically tied to this perspective?

What is a settler?

What other countries were colonized by settlers? How do you think that might have been different than colonies that were ruled by representatives from far away—like India or Haiti?

What was the impact of manifest destiny on Native Americans?

Promised Land Quote

"This country [Israel] exists as the fulfillment of a promise made by God Himself."
-Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir, 1971

Questions:

What does this quote mean?

How is it similar or different from the US quotes?

What questions does it raise in your mind?

Why do you think this quote was so important to people? How do you think it might have affected Jews? Palestinians?