

MOVING SOUTHWARD AND WESTWARD

America's Growth to the South and West

In the 19th century, the United States was growing and expanding its territory. Population was increasing, and many people went looking for other places to settle and own land outside of the established states.

Manifest Destiny was the idea that the United States was destined to expand from the Atlantic to the Pacific. This motivated the government to acquire lands in the Oregon Territory as well as in areas that became Texas, Florida, and California.

Many people started to move west in hope of a better life. The **California Gold Rush** triggered a large movement of people to California. Regardless of their success in this venture, communities of people began to spring up all over the western part of the United States.



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During the A... with
Mexico over... required the
territories in dispute, but not before a great deal of fighting and a large
number of casualties on both sides.



Slavery also became an issue during the movement westward. Whether or not to give the new states the right to slavery was a debate held in the northern and southern states and was one cause of the Civil War, decades later.