**John L. O'Sullivan on *Manifest Destiny*, 1839- 1845**

American Journalist [John L. O'Sullivan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_L._O%27Sullivan), an influential Democrat, wrote several articles between 1839 and 1845 claiming that United States was a nation with a special purpose, and a special density to carry out. Read the excerpts from O’Sullivan’s articles (below), and do your best to answer the questions that follow the reading.

**In John O’Sullivan 1839 wrote…**

We are the nation of human progress, and who will, what can, set limits to our onward march? Providence [God] is with us, and no earthly power can *[stand in our way].*

The far-reaching, the boundless future will be the era of American greatness. In its magnificent domain of space and time, the nation of many nations is destined to manifest *[make obvious]* to mankind the excellence of divine principles; to establish on earth the noblest temple ever dedicated to the worship of the Most High -- the Sacred and the True.

…Yes, we are the nation of progress, of individual freedom, of universal enfranchisement *[political rights]* … We must onward to the fulfillment of our mission -- to the entire development of the principle of our organization -- freedom of conscience *[mind]*, freedom of person, freedom of trade and business pursuits, universality of freedom and equality. This is our high destiny, and in nature's eternal, inevitable decree of cause and effect we must accomplish it.

…America been chosen; and her high example shall smite [*strike down*] unto death the tyranny of kings, hierarchs, and oligarchs *[rule of a few*], and carry the glad tidings of peace and good will where myriads *[many people]* now endure an existence scarcely more enviable [*barely better]* than that of beasts *[animals]* of the field. Who, then, can doubt that our country is destined to be *the great nation* of futurity [*the future*]?

**O’Sullivan added these statements in 1845…**

It is “…our **manifest destiny** to overspread the continent allotted [given] by Providence [by God] for the free development of our yearly multiplying millions…”

It is “ 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 and federated self-government entrusted to us.

Questions:

1. According to O’Sullivan, what was America’s destiny?
2. How did O’Sullivan want to see the United States grow?
3. According to O’Sullivan, who or what had given the United States the right or duty to grow in this way?