

Document-Based Question

Directions: The following question is based on the accompanying documents. The documents have been edited for this exercise. Spend approximately 15 minutes planning and 45 minutes writing your answer.

Write an essay that does the following:

- ♦ States an appropriate thesis that directly addresses all parts of the question.
- ♦ Supports the thesis or argument with evidence from all or all but one of the documents AND your knowledge of U.S. history beyond the documents.
- ♦ Analyzes all or all but one of the documents.
- ♦ Places each document into at least one of the following categories: intended audience, purpose, historical context, and/or point of view.
- ♦ Uses historical evidence beyond the documents to support your argument.
- ♦ Places the argument in the context of broader regional, national, or global processes.
- ♦ Incorporates all of the elements above into a convincing essay.

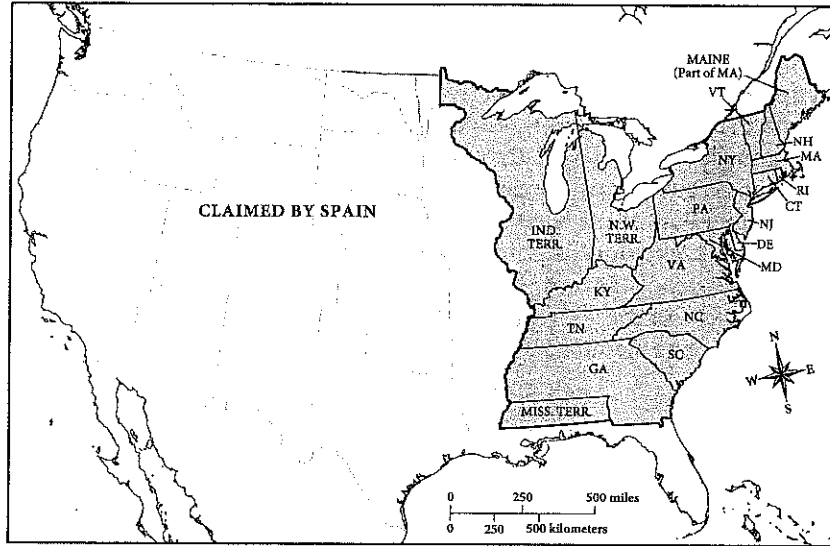
Question: Analyze the political, economic, and social factors that encouraged Americans to move west between 1800 and 1848.

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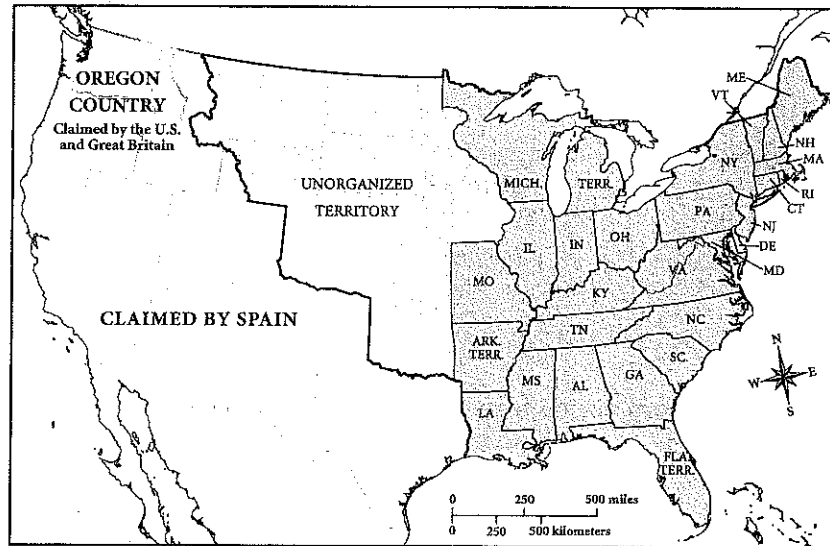
Document 1

Source: The USCen Web Census Project, www.US-Census.org

1800 U.S. Census



1830 U.S. Census



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Document 2

Source: American Explorer Zebulon Pike, 1806

From these immense prairies may arise one great advantage to the United States, viz: The restriction of our population to some certain limits, and thereby a continuation of the Union. Our citizens being so prone to rambling and extending themselves on the frontier will through necessity be constrained to limit their extent to the west to the borders of the Missouri and Mississippi, while they leave the prairies incapable of cultivation to the wandering and uncivilized aborigines of the country.

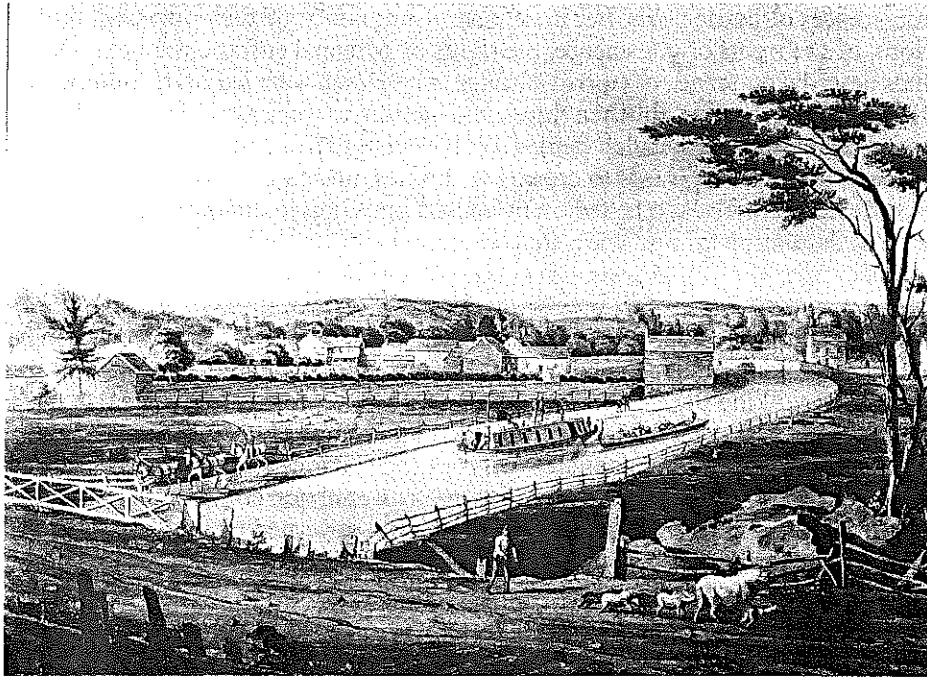
Document 3

Source: Land Act of 1820

That from and after the first day of July next [1820], all the public lands of the United States, the sale of which is, or may be authorized by law, shall when offered at public sale, to the highest bidder, be offered in half quarter sections [80 acres]; and when offered at private sale, may be purchased, at the option of the purchaser, either in entire sections [640 acres], half sections [320 acres], quarter sections [160 acres], or half quarter sections [80 acres].

Document 4

Source: John William Hill, *View of the Erie Canal*, 1829



Art Resource, NY

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Document 5

Source: President Andrew Jackson's Case for the Removal Act, First Annual Message to Congress, December 8, 1829

It gives me pleasure to announce to Congress that the benevolent policy of the Government, steadily pursued for nearly thirty years, in relation to the removal of the Indians beyond the white settlements is approaching to a happy consummation. Two important tribes have accepted the provision made for their removal at the last session of Congress, and it is believed that their example will induce the remaining tribes also to seek the same obvious advantages. . . .

Toward the aborigines of the country no one can indulge a more friendly feeling than myself, or would go further in attempting to reclaim them from their wandering habits and make them a happy, prosperous people. I have endeavored to impress upon them my own solemn convictions of the duties and powers of the General Government in relation to the State authorities. For the justice of the laws passed by the States within the scope of their reserved powers they are not responsible to this Government. As individuals we may entertain and express our opinions of their acts, but as a Government we have as little right to control them as we have to prescribe laws for other nations.

Document 6

Source: John O'Sullivan on America's "Manifest Destiny," 1839

America is destined for better deeds. It is our unparalleled glory that we have no reminiscences of battle fields, but in defense of humanity, of the oppressed of all nations, of the rights of conscience, the rights of personal enfranchisement. Our annals describe no scenes of horrid carnage, where men were led on by hundreds of thousands to slay one another, dupes and victims to emperors, kings, nobles, demons in the human form called heroes. We have had patriots to defend our homes, our liberties, but no aspirants to crowns or thrones; nor have the American people ever suffered themselves to be led on by wicked ambition to depopulate the land, to spread desolation far and wide, that a human being might be placed on a seat of supremacy. . . .

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 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. Its floor shall be a hemisphere—its roof the firmament of the star-studded heavens, and its congregation an Union of many Republics, comprising hundreds of happy millions, calling, owning no man master, but governed by God's natural and moral law of equality, the law of brotherhood—of "peace and good will amongst men."

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Document 7

Source: Adapted from Table 40 in Lewis Cecil Gray, *History of Agriculture in the Southern United States to 1860*, vol. 2 (Gloucester, MA: Peter Smith, 1958), 1026.

American Production of Raw Cotton, 1790–1860 (bales)

Year	Production	Year	Production	Year	Production
1790	3,135	1815	208,986	1840	1,346,232
1795	16,719	1820	334,378	1845	1,804,223
1800	73,145	1825	532,915	1850	2,133,851
1805	146,290	1830	731,452	1855	3,217,417
1810	177,638	1835	1,060,711	1860	3,837,402

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