

# Contents

Acknowledgments .....	11
1 <b>Introduction</b> .....	13
2 <b>Defining the Shape of the Possible: Free Land in Congressional Debates, 1798–1829</b> .....	24
2.1 The Political Dismissal of a Popular Concept .....	25
2.2 Propositions in Congressional Debates .....	29
2.3 Conceivable Policy .....	54
3 <b>Between Mass Politics and a Vehicle of Colonial Expansion: The Development of Free Land Legislation, 1828–50</b> .....	59
3.1 The Emergence of Mass Politics in the West and Southwest, 1820s–1830s .....	60
3.2 Smearing Indians to Access the Government Domain: The Donation Proposal for Missouri and Arkansas, 1828–40 .....	66
3.3 Bringing Indian Removal to a Radical Conclusion: The Donation Proposal for Florida, 1838–42 .....	86
3.4 Countering British Dominance on the Pacific Coast: The Donation Proposal for Oregon Country, 1839–50 .....	115

**6**    Contents

<b>4</b>	<b>Realities of a Settler Utopia: Land Claims, Settlement Development and Frontier Relations, 1840–60</b> .....	155
4.1	Boosting the Growth of a State: Arkansas, 1840–50 .....	157
4.2	A Double-Edged Sword: Florida, 1842–50 .....	163
4.3	Contradictions of a Success: Oregon, 1850–60 .....	191
<b>5</b>	<b>Political Assessments and Reconceptualizations, 1850–62</b> .....	233
<b>6</b>	<b>Conclusion: Failures of a Land Policy and the Persistent Contradictions of Settler Imperialism</b> .....	251
	Appendices.....	261
	Bibliography.....	263
	Index.....	280