

Jacksonian America
Expansion of Democratic Process
Mrs. Harrington Pre AP US I

Thesis/Hypothesis

The first half of the 19th century witnessed a broadening of democracy through less exclusionary and more inclusionary policies and processes.

Re-write the above statement in your own words:

Do you agree or disagree? Explain. Use specific examples from the unit of study on the Jacksonian era.

I. What is an American?

What are the characteristics of an American?

- List five characteristics of an American.

- How does Alexis DeTocqueville describe an American?

- How does J Hector St. John de Crevecoeur describe an American?

- Create a new definition of an American using your ideas, DeTocqueville's and Crevecoeur's.

II. Who participates in the 19th century political process?

Voter Participation in Presidential Elections 1824-1832

		1824	1828	1832	1836
1.	Alabama	49.1	54.6	31.5	64.9
2.	Connecticut	14.9	27.2	46	52.3
4.	Georgia	L	31.8	29	61.8
5.	Illinois	24.3	52.4	46	43.5
6.	Indiana	37.1	68.7	71.9	69.2
7.	Kentucky	25.4	70.7	74	61.1
8.	Louisiana	L	36.2	22.3	19.2
9.	Maine	19.1	42.7	66.2	37.7
10.	Maryland	53.7	70.3	55.7	67.6
11.	Mass.	29	25.7	39.4	43.4
12.	Mississippi	41.3	56.6	28	64.4
13.	Missouri	19.8	54	41	36.1
14.	N.H.	18	74.3	70.1	38.2
15.	New Jersey	35.6	71	68.8	69.2
16.	New York	L	80.2	84.2	70.5
17.	N.C.	41.8	56.9	31.3	53
18.	Ohio	34.8	75.9	73.9	75.5
19.	Penn.	18.8	56.5	52.3	53.1
20.	R.I.	12	17.1	26.3	23.8
22.	Tennessee	28.3	55	31.3	57.3
23.	Vermont	L	54.5	50	52.5
24.	Virginia	11.6	27.7	31.1	35.2

- Which states had the greatest voter turnout in 1832 as compared to 1824?

- Which states had the least change in voter turnout in 1832 as compared to 1824?

- Did any states have a decrease in voter turnout in 1832 as compared to 1824?

- What conclusions may you draw?

Women

New Jersey Constitution of 1776

That all inhabitants of this Colony, of full age, who worth fifty pounds within the county in which they claim a vote for twelve months immediately preceding the election, shall be entitled to vote.

The New Jersey Constitution of 1844

Every white male citizen of the United States, of the age of twenty-one years, who shall have been a resident of this State one year, and of the county in which he claims his vote five months, next before the election, shall be entitled to vote.

- Underline key words in each excerpt.
- Compare and contrast the 1776 version with the 1844 version – what is similar and different?

- Which excerpt most closely illustrates Democracy? Explain.

African Americans

Legislative History – manumissions

The 1786 law allowed for the freeing of any slave between the ages of twenty-one and thirty-five with the stipulation that he or she be brought before two overseers of the poor for the township of the slaveowner's residence and two justices of the peace of that county

Legislation in 1798 repealing the 1786 law raised the upper age for legal manumission to forty years, and also required the signatures of two witnesses on the manumission deed

The 1804 monumental law required the registration of births of slaves' children born after 4 July 1804 and declared such children to be "free," but bound as servants to the owners of their mothers for a period of twenty-five years for males and twenty-one years for females.

- Underline key words in each excerpt.
- Summarize the main points of these laws.

- Do these laws illustrate Democracy? Explain.

III. What do historians think?

Comparing historical points of view – Howard Zinn vs Robert Remini

Robert V. Remini:

As they moved westward Americans established local governments that did away with property qualifications, giving every white man over the age of twenty-one the right to vote and hold office.

Though several state constitutions had originally provided that presidential electors be chosen by the state legislatures, the constitutional conventions of the 1820s abolished this practice and provided *popular* election of presidential electors.

The government should see to it that no one group or class in society gained advantages over others, particularly government-granted advantages. Thus, monopolies had to be abolished and voting rights equalized. In the contest for the pursuit of happiness, the government had to make certain that the contest was a fair one. No one must have a head start as the result of government-granted preference.

When all is said and done, two basic qualities tell the most about Americans in this Jacksonian era. First, they were materialists. They were out to make it. The second basic quality about these Americans was that they were champions of equality.

Howard Zinn:

Alexander Hamilton – “The people and turbulent and changing; they seldom judge or determine right. Give therefore to the first class a distinct and permanent share in the government...”

...The new constitutions that were drawn up in all states from 1776 to 1780 were not much different from the old ones. Although property qualifications for voting and holding office were lowered in some instances, in Massachusetts they were increased. Only Pennsylvania abolished them totally

1842 Rhode Island Constitution – “...limited the vote to property owners or those who paid a one-dollar poll tax, and would let naturalized citizens vote only if they had \$134 in real estate.”

Both major parties were controlled largely by men of wealth and ambition. Lawyers, newspaper editors, merchants, industrialists, large landowners, and speculators dominated the Democrats as well as the Whigs.

- Underline key words in each excerpt.
- Summarize the main points each historian.

Remini

Zinn
