

**Source 1**

“The...rise of American democracy was an extraordinary part of the most profound transformation in modern history....

The American Revolution had proved more egalitarian<sup>1</sup> in its outcome than many of its leaders had hoped or expected it would be in 1776.... Portions of the [people] once largely excluded from the exercise of power were now among the people’s governors. Efforts to rein in the egalitarian impulse had faltered.... [But] democracy’s achievements were fragile...and its future far from guaranteed....

[After 1800,] by beating back [the Federalists], the Jeffersonian ascendancy opened up the political system.... The filters on democracy created by the Framers [of the Constitution] were proving porous, while the suppression of democracy sought by the Federalists in the 1790s was thoroughly discredited.”

Source: Sean Wilentz, historian, *The Rise of American Democracy: Jefferson to Lincoln*, 2005

**Source 2**

“[After the American Revolution] elite men from [many] states...create[d] a new national government designed to be a stronger barrier against democracy.... Ordinary folk continued to resist.... But they remained unable to mobilize in ways that would bring the changes they wanted....

It would be an enduring victory for the elite. Although the Federalists both fell politically and personally, the system they created to check democracy has lasted.... Although the Democratic-Republicans rode to power...across the nation by promising to restore the popular vision of the Revolution,...most Democratic-Republican leaders...were content to leave the bulk of the Federalist system in place.... To these men, ‘reform’...did not mean pulling down the barriers to democracy that they had helped to create.”

Source: Terry Bouton, historian, *Taming Democracy: “The People,” the Founders, and the Troubled Ending of the American Revolution*, 2007

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**1. Respond to parts A, B, and C.**

- A.** Briefly describe one major difference between Wilentz’s and Bouton’s historical interpretations of early United States politics.
- B.** Briefly explain how one event or development from 1789 to 1820 not directly mentioned in the excerpts could be used to support Wilentz’s argument about early United States politics.
- C.** Briefly explain how one event or development from 1789 to 1820 not directly mentioned in the excerpts could be used to support Bouton’s argument about early United States politics.

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“[There is a] real and wide difference, in political opinion, between the honorable gentleman [from South Carolina] and myself. On my part, I look upon [internal improvements] as connected with the common good.... [He believes] Ohio and Carolina are different Governments and different countries.... We [in New England] look upon the States, not as separated, but as united. We love to dwell on that Union, and on the mutual happiness which it has so much promoted, and common renown which it has so greatly contributed to acquire. In our contemplation, Carolina and Ohio are parts of the same country; States, united under the same General Government.... We do not impose geographical limits to our patriotic feeling.... I do not desire to enlarge the powers of the Government.... But when it is believed that a power does exist, then it is, in my judgment, to be exercised for the general benefit of the whole.”

Source: Daniel Webster, senator from Massachusetts, future member of the Whig Party, speech in the United States Senate, responding to Robert Y. Hayne of South Carolina, a member of the Democratic Party, 1830

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2. Respond to parts A, B, and C.

- A. Briefly describe one purpose of political leaders in promoting ideas such as Webster’s.
- B. Briefly explain one development from 1820 to 1848 that contributed to the political ideas debated in the speech.
- C. Briefly explain how one political debate between 1848 and 1865 was similar to the debate in the speech.