

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 egalitarian¹ 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

1: equal

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.

Question 3 or 4

Directions: Answer either Question 3 or Question 4.

3. Respond to parts a, b, and c.

- a. Briefly describe one United States government policy from 1783 to 1840.
- b. Briefly explain one similarity OR difference in how two groups responded to political change in the United States from 1783 to 1840.
- c. Briefly explain how one historical development from 1840 to 1860 contributed to regional divisions.