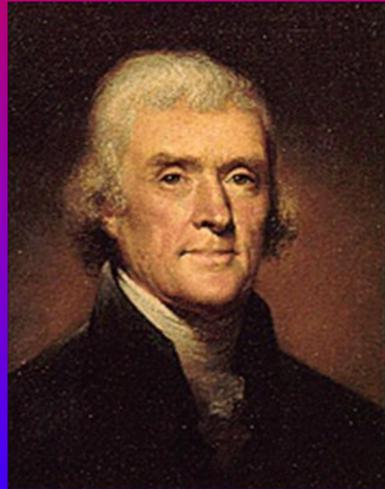


## Jeffersonian Democracy v. Jacksonian Democracy



"The Jacksonian Democrats of the 1830's had virtually the same political views as the Jeffersonian Democrats of an earlier era"

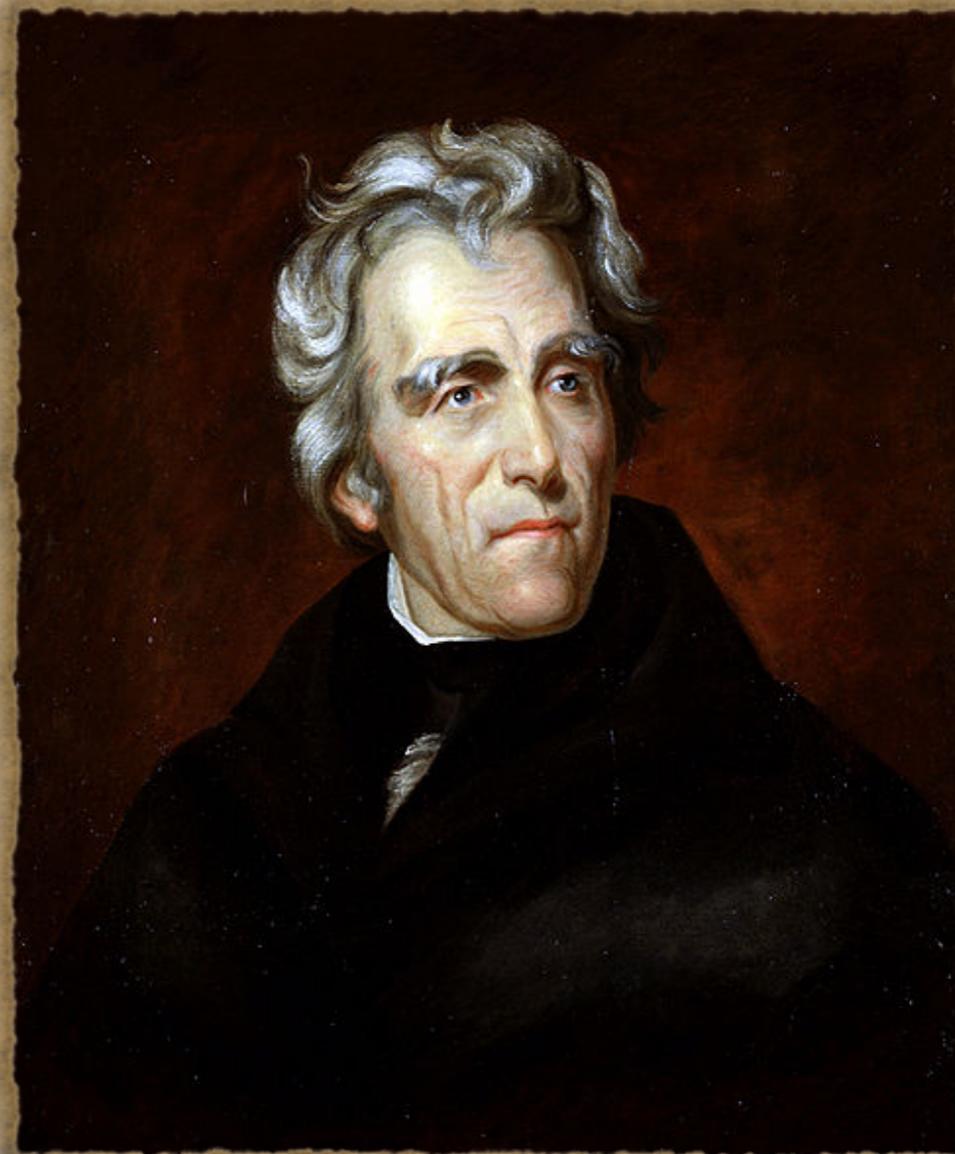
-- Assess the validity of this statement

# Thesis

The Jacksonian and Jeffersonian democracies were two different political parties that shared common beliefs, goals, and principles. However, they also had differences in their political policies making the statement valid to some extent with a few exceptions in the areas of political, economical, and social viewpoints.

# Body Paragraph 1

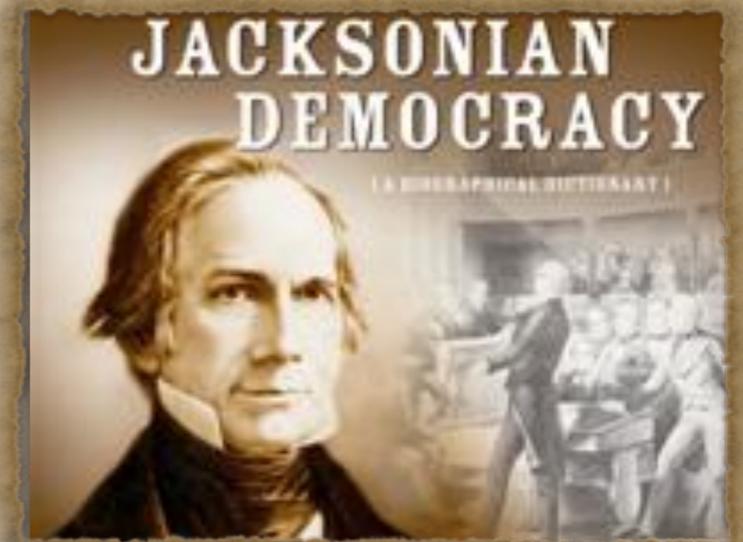
- ◆ Andrew Jackson was the first president to be chosen by the people and his background was not that of a typical president. His election shifted the balance of power from the wealthy East Coast, to farmers and small businesspeople in the west
- ◆ He was elected as president in 1828 and thought the nation was corrupted by the second bank of the United States and believed reform lay in total acceptance of majority rule through democratic process.
- ◆ Was called the "Champion of Common Man" and believed common interests were being ignored by Henry Clay and John Quincy Adams.



# Body Paragraph 1 cont.

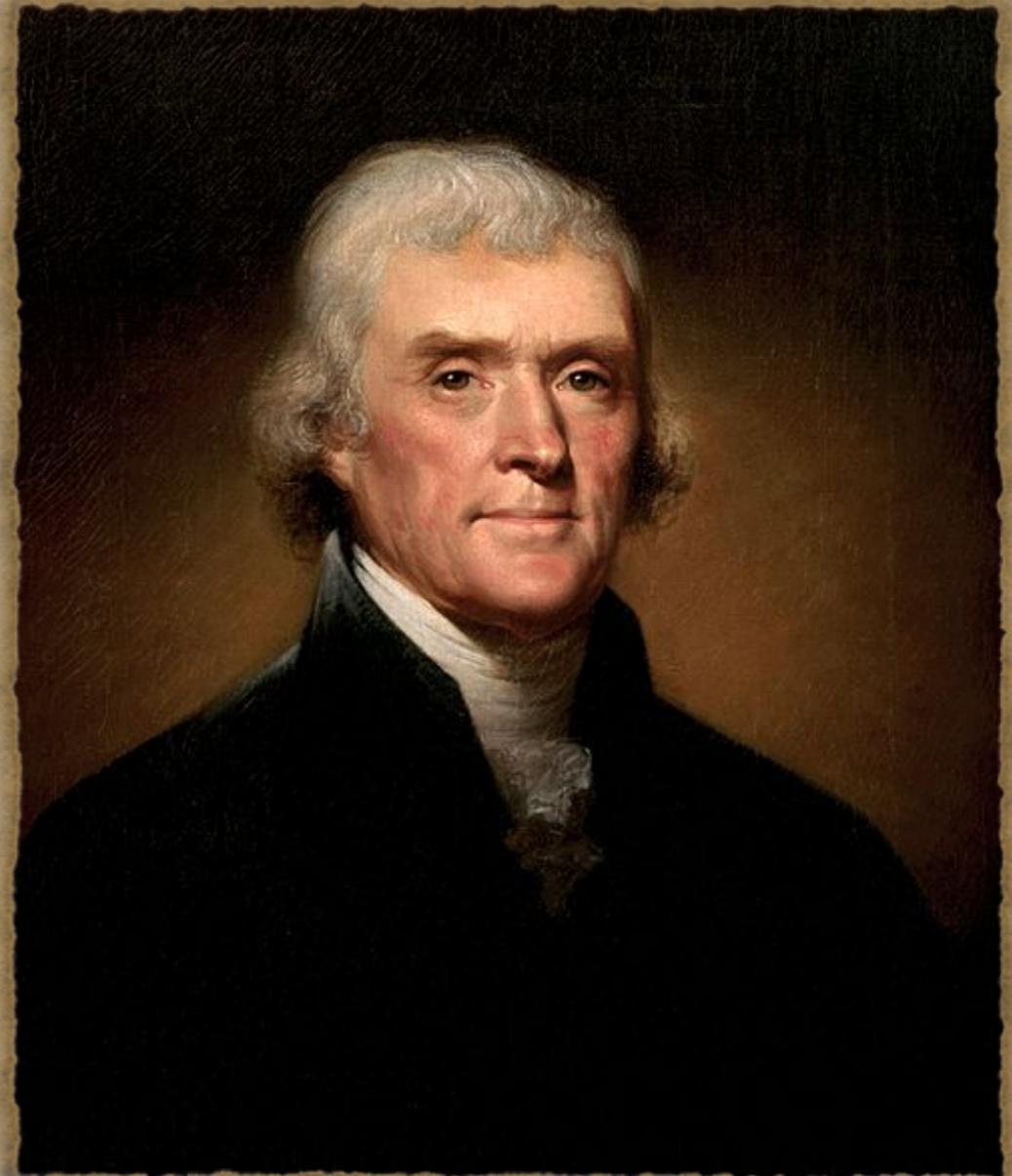
## Jacksonian Democracy

- ◆ Party of common people, farmers, and workers.
- ◆ Opposed special privileges of economic elite.
- ◆ Offered western land to ordinary Americans
- ◆ Authentic movement dedicated to powerful and at times radical and egalitarian ideals
- ◆ Grew from tensions with the white society
- ◆ Rid government of class bias and dismantle from top down
- ◆ People's best weapons were equal rights and limited government
- ◆ Built upon: expanded suffrage, manifest destiny, patronage (spoils system), strict constitutionalism, and Laissez-faire economics
- ◆ Accepted industry as essential to American economy.
- ◆ Had little education and believed it wasn't the most important aspect.
- ◆ Saw the bank as a monopoly of the rich



# Body Paragraph 2

- ◆ Thomas Jefferson was elected in 1800 and believed the will of the people, through elections, provided the most appropriate guidance for directing government.
- ◆ The general government should be rigorously frugal and simple, which meant limited government and the majority should rule.
- ◆ Farmers were the majority therefore the value of agriculture reinforced commitment to democracy.
- ◆ He also believed in western expansion and that with that Americans could prosper as a republic of equal and independent states.
- ◆ Believed property requirement was a test of character that man of initiative should be able to meet.



# Body Paragraph 2 cont.

## Jeffersonian Democracy

- ◆ Strict interpretation
- ◆ Republicanism (citizens have civil duty to aid state and resist corruption)
- ◆ Yeomen farmer = chosen/common man
- ◆ National government should protect people's unalienable rights
- ◆ Separation of church and state
- ◆ All men had the right to be in government
- ◆ Antagonistic to the aristocratic elitism of merchants and manufacturers, distrusted factory workers
- ◆ Believed that education was necessary for office.
- ◆ Doubted that white civilization and Indian "savagery" could coexist and although Jefferson said that men were born to freedom, not to slavery, he still held many slaves. He felt strongly that women had a single purpose in life: marriage and subordination to a husband.

# Body Paragraph 3: Similarities

Both parties believed in:

- ◆ Limited federal government, strict constitutionalism, separation of church and state
- ◆ Majority should rule (through democratic elections)
- ◆ Western expansion
- ◆ "chosen" class of farmers
- ◆ Rejection of B.U.S
- ◆ Removal/hatred of Native Americans
- ◆ Fighting for the interests of farmers against the commercial and mercantile interests of the country
- ◆ Both believed in the common man and less Government intervention with an economic system of invisible hand of the market.



# Body Paragraph 4: Differences

Despite many similarities the two parties disagreed on certain views including:

- ◆ Andrew Jackson didn't believe in property requirements to vote; while Jefferson believed property requirements were a test of character that a man of initiative should be able to meet.
- ◆ Jacksonians believed that all men were qualified to hold office and political positions should be rotated; while Jeffersonians believed the educated elite should rule, but education should be available for all to prepare them for office.

# Body Paragraph 4: Differences

- ◆ Jackson believed the "chosen" class was planters, farmers, laborers and workers, while Jefferson thought the "chosen" class was only Yeomen farmers
- ◆ Jacksonians saw industrialization, while the Jeffersonians feared the consequences of industrialization.
- ◆ Andrew Jackson believed education was relatively unimportant; while Jefferson saw education necessary to prepare citizens for democracy.



# Conclusion

In conclusion, the Jacksonian Democrats of 1830's and the Jeffersonian Democrats of the 1800's shared many beliefs, goals, and principles about government although they also had some different views making the statement "The Jacksonian Democrats of the 1830's had virtually the same political views as the Jeffersonian Democrats of an earlier era" valid to some extent.