



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

Assess the validity of this statement

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Thesis/Paragraph 1

- The Jeffersonians and Jacksonian Democracies were two similar political parties that shared many common beliefs and goals but had some defining political and social differences.

Paragraph 1

Both Jeffersonian and Jacksonian were fighting for the interests of farmers against the commercial and mercantile interests of the country. The real difference is application. Jefferson was portrayed as a man of the people, but he remained a wealthy planter who tended to associate only with other elites. His mannerisms were much more upper-class. Further, while Jefferson talked about limiting the ideal. Jackson was also a wealthy farmer, but he had come from a poorer region and did not have particularly wealthy parents. He was much more comfortable intermingling with people of the lower ideal. He was also much more focused on attacking the mercantile classes, particularly his refusal to renew the charter for the Bank of the US.

- They reformed their respective state system of education. Citizens have the right to be educated no matter their circumstance or status in life.
- Favored educated men
- Universal white manhood suffrage was not achieved under Jefferson because he made it a requirement to own property in order to be eligible to vote.
- Jefferson believed that citizens who were capable and well educated were considered eligible for holding office.
- Believed in ending the B.U.S.

Paragraph 2

Jeffersonian Democracy

- He has been called "the most democratic of the founding fathers".
- He had a narrow interpretation of the constitution's Article 1, provisions granting powers to the Federal government.
- The core political value of America is republicanism.
- Yeoman farmers are the best example of civic virtue and independence from corrupting city influences.
- Financiers, bankers, and industrialists make cities the 'cesspools of corruption' and should be avoided.
- He believed in separation of church and state because it's the best method to keep government free of religious disputes.
- The Federal government must not violate the rights of individuals.
- The Federal government must not violate the rights of the states.

Paragraph 2 continued

Jacksonian Democracy

- Believed in ending the B.U.S.
- Created the spoil system.
- End what he termed the "monopoly" of government by elites.
- Gave little weight to education.
- Under Jackson any man could vote whether he was rich or poor because he put no property requirements on those who wanted to vote.
- Jackson believed all men were qualified to hold office regardless of their education level or social stature.
- Promoted strength of presidency and the executive branch.

- Broadened the public's participation in government.
- Demanded elected judges and rewrote many state constitutions to reflect the new values.
- Favored geographic expansion.

Paragraph 3

Although they believed in much of the same form of government, Andrew Jackson and Thomas Jefferson had some major social differences. Jackson believed in a government where every citizen can vote and every citizen could rise through the social ladder. Jackson did not believe that a landed aristocracy should dominate American politics, like Jefferson did. Jefferson did however believe in education so anyone could move upwards in society, while Jackson did not place nearly as much of an emphasis on education. Jackson and Jefferson both disliked Native Americans and made efforts to deport them. Both men supported slavery, and both were slave owners. Jackson was also a supporter of the spoils system. The differences in social ideology between Jackson and Jefferson can be summarized in the fact that Jackson believed all common citizens should be able to vote meanwhile Jefferson believed only the educated should vote.