

## Jeffersonian Democracy

### Jefferson's beliefs

1. Post revolutionary America a gift from God to man to allow him a fresh start.
2. A great "Experiment" to establish the fact that man can govern with reason and truth.
3. That man has inalienable rights to Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness.
4. Man does have a moral sense and knows right from wrong.

### Three basic questions a gov't. must answer.

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| 1. What are the true sources of gov't?     | Consent of the people.                  |
| 2. What should a gov't's. aims be? (goals) | Insure freedom through Bill of Rights   |
| 3. What are its means? (how)               | Majority decision, separation of powers |

### Jefferson's Conclusions:

1. Man can be educated and improved.
2. Mass education of the people is a prerequisite for a free and stable gov't.
3. An informed citizenry can participate in gov't. and find a sense of unity.
4. A political party system is good for the country and an important safety valve for democracy.
5. Man's greatest fault, selfishness.

### Jefferson the President:

Attempted to lead the country in the direction of strict construction, states rights, civil liberty, Frugal gov't (no debt), congressional supremacy with a weaker executive branch, agrarian virtues, Pacifism, gov't with consent and optimism for the people and democracy.

## JACKSONIAN DEMOCRACY

### Philosophy:

Preserve the legacy of Thomas Jefferson

Prefer a country of simple farmers, dedicated workers, honest businessmen

Government should be simple, frugal with a laissez-faire economy.

Opposed to Tariffs, the B.U.S., money interests, privilege.

An Executive Branch which protects the "Common Man".

"Rotation" in office to prevent an office holding "elite" (entrenched bureaucracy)

### Built upon the principles of:

Expanded suffrage-coincided with dropping the land ownership qualification to vote. (1816)

National Nominating Conventions- end of King Caucus (1831)

Patronage-reward your supporters.

Strict Construction – be nationalist but guard States Rights.

Laissez-Faire economics.

Manifest Destiny- The Imperial Thrust is good.

### Birth of the modern Presidency (Jackson's remake of the Executive)

To be a direct representative of the "People"

Felt he represented the people against special privilege. "my fight is your fight."

The people looked to him to be an "honest" referee.

To propose legislation, push programs (Monroe and JQ Adams had done this.)

The people look to him to keep one group from dominating any other. ie. The B.U.S.

To oppose the "Old Republican" elite of the East Coast.