

AP US History Document Based Question
“Era of Good Feelings” (Time Period 4)

Directions: The following question is based on the accompanying Documents 1–7. The documents have been edited for the purpose of this exercise. This question is designed to test your ability to apply several historical thinking skills simultaneously, including historical argumentation, use of relevant historical evidence, contextualization, and synthesis. Your response should be based on your analysis of the documents and your knowledge of the topic. Write a well-integrated essay that does the following:

- States an appropriate thesis that directly addresses all parts of the question.
- Supports the thesis or an appropriate argument with evidence from all or all but one of the documents AND your knowledge of United States history beyond/outside the documents.
- Analyzes a majority of the documents in terms of such features as their intended audience, purpose, point of view, format, argument, limitations, and/or social context as appropriate to the argument.
- Places the argument in the context of broader regional, national, or global processes.

1. ***Historians have traditionally labeled the period after the War of 1812 the “Era of Good Feelings.” Evaluate the continuities and changes that took place in America, from the period of 1815 to 1825, considering the emergence of nationalism and sectionalism.***

Document A

Source: John Randolph, Congress 1816

Sir, I am convinced that it would be... unjust, to aggravate the burdens of the people for the purpose of favoring the manufacturers; for this government created and gave power to Congress to regulate commerce and equalize duties on the whole of the United States, and not to lay a duty but with a steady eye to revenue. With my good will, sir, [no] one interest in the country [should be] sacrificed by the management of taxation to another... The agriculturalists bear the whole brunt of the war and taxation, and remain poor, while the others run in the ring of pleasure, and fatten upon them.

Document B

Source: John C. Calhoun, Congress, February 4, 1817

Let it not be forgotten, let it forever be kept in mind, that the extent of the republic exposes us to the greatest of calamities - **disunion**. We are great, and rapidly - I was about to say fearfully growing. This is our price and danger, our weakness and our strength... We are under the most imperious obligation to counteract every tendency to disunion... Whatever impedes the intercourse of the extremes with this, the center of the republic, weakens the union... Let us, then, bind the republic together with a perfect system of roads and canals. Let us conquer space.

Document C

Source: Fourth of July, Center Square, Philadelphia (1819), by John Krimmel



The Historical Society of Pennsylvania (HSP) "Fourth of July Celebration"
by John Lewis Krimmel, (Acc # Bc 882 K897)

Document D

Source: Decision in *McCulloch v. Maryland* (1819)

Has Congress the power to incorporate a bank?... In discussing this question, the council for the State of Maryland have deemed it of some importance, in the construction of the Constitution, to consider that instrument not as emanating from the people but as the act of sovereign and independent states. The powers of the general government, it has been said, are delgated by the states, who alone are truly sovereign; and must be exercised in suborination to the states, who alone possess supreme dominion. It would be difficult to sustain this proposition.

Document E

Source: Thomas Jefferson to John Randolph, April 22, 1820

[T]his momentous question, like a firebell in the night, awakened and filled me with terror. I considered it, at once as the [death] knell of the Union. It is hushed, indeed, for the moment. But this is a reprieve only, not a final sentence. A geographical line, coinciding with a marked principle, moral and political, once conceived and held up to the angry passions of men, will never be obliterated; and every new irritation will mark it deeper and deeper.

Document F

Source: Diary of John Quincy Adams, November 7, 1823

President [Monroe] was averse to any course which should have the appearance of taking a position subordinate to that of Great Britain, and suggested the idea of sending a special Minister to protest against the interposition of the Holy Alliance... I remarked that the communication recently received from the Russian Minister... afforded a very suitable and convenient opportunity for us to take our stand against the Holy Alliance, and at the same time to decline the overture of Great Britain.

Document G

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, 1820



Candidate	Popular vote	Electoral vote
Monroe	—	231
Adams	—	1

- James Monroe (Virginia)
- John Q. Adams (Massachusetts)
- Split electoral vote
1 for Adams
6 for Monroe

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, 1824



Candidate	Popular vote	Electoral vote
Jackson	153,544	99
Adams	108,740	84
Clay	47,136	37
Crawford	46,618	41

- Andrew Jackson (Tennessee)
- John Q. Adams (Massachusetts)
- Henry Clay (Kentucky)
- William Crawford (Georgia)
- Split vote among two or more candidates