

Era of Good Feelings DBQ Prompt

adapted to fit 2014 re-design standards from the College Board [2002 Form B Released DBQ Prompt](#)

Question 1 (Document-Based Question)

Suggested reading and writing time: 55 minutes

It is suggested that you spend 15 minutes reading the documents and 40 minutes writing your response.

Note: you may begin writing your response before the reading period is over.

Directions: Question 1 is based on the accompanying documents. The documents have been edited for the purpose of this exercise.

In your response you should do the following:

- **Thesis:** Present a thesis that makes a historically defensible claim and responds to all parts of the question. The thesis must consist of one or more sentences located in one place, either in the introduction or the conclusion.
- **Argument Development:** Develop and support a cohesive argument that recognizes and accounts for historical complexity by explicitly illustrating relationships among historical evidence such as contradictions, corroboration, and/or qualification.
- **Use of the Documents:** Utilize the content of at least six of the documents to support the stated thesis or a relevant argument.
- **Sourcing the Documents:** Explain the significance of the author’s point of view, author’s purpose, historical context, and/or audience for at least four documents.
- **Contextualization:** Situate the argument by explaining the broader historical events, developments, or processes immediately relevant to the question.
- **Outside Evidence:** Provide an example or additional piece of specific evidence beyond those found in the documents to support or qualify the argument.
- **Synthesis:** Extend the argument by explaining the connections between the argument and ONE of the following.
 - A development in a different historical period, situation, era, or geographical area.
 - A course theme and/or approach to history that is not the focus of the essay (such as political, economic, social, cultural, or intellectual history).

1. What factors led to the emergence of nationalism and sectionalism during the ‘Era of Good Feelings’ in the period after the War of 1812 from 1815 to 1825?

An editable version of this document is available [here](#).

Document 1

Source: Thomas Jefferson, letter to James Maury, American consul in Liverpool, England, 1815

What is incomprehensible to me is that the Marquis of Wellesley... says that 'the aggression which led to the war was from the US, not from England.' Is there a person in the world who, knowing the circumstances, thinks this? it was their taking our citizens, native as well as naturalized, for which we went into war, and because they forbade us to trade with any nation, without entering and paying duties in their ports on both the outward and inward cargo. However, it is now all over, & I hope forever over.On the contrary, we see them scarcely admitting that the war ought to have been ended....the truth being that they expected to give us an exemplary scourging, to separate from us the states East of the Hudson, take for their Indian allies those West of the Ohio, placing 300,000 American citizens under the government of the savages, and to leave the residuum a powerless enemy, if not submissive subjects.... I join in the hope you express that the provocations which occasioned the late rupture will not be repeated. The interruption of our intercourse with England has rendered us one essential service in planting radically and firmly coarse manufacturers among us.

Document 2

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 goodwill, 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 3

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

Let it not be forgotten, let it be forever 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 obligations 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 4

Source: painting of Fourth of July celebration in 1819, Centre Square, Philadelphia, by John Krimmel



Document 5

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

This 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 6

Source: letter from Anna Hayes Johnson in Charleston, South Carolina to her cousin in Raleigh, North Carolina, July 18, 1822

...I suppose that by this time you are anxious to hear more about the unhappy business which has filled with consternation all our city and nothing but the merciful interposition of our God has saved us from horror equal if not superior to the scenes acted in St. Domingo—The catalogue is not filled up for we thought that it was ended and that the execution of six of the chiefs would suffice. The court has been dismissed and the town was again sinking into its wonted security when information was given that another attempt would be made at such a time, and the state's witness gave information of such a nature as to induce the city council to recall the court, and since that period the alarm has spread most widely, and there are now between 50 and 60 of the leaders in our jail—It is said that twenty of them have been convicted and sentenced, and in all probability the execution will not end under 100, but I was told yesterday that the prisoners had been heard to say that even should there be 500 executed there would still be enough to carry the work into execution.

Document 7

Source: inaugural address of John Quincy Adams, 1825

...the Administration of my immediate predecessor...has passed away in a period of profound peace...The great features of its policy, in general concurrence with the will of the Legislature, have been to... discharge with all possible promptitude the national debt; to reduce within the narrowest limits of efficiency the military force; to improve the organization and discipline of the Army; to provide and sustain a school of military science; to extend equal protection to all the great interests of the nation; to promote the civilization of the Indian tribes, and to proceed in the great system of internal improvements within the limits of the constitutional power of the Union. Under the pledge of these promises, made by that eminent citizen at the time of his first induction to this office, in his career of eight years the internal taxes have been repealed; sixty millions of the public debt have been discharged; provision has been made for the comfort and relief of the aged and indigent among the surviving warriors of the Revolution; the regular armed force has been reduced and its constitution revised and perfected; the accountability for the expenditure of public moneys has been made more effective; the Floridas have been peaceably acquired, and our boundary has been extended to the Pacific Ocean; the independence of the southern nations of this hemisphere has been recognized, and recommended by example and by counsel to the potentates of Europe; progress has been made in the defense of the country by fortifications and the increase of the Navy...