

Name:

Class:

Biography of America Vol. 5 Questions

1. Twenty years earlier the colonists thought a ranked society like Britain's was perfectly fine; they could even look forward to having an aristocracy of their own. Then, quite suddenly, "aristocracy" became "un-American." _____, which, had, in fact, long since been more characteristic of American than British society, became a ruling principle.
2. Today republics are everywhere; they seem anything but revolutionary. The same is true of _____ which first appeared during the American Revolution.
3. That was the trouble with republics: they had a nasty way of failing. If the people rule, the line went, who will be ruled? Republics produced anarchy; then the people turned to a strong ruler to _____
4. How did the republic begin? Almost inadvertently, in the course of the Independence movement. Under the "revolution principles" that the colonists honored, resistance to an established government had to involve _____
5. But then something unexpected happened: _____ turned out to be better than the royal government.
6. By the end of 1776, ten states had new constitutions. In 1777, New York and Georgia joined the list. That left _____ which in 1780 finally adopted the last and what many regarded as the best of the first American state constitutions.
7. What were the most important developments worked out in those early state constitutions? First of all, _____
8. The Articles of Confederation, however, put all power in one _____
9. And meanwhile Britain, which had never left its posts in the northwest, was trying to make Vermont part of Canada. There was, in short, good reason to think the country was _____
10. Even Madison, who had helped design the original Virginia plan, confessed that he thought the Constitution had several fatal flaws. But, like most other delegates, he took the closing advice of Benjamin Franklin that they "doubt a little" of their infallibility, and work "heartily and unanimously" for the Constitution's ratification. The outcome was no sure thing: as soon as the people got a look at the proposed Constitution, the _____ came out loud and strong.
11. In late June, _____ ratified the Constitution by a close vote, as did _____ a month later. Both states, and some others, proposed lists of amendments that should be adopted to "fix" the flawed new Constitution.
12. Hamilton had fought for American independence, but he did admire some aspects of British government. Nonetheless, he and other _____ thought they were themselves struggling to save the republic from wild-eyed demagogues like Thomas Jefferson, a leader of the _____
13. Could the nation survive if _____ could decide which national laws they would obey and which they would disregard? The end of the "war scare" with France and Jefferson's election as President in 1800 seemed to end the crisis. In his inaugural address, Jefferson reached out to the opposition: "We are all Republicans," he said; "we are all Federalists."

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14. Threats of secession surfaced again after 1819, when Missouri requested admission to the Union as a slave state, and a New York representative, James Talmadge, proposed that first the state must begin a program of _____

15. They lived to see a great resurgence of nationalism after 1815. By then the _____ had become for many a revered and even sacred document.

16. Think back on the video and write down notes about the other information that was presented. Do not focus on things covered in #15. Write down what ELSE the video covered.