

- Andrew Jackson's wielding of presidential power is best shown in the way he used the veto more times than all previous presidents combined, so that he could consistently block legislature running counter to an economy for the benefit of the common man.
- As such, Andrew Jackson's political philosophy can be best described as populist, meaning he prioritized the will of the majority and sought the most good for the most people.
- Various civil movements during the 19<sup>th</sup> century expressed the developing spirit of American culture. Utopianism sought to create the perfect society through moral and spiritual transformation. Temperance groups sought to limit, restrict, and abolish the use of alcoholic beverages. Women's Rights came on the scene as more women worked outside the home. Public education for all became a pressing need. Antislavery consistently rose in prominence.
- During the enforcement of the Indian Removal Act, Andrew Jackson defied orders from the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, John Marshall. In the case of *Worcester vs Georgia*, the Court ruled that Georgian laws could not be enforced in Cherokee territory. Jackson ignored this ruling and sided with Georgia by continuing to remove the Native Americans from their ancestral lands.
- In Alexis de Tocqueville's classic work, *Democracy in America*, he was not so much alarmed at the excessive liberty of the country as at the "inadequate securities against tyranny." In his words: "When an individual or a party is wronged in the United States, to whom can he apply for redress? If to public opinion, public opinion constitutes the majority; if to the legislature, it represents the majority, and implicitly obeys its injunctions; if to the executive power, it is appointed by the majority, and remains a passive tool in its hands; the public troops consist of the majority under arms; the jury is the majority invested with the right of hearing judicial cases; and in certain States even the judges are elected by the majority. However iniquitous or absurd the evil of which you complain may be, you must submit to it as well as you can."
- Whereas there very few famous or influential literary authors before the 19<sup>th</sup> century, a few names remain from those who contributed to the establishment of truly American literary genres. Those include James Fenimore Cooper and his tales of life on the American frontier. Washington Irving as he developed a unique mythology in Sleepy Hollow. Edgar Allan Poe and his dark poems. Ralph Waldo Emerson's Transcendentalism. Henry David Thoreau's practical application of romanticism. Nathaniel Hawthorne gave us America's first truly great novel, *The Scarlet Letter*. Herman Melville's timeless *Moby Dick*.

- A primary way that slaves in the Old South resisted the soul-crushing effects of enslavement was through day-to-day acts of passive or indirect resistance like work slowdowns, faked illness, deliberate sabotage, and host of other ways to say “no” without saying “no.”
- Political discussion surrounding the abolition of slavery devolved from the 1831 session of the Virginia General assembly which discussed gradual emancipation and African colonization to an eventual “gag rule” in the U.S. House of Representatives which prevented any discussion of abolition.
- Some of the primary contributing factors to the unavoidable conflict between the newly independent government of Mexico and the U.S. included: American citizens having settled in Mexican territory. A disunified and unstable Mexican government. Failure to decide on a river bordering. Military incidents such as the Alamo.
- There were very many aspects to consider when the Republic of Texas was annexed into America as a state. Political and social reasons both for and against this motion need to be considered. Politically, the U.S. did not want the country of Texas to become too closely allied with Britain. However, this move would certainly begin a war with Mexico. And yet, most people saw this as a necessary step towards fulfilling the manifest destiny of the nation. There was also the issue of slavery since Texas would want to enter as a slave state, thus upsetting the balance. The rush towards the opportunities of the West grew rapidly and the land in Texas would be prime settling and/or travelling routes.