
— Second Project Period —

The New Republic to Reconstruction

1. List, in rank order, the most convincing evidence to support the interpretation that the American people experienced an expansion of democracy during the period 1763–1840. Interpret the most significant limitations for this expansion. Be sure to define democracy in terms of both political theory and practical behavior. Was there economic democracy? Social democracy? Other?
Subject:
Essential Question:
2. Slavery in the United States has produced a great variety of historical interpretations. By focusing on the economics and culture of slavery, evaluate the most valuable evidence currently available according to its ability to reveal the realities of our peculiar institution. Are there critical aspects of this history which need investigation or revision?
Subject:
Essential Question:
3. Assess the role(s) played by radicals in creating conflict, chaos, and change between 1850 and 1877. For each radical individual, group, or movement, provide a cost/benefit analysis and determine whether other viable alternatives were possible at the time.
Subject:
Essential Question:
4. Was it possible to “reconstruct” a part of the U.S. after the Civil War? Was it needed? Appropriate to try? Vindictive? Unreasonable? Interpret the intentions, successes and failures of Reconstruction in the context of the culture at the time.
Subject:
Essential Question:

“Practice ‘Learned Resourcefulness.’ Avoid procrastination, develop appropriate help-seeking behaviors, ask questions, learn to recognize & utilize resources (e.g. the library, fellow students, the instructor, tutoring, and study groups), and embrace realistic goals & priorities.”