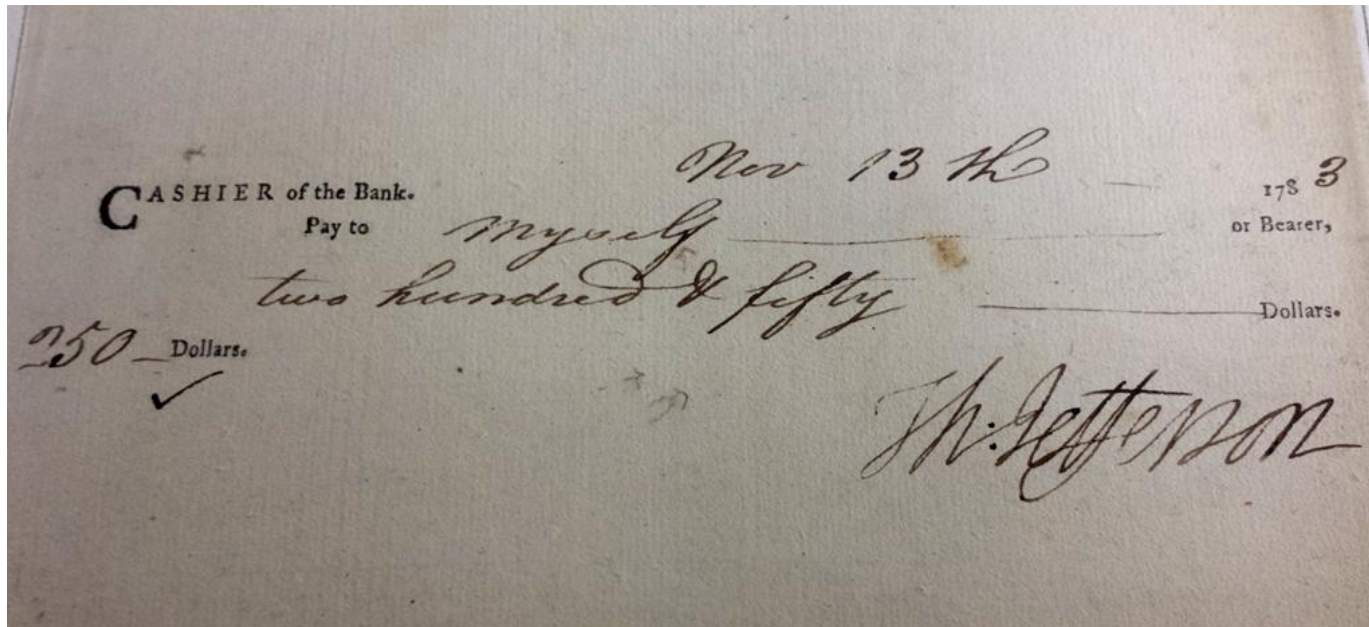




history / education / and / documents

Money in American Politics



“Who dignifies his Wealth by gen’rous Use,
To raise th’Oppress’d, or Merit to produce,
Reason’s impartial Voice shall ne’er condemn,
The glorious Purpose of so wise an Aim.”

Benjamin Franklin

Web quest

Search online for the political contributions of these Directors of the Bank of North America:

Directors of Bank N. America
in Presidency of Thomas Willing. 11 years

	from	to	years
1 Thomas Willing	1781	1791	11
2 Timothy Matlack	"	"	1
3 Samuel Osgood	"	1782	2
4 Samuel Meredith	"	"	2
5 James Wilson	"	"	2
6 Samuel Ingham	"	"	2
7 William Bingham	"	"	2
8 Cadwallader Morris	"	1785	5
9 Henry Will	"	1791	11
10 John Maxwell Nesbitt	"	"	11
11 Andrew Caldwell	"	1790	10
12 Thomas Fitzsimons	"	1791	11
George Haynes	1782	1783	2
John Ross	1784	1791	8
Samuel Powell	"	"	8
Richard Bache	"	"	8
Mordecai Lewis	"	"	8
John Nixon	"	"	8
Josiah Huges	"	"	8
Andrew Tybout	1786	"	6
Joseph Swift	1791	"	1

- Thomas Willing
- Timothy Matlack
- Samuel Osgood
- James Wilson
- Thomas Fitzsimons
- John Nixon
- Bonus: Ann Willing Bingham

Quiz to assess Web quest

- How many of those people were signers of the Declaration of Independence or Constitution?
- Which member of the board married another board member's daughter?
- Who was the first person to read the Declaration in Independence to the public?
- How many of them were politically important?

Quiz to assess Web quest

- How many of those people were signers of the Declaration of Independence or Constitution?
 - James Wilson signed both; Fitzsimons signed the latter. (Robert Morris, a founder of the bank but not listed as a member of the Board, signed both documents). Willing voted against the Declaration.
 - Timothy Matlack, although he was not a “signer” literally wrote the Declaration of Independence ... well, he was the scribe for the official copy.
- Which member of the board married another board member’s daughter?
 - William Bingham married Thomas Willing’s daughter, Ann. Ann was a noted socialite, influential in early American politics, and potentially the model for “Lady Liberty.” Binghamton, NY is named for her husband.
- Who was the first person to read the Declaration in Independence to the public?
 - Potentially a trick question, some people say that it was John Nixon, others say it was Timothy Matlack. Nevertheless, both men were on the Board of Directors.
- How many of them were politically important?
 - Absolutely all of them!

Fit for Politics?

Many early American politicians considered it important to be “gentlemen,” a definition that historian Gordon Wood describes as being:

- Educated, well read, and cosmopolitan men
- Not engaged in “occupations”
 - Interestingly, they did not consider the professions of “lawyer, a physician, a clergyman, a military officer” to be occupations.
- Men of “leisure” were not considered to be “businessmen” - even Adam Smith believed at the time that people who engaged in business were not fit to be impartial politicians.

Jefferson's View

As America became more commercial and business-oriented, a political divide related to occupations developed, seen roughly in “First Party” system of the business-oriented **Federalists** and agriculturally-based **Democratic-Republicans**:

According to Gordon Wood: “[Jefferson] loathed the new democratic world that America had become – a world of speculation, banks, paper money, ... full of ‘psuedo-citizens ... infected with the mania of rambling and gambling’”

... this is very different from today

Americans' Views on Governing the Country

Do you think this country would be governed better or governed worse if more _____ were in political office?

	Governed better	Governed worse
	%	%
People with business and management experience	81	13
Women	63	13
People who think it is more important to compromise to get things done than to hold firm to their principles	63	30
Political moderates	59	23
People who think it is more important to hold firm to their principles than to compromise to get things done	56	38
People who are personally religious	51	30
People who have never previously held elected office	49	38
Racial and ethnic minorities	48	19
Political conservatives	47	40
Political liberals	33	51
People backed by the Tea Party movement	32	48

July 12-13, 2014

GALLUP®

<http://www.gallup.com/poll/174002/americans-say-business-background-best-governing.aspx>

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Is there still a political divide over money's influence in American politics today?

From the 2016 Presidential candidates:

Bernie Sanders discusses money in politics ([Video 1](#) and [Video 2](#)).

Donald Trump (and son) discusses how money makes him qualified ([Video 1](#) and [Video 2](#)).

Review questions

What characteristics do Americans look for in politicians, today and in the past?

How do the ideas of Bernie Sanders, Donald Trump, Thomas Jefferson, and the federalists in the past, differ from each other concerning business and politics?

Related links, sources

Slide 2: HSP Bank of North America Collection for the Jefferson Check

Franklin quote- <http://founders.archives.gov/?q=%20Author%3A%22Franklin%2C%20Benjamin%22%20and%20Way%20to%20Wealth&s=1111311111&sa=franklin&r=22>

Slide 4: Some related links:

- <http://blog.nyhistory.org/who-wrote-the-declaration-of-independence/>
- <http://www.ushistory.org/declaration/signers/index.htm>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_signers_of_the_United_States_Constitution
- <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/part3/3narr1.html>
- Thomas Willing
- https://www.istor.org/stable/27773931?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents
- Timothy Matlack http://www.archives.upenn.edu/people/1700s/matlack_tim.html
- <http://explorepahistory.com/hmarker.php?markerId=1-A-156>
- John Nixon,
- https://books.google.com/books?id=5SkEAAAAYAAJ&pg=PP11&ots=v8aP5nKtF_&dq=The%20Builders%20of%20the%20Nation%20By%20Stanley-Bradley%20Publishing%20Co%2C%20National%20cyclopaedia%20of%20American%20biography%2C%201892&pg=PA116#v=onepage&q&f=false
- Robert Morris
- https://books.google.com/books?id=5SkEAAAAYAAJ&pg=PP11&ots=v8aP5nKtF_&dq=The%20Builders%20of%20the%20Nation%20By%20Stanley-Bradley%20Publishing%20Co%2C%20National%20cyclopaedia%20of%20American%20biography%2C%201892&pg=PA116#v=onepage&q&f=false
- <http://www.ushistory.org/presidentshouse/news/f0410.htm>
- <http://www.let.rug.nl/usa/biographies/robert-morris/>
- Good description of his role:
<https://books.google.com/books?id=iA9UAZ2fKeoC&pg=PA63&dq=history+of+bank+of+north+america&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0CEkQ6AEwCGoVChMlhqP2JzbxgVIJceCh24bwy2#v=onepage&q&f=false>
- James Wilson
- https://books.google.com/books?id=5SkEAAAAYAAJ&pg=PP11&ots=v8aP5nKtF_&dq=The%20Builders%20of%20the%20Nation%20By%20Stanley-Bradley%20Publishing%20Co%2C%20National%20cyclopaedia%20of%20American%20biography%2C%201892&pg=PA116#v=onepage&q&f=false
- William Bingham
- https://books.google.com/books?id=5SkEAAAAYAAJ&pg=PP11&pg=PP11&dq=The+Builders+of+the+Nation+By+Stanley-Bradley+Publishing+Co,+National+cyclopaedia+of+American+biography,+1892&source=bl&ots=v8aP5nKtF_&sig=9PitiEfiHrA27ln7cSQu4QfjAcY&hl=en&sa=X&ei=dm2RVcfqCZCBygSH5pagAg&ved=0CCUQ6AEwAQ#v=onepage&q&f=false
- Samuel Osgood
- https://books.google.com/books?id=5SkEAAAAYAAJ&pg=PP11&ots=v8aP5nKtF_&dq=The%20Builders%20of%20the%20Nation%20By%20Stanley-Bradley%20Publishing%20Co%2C%20National%20cyclopaedia%20of%20American%20biography%2C%201892&pg=PA116#v=onepage&q&f=false
- George Meade and Thomas Fitzsimons
- <https://books.google.com/books?id=MaVJAAAAYAAJ&dq=Thomas%20Fitzsimons&pg=PA204#v=onepage&q&f=false>
- Thomas Fitzsimons
- <https://books.google.com/books?id=9vpS7DEKrsUC&pg=PA38&dq=Thomas%20Fitzsimons&pg=PA38#v=onepage&q&f=false>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Willing
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samuel_Osgood
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Bingham
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ann_Willing_Bingham
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Samuel_Osgood

Slide 6: Gordon Wood, Empire of Liberty, pgs. 22-27.

Slide 7: Quote from Wood, pg. 736