

Charles Sellers, The Market Revolution: Jacksonian America, 1815-1846 (New York: Oxford University Press, 1991).

Abstract

Charles Sellers's The Market Revolution: Jacksonian America, 1815-1846 (New York: Oxford University Press, 1991), is a political and social history of the United States from 1815 (when the War of 1812 ended) through the beginning of the Mexican-American War in 1846. Known as the Jacksonian period, named after Andrew Jackson, who was President of the United States from 1829-1837, the era was one of early capitalist development by entrepreneurs versus local democratic resistance by subsistence farmers, shopkeepers, and traders. Sellers argues that democracy was born in tension with capitalism, not as its natural political expression. The period covers the growth of a national transportation network consisting of roads, canals, and railroads supporting stagecoaches, canal boats, and steam trains that facilitated early industrial development. The opposition to capitalism was expressed most potently by those who rallied around and supported Andrew Jackson. The book synthesizes social, political, religious, and cultural history to provide a comprehensive and engaging account of the development of early democracy in America.