QUESTION 1

Political factionalism has always been a major element of American society, and this was especially true leading up to the War of 1812. Due to American success against the British in the war, the United States experienced a surge of nationalism in which anti-British Democratic-Republicans were celebrated for their support of the war. When the pro-British Federalists held the Hartford Convention to discuss secession, the nation viewed the act as treason, ultimately discrediting the party and leaving America with only one political party, the Democratic-Republican Party. Many people believe that the demise of the Federalist Party eliminated factionalism in America by bringing political peace. However, the country remained sectionally divided through factionalism within the Democratic-Republican Party, the question of expanding slavery into new territories, and the constitutionality of Thomas Jefferson's American system. Ultimately, in describing the period from 1816 to 1824, the term "Era of Good Feelings" is only partially accurate, as the country remained sectionally divided over many issues during this time.