What is Jeffersonianism? Or, Jeffersonian Democracy

**Preservers of American Republicanism**

* Civic Virtue and Duty of Individual Citizen
* Avoid and prevent corruption and greed
* Eliminate monarchism and aristocratic traditions
* Right to education

**Vision of American Society**

* Agrarian Society
* Yeoman Farmer as Ideal Citizen
* Wage and Factory Workers too dependent and leads to class conflict
* Cities are “cesspools of corruption” with industrialists and bankers
* Territorial expansion

**Scope of Federal Government**

* Strict interpretation of the Constitution
* Ultimate sovereignty of the states
* Dominance of the national legislature
* Limit power of the Federal Judiciary
* Bill of Rights (free speech, free press) necessary to avoid tyranny
* Reduce or eliminate national debt

**Economy**

* Preferred dominance of agriculture over industry
* Each individual has right to work, but emphasize ability for subsistence
* Economic independence based on abundance of natural resources

**Foreign Policy**

* Empire of Liberty
* Economic coercion
* Standing armies dangerous: no expansion of national military (army, navy); militia sufficient
* for defense
* Avoid entangling alliances
* Limit international trade

**Society and Culture**

* Separation of Church and State
* Women
  + Republican motherhood
  + Absence in direct politics
* Blacks
  + White supremacy
* Natives
  + “Noble savages” can be Americanized