

# The Soul of America

## By Jon Meacham

Answer the following:

### **Chapter 1 (pg. 23-47)**

1. What is the difference between *The First Charter of Virginia* (1606) and *A Model of Christian Charity* (1630)? How do each represent a contradiction? Pg. 23-24
2. How is Abraham Lincoln an example of “...birth mattered less than it ever had before...” when it came to the American dream of wealth & happiness. Pg. 24
3. Starting on page 24 and continuing through page 27, Meacham explains why the American presidency is important to the American experience. Give an example of why this is so. Also explain how the competing views of Thomas Paine’s *Common Sense* and practical experience of the Revolutionary War and Confederation period shaped thoughts on government.
4. What fundamental role did president Lyndon Johnson want to accomplish as President? Pg. 27
5. How did Alexander Hamilton curtail his enthusiasm over the role of the President in two of his *Federalist* essays? Pg. 27-28
6. What began to change in regard to political power by the time of Andrew Jackson’s presidency? Give some examples of how Jackson was “*the most contradictory of men*”. Pg. 29-31
7. Give examples of how Abraham Lincoln further changed the role of the president by expanded on the ideals of both Jefferson & Jackson, especially after his *Gettysburg Address*. Pg. 31-32
8. How does Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson and Franklin Delano Roosevelt begin to further define the role of the presidency? Pg. 35-40

### **Chapter 2 (pg. 51-69)**

9. After the Civil War, how did the South try to reimagine the purpose of the war in their terms? Why is this a false narrative of the events? Pg. 53-55; 58-61
10. How did Lincoln gradually prepare the nation for emancipation of the slaves? Was Lincoln pro-equality? Explain. Pg. 56-58
11. Give examples of how ineffective President Andrew Johnson was. Pg. 62-64
12. Describe the presidency of Ulysses S. Grant during the Reconstruction Era. Pg. 64-69