

## Jacksonian Democracy: 1828-1840 (The Rise of Mass Politics)

### I. The "New Democracy"

- A. By 1820s, politicians made an increased effort to appeal to the voting masses
- B. Most high offices were still held by wealthy citizens
- C. Change in emphasis:
  - 1. Jeffersonian democracy: the people should be governed as little as possible.  
-- Gov't *for* the people
  - 2. Jacksonian democracy: government should be done directly *by* the people.  
-- This idea underlay Jackson's spoils system
- D. New Democracy based on universal white manhood suffrage rather than property qualifications -- common man now became more influential.
  - 1. Between 1812 & 1821, 6 new western states granted universal manhood suffrage
  - 2. Between 1810 & 1821, 4 eastern states significantly reduced voting requirements.  
-- However, by 1860 only New England still allowed blacks to vote in the North.
  - 3. South was last region to grant universal white manhood suffrage.
  - 4. New voters demanded politicians that would represent common peoples' interests
  - 5. Jackson was the result of the "New Democracy" rather than the cause of it.
  - 6. Frederick Jackson Turner: "The Significance of the Frontier on American History"  
-- Thesis: Existence of cheap unsettled land in the West created a frontier society that shaped the American character—more democratic and egalitarian
- E. Rise of **workingmen's parties**
  - 1. Laborers in the east formed organizations that demanded free education for their children, a 10-hr work day, and end to debtor's prisons.
  - 2. Some groups became violent (especially during Panic of 1837)
  - 3. Locos Focos: radical NY democrats in 1820s who sought reforms for laborers.  
-- Eventually absorbed by Democratic party and forced Jackson into passing Specie Circular late in his presidency.

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## II. Causes of the New Democracy

### A. Panic of 1819

1. Workers and farmers blamed bankers (esp. BUS) and speculators for foreclosures on their farms
2. Answer was to get more politically involved, especially followers of Jackson.
  - a. Sought control of the gov't to reform the BUS
  - b. State legislatures waged tax wars against the BUS (see *McCullough v. Maryland*, 1819 in Unit 4.3)
  - c. States passed laws reducing debtor's prisons.

### B. The Missouri Compromise

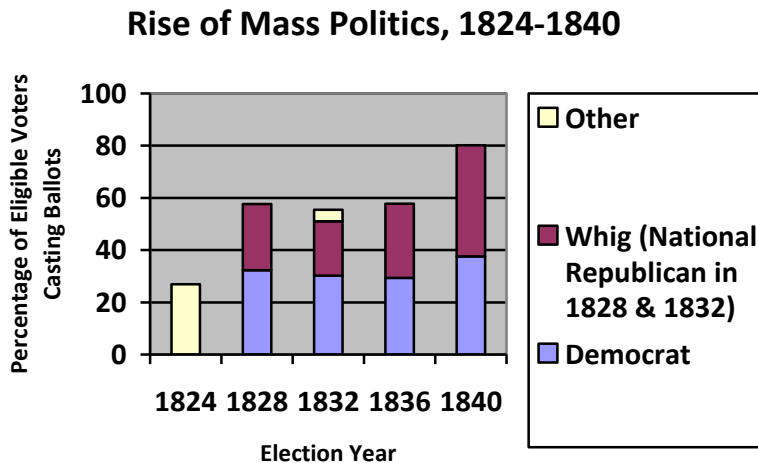
1. Northern opposition to Missouri's admission as a slave state made southerners fearful that the federal gov't would violate states' rights.
2. Slavery especially was seen to be under attack
3. Goal of white southerners: Control federal gov't to protect South

### C. New Political Age

1. Two-party system reemerged by 1832: Democrats vs. National Republicans/Whigs
2. Voter turnout rose dramatically: 25% of eligible voters in 1824; 78% in 1840
3. New style of campaigning developed (esp. in 1840 election)  
-- Banners, badges, parades, barbecues, free drinks, baby kissing, etc.
4. Voting reform -- Demise of the caucus (caucus now viewed as elitist)
  - a. Members of Electoral College chosen directly by the people rather than state legislatures: 18 of 24 states in 1824 election. Resembles today's system
  - b. 1831, first nominating convention held (Anti-Masonic party).

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### III. Election of 1824: "The Corrupt Bargain"

- A. Candidates: Jackson, Clay, Crawford, and John Quincy Adams
  - All four rivals were "Republicans" -- only one party still existed.
- B. Jackson polled the most popular votes but didn't have majority of electoral vote.
  1. 12th Amendment states House of Reps must choose among first 3 finishers
  2. Clay finished 4th but was Speaker of the House and in charge of selection.
- C. Henry Clay hated Jackson, his major political opponent in the West
  - J. Q. Adams was a nationalist; supported Clay's "American System"
- D. Early 1825, House of Representatives elected Adams president.
  1. Largely due to Clay's influence
  2. Jackson lost the election despite having largest % of the vote.
- E. Adams announced Clay as secretary of state a few days later
- F. Jackson's supporters called the affair the "corrupt bargain"
- G. Adams' presidency would be plagued by increasing sectionalism and the fracturing of the Republican party.

### IV. The "Tariff of Abominations" (1828) – biggest issue of Adams' presidency

- A. Congress increased the tariff in 1824 from 23% on dutiable goods to 37%
  - Eastern wool makers sought even higher tariffs for protection from British goods.
- B. Jacksonians planned to defeat Adams by creating a tariff bill that would send duties up to 45% on New England manufactures. Westerners would blame Adams.
  - Most people would presumably object to the tariff and vote for Jackson in 1828.

- C. New England pushed for passage of the Tariff of 1828 anyway and the bill passed.
1. Daniel Webster argued for it; reversed his previous position in the 1816 tariff
  2. John C. Calhoun argued against it: the tariff would hurt the South.
- D. Southerners hated the tariff: feared power of federal gov't was too strong.
1. Southerners would suffer both as consumers and exporters.
  2. John C. Calhoun's "The Southern Carolina Exposition"
    - a. Written secretly since Calhoun was Adams' vice-president
    - b. Denounced the tariff as unjust and unconstitutional
    - c. Stated states should nullify the tariff (similar to Jefferson's and Madison's Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions of 1798)
    - d. He hoped to save the Union by lowering the offensive tariff
    - e. No other states supported South Carolina in its protest.

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#### V. Election of 1828

- A. Intense feuding between the two factions of the Republican party
1. National Republicans supported J.Q. Adams
  2. Democratic Republicans supported Jackson
- B. Jackson defeated Adams 178 electoral votes to 83
1. First President from the West; seen as a great common man  
-- Actually owned one of largest plantations in the west; many slaves
  2. Jackson's support: West, South, and laborers on the east coast—common folks  
-- Yet, much support came from machine politicians, especially in NY and PA.
  3. Adams won New England and wealthy voters in the Northeast.
  4. Election called "The Revolution of 1828"
    - a. Like 1800, no upheaval or landslide that swept out one opponent.  
-- No sitting president had been removed since John Adams in 1800
    - b. Increased voter turnout was decisive.
    - c. Balance of power shifting from the East to expanding West.
    - d. America hitherto had been ruled by educated wealthy elites  
-- Federalist shippers and Jeffersonian planters.
- C. Andrew Jackson ("Old Hickory")
1. Personified the new West
  2. Saw federal gov't as a haven for wealth that was detached from common folks.
  3. Like Jefferson, sought to reduce role of federal gov't in favor of

states' rights

-- Hated Clay's "American System"

4. Strong unionist & nationalist (to dismay of South); federal supremacy over states.
5. At times defied will of Congress and the Supreme Court
  - a. Employed the veto 12 times; six predecessors combined only vetoed 10 times!
  - b. Opponents condemned him as "King Andrew I"

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## VI. Jacksonian Democracy -- politics

A. Increase of manhood suffrage (see above)

B. End of the caucus (see above)

C. Spoils System

1. Spoils system brought to the federal government on a large scale
  - a. Spoils system: Rewarding political supporters with public office.
  - b. Martin Van Buren was main architect of the spoils system  
-- Engineered a spoils system/political machine in NY ("Albany Regency")
2. Jackson believed in the ideal of "rotation in office" or "turn about is fair play"
  - a. Civil service had in some ways become corrupt and ineffective
  - b. Goal: Let as many citizens as possible hold office for at least a short time.
  - c. Sought to remove Adams-Clay appointees with loyal Jacksonians.
  - d. Yet, only 20% of incumbents were removed.  
-- However, set a precedent for "clean sweeps" in subsequent presidencies.
3. Consequences of the spoils system
  - a. A national political machine was built around Jackson
  - b. Competence and merit subordinated; many able citizens left out
  - c. Political corruption resulted

## VII. Jackson's Cabinet Crisis and vice president Calhoun's resignation

A. "Kitchen Cabinet"

1. Unofficial group of about 13 temporary advisors  
-- Some were newspaper people who kept Jackson in touch with public opinion.
2. Critics branded these members as the "Kitchen Cabinet"
  - a. Angry that advisors not answerable to Congress as the official cabinet was
  - b. Congress saw it as a threat to checks and balances
3. Yet, group never met officially and its influence was greatly exaggerated.
4. Not unconstitutional: Presidents are free to consult with unofficial

advisers.

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### B. Webster-Hayne Debate

1. Cause: 1829, New England senator introduced bill to curb sale of public lands
  - a. Western senators furiously defended their interests.
  - b. Southern senators, seeking allies against the Northeast, sided with the West.
  - c. Stage was set for a showdown in the Senate
    - Webster-Hayne Debate lasted nine days in January, 1830.
2. Senator Robert Hayne
  - a. From South Carolina (one of Calhoun's protégés) represented states' rights
  - b. Accused New England of disloyalty during the War of 1812
  - c. Condemned New England's selfishness regarding the protective tariff.
  - d. Blasted the "Tariff of Abominations" (1828)
  - e. Proclaimed Calhoun's doctrine of nullification was only means of protecting Southern rights.
    - Hayne's arguments later used by nullifiers and secessionists.
3. Daniel Webster, from New England, spoke on behalf of the Union.
  - a. Insisted the *people* not the *states* had framed the Constitution; assailed the doctrine of nullification.
  - b. "Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable."
4. Result of the Debate: each side believed its champion had won.
5. Impact of Webster's Response
  - Many credit Webster for helping win the Civil War by arousing the new generation of northerners to fight for ideal of Union.

### D. Symbolic split: Jefferson Day Toast (1830)

1. In the view of Southerners, Jackson had been silent on Southern grievances
2. States' rights leaders, at Jefferson Day banquet in 1830, plotted against him.
  - a. Devised a series of toasts in honor of Jefferson that would lead toward states' rights and nullification.
  - b. Plotters assumed Jackson would be swept along by the toasts and join in.
  - c. Jackson received word of the plot and carefully prepared his response.
3. At the proper moment, Jackson rose, fixed his eyes on Calhoun and stated: "Our Union: It must be preserved!"
4. Calhoun replied: "The union, next to our liberty, most dear!"

E. Peggy Eaton Affair

1. Peggy Eaton the wife of Sec. of War Eaton
2. Snubbed by wives of Jackson's cabinet members, especially Mrs. Calhoun.
3. Jackson, remembering his late wife, defended Mrs. Eaton
  - a. Demanded cabinet members make their wives recognize her.
  - b. In response, Jackson began purging Calhoun's allies in the cabinet in 1831.
  - c. Jackson turned increasingly against Calhoun
4. Van Buren gained Jackson's favor by paying marked attention to Mrs. Eaton.
5. The Eaton Affair has been exaggerated as one of the causes of the Civil War.
  - a. Tariffs were the major immediate issue between Jackson and Calhoun
  - b. Also, Jackson learned Calhoun had criticized him during his earlier Florida campaign against Spain & Seminoles when Calhoun was secretary of war.

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F. 1832 Tariff Controversy: major wedge between Calhoun & Jackson

G. Calhoun resigned in 1832

1. Became leader in the Senate & champion of states' rights in SC.
2. Up until this time, Calhoun had publicly been a strong nationalist.
  - a. Thought himself in line for the presidency after Jackson served 1 term.
  - b. The Eaton affair destroyed his hopes of becoming president.
3. Calhoun became a fierce sectionalist
  - a. Rigorously protected slavery and states rights'
  - b. "Concurrent majority" plan (created as early as 1833); failed to get support
    - i. U.S. would have 2 presidents: one representing the majority (North) and one representing the minority (South).  
-- Each would have veto power over Congress
    - ii. Only if majority & minority were represented could the Union be stable.

VIII. Nullification controversy of 1832

A. South Carolina still fuming over "Tariff of Abominations" -- 1828

B. Tariff of 1832

1. Jackson attempted to improve tariff to conciliate the south by lowering the Tariff of 1828.
  - a. Lowered duties to 35% from about 45%, or the 1824 level
  - b. Yet, law still protective; not merely a revenue-based tariff
  - c. Fell far short of meeting all Southern demands

2. South Carolina took drastic action by nullifying Tariff of 1832
  - a. Called upon state legislature to make necessary military preparations
  - b. Threatened secede from the Union if Jackson attempted collection by force.
3. Jackson's reaction
  - a. Violently angry in private; threatened to "hang" nullifiers, including Calhoun
  - b. Dispatched modest naval and military reinforcements to SC while preparing sizable army quietly.
  - c. Cried out against nullification
    - Gov. Hayne (ex-Senator) rigorously advocated nullification.
  - d. Standoff threatened a possible civil war.
4. Henry Clay proposed a compromise
  - a. Tariff would be reduced by 10% over eight years.
    - Rates would eventually be at approx. 1816 level -- 20-25%
  - b. Compromise Tariff of 1833 squeezed through Congress
5. Force Bill passed by Congress as face-saving device
  - a. President in the future could use military to collect federal tariffs if necessary.
  - b. Dubbed "Bloody Bill" by South Carolinians.

### C. Aftermath

1. Both sides won: Jackson nor the "nullies" clearly triumphed
2. Stepping stone to Civil War
  - a. South Carolina gradually abandoned nullification in favor of secession by 1860.
  - b. The tariff crisis most compelling reason for the split of Jackson and Calhoun

## IX. Election of 1832

### A. Henry Clay (National Republican) vs. Jackson (Democrat)

1. Jackson earlier favored a one-term presidency; cronies convinced him to stay.
2. Clay was author of "American System", War Hawk, & western Senator.
  - a. Advantage: Funded by easterners & BUS, supported by Daniel Webster
  - b. Advantage: Most newspaper editors favored Clay & criticized Jackson
3. Jackson defeated Clay 219-49 in Electoral College
  - Jackson had the support of the masses that overwhelmed the vote of wealthier Americans.

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B. New political features introduced in campaign

1. Anti-Masonic party became first 3rd party in American presidential election.

- a. Opposed secrecy of Masonic order, an 18<sup>th</sup> century fraternal organization using rationalist Christian doctrine, ritual symbolism, and civic virtue.
  - Recruited upwardly mobile middle-class professionals, business leaders, and politicians (like George Washington and Andrew Jackson).
- b. Masons accused of using its membership to influence appointments to offices and to gain economically at the expense of the masses.
- c. Anti-Masonic party attracted evangelical groups eager to fuse moral & religious reforms with politics (e.g. keeping Sabbath Day holy.)
  - Meanwhile, Jacksonians against all gov't meddling in social & economic life.

2. National nominating conventions in all 3 parties: a bit like today's system

X. Jacksonian Democracy – economics and states' rights

A. Main aim: Divorce government from the economy (in essence, *laissez faire*)

1. Anti-monopoly; common man should have a chance to succeed.
2. Return to Jeffersonian democracy: gov't role should be limited
3. Give more power to states to promote equality of opportunity.

B. End of the Bank of the United States (BUS)

1. Jackson distrusted the BUS ("moneyed monster") and huge businesses
2. Henry Clay pushed to recharter BUS 4 years earlier in 1832 as a political ploy against Jackson
  - a. Clay was the leading candidate of the National Republicans for president in 1832.
  - b. Henry Clay's scheme
    - i. Ram a recharter bill through Congress and send it to the White House.
    - ii. The recharter would create a dilemma for Jackson:
      - If he signed it, it would alienate his western support.
      - If he vetoed it, he'd alienate wealthy & influential supporters in the East.
    - iii. Jackson: "The Bank... is trying to kill me, but I will kill it."
3. Jackson vetoed BUS's charter in 1832
  - a. Jackson assailed the bank as monopolistic and unconstitutional.
    - i. Criticized Nicholas Biddle, head of the BUS
    - ii. He claimed favoritism toward elite did occur and the BUS

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- forced foreclosures in the West.
- c. Jackson acted as if the president was superior to judicial branch
    - Supreme Court ruled it constitutional: *McCulloch v. Maryland* (1819)
    - d. Jackson's demagogic message appealed to the masses.
      - Bank now a major issue in 1832 presidential election.
  4. BUS strengths before it was killed by Jackson
    - a. Sound organization
    - b. Reduced bank failures
    - c. Issued sound bank notes while U.S. was flooded with depreciated paper.
    - d. Spurred economic expansion by making credit & currency available.
    - e. Safe depository for federal gov'ts funds; transferred & disbursed its money.
  5. "Pet bank" scheme
    - a. Jackson aimed to weaken BUS and Biddle
    - b. Transferred federal deposits from BUS to 23 state "pet banks"
      - Overseen by Sec. of Treasury Roger B. Taney (soon to appointed as Chief Justice of Supreme Court)
    - c. Biddle retaliated by calling loans with unnecessary severity for the purpose of forcing a reconsideration of the bank's charter by Congress.
      - i. Some weak banks became casualties
      - ii. Actions reaffirmed bank as a "dying monster" in many eyes.
  6. Specie Circular: public lands now had to be purchased with "hard" money
    - a. In 1836, "Wildcat" currency had become unreliable, especially in West.
    - b. Jackson authorized the Treasury to issue a Specie Circular
      - i. All public lands had to be purchased with federal money.
      - ii. "Hard money" brought hard times to the West.
      - iii. Locos Focos an important force in demanding hard money
    - c. Inflation continued nonetheless
- B. General incorporation laws (beginning with Connecticut in 1837)
1. Traditionally, corporate charters granted by state governments were seen by many as monopoly-oriented.
  2. States began to make incorporation easier, thus spurring the U.S. economy with small and medium-sized businesses.
  3. Limited liability: business owners were now allowed to be a separate entity from their corporation. If the corporation went bankrupt, the business owner still kept his own money. Reduced the risk of owning a business.
  4. Very Jacksonian in nature (although Jackson was not responsible for it)

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C. Charles River Bridge decision (*Charles River Bridge v. Warren Bridge*), 1837

1. Builders of Charles River Bridge gained a charter by Massachusetts in 1780
  - With Boston's growth, stock in the bridge company soared.
2. 1828, Warren Bridge Co. granted a charter by Mass. to build a bridge 300 yards from the Charles River Bridge (who's company made profits from tolls).
  - Heavy traffic necessitated another bridge.
3. Charles River Bridge Co. sued Warren Bridge Co. since the new charter interfered with Constitution's provision for state's not to interfere with contracts.
4. Supreme Court granted Warren Bridge Co. the right to build the new bridge.
5. Significance: Encouraged economic development in transportation and other public facilities via competition (began to end monopolies in public facilities).
  - Very Jacksonian in nature.

D. Maysville Road veto

1. Jackson favored states' rights (at the expense of nationalism)
2. Refused to spend federal money for intrastate improvements (roads & canals)
  - Strong states' rights principles (like Madison who vetoed Calhoun's Bonus Bill in 1817)
3. Vetoed bill for improving the Maysville Road in Kentucky.

XI. Removal of Native Americans

- A. By 1830, most territories east of the Mississippi had become states
  - Most Amerindian tribes were surrounded by white settlements

- B. Jackson did not regard the tribes as separate nations within individual states.

1. Harbored some protective feelings toward Amerindians yet saw them as "uncivilized."
2. Indian Removal Act (1830)
  - a. Jackson proposed bodily removal of remaining Indians -- esp. Five Civilized Nations: Cherokee, Creek, Choctaw, Chickasaw and Seminoles-- beyond the Mississippi to Indian Territory (Oklahoma).
  - b. Individual Indians might remain if they adopted white ways.
  - c. More than 100,000 Indians forcibly uprooted and moved in 1830s.
3. Bureau of Indian Affairs established in 1836 to administer relations with Amerindians

### C. Cherokee

1. Developed certain aspects of society similar to whites
  - a. Sequoia created Cherokee syllabic alphabet (85 characters) and Cherokee had own newspaper, *Cherokee Phoenix*
  - b. Had a written constitution similar to U.S.; similar electoral system
  - c. Established efficient agriculture-based economy
  - d. Despite strong attempts to assimilate, Cherokee not accepted by white society
2. Unfortunately, Cherokee nation sat on valuable land in northeast Georgia
  - a. Gold discovered in 1829 and local whites wanted to mine Cherokee land.
  - b. Land could be used for cotton; coveted by land-hungry white farmers.
  - c. Cherokee right to land had been recognized in the Treaty of 1791
    - Many Georgians ignored the federal laws.
3. *Cherokee Nation v. Georgia*, 1831
  - a. Cherokee challenged a Georgia law that made Cherokee laws null & void.
  - b. Supreme Court: Cherokee lacked jurisdiction over its land, as it was a "domestic dependent, nation" possessing some sovereignty, but not a foreign nation.
    - Represented a major blow to Cherokee rights as an independent nation
4. *Worcester v. Georgia*, 1832
  - a. John Marshall ruled that Georgia's laws had no jurisdiction inside Cherokee territory and the Cherokee could invite whomever it wished on its land.
    - Samuel Worcester, a missionary living with the Cherokee for years, was forced by GA to take oath of allegiance or leave Cherokee land; he refused and was arrested
  - b. Worcester was released from jail within 3 months
  - c. Despite the Court's support for Cherokee autonomy on its lands, Jackson proceeded with Indian removal
5. Trail of Tears
  - a. 1838 -- 18,000 Cherokees forcibly removed from their homes and marched 1,000 miles to Indian Territory (Oklahoma)
    - i. 4,000 died from malnutrition, exposure, cholera, & harsh treatment.
    - ii. Soldiers forced the march with rifles and bayonets.
  - b. Earlier, 25% of Choctaws died en route to Indian Territory between 1831-1835
  - c. 3,500 of 15,000 Creeks died during removal in 1836.

D. Black Hawk War (1832)

1. Braves in Illinois & Wisconsin led by Black Hawk resisted removal on lands west of Lake Huron.
2. Crushed by U.S. troops
3. Area west of Lake Michigan became open for white settlement.

E. Seminoles in Florida

1. Seminoles ordered to merge with old enemy -- the Creek -- and relocate.  
-- Refused as Creek were slave owners; many Seminoles had escaped Creek slavery.
2. Waged bloody guerrilla war in the Second Seminole War ( 1835-1842) that left 1,500 U.S. soldiers dead  
-- Bloodiest Native American conflict in U.S. history.
3. 4/5 or 3,000 were forcibly moved to Oklahoma; 3,000 still survive today

XII. The Birth of Texas

A. U.S. dropped claim to Texas when it bought Florida from Spain in 1819.

B. 1823, a newly independent Mexico granted Stephen Austin what is today Texas.

1. Immigrants were to be Catholic and properly Mexicanized.
2. Restrictions were largely ignored by Americans

C. Friction between Mexicans & Americans occurred over slavery, immigration & local rights

1. Mexico emancipated its slaves in 1830 and prohibited importation into Texas.
2. Prohibited further settlement by Americans.
3. Texans refused to abide by Mexico's decree; new settlers and slaves poured in
4. 1835, Mexican dictator Santa Anna outlawed all local rights and raised an army to exert control in Texas.

D. Texas declared independence in 1836 -- Sam Houston, commander in chief

1. Santa Anna's 6,000 man army invaded Texas.
2. Killed 342 American volunteers who surrendered at Goliad
3. Killed all Americans at the Alamo (including Davy Crockett & James Bowie)
4. Americans outraged: "Remember the Alamo", "Remember Goliad", "Death to Santa Anna."

E. Houston's army victorious at San Jacinto

1. Santa Anna signed two treaties: withdraw Mexican troops & recognize Rio Grande as Texas' southern border (Nueces had been original border)  
-- Santa Anna repudiated the treaties upon his release.
2. American aid important to Texas' fight for independence
  - a. America's public opinion nullified existing neutrality legislation.
  - b. Mexicans complained US obligated to honor its international neutrality law

F. Jackson's dilemma

1. Recognizing Texas would stir up slavery issue at a time he was supporting his hand-picked successor Van Buren for president.
2. Recognized Texas the day before he left office in 1837.
3. Texas officially petitioned to be annexed
  - a. Antislavery crusaders in the North opposed it.
  - b. Southerners welcomed idea of annexation.
4. Texas left to protect itself
  - a. Feared reprisals from Santa Anna
  - b. Courted British and French for aid.
  - c. Balance of power politics threatened southern U.S.
5. Houston first president of Independent Republic of Texas.

XIII. Election of 1836

A. Birth of the Whigs (heirs of Hamilton's Federalist ideas)

1. Emerged in 1834 where Clay and Calhoun joined forces to pass a motion censuring Jackson for his removal of federal deposits from the BUS.  
-- Mutual hatred of Jackson
2. Evolved into a national political party of groups alienated by Jackson.
3. Many Whig principles were foundation for modern-day Republican party.
4. William Henry Harrison, hero of Battle of Tippecanoe, emerged as Whig candidate, defeating Clay.

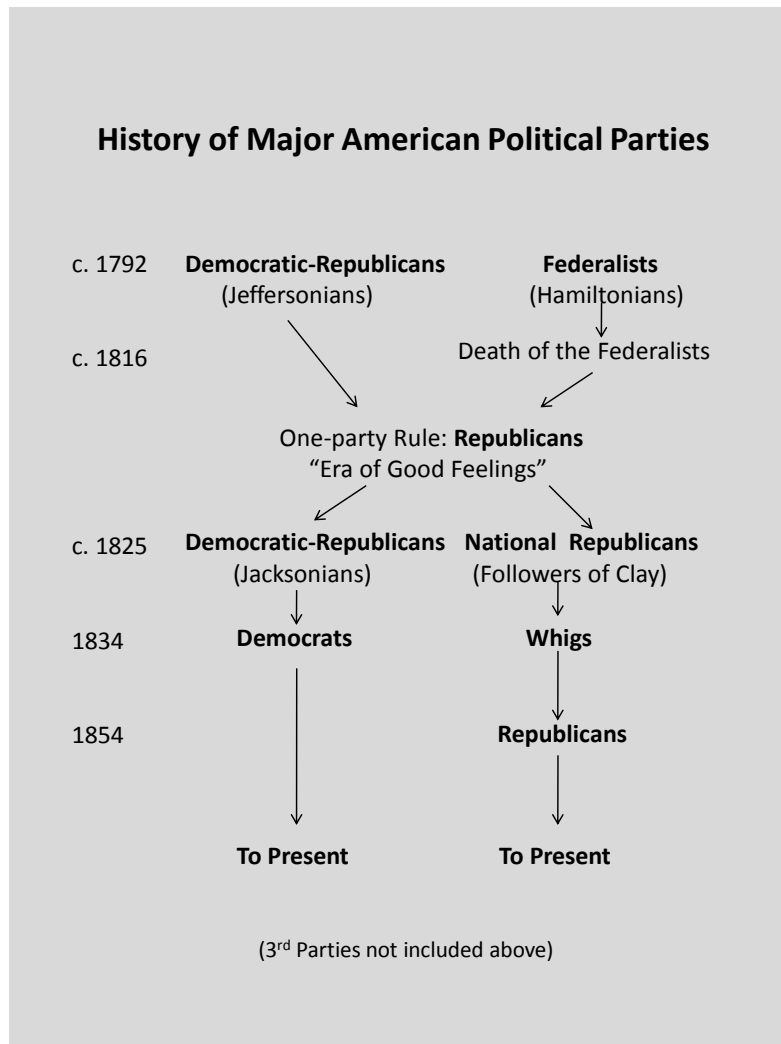
B. Martin Van Buren was Jackson's hand-picked successor.

1. Old and ailing, Jackson decided not to run for a third term.
2. Decided to run a third term vicariously through Van Buren.
3. Van Buren d. Harrison 170-73

C. Election of 1832 ushered in the “Second Party System”

1. Democrats and Whigs would dominate national politics until 1852
2. First party system lasted from c. 1796 to 1816: Federalists vs. Democratic-Republicans

<b>The “Second Party System”: c. 1832-1852</b>	
<u>Whigs</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Supported by northern industrialists and merchants (wealthiest Americans)</li><li>• <u>Supported Clay’s “American System”</u></li><li>• Sought to reduce the spoils system</li><li>• Southern states’ rights advocates angry at Jackson’s stand on nullification</li><li>• Evangelicals from Anti-Masonic party joined</li><li>• Later supported moral reforms: prohibition of alcohol and abolition of slavery</li><li>• Sought to use national gov’t to solve societies problems (over states’ rights issues)</li></ul>	<u>Democrats</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Supported by the common people and machine politicians in the East</li><li>• States’ Rights – opposed to “American System”</li><li>• Favored spoils system</li><li>• Anti-monopoly—favored increased competition</li><li>• Believed federal gov’t should not be involved in people’s personal lives</li></ul>



#### XIV. Jackson's Legacy (Quick Review)

##### A. Positive Contributions

1. Demonstrated value of strong executive leadership in the 1832 tariff controversy
2. Became the champion of the common people in politics
3. Established the Democratic Party (that sparked the 2-party system with the Whigs as opposition)

##### B. Liabilities

1. Spoils system led to political corruption on a national scale
2. Killing the BUS resulted in thousands of bank failures and was a cause of the Panic of 1837
3. Specie circular hurt western farmers
4. Flouted the authority of the Supreme Court vis-à-vis Cherokee and the BUS
5. Trail of Tears
6. Cabinet crisis and break with Calhoun resulted in increased sectionalism



## XV. Martin Van Buren's presidency

- A. Van Buren -- Principle architect of the 2nd American Party System
  - Developed the spoils system and political machines while holding office in New York and later applied them to national politics under Jackson
- B. Presided over the Panic of 1837 (Jackson's policies were a major cause)
- C. Established the Independent Treasury System (formalized the "Pet Bank" scheme)
- D. *Caroline Incident*: Rebellion in Canada in 1837 created ugly incidents along the border and threatened to trigger war with Britain.

## XVI. Panic of 1837

### A. Causes

1. Most important cause: overspeculation
  - a. Land speculators in the West borrowed heavily from "wildcat banks."
  - b. Speculation spread to canals, roads, and slaves.
  - c. Speculators unable to pay back loans thus causing bank failures
2. Jacksonian finance, including the BUS War & the Specie Circular, further hurt the economy.
3. Flour Riot: crop failures forced grain prices so high that NY mobs stormed warehouses and broke open flour barrels. (During Jackson's last days)
4. Failure of 2 major British banks caused English investors to call in their foreign loans.
  - Hurt U.S. banks and helped trigger the beginning of the panic.

### B. Results

1. American banks collapsed by the hundreds including "pet banks" which lost several million dollars in gov't funds.
2. Commodity prices and sale of public land fell; customs revenues dried up.
3. Factories closed; unemployment soared.

### C. Whig proposals were blocked by Van Buren (Jacksonian ideal of limited gov't)

- Whigs sought expansion of bank credit, higher tariffs, & internal improvement funds (Clay's "American System")

### D. Treasury Bill of 1840 ("Divorce Bill")

1. Van Buren was convinced that part of the depression was due to federal funds being given to private banks.
2. Held the Jacksonian principle of "divorcing" gov't from banks
3. Independent Treasury System established: gov't could put its surplus in certain banks in several of the nation's larger cities.

4. Funds were safe but it denied the banking system of reserves which decreased available credit resources.
5. Policy was condemned by the Whigs and repealed next year when they won the presidency.  
-- Reenacted in 1846 by Democrats, after Polk became president.

#### XVII. Election of 1840

- A. Van Buren renominated by Democrats
- B. Whigs again chose William H. Harrison over both Clay and Webster  
-- Slogan: "Tippecanoe and Tyler Too" (John Tyler was the Whig vice presidential candidate)
- C. Voters blamed the depression on Van Buren (the party in power)
- D. Whigs created false myths about Harrison being a poor farmer from a log cabin: "Log Cabin and Hard Cider"
- E. Harrison defeats Van Buren
- F. Significance
  1. First mass-turnout election in American history
  2. Propaganda and silly slogans set unfortunate example for future campaigns.  
-- Solid principled party ousted for hoopla
  3. Liberty Party, first anti-extension of slavery party, also in the race with James G. Birney as its candidate.

#### Memory Aid for Jacksonian Democracy: "New KNICKSS"

New Democracy

Killing of the BUS

Nullification Crisis of 1832

Indian Removal

Creation of 2-party system (Democrats & Whigs)

Kitchen Cabinet/Cabinet Crisis (break between Jackson & Calhoun)

Spoils System

Sectionalism

## Terms to Know

<p>"New Democracy" Frederick Jackson Turner: "The Significance of the Frontier on American History" workingmen's parties caucus system nominating conventions election of 1824 The "corrupt bargain" Henry Clay President John Quincy Adams "Tariff of Abominations," 1828 John C. Calhoun, "Southern Carolina Exposition" "Revolution of 1828" President Andrew Jackson spoils system "Kitchen Cabinet" Webster-Hayne Debate Peggy Eaton affair Tariff of 1832 Nullification Crisis, 1832 Tariff of 1833 election of 1832 Anti-Masonic party States Nicholas Biddle "Pet Bank" scheme Specie Circular</p>	<p>veto of Bank of the United general incorporation laws limited liability <i>Charles River Bridge</i> case Maysville Road veto Indian Removal Act, 1830 Bureau of Indian Affairs Five Civilized Nations: Cherokee, Creek, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Seminole <i>Cherokee Nation v. Georgia</i>, 1831 <i>Worcester v. Georgia</i>, 1832 "Trail of Tears" Indian Territory Black Hawk War Second Seminole War Republic of Texas Stephen Austin General Santa Anna Alamo election of 1836 Whigs William Henry Harrison President Martin Van Buren Panic of 1837 Independent Treasury System election of 1840 Liberty Party</p>
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## **Essay Questions**

*Note: This sub-unit is a high probability area for the AP exam. In the past 10 years, 3 questions have come wholly or in part from the material in this chapter. Below are some questions that will help you study the topics that have appeared on previous exams.*

1. The era between 1820 and 1840 has been called “the rise of mass politics.” Analyze causes for this democratic trend. Were there any groups that were left out during this period?
2. Identify the goals and philosophies of Jacksonian Democrats. To what extent were Jacksonians successful in achieving these goals and implementing their philosophies politically and economically?
3. Compare and contrast the goals and philosophies of the Democrats and Whigs (National Republicans)
4. To what extent did the Jacksonian era lead to more sectionalism between North and South in the years between 1828 and 1848?
5. Analyze U.S. government policy towards Amerindians between 1828 and 1848.

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