

Chapter 13: The Rise of a Mass Democracy (1824-1840)

- Era of Good Feelings dampened by the Panic of 1819 (economic depression) and Missouri Compromise of 1820 (controversial compromise about future slave/free states)
 - **Jacksonian era was almost the opposite of the Era of Good Feelings: there was a “boisterous democracy, frenzied vitality, and strong political parties”** — similar to Federalist age of 1796
- **New political conflict arose, and political parties and campaign were created**
 - Democrats party formed in 1828
 - Whigs party formed in 1830s
 - New forms of campaigning: “banners, badges, parades, barbecues, free drinks, and baby kissing”
 - Voter turnout increased as a result (25% in 1824 to 78% in 1840)
- European nations began to become more democratic (e.g., more electorates/voters)

The “Corrupt Bargain” of 1824

- Many able candidates, all “Republicans,” for the election of 1824
 - John Quincy Adams, Secretary of State under Monroe’s first term, “intelligent, experienced, and aloof”
 - Henry Clay, “gamy and gallant”
 - William H. Crawford, “able though ailing”
 - Andrew Jackson, “gaunt and gutsy hero of New Orleans,” conquered Florida and defeated Native Americans
- Andrew Jackson won the had greatest electoral and popular vote, but not a majority, therefore House of Representatives had the deciding call
 - Adams was second in votes, then Crawford, then Clay
 - Henry Clay was Speaker of the House, which was head of the House of Representatives and therefore an influential position in this non-majority election
 - Decided not to support Crawford (had stroke) or Jackson (didn’t like Jackson’s military conquest of Florida)
 - Decided to support Adams because they had similar political views
 - Adams was also secretary of state, which was commonly lead to president (three out of four secretaries of state had become president)
 - **Henry Clay’s endorsement of John Adams made him win over popular leader Andrew Jackson in the 1824 presidential election**
- Jackson supporters were very angry — called the election of 1824 the “Corrupt Bargain”
 - People worried that Adams may have bribed Clay with position of Secretary of State (which made him likely to become president)
 - Adams was condemned by many people, including John Randolph and Jackson
 - In previous history, private bargains were common; however, this showed a turning point, that showed that democracy should be made by the people, not by “corrupt bargains” behind closed doors such as this

Politics and Power: Although he was the least popular of the four candidates at the election of 1824, Henry Clay was the one with the greatest political power in that election. He was Speaker of the House, and when Andrew Jackson did not win a majority in the electoral college, the House of Representatives was greatly swayed by Clay's support for Adams, who won the majority and the election. John Adams was the Secretary of State at the time, and this put him in a very probably position for presidency, while Andrew Jackson was simply a military general. This "corrupt bargain," as it was called by many of the people who opposed Adams called it, showed that the Constitution could not stop all forms of non-official, totally by-the-people governance, despite its checks on the government; political corruption of power was possible in the American government. Specifically, in this case, the electoral college made the vote biased when it reached the House of Representatives, because two political candidates worked together for a presidency. The rise of John Adams to presidency, the fourth out of five Secretaries of State to do so, also shows the political tendency for people in power to stay in power, which also increased the political power of any individual.

A Yankee Misfit in the White House

- John Quincy Adams was strict and nonsocial
 - Physically very austere: "short, thickset, and billiard-bald"
 - Mentally shunned people, introverted: went for private swims in the mornings, was "irritable, sarcastic, and tactless"
 - Was very qualified for president (was Secretary of State and had important improvements with foreign affairs, such as the promotion of the Monroe Doctrine)
- J. Q. Adams was one of the "least successful presidents" (despite his experience), was very unpopular because he went against majority opinion
 - Began his presidency criticized as people for having made a corrupt bargain
 - Had only a minority support of the people (only won 1/3 of popular vote and won because of electoral college's majority-to-win system)
 - Did not have many good political skills, won Secretary of State position out of respect and not out of popularity; very hard in age of popular democracy-like system
 - Switched out very few political office holders for his own supporters
 - Not a good move, considering that his supporters wanted positions and were more likely to sway the opposition (which formed the majority of the population and the officeholders) towards his position
 - Had an unpopular nationalistic opinion
 - Many people were beginning to stop thinking about nationalism stemming from War of 1812 and looking on to ideas of "states' rights and sectionalism"
 - Adams instead wanted construction of infrastructure, as well as national university and a space observatory
 - Many people, especially the South, worried that this was an unnecessary waste of government funding that would continue the tariffs
 - People didn't want so much governmental power, especially the Southerners who worried that the government might later try to take away slavery by law
 - Had an unpopular land policy

- Wanted to slow down the “feverish speculation in the public domain,” presumably to prevent conflict with Native Americans and allow for more organized settlement
- Wanted to negotiate diplomatically with Native Americans, citizens wanted Native Americans out
 - In case of Cherokee Indians in Georgia, Georgians denied Adams’ attempt to negotiate, threatened to fight the central government

American and National Identity: While Adams held a more conservative view of U.S. politics and popular opinion, the masses were quickly changing as the country was still maturing in this early era. Adams was similar to his father and the Federalists: they wanted a stronger central government and were part of the wealthier ranks of society, believing that these higher classes were more fit to rule. As people struggled for more individual and states’ rights, rather than federal powers, his political opinions were often unpopular, and therefore his rule as president achieved little. Adams, for example, called for a national observatory and university, ideas dating back to the Washington (a Federalist) and augmented by the War of 1812 nationalism—however, the people saw these as unnecessary wastes of governmental funds that could be better spent on the people. Similarly, Adams attempted to regulate land policy and interactions with the Native Americans, but the states (such as Georgia with the conflicts with the Cherokee Native Americans) often took matters into their own hands and shunned federal intervention. The national identity was shifting away from the aristocracy and a very strong central government and towards the opinions of the masses.

Going “Whole Hog” for Jackson in 1828

- Republican party split into two groups during Adams’ presidency
 - One side was the National Republicans under John Quincy Adams; had oak as their symbol because he was “oakenly independent”; went steadily for conservative values
 - Other side was the Democratic-Republicans under Andrew Jackson, who had hickory as their symbol because it was very tough
- Democratic-Republicans had misrepresented views of both candidates
 - Saw Jackson as a “hero” and “rough-hewn frontiersman and a stalwart champion of the common man” — he was actually a wealthy farmer at the time
 - Saw Adams as a very corrupt politician, especially with the bargain; actually, there is no certain evidence that there was a bargain, and had very high morals (albeit the fact that he was very stubborn with them)
- Both sides were “mudslinging” again (debasing the other side)
 - Adams’s supporters were talking bad about Jackson’s mother and wife
 - Jackson’s supporters portrayed Adams’s “billiard table and a set of chessmen” as “‘gaming tables’ and ‘gambling furniture’ for the ‘presidential palace’” — showed luxury
- Election support was regional
 - Jackson had most of his votes in the West and South (where poorer farmers and frontiersmen were)
 - Adams won most of New England in the Northeast (where there was a higher population and therefore more electoral votes)
- **Andrew Jackson won presidency in 1828**

- He won by 178 to 83 electoral votes (very popular)
- Showed that power shifted away from Eastern seaboard and towards more central U.S.

Culture and Society: Before the election of 1828, people resorted to “mudslinging,” lowly remarks meant to slander the opponent rather than praise their leader. Similarly, Jacksonians blamed Adams for being corrupt on unreasonable terms (the premise that the “corrupt bargain” was actually a complicit and deliberate bargain, which it likely was not). This showed the extreme loyalty to party that was developing, and the levels that the commoners reached, as well as the increase in governmental participation (i.e., campaigning and voting) from the commoners, who reached new low points in morality during the election by debasing the other side. Unfortunately, this created a precedent in the election system that has continued to today; current party-nominated presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, as well as other presidential candidates that had dropped out, attack personal details of the other candidates in order to improve the view of themselves to Americans, rather than using their merits to their advantage.

Geography and the Environment: As it was during the “Revolution of 1800” (the election race between Jefferson and Adams), the votes for each president in this election were largely regionally-based. Jackson, like Jefferson earlier, had received many votes from the poorer regions from the South and the West, whereas Adams had received more votes from New England like his father had. Although the New England colonies are the most populous, winning so many states in the western and southern regions and then the presidency in both of these elections showed that the political power in America was starting to center geographically. Also, this geographical division (generally between North (New England) and South foreshadowed the Civil War, the great division whose causes include differences in political views similar to those of these elections; for example, Jackson and Jefferson championed the poorer, farmer class that often used slaves, while the Adams favored more the industrial, anti-slavery society.

“Old Hickory” as President

- Jackson was very different than Adams
 - Physically different:
 - “tall, lean, with bushy iron-gray hair brushed high above a prominent forehead, craggy eyebrows, and blue eyes”; a little emaciated, had look of fierce frontiersman
 - Had lead poisoning, dysentery, malaria, tuberculosis — survived many diseases and was indeed tough
 - Very different upbringing
 - Was born in the Carolinas to an uneducated childhood (bad grammar, for example), eventually became a judge and Congressman
 - Was very passionate and got in fights often
 - Was second president that hadn’t gone to college
 - He was rich, but grew up in a harsh neighborhood; not aristocrat nor commoner
- Jackson’s inauguration attracted a horde of ordinary people in disorderly fashion
 - Seemed like a mob, termed the “inaugural brawl”

- **People compared this event similar to mobocracy or the masses during the French Revolution — they were afraid Jackson’s presidency would usurp the American democracy with chaos**

The Spoils System

- Jackson was the first to introduce spoils system to the federal level
 - Spoils system was when victorious political leader put supporters into political office
 - Jackson argued that all people were equal and could learn how to effectively hold political office; also, to leave politicians in for too long would create an aristocratic class of leaders
- Spoils systems had many cons
 - Many incompetent or untrustworthy people were put into office
 - Samuel Swartwout stole one million dollars from the government as customs tax collector of New York
 - System was more about party loyalty than about civic virtue
- Spoils system actually was beneficially to democracy as well
 - Many politicians had been sitting in office since their appointment by Washington, and didn’t do much anymore
 - **It gave “a compelling reason for Americans to pick a party and stick with it” — more loyalty to party, and more powerful party**

Politics and Power: During the beginning of Jackson’s presidency, power went to the people—perhaps even too much power. The people were worried that a Jacksonian democracy would manifest itself in a form similar to the dreaded mobocracy because of the amount of power their was for the popular political party. For example, during his inauguration ceremony, a mob entered the White House and was termed the “inaugural brawl.” Similarly, the Spoils System was set into place, which meant the president switched out many of the official positions for supporters of his own; as a result, the ruling power in charge had even more power with more high-power officials. It also put the stability of the nation to the test as some of the newly appointed officials became corrupt, such as Samuel Swartwout.

The Tricky “Tariff of Abominations”

- **Tariffs were a problem in J. Q. Adams’s presidency, and it carried on to Jackson’s**
 - They were good for protecting local industries from foreign competition by making it harder for foreign countries to sell products in America
 - They harmed society by making everything more expensive and invited “retaliatory tariffs” from foreign countries
- J. Q. Adams had passed a law raising tariffs in 1824. Jackson did the same in 1828
 - Tariff of 1828 became known as the Tariff of Abominations because of the outrage that many citizens, especially Southerners, had
 - Southerners saw it as only benefiting the industries of the North by reducing competition for them, but it raised prices for the products that the Southerners bought
 - The Southern farmers had an international market (exporting), tariff isn’t necessary to protect them and it harms because of retaliatory tariffs

- Southern states were actually more worried about slavery than tariff, but wanted to use tariff as scapegoat
 - There was another slave rebellion by Denmark Charleston in 1822, put pressure on government to abolish slavery
 - Southern states worried that British government was about to abolish slavery and American government was about to do the same
 - Wanted to portray Tariff of Abominations as unconstitutional and decrease central government's power over the states to prevent the possible federal abolition of slavery from taking effect
 - John Calhoun, vice president and political theorist, wrote *The South Carolina Exposition* that denounced the bill as unconstitutional, and asked states to nullify it (not adhere to it)

Work, Exchange, and Technology: The appropriate amount of tariffs in the U.S. was a difficult decision for President Jackson. Reducing it would lead to greater debt for the nation and would allow for free global exporting and importing for the Southern plantations, who did not have a problem with no tariff. On the other hand, increasing it would lead to benefits for the industry in the North (protectionism to make local goods more attractive than foreign imports) and reduction of the debt, but increased financial hardships for the Southerners who couldn't import goods as freely. Also, increasing the tariff or leaving it as is would be a sign of greater governmental power in the states, which could mean more power to abolish slavery, which was a policy that the Southerners feared that the central government would and could enforce. As a result, any motion regarding the tariff would benefit the North or the South, but not both. Jackson decided to increase the tariff, which in turn made the Southerners come up in revolt.

"Nullies" in South Carolina

- People in South Carolina who wanted to nullify the act, known as the "nullies," argued against the people who wanted to preserve the adherence to federal law (the Unionists)
 - Unionists stopped the state from getting necessary $\frac{2}{3}$ vote to nullify the bill
- In 1832, new tariff (Tariff of 1832) by Congress set a middle ground — less strict but still too protective compared to what the Southerners wanted
 - People felt that it was too permanent, federal government had too much power over their lives in the long run
 - This was the Nullification Crisis — the rebellions of the South Carolina nullies against the Unionists
 - In 1832, another vote was taken and a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority by the nullies led to a convention
 - Delegates declared the tariff was nullified (didn't have to be followed because of its unconstitutionality) in South Carolina
 - Delegates also declared that they would use military force against government if they tried to enforce the collection of tariffs
- Andrew Jackson was a strong supporter of unity and non-defiance
 - Sent military reinforcements to South Carolina and began creating an army
 - Created a proclamation against nullification, and governor Robert Y. Hayne of South Carolina issued counter-proclamation; high tensions needed compromise

- Henry Clay created Compromise Tariff of 1833 that said that tariff would gradually decrease over the next few years
 - As expected, supported by the South Carolinas and Southern states, opposed by New England and middle states
 - Was passed and avoided conflict
- Jackson also passed Force Bill that said the federal government could militarily enforce tax collection (mostly to save face now that his bill was defeated)
 - Was nullified in South Carolina
- South Carolina had potential for civil war
 - Mounting conflict between Unionists and Nullies
 - Unionists were becoming more patriotic and acquiring more weapons, Nullies felt threatened and repealed the nullification declaration

American and National Identity: It almost seemed habitual and regular that the Americans (as if it were part of America's rebellious and freedom-fighting identity) rose up in rebellion against the ruling government every time there was an increase in taxes. This came from back during the colonial period after the French and Indian War, in which the British raised taxes without representation in the American colonies; after that, financial revolts such as Shay's Rebellion or the Whiskey Rebellion and then this Nullification Crisis have marked the commoner's calls for lesser taxes. Each rebellion, however, was marked by a resulting suppression by the national government. This time, however, instead of total suppression there was a compromise; this showed a slight change in inclination of American identity towards the people's wants, rather than a total government shutdown of the movement.

The Trail of Tears

- Jackson wanted to continue Westward expansion, like the Democrats
 - This would mean continued conflict with the Native Americans
- 125,000 Native Americans east of Mississippi, had previous negotiations with the Americans
 - Washington administration recognized Native Americans as nations, negotiated with them, but settlers often broke negotiations
 - Many Americans felt that the Native Americans could be assimilated into American culture, especially through Christianizing and civilizing them (similar to the Spanish in early colonial days with missionaries)
 - "The Society for Propagating the Gospel Among Indians" (1787) sent many missionaries amongst the Native Americans
 - Congress spent \$20,000 to help increase literacy of Native Americans (1793)
- Native Americans usually kept to the treaties rather than trying to resist white settlement
 - Cherokees in Georgia considered one of the "Five Civilized Tribes" because of its efforts to assimilate American culture into itself
 - Settled into Americanized agricultural system with privatization of land, developed an alphabet, opened up schools, created a constitution that had three branches of government
- Americans were still not satisfied despite Cherokee attempts at assimilation
 - Georgia wanted power over Cherokee government and lands
 - Supreme Court let Cherokees keep their rights (three times)

- Andrew Jackson opposed Supreme Court decision, mocking them because there was no way to enforce it, and would likely be broken by prospective settlers anyways
- Jackson felt obligation to preserve the Native Americans, especially the Five Civilized Tribes in the eastern U.S.
 - Congress passed the Indian Removal Act (1830) to move all Native American tribes that resided east of the Mississippi away to the West
 - Over 100,000 Native Americans moved by this
 - There were many forced marches of Native Americans away from their homeland to the designated resettlement areas, especially on the notorious Trail of Tears, where many Native Americans died
 - Native Americans moved to lands that were promised to be American-free; however, this promise was quickly broken by American pioneers only 15 years later as they invaded these Native American preservation lands
- Some Native Americans attempted to resist the movement
 - Black Hawk War (1832) was when Black Hawk tribe fought against movement and were crushed by Lieutenant Jefferson Davis (future president of the Confederacy) and Captain Abraham Lincoln (future president of the Union)
 - Seminole Indians fought guerilla war (1835-1842) in the Everglades of Florida to try and keep their land, but they eventually lost and most of them were moved; only a few managed to hide and stay in Florida

Migration and Settlement: The Native Americans were forced to migrate from their homeland in the Eastern U.S. to designated areas in the West under the Jackson administration. This was caused by a surge of Westward expansionism by the people and an “obligation” felt by President Jackson to “protect” the Native Americans from the Americans’ violence at the frontier. As a result of this migration, many Native Americans revolted and caused further conflict with the Americans. Other Native Americans were forcibly moved, and then had conflicts with the Americans again in fifteen years when the Americans moved farther west again, this time encroaching on the designated Native American preservation lands. All this had a legacy of unhappy land ownership for the Native Americans, who repeatedly lost land and had conflicts with the Americans; they gained nothing and many of them died, and the Americans gained their land. It also resulted in the formation of Oklahoma as one states with the highest Native American population nowadays (only California has more Native Americans nowadays).

The Bank War

- The Bank of the United States was essential for the U.S.
 - Minted coins that had a stable currency value; private banks printed paper money, whose value fluctuated (and therefore they had some power over the economy)
 - Was almost like a branch of government, because it controlled funds of the federal government and regulated currency value; was a source of stability in the unstable rising government
- Despite these positive values of the bank, Jackson hated the Bank of the United States, calling it a “moneyed monster”
 - The bank was a private institution, and this fact alone made it go against the ideals of democracy

- Its investors and president Nicholas Biddle had a large influence over the national economy
- The bank also enforced collection of taxes and foreclosures from many Westerners (such as in the Whiskey Rebellion), who as a result did not like the bank
 - It seemed that “profit, not public service, was its first priority”
- Bank War (1832) was when Daniel Webster and Henry Clay proposed renewal of the Bank of the United States, contrary to what Jackson wanted
 - Original charter expired in 1836, but they wanted to win the election of 1832 by making Jackson’s opinion on the bank unpopular
 - Clay believed that if Jackson vetoed it (didn’t support the bank), the Eastern supporters of the bank would prevent him from winning, and if he supported the bill (supported the bank), he would lose his Western supporters who didn’t like the bank
 - Unfortunately for Clay, the Westerners supported him and many Easterners feared him, so Jackson was still the most popular
 - Webster’s and Clay’s bill passed through Congress but was vetoed by Jackson, who declared it unconstitutional
 - *McCulloch v. Maryland* (1819) in Supreme Court declared the Bank of the United States as constitutional, but he denied it
 - **Showed that the veto power could be done on somewhat of a personal whim rather than simply by what has previously been declared as unconstitutional, setting precedent of executive branch’s power over the judicial branch (Jackson was basically overriding the Supreme Court’s ruling with his denouncement of the Bank of the U.S.)**
 - Clay thought Jackson’s views were very harmful to the economy, printed thousands of copies and distributed them
 - He meant to slight Jackson, but the commoners of the West mostly agreed with Jackson’s opinion — didn’t have the negative effect Clay wanted

Work, Exchange, and the Economy: The death of the Bank of the U.S. by Andrew Jackson was meant to decrease the aristocracy associated with national banking. Although it was economically sound, the bank, at least in Jackson’s mind, posed a threat to democracy. As a result, Jackson fought on one side of the Bank War (against Daniel Webster, Henry Clay, and the Supreme Court ruling of *McCulloch v. Maryland*), even denying a Supreme Court ruling to reduce the national bank (and endanger the economy) in the name of free, non-aristocratic democracy. In short, it was a political ideology that affected this economic decision.

“Old Hickory” Wallops Clay in 1832

- Clay (Nationalist Republicans) and Jackson (Democratic Republicans) were the main presidential candidates in the election of 1832
- Similar campaigning by both sides
 - Jackson supporters had hickory poles (representative of their strength) and criticized Clay for his vices
 - Clay’s supporters said “Freedom and Clay” as campaign slogan
- Anti-Masonic Party became a major power in the election of 1832

- Masons were a secret society; the people thought secret societies were in conflict with the main ideals of democracy because they contributed to a private interest, not the public good
- Party was created in 1826 when New Yorker was murdered for threatening to expose secrets of the Masons, made people angry and formed the party
- Evangelical Protestants supported this, wanted to influence religious culture of nation through political power
- Andrew Jackson was a Mason and didn't deny it; Anti-Masonic Party was also anti-Jackson as a result
 - Jackson and supporters in turn didn't like them back, because they supported a great political influence in social life, which Jackson did not support
- Election of 1832 also had party conventions to name the candidates
 - Anti-Masons and National Republicans further formalized election by creating debate platforms
- Clay and National Republicans had some advantages, but still lost the election
 - \$50,000 was issued to them by the Bank of the United States as "life insurance" (because they supported the continuation of the national bank)
 - Most newspapers were in favor of Clay, badmouthed Jackson
 - **Jackson still won the election of 1832 with popularity in West and South**
 - Won 687,502 to 530,189 popular votes and 219 to 49 electoral votes

Politics and Power: A few advancements came in the election of 1832 that gave the candidates more official power. For example, the National Republicans had official party conventions, which is an institution that formalizes the pick for a party and lasts even to today, playing a major part in the two-party democracy so that the opinions of a party are centered in one person (and therefore is more likely to win a majority and not have power get spread out). Also, formalized platforms were created in the National Republican and Anti-Masonic parties, which also continues to today and allows the candidates to express their views so that the people have a better idea of who they're voting for. These two changes in the election system make the choice for a president more sound, with more carefully chosen presidents.

Burying Biddle's Bank

- In 1833, Jackson began to lower the bank's reserve
 - Removed federal deposits, told people to stop depositing in the Bank of the United States, shrunk deposits by using them to spend on everyday funding
 - Wanted to "bleed the bank dry" so that it died out
- Jackson had many opponents in removing the Bank of the United States
 - Many of his own supporters were not supportive of so radical a plan; Jackson had to change officials twice to have supporters to carry out the removal of the bank for him
 - Biddle created the "Biddle's Panic" by calling in loans and making smaller banks go bankrupt to show the national bank's importance, but that didn't stop Jackson
- Death of the Bank of the U.S. had many repercussions
 - Pet banks, smaller state banks to hold federal funds, were chosen based on loyalty to Jackson, made transactions less official

- Pet banks and “wildcat banks” often had sketchy finances, printed much paper money (whose value was inconstant)
- Jackson issued the Specie Circular (1836) that said all lands have to be bought with metallic currency
 - Greatly dampened the quick westward expansion
 - Led to a financial crisis in 1837 (after Jackson finished second term)

Work, Exchange, and Technology: See above section “The Bank War”—same theme connection applies

The Birth of the Whigs

- Jackson’s supporters called themselves the Democrat Party
- Opponents of Jackson called him “King Andrew” and created the Whig Party in opposition to him
 - The Whigs were the British political party that opposed the King, reminiscent to the age of freedom against a powerful leader, now in terms of Jackson
 - Whigs were only joined by opposition to Jackson, very diverse group
 - Included “supporters of Clay’s American System, southern states’ righters offended by Jackson’s stand on nullification, the larger northern industrialists and merchants, and eventually many of the evangelical Protestants associated with the Anti-Masonic party”
 - Began by Clay, Webster, and Calhoun in Senate, who censured Jackson’s motions against the federal bank
 - They were progressive in governmental reforms, such as building infrastructure and public institutions, and they supported market economy (which supported entire economy as a whole, including northern industry and southern agriculture)
 - Saw themselves as the protectors of the common people and denounced Jackson as corrupt and too powerful; same as what Jackson did to the National Republicans by denouncing them for making the Corrupt Bargain

The Election of 1836

- Jackson’s vice president, Martin Van Buren, was his favorite choice for next president
 - Buren said he would continue generally in the same direction as Jackson
- The Whigs couldn’t choose a primary candidate at the convention, put forth multiple candidates
 - Hoped to not have a majority by any candidate and win in the voting by the House of Representatives
 - Henry Clay and General William Henry Harrison were major picks for the Whigs
- **Van Buren won the election of 1836 with a majority in the electoral college**
 - All of the Whig candidates still had a lower electoral vote than he himself

Politics and Power: To rival the incumbent Jacksonian Democrats, the anti-Democrats formed their own party that solely was united in their opposition to the Democrats. Rather than uniting for an ideology, they united for their antipathy towards the Democrats. As a result, a strong two-party system was formed, with the parties often in direct opposition to one another. This in turn forced both parties to work harder to achieve presidency, which means that they had to appeal greater to the people than the

opposing party, which means that they were always on their toes and trying to work for the popular opinion (which generally meant the common good). As a result, this election between Jackson and the Whigs was closer than the previous election between Jackson and the more loosely-organized and unpopular National Republicans.

Big Woes for the “Little Magician”

- Martin Van Buren (eighth president now) was rumored to be mediocre
 - Actually previously was successful and was politically experienced (was “an accomplished strategist and spoilsman ... a statesman of wide experience in both legislative and administrative life” and was intelligent)
- Van Buren many misfortunes and hard decisions during his presidency that were not under his control that made his presidency seem mediocre
 - Van Buren was milder than Jackson, ended up inheriting Jackson’s rule and policy but was not as assertive and popular as Jackson
 - Supporters were less supportive and opponents thought he was weaker and kept up the animosity that they had against Jackson
 - There were rebellions in Canada (1837) that was in part caused by unregulated immigration from the U.S., which threatened war against Great Britain (through its property of Canada) again
 - Van Buren tried to keep peace and stay neutral
 - Possible annexing (adding to the Union) of Texas put many northerners in protest
 - Jackson left behind a depression with the loss of the Bank of the U.S. and with the Specie Circular

Depression Doldrums and the Independent Treasury

- Panic of 1837, an economic crisis, had many causes
 - Mostly rampant speculation in the West and buying land off of bad credit from unreliable wildcat banks was the major cause of the panic
 - Jackson’s Bank War and the Specie Circular worsened the crisis when steady national banking collapsed and it was harder for people to get hard currency instead of unreliable paper money
 - Wheat planting was ravaged by the Hessian fly, and caused mobs to create chaos by breaking into warehouses
 - Two major British banks collapsed, and British investors called in American loans, which took away some American money
- Effects of the crisis greatly harmed the economy
 - Hundreds of regular banks collapsed, some pet banks (with millions of dollars of federal funds) collapsed as well
 - Speculation dropped and people stopped buying land
 - Factories went bankrupt and many people went unemployed
- Whigs attempted to pass progressive economic reform, rejected by Van Buren (like what Jackson did in order to keep government separate from economy)

- Van Buren created the Divorce Bill (1840) (Independent Treasury Bill) that made the government completely separate from banking by locking up federal reserves in cities to protect its funds, separate it from banking and deny its reserves to banks
 - Was an unpopular bill, passed in 1840, repealed, re-passed in 1846, and essentially repealed with national banks during the Civil War

Work, Exchange, and Technology: The Panic of 1837 was a complex financial crisis that was caused by many factors and created many negative effects. A major cause of it was the excessive sale of land in the west, especially buying with unstable currency such as that issued by the “wildcat” banks of the West. There were also international factors such as the collapse of some British banks that caused recalls of money; this meant that not all of the crisis was caused by American doings. However, the crisis was widespread and made President Van Buren more unpopular and was probably one of the major factors that denied him his second presidency, especially with his unpopular “Divorce Bill” that was repealed and then essentially nullified during the Civil War. This was a crisis of almost entirely economic causes (except for Jackson’s removal of the national bank and his issue of the Specie Circular) that led to economic and political (Van Buren’s great unpopularity) outcomes.

Gone to Texas

- Texas had been given up to Spain in 1819 in exchange for Florida
- Mexico won independence in their revolution in 1821
- In 1823, negotiations with Stephen Austin allowed him to bring over three hundred American families, which “were to be of the established Roman Catholic faith and upon settlement were to become properly Mexicanized”
 - Many Texans wanted to keep their American culture and didn’t like being under foreign jurisdiction
 - They were also unsettled by presence of Mexican soldiers (probably thought back to Revolutionary era of stationed British troops)
 - “Gone to Texas,” or G.T.T. became slang for moving to Texas
 - 30,000 Americans were in Texas by 1835
 - Many explorers went to Texas, such as Davy Crockett (rifleman), Jim Bowie (knife-man), and Sam Houston (governor of Tennessee)
 - Mexico emancipated slaves in 1830, prohibited future importation of slaves or colonization by Americans
 - Americans didn’t follow this guideline, flocked in with more slaves
 - Stephen Austin went to negotiate in Mexico City in 1833, was jailed by Santa Anna (dictator of Mexico)
 - Santa Anna “wiped out all local rights” in 1835, started to raise an army against the Texans

Migration and Settlement: As a result of the continued search for land the Americans created a negotiation with recently-independent Mexico for settlement, albeit with some limitations and being under the Mexican jurisdiction. However, as usual with their settlement treaties or agreements (such as those with the Native Americans or the Spanish), the Americans frequently broke the conditions of their own agreement, such as by importing slaves and continuing colonization even when the dictator restricted it.

There was a huge migration of 30,000 Americans to Texas by 1830 (only seven years after the initial agreement), which showed the extreme eagerness of Americans to colonize virgin lands. However, this overzealousness caused the rule-breaking and eventually the resentment of Mexicans for the non-complying American Texans, which then led to political conflict between Mexico and the Texans.

The Lone Star Rebellion

- Texans declared independence in 1836
 - Established themselves as the Lone Star State and created their own flag
 - Made Sam Houston commander in chief
- Santa Anna took 6,000 troops into Texas
 - Trapped 200 Texans at Alamo, annihilated them
 - Surrounded some Texans at Goliad, annihilated them as well
 - Slain Texans such as Jim Bowie and Davy Crockett went down as heroes for fighting to their deaths; war cries went up for them (“Remember the Alamo” and “Remember Goliad”) that made these slain Texans heroes
 - Aroused support of many Americans, who went to help the Texans
- Sam Houston won at San Jacinto (1836)
 - Wiped out the Mexican attacking group
 - Captured Santa Anna and made him sign two treaties that told him to withdraw troops from Mexico and establish border of Mexico as far south as the Rio Grande
- U.S. government obliged to keep neutral stance in foreign affairs but popular support said otherwise
 - Americans nullified legislature on neutrality
 - President Jackson supported Sam Houston, who had helped him fight against Native Americans
- Annexation of Texas by U.S. was opposed by northerners who thought Texas was meant to increase the power of the slave states and increase slavery
 - There were many slaveowners from the South that lived in Texas, but mostly because Texas was closer to the southern U.S.

America in the World: This was the second conflict between the Americans and a foreign nation after the Revolutionary era (besides the War of 1812). Again, while Americans tried to keep their neutral status, the conflict was spurred along by an increased sense of nationalism and the direct attack by the Mexicans to the Americans. Although the Texans suffered many deaths and a few losses at the beginning of the war (including the famous Battle of the Alamo), these losses inspired many Americans to join the fight and again prove America’s military might by winning over the Mexican leader Santa Anna and creating a treaty line for Texas. Now victorious with more land, the American government (politics) was again burdened with the thought of annexation of a new territory through military conquest with another nation (influenced by foreign relations).

Log Cabins and Hard Cider of 1840

- For election of 1840, Democrats nominated Martin Van Buren again because there was no other major Democratic candidate
- Whigs nominated General William Henry Harrison

- He was war hero from Battle of Tippecanoe (1811) and Battle of the Thames (1813)
- He did not have strong opinion on political issues, and therefore was blameless
- John Tyler was selected as vice president
- A Democratic writer “lampooned Harrison as an impoverished old farmer who should be content with a pension, a log cabin, and a barrel of hard cider—the poor westerner’s champagne”; Whigs used this to their advantage
 - Whigs portrayed Harrison as the “Farmer of North Bend,” a humble farmer to take out the aristocratic Jacksonite leaders
 - Like Jackson, he was actually rich and came from a wealthy family, but it did not really affect his general popularity
 - Whigs took up images of log cabin and cider as their campaign symbols
 - **Harrison became 9th president of the U.S. in the election of 1840**
 - Barely won popular vote, but won electoral college by huge amount (234 to 60)
- Whigs wanted economic stimulation to stop troubles from the Panic of 1837, while Democrats wanted less governmental interaction (retrenchment and an end to high-flying banks and aggressive corporations”)

Politics for the People

- People who came from more humble backgrounds and supported the masses-backed democracy were most likely to be elected for president
 - Very different from era of Washington with wealthy Federalists in power, in which people were condemned for being democrats because of the fear of popular democracy and mobocracy
 - Daniel Webster even apologized for not being born to humble beginnings
 - Wealthy people in power who were unhappy about this change to popular democracy protested with thoughts that these mobs would become tyrannical, but in vain
- **America was becoming more of a nation for the people, not for the aristocracy**

Culture and Society: Society was increasingly looking to the common people as leaders. There was the cultural shift away from the slightly-aristocratic views of the Federalists, who believed that society should be ruled by the wealthy landowners who were more educated, to the mobbish popular democracy that existed under Andrew Jackson. It was less of a republic and more of a democracy (which previously was feared for its potential to become a mobocracy). As a result, politicians had to change their tactics to adhere to this new cultural shift, and General Harrison won the election of 1840 by playing to the people’s wants of the stereotypical backcountry farmer who drank hard cider, even though he was not. Although it certainly is not a new tactic, it shows the potential for politicians to not act genuinely solely to gain popularity, which set the precedent for popularity-grabbing presidents, not presidents who truly had the common good of the nation as their best interest.

The Two-Party System

- Jeffersonian Democratic-Republicans were so successful at assimilating Federalist programs that they were the only dominant party
 - At the time, parties were believed to be like factions and lead to infighting and chaos in the government

- One party that sprung out of the Jeffersonian Republicans were the Jacksonian Democratic Republicans (the Democrats)
 - Ideals of individual and state rights and prevention against governmental aristocracies
 - Wanted less governmental interaction in society and economy
- The other party that sprung out of the Jeffersonian Republicans were the Whigs
 - Ideals in “the natural harmony of society and the value of community”
 - Wanted more use of government to fulfill their objectives (greater government control and intervention)
 - Were against leaders such as Jackson whose self-interest greatly hampered politics
 - Wanted a “national bank, protective tariffs, internal improvements, public schools, and ... moral reforms such as the prohibition of liquor and eventually the abolition of slavery” — much governmental regulation / stimulation of society and economy
- Parties were similar with new democratic principles
 - Both wanted to become popular and get as many votes as possible
 - Both appealed to most Americans, poor and rich
 - Both were geographically diverse, not centralized to a certain region and delaying the sectional opinions that divided America, especially before Civil War (i.e., they were not positioned with one mainly in the North and one in the South, which created national support for each party)

Politics and Power: The idea of the political parties went against the previous ideology that it would end up in political ineffectiveness and factions, and it actually turned out to benefit society. While earlier two-party systems simply had differing beliefs on some ends and were similar enough that they could all be considered part of the Jeffersonian Republican party (Federalists assimilated into it; Jacksonian Democratic Republicans and Adams’s National Republicans both branched from it), this new party system of Democrats and Whigs were actually direct opposites: the Whigs were essentially the anti-Democrat party. This strong opposition kept the other party in check, which was a dynamic system of checks and balances that perhaps works as well as any Constitutional check of a branch of government. In addition, these parties were evenly dispersed through the states and appealed to popular democracy, which means that they had to seek political power through the common good (by playing to the common people’s interests). This helped make political elections less corrupt.