JQA and Jackson

1824-1840
AFTER ELECTION OF 1824

JACKSONIAN DEMOCRACY

The political world changed during the New Democracy and two new political parties emerge:

NATIONAL REPUBLICANS
1. Adams, Clay and Webster
2. Strong national govt
3. Favored the BUS, tariffs, internal improvements, industry, public schools, moral reforms such as prohibition and abolition of slavery
4. Privileged elite run the govt

DEMOCRATS
1. Jackson and Calhoun
2. Believed in states’ rights and federal restraint in economic and social affairs
3. Favored individual liberties and resented that the govt was full of privilege
4. Protected the “common man”
John Quincy Adams

- Tried to promote not only manufacturing and agriculture, but also the arts, literature, and science
Lacked a “common touch” & refused to play the “game”
- Most found him cold and tactless
- Couldn’t build any popular support for his programs
- Supported protective tariff, BUS and internal improvements
7. Andrew Jackson 1829-1837
General Jackson’s Military Career

- Revolution at age 13
- Defeated the Creeks at Horseshoe Bend in 1814
- Defeated the British at New Orleans in 1815
- Took Florida and claimed it for the U.S. in 1819
- Loved by his soldiers; called him “Old Hickory”
- Fought up to 100 duels
One anti-Jackson newspaper declared:

“General Jackson’s mother was a common prostitute, brought to this country by the British soldiers! She, afterwards married a mulatto man with whom she had several children, of which one was Andrew Jackson.”

-The Election of 1828 was an even more dirty election than before:
-JQA was accused of gambling in the White House
-Jackson’s wife Rachel, died of a heart attack just before he became president; he blamed JQA and Clay for her death and never forgave them
The Election of 1828

Why such a difference between the election of 1824 and 1828?

- Population shifts to Western states and South which gives the “common man” more political power
- More men voting in 1828
- Property restrictions and education dropped
- Jackson’s appeal

Candidate: Andrew Jackson (Democratic Republican)
- Electoral Vote: 178
- Popular Vote: 647,286
- Percent of Popular Vote: 56

Candidate: John Q. Adams (National Republican)
- Electoral Vote: 83
- Popular Vote: 508,064
- Percent of Popular Vote: 44

261 total electoral votes and 131 electoral votes to win
Caucus: small group of individuals would choose candidates

Convention: members from the political parties nominate a candidate; ends “King Caucus”

Direct Primary: allows registered voters to participate in choosing a candidate

Electoral Process Changes

1790 to 1828

1828 to 1900

1900-Present:

Which of these would be the most democratic way to nominate a candidate for your party to run against the opposition party for public office?
Shift from JEFFERSONIAN DEMOCRACY:
People should be governed as little possible and by the educated

To JACKSONIAN DEMOCRACY:
Whatever governing needed to be done, it should be done by the common man
“Government by the majority of people; instead of a government governed by the upper class”

- Property ownership/education not needed to vote
- Growth of political power of the working class
  - Increased number of elected officials
  - Land easy to get in West
  - Rhetoric of the DoI
- People aware of inequalities in society
“King Mob”
• Jackson’s election was a victory for the “common man”
• Thousands came to D.C. to see Jackson inaugurated
Democratic Trends: 1800 to 1830

“Spoils System” - Jackson is infamous for this trend of appointing supporters to positions within the govt (not necessarily because their merits deserve the position)

-Rise of 3rd parties and popular campaigning (parades, rallies, floats, etc.)

-Two-party system returned by the 1832 election:

- Dem-Reps → National Republicans (1828) → Whigs (1832) → Republicans (1854)
- Democrats (1828)
Jackson’s Faith in the Common Man

- Intense distrust of Eastern “establishment,” monopolies, & special privilege
- Belief that the “common man” was capable of uncommon achievements
The Rise of a Democratic Society

- European visitors to the U.S. in the 1830s were amazed by the informal manners and democratic attitudes of Americans — Alex de Tocqueville

- The hero of the age was the “self-made man”
Eaton Affair/Petticoat Affair

• Peggy (O’Neal) Eaton was the wife of Jackson’s secretary of war (John Eaton) who was the target of malicious gossip by other cabinet wives

• Jackson became her advocate
- Tried to force the cabinet wives to accept Eaton socially → most of his cabinet resigned
- VP Calhoun goes back to SC
- Jackson creates the “Kitchen Cabinet” which were informal advisers, Jackson’s “good ole boys”
Nullification Crisis

Tariff of 1828
The constitutional “Necessary and Proper Clause” was used to justify higher protective tariffs

• Protective tariff would be raised to 45% on the dollar
• South saw this as the federal govt favoring the North and industry
• Feared if the govt would do this, slavery could be at risk
Calhoun resigns as VP (because of the Eaton Affair and Tariff of 1828)
- Calls it the “Tariff of Abomination”
- Becomes a U.S. Senator from SC defending slavery and states’ rights
  - Threatened secession if tariff wasn’t lowered
  - Believed in the doctrine of **nullification** (each state had the right to decide whether to obey a federal law or to declare it null and void)
- *South Carolina Exposition and Protest: Compact Theory*
Daniel Webster of MA debated Robert Hayne of SC on the nature of the federal Union under the Constitution in 1830.

- Webster attacked the idea that any state could defy or leave the Union.
- Hayne argued that the states had the right to nullify federal laws believed to be unconstitutional.
-Jackson persuaded Congress to pass a Force Bill (1833) giving the president authority to take military action in SC

-Issued a proclamation to the people of SC stating that nullification and disunion were treason

Jackson also suggested that Congress lower the tariff
Compromise Tariff of 1833

Henry Clay proposes a compromise:
- Tariffs gradually lowered: 25% over 10 years
- SC drops nullification

Effect:
- South lost its dominance to North and West
- Jackson preserved the Union

Southerners believed they were becoming a permanent minority

As feeling of isolation grew, it was not nullification but the threat of secession that ultimately became the South’s primary weapon
Indian Removal

Jackson’s Goal: expansion into the Southwest for Southern planters

1830: Indian Removal Act
- “5 Civilized” Tribes: (forced removal) of Cherokee, Creek, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Seminole

Cherokee Nation v. GA (1831)
- “domestic dependent nation”

Worcester v. GA (1832)
- Cherokee law is sovereign and GA law does not apply in Cherokee nation

John Marshall has made his decision: now let him enforce it!

(Andrew Jackson)
Ruling: the state of Georgia could not seize the lands of a "domestic, dependent nation" which possessed some sovereignty.

Cherokee were NOT a foreign nation as described in the USC.

"The conditions of the Indians in relation to the U.S. is perhaps unlike that of any two people in existence," Marshall wrote, "their relation to the United States resembles that of a ward to his guardian.

Concept of a “Domestic dependent nation“ & established a "trust relationship" with the tribes directly under federal authority.
**Trail of the “Trail of Tears”**

1. The Cherokee become a sovereign nation within Georgia.
2. Settlers desire valuable Cherokee land.
3. Georgia claims Cherokee land and restricts white presence there.

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4. President Jackson refuses to enforce the Court decision and favors expulsion of the Cherokee.
5. The Supreme Court rules that Cherokee lands are sovereign.
6. Samuel Worcester defies Georgia law, remains on Cherokee land and is arrested.
Established tribal autonomy (self-governing state, community, or group within their boundaries)

The tribes were “distinct political communities, having territorial boundaries within which their authority is exclusive (private)”

Ruling: laws of Georgia had no force within the territorial boundaries of the “Cherokee Nation”
Division in the Cherokee Nation

Cherokee went from being a peaceful nation to a group of people who were divided

Some Cherokee in cooperation with the U.S. government illegally signed the Treaty of New Echota

U.S. government would give land and goods to the Cherokee who left their land peacefully

Georgia and the U.S. govt used the treaty as justification to force almost all of the 17,000 Cherokees from their Southeastern homeland
Trial of tears

- Ceded lands and dates of cession
- Indian reservations
- Routes of Indian removal
- Boundaries of 1830
The Bank War

The BUS, although privately owned, received federal deposits and attempted to serve a public purpose by cushioning the “ups and downs” of the national economy.
Nicholas Biddle: President of the BUS
VS →
Jackson believed BUS was too powerful because it was privately owned.

- Thought it should be controlled more by the govt and the people.
- Clay and Webster both supported the BUS.
Opposition to the 2\textsuperscript{nd} BUS

“Soft Money” (paper)

- State bankers felt the BUS restrained their banks from issuing paper money freely
- They supported rapid economic growth & speculation

“Hard Money” (specie circular)

- Felt that coinage was the only safe currency
- Didn’t like any bank that issued bank “notes”
- Suspicious of expansion & speculation
-In 1832, (election year) Clay decided to challenge Jackson on the bank issue by persuading a majority of Congress to pass a BUS recharter bill  
-Jackson vetoed
“King Andrew the First”

• Opponents referred to him as “King Andrew” because he used the veto more than any president (12 times).
- An overwhelming majority of voters approved of Jackson’s veto
- Jackson won reelection with more than 3/4ths of the electoral vote
The Specie Circular (1936)

Coinage put in “Wildcat Banks” to buy future federal land:

- Banknotes lose their value →
- Land sales plummet →
- Credit/loans become unavailable →
- Businesses began to fail →
- Unemployment rises →

PANIC OF 1837
“The “Monster” Is Destroyed!”

-Put U.S. money into “Pet Banks”

By 1836 charter expires → 1841 BUS goes bankrupt
WHIGS

1. Strong national govt
2. Favored the BUS, protective tariffs, internal improvements, industry, public schools and moral reforms such as prohibition of liquor and abolition of slavery
3. Best and privileged run the govt

DEMOCRATS

1. Believed in state’s rights and federal restrain in economic and social affairs
2. Liberty of the individual and were fiercely on guard against privilege of those in/in with the govt
3. Pro-slavery
4. Protected the common man

"AFTER 8 YEARS AS PRESIDENT, I HAVE ONLY TWO REGRETS."

"THAT I HAVE NOT SHOT HENRY CLAY OR HANGED JOHN C. CALHOUN."
—ANDREW JACKSON
Failures

- Growing social stratification
  - Gap between rich and poor visibly widened
- Financial policies and lack of a national bank helped lead to the Panic of 1837, which was a serious depression that lasted until 1843
- Precedent for the removal policies of the NA from wanted land