



## 10.3 MAINTAINING THE BALANCE OF POWER

<p><b>THE ERA OF GOOD FEELINGS</b></p>	<p>Beginning with Madison's election in 1808 and through the elections of James Monroe in 1816 and 1820, VIRGINIANS DOMINATED THE PRESIDENCY. The Federalists never recovered from the stigma of disloyalty after the Hartford Convention. Called the "Era of Good Feelings" because there was no strong opposition to the Republicans, Monroe's two terms were hardly devoid of controversy.</p>
<p><b>THE MISSOURI COMPROMISE (1820)</b>  <b>Missouri Applies for Statehood</b>   <b>Tallmadge Amendments</b>   <b>A Firebell in the Night</b></p>	<p>When MISSOURI APPLIED FOR ADMISSION TO THE UNION as a state in 1819, slavery was already well established there. Even so, New York representative James Tallmadge Jr. proposed TWO AMENDMENTS to the Missouri statehood bill, one PROHIBITING THE FURTHER INTRODUCTION OF SLAVES into Missouri and the other PROVIDING FOR THE GRADUAL EMANCIPATION OF THOSE ALREADY THERE. These amendments alarmed southerners because they feared that admitting Missouri as an eventual free state would signal the increasing political power of the North at the expense of the South. The debate in Congress over the Missouri question became so bitter that many people predicted the Union would break up. Thomas Jefferson wrote:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>This momentous question, like A FIREBELL IN THE NIGHT, awakened and filled me with terror. I consider it at once as the knell of the Union.</i></p>
<p><b>Maine's Bid for Statehood</b></p>	<p>A new element in the struggle was introduced when Maine asked to be separated from Massachusetts and admitted as a free state. At this time there were ELEVEN FREE STATES and ELEVEN SLAVE STATES, thus making an exact balance in the SENATE where each state had two members. In the HOUSE of Representatives the NORTH HAD AN EDGE of 105 Congressmen to 81. This advantage, based on greater population, was sure to increase because conditions of life in the free states attracted more immigration from Europe. However, IF MAINE WERE ADMITTED AS A FREE STATE and MISSOURI AS A SLAVE STATE, the BALANCE IN THE SENATE would continue even.</p>
<p><b>Provisions of the Compromise</b></p>	<p>Finally a compromise was reached, partly as a result of the leadership and political skill of Henry Clay, then Speaker of the House of Representatives. MISSOURI AND MAINE WERE ADMITTED to the Union together. In addition, to assuage northern fears that slavery would continue to expand north, the Missouri Compromise PROHIBITED SLAVERY ABOVE THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARY OF MISSOURI AT THE 36°30' PARALLEL. The Compromise passed largely because a handful of northern representatives believed that minimizing sectional controversy was in the best interests of the nation as a whole. The need to bridge the gap between the North and the South remained an important issue for political parties.</p>
<p><b>Missouri's State Constitution</b></p>	<p>See Article 3, Sections 26-28 of Missouri's first constitution for provisions relating to slavery: <a href="http://press-pubs.uchicago.edu/founders/documents/a4_2_3s12.html">http://press-pubs.uchicago.edu/founders/documents/a4_2_3s12.html</a>. Compare this to Article 4, Section 2, Clause 3 of the United States constitution: <a href="http://press-pubs.uchicago.edu/founders/tocs/a4_2_3.html">http://press-pubs.uchicago.edu/founders/tocs/a4_2_3.html</a>.</p>
<p><b>THE MONROE DOCTRINE (1823)</b>  <b>Americas Closed to Colonization</b>   <b>Noninterference in European Affairs</b></p>	<p>Revolutions in South America and threats to America from Europe presented foreign policy problems to the United States. Andrew Jackson's 1816 invasion of Florida, while of questionable legality, led to the purchase of that territory from Spain in 1819. Meanwhile, the threat of Spanish interference in South American revolutions resulted in the Monroe Doctrine delivered to the nation as part of Monroe's annual message to Congress. The doctrine DECLARED THE AMERICAS CLOSED TO FURTHER COLONIZATION and stipulated that the United States would consider any foreign challenge to the sovereignty of existing American nations as an unfriendly act toward the United States. In return, the doctrine PLEDGED NONINTERFERENCE BY THE UNITED STATES IN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS.</p>

<p><b>PARTY POLITICS</b> <b>Election of 1824</b></p>	<p>By 1824, the REPUBLICAN PARTY had broken up into WARRING SECTIONAL GROUPS. Instead of one Republican candidate, there were four, each representing a section of the country: William Crawford (South), John Quincy Adams (New England), Henry Clay (West), and Andrew Jackson (West). Jackson received more popular and electoral votes than any other candidate but NOT THE CONSTITUTIONALLY MANDATED MAJORITY of electoral votes. This THREW THE ELECTION TO THE HOUSE, where Henry Clay's support of John Quincy Adams led to his election. Jackson's supporters, believing their candidate deserved the presidency, were enraged when he lost and became even angrier when Adams named Clay his secretary of state. The outrage the Jacksonians expressed at what they called a "CORRUPT BARGAIN" haunted Adams throughout his tenure.</p>
<p><b>The Adams Administration</b></p>	<p>John Quincy Adams's term of office was largely a failure. He proposed a sweeping plan of federal funding for internal improvements. However, he REFUSED TO USE PATRONAGE to gain support for his programs, most often awarding positions in his administration to the opposition to placate political enemies. His FAILURE TO CREATE A LOYAL BASE OF SUPPORT spelled doom for most of his programs.</p>
<p><b>Jeffersonian Republicans in Retrospect</b></p>	<p>Although the beginning of the nineteenth century saw Jeffersonian Republicans SEEKING TO LIMIT THE SIZE AND POWER OF GOVERNMENT, this trend had to yield to the realities of a growing nation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The LOUISIANA PURCHASE expanded the United States dramatically.</li> <li>■ The WAR OF 1812 renewed Americans' confidence in their independence from England, undermined the ability of Indians in the Northwestern Territory to protect themselves from white settlers, and raised General Andrew Jackson to such prominence that he won the popular, if not the electoral, vote in 1824, upsetting the one-party rule of the Republican Party.</li> </ul>
<p><b>DISCUSSION QUESTIONS</b></p>	<p><b>How does Missouri's first constitution expand the restrictions placed on labor in the United States constitution? Why does Missouri mention slavery in its constitution, while the United States did not?</b></p> <p><b>What is significant about the Monroe Doctrine?</b></p>