



11.2 THE JACKSONIAN PRESIDENCY

POLITICS OF OPPORTUNITY	<p>In his two terms as president, Andrew Jackson worked to enact his vision of a politics of opportunity for all white males. The primary issues of his tenure were WESTWARD EXPANSION, INDIAN REMOVAL, NULLIFICATION, and "WAR" WITH THE SECOND BANK of THE UNITED STATES.</p>
Western Expansion, Indian Removal, & the Trail of Tears	<p>When Jackson became president, a substantial number of NATIVE AMERICANS remained east of the Mississippi River, and HE WANTED THEM REMOVED. The government's attempt in 1832 to relocate reluctant western Illinois tribes erupted into war and led to a major defeat for the Indians. The government hoped to remove the southern tribes of Creek, Chickasaw, Choctaw, and Cherokee to the West TO OPEN THEIR LANDS FOR WHITE SETTLEMENT AND COTTON CULTIVATION. Through appeals to the Supreme Court, the Cherokee (one of the most "assimilated" tribes) tried to stop encroachments onto their land by Georgia. JACKSON REPUDIATED THE COURT'S DECISIONS in their favor, and in 1835, the government was able to make a TREATY WITH A MINORITY FACTION of the tribe, ceding to Georgia the Cherokee's land in return for \$5 million and land in present-day Oklahoma. When the majority of the Cherokee who did not recognize the treaty refused to move, JACKSON SENT FEDERAL TROOPS in the winter of 1838, TO FORCE THEM TO MOVE on a twelve-hundred-mile journey west. Along this "TRAIL OF TEARS," nearly a quarter of the Cherokee perished.</p>
The Tariff of Abominations and Nullification	<p>The federal government passed TARIFFS TO PROTECT AMERICAN MANUFACTURES AND RAISE REVENUE in 1816 and 1824, over the protest of southern congressmen who feared the effects the tariffs would have on the southern export economy. The final and most controversial tariff of the period, passed in 1828, was a collection of dozens of tariffs from every section of the country and from every type of industry demanding protection. Southerners opposed the measure, labeling it the "TARIFF OF ABOMINATIONS." In 1832, a crisis arose when SOUTH CAROLINIANS, LED BY JOHN CALHOUN, DECIDED TO NULLIFY, as of February 1, 1833, the despised federal tariffs they believed were responsible for their state's economic stagnation. In response, JACKSON SENT WARSHIPS TO CHARLESTON and pushed through Congress a FORCE BILL granting him the authority to use military force if necessary to uphold the tariff laws. As tensions escalated, Henry Clay fashioned a compromise that got the South Carolinians the LOWER TARIFF they wanted. In the long run, though, the issue of federal power versus states' rights was far from resolved.</p>
<u>Carrot & Stick:</u> Lower Tariff + Force Bill	<p>Southerners opposed the measure, labeling it the "TARIFF OF ABOMINATIONS." In 1832, a crisis arose when SOUTH CAROLINIANS, LED BY JOHN CALHOUN, DECIDED TO NULLIFY, as of February 1, 1833, the despised federal tariffs they believed were responsible for their state's economic stagnation. In response, JACKSON SENT WARSHIPS TO CHARLESTON and pushed through Congress a FORCE BILL granting him the authority to use military force if necessary to uphold the tariff laws. As tensions escalated, Henry Clay fashioned a compromise that got the South Carolinians the LOWER TARIFF they wanted. In the long run, though, the issue of federal power versus states' rights was far from resolved.</p>
The Bank War & the Panic of 1837	<p>The major political issue of Jackson's presidency was not the tariff but his WAR AGAINST THE BANK OF THE UNITED STATES. Though the bank had had a stabilizing effect on the economy, Jackson considered it a stronghold of elitism, concentrating great power in the hands of a privileged few. When Henry Clay and Daniel Webster sought to recharter the bank four years early, Jackson's strongly worded VETO ROUSED POPULAR ANTIBANK SENTIMENT. Seeing his victory against Henry Clay in the 1832 election as a mandate for destroying the bank, Jackson ordered all FEDERAL DEPOSITS WITHDRAWN and redeposited in selected state banks. Unbound and unregulated, the economy went into high gear, and a fury of speculation ensued, especially in land. In an attempt to control the economy, Jackson issued the SPECIE CIRCULAR, which, along with other factors, precipitated a FINANCIAL PANIC of major proportions. Hundreds of banks and businesses failed in the wake of the panic of 1837, and another five years of economic hard times followed.</p>
DECLINE OF DEMOCRATIC PARTY Van Buren	<p>Martin Van Buren's political acuteness earned him the nickname "the Little Magician." However, for all his cleverness, VAN BUREN LACKED THE FORCEFULNESS of his predecessor, Jackson. Elected in 1836, the new president spent the bulk of his four years ATTEMPTING TO DEAL WITH THE PANIC of 1837. As the election of 1840 drew near,</p>

<p>Election of 1840: Victory for Whigs</p>	<p>the Whigs anticipated victory. They settled on candidate William Henry Harrison to oppose Van Buren. THE 1840 CAMPAIGN was one of the most DRAMATIC, PARTICIPATORY, AND EXCITING in American history. HARRISON AND THE WHIGS WON a resounding victory in both the popular vote and electoral college. Democratic control over American politics was temporarily over.</p>
<p>Democrats and Whigs</p>	<p>DEMOCRATS put together a COALITION OF FARMERS, LABORERS, COMMERCIAL MEN, AND SLAVE OWNERS who embraced PERSONAL LIBERTY, FREE COMPETITION, and OPPORTUNITY open to all white men. The opposition parties, the WHIGS, were MORALISTIC and favored STATE-SPONSORED ENTREPRENEURSHIP. National politics were heated and divisive in the 1830s, and VOTER TURNOUT WAS HIGH because politics was where different CHOICES ABOUT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL CHANGE were made. Controversy over issues like slavery, free labor, and women's rights, led to the growth of THIRD PARTIES in the 1840s and eventually undermined the Democratic-Whig party system.</p>
<p>DISCUSSION QUESTIONS</p>	<p>The Jacksonian presidency was characterized by a “politics of opportunity” that served some groups at the expense of others. Discuss how westward expansion, Indian removal, nullification, and the "war" with the second Bank of the United States fit this pattern. In each case, who benefited and who lost?</p> <p>If the Democrats were the party of personal liberty, free competition, and opportunity, why did they decline after 1840?</p>