Chapter 10
A Democratic Revolution
1820-1844
The Rise of Popular Politics, 1820-1828

• By the 1830s expansion of the franchise symbolized the Democratic Revolution.

The Decline of the Notables and the Rise of Parties

• American Revolution weakened the deferential society of colonial era, but did not end it.
• Wealthy “notables” managed local elections by…
• Kept men who lacked wealth and powerful family connections from running for office

The Rise of Democracy

• Began in the 1810s with MD reform
• Midwest and Southwest
• Restricted imprisonment for debt, kept taxes low, and allowed farmers to claim squatters rights for land
• By mid 1820s many states gave voting rights to white men who…. 
• Democratic politics were corrupt
• Political disputes in religion
Parties Take Command

- Revolutionary-era Americans condemned political “factions” as anti-republican
- In the 1820s political parties appeared in many states made of middle class lawyers and journalists
- Diversity of economic and social groups
- Martin Van Buren of NY was pioneer of emerging party government system
  - Wanted to separate from family connections
  - Parties “checked an elected official’s inherent disposition to abuse of power”
  - First statewide political machine
  - Patronage
  - Spoils system
  - caucus
The Election of 1824

- Advance of political democracy and party government undermined national politics.
- John Quincy Adams
  - MA connections
  - Secretary of State (James Monroe)
- Henry Clay (Speaker of the House)
  - American System
- Andrew Jackson (General and senator of TN)
  - War of 1812 hero
  - Ties to influential families
  - Connections as a lawyer and slave owning cotton planter
  - Common origins symbolized new democratic age
- No candidate received an absolute majority
- Twelfth Amendment
- Many congressman feared Jackson might abuse power
- Henry Clay supports and helps Adams get congress support
- “Corrupt bargain”
The Last Notable President: John Quincy Adams

- National university in Washington
- Scientific exploration in the Far West
- Uniform standard of weights and measures
- Endorsed Henry Clay’s American System

The Fate of Adam’s Policies

- Northeast and Midwest supported them
- South opposed his policies. Why?
- Other politicians objected to the American System on constitutional grounds
  - Improvement projects responsibility of the states
The Tariff Battle

• Biggest issue in John Quincy Adams administration
• The Tariff of 1824
  • Southern planters objected tax
• Marin Van Buren and Andrew Jackson supported the tax. Why?
  • However, Adams received the criticism from Southerners
• Native American policy was criticized
• Out of date political style was criticized
  • Aloof, moralistic, paternalistic, did not use patronage
“The Democracy” and the Election of 1828

- Senator of NY Martin Van Buren handled Andrew Jackson’s campaign.
  - Goal:
  - Massive publicity campaign
  - “Democrats”; fighting for equality
  - Separation from the republic that was corrupt with system of rights for the few
  - Appealed to many social groups
    - Northeasterners who felt threatened by industrialization:
    - Southerners who against the “Tariff of Abominations”:
    - Southeast and Midwest:
The Jacksonian Presidency, 1829-1837

- Enhanced presidential authority, destroyed the nationalistic American system, and established the legitimacy of a new ideology of government.

Jackson’s Agenda: Rotation and Decentralization

- Relied on his “Kitchen Cabinet”
- Rejected “property in office”
  - “Spoils System”
- Priority was to destroy the “American System”
  - Vetoed National Road and internal improvement bills that were to be funded by tariff revenues

The Tariff and Nullification

- Fierce opposition to high tariffs in South
- SC was very concerned. Why?
  - 1833 British set to outlaw slavery
  - Less tax power=less power to stop slavery
- Ordinance of Nullification (1832)
- Constitution
- Force Bill (1833); simultaneously passed a new tariff act that lowered rate
- No law could nullify a law of the United States- a principle that Abraham Lincoln would embrace to defend the Union during the secession crisis of 1861.
The Bank War

- Originally founded in Philadelphia in 1816 the bank was privately managed and operated under a twenty year charter from the federal government, which owned 20% of its stock.
- It’s most important role was to stabilize paper money
- Americans worried that the Second Bank would force the closure of state banks, leaving people holding worthless paper notes

Jackson’s Bank Veto

- Vetoed the rechartering bank bill
  - No constitutional authority
  - Privilege of a few
  - British interests in bank
- Led to reelection in 1832

The Bank Destroyed

- Roger B. Taney appointed as Treasury Department head
  - Withdrew gold and sliver from Second bank and deposited in “pet banks”
- Election justified his destroying bank in illegal and controversial manner
- Henry Clay warned of “executive tyranny”
- When the Second Bank’s national charter expired in 1836, Jackson prevented its renewal
**Indian Removal**

- By late 1820s whites in the South and Midwest called for removal of Indians to be resettled in the west. Most did not want to leave their ancestral lands.

**Cherokee Resistance**

- Some Indian people assimilated to white culture and mixed in racially. Some owned black slaves.
- In 1802, Cherokee gave up their western land claims in AL and MS in return for GA.
- Jackson gave full support

**The Removal Act and Its Aftermath**

- Indian Removal Act of 1830-
- Jackson sent troops to quickly expel them
- Cherokee Nation v. Georgia (1831) and Worcester v. Georgia (1832)
- In 1835, Treaty of New Echota negotiated with minority Cherokee faction insisted on Indian removal.
- Trail of Tears-
- Only some Seminoles that mixed with runaway slaves and fought the U.S. Army, remained in Florida.
The Jacksonian Impact

- Expanded authority by identifying with the voice of the people.
- Upheld national authority during “nullification crisis”.
- Undermined reach of national government. How?
- Limited central government

The Taney Court

- Roger Taney was appointed to the Supreme Court
- Partially reversed nationalist policies of John Marshall
- Increased power of state government
  - Mayor of New York v. Miln (1837)
  - Briscoe v. Bank of Kentucky (1837)
States Revise Their Constitutions

- Between 1830 and 1860 twenty states revised their constitutions
  - Voting
  - Legislation to population
  - Elections for most public officials
- Classical liberalism/laissez-faire
- Prohibit states from granting special privileges to corporations and businesses
- Limits on state debt to protect taxpayer
Class, Culture, and the Second Party System

• Whigs emerged as second national party in the 1830s

The Whig Worldview

• Oppose “King Andrew” Jackson policies
• Support men of ability and wealth (by merit)
• Entrepreneur, industrialization, capitalism
• Return to American System

Calhoun’s Dissent

• Southern Whigs-
  • Pro slavery
  • Against blacks and propertyless whites
  • Unlike the majority Northern Whigs he embraced strict social class distinction
Anti-Masons Become Whigs

• Opposed “aristocratic fraternity”
• Temperance, equality of opportunity and evangelical morality
• Sunday
• Recruited by Whig party
Labor Politics and the Depression of 1837-1843

• In 1833 union members in Philadelphia formed the Workers Men’s Party. Goals were to abolish private banks, chartered monopolies, and debtors’ prisons.

Workers Form a Political Party

• Persuaded PA government to create tax supported schools
• Goal was a society without dependent wage earners

Financial Panic and Economic Depression

• Panic of 1837
  • Causes:
  • Effect:
“Tillecanoe and Tyler Too!”

• Americans blamed Democrats for the depression of 1837-1843 and Specie Circular in 1836. Martin Van Buren took office during the panic but did not interfere.

The Log Cabin Campaign

• Election of 1840-
  • Whigs- William Henry Harrison: national bank, made men (log cabin)

Tyler Subverts the Whig Agenda

• John Tyler became president and goes against Whig policy
  • States rights
  • Pro slavery
  • Against Second Bank and American System
  • Vetoed Whig bills

• Undermining of Whig policy by Tyler gave Democrats power
  • Ethnocultural politics-
  • Equal rights, states rights, cultural liberty