

Ch. 13 Study Guide

AP US History

This Rise of a Mass (Jacksonian) Democracy, 1824-1840

Theme: The election to the presidency of the frontier aristocrat and common person's hero, Andrew Jackson, signaled the end of the older elitist political leadership represented by John Quincy Adams. A new spirit of mass democracy and popular involvement swept through American society, bringing new energy as well as conflict and corruption to public life.

Theme: Jackson successfully mobilized the techniques of the New Democracy and presidential power to win a series of dramatic political battles against his enemies. But by the late 1830s, his Whig opponents had learned to use the same popular political weapons against the Democrats, signaling the emergence of the second American party system.

Theme: Amidst the whirl of democratic politics, issues of tariffs, financial instability, Indian policy, and possible expansion in Texas indicated that difficult sectional and economic problems were festering beneath the surface and not being very successfully addressed.

Summary: Beginning in the 1820s, a powerful movement celebrating the common person and promoting the "New Democracy" transformed the earlier elitist character of American politics. The controversial election of the Yankee sophisticate John Quincy Adams in 1824 angered the followers of Andrew Jackson.

Jackson's sweeping presidential victory in 1828 represented the political triumph of the New Democracy, including the spoils-rich political machines that thrived in the new environment. Jackson's simple, popular ideas and rough-hewn style reinforced the growing belief that any ordinary person could hold public office. The "Tariff of Abominations" and the nullification crisis with South Carolina revealed a growing sectionalism and anxiety about slavery that ran up against Jackson's fierce nationalism.

Jackson exercised the powers of the presidency against his opponents, particularly Calhoun and Clay. He made the Bank of the United States a symbol of evil financial power and killed it after a bitter political fight. Destroying the bank reinforced the Jacksonian's hostility to concentrated and elite-dominated financial power.

Jackson's presidency also focused on issues of westward expansion. Pushing paths of "civilization," Native Americans of the Southeast engaged in extensive agricultural and educational development. But pressure from white settlers and from state governments proved overwhelming, and Jackson finally supported the forced removal of all southeastern Indians to Oklahoma along the "Trail of Tears."

In Texas, American settlers successfully rebelled against Mexico and declared their independence. Jackson recognized the Texas Republic but, because of the slavery controversy, he refused its application for annexation to the United States.

Jackson's political foes soon formed themselves into the Whig party, but in 1836 they lost to his handpicked successor, Van Buren. Jackson's ill-considered economic policies came home to roost under the unlucky Van Buren, as the country plunged into a serious depression following the panic of 1837.

The Whigs used these economic troubles and the political hoopla of the new mass democratic process to elect their own "hero" in 1840, following the path of making a western aristocrat into a democratic symbol. The Whig victory signaled the emergence of a new two-party system, in which the two parties' genuine philosophical differences and somewhat different constituencies proved less important than their widespread popularity and shared roots in the new American democratic spirit.

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TERMS, PEOPLE AND QUESTIONS

Important People:

Andrew Jackson
Davy Crockett
Martin Van Buren
Henry Clay
John Quincy Adams
Nicholas Biddle
Rachel Jackson
Martin Van Buren
Robert Y. Hayne
Daniel Webster
John C. Calhoun
William Harrison
Stephen F. Austin
Sam Houston
John Tyler
Santa Anna
Denmark Vesey

Key Terms:

Anti-Masonic Party
Twelfth Amendment
“corrupt bargain”
Tariff of 1824
Tariff of Abominations (1828)
“Mudslinging”
The “spoils system”
“Kitchen Cabinet”
Peggy Eaton Scandal
Maysville Road
Tariff of 1832
Compromise Tariff of 1833
Force Bill (Act)
Democrats
Specie Circular (1836)
"Five Civilized Tribes"
Cherokee Nation v. Georgia 1828
Indian Removal Act/"Trail of Tears"
The Alamo
Whigs
Independent Treasury Act
Log Cabin Campaign
Panic of 1837

Key Questions:

1. Discuss the “**New Democracy**” of the early 19th century. What precipitated this trend and subsequent cries for equality such as, “The People Must Be Heard?”
2. Why did the Vice President John C. Calhoun establish his “**Doctrine of Nullification**?” (printed as “The South Carolina Exposition” Without his name attached to it)
3. How did the political system change as a result of the **Election of 1828**? In what ways was the "second two-party system" different from that of the Federalists and Democratic-Republicans of the early Republic era?
4. How did Jackson’s “Bank War” demonstrate the powerful uses to which the modern mass democratic political machine could be put?
5. How did the actions of President Jackson, which led to the Panic of 1837 and subsequent depression, affect the presidency of Martin Van Buren? Why was Van Buren unable to cope with the political opposition as Jackson had?
6. How did American settlers in Mexico create an Independent Texas, and why did Jackson refuse to incorporate Texas into the United States?
7. Describe the strategy of the Whigs' "Log Cabin Campaign." Why was it so successful? -Do you think this campaign had a lasting effect on American politics?

Identification *Supply the correct identification for each numbered description*

- _____ 1. New, circus like method of nominating presidential candidates that include wider participation but usually left effective control in the hands of party bosses
- _____ 2. Small, short-lived third political party that originated a new method of nominated presidential candidates in 1831
- _____ 3. Contemptuous Jacksonian term for the alleged political deal by which Clay threw his support to Adams in exchange for a high cabinet position
- _____ 4. Office to which President Adams appointed Henry Clay
- _____ 5. The popular idea that public offices should be handed out on the basis of political support rather than special qualifications
- _____ 6. Scornful southern term for the high tariff of 1828
- _____ 7. Theory promoted by John C. Calhoun and other South Carolinians that said that states had the right to disregard federal laws to which they objected
- _____ 8. The “moneyed monster” that Clay tried to preserve and that Jackson killed with his veto in 1832
- _____ 9. Ritualistic secret societies that became the target of a momentarily powerful third party in 1832
- _____ 10. Religious believers, originally attracted to the anti-Masonic party and then to the Whigs, who sought to use political power for moral and religious reform
- _____ 11 ANY TWO of the southeastern Indian peoples who were removed to Oklahoma
- _____ 12. The sorrowful path along which thousands of Indians were removed to Oklahoma
- _____ 13. The nation from which Texas won its independence in 1836
- _____ 14. Anti-Jackson political party that generally stood for national community and an activist government
- _____ 15. Popular symbols of the somewhat bogus but effective campaign the Whigs used to elect “poor-boy” William Henry Harrison in 1840

Putting Things in Order *Put the following events in correct order by numbering them 1 to 5*

- _____ South Carolina threatens “nullification” of federal law and backs down in the face of Andrew Jackson’s military threat
- _____ Strange 4-way election puts an icy New Englander in office amid charges of a “corrupt bargain.”
- _____ A campaign based on hoopla and “log cabins and hard cider slogans” demonstrates that both Whigs and Democrats can effectively play the new mass-party political game.
- _____ A Mexican province successfully revolts and seeks admission to the United States.
- _____ Despite attempting to follow white patterns of “civilizing,” thousands of American Indians are forcibly removed from their homes and drive across the Mississippi River.

Matching People, Places and Events

Match the person, place or event in the left column with the proper description in the right column by inserting the correct letter on the blank line.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| ____ 1. John C. Calhoun | A. Cherokee leader who devised an alphabet for his people |
| ____ 2. Henry Clay | B. Political party that generally stressed individual liberty, the rights of the common people, and hostility to privilege |
| ____ 3. Nicholas Biddle | C. Seminole leader whose warriors killed fifteen hundred American soldiers in years of guerrilla warfare |
| ____ 4. Sequoyah | D. Former Tennessee governor whose victory at San Jacinto in 1836 won Texas its independence |
| ____ 5. John Quincy Adams | E. Mexican general and dictator whose large army failed to defeat the Texans |
| ____ 6. Davy Crockett | F. Former vice president, leader of South Carolina nullifiers, bitterly hated by Andrew Jackson |
| ____ 7. Stephen Austin | G. Political party that favored a more activist government, high tariffs, internal improvements, and moral reforms |
| ____ 8. Sam Houston | H. Original leader of American settlers in Texas who obtained a huge land grant from the Mexican government |
| ____ 9. Osceola | I. Sites of the greatest Mexican victory during the war for Texas independence |
| ____ 10. Santa Anna | J. "Old Tippecanoe," who was portrayed by Whig propagandists as a hard-drinking common man of the frontier |
| ____ 11. Martin Van Buren | K. Jackson's rival for the presidency in 1832, who failed to save the Bank of the United States |
| ____ 12. Black Hawk | L. The "wizard of Albany," whose economically troubled presidency was served in the shadow of Jackson |
| ____ 13. William Henry Harrison | M. Talented, but high-handed bank president who fought a bitter losing battle with the president of the United States |
| ____ 14. Whigs | N. Aloof New England statesman whose elitism, made him unpopular in the era of popular democracy |
| ____ 15. Democrats | O. Illinois-Wisconsin area Sauk leader who was defeated by American regulars & militia in 1832 |

Matching Cause and Effect

Match the historical cause in the left column with the proper effect in the right column by writing the correct letter on the blank line.

Cause

- ____1. The growth of American migration into northern Mexico
- ____2. The demand of many whites to acquire Indian land in Georgia and other states
- ____3. The Anti-Masonic party
- ____4. The failure of any candidate to win an electoral majority in the four-way election of 1824
- ____5. The alleged “corrupt bargain” between Adams and Clay for the presidency in 1824
- ____6. President Adams’s strong nationalistic policies
- ____7. The high New England-backed Tariff of 1828
- ____8. Andrew Jackson’s “war” against Nicholas Biddle and his policies
- ____9. Jackson’s belief that any ordinary American could hold government office
- ____10. The Panic of 1837

Effect

- A.** Brought many evangelical Christians into politics and showed that others besides Jackson could stir up popular feelings
- B.** Provoked protests and threats of nullification from South Carolina
- C.** Aroused popular anger and made Jackson’s supporters determined to elect him in 1828
- D.** Laid the foundations for the spoils system that fueled the new mass political parties
- E.** Threw the bitterly contested election into the House of Representatives
- F.** Laid the basis for political conflict that resulted in Texas’ independence
- G.** Caused widespread human suffering and virtually guaranteed Martin Van Buren’s defeat in 1840
- H.** Fueled the political pressures that led Andrew Jackson to forcibly remove Cherokees and others
- I.** Aroused the bitter opposition of westerners and southerners, who were increasingly sectionalist
- J.** Got the government out of banking but weakened the American financial system

Answers:

Identification

- 1. conventions
- 2. Anti-Masonic Party
- 3. “corrupt bargain”
- 4. secretary of state
- 5. spoils system
- 6. Tariff of Abominations
- 7. nullification
- 8. Bank of the United States
- 9. masons
- 10. evangelicals
- 11. (any two) Cherokees, Chickasaws, Choctaws, Creeks, Seminoles
- 12. Trail of Tears
- 13. Mexico
- 14. Whigs
- 15. Log cabin and hard cider

Matching People, Places and Events

- 1. F
- 2. K
- 3. M
- 4. A
- 5. N
- 6. I
- 7. H
- 8. D
- 9. C
- 10. E
- 11. L
- 12. O
- 13. J
- 14. G
- 15. B

Putting Things in Order

- 2, 1, 5, 4, 3

Matching Cause and Effect

- 1. F
- 2. H
- 3. A
- 4. E
- 5. C
- 6. I
- 7. B
- 8. J
- 9. D
- 10. G