

Political Change in the 1800's

The Era of Good Feelings (1815-1825)

The Corrupt Bargain (1824)

The Age of Jackson (1828-1837)

Era of Good Feelings

- Refers to the time period 1815-1825.
- Really began in 1815, when for the first time American citizens could afford to pay less attention to European political and military affairs.
- The predominant attitude was what in the 20th century was called isolationism.
- The good feelings, were **stimulated** by two events of 1816, during the presidency of James Madison:
 - the enactment of the first U.S. protective tariff
 - and the establishment of the Second National Bank.

Second Bank of the United States

- The First Bank of the United States was chartered in **1791**
- It operated for 20 years as the government's fiscal agent and depository of funds.
- Political pressure from the Democratic-Republicans prevented re-chartering in **1811**.
- However, the problems involved with waging war against Britain in 1812 pointed to the need for a central fiscal agent



2nd Bank Chartered in 1816

**Renewed controversy in
Congress over the
Constitutionality of a
National Bank**

Panic of 1819

CAUSE:

- Bank of the USA asked for loans to be repaid (part of the Land Act of 1800) from Land Speculators. Many of those people could not pay back their loans.

RESULT:

- Banks throughout the country failed; mortgages were foreclosed, forcing people out of their homes and off their farms.
- Falling prices impaired agriculture and manufacturing, triggering widespread unemployment.
- All regions of the country were impacted and prosperity did not return until 1824.

REACTION:

- Northern manufacturers wanted high tariffs to protect their goods from foreign products.
- Southerners did not want tariffs on goods because they thought it would hurt the cotton economy.

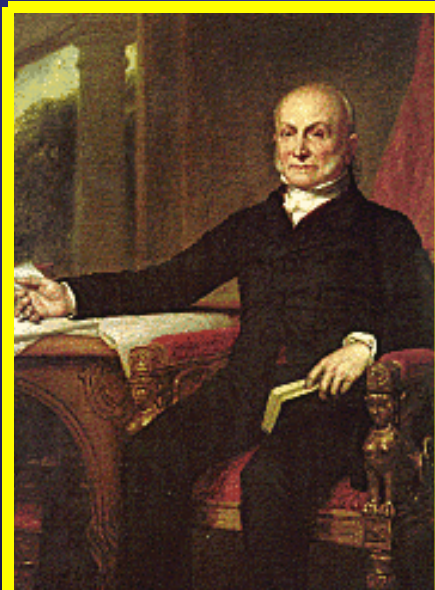
Election of 1820

CANDIDATE	PARTY	E.C. VOTES	POP VOTE
James Monroe Daniel Tompkins	DEM-REP	231	*
John Q. Adams Richard Rush	DEM-REP	1	*

- According to a popular story of the time, an elector from NH cast a single ballot for John Quincy Adams to ensure that Washington would be the only President elected unanimously.
- In truth, that elector, William Plummer of New Hampshire, simply felt that Monroe had been an ineffective president and did not deserve a second term.

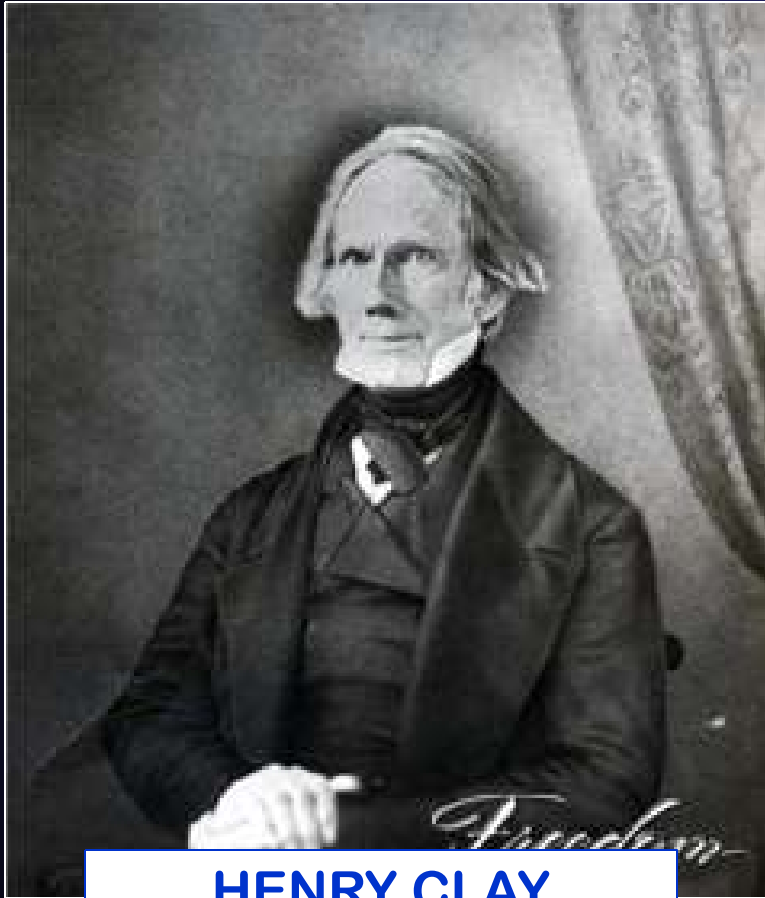


JAMES MONROE



JOHN Q. ADAMS

Henry Clay's American System



HENRY CLAY

- Support for a high tariff to protect American industries and generate revenue for the federal government
- Maintenance of high public land prices to generate federal revenue
- Preservation of the Bank of the United States to stabilize the currency and rein in risky state and local banks
- Development of a system of internal improvements (such as roads and canals) which would knit the nation together and be financed by the tariff and land sales revenues.

Supreme Court Decisions

Fletcher v. Peck (1810)

- Case Details-
 - Georgia legislature, swayed by a bribe, had granted 35 million acres of land to private speculators.
 - The next session of the legislature cancelled the transaction. Company went to court.
- Court Ruling-
 - The Contract (even though fraudulently secured) was a legal contract and could not be cancelled by the state legislature.
 - Established precedent of protecting property rights.
 - Established the right of the Supreme Court to invalidate state laws conflicting with the Constitution!

McCullough v Maryland (1819)

- Case Details-
 - State of MD had been trying to prevent the 2nd Bank of the USA from functioning. They had levied taxes against the bank.
- Court Ruling-
 - Congress does have the authority under Article I, Section 8 to create a national bank (necessary & proper clause)
 - And, no state has the right to tax the federal govt.

Dartmouth v Woodward (1819)

- Case Details
 - State of NH tried to change the charter of Dartmouth College (granted in Colonial Times)
- Court Ruling-
 - Court ruled that the charter was a contract between private business (Dartmouth) and state and could not be changed.

Supreme Court Decisions

Cohens v. Virginia (1821)

- Case Details-
 - The Cohens were found guilty of illegally selling lottery tickets by the state of Virginia.
 - They appealed to the Supreme Court. The conviction was upheld, but judicial policy was changed!
- Court Ruling-
 - Supreme Court can review state court decisions in all cases where federal government power is questioned!

Gibbons v Ogden (1824)

- Case Details-
 - A man named Aaron Ogden purchased a state license to operate a NY to NJ steamboat line.
 - Another man named Thomas Gibbons started up a steamboat line along the same route.
 - Ogden sued Gibbons saying that his license was a federal one!
- Court Ruling-
 - States could not regulate commerce/transportation on Interstate waterways.
 - The Federal Govt. has authority over Interstate Commerce (trade)

Election of 1824

Impact: Means the Era of Good Feelings is over

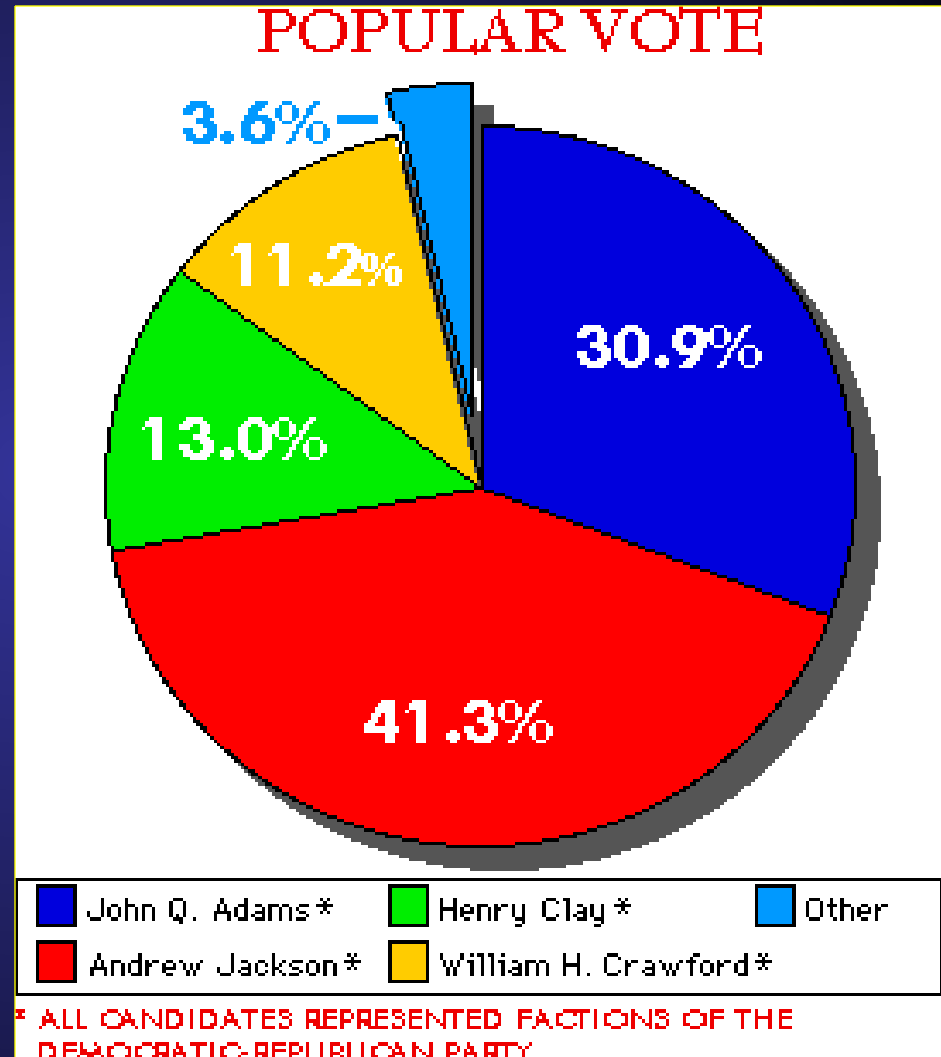
Noteworthy because: No candidate can claim he was a leader of the American revolution.

Problems for the country:

Economy – tariffs, taxes, labor issues, sectionalism.

Social – slavery, women's rights,

Political – One Party (DEM-REP) starts to disintegrate



Election of 1824 (Candidates)

- John Q. Adams, son of a Federalist president, represented the interests of the Northeast (high protective tariff) and was the leading contender
- Henry Clay of Kentucky shared political views with Adams, but they held one another in contempt—the rigid New Englander versus the hard-drinking Westerner
- Andrew Jackson, a Senator from Tennessee and military hero, drew Western support from Clay despite the fact that his political views were not well-known
- William H. Crawford of Georgia was born in Virginia and hoped to continue the “Virginia Dynasty” he held to the old-line Republican view of limiting the role of the central government, but was still the congressional power brokers' favorite
- John C. Calhoun of South Carolina harbored presidential aspirations, but backed out in the hope of securing the vice presidency.

The Plan

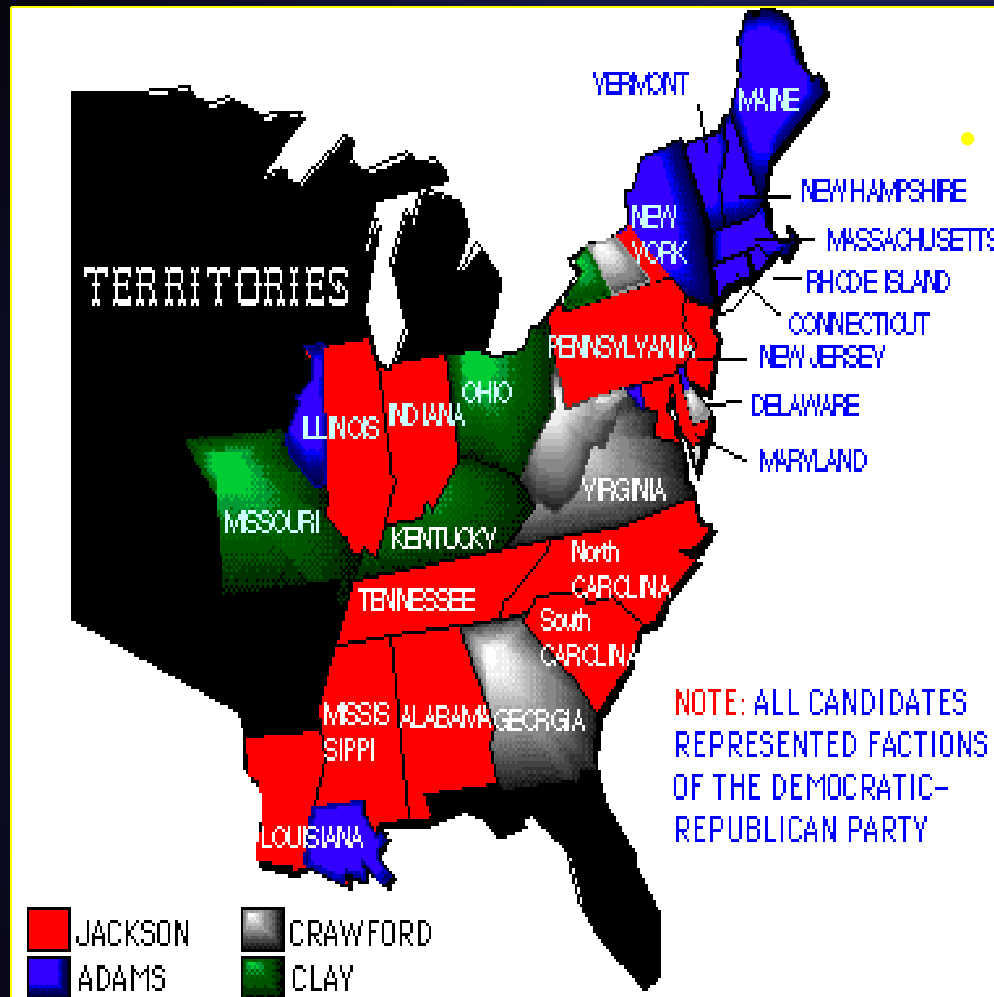
• **12th Amendment** (adopted in 1804 following the disputed Election of 1800)

- provided that elections where **no candidate received a majority** should be decided by the House of Representatives from among the **top three** candidates

House of Representatives met to vote for a candidate.

Choices are

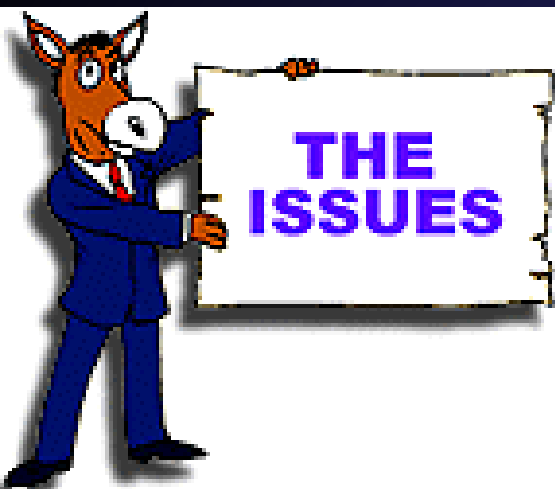
- ADAMS – **84** EC Votes
- JACKSON - **99** EC Votes



The Corrupt Bargain

- Jackson clearly expected to win, figuring that the House would act to confirm his strong showing.
- Henry Clay, (Speaker of the House), used his influence to sway the vote to Adams.
- Clay knew that if Jackson became President, his own popularity in the West would decline.
- Clay persuaded the House to vote for Adams and in return Adams named Clay as Secretary of State.
- Adams prevailed on the first ballot in the House of Representatives and became the nation's sixth president.
- Became known as the “Corrupt Bargain” because the winner of the EC Votes (Andrew Jackson) got screwed over by a behind the scenes deal!

Election of 1828



Issues now exist
(Republicans & Democrats)

are now made by
men rather than
women



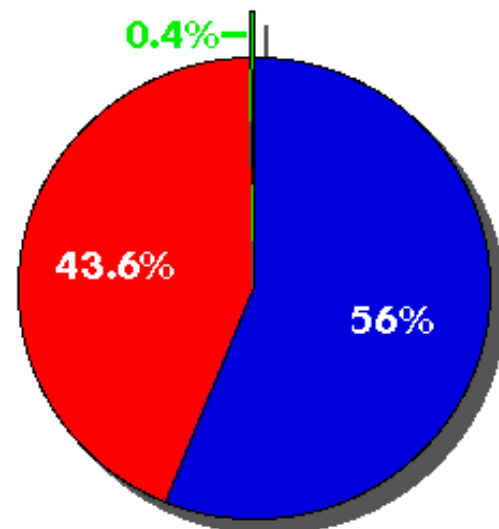
John C. Calhoun
National Republican
with Andrew
Democratic

country & full of

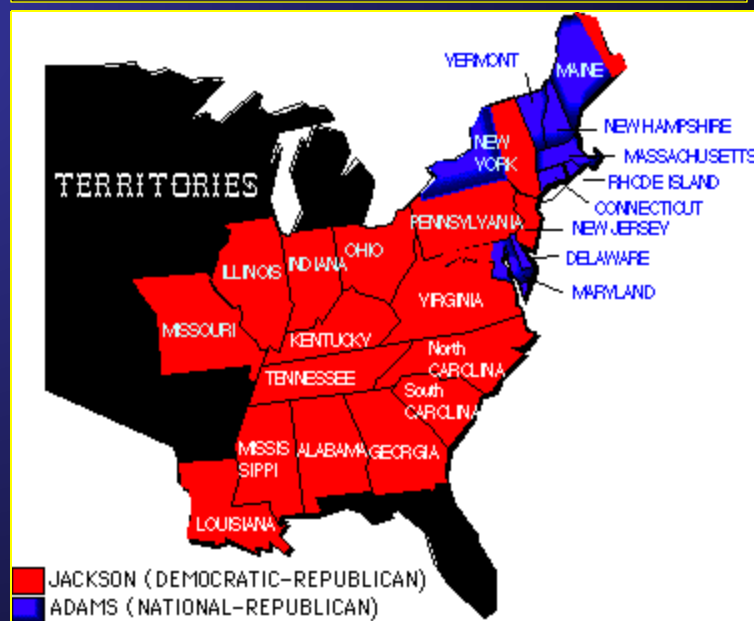
ugliness!

• **Three times** as many men voted
that year as opposed to 1824!

POPULAR VOTE



■ Andrew Jackson (Dem.-Rep.) ■ John Q. Adams (Nat'l Rep.) ■ Other



Campaign of 1828

The first mud-slinging contest.

Adams accused of -

- Misusing public funds (he supposedly bought out the rights to the telegraph devices for the president's use); actually, he had simply bought a chessboard for himself.

Jackson Accused of

- Murder - He had executed duelists and military members while he was serving in War of 1812.
- Adultery - He had married his wife (Rachel) after she had been divorced.
- The party's attack was incomplete, however, because of the public interest in Jackson's personal life.

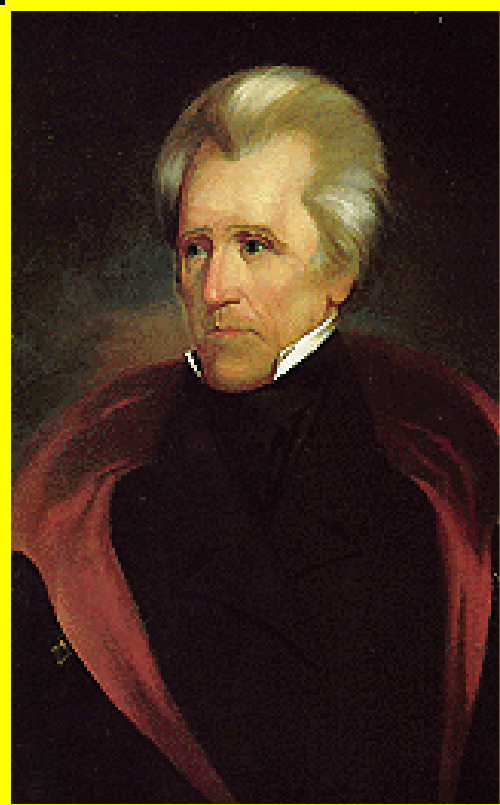
Humiliation - Jackson and his wife were both attacked, and it was a death before the eyes of the public.

Jackson's response to these attacks caused his wife's death and she said, "I will forgive her murderers as I know she would if I were in her place."

Andrew Jackson as President

- Many people were fearful that Jackson would behave as President as he had done when he was a General!
- Hero of the War of 1812 (battle of New Orleans)
- Hero of the Creek War (War w/Creek Indians in AL & GA in 1814)
- 1817 – fought in the Seminole War (executed 2 British citizens) and then became Governor of Florida.
- March 4, 1829 – Jackson's inauguration.
 - He finished the oath and the crowd swelled forward to meet their “hero”
 - Jackson retreated into the White House and the crowd followed.
 - They smashed china, stood on the couches and got drunk!
 - Finally, the White House staff was able to coax them outside by taking the punchbowls (full of liquor) out onto the lawn. The crowd followed!

Andrew Jackson



1829-1837

Presidency shaped by:

Tariff of 1828 – NE merchants had wanted to tax British woolens (cloth) Southerners were opposed.

Eaton Affair (1831) – friend of **Jackson's (Senator Eaton)** had married a local D.C. widow. Rumor was that she had an affair prior to her husband's death!

- VP's wife and other cabinet members wives refused to socialize with her!
- Reminded Jackson of treatment of his own wife!
- Rest of Cabinet resigned so that Jackson could appoint people loyal to him and not to Calhoun!

Nullification Crisis (1833) – SC (Calhoun's home state) said that it had the right to nullify within its own boundaries any law that they thought was unconstitutional. Congress authorized use of Force if needed to deal with SC!

Spoils System – President appointed people to federal positions that were political allies.

- “To the victor go the spoils”
- Jackson only replaced 20% of positions!

Other Problems for Andrew Jackson

- **Bank War (1832)** – 2nd Bank of the USA **charter** expired in 1836
 - President of the Bank (**Daniel Biddle**) planned to re-charter the bank early (1832)
 - If Jackson **vetoed the Charter** – his opponents would use it against him in the **election** of 1832.
 - Jackson easily won reelection and the **bank charter** was vetoed!
- **National Debt** – Only President to **pay off the National Debt** in 1835
- **Specie Circular Crisis (1836)**
 - Jackson had deposited **federal money** into what were called “**pet banks**”
 - These banks then issued paper money called **Specie**.
 - Most of them had \$1 dollar in gold for every \$10 of paper money they issued.
 - Jackson was forced to **order all land sales** be made with gold or **silver** because of the Panic of 1837
- **Panic of 1837** – caused by the failure of the **2nd Bank of the USA**
 - Happened during first year of **Martin Van Buren's** Presidency.
 - Caused a nationwide economic crisis
 - Led to the creation of the **WHIG party**

Impact of Andrew Jackson

1 Increased Voter Participation:

- 3 times the number of voters participated in the election of 1828 as in the election of 1824
- Political Spectrum expanded to include the middle and lower class of population

2 Role of the President Changed

- Jackson believed that he should protect the common man from the abuses of the rich and privileged.
- His veto of 12 bills during his Presidency exemplifies this belief!

3 Country becomes divided

- States rights issues will dominate the political climate up until the 1860's
- SC Exposition and Protest (1828)
 - » a.) Similar to the VA/KY Resolutions
 - 1 States could declare null and void federal laws based on the COMPACT!
- Nullification Crisis (1832)
 - 1 SC declared Tariff of 1828 null and void.
- Jackson thought about using force to make them abide by the Tariff.
- Eventually a compromise was worked out!

Impact of Andrew Jackson

4 Financial Crisis Created

- Bank Wars over the National Bank
- Pitted Henry Clay against Jackson
- Ended up leading to financial disaster

5 Persecution of Indians increased

- Indian Removal Act of 1830 creates Trail of Tears
- **Supreme Court rules against Cherokee People**
 - 1 **Cherokee Nation v. Georgia** – not a foreign nation, cannot sue in Federal Court.
 - 2 **Worcester v. Georgia** – court reverses position and says they are an independent nation and not subject to laws of state
- JACKSON ignores the Court Ruling and initiates Removal of Indians at the end of his term!

Jackson Polit



SOCIAL QUALITIES OF OUR CANDIDATE.

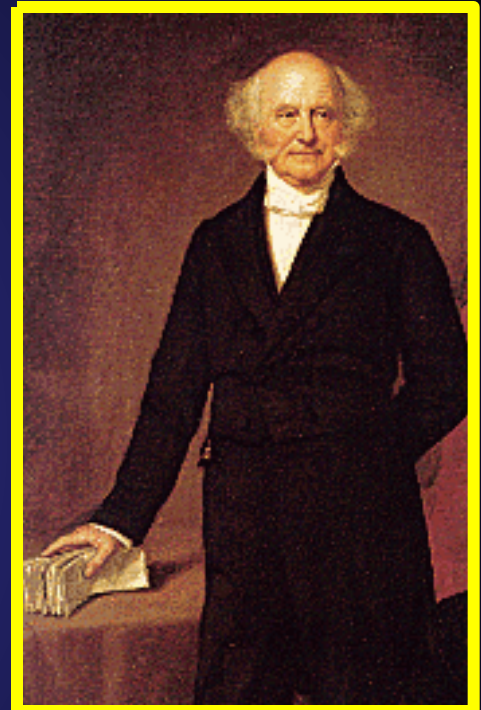
BORN TO COMMAND.



KING ANDREW THE FIRST.

Martin Van Buren

- Rise of the **WHIG PARTY**:
 - Promote internal improvements over territorial expansion.
 - Clay, Webster and Calhoun emerge as WHIGS in Senate in 1834 opposed to Jackson!
 - Support Public institutions like schools, prisons and asylums for the sick. (**PUBLIC WELFARE**)
 - WHIGS called Jackson KING ANDREW I
- Had been Secretary of State and was labeled as a pompous diplomat by the WHIGS.
- Election of 1836:
 - WHIGS hoped to run several candidates with homespun appeal, with none getting a majority.
 - Then the election would have to be decided by the HOUSE of REPS.
 - William Henry Harrison ended up running for the WHIGS against Van Buren.
 - Popular Vote was close: 765,483 to 739,795
 - EC Vote: 170 to 124



1837-1841

Martin Van Buren

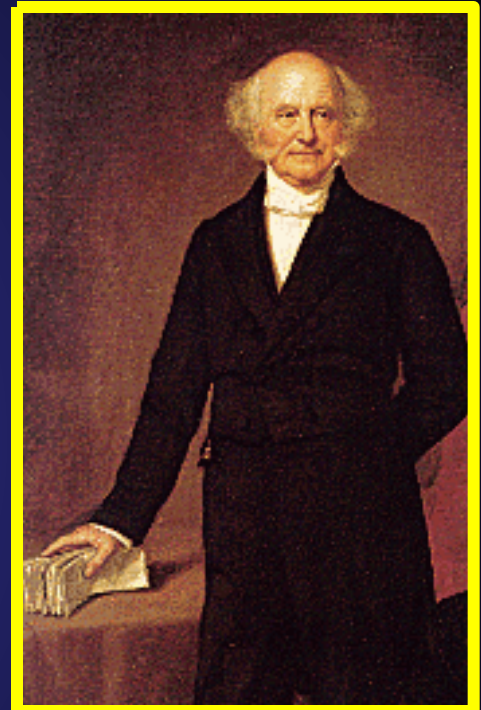
Presidency shaped by:

The Caroline Affair (1837)

- A US Steamship carried supplies and men to a spot above Niagara Falls to aid a Revolutionary movement within Canada.
- Canadian loyalists snuck into American territory and cut the Caroline loose.
 - It drifted over the falls and 1 person was killed.
 - Van Buren dispatched US General Winfield Scott to halt the crisis!

Aroostook War (1839)

- Boundary of Maine and New Brunswick had always been disputed!
- Lumberjacks along the borders had fought a war of words since 1783.
- An American was captured by Canadian lumberjacks in 1839.
- Van Buren was criticized for not taking immediate action!



1837-1841

Election of 1840

Participants:

- Henry Clay – wanted to be the WHIG Party nominee.
- William Henry Harrison – like Jackson had been a war hero (Battle of Tippecanoe 1811) but was extremely quiet!
- Harrison was nominated to run with John Tyler for the WHIG Party against Martin Van Buren (no VP nominee)

The Campaign

- Tippecanoe & Tyler too! - First election to use slogans and songs!
- Hard Cider Campaign - Democrats said that Harrison was just as comfortable drinking hard cider as he would be as President!

Results:

- 82.9% of the eligible voters cast a ballot in the election!
- Popular Vote was close, but electoral college was not!



Hard Cider Campaign

Election of 1840 results

Candidates Election of 1840	PARTY	E.C. VOTE	POP VOTE
William Henry Harrison (OH) John Tyler (VA)	<u>WHIGS</u>	234	1.275 million
Martin Van Buren (NY)	<u>DEM</u>	60	1.13 million

WHIG PARTY

Chose John Tyler to balance
the ticket with Harrison.

Tyler had been a former
Democrat!

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**HARD CIDER
AND
LOG CABIN
ALMANAC
18 FOR 41**

HARRISON AND TYLER.

**BALTIMORE:
PUBLISHED BY HOWARD A. TURNER,
No. 661 BALTIMORE STREET.
Of whom may be had ALL the Principal Almanacs in print.**

**The Eagle of Liberty,
Strangling the Serpent
of CORRUPTION.**



True American Ticket.
For President,
WM. HENRY HARRISON.

Results of 1840 Election

1. Politicians tried to “Market their appeal” to the masses.

- Webster apologizes for not being humble enough!
- Candidates tried to appear not to be too clean, too well dressed.
- Tried to appeal to the common man

2. Two Party System created.

- Politicians identified themselves by political affiliation.
- Both parties are an outgrowth of Jeffersonian Republicanism.
- **Democrats** – support States rights, federal restraint in social and economic affairs.
- **Whigs** – favor the national bank, protective tariffs, public schools and moral reforms.

The Accidental President

April of 1841

- William Henry Harrison dies from pneumonia.
- Politicians from the WHIG Party encouraged Tyler to be the acting President until a new one could be elected!
- He refused and assumed full powers of the Presidency!
- This angered many in Congress
- Tyler would spend his entire Presidency fighting with Congress over his Democratic beliefs.

Accomplishments:

Webster-Ashburton Treaty (1842)

- Secretary of State Daniel Webster authored this treaty.
- Settles the Aroostook War (ME)
- Established the state boundary of Maine



1841-1845

Election of 1844

Participants

- Martin Van Buren
 - Democrats met in Baltimore, MD in May 1844.
 - He was the **expected candidate** for President but did not get the **2/3** majority to be nominated! (He is embarrassed!)
- James K. Polk
 - Convention voted **9 times** to select a President and finally settled on James K. Polk.
 - He was a protégé' of **Andrew Jackson** (both were from TN, both served in the Senate!)
- Henry Clay – ran for the **WHIG Party** again!
- James G. Birney – Runs as Independent on Anti-Slavery platform!

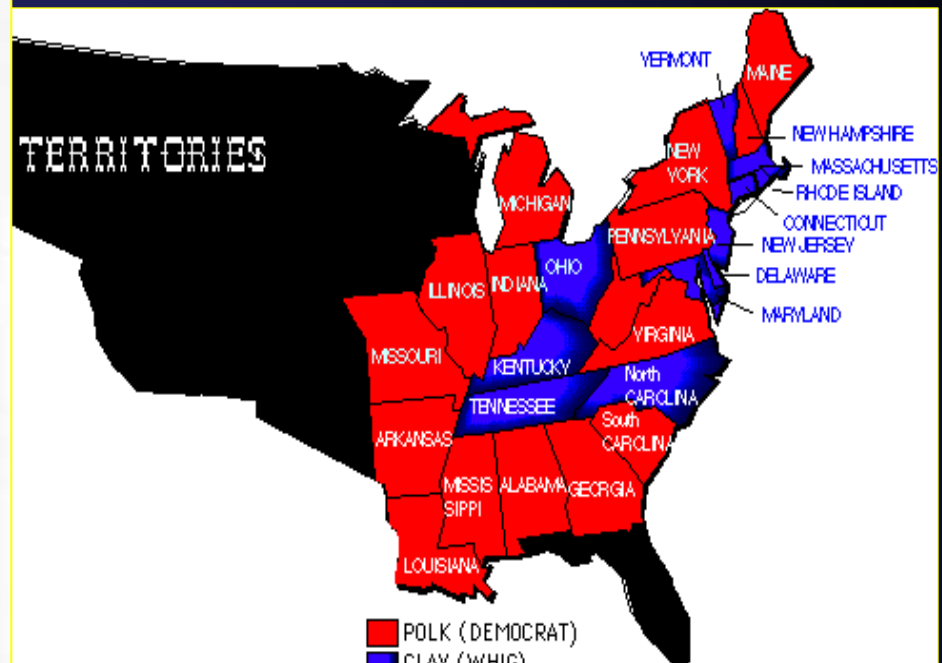
Campaign:

- Clay thought that he could win by taking an **anti-expansion** platform!
- **Tyler** withdrew from the campaign! (Finishes as LAME DUCK)
- Polk & Democrats take the **EXPANSIONIST** Platform!
 - **“Fifty Four Forty or Fight”** – A slogan that refers to the British occupation of the Oregon territory. IT IS THE BOUNDARY THAT THE USA WANTS RECOGNIZED!

Results:

- Popular Vote totals were very close!
- Polk carries **expansion states** and most of the new Western states
- Clay received almost equal popular vote, but EC Vote swamps him!

Election of 1844



Polk's political platform:
 Independent Treasury System!
Lower the tariff
 Oregon boundary dispute (54-40)
 Acquire **California.**

■ James K. Polk (D) ■ Henry Clay (Whig)
■ James G. Birney (Lib.) ■ Other

James K. Polk

Presidency shaped by: Walker Tariff (1846)

- Minimum amount on necessities.
- Higher tariff on Luxury items!
- Western farmers can sell surplus grain abroad!
- Encouraged free trade between USA & Great Britain!

Independent Treasury Act (1846)

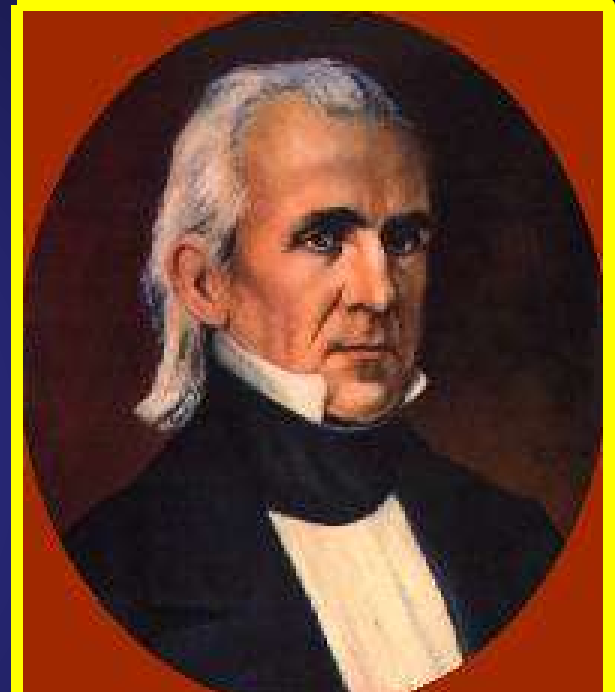
- Created Public and Federal depositories for storing money!
- Stabilized the banking system until Federal Reserve System was created in 1913!

Oregon Dispute settled (1846)

- British offered to recognize 49th Parallel as boundary of Oregon (Between US & Canada)
- Gives the USA territory of Washington.

Mexican War (1846- 48)

- Polk had always made it known that he wanted CA and NM territory.
- Sent Zachary Taylor into disputed area and the Mexican Army attacked!
- War was quickly won and US got new territories.
- Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo ends the War!



1845-1849

One Last Hurdle for Polk

Wilmot Proviso (1846) Motion introduced in **Congress** that would prohibit slavery in all of the **newly acquired** Mexican territory.

- Polk stayed **neutral** throughout and was criticized!
- This eventually leads to the formation of the **FREE SOIL PARTY!**

Bear Flag Revolt (1846)

- American settlers in the territory of CA launched a revolt on town of **Sonoma, CA.**
- **They declare independence** and the republic of CA is created!

Polk accomplished all of his objectives in one term!

- Wrote in his diary in 1847 -“though I occupy a very high position, I am the hardest working man in this country.”
- Therefore he chose not to run again in 1848 for **President!**
- He retired to his home in TN where he died in **1849** at age **53!**

- Polk is viewed as the Last of the **Jacksonian Democrats!**

Election of 1848

Participants:

- James K. Polk did not run for reelection
- Lewis Cass (Democrat) from Michigan advocated “popular sovereignty”
- Zachary Taylor –
 - hero of the Mexican War. Had never voted. Had no political experience!
- Martin Van Buren (Runs as a FREE SOIL Party candidate)

Campaign

- Most of the issues of the campaign centered around slavery and slave state/free state issues.
- Van Buren drew votes away from Cass and that allowed Taylor to win!

Results:

- Taylor – 47.3% popular vote 163 electoral college votes
- Cass – 42.5% popular vote 127 electoral college votes
- Van Buren – 10% popular vote 0 electoral college votes
- The existence of a third party candidate threw the election to Taylor.

Zachary Taylor



1849-1850

Presidency shaped by: Secession Question (1850)

- He personally met with Southern politicians and said that in no uncertain terms would they leave the union!
- If they did, he would personally lead the army to attack them and hang “persons taken in rebellion against the union with less reluctance than he had in the Mexican War!”

Compromise of 1850

- He refused to support this because he felt it was up to the individual states to determine, not the federal government!

Contradictions:

- He was a slave owner but opposed slavery in new states.
- He was a brilliant military man but had little success in the Mexican War!
- His daughter was married to Jefferson Davis (who goes on to be President of the CSA)

He dies unexpectedly in July of 1850 of a mysterious illness

Presidency shaped by:

Compromise of 1850

- Reversed Taylor's position and law was passed!
- Admits CA as Free State.
- NM and UT are going to decide slavery based on popular sovereignty.
- DC Slave Trade outlawed!

Fugitive Slave Act (1850)

- Outlawed slavery in D.C.
- Forbid people to help slaves escape
- Said that fugitive slaves should be returned to their owners!
- It is an attack on the Underground RR

Accomplishments:

- CA admitted as a state in 1850.
- Texas boundary dispute settled.
- Territory of NM established.

Noteworthy:

- Filmore did not gain party nomination to run in 1852.
- Ran as a candidate for the Know-Nothing Party in 1856!
- Opposed President Lincoln's handling of the Civil War!

Millard Fillmore



1850-1853

Election of 1852

Participants:

- Franklin Pierce – Democratic nominee
 - Had been nominated after 49 ballots at the convention!
- Winfield Scott – Whig Party nominee
 - Had been a hero of the Mexican War. No Political experience!

Campaign:

- Each candidate accused the other of being a drunk!
- Voters eventually chose Pierce (underdog!)

Results:

- Last real election for the WHIG PARTY.
- Their ideology was outdated and no longer valued by the public.
- Most of the WHIG Party was absorbed by the new Republican Party or the Know-nothing movement of the 1850's.
- Pierce 50.8% popular vote **254 EC Votes**
- Scott 43.9% popular vote **42 EC Votes**

Franklin Pierce

Presidency shaped by:

Death of his son – son had been killed in a train wreck just a few weeks before his inauguration and his wife had watched it happen!

- As a result he relied on his advisors to run the country!

Gadsden Purchase (1853)

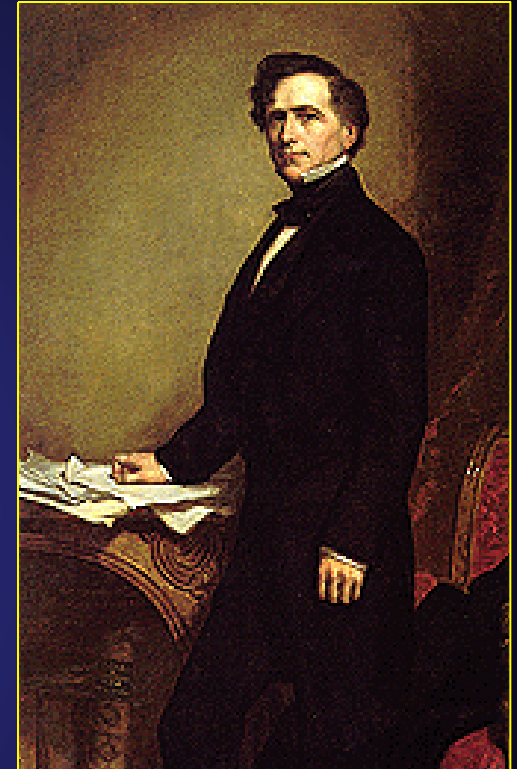
- Purchased Territory of NM and AZ from Mexico for \$10 million.
- Negotiated by James Gadsden

Kansas-Nebraska Act (1854)

- Proposed by Stephen Douglas
- It said that the citizens of new states should decide if slavery would exist there.
- Should not be based on the Compromise of 1850!

Noteworthy:

- No real success while in office
- Thought about annexing CUBA as a US territory.



1853-1857



The country is on the verge of collapse!

- Issue of Slavery will divide the nation!
- States Rights issues will grip Congress!
- Divisions between North & South, Black & White will dominate the last half of the 1850's and all of the 1860's and 1870's!