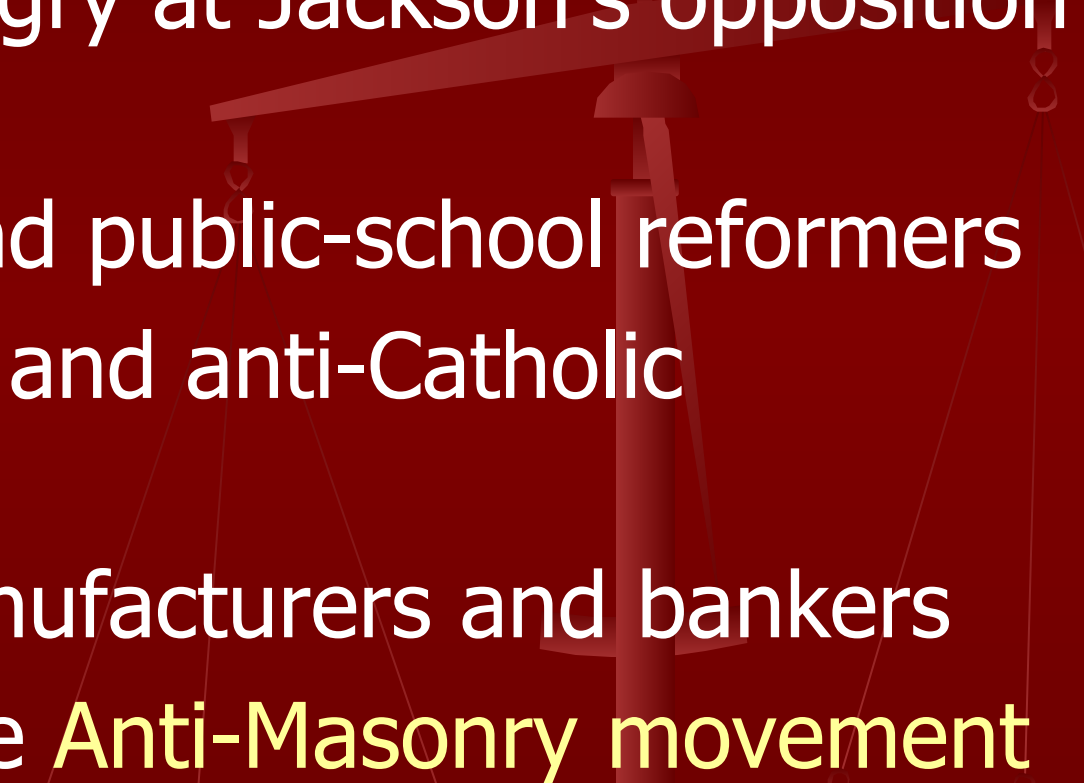


Rise of the Whigs



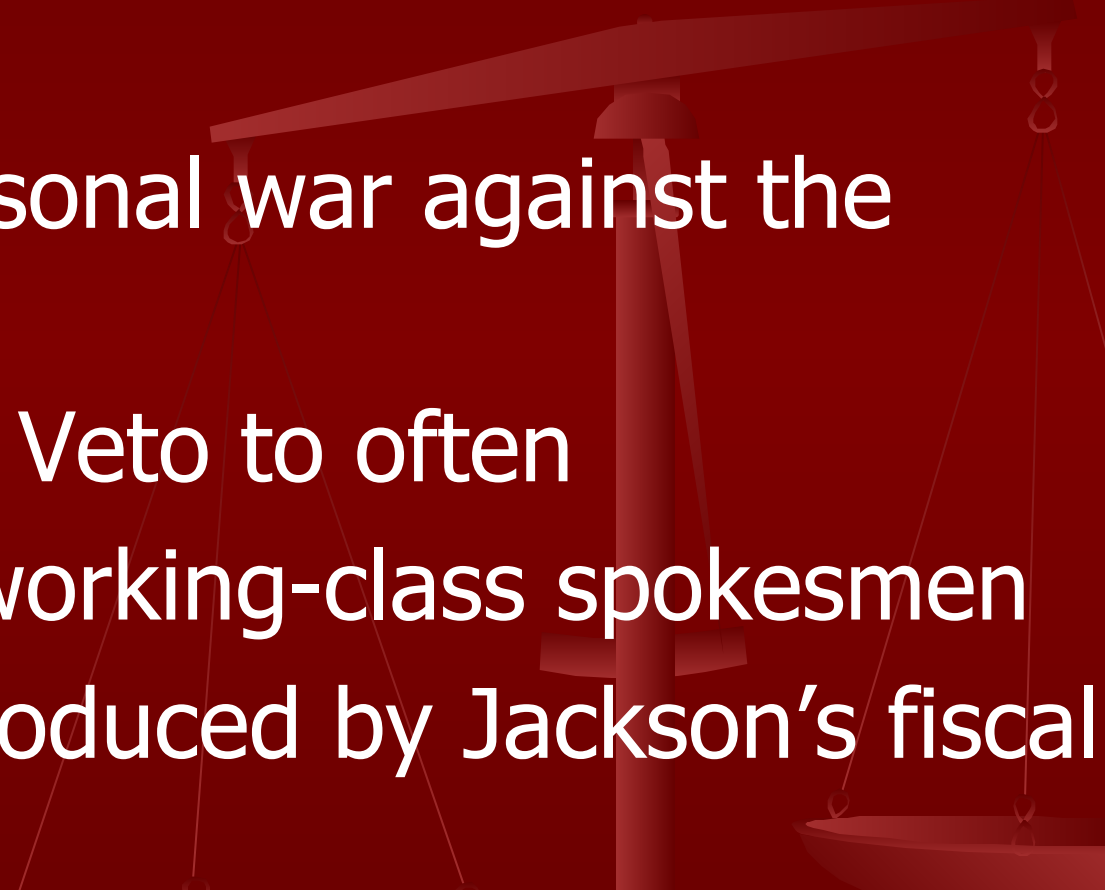
Who Are the Whigs?

- Southerners angry at Jackson's opposition to nullification
 - Temperance and public-school reformers
 - Anti-immigrant and anti-Catholic Protestants
 - Merchants, manufacturers and bankers
 - Followers of the **Anti-Masonry movement**
- 

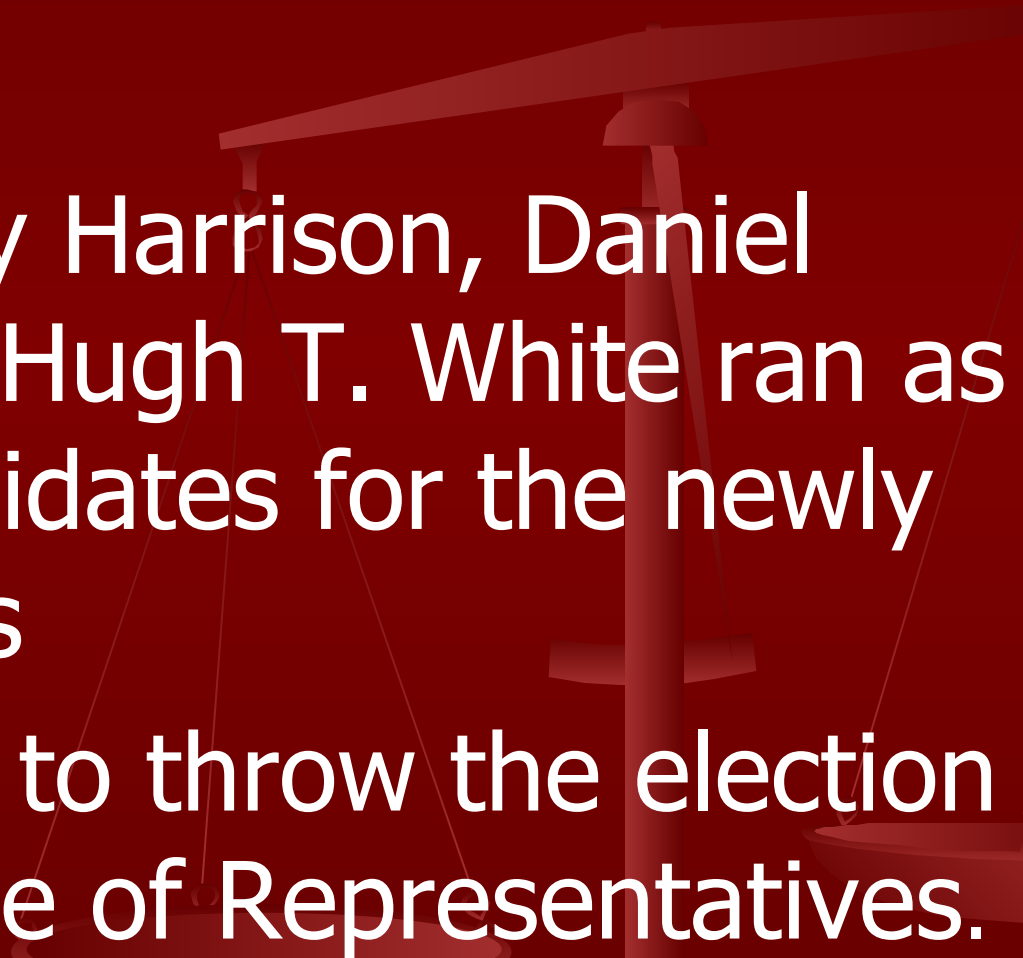
Whig Policies

- Strong Nationalists
 - Supported
 - National Bank
 - high protective tariffs
 - federal financing of internal improvements
 - Whigs defend activist government in economics, enforcement of “decency”
- 

Reasons for Ascendancy

- Jackson's defiance of the Supreme Court
 - Jackson's Personal war against the Bank
 - Exercised the Veto to often
 - defection of working-class spokesmen
 - depression produced by Jackson's fiscal policies
- 

Election of 1836

- Whigs ran four candidates at the same time.
 - William Henry Harrison, Daniel Webster and Hugh T. White ran as regional candidates for the newly formed Whigs
 - Strategy was to throw the election into the House of Representatives.
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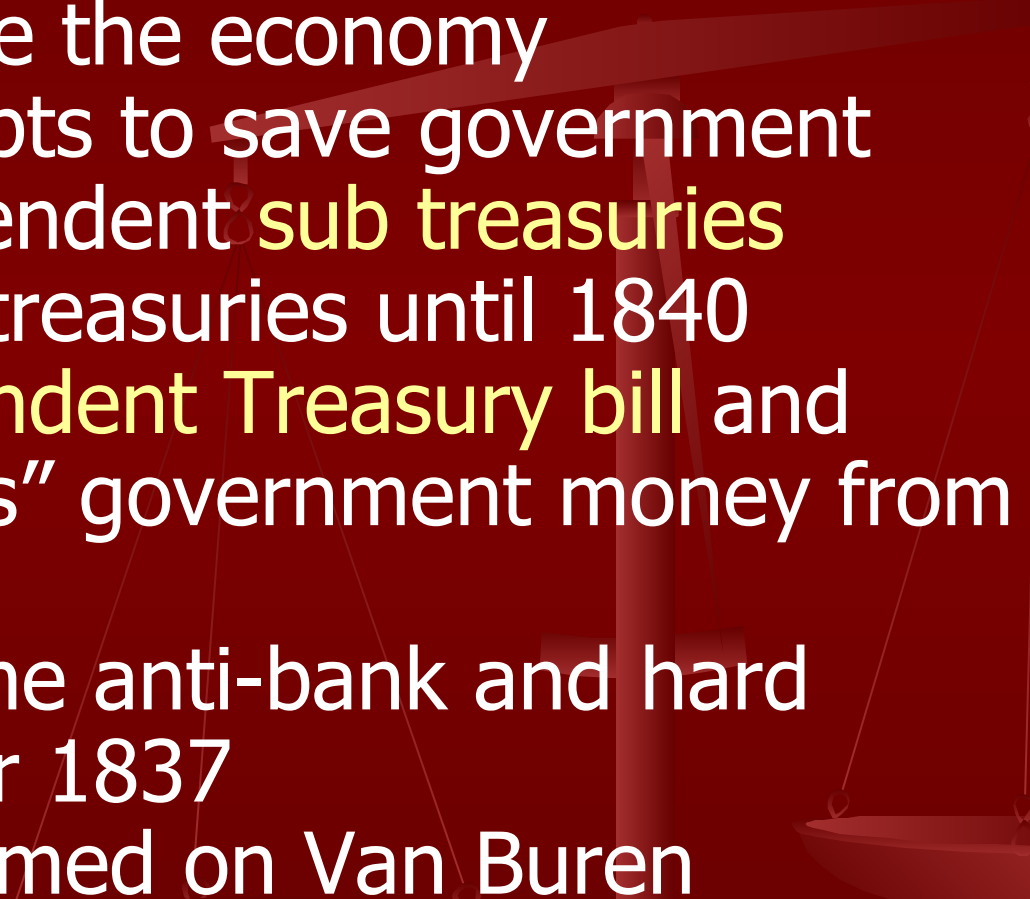
The Rise of Martin Van “Ruin”

- Known as the “Little Magician”
- Organized Democratic Party into efficient machine to get votes
- Term begins with Panic of 1837
- Laissez-faire philosophy is adopted by Democrats and prevents Van Buren from aiding economic distress

Depression of 1837

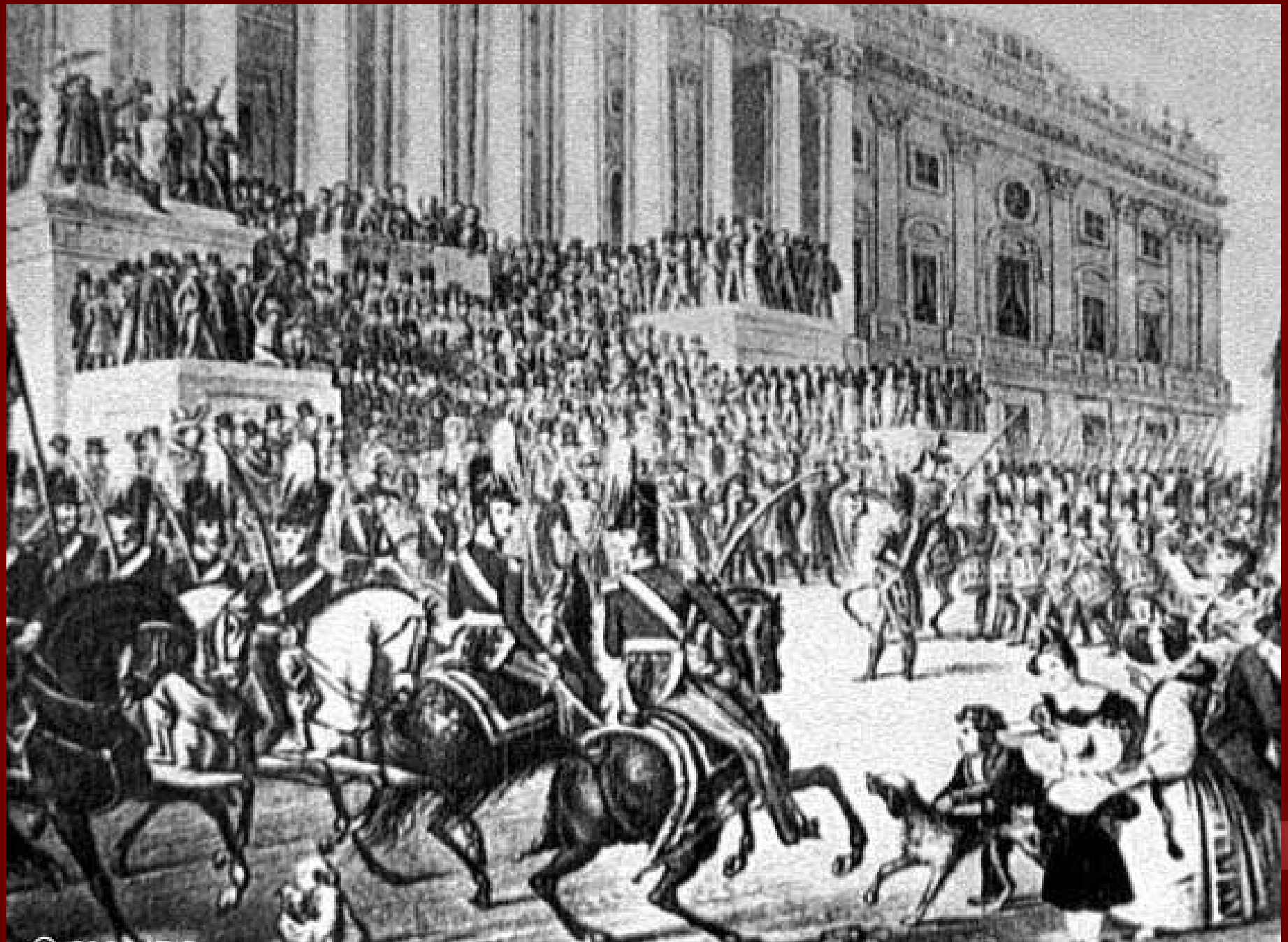
- Causes were both national and international
- Jackson's bank policies produced wave of speculation and inflation
- He issued the Specie Circular
- Slammed on the brakes and burst the speculative bubble.
- Led to panic and depression – most severe up to that point.
- Some thought the world would end
October 22, 1843 – The Millerites

The Sub-Treasury System

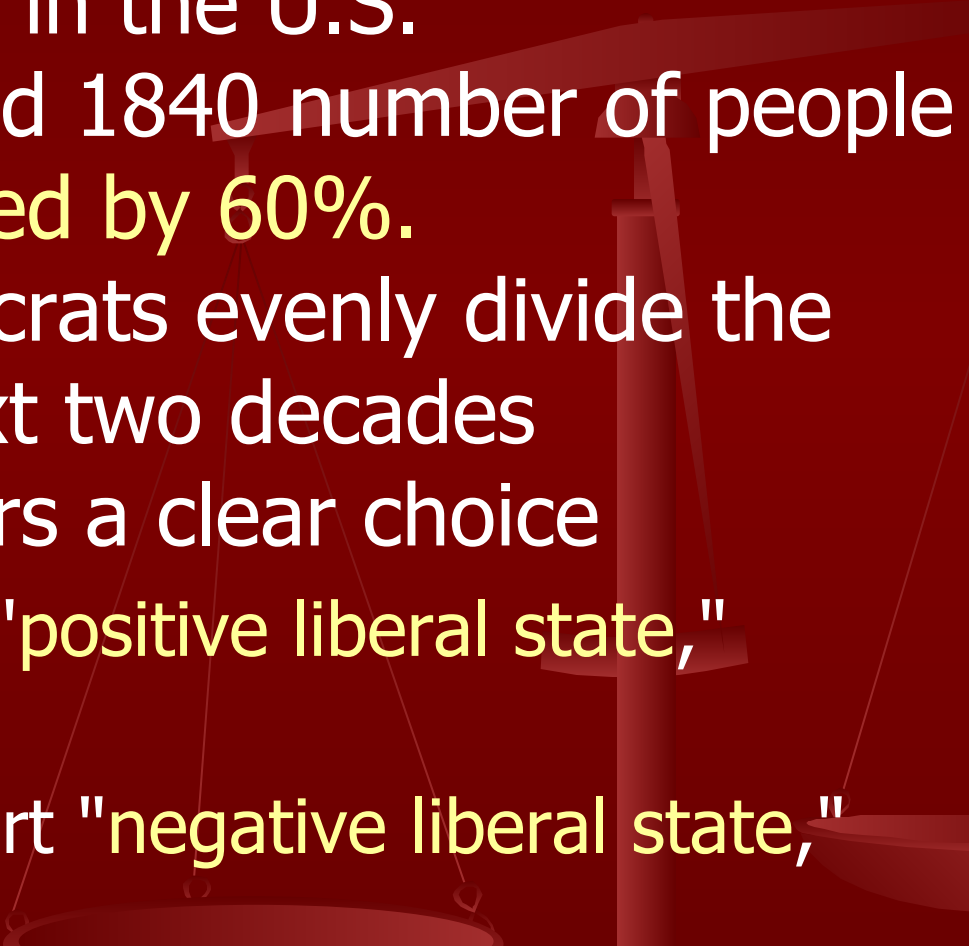
- Whigs wished to infuse money through banks to stimulate the economy
 - Van Buren attempts to save government funds with independent **sub treasuries**
 - Whigs block sub treasuries until 1840
 - Signs the **Independent Treasury bill** and officially “divorces” government money from banks.
 - Democrats become anti-bank and hard money party after 1837
 - Panic of 1837 blamed on Van Buren
- 

Election of 1840

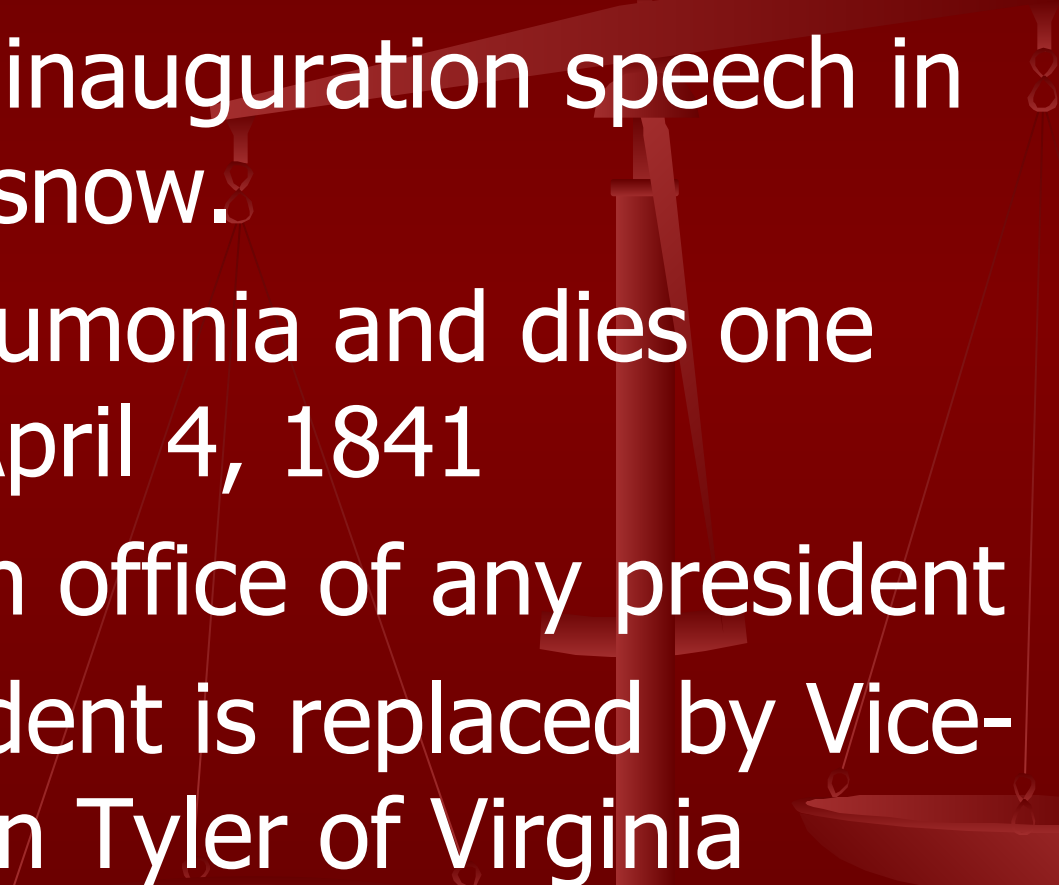
- Whigs fully organized by 1840
- Whig candidate William Henry Harrison
 - Military Hero – Battle of Tippecanoe
 - image built as a common man who had been born in a log cabin
 - He is unknown on the issues
 - running mate John Tyler chosen to attract votes from states-rights Democrats
 - Use the slogan “*Tippecanoe and Tyler Too*”
- Mis-statement by Democratic politician gives the Whigs their symbol – the Log Cabin



The Second Party System

- Election of 1840 marks rise of permanent two-party system in the U.S.
 - Between 1836 and 1840 number of people who **vote increased by 60%**.
 - Whigs and Democrats evenly divide the electorate for next two decades
 - Parties offer voters a clear choice
 - Whigs support a "**positive liberal state,**" community
 - Democrats support "**negative liberal state,**" individual
- 

William Henry Harrison


- Oldest President prior to Ronald Reagan
 - Made 2½ hour inauguration speech in bitter cold and snow.
 - Contracted pneumonia and dies one month later – April 4, 1841
 - Shortest term in office of any president
 - First time President is replaced by Vice-President – John Tyler of Virginia
- 



John Tyler as President

- Tyler was an old Democrat that became a Whig b/c of dislike of Jackson on nullification issue.
- Tyler did not play ball with Clay and the Whigs
- He was state rights advocate; anti-national bank and generally anti-tariff.
- Also strongly favored westward expansion of slavery.

Tyler continued...

- Whigs furious over Tyler and kick him out of the party.
 - All but Webster leave Tyler's cabinet.
 - New members of the cabinet are conservative, aristocratic, southern democrats with fanatical belief in states rights. Very uncompromising and very pro slavery expansion.
- 



Webster-Ashburton Treaty

1842

- Resolved several dangerous differences between US and Great Britain.
 - Border dispute between Maine and Canada – part of the Aroostook war in 1838.
 - Minor adjustments around Lake Champlain and between Lake Superior and Lake of the Woods
 - This land proved to be site of some richest iron ore deposits in the world – Mesabi Range
 - Joint occupation of Oregon would continue.

Annexation of Texas

1845

- Tyler with the help of Calhoun will succeed in annexing Texas in 1845
- While at first rejected Tyler would succeed in large part because of the outcome of the election of 1844. Showed strong national support for the annexation of Texas.
- Done by Tyler, but prompted by Polk

Election of 1844

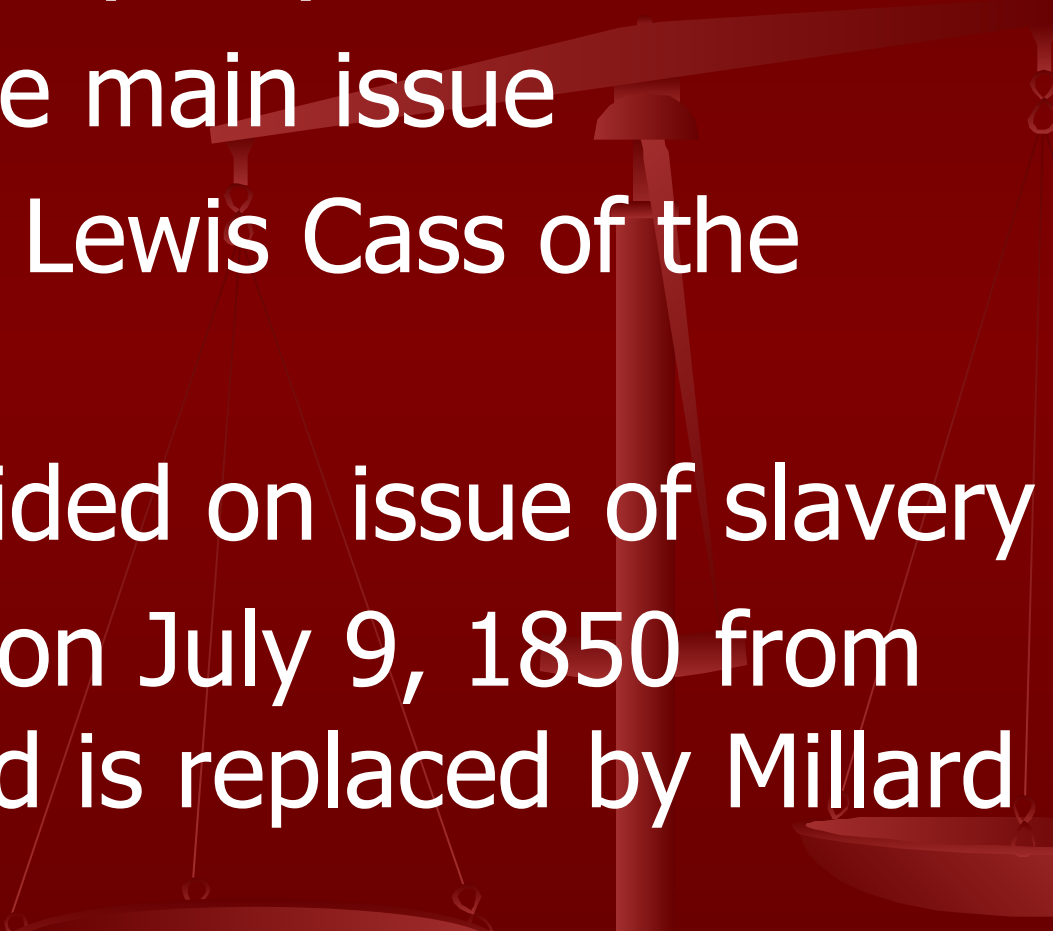
- Issue was westward expansion and annexation of new lands.
- Democrats can't decide and nominate the first "**dark horse**" in American political history.
- James K. Polk make three promises:
 1. Annex Texas
 2. Acquire Oregon
 3. Acquire California

FREE AND SLAVE STATES AND TERRITORIES, 1848



- Free states
- Slave states
- Indian Territory, where slavery existed

Election of 1848

- War hero Zachary Taylor wins
 - Slavery was the main issue
 - Opponent was Lewis Cass of the Democrats.
 - Democrats divided on issue of slavery
 - Taylor will die on July 9, 1850 from heat stroke and is replaced by Millard Fillmore.
- 

Tocqueville's Wisdom

- Alexis de Tocqueville praises most aspects of American democracy
 - Warns of future disaster if white males refuse to extend liberty to women, African-Americans and Indians.
- 