

# MR. LIPMAN'S APUS HISTORY POWER POINT CHAPTER 13

The rise of Mass Democracy and the  
Age of Jackson 1824-1840

# KEYS TO THE CHAPTER

- Corrupt Bargain
- Spoils System
- Tariff of Abominations
- Nullification
- Force Bill
- Indian Removal Act
- Trail of Tears
- Bank War
- Texas
- Whig Party Develops
- The election of 1840

# The “Corrupt Bargain” Election of 1824

- 4 candidates in the election of 1824
  - John Quincy Adams from Massachusetts
  - Henry Clay of Kentucky (finishes 4<sup>th</sup>)
  - William H. Crawford of Georgia (has stroke)
  - Andrew Jackson of Tennessee
  - All 4 campaigned as Republicans
    - Well-defined parties did not yet exist
    - The Federalist party was dead

- Jackson gets the most votes but no one gets majority of electoral votes, so the House gets to choose next president
  - Clay eliminated (he was 4th), but as Speaker he controlled the selection
  - Jackson and Clay hate each other
  - Adams gets Presidency on 1<sup>st</sup> vote
  - Few days later Clay named Secy of State

# Adams as President

1. Good Secy of State for Monroe but bad President and unpopular
2. Refused to fire workers already in office so no spoils to give out
3. Wanted to spend \$ on roads and canals but South opposed this because afraid of big Federal government
4. Wants to slow Western land grab from Indians thus many start to oppose him

- Election of 1828 - Republicans split into 2 groups (Adams vs. Jackson)
  - Jackson presented as frontier man and commoner
    - In reality he was a rich planter who lived off slaves
- CAMPAIGN OF MUDSLINGING BY BOTH SIDES:
  - Spread story that Jackson's mother was a prostitute and his wife was an adulteress (no official divorce)
  - Called Jackson a murderer for duels and brawls
  - Chess board and billiards table used to charge that Adams gambled in "presidential palace"

- Jackson wins - introduces spoils system

- Men openly bought positions/jobs with campaign contributions and then stole money once in office
- People who couldn't read or were just incompetent given jobs
- Spoils system important in building the 2 party system because it rewards those who are loyal to the party.

# The “Tariff of Abominations”

- Middle and New England states supported higher tariffs
  - Industry, instead of shipping, seen as key to prosperity
- South continued to oppose higher tariffs
  - Did not have industry to protect
  - Had to pay higher prices for manufactured goods



- Higher Tariff bill passed by Congress in 1828 before Jackson assumes Presidency
- South upset and sees tariff strengthening Federal Government while weakening the power of the states
- If Fed's can pass higher tariff what would stop them from laws restricting slavery?

- *Nullification*

- Led by vice president John C. Calhoun
  - Wrote “The South Carolina Exposition”
  - Argued Tariff of 1828 was unconstitutional
  - Openly calling for southern states to nullify the tariff (would not work in their states)

Tariff of 1832 passed to lower rates but still doesn't satisfy South Carolina

- State Election of 1832
  - South Carolinians win votes necessary to nullify federal law
  - State legislature called special convention
    - Declared Tariff of 1832 null and void in South Carolina
- Threatened secession if federal government tried to collect tariff duties by force
- Jackson's reacted strongly against the state
  - Threatened in private to have the nullifiers hanged
  - Sent military reinforcements to South Carolina
  - Issued proclamation against nullification

- **Henry Clay's compromise**
  - Now senator from Kentucky
  - Proposed compromise tariff that would reduce Tariff of slowly over 10 years
- **Force Bill** passed at same time
  - Authorized president to use army and navy to collect federal tariff duties
  - Seen as asserting Fed Gov't over State gov't

Clay seen as hero for saving the nation

# The Trail of Tears

- Cherokees in Georgia
  - Worked to accommodate themselves to whites
    - Learned white ways
    - Adopted agriculture and private property
    - Missionaries opened schools
    - Wrote legal code and written constitution
    - A few even became slave owners

- 1828 – Georgia legislature declared council illegal - Wanted their land
- Cherokees appeal to Supreme Court and win
  - Jackson refused to recognize the decision
    - “John Marshall has made his decision; now let him enforce it.” – Jackson

Jackson has *Indian Removal Act* passed to relocate Indians to the West (1830)

Fought by *Black Hawk* but he will be defeated...Actual removal will take place after Jackson has left office

# The Bank War

- Early 19<sup>th</sup> century
  - ***Government*** minted gold and silver coins but state banks would issue paper money
    - Value of that money changed based on health of bank and amount of paper money issued
    - ***Bank of the United States*** (private but government did own shares) held most of the governments gold and silver and thus its paper money was more stable than ordinary state banks

- 1832 – Webster and Clay get re-charter bill for Bank of US through Congress as election tactic for 1832 Presidency race
  - If Jackson signed the bank bill, he would lose his supporters in South and West
  - If he vetoed the bill, he would lose support of powerful Easterners
  - Jackson decides to veto the bill and states he personally doesn't like the bank
  - This puts him at odds with the bank President Nicholas Biddle



- Jackson's large re-election victory has him believe he has a mandate to get rid of bank
- Bank of US's charter set to expire in 1836
- Jackson decides to "kill" the bank early
  - Thought bank would manipulate the economy to force its re-charter
  - Elects to remove all Federal \$ from bank thus causing it to go into financial duress
  - Biddle reacts by calling in all loans out (hurting many in West and South) to raise capital

- Bank of United States had been stabilizing force in American economy:
  - Cycle of brutal booms and busts will began
  - Several dozen state banks (*“pet banks”*) receive federal government’s money
    - Chosen because they supported Jackson
  - Pet banks and “wildcat” banks flooded market with worthless paper money causing inflation
  - Jackson responds by declaring Federal Gov’t will only sell land for “specie”.
  - This ends land speculation and brings on panic

BORN TO COMMAND.

OF VETO MEMORY.



HAD I BEEN CONSULTED.

KING ANDREW THE FIRST.

King  
Andrew the  
First is how  
his  
opponents  
now refer  
to him.  
They  
become  
the Whig  
party

- Whigs' platform
  - Supported government reforms
  - Internal improvements (canals, railroads, telegraph lines)
  - Reforms in prisons, asylums, public schools
  - Had support from elites, but also much support for commoners
  - Used Jackson's "common man" appeal to attack Van Buren as aristocrat

# The Election of 1836

- Whigs
  - nominated 3 different candidates
    - Hoped that each would spread vote so Van Buren could not get a majority in electoral college
    - With no majority, election would go to House of Representatives, where Whigs had a chance
    - The plan fails and Van Buren becomes President

# Big Woes for the “Little Magician”

- Van Buren inherited Jackson’s problems
  - 1837 rebellion in Canada threatened war with Britain
    - President worked to keep US neutral
  - Antislavery agitators in North becoming louder
    - Especially over annexation of Texas (as slave state)
  - 1837 panic took hold when he took office caused by speculation over Western lands (Jackson’s fault)

- Effects of the depression (Panic)
  - Banks collapsed; even some “pet banks” , losing millions in government money
  - Prices dropped, factories closed, workers fired
- Van Buren proposed “Divorce Bill” and creation of independent treasury
  - Government money protected
  - Excess credit in economy erased

## The Texas Issue

- 1819 – US traded claim to Texas to Spain for Florida
  - Spanish want to settle the area
- 1821 – Mexico gains independence
- 1823- Make deal with Stephan Austin to populate the state. He ignores rules that settlers be Catholic and non-slave holding



- Conflict between Mexicans and Americans
  - Slavery, white immigration, local rights of whites
  - Mexico had emancipated its slaves in 1830
  - Whites refused to obey Mexican decrees
    - Continued slavery and continued to settle the area
    - Mexican capital too far away for whites to respect
  - 1833 – ***Stephen Austin*** thrown in jail while trying to negotiate solution
  - 1835 – dictator ***Santa Anna*** raises army

# The Lone Star Rebellion

- 1836 – Texans declare independence; Sam Houston named to head army
- March 6, 1836 – Santa Anna and 6,000 men laid siege to **Alamo** and all 183 Texans killed
- Santa Anna's army then kills 400 unarmed Americans who had surrendered
- Many Americans (in US) rushed to send supplies or even help fight the Mexicans
- April 21<sup>st</sup> Texans victory at **San Jacinto** and Santa Anna forced to sign independence treaty

# The Texas Revolution 1836



- Santa Anna signs treaty:
  - Would withdraw Mexican troops
  - Recognize Rio Grande as Southwestern border
  - When released, he rejected the treaties because forced to sign them at gunpoint
  - Mexico never ratified the treaties

- America supports Texans fight against Mexico but request for annexation (1837) stopped by slavery issue
  - North protested that Texas was part of “conspiracy” to extend slavery
  - Mexico never recognizes Texas as independent because treaty signed at gunpoint
  - Texas remains independent nation until 1845

# ELECTION OF 1840

- Van Buren is hurt by bad economy
- Harrison is portrayed as a man of the people (Hard Cider drinking) but reality is different
- THIS IS FIRST MODERN POLITICAL CAMPAIGN and uses slogans and rhetoric

Harrison wins but won't live to enjoy it

## Election of 1840 is the cementing of the Two-Party System

- Founders had distrusted parties as “factions” that would hurt country
- Jeffersonians had eventually adopted most of Federalists’ positions
  - No parties during “Era of Good Feelings”
- Jackson (and those who opposed him) laid foundation for parties

# Differences between **Democrats** and **Whigs**

- *Democrats*

- Individualism
- Against “privilege” in government
- States’ rights and keeping federal government under control (from social and economic affairs)
- Generally poorer people

- *Whigs*

- Community
- Willing to use government to achieve objectives
- Did not like leaders like Jackson who appealed to people’s self-interest (causing conflict)
- Favored national bank, protective tariffs, internal improvements, public schools, moral reforms (liquor, eventually slavery)
- Generally wealthier people