ANDREW JACKSON & JACKSONIAN DEMOCRACY

The era of the “Common Man”
Essential Questions

- What was “Jacksonian Democracy”?
- How did Jackson’s policies affect the political, economic, and social life of the nation?
- How did social and economic life change as the United States began to move from an agrarian to an industrial society?
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Andrew Jackson Facts

*the **first** person from the **American West** to be elected **President**

*his presidency was the “**turning point**” in the progress of **American democracy**.
In 1824, General Andrew Jackson, the hero of the War of 1812, won the popular vote, but fell short of enough votes in the Electoral College to win the election.

The winner was decided by the House of Representatives, which selected John Quincy Adams (son of President John Adams) as President.
Presidency of Andrew Jackson

- John Quincy Adams appointed Henry Clay as his Secretary of the State.
- Andrew Jackson accused Adams and Clay of making a “corrupt bargain.” He accused them of “stealing the election.”
- The Democratic-Republicans split between the supporters of Jackson and called themselves “Democrats” and his opponents called themselves “Whigs.”
Political Parties

Started with Hamilton’s Economic Plan. Supporters were Federalists. Those opposed were Democratic Republicans.

Federalists

Ended after the War of 1812

Political Parties

Democratic-Republicans

Split between the supporters of Jackson

Support Jackson

Oppose Jackson

Whigs

Support Jackson

Oppose Jackson

Democrats
Andrew Jackson was not born wealthy.

After his defeat in the election of 1824, Jackson and his supporters spent the next four years campaigning for presidency.
The Age of the Common Man

- Jackson was finally elected President in 1828.
- His supporters were the “common people”- laborers, farmers and frontiersmen.
- Jackson saw himself as the spokesman of the “common man”-the average American.
The Inauguration

Jackson invited the public to visit the White House for his inauguration.

A crowd of 20,000 people trampled through the White House after Jackson’s inauguration.
The Expansion of Democracy

- Jackson’s two terms in office saw an expansion of American democracy.
- This was a time in which state governments were changing their requirements for voting.
- This allowed all white males to vote, regardless of property ownership.
Change in voter qualifications 1800-1830
Jackson believed the President should act as the voice of the common people.

Jackson favored the “spoils system” - supporters who helped in his election campaign were appointed to government posts in place of existing officials.

This policy gave more citizens a role in government.

Citizens refer to the new forms of campaigning as “Jacksonian Democracy.”
The Death of Jackson’s Wife

Rachel Jackson had heart pains all through 1828. She seemed to lose much of her will to live from what she knew of the vicious press attacks. One exceptionally bad attack, lead to a sharp decline and death in a matter of days. Supposedly the attack was brought on by shock over a certain political pamphlet, causing her to collapse in hysterics and die.
*Jackson proposed the **Indian Removal Act** in 1830.

*The act required the Indians to adopt Western ways or move west. The Cherokees refused to do so and appealed their case to the Supreme Court.

*John Marshall ruled in their favor.
The white guys say our new place is nice.

Then how come THEY don't want it???
The Trail of Tears

*The Indian Removal Act gave the Indians two years to migrate voluntarily.
*They did not all leave and were forced out.
*They were not allowed time to gather their belongings and as they left, whites looted their homes.
*This began the march known as the Trail of Tears, in which 4,000 Indians people died of cold, hunger, and disease on their way to the western lands.
Georgia passed a law in 1830, stating that \textit{any white person living among the Indians without a license from the governor would be sent to prison.}

Samuel Worcester, a missionary, was arrested and sentenced to prison for four years for living among the Cherokees.
The Trail of Tears
The Nullification Crisis

*One of the main issues during Jackson’s presidency was the matter of a high or low tariff (tax on imported goods).

*A high tariff protected northern industry and was good for the north, but made goods more expensive and was bad for the south.
The benefits of tariffs:

- They raise money for the government.
- Foreign goods are made more expensive.
- People buy more U.S. goods.
- They help Americans keep their jobs.
*In 1828, Jackson’s supporters demanded changes in the tariff rates proposed by President John Q. Adams.

The Tariff of 1828 became known as the Tariff of Abominations.

A leading spokesperson against the tariff was Vice President, John C. Calhoun.
Vice President John C. Calhoun secretly published the *The Exposition and Protest*, an essay pronouncing the tariff unconstitutional. Calhoun argued that each state had the right to **nullify**, or cancel an unconstitutional federal law in its own territory.
John C. Calhoun becomes the first Vice-President to resign, so he can come back as the Senator from South Carolina and lead the nullification fight.
*Nullification is a constitutional theory that gives an individual state the right to declare null and void any law passed by the United States Congress which the state deems unacceptable and unconstitutional.

*Jackson threatened military action against South Carolina.
Henry Clay

*Jackson immediately spoke out against the nullification process.

* Henry Clay finally proposed a **compromise tariff** through a reduction in tariffs over the next 10 years.
Calhoun's Nullification Theory

Nullification Crisis

Northern States

Go Tariffs

States' Rights

Nullification

No Tariffs

And Opponents of

States' Rights Doctrine
President Washington had introduced a National Bank as part of Hamilton’s financial plan. A second national bank had been chartered in 1816.

Jackson greatly disliked the national bank and ordered the removal of all federal deposits to be divided by the state banks.

This massive withdrawal of funds crippled the national fund.
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