
14

Jacksonian Democracy at Flood Tide, 1830–1840

PART I: Reviewing the Chapter

A. Checklist of Learning Objectives

After mastering this chapter, you should be able to

1. describe how Jackson thwarted the radical nullifiers in South Carolina, while making some political concessions to the South.
2. explain how and why Jackson attacked and destroyed the Bank of the United States and indicate the political and economic effects of his action.
3. analyze the political innovations of the 1830s, including national conventions, the birth of the Whig party, and the second two-party system.
4. describe Jackson's policies toward the southeastern Indian tribes and newly independent Texas.
5. describe the economic and political woes of Jackson's successor, Van Buren.
6. describe how the Whigs effectively appropriated the popular campaign techniques of the New Democracy and used them to defeat the Democrats in 1840.
7. assess the positive and negative results of Jacksonian democracy.

B. Glossary

To build your social science vocabulary, familiarize yourself with the following terms.

1. **impost** A tax, particularly a tariff or duty on imported goods. "... it did lower the imposts. ..."
2. **appeasement** The policy of giving in to demands of a hostile or dangerous power in hopes of avoiding conflict. "Later generations ... have condemned the 'appeasement' of South Carolina in 1833 as sheer folly."
3. **plutocratic** Concerning an extremely wealthy ruling class. "The 'Old Hero' assailed the plutocratic and monopolistic bank as unconstitutional."
4. **prejudice** Unreasonable suspicion, bias, or hatred directed at members of a group. "... Jackson succeeded in mobilizing the prejudices of the West against the East."
5. **ritual** A set form or system of ceremonies, often but not necessarily religious. "... a New Yorker ... was threatening to expose the secret rituals of the Masons. ..."
6. **evangelical** Concerning religious belief, commonly Protestant, that emphasizes personal salvation, individual and voluntary religious commitment, and the authority of Scripture. "The Anti-Masons attracted support from many evangelical Protestant groups. ..."
7. **anathema** Something or someone cursed or expelled from a group. "This moral busybodiness was anathema to the Jacksonians. ..."
8. **platform** A statement of the principles or positions of a political party. "... National Republicans added still another innovation when they adopted formal platforms. ..."

9. **mandate** Something authoritatively commanded or required. "He was convinced that he now had a 'mandate' from the voters. . . ."
10. **denominations** In American religion, the major branches of Christianity, organized into separate national church structures, e.g., Presbyterians, Baptists, Disciples of Christ. ". . . many denominations sent missionaries into Indian villages."
11. **trammel** Something that confines, restrains, or shackles. "Hardy Texan pioneers . . . resent[ed] the trammels imposed by a 'foreign' government."
12. **prolific** Producing abundant young. "Energetic and prolific, Texas-Americans numbered about thirty thousand by 1835."
13. **temperance** Moderation, or sometimes total abstinence, as regards drinking liquor. "He subsequently took the pledge of temperance."
14. **crusader** A person who pursues a cause, religious or otherwise, with extreme enthusiasm and earnestness. "Antislavery crusaders in the North were opposing annexation. . . ."
15. **favorite sons** In American politics, presidential candidates who are nominated by their own state, primarily out of local loyalty. "Their long-shot strategy was instead to run several prominent 'favorite sons,' who would . . . scatter the vote. . . ."

PART II: Checking Your Progress

A. True-False

Where the statement is true, mark **T**. Where it is false, mark **F**, and correct it in the space immediately below.

- ___ 1. President Jackson used military force to end South Carolina's threat of nullification and secession.
- ___ 2. All the other southern states strongly backed South Carolina's act of nullification against the federal government.
- ___ 3. Jackson used his veto of the bill to recharter the Bank of the United States to mobilize the common people of the West against the financial elite of the East.
- ___ 4. The Anti-Masonic third party of 1832 appealed strongly to American suspicion of secret societies and to anti-Jackson evangelical Protestants.
- ___ 5. Jackson finally destroyed the Bank of the United States by replacing it with an "independent treasury" staffed with his own political supporters.
- ___ 6. Although he professed sympathy for the eastern Indians, Jackson defied the Supreme Court and ordered them removed to Oklahoma.
- ___ 7. The Cherokees, Seminoles, and Chief Black Hawk joined in united warfare to resist Jackson's removal policies.
- ___ 8. American settlers in Texas clashed with the Mexican government over issues of slavery, immigration, and legal rights.
- ___ 9. Jackson refused to recognize Texas's independence but did support the entry of Texas into the Union.

- ___ 10. The Whig party eventually coalesced into a strong anti-Jackson party with a generally nationalistic outlook.
- ___ 11. President Van Buren reaped many of the economic benefits of Jackson's bitter battle to destroy the Bank of the United States.
- ___ 12. William Henry Harrison's simple poor-boy background formed the basis for the Whigs' appeal to the common voter in 1840.
- ___ 13. Van Buren lost the election of 1840 partly because voters connected him with the hard times caused by the panic of 1837.
- ___ 14. In general, the Democratic party stood for social harmony and an active government, while the Whigs emphasized individual liberty, the dangers of a privileged elite, and the evils of governmental power.
- ___ 15. The two-party system placed a premium on political compromise within each party and thus tended to reduce the ideological conflict between the parties.

B. Multiple Choice

Select the best answer and write the proper letter in the space provided.

- ___ 1. The nullification crisis in South Carolina ended when
 - a. Andrew Jackson used military force to crush the nullifiers.
 - b. Henry Clay pushed through a compromise tariff that enabled South Carolina to save face.
 - c. Jackson was forced to back down and accept the basic principle of nullification.
 - d. South Carolina Unionists seized power within the state and repealed the nullification act.
- ___ 2. Jackson's veto of the bank recharter bill represented
 - a. a bold assertion of presidential power on behalf of western farmers and other debtors.
 - b. an attempt to assure bankers and creditors that the federal government had their interests at heart.
 - c. a concession to Henry Clay and his National Republican followers.
 - d. a gain for sound banking and a financially stable currency system.
- ___ 3. Among the new political developments that appeared in the election of 1832 were
 - a. political parties and direct popular voting for president.
 - b. newspaper endorsements and public financing of presidential campaigns.
 - c. nomination by congressional caucus and voting by the Electoral College.
 - d. third-party campaigning, national conventions, and party platforms.
- ___ 4. Jackson's Specie Circular declared that
 - a. all federal deposits had to be removed from the Bank of the United States.
 - b. the Treasury would distribute surplus federal funds to the states.
 - c. all public lands would have to be purchased with "hard" or metallic money.
 - d. all paper currency had to be backed with gold or silver.

- 5. One of Andrew Jackson's weapons in his war against Nicholas Biddle's Bank of the United States was
- seizing the bank's branches and operating them under direct federal control.
 - bringing criminal charges against Biddle for corruption and mismanagement of funds.
 - removing federal deposits from the bank and transferring them to "pet" state banks.
 - urging all Jackson supporters to withdraw their deposits from the bank.
- 6. One important result of President Jackson's destruction of the Bank of the United States was
- the economic stability that was maintained by his successor, Van Buren.
 - a sound financial system resting on thousands of locally controlled banks.
 - the American banking system's dependence on European investment and control.
 - the lack of a stable banking system to finance the era of rapid industrialization.
- 7. In theory, the U.S. government treated the Indians east of the Mississippi River as
- wards of the federal government to be confined to reservations.
 - sovereign nations with whom the government negotiated and signed binding treaties.
 - foreign enemies to be attacked and exterminated.
 - ordinary American citizens able to participate in the democratic political process.
- 8. Some eastern Indian peoples like the Cherokees were notable for their
- effectiveness in warfare against encroaching whites.
 - development of effective agricultural, educational, and political institutions.
 - success in persuading President Jackson to support their cause.
 - adherence to traditional Native American cultural and religious values.
- 9. In promoting his policy of Indian removal, President Andrew Jackson
- defied rulings of the U.S. Supreme Court that favored the Cherokees.
 - admitted that the action would destroy Native American culture and society.
 - acted against the advice of his cabinet and his military commanders in the Southeast.
 - hoped to split the Cherokees apart from their allies such as the Creeks and Seminoles.
- 10. The end result of Jackson's Indian policies was
- the flourishing of the southeastern tribes on the ancestral lands.
 - a united Indian military confederacy led by Chief Tecumseh and his brother.
 - the forcible removal of most of the southeastern Indians to Oklahoma.
 - the assimilation of most Native Americans in to the white population.
- 11. A particular source of friction between the government of Mexico and the immigrant settlers in Texas was
- the price of land.
 - the settlers' importation of slaves.
 - the treatment of women.
 - the issue of settler voting rights.
- 12. In the aftermath of the successful Texas Revolution,
- Texas petitioned to join the United States but was refused admission.
 - Texas joined the United States as a slave state.
 - Mexico and the United States agreed to a joint protectorate over Texas.
 - Britain threatened the United States with war over Texas.

- ___ 13. The panic of 1837 and subsequent depression were caused by
 - a. the stock market collapse and a sharp decline in grain prices.
 - b. a lack of new investment in industry and technology.
 - c. the threat of war with Mexico over Texas.
 - d. overspeculation and Jackson's financial policies.

- ___ 14. Prominent leaders of the Whig party included
 - a. Martin Van Buren and John C. Calhoun.
 - b. Henry Clay and Daniel Webster.
 - c. Andrew Jackson and William Henry Harrison.
 - d. Stephen Austin and Sam Houston.

- ___ 15. In general, the Whig party tended to favor
 - a. individual liberty and states' rights.
 - b. the protection of slavery and southern interests.
 - c. a strong federal role in economic and moral issues.
 - d. the interests of the working people and farmers against the upper classes.

C. Identification

Supply the correct identification for each numbered description.

- _____ 1. State where a radical convention "nullified" the "Tariff of Abominations" and nearly provoked Jackson to military action
- _____ 2. Contemptuous title the nullifiers gave to the Unionist minority who advocated compromise and tried to block nullification
- _____ 3. Legislation, called the "Bloody Bill" by radical nullifiers, which authorized the president to use the army and navy to collect tariffs.
- _____ 4. The "moneyed monster" that Clay tried to preserve and that Jackson killed with his veto in 1832
- _____ 5. Ritualistic secret societies that became the target of a momentarily powerful third party in 1832
- _____ 6. 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
- _____ 7. Two of the southeastern Indian peoples who were removed to Oklahoma
- _____ 8. Jackson's Treasury Department decree that required all public lands to be purchased with "hard" money (coins)
- _____ 9. The sorrowful path along which thousands of southeastern Indians were removed to Oklahoma
- _____ 10. Florida Indians who refused to accept removal and waged a bitter war against the American army from 1835 to 1837
- _____ 11. The nation from which Texas won its independence in 1836
- _____ 12. Status sought from the United States by Texas in 1837 but refused by Jackson because of the slavery issue

- _____ 13. Anti-Jackson political party that generally stood for national community and an activist government
- _____ 14. System of keeping government fund in separate vaults, established by Van Buren's "Divorce Bill" in 1840
- _____ 15. Popular symbols of the somewhat bogus but effective campaign the Whigs used to elect "poor-boy" William Henry Harrison in 1840
- _____

D. 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. Black Hawk | E. Mexican general and dictator whose large army failed to defeat the Texans |
| ___ 6. Osceola | 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. Alamo | 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. San Jacinto | 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. Illinois-Wisconsin-area Indian chief whose warriors were defeated by regular and militia soldiers in 1832 |
| ___ 15. Democrats | O. Site of General Sam Houston's victory that won Texas independence |

E. Putting Things in Order

Put the following events in correct order by numbering them from 1 to 5.

- ___ A southern state declares a federal tariff law invalid but finally submits to federal pressure.
- ___ A financial collapse causes a prolonged economic crisis and widespread suffering.
- ___ The federal government establishes a system of separate vaults to hold treasury deposits.
- ___ President Jackson and Senator Clay lock horns in a bitter battle over rechartering a national bank.
- ___ U.S. settlers in a Latin American country stage a successful rebellion to win their independence.

F. 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	Effect
___ 1. The South Carolina nullification crisis of 1832	A. Drew a presidential veto and set off a bitter "Bank War"
___ 2. Henry Clay's bill to extend the charter of the Bank of the United States	B. Enraged Jackson and led him to threaten armed confrontation and civil war
___ 3. The Anti-Masonic party	C. Reestablished an effective American two-party system by the late 1830s
___ 4. Jackson's destruction of the Bank of the United States	D. Created financial instability and set the stage for the panic of 1837
___ 5. Jackson's defiance of the Supreme Court in the Cherokee Indian case	E. Forced thousands of people to travel the deadly "Trail of Tears" to Oklahoma
___ 6. Friction between the Mexican government and Texas settlers	F. Pushed American politics even further toward emphasizing personalities and hoopla rather than issues
___ 7. Jackson's fear of offending northern anti-slavery sentiment	G. Led to the rejection of Texas's petition for annexation to the United States in 1837
___ 8. The organization of anti-Jackson forces into the Whig party	H. Prompted Texas's declaration of independence in 1836
___ 9. Van Buren's "Divorce Bill"	I. Got the government out of banking but weakened the banking system
___ 10. The Whigs' "log cabin and hard cider" campaign of 1840	J. Attacked secret societies and promoted moral-religious reforms

G. Developing Historical Skills

Event and Broad Historical Trends

Some historical events are important in themselves. But other, lesser events assume historical importance because they occur as part of broad historical trends that may take place over a longer period of time.

Both this chapter and the previous one describe the rise of the “New Democracy” under Andrew Jackson, which included general developments such as the expansion of the electorate, the growth of mass politics appealing to the “common man,” popular political campaigning, the two-party system, and the spoils system.

The election campaign of 1840, described on pp. 290–293, included many lesser events that are important primarily for the way they illustrate the spread of the “New Democracy.”

Indicate *which* broad trend of the New Democracy is illustrated by each of the campaign events below.

1. “The Whigs, hungering for the spoils of office, scented victory in the breeze.”
2. “Whig propagandists made merry with little ‘Matty’ Van Buren. . . . Although reared in poverty, he was denounced as a supercilious aristocrat, who wore corsets and ate French food with golden teaspoons from golden plates.”
3. “Bawling Whigs, stimulated by fortified cider, rolled huge inflated balls from village to village and state to state. . . .”
4. “Eager Democrats, who had hurraed Jackson into the White House, now discovered to their chagrin that this was a game two could play.”
5. “His [Harrison’s] views on current issues were only vaguely known. He was nominated primarily because he was issueless and enemyless.”

H. Map Mastery

Map Discrimination

Using the maps and charts in Chapter 14, answer the following questions.

1. Which two regions were the most evenly divided over the Tariff Bill of 1832?
2. Which region did *not* change its basic tariff position between the Tariff of 1832 and the compromise Tariff of 1833?
3. Of the five southeastern Indian tribes, which *two* were each located wholly within the boundaries of a single state? Which tribe was located in four states?
4. When Santa Anna's army entered Texas to attack the Alamo, what two major rivers did it cross?

Map Challenge

Using the map on p. 280, write a brief essay in which you relate the removal of the Native Americans to the changing pattern of *white* settlement from 1830 to 1840.

PART III: Applying What You Have Learned

1. How did President Jackson use his power and strong public support to overcome both the South Carolina nullifiers and the Bank of the United States?
2. What were the economic issues in the Bank War, and how did they contribute to the panic of 1837?
3. Discuss the attitudes, policies, and events that led to the "Trail of Tears" Indian removal in 1837.
4. How did American settlers in Mexico create an independent Texas, and why did Jackson refuse to incorporate Texas into the United States?
5. What did the two new democratic parties, the Democrats and the Whigs, really stand for? Were they actual ideological opponents, or were their disagreements less important than their shared roots in the new mass democracy?
6. Compare the two-party political system of the 1830s' "New Democracy" with the first two-party system of the early Republic (see Chapter 10). In what ways were the two systems similar, and in what ways were they different? Were both parties of the 1830s correct in seeing themselves as heirs of the Jeffersonian Republican tradition rather than the Hamiltonian Federalist tradition?