

Lesson #35 U.S. History

The Age of Jackson

Andrew Jackson view as a wild westerner – upset the elites
 Henry Clay West), John C. Calhoun (South), and Daniel Webster (North)
 Early Presidents were not expected to be shakers and movers that was to be the Congress

Question that were not to be addressed:

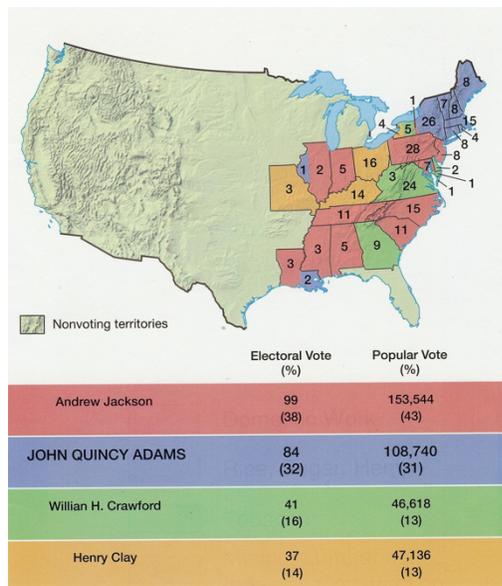
1. Constitution and Compact or Contract?
2. Slavery or Republic?
3. Native Americans

Clay owned slave and did not believe in slavery. He saw it as bad for everyone and tried to end it – and failed.

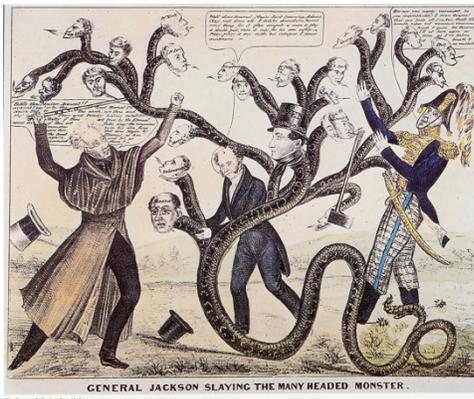
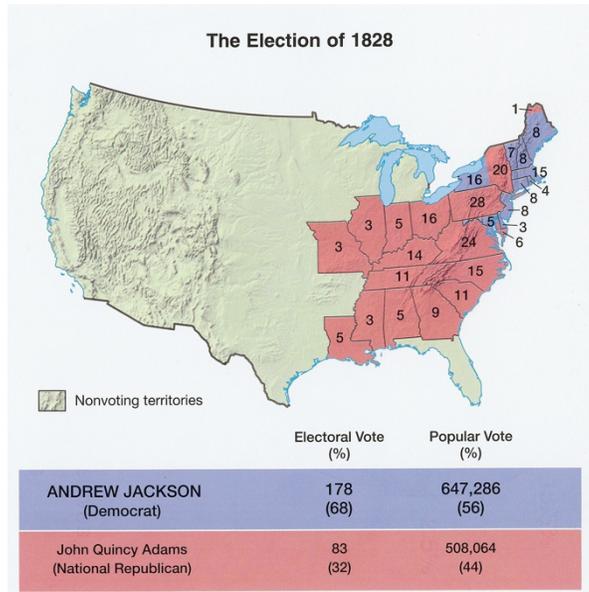
All three men died within 18 months of each other

Jackson on his deathbed said the only thing left undone was he did not shot Henry Clay and hanged John C. Calhoun

Election of 1824



Election of 1828



Election of 1824 and the Corrupt Bargain

William Crawford - Georgia 41 votes
John Q. Adams - Massachusetts 84 votes
Henry Clay - Kentucky 37 votes
Andrew Jackson - Tennessee 99 votes

Clay gave his votes to Adams and was given the Secretary of States by Adams

Politics at the time:

That Jackson's mother was a prostitute that was brought to the country by British and married a mulatto and gave birth to several children. That he was a bigamist and his wife an adulteress that was a divorce woman in a Cincinnati paper by the editor. The Press and opposition called Jackson's wife a "slut" - Rachel Jackson

Adams was called a monarchist and anti-Catholic zealot – That his wife was born in England
He was corrupt and a "pimp for the Czar of Russia"

Henry Clay and John Randolph – Randolph was Speaker of the House and always brought his dogs to congress and would "cane" anyone that would protest. One day Clay was acting act Speaker and ordered the dogs out of congress in the record.

Later the two met on sidewalk Randolph

Randolph said "I never side step SKUNKS!"

Clay looked up at Randolph and said "I always DO!" and jumped to the side

Election of 1828 and the "Common Man"

Jackson's period one of transition from republic to democratic system - Jackson had faith in the people (common man) - Majority rule is alternative to minority rule

Class system

Vertical = birth

Horizontal = occupation

1st group – gentlemen – are to consume not work

2nd group – middling

3rd group – ordinary / meaner sort

Washington's view of 3rd group – "The grazing multitude"

Col. Landon Carter – "but idiots"

John Adams – "common herd of mankind"

Nathaniel Green – "contracted, selfish"

Alexander Hamilton – "unthinking mob"

Tariff of 1824

Tariff of 1828

One section should not be forced to pay for another "nullification"

Nullification Crisis and John C. Calhoun

1. States have certain powers on Congress through the Constitution
2. each state could decide for itself when congress exceeded delegated authority
3. states could null and void within that state

Jackson Reaction to Nullification Crisis said he would make a “fog pond” of South Carolina (note only 10% of population voted)
Force Bill

Jackson paid off debt (1835) saw it as the only thing that threaten Liberty of the people “watch government” - taxes increased power of government and reduced liberty

Jackson by some saw as “Man on Horseback”

Used veto more on moral side not as early presidents – made president prime mover over legislatures

Jackson used “patronage” some said as monarchical would

1. Rotation of office a democratic idea
2. Removed aristocratic group
3. To influence people that government was for all
4. National interest above all

John Q. Adams - Dismissed only 12 office holders out of 800 – “patronage”

Population doubled every 25 years

People moved 3-4 times in life Joseph Smith moved 7 times in 14 years

This movement had a weaking on social institutions and intensified equality and loss of civility

Western Movement

1791 – 1803 4 new states

1816 – 1821 6 new states

Speculators and Squatters

Same people kept moving west – Lincoln’s family

Land and money

1785 Land Ordinance – six square mile town ship – could but 160 acres

1787 Northwest Ordinance

1796 Federal Land Law – 640 acres @ \$2.00 an acre paid in one year

1800 Federal Land Law – 320 acres @ \$1.64 an acre paid in 4 years

1803 Louisiana Purchase

1804 Buy 160 acres @ \$2.00/ acre / paid in four years

1812 War veteran’s soldiers promised western land

1816 Congress passed funds for National Road

1819 Transcontinental Treaty ended Spanish power

1820 Federal Land Law – 80 acres @ \$1.12 per acre / paid in four years

1832 Federal Land Law – 40 acres

Roads and Canals



Democracy in America, Alexis de Tocqueville (1835-1840)

The book was written to influence the French political system that had turned its back for the most part on de Tocqueville. So the book that Americans seem to think it is a watershed of the American system is in reality a book to show the French that democracy has its pitfalls.

On democracy:

“...universal suffrage has been adopted in all states of the Union;...?”

“...at the present day the most able men in the United States are very rarely placed at the head of affairs.”

“While the natural propensities of democracy induce the people to reject the most distinguished citizens as its rulers,”

“Universal suffrage is by no means a guarantee of the wisdom of the popular choice;”

“On entering the House of Representatives at Washington one is struck by the vulgar demeanor of that great assembly. Its members are almost all obscure individuals whose names present no association to the mind; They are mostly village lawyers, men of trade, or even persons belonging to the lower classes of society.”

“... it is said that representative of the people do not always know how to write correctly.”

“...the Senate is composed of eloquent advocates, distinguished generals, wise magistrates, and statesmen of note...”

“Public officers in the United States are commingled with the crowd of citizens; they have neither palaces, nor guards, nor ceremonial costumes.”

“The substitution of paid for unpaid functionaries is of itself, in my opinion, sufficient to constitute a serious revolution.”

“The pursuit of wealth generally diverts men of great talent and great passions from the pursuit of power, and it very frequently happens that a man does not undertake to direct the fortune of the state until he has discovered his incompetence to conduct his own affairs.”

“Public administration is so to speak, oral and traditionary. But little is committed to writing, and that little is wafted away forever, like the leaves of the Sibly, by the smallest breeze...”

“Magistrate has arbitrary power in democracy.”

“Democratic government does not understand the art of being economical.”

On social conditions in America:

“The last trace of hereditary ranks and distinctions is destroyed – the law of partition has reduced all to one level.”

“I do not mean that there is any deficiency of wealthy individuals in the United States; I know of no country, indeed, where the love of money has taken stronger hold upon the affection of men, and where profound contempt is expressed for the theory of permanent equality of property.”

“I do not believe that there is a country in the world where, in proportion to the population, there are so few uneducated and at the same time so few learned individuals.”

“There is no class...by which the labors of the intellect are held in honor.”

“Accordingly, there is an equal want to the desire and power of application to these objects.”

“A middle standard is fixed in America for human knowledge.”

On Sovereignty in America:

“In America the principle of the sovereignty of the people is not either barren or concealed...recognized by the customs and proclaimed by laws; it spreads freely, and arrives without impediment...”

On political associations:

“The citizen of the United States is taught from his earliest infancy to rely upon his own exertions in order to resist the evils and difficulties of life; he looks upon social authority with an eye of mistrust and anxiety, ...”

“... in the United States associations are established to promote public order, commerce, industry, morality and religion; for there is no end which the human will, seconded by collective exertions of individuals, despairs of attaining.”

“ ... but societies thus formed possess more authority than the press.”

“ I am therefore led to conclude that the right of association is almost as inalienable as the right of personal liberty.”

“ ... liberty degenerates into license...”

“In America the citizens who form the minority associate, in order, in the first place, to show their numerical strength, and so diminish the moral authority of the majority; and, in the second place, to stimulate competition, and discover those arguments which are most fitted to act upon the majority; for they always entertain hopes of drawing over their opponents.”

“In Europe associations consider themselves, in some degree, as the legislative and executive councils of the people, which is unable to speak for itself. In America, where they only represent a majority of the nation, they argue and they petition...”

“In aristocracies a few great pictures are produced; in democratic countries, a vast number of insignificant ones.”

“Nowhere do citizens appear so insignificant as in a democratic nation; nowhere does the nation itself appear greater...”

“As soon as several of the inhabitants of the United States have taken up an opinion or a feeling they wish to promote in the world, they look out for mutual assistance,”

“The first time I heard in the United States that a hundred thousand men had bound themselves publicly to abstain from spirituous liquors, it appeared to me more like a joke than a serious engagement; ... Americans, alarmed by the progress of drunkenness...”

“Newspapers, therefore, become more necessary in proportion as men become more equal...”