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History

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Politics: The Second Party System

John Quincy Adams, 1825-29:

- Election of 1824 → he won the election even while not getting most electoral votes (Henry Clay gave his votes to Adams, see lecture 7 or 8)
- Son of John Adams
- Highly unpopular president (only one term)
 - People upset that Jackson didn't win election
- Made some policies that were more Federalist
 - Tariff of Abominations – 1828
 - Raises import taxes from 33% to 50%
 - Upsets merchants
 - Prices are raised to recuperate this (merchants and people are upset)

Second Party System

- Election of 1824 catalyst and divided the Democratic-Republicans into two parties
- Jackson supporters → set up the Democratic party (sort of a successor to Democratic-Republicans)
 - Believe in limited federal government (states should have more rights than the federal one, prioritizing states' rights)
 - The US government should not take on more debt
 - Government should pay off the debt they already have
 - Not a fan of the National Bank
- JQA and Henry Clay supporters form National Republican Party, but this just becomes the Whig party
 - Pull in a lot of Federalist ideas
 - Henry Clay's American system → basically a successor to Hamilton's plan
 - Whigs believed in high tariffs to support US businesses (people will buy cheaper local goods instead of imported goods that are more expensive)
 - Sell federal land
 - Used profits from selling federal land and tariffs to make internal improvements (roads, canals, railroads later on)
 - Supporters of the National Bank
- This party system lasts all the way until the Civil War (1824-1860 election)

Face off in the Election of 1828:

- Jackson/Adams rematch
- Very heated election (lots of insults, similar to election of 1800)
- So heated and people are so invested that 60% of the voting population participated in the election

- Double the amount of the previous election
- Jackson clearly wins the election (he is a war hero, people really hate the Tariff of Abominations)
- Jackson presidency, 1829 – 1837
- Two term presidency is an era that is often called “Jacksonian Democracy” → the style of the democratic participation in this time period

Jackson responsible for some of the biggest Expansions of Executive Power:

- Jackson claimed that the president is the only representative of the whole people
 - Uses this to justify huge amounts of expansion of presidential power
- Spoils system
 - When Jackson becomes president, he removes a bunch of people from office and replaces them with supporters, friends, and family (scale was unprecedented)
 - Washington replaced 9, Jefferson replaced 39, Jackson replaced 919!
 - People are questioning whether he is really putting qualified people in positions of power
 - People think he is treating political power as spoils of war
- Kitchen Cabinet
 - Jackson creates what is jokingly called the kitchen cabinet
 - Basically a cabinet of people that are not the official cabinet that Washington set up
 - Technically nothing wrong with this, no law that you need to have a cabinet
 - Are the people he is relying on qualified to give him advice?
- Jackson relies very heavily on veto power
 - Anytime there is legislation he didn't like, he vetoed it
 - 12 vetoed laws (one point there were 4 vetoed laws in 3 days)
 - Some people hate him, some people like him for this

Jackson and the National Bank (1st term):

- National bank is one of the biggest controversies of his presidency
- Ongoing conversation since setting up the country
- National Bank is very powerful with not a lot of oversight (pretty independent)
 - Can influence the national economy (who it lends money to, what businesses it supports, what they are putting money into)
 - Can influence elections → if they give loans to certain candidates to fund their campaign
 - Can influence policy → can pay a retainer (businesses will pay you money to be on call for them, can't work for someone else) → paid a retainer to legislators
- Jackson + party don't like this
- Bank is run by charter that is supposed to renew in 1836
- Jackson's opposers try to renew it in 1832, hoping that Jackson's concerns about reelection will keep him from stopping the renewal
- But Jackson isn't that worried, and vetoed it anyways (technically violated previous SC decision)
- Vetoes the charter, but the charter still stays until 1836

- Takes a strict constructionist stance on this → not explicitly stated in the constitution
- Jackson's opposers think he is single-handedly destroying the economy, misuse of power
- Veto is actually very popular among certain people:
 - Western farmers
 - East coast workers
 - People that blame the bank for higher tariffs (their lives would be more affordable without the bank)
 - Interesting amount of support in the middle class
 - Taking time to focus on the middle class and not just elite people
- Veto helps Jackson win 1832 reelection

Jackson and the National Bank (2nd term):

- Reelection serves as a mandate to destroy national bank (ran opposing the national bank and people voted for him, meaning he has an obligation to do it)
- Has to fire 2 secretaries of treasury because they won't do what he wants
- Replaces them with Robert, who says yes he will do it
 - In 1833, he takes all of the money out of the National Bank and transfers it to state banks that support Jackson's policies
 - Called Jackson's "pet banks"
 - Massive unprecedented expansion of the president's power
- This is upsetting enough that the Senate censures Jackson (statement from Senate that says get it together, or else) → could lessen political power, essentially saying they don't have the Senate's power anymore
- Kind of just rolls off of Jackson's back, popular enough that it doesn't affect him anyway
- Charter expires in 1836, National Bank ends → Jackson doesn't have to deal with this because he is done after 2 terms
- Panic of 1837!
 - Because National Bank goes out of business, economy ends up in massive recession

Nullification Crisis, 1832:

- VA and KY resolves → a state can nullify a federal law within the state if they find it unconstitutional
 - Alien and Sedition Acts (John Adams)
 - Federal gov. either has to amend constitution or ignore that state's ruling
- Southern states are most often supportive of this (believed in more state power than the federal government)
 - Mainly voted for Democrats
- In 1832, South Carolina
 - Nullify the Tariff of Abominations, don't want to pay the taxes
 - Say if the federal gov. tries to collect taxes, they will secede from US
 - Pretty big threat
- Jackson, even being a states' rights supporter, was completely against concept of nullification, mad about this
 - Says that if SC secedes, it is treason

- Congress not happy either → pass 1833 Force Bill
 - Says Jackson has military power to force SC to pay those taxes
 - People are concerned about war against SC, what is Jackson going to do?
- Senator Henry Clay → 1833 Compromise Tariff
 - Gradually lowering tariffs
 - Can we make this deal, or do you want to go to war?
- SC says they don't want to go to war with rest of US
 - So nothing happened in the end
 - People were really worried about this (would the US survive?)

“Indian Removal”:

- Another major agenda for Jackson
 - Fame of fighting against indigenous people, wants to take this to the next step
- Congress passes 1830 Indian Removal Act
 - Forcibly move all indigenous people to the west of the Mississippi river
 - Lot of people to move, violating treaties they had made with indigenous tribes
- Cherokee Nation vs. Georgia (1831)
 - Cherokee trying to reaffirm their right to stay there
 - SC rules that the Cherokee Nation and others were domestic dependent nations (separate nations but dependent on US federal gov., states cannot interfere with this)
 - Indigenous people were the ward of the US
- Worcester vs Georgia
 - SC upholds Cherokee status as distinct community
 - Rule that Georgia state law does not apply to indigenous nations, only federal law applies
 - GA could not forcibly remove Cherokee from their land
- But, Jackson refuses to enforce the SC's ruling (says GA can do whatever they want)
 - GA ignores this, does as much as they can to remove Cherokee people
- By 1839 → remaining Cherokee people forcibly removed in Trail of Tears

Nat Turner's rebellion:

- In the midst of Jackson's presidency → significant revolt breaking out
- VA 1831 → led by self-educated enslaved person Nat Turner
 - Against slavery
 - Who believed he had religious mission to end slavery
 - Failed revolt
- Consequences
 - Fear
 - White people are afraid of this all the time, and now it actually happened
 - Made them even stricter on slavery because they don't want it to happen again
 - Ending emancipation
 - Said people could not emancipate their slaves
 - Did not want lots of free Black people
 - Stricter slave codes

- Enslaved people were banned from education (White person who educates them is in trouble, enslaved person is in trouble) → have to do it in secret
- Limiting freedom of movement → if you leave, you need a pass that says who you are, where you came from, and where you're going
- Makes life of enslaved people even more difficult

Van Buren, 1837 – 1841

- Jackson's VP (also Democratic)
- Ran and won the election of 1836
- Anti-Masonic party
 - Don't like free Masons in government
- Panic of 1837 → major recession (result of destruction of national bank)
 - Specie Circular → tells treasury department to only accept gold and silver (money supply is tighter)
 - Land speculation (gambling and selling land)
 - Lower cotton prices
 - Restrictive lending
- Recession → people worried about their money
 - Withdraw all their gold and silver in the banks
 - Banks have to start calling in loans
 - Banks have no money to give out → they collapse
 - If there are no banks to give money, then there are no loans → businesses fail
 - If businesses fail, then there is high unemployment (almost 25%)
 - Because of this, wages and prices dropped
 - Congress tries to solve some of this → passing 1840 independent treasury act
 - Pulls all money and put it into a treasury vault
 - Van Buren super unpopular → life sucks, blaming it on him
 - Makes the Democrats unpopular, the Whigs gain power in Congress

“Tippecanoe and Tyler Too!” (1840 election):

- William Henry Harrison vs John Tyler
- Harrison
 - Don't want vetoes, Harrison will be “Rubber Stamp” president
 - War hero
 - Introduces Log Cabin Campaign
 - Songs, parades, mass meetings
 - Include women even if they can't vote (with True Womanhood ideals)
 - “self-made everyman”
 - He isn't because he is the son of an elite plantation owner
- Harrison wins the election
 - Gives 4 hour inaugural speech in the rain, catches pneumonia, dies 4 months later
 - 1st president to die in office (by the end of April)

John Tyler, 1841-45:

- Constitution doesn't have something written for what to do if president dies
 - People are uncertain of what to do

- He sees an opportunity to give himself and VP more power
 - Says that VP should not just be a placeholder until next election
 - Says that VP should be full president until next term (established VP power)
 - Not written in constitution at the time, is a huge deal
- People don't have better solution, so they can't do anything about it
- Problem with this
 - Whigs wanted Harrison to be rubber stamp president
 - John Tyler more democrat than Whig → only a Whig because he doesn't support nullification → everything else (specifically economic policies) democrat
 - Opposed to national bank
 - Vetoes all kinds of Whig legislation
- Blocks enough Whig legislation that his cabinet (all Whig members) resigned
- They expel Tyler from Whig Party, 1842 → say he isn't Whig anymore → will not support him