

Lecture 9: Jacksonian Era Part I

Lecture will focus on politics in early 19th century (Jacksonian Era of 1820's and 1830's)

Politics in Early 19th Century

- “Revolution” of 1800
- Federalists fade away:
 - Sanctioning of their policies
- “Era of Good Feelings”:
 - Return of one-party rule
- Universal Manhood Suffrage
- Notion of individualism, self, determination, liberty:
 - Western expansion, market revolution and political democracy

Summary

Federalists vs Ant-Federalists begins the two-party system in America

Peaceful transition of power from one party to another

Federalists vs. Democratic-Republicans

War of 1812 pitted Britain against U.S. once again

Was not super important in terms of what was won in the battle but important for symbols used in America (Star Spangled Banner)

Federalists faded away because Democratic-Republicans built on the Federalists and accepted and supported the policies and views of Federalists.

Federalists were also seen as unpatriotic for not supporting the War of 1812

James Monroe ran unopposed (no opposition party to challenge him)

Voting rights were expanded to all white males not just rich or wealthy ones

Expanded democratic ideals but still not include women or people of color

“One man one vote”

- ➔ We are all individuals who all deserve to vote
 - Is not universal because it is limited to white males

Universal white manhood suffrage ended the Era of Good Feelings

- ➔ Brought in many white males that could now vote who do not own land

Universal White Manhood Suffrage

- All new states admitted to Union did not have property requirements
- 1820's older states revise suffrage laws
- Pressure from urban wage-earners
- Separation between landownership and capacities for voting
- Contradictions within nation
- Powerful notions of individualism and self-determination

Summary

All white men in these new states could vote

Old states had to adopt these standards to solidify the Union and had faced pressure to do so

Market revolution pushed out small scale farmers who could not compete with the new technology and lost their land

- ➔ Losing their land meant they lost the ability to vote

People who had embraced the market revolution also could not vote because they might have not owned property

People who owned land were seen as somewhat smarter or better than people who did not own land

Change of values (embracing the market revolution and dismissing the old value of land ownership)

Contradiction of different laws regarding voting in different states

Nation went from "We" mentality to "Me" mentality

A Democratic Age?

- Changes:
 - Mass participation in politics
 - Spectacle of democracy:
 - Parades
 - Bon fires
 - Mass meetings
 - Party conventions
- Defines "We, the People":
 - Defines who belongs to the nation and deepens divide between those who did not
- Voting as emblem of citizenship
 - "The badge of the freeman"
- 1851:
 - U.S. Magazine, suffrage meant "white males of age constituted the political nation"

Summary

Politics becomes more available than in previous years and becomes an urban, expressive culture

Prior to Jackson, Presidents did not actively go out and make speeches to be leader

- ➔ Jackson marked the first President to try and rally support and explain why the people should vote for him

Age of Jacksonian Democracy (Expanded upon Democracy but still excluded a lot of people in America)

- ➔ Native Americans, Slaves, Free Blacks, Women were all excluded

“We the people”

- ➔ Who is American and who is not?
- Only those who could vote were seen as true citizens
 - Voting is a marker and badge of being a citizen

Election of 1824

- Last election of “Era of Good Feelings”
- Four Candidates:
 - Andrew Jackson
 - Henry Clay
 - John Quincy Adams
 - William Crawford
- All Running as Republicans
- Jackson wins popular vote, most electoral votes
- “Corrupt Bargain”
- Party system remade:
 - Whigs and Democrats

Summary

No one won minimum number of electoral votes in the Election of 1824

Jackson had the most electoral votes

Henry Clay gives his votes to Adams which is enough to win the election

Ends the “Era of Good Feelings”

Democratic Party is created by Andrew Jackson in opposition to the “Corrupt Bargain”

Whigs are founded to counter Jackson and identify with factories, railroads, universal white manhood suffrage

1. Federalists vs. Anti-Federalists
 - a. Federalists vs. Democratic-Republicans
2. Democrats vs. Whigs

Adams wins and is sworn in after the House of Representatives votes on the issue (picking Adams)

Democratic Party

- Formed as soon as Adams takes office
- New style of politics, participation by common people against entrenched interests
- Embraced party politics, mass participation
- Individual liberty, states' rights, limited government

Summary

Democratic Party is the “party of the people” and the common man against the elites (Democrats still believe this today)

- ➔ Bernie Sanders against the 1% blah blah blah

Democrats of today do not believe in limited government this flips sometime in American History.

Enter Jackson

- War Hero
- Westerner
- Humble Origins
- Indian Killer
- “Man’s man”
- Champion of the common man
- Suited to the age of universal manhood suffrage

Summary

Treaty of Ghent was signed and ended the War of 1812 but news did not come to the States until much later

Jackson proved himself to be a champion of the common people because he fought in the Battle of New Orleans

Rose to prominence in Tennessee in “new America of the West”

1. Grew up poor
2. Rose in the military
 - a. Was a rags to riches story that would resonate with many poor people

Hated today because of his policies and treatment towards Native Americans

Election of 1828

- Democrats embrace mass, popular style
- Jackson a popular hero, campaigned himself
- Scurrilous, personal attacks
- Adams as pampered aristocrat, corrupt, wife born out of wedlock, pimp to Tsar of Russia
- Jackson as son of prostitute married to “mulatto”, bigamist, murderer

Summary

Adams and Jackson both launched personal attacks against one another to win the election

Adams installed a billiards table in the white house and Jackson used this to attack him

Jackson's mom was called a whore and his dad was a Mulatto

Jackson was a murderer

Jackson Victorious

- Double turnout in 1828
- Strong victory for Jackson, Democrats
- Changing political landscape:
 - Jackson carries South and West
- New age of mass participation, universal manhood suffrage, active campaigning, intense party rivalry institutionalized
- America had entered “Age of Jackson”

Summary

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HIST 200

All states had adopted the removal of land ownership as a requirement to vote which bolstered voter turnout

Jackson wins a clear decisive victory against Adams