

Lecture 10: *Jacksonian Era Part II*

Politics when Andrew Jackson was President after the Election of 1828

Second Party System: Democrats vs. Whigs

- Issues stem from Market Revolution:
 - Banks
 - Tariffs
 - Currency
 - Internal improvements
 - Balance of power
- Battle over ideas about freedom and power
- Whigs:
 - Freedom and power interrelated
 - Government had a role in promoting economy, opportunity, and social order
- Democrats:
 - Strong central government a threat to liberty
 - Morality a private matter
 - Government interference brought social inequality

Summary

Two party rivalry forms

Role of federal government was a contention in these two parties

Freedom and power was discussed in these debates

Whigs identified with the policies of Federalists (taxes and ideas of Republicanism)

Jackson identified with at least in rhetoric identified with Anti-Federalists (individualism and limited federal government, states' rights)

➔ Saw big government as a threat to the individual

Nullification

- Jackson's first term dominated by effort to uphold Federal Law
- 1828:
 - "Tariff of Abominations"
- Calhoun and Slave Power
- Jackson and Force Act
- Sectional Divide

Summary

Rhetoric was for less federal government but in practice after he became president went against these ideas

1828 introduced a Tariff on foreign imported goods and was designed to protect the industries in America

American was more inclined to buy the American manufactured good

Protecting domestic goods from foreign competition

Tariff of Abominations in the South

- ➔ North is industrializing
- ➔ South is committed to slave based agricultural

Tariff favors the north this is made up of factories

South is buying imported goods and hurts them because they have to pay the Tariff

John C. Calhoun among others wanted to get rid of the Tariff

Calhoun wants to put pressure on Jackson to overturn the tariff law

Jackson says no to overturn the tariff

- ➔ Refuses because it is not in the interest of a small-time farmer but overturning would help the rich slave owners instead

Jackson passes the Force Bill which forces states that are not complying to give in to these taxes

Calhoun resigns as Vice President and becomes a Senator in South Carolina who fights for the interests of wealthy southern slave owners

South Carolina becomes first state to resign from the Union during the Civil War

Indian Removal

- Key limits of the “common man” or “age of democracy”
- Pressures for western expansion:
 - Market revolution and cotton kingdom
- Indian Removal Act (1830):
 - “Five Civilized Tribes”, 60,000 Indians, out of Deep South
 - Leads to Trail of Tears
- Repudiates assimilation:
 - Removal over coexistence
- Farmers, slaveholders, governed by constitution, yet to Jackson – “Savages”

Summary

Called for force and expulsion of Native Americans from the south

Many “Five Civilized Tribes” were Christians, owned slaves, spoke English, and were as American as you could get at the time

- ➔ It did not matter in the eyes of Jackson and he did not care and felt they could never be American
 - Race based society as opposed to wealth or religion

Cherokee takes their case to the Supreme Court and they rule that the removal is unconstitutional because they are a sovereign state and Jackson could not force laws on a sovereign state

Cherokee Nations v. Georgia (1831)

Worcester v. Georgia (1832)

Jackson and the Bank War

Re-elected in 1832

- Declares war on “Monster Bank”
- Distrust of “nonproducers” and paper money
- Veto Bank of U.S. and create “pet banks”

- Jackson leaves office in 1836, triumphant
- No central bank, no regulation, wild speculation, massive speculation
- Panic of 1837:
 - Depression, unemployment, bankruptcies, mortgage defaults

Summary

Believes the bank is not in the interest of the common people

Thinks bankers do not “do” anything

Does not believe in paper currency and only in gold and silver standards

Takes money from bank of U.S. and distributes them to local banks known as “pet banks”

Jackson told the banks to loan out to poor common men so they could buy property

Martin Van Buren (Jacksons 2nd Vice President) gets elected in 1836

w/o central bank economy descends into a depression

Panic of 1837 (depression) lasted well into early 1840’s

Immediate and Long-Term Effects of Panic of 1837

- Democrats incur blame, crushes popularity
- Martin Van Who?
- Whigs gain popularity, election gains
- 1840:
 - Log Cabin campaign
 - Whigs nominate William Henry Harrison, seize the new political style
- Long Term:
 - Calls for western expansion as panacea, debate over economic future and the West

Summary

Immediate effects

Martin Van Buren is blamed for Jacksons mistakes and policies regarding the central bank

1840 William Henry Harrison is elected and Whig uses that he was born in a log cabin to drive home that he fought for the common people

Ascendance of Whig Party

Long Term Effects

Western Expansion as Panacea (solution) to cure economic problems faced in the depression