

12 *Chapter 12* **Politics of the People**

Politics of the People

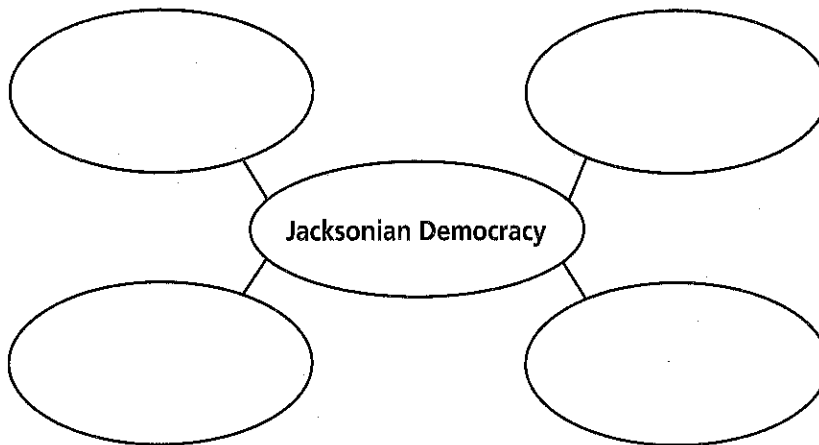
BEFORE YOU READ

In the last chapter, you read about the increase in nationalism and sectionalism in the United States.

In this section, you will learn how Andrew Jackson's election led to a popular democracy.

AS YOU READ

Use this diagram to take notes on ideas and events that described Jacksonian democracy.



TERMS & NAMES

John Quincy Adams Sixth president of the United States

Andrew Jackson Military hero and seventh president

Jacksonian democracy Political philosophy that puts its faith in the common people

spoils system The practice of giving government jobs to political supporters

The Election of 1824 (pages 369–370)

Who wanted to run for president in the 1824 election?

In the 1824 elections, regional differences led to a split in the Republican Party. Four men hoped to replace President Monroe. **John Quincy Adams**, Monroe's secretary of state, was the choice of the New England states. William Crawford of Georgia was the Southern choice. Westerners supported Henry Clay of Kentucky and **Andrew Jackson**, a military hero from Tennessee.

Jackson won the most popular votes. But he did not receive the majority of electoral votes. According to the Constitution, the House of Representatives has to choose the president if no person wins a majority of electoral votes.

Clay had come in fourth and was out of the running. In the House vote, he gave his support to Adams, who won. Because Adams made Henry Clay his secretary of state, Jackson's supporters claimed that Adams made a deal with Clay and stole the election.

1. How did regional differences affect the 1824 election?

Jacksonian Democracy (pages 370–371)

What promise did Jackson make in the 1828 election?

The split between Jackson and Adams grew over the next four years. Jackson believed that he represented the "common people." He believed that Adams represented rich Easterners. This division created another two-party system. The supporters of Jackson became the Democrats. The supporters of Adams became the National Republicans.

The election of 1828 again had Adams running against Jackson. The campaign was a bitter one. Jackson promised to look out for the interests of the

common people and to promote the idea of majority rule. This idea became known as **Jacksonian democracy**.

In the early 1800s, laws were passed that allowed more people to vote. The expansion of voting rights helped Jackson win the election by a *landslide*. His election was looked at as a victory for common people.

2. What two-party system was created with the 1828 election?

The People's President; Jackson Takes Office (pages 371–372)

What happened at Jackson's inauguration?

Andrew Jackson was the first president who was not from a rich Massachusetts or Virginia family. He was the first president from the West. His background and his reputation as a war hero helped make him president.

Shortly after the election, Jackson's wife died. He blamed her death on the bitter campaign. Although Jackson looked worn out and sad at his inauguration, the people at the capital were joyful and excited. People from all kinds of backgrounds came to the

inauguration and to the White House reception. Eventually the crowd at the White House became rowdy and destructive, forcing the president to leave the White House.

3. How was Andrew Jackson's background different from previous presidents?

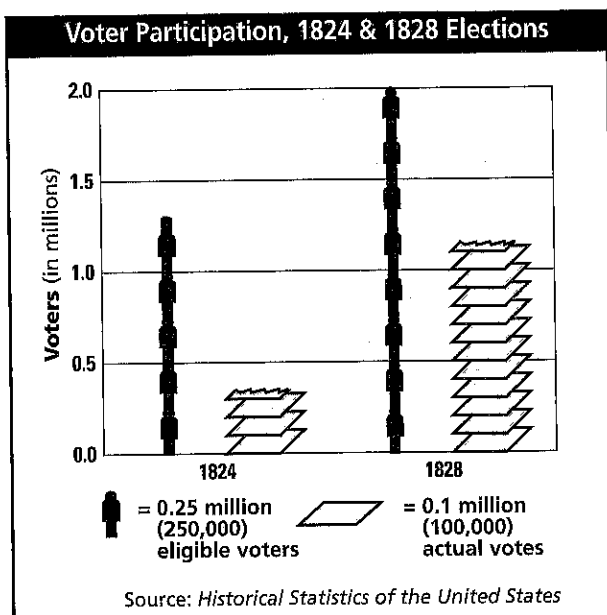
A New Political Era Begins (page 373)

How did Jackson reform the government?

In his campaign, Jackson promised to *reform* the government. He started by giving many government jobs to his supporters. This practice became known as the **spoils system**. The term came from the saying "to the victor brings the spoils [possessions] of the enemy."

Jackson's opponents said the practice was unfair. He replied that it gave new people a chance to get involved in government.

4. What is the spoils system?



Skillbuilder

Use the graph to answer the questions.

1. How many eligible voters were there in 1824? in 1828?

2. How many people actually voted in 1824? in 1828?

Jackson's Policy Toward Native Americans

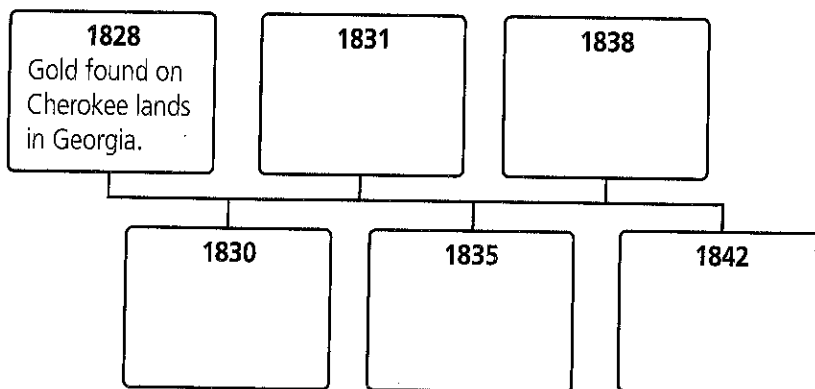
BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you read about Jacksonian democracy.

In this section, you will learn about Jackson's policy toward Native Americans.

AS YOU READ

Use this time line to take notes on the important events that affected Native Americans during the Age of Jackson.



TERMS & NAMES

Sequoya A Cherokee who invented a writing system for the Cherokee Nation

Indian Removal Act Law that required Native Americans to move west

Indian Territory Area that is now Oklahoma and parts of Kansas and Nebraska to which Native Americans were moved

Trail of Tears Route the Cherokees were forced to travel from Georgia to Indian Territory

Osceola Seminole who was an important leader in Second Seminole War

Native Americans in the Southeast; The Cherokee Nation (pages 374–375)

Who were the Native Americans in the Southeast?

Since the 1600s, white settlers had pushed Native Americans westward as they took more and more of their land. Some whites believed that moving Native Americans west was the only way to avoid conflict over land. In the 1820s, many Native Americans still lived east of the Mississippi River. The major tribes included the Cherokee, Chicksaw, Choctaw, Creek, and the Seminole. Whites called these tribes the Five Civilized Tribes because they had adopted many parts of the white culture.

The Cherokees, more than any other Native American people, had adopted white ways of living. They owned farms and cattle ranches. A brilliant Cherokee named **Sequoya** invented a writing system for the Cherokee language. The Cherokees also published their own newspaper. In 1827, the Cherokees drew up a constitution that was based on the U.S. Constitution and founded the Cherokee Nation.

In 1828, gold was found on Cherokee land in Georgia. Soon settlers and miners wanted the land. The federal government responded to white demands by planning to remove all Native Americans from the Southeast.

1. In what ways did the Cherokees adopt white culture?

Jackson's Removal Policy (pages 375–376)

What were Jackson's policies toward Native Americans?

President Jackson strongly supported a policy of moving Native Americans west of the Mississippi River. He believed that the government had the power to tell Native Americans where they could live. He also believed that Native Americans should accept

white culture or be moved to western territories. Jackson did not think that they could have their own governments within the borders of the United States.

After gold was discovered in the Southeast, Southern states passed laws that gave whites the right to take Native American lands. Jackson supported these laws. He asked Congress to pass a law that would force Native Americans to move west or to submit to state laws. Many Americans opposed this kind of law. But after much debate, Congress passed the **Indian Removal Act** in 1830. It said that Native Americans must *relocate* west of the Mississippi River.

2. What was the Indian Removal Act?

The Trail of Tears (pages 376–377)

How did the Supreme Court rule on the Indian Removal Act?

Many Native Americans saw no other choice but to move west to the **Indian Territory**. This was an area that covered what is now Oklahoma and parts of Kansas and Nebraska. Beginning in 1831, the Choctaws and other Southeastern tribes were relocated to Indian Territory.

The Cherokees, however, fought the Indian Removal Act in court. They asked the Supreme Court to protect their land from being *seized* by Georgia. The Supreme Court struck down the Indian Removal Act. It said that the Cherokees were *wards* of the U.S. government. Only the federal government, not the states, could make laws governing the Cherokees. The ruling meant that Georgia laws did not apply to the Cherokee Nation.

Jackson refused to obey the court's ruling. In 1838, federal troops were used to force the Cherokees to move from Georgia to the Indian Territory. A

quarter of the Cherokees died in this journey, known as the **Trail of Tears**.

3. How did President Jackson react to the Supreme Court ruling on the Indian Removal Act?

Native American Resistance (page 378)

How did Native Americans resist moving west?

Not all Cherokees moved west in 1838. An old Cherokee farmer named Tsali and his family fought the soldiers. Tsali and his family fled to the Smoky Mountains in North Carolina, where they found other Cherokees who remained behind. The U.S. army told Tsali that if he and his sons would surrender, the other Cherokees could stay. They surrendered, and the others were able to remain in their homeland.

In 1835, the Seminoles refused to leave Florida. This led to the Second Seminole War. **Osceola** was an important leader in the war. He and his followers defeated the U.S. army in many battles. In 1837, a *truce* was called. However, when Osceola arrived for peace talks, he was captured. He later died in prison. The Seminoles continued to fight until forced to end the war in 1842.

Other tribes also fought relocation to the Indian Territory. In 1832, a Sauk chief named Black Hawk led a band of Sauk and Fox back to lands in Illinois that they had been forced to leave. In the Black Hawk War, the U.S. army crushed the uprising.

4. What was the Second Seminole War?

Chapter **12** Section 3 (pages 379-383)

Conflicts Over States' Rights

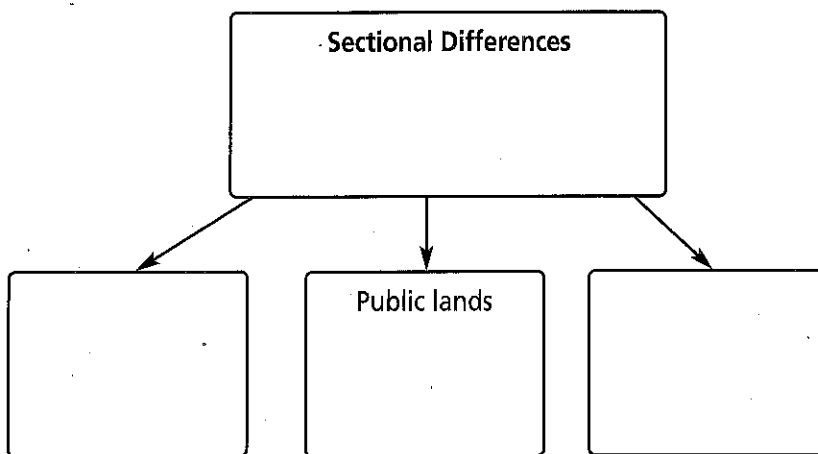
BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you read about President Jackson's policy towards Native Americans.

In this section, you will learn about issues President Jackson faced regarding sectional differences.

AS YOU READ

Use this diagram to take notes on the issues that contributed to sectional differences in the 1800s.



TERMS & NAMES

"Tariff of Abominations" The tariff of 1828

John C. Calhoun Vice-president and congressional leader from South Carolina

doctrine of nullification The belief that states could ignore federal laws that they did not like

Webster-Hayne debate Debate between Senators Daniel Webster and Robert Hayne over nullification

Daniel Webster A Senate leader from Massachusetts

secession Withdrawal from the Union

Rising Sectional Differences

(pages 379-381)

What issues caused sectional differences in the United States?

When President Jackson took office in 1829, conflicts between the Northeast, the South, and the West were pulling the nation apart. Lawmakers from these sections were arguing about three economic issues.

The first was conflict over the large areas of land that the federal government was selling as public lands. Northeasterners did not want the lands in the West to be sold at low prices. They were concerned that the cheap land would attract workers who were needed in the Northeastern factories. Westerners wanted low prices so that more people would settle in the West.

The second conflict was about improvements in transportation. The Northeast and West wanted the

government to spend money on transportation to help transport goods. Southerners opposed this because the money to pay for the improvements would come from *tariffs*, and Southerners did not want an increase in tariffs.

The issue of tariffs was the third sectional conflict. Northerners supported high tariffs because they made imported goods more expensive to buy than American-made goods. Southerners were against higher tariffs. They sold their cotton to foreign buyers in exchange for foreign manufactured goods. Higher tariffs would make these goods more expensive.

1. How did the Northeast, West, and South feel about the government spending money on transportation improvements?

“Tariff of Abominations”; Crisis over Nullification (page 381)

What was the “Tariff of Abominations”?

In 1828, Congress raised the tariff on raw materials and manufactured goods. This tariff outraged Southerners, who called it the **“Tariff of Abominations”**. Southerners had to sell their cotton at low prices to be competitive. But tariffs forced them to pay high prices for the manufactured goods they needed. The tariff issue helped Andrew Jackson win the election in 1828.

South Carolina was especially hit hard by the tariff. Some leaders in the state began talking about leaving the Union over this issue. **John C. Calhoun**, then Jackson’s vice-president, wanted to keep South Carolina from leaving the Union.

Calhoun proposed the **doctrine of nullification**. This said that a state had the right to reject a federal law that it thought was unconstitutional. Calhoun believed that Congress had no right to impose a tariff that favored one section of the country. So he felt that South Carolina had the right to nullify, or reject, the tariff.

2. Why did Calhoun believe that South Carolina had the right to nullify the tariff?

The States’ Rights Debates

(pages 382–383)

What was the Webster-Hayne debate?

Calhoun’s ideas about nullification caused much controversy. Some people supported a strong federal government. Others defended the rights of the states. The Senate debated the issue in the **Webster-Hayne debate** in January 1830. **Daniel Webster**, a senator from Massachusetts, was opposed to the idea of nullification. Robert Hayne, a senator from South Carolina, supported it.

In April 1830, Calhoun and other supporters of nullification tried to use a Democratic party dinner to win support for their position. But at the dinner, President Jackson made it clear that he supported the power of the federal government and was opposed to nullification. From that time, Jackson and Calhoun were political enemies.

3. What was President Jackson’s view of nullification?

South Carolina Threatens to Secede

(page 383)

Why did South Carolina threaten secession?

Although Jackson opposed nullification, he did not want to drive the South away. So he asked Congress to lower the tariff. It did so in 1832. But Southerners still thought the tariff was too high. South Carolina nullified the tariff acts of 1828 and 1832. It also voted to build its own army. South Carolina’s leaders threatened **secession**, or withdrawal from the Union, if the government tried to collect tariffs.

Jackson was angry. He ran for reelection in 1832, without Calhoun as his running mate. Jackson won the election. He then said that he would use force to make sure that federal laws were obeyed and that the Union would stay together. Henry Clay worked out a compromise tariff in 1833. The compromise kept South Carolina in the Union.

4. How was the tariff issue settled?

12

Prosperity and Panic

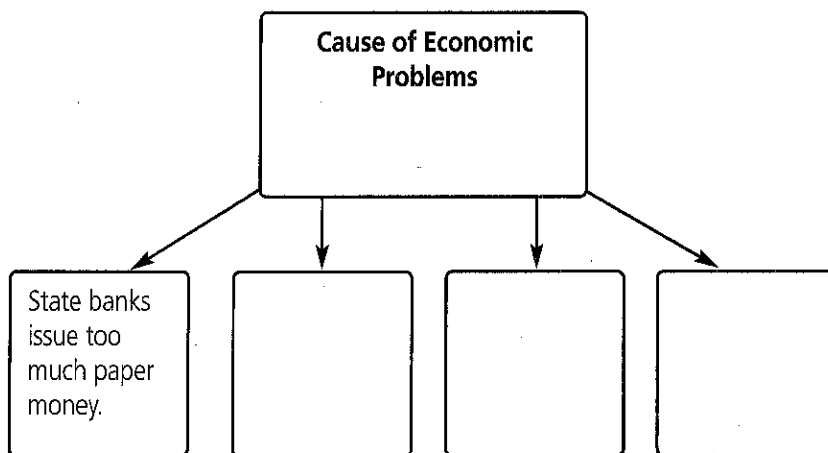
BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you read about the sectional conflicts facing President Jackson.

In this section, you will learn about the economic problems President Jackson faced.

AS YOU READ

Use this diagram to take notes on the causes of economic problems in the United States during the 1830s.



TERMS & NAMES

inflation An increase in prices and a decrease in the value of money

Martin Van Buren Eighth president

Panic of 1837 Widespread concern about the state of the economy in 1837

depression A severe economic slump

Whig Party Party formed by opponents of President Jackson

William Henry Harrison Ninth president

John Tyler Tenth president

Mr. Biddle's Bank (page 384)

What was the Second Bank of the United States?
 The Second Bank of the United States was the most powerful bank in the country. Its president, Nicholas Biddle, set policies that controlled the country's money supply. President Jackson disliked the bank. He thought it had too much power. He felt that the bank's policies favored wealthy people and hurt the average person.

To operate, the bank needed a *charter* from the federal government. Its charter was scheduled to expire in 1836. But Biddle asked Congress to renew it in 1832. That was an election year. Biddle thought that Jackson would agree to the renewal and not risk being defeated. But Jackson took the risk.

1. Why did President Jackson oppose the Second Bank of the United States?

Jackson's War on the Bank (page 385)

How did the Supreme Court rule on the national bank?

Jackson vetoed Congress's renewal of the bank's charter. He said the bank was unconstitutional. The Supreme Court had ruled that the bank was constitutional. But Jackson claimed that elected officials could judge whether a law was constitutional for themselves. They did not have to rely on the Court.

Jackson's opposition to the bank was a major issue in the 1832 election. The people agreed with Jackson. After Jackson won, he set out to destroy the bank. He took federal money out of the national bank and put it in state banks. As a result, the national bank went out of existence.

2. What did Jackson do about Congress's renewal of the national bank charter?

Prosperity Becomes Panic (page 386)

What was the Panic of 1837?

Most of the nation prospered during Jackson's last years in office. But many of the banks that Jackson had put money into during the bank war issued too much paper money. The increase in the supply of money made each dollar worth less. So the prices of goods rose. This resulted in **inflation**, or an increase in prices and a decrease in the value of money.

The nation seemed prosperous when Jackson left office. But it was a false prosperity. Jackson's vice-president, **Martin Van Buren**, won the 1836 presidential election. Shortly after he took office, a *panic* spread over the country. It became known as the **Panic of 1837**.

People took their paper dollars to the banks and wanted them exchanged for gold and silver. But the banks could not pay in gold or silver, and many banks failed. The nation's money system collapsed. A **depression**, or a deep economic slump, set in. Every part of the country suffered. But the depression hit the cities the hardest.

3. How did Jackson's actions cause economic problems during Van Buren's presidency?

The Rise of the Whig Party; The Election of 1840 (pages 386–387)

Who formed the Whig Party?

President Van Buren lost the 1840 election because many people blamed him for the depression. During that election, he faced a new political party, the **Whig Party**. This party originally was formed by Jackson's opponents. It was opposed to a president having too much power. The Whigs thought Jackson had too much power. In fact, they called him "King Andrew."

The Whigs chose **William Henry Harrison** to run for president in 1840. They picked **John Tyler** to run for vice-president.

The Whigs stressed the personality of their candidate and not his stand on issues. They tried to appeal to common people. Because Harrison settled on a farm in Ohio, the Whigs called him a Westerner. Their campaign worked. Harrison won the election. The election showed the importance of the West in American politics.

At his inauguration, Harrison, who was an old man, spoke in cold weather for nearly two hours. He came down with a cold that developed into pneumonia. He died one month after being inaugurated. Tyler became president.

4. Who were the Whig candidates in the 1840 presidential election?



Skillbuilder

Use the political cartoon at the left to answer the question.

How does this political cartoon support the Whigs' position that President Jackson had too much power?

Glossary/After You Read

charter A formal written document from an authority granting rights or privileges

landslide A large majority of votes for the winning side in an election

panic A widespread concern about the state of the economy

relocate To move

reform To make better

seize To take possession of with force

tariff Tax on imports

truce A temporary stop in fighting

ward Person put under the care or protection of someone else

Terms & Names

A. If the statement is true, write "true" on the line. If it is false, change the underlined word or words to make it true.

- _____ 1. The idea of spreading political power to all the people and ensuring majority rule became known as Jacksonian democracy.
- _____ 2. The doctrine of nullification is the practice of giving government jobs to political supporters.
- _____ 3. Sequoya was an important Seminole leader in the Second Seminole War.
- _____ 4. The Webster-Hayne debate was a congressional debate over nullification.
- _____ 5. Depression is an economic term that refers to an increase in prices and decrease in the value of money.

B. Circle the name or term that best completes each sentence.

1. During the 1824 presidential election, the West supported _____.
John Quincy Adams John Calhoun Andrew Jackson
2. President Jackson reformed the government by using the _____ to fill government positions.
spoils system doctrine of nullification Indian Removal Act
3. _____ invented a writing system for the Cherokee nation.
Osceola Sequoya Black Hawk
4. President Jackson supported the _____, which called for the government to negotiate treaties that would require Native Americans to relocate to the West.
Indian Removal Act doctrine of nullification spoils system
5. The Panic of 1837 resulted in the nation's money system collapsing and the country's economy falling into a(n) _____.
inflation secession depression

Main Ideas

1. What was Jacksonian democracy?

2. Why did President Jackson support a policy of moving Native Americans west of the Mississippi River?

3. How were Northern views towards tariffs different from Southern views?

4. Why did South Carolina threaten to secede from the Union in 1832?

5. What did President Jackson do about the national bank?

Thinking Critically

Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Do you think the states should have had the right to nullify laws that they considered unconstitutional? Why?
2. Do you agree with the statement "President Jackson was a people's president"? Why or why not?