Extended Notes:

Unit 2: Building the New Nation

Period 4: 1800-1848

“The American Pageant” Chapter 13

Underlined terms indicate previous vocabulary; **bolded** terms indicate new vocabulary.

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| Chapter 13 | Look here for extras! |
| RECAP:  MO Compromise + Monroe Doctrine = a content America (for now)  The Era of Good Feelings was not as peaceful as the name suggests, however plenty of good came from it. Politics changed dramatically; rather than obscure and apathetic party organizations, a new form of “boisterous democracy, frenzied vitality, and strong political parties” began to emerge.  The last “traditional” presidential election was the Election of 1824. James Monroe had completed his second term, and was set to retire from the presidency. The candidates of the election included Monroe’s Secretary of State and presidential prodigal son John Quincy Adams, champion of American trade and economics Henry Clay, experienced and able Georgia politician William H. Crawford, and the hero of the West, Andrew Jackson. All of these major candidates professed to be Dem-Reps. The results were interesting as none of these candidates won the majority of the electoral vote, meaning the election would be pushed to the House of Representatives.  Henry Clay had the fewest electoral votes and was eliminated, but was also Speaker of the House so he wound up presiding over the whole thing. Around this time, Crawford suffered a stroke and was eliminated from the race in order to improve his health, so in position to hand the win to the candidate of his choice, Clay had an important decision to make. He was not a fan of Jackson, who had split the western vote between himself and Clay. This means that Clay found himself supporting John Quincy Adams. Clay had much in common politically with Adams, and met with Adams personally to pledge his support.  Thanks in part to Clays behind-the-scenes campaigning for Adams, Adams became the sixth president. A few days later, Adams announced that Clay would be his new Secretary of State1. As you can imagine, this all seemed a little sketchy. According to Jackson supporters, Adams had bribed Clay for his support, calling the outcome of the election a **“corrupt bargain”**. The uproar over the whole thing lasted nearly the next four years.  Adams would be the first minority president. He entered the White House with charges of “corruption” hanging over him. By most accounts though, this was far from his typical behavior, as he did not possess the natural personality of a politician, nor the popularity, but did command respect from others through his quiet input to foreign policy and statesmanship. Adams kept in office efficient men instead of clearing the way for his supporters. John Quincy Adams, even as Secretary of State under James Monroe, was a nationalist. However, times were changing, and many had begun turning toward states’ rights and the resurgence of sectionalism. Many of Adams’ proposals seemed like a waste of federal funds, or alienated someone. For example, Adams wanted to curb land speculation further in the West rather than open it up fully to expansionists. He also sought to deal fairly with the Cherokee in GA, whereas the rest of GA had already taken up arms.  The longer lasting impact of the election of 1824 was the beginning of a split within the Dem-Rep party. The so-called National Republicans held on to John Quincy Adams, while the remaining Democratic-Republicans (now Democrats)2 rallied behind Andrew Jackson. The Democrats presented Jackson as a rough frontiersman and champion of the common man, while denouncing Adams as a cold, corrupt New England aristocrat. Most of this was a lie though: Jackson was a wealthy planter from TN, and while “he had been born in a log cabin [he] now lived in a luxurious manor off the labor of his many enslaved workers.”  When it came time for the Election of 1828, the votes were largely split along sectional lines. Jackson had gotten the majority of his votes from the South and West, and Adams from New England. This time, Jackson had managed the majority of the electoral vote, defeating Adams 178 to 83. The political center of the country had shifted, from the east to the west. Jackson was the first president from the west and the first to be nominated at a formal party convention.  “Jackson’s inauguration seemed to symbolize the ascendency of the masses.” Many traveled to view the occasion and visit the White House, which was open to them for the first time. In true Jacksonian fashion though, this led to a kind of “inaugural brawl” with rowdy visitors breaking the china, the furniture, and threatening the new President. This only ended when everyone filed out of the White House to drink from the spiked punch out on the lawn.  Jackson’s presidency was also marked by extreme use of the **spoils system**, which rewarded political supporters with public offices. Criticism came quickly, as many condemned the efforts as open party patronage. However, Washington had not been radically cleaned out since the Election of 1800, even then some cobwebs were left in the corners. Many positions were then bought through campaign contributions, given to “old cronies” and crooks, and not really based on merit.  As president, Jackson inherited Adams’s issue with the tariffs. “Tariffs had protected American industry against competition from European manufactured goods, but they also drove up prices for all Americans”, causing many to question their true usefulness. American industry was actually booming though, domestic wool and textile industries had taken off leading many to think American prosperity “would flow from the factory rather than from the sea.” Tariffs were increased by Congress in 1824, and another tariff passed through Congress in 1828. New England and the rest of the North enjoyed the tariffs as they directly benefitted from them, while the South, as the main domestic consumers of these goods were more hostile toward them. To them, the tariff passed in 1828 was the **Tariff of Abominations**, because of the abnormally high rates.  Many states in the South staged formal protests of the tariff. They, at some level, rightly believed that the “Yankee tariffs” were discriminatory against them. The North was getting rich off their manufacturing, the West was getting rich from land, and the South was just being left behind. They had continued to sell their crops on the world market, just like New England had done with their manufactured goods, but they didn’t receive any protective tariffs. Besides the tariffs, they also felt the government was coming closer and closer to interfering with slavery. The MO Compromise had put the South on edge, even though they had gotten a lot of what they wanted. Slavery was being talked about by the federal government, slavery was being banned in places by the federal government. And not just in the US, Britain was having these same conversations too. Abolitionists in Britain had gotten to the federal government, Southerners feared the same thing in the US.  South Carolina led the way in voicing the discontent of the South. The **“South Carolina Exposition”** called the tariff unjust and unconstitutional, and proposed the actual nullification of the tariff, taking things a step further than the KY and VA Resolutions. As the SC legislature was working on gaining the 2/3 votes it needed to nullify the tariff in their state, Congress passed the tariff of 1832. Though less abominable than the 1828 tariff, it failed to pass southern standards, and marked the beginning of the **Nullification Crisis**. In the state election of that year, the “nullies” emerged successful, and after taking office, called for a special convention of the state legislature. This convention declared some weeks later that the tariff would be null and void within South Carolina, and “threatened to take South Carolina out of the Union if Washington attempted to collect the customs duties by force.”  President Jackson was not the right president to test this policy on. He was not a firm supporter of the tariff, but he was really not a support of disunion. He sent naval units to quietly surrounded the state, while preparing military reinforcements. He then issued a clear warning against nullification to SC, to which they replied with their own warning. Civil war seemed closer than ever, until Henry Clay, now a senator, stepped forward in the name of compromise. Clay, as noted earlier, was not a Jackson fan, but he also didn’t want Jackson to gain further glory by crushing a bitter SC.  Clay threw his support behind the **compromise Tariff of 1833**. The act passed through Congress by a narrow margin. Protectionists in New England and the West argued fiercely against the tariff. Representatives from the South worked in favor of the bill, showing that the use of military support could be avoided. The Congress also managed to pass the **Force Bill**, which authorized the president to use the army and navy, if necessary, to collect tariff duties.3 SC was brought back into line, without the use of force and with the support of Congress. However, the SC legislature made one final stand in nullifying the Force Bill and then adjourning. The Nullification Crisis was over, Henry Clay became a political hero, and armed conflict was avoided.  Besides being committed to the preservation of the union, Jackson and the Democrats were also committed to westward expansion. After a conflict between the Cherokee and the state of GA had gone to the Supreme Court, which had ruled in favor of the Cherokee, Jackson ignored the Court’s ruling in favor of expansion. In a double-faced move, Jackson first said to the Chief Justice, “John Marshall has made his decision, now let him enforce it,” and then to the public said that he felt “some obligation to rescue ‘this much injured race’” and proposed their emigration west. The first proposal stated this would be a voluntary emigration, but eventually morphed into the **Indian Removal Act** in 1830. “Ironically, the heaviest blows [of the Act] fell on the Five Civilized Tribes” who were more respected and on better terms with the federal and state governments. Voluntary emigration soon turned into forced marches to lands west of the MS River, known as the **Trail of Tears**.4  The Bureau of Indian Affairs was established in 1836, and Native Americans were promised new territory where they would be “permanently free of white encroachments.” This, along with many other promises, was not upheld. War-like resistance was met with above equal force. The **Black Hawk War** was easily put down by US regular troops, and an almost ten-year conflict between the Seminoles of FL and the US eventually ended in their forced removal.  Jackson then turned his attentions to the banking system.5 Banks, including the powerful Bank of the United States, were all private institutions. Banks issued paper notes on their own while the federal government minted coins. The National Bank held a lot of power on its own: its paper notes were the most stable, it was where the federal government deposited money, controlled much of the nation’s funding, and essentially oversaw the nation’s economy. However, many had begun to argue the Bank had overstayed its constitutional welcome as it continued to become more powerful.  In 1832, Daniel Webster and Henry Clay asked Congress to renew the Bank’s charter, even though it was not set to expire until 1836. Bringing up the issue four years early made it an election issue, and since Clay was running for president it would be in his best interest to force Jackson’s hand on the Bank issue. If Congress passed the bill, Jackson would either sign it, alienating many of his Western followers, or veto it and alienate the wealthy elite who had invested in the Bank. The bill passed through Congress, and as Clay had guessed, was vetoed by Jackson, who ignored another Supreme Court decision by declaring the bank unconstitutional. This had been one of the first presidential vetoes that rested on presidential power alone, not a question of constitutionality. Jackson, through this veto, had “essentially argued that he was vetoing the bill because he personally found it harmful to the nation.” This not only expanded the power of the president, but had great political appeal—something Clay had not banked on.6  The Election of 1832 proved a raucous affair. Jackson was running for a second term with Clay as his main rival, and the bank issue looming overhead. A third party also bloomed in the wake of trouble in NY, the **Anti-Masonic party**. This marked the first election where all parties involved held formal nominating conventions, and two of them adopted formal platforms to publicize their stance on important issues. Jackson was still a hero of the people, and defeated Clay with 219 electoral votes to Clay’s 49.  After his re-election and winning the **Bank War**, Jackson decided that letting the Bank’s charter expire was not enough. In 1833, he began using the government money in the Bank for day-to-day expenses, and refused to deposit more. Jackson was literally withdrawing federal support of the Bank, even though this idea was not supported by his cabinet. The bank, hoping to produce a minor financial crisis, began calling in its loans. This did cause a few banks to go under, however the way the Bank had chosen to conduct itself during this time caused many more to come to Jackson’s side on the issue.  With the Bank on its last legs, leftover federal funds were placed in a series of **pet banks** within the states. These pet banks and the more troubling **wildcat banks** flooded the country with paper notes that were largely unreliable. Jackson and the Treasury then issued a **Specie Circular** in 1836, which declared all public lands had to be bought with metallic money. This brought a quick end to land speculation in the West, slowing the pace of expansion.  Jackson retired in 1836, with his party now being known as the Democrats. His opposition and just about everyone else funneled into the highly diverse Whig party7. The Whigs supported active government programs and reforms, though they thought of themselves as conservative. They supported internal transportation improvements and Clay’s American System, and social institutions like schools. The Whigs were not the wealthy aristocrats that the Democrats wanted to portray them as, instead, “the Whigs claimed to be the defenders of the common man and declared the Democrats the party of cronyism and corruption.” In the Election of 1836, the Whigs proved more unorganized than they let on, failing to nominate just one candidate in favor of splitting the vote so much that the election would have to move to the House where they stood a more reasonable chance. This plan failed, with Jackson’s successor Martin Van Buren winning easily.  Even though he had been picked by Jackson, and nominated by the Democratic party, Van Buren faced a lot of scorn as he stepped into the presidency. He was resented by many Democrats as he was no Jackson—Van Buren was short, bald, and mild-mannered, clearly Jackson’s opposite. Van Buren also had to take on the former president’s many enemies and policies. Van Buren was tested numerous times on border disputes, with Canada and Britain, and then later with Texas and Spain. The true fallout of the closure of the National Bank finally hit the US during Van Buren’s administration as well.  The **Panic of 1837** was the culmination of still-rampant speculation over numerous goods, this time through wildcat banks, the Specie Circular, and the fall of the National Bank. It was exacerbated by wheat crop failures, and bank failures in Europe who called in loans from America. Hundreds of banks collapsed in the US, including a number of pet banks who took millions of federal funds with them. Land sales dropped, factories closed, unemployment rose. The Whigs advocated called for active strategies to remedy the situation, while Van Buren chose the “Divorce Bill.” This bill, also known as the Independent Treasury Bill, would separate the government (and its money) from the banking system, applying the Jacksonian principle of keeping the government uninvolved in the economy. The bill passed Congress in 1840, but struggle to survive a series of repeals and reenactments throughout the decade.  One of the obscure turns westward expansion took during this time concerned Texas. Mexico won its independence in 1821, and promptly made arrangements in 1823 for the further settlement of its northern parts by making a deal with Stephen Austin. It was agreed that Austin would bring Roman Catholic families to the area who would then become Mexican citizens. Austin, and the Americans who settled in Texas, largely ignored these stipulations. Most of them remained staunchly loyal to the American government, unless they happened to be running from it. Conflict started to build between the Texas settlers and the Mexican government over local rights, slavery, and immigration. After these conflicts boiled over in 1835, Mexican dictator Santa Anna began building an army against TX while Texans declared their independence and put Sam Houston in charge.  The Mexicans won victories at the **Alamo** and **Goliad**, but in doing so supercharged the Lone Star cause. Houston’s army won a decisive victory at **San Jacinto**8, and forced Santa Anna into peace terms which included the removal of his army and the establishment of the TX border at the Rio Grande. Meanwhile, Mexico actively reminded the US of its neutrality policies. The federal government did…not step in the way of the American public supporting their Texas brethren. Jackson even extended recognition to the area before he left office. TX wanted more than just recognition from the US, they wanted to be a part of the US, and petitioned for **annexation**.  But then the Election of 1840 happened. The Whigs rallied behind one candidate, William Henry Harrison, who could carry the votes Clay and Webster couldn’t. “Tippecanoe and Tyler too” were issueless and enemy-less candidates who appealed to the masses as opposed to Van Buren’s lack of personal popularity from the get-go. While the popular vote was close, the electoral vote wasn’t, and Harrison won the election. While it could be chalked up to good marketing on the part of the Whigs with their “Log cabin and hard cider” campaign for Harrison, more votes rested in the economy; “Whigs sought to expand and stimulate the economy, while Democrats favored retrenchment.” The election proved two things; democratic politics was the way things worked—the people were who politicians had to appeal to and count on, and America political parties weren’t going anywhere—the country officially had a two-party system. | GOOD NEWS: Not a lot of vocab going on here.  BAD NEWS: We’re about to run through almost four presidents, so hang on.  **“Corrupt bargain” (1824):** alleged deal between Adams and Clay that would decided the election in Adams’ favor and in return Adams would make Clay Secretary of State.  1. Secretary of State was, and still is, one of the highest regarded positions within the executive departments. Back in the day, if you were Secretary of State, you were well on your way to becoming president.  2. Your political parties are now the National Republicans, and the Democrats.  **Spoils System:** policy of rewarding political supporters with public office; first widely employed at the federal level by Jackson, this policy was abused by office seekers, but helped cement party loyalty in the emerging two-party system.  **Tariff of Abominations (1828):** noteworthy for is unprecedentedly high duties on imports, vehemently opposed by Southerners who argued it hurt Southern farmers—who did not enjoy the protection of such tariffs but were forced to pay higher prices for manufactures.  **South Carolina Exposition:** document published without SC questioning the constitutionality of the Tariff of Abominations and calling for its nullification; written by then VP John C. Calhoun.  **Nullification Crisis (1832-1833):** showdown between Jackson and the SC legislature who had declared the 1832 tariff void in the state and threatened secession if the federal government tried to collect duties.  WHY THIS IS A BIG DEAL:  SC is directly challenging presidential and congressional authority and doing the Supreme Court’s job in deciding constitutionality, challenging all three branches of government at once.  **Compromise Tariff of 1833:** passed as a measure to resolve the Nullification Crisis, it provided that tariffs be lowered gradually over time to 1816 levels.  **Force Bill:** passed alongside the compromise tariff and authorized the president to use the military to collect federal tariff duties.  3. This was a safety net in case another state tried to do this again. The president could, within his authority, use the military as Jackson had threatened to do with SC.  **Indian Removal Act (1830):** ordered the removal of tribes still residing east of the MS River to newly established “Indian Territory” west of AR and MO; resistant tribes were forcibly removed by military forces.  **Trail of Tears (1838-1839):** forced march of 15K Cherokee from GA and AL to Indian Territory.  4. There are huge problems with the book’s definition, as this involved more than the Cherokee (yes, they were the first and most attacked) and lasted until about 1850 (officially).  **Black Hawk War (1832):** series of clashes in IL and Wi between American forces and Chief Black Hawk of the Sauk and Fox tribes, who unsuccessfully tried to reclaim territory lost under the Indian Removal Act.  5. He loving called the Bank “that monster in Philadelphia.”  6. I’m sorry, I had to.  **Anti-Masonic party:** political party which gained considerable influence in New England during the 1832 election, campaigning against the political influential Masonic order, a secret society.  **Bank War (1832):** battle between Jackson and the congressional supporters of the National Bank over the Bank’s renewal; Jackson’s veto argued the Bank favored moneyed interests at the expense of western farmers.  **Pet banks:** popular term for pro-Jackson state banks that received the bulk of federal deposits during the dismantling of the National Bank.  **Specie Circular (1836):** US Treasury decree requiring all public lands to be purchased with “hard” or metallic currency; issued after state banks flooded the market with unreliable paper currency, fueling land speculation in the west.  7. It’s the 1830s and your political parties are now the Democrats and the Whigs.  **Panic of 1837:** economic crisis triggered by bank failures, elevated grain prices, and Jackson’s efforts to curb over-speculation and transportation improvements  THINGS THAT CAUSED THE PANIC OF 1837:   * Land speculation in the West * Speculation over slaves, roads, and canals * Wildcat banks—temporary banks that gave out paper money with no backing * Extensive wheat crop failures * Banking instability in Britain whose banks then began to call in loans owed by the US   **Alamo:** fortress in TX where 200 American volunteers were slain by Santa Anna’s forces in 1836.  **Goliad:** TX outpost where American volunteers were massacred after surrendering to Mexican forces in 1836; this along with events at the Alamo fueled American support for TX independence.  **Battle of San Jacinto (1836):** resulted in the capture of Santa Anna, who was forced to withdraw his forces from TX and recognize the Rio Grande as TX’s southwestern border.  8. Now known as Houston.  **Annexation:** the forcible acquisition of one state’s territory by another.  PRESIDENTS IN THIS CHAPTER:  6. John Quincy Adams (if you blinked you missed him)  7. Andrew Jackson  8. Martin Van Buren  9. William Henry Harrison (technically, I guess; we didn’t talk about his…time in office) |