Key Concept 4.1   The United States began to develop a modern democracy and celebrated a new national culture, while Americans sought to define the nation’s democratic ideals and change their society and institutions to match them.
THE RISE OF MASS DEMOCRACY: (1824-1840)

**de Tocqueville:**
*Democracy in America*

French sociologist and political theorist de Tocqueville traveled to the US in 1831 to study its prisons and returned with a wealth of broader observations that he codified in “Democracy in America,” one of the most influential books of the 19th century. *With its incisive observations on equality and individualism, his work remains a valuable explanation of America to Europeans and of Americans to themselves.*

Tocqueville believed that **equality was the great political and social idea of his era**, and the United States offered the most advanced example of it in action. He admired American individualism. He was impressed by much of what he saw in American life, admiring the stability of its economy and wondering at the popularity of its churches. He also noted the irony of the freedom-loving nation’s mistreatment of Native Americans and its embrace of slavery.
The Rise of Mass Democracy: (1824-1840)

The Election of 1824
Four Dem-Rep candidates

― "The Corrupt Bargain"
No candidate wins a majority Electoral vote
House of Rep to decide race: candidate and Speaker of House Clay throws support behind JQ Adams
AJack loses, though he received the most popular and electoral votes

1824 election

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Presidential Candidate</th>
<th>Vice Presidential Candidate</th>
<th>Political Party</th>
<th>Popular Vote</th>
<th>Electoral Vote</th>
<th>House Vote</th>
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<td>John Quincy Adams</td>
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<td>Nathan Sanford</td>
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THE RISE OF MASS DEMOCRACY: (1824-1840)
A New Two Party System

National Republicans (Whigs)

JQA last of aristocratic Pres generation

Supported Nationalism:
..when political tide turning toward sectionalism and states’ rights

Eastern political, social, economic elite

Dem-Reps (Democrats)

Andrew Jackson
(1767-1845)

War of 1812 hero: “The General”
“Indian Fighter” exceeds military orders chasing out Seminole Ind and Spanish presence from Florida (1818)
Self-made, uneducated, war hero persona appealed to growing political influence of “common man:” westerners and southerners.

Pres John Quincy Adams
(1825-1833)

Secretary of State Henry Clay

John C. Calhoun
S. Carolina Senator

states’ rights
THE RISE OF MASS DEMOCRACY: (1824-1840)
“The Age of Jackson” (1829-1837)

1824 Rematch: JQ Adams v. AJacks

1828 Election
Jackson's inauguration, March 1829, seemed to many the embodiment of "MOB RULE" by uneducated ruffians. Jackson rode to the White House followed by a swarm of well-wishers who were invited in. Muddy hob-nailed boots trod over new carpets, glassware and crockery were smashed, and chaos generally reigned. After a time, Jackson ordered the punch bowls moved outside to the White House lawn, and the crowd followed. Naturally, Jackson's critics were quick to point to the party as the beginning of the "reign of King Mob."

ushistory.org
"The Age of Jackson" (1829-1837)
Anti Establishment

"Spoils System"  Pol party building: rewarding supporters with govt favors and jobs; turnover of federal bureaucracy

Development of political party machines; local pol party leaders who deliver the votes for party’s candidates

"Kitchen Cabinet"  Circumvents official cabinet for advice from DC friends and supporters

Strong personality; anti-political enemies
A growing focus-expanding power of the presidency
“The Age of Jackson” (1829-1837)

“TARIFF OF ABOMINATIONS”

Tariff of 1828

...even higher tariffs passed by Congress to protect northern textile industry

South hostile to tariffs; limited southern manufacturing; drove up prices of manufactured goods

European nations raised tariffs against Am agricultural goods; everyone prospering BUT the old South.
“The Age of Jackson” (1829-1837)

“TARIFF OF ABOMINATIONS”

‘member this?
(1798) Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions
Do/should the states have the right to void federal laws?

The South Carolina Exposition

Argues “compact theory:” the states created the federal government

“I never use the word ‘nation’ in speaking of the United States. I always use the word ‘union’ or ‘confederacy.’ We are not a nation, but a union, a confederacy of equal and sovereign states.” (1832)
“The Age of Jackson” (1829-1837)

“NULLIFICATION CRISIS”

S Carolina legislature declares tariffs void; threatens secession.

AJacks not a fan of tariff…but not dis-union either.

AJacks issues a lot of threats, and raises an invading army

Clay supports compromise Tariff of 1833, reducing duties;

At same time Congress passes Force Bill, authorizing AJacks to use military support

“Our federal Union: It must be preserved.”
Jackson’s dinner toast (1830)

“To the Union, next to our liberty, most dear.”
Calhoun’s counter toast

Crisis avoided, for now
Cherokee abandon nomadic life; adopt written constitution, schools, legal code, cotton farming and slaves

Georgia, to gain land rights, voids Cherokee Const and asserts its state’s jurisdiction

With legal support, case taken to S Court

Worcester v. Georgia (1832)

Georgia exceeded it authority; **ONLY federal govt** serves as agents of Am Inds.
“The Age of Jackson” (1829-1837)

AMERICAN INDIANS

**Indian Removal Act (1830)**

Cherokee abandon nomadic life; adopt written constitution, schools, legal code, cotton farming and slaves

**“Trail of Tears”**

Cherokee abandon nomadic life; adopt written constitution, schools, legal code, cotton farming and slaves

**Andrew Jackson**

**President**

“John Marshall made his decision, now let him enforce it.”

**Black Hawk War (1832)**

Determined to resist the growing presence of Anglo settlers on traditional tribal lands in Illinois, the Sauk warrior Black Hawk is drawn into war with the United States.

[Link to Black Hawk War]
CHP 13 The Rise of Mass Democracy and the Age of Jackson
“The Age of Jackson” (1829-1837)

BANK WAR

“The Monster Bank”
To AJacks, westerners, southerners, Bank represents the elitist, wealthy power back East

Recharter of the National Bank
As Clay prepares for presidential bid, nationalists to recharter bank early for political gain

AJacks’ VETO
AJacks has no real issue with bank, until he learns of plot
AJacks’ veto sustained; and reelected.

“The bank is trying to kill me, but I shall kill it.”

1832 Election

Andrew Jackson
President

US Senator Henry Clay

US Senator Daniel Webster
“The Age of Jackson” (1829-1837)

BANK WAR

Before leaving office, AJacks tells/fires/tells/fires…Secretary of Treasury to move federal deposits into state “pet (pro-Jackson) banks.”

Creating “wildcat” banks – flooding country with worthless paper money

Creating booms and busts

Specie Circular:

An order to Treas Dept – public lands must be purchased with hard money…

Slamming brakes on land speculation

The Panic and Crash of 1837…leaving a mess for his successor: 

Election of 1836

Martin Van Buren
President (1837-1841)
LEGACY: What is “Jacksonian Democracy?”

? Era of the Common Man
The entrenched ruling class ousted with expansion of newly enfranchised voters
The democratic West v. aristocratic East?

? Social Class Warfare
Uneducated masses and corrupt spoils system v. wealthy East?
AJacks earned support of farmers and growing urban factory laborers
Subsistence farmers and urban factory laborers fighting the economic changes of market system