

Chapter 13: The Rise of a Mass Democracy

Big Picture Themes:

1. Andrew Jackson felt he'd been robbed the presidency in 1824. This motivated the regular folks to political action. He vowed to win for the people's sake, and did so.
2. A conflict started to brew between the north and the south. The issue was the tariff (import tax) and whether the south had the right to "nullify" or wipe it out. The trouble was worked out, but it foreshadowed bigger trouble to come, over slavery.
3. Jackson distrusted banks—he thought they were tools for the rich to milk money off the poor. He killed the National Bank and threw the whole banking system into chaos.
4. By the time William Henry Harrison ran for president in 1840, popular, mass politics had grown into the circus-like monster that it's known as today.

“Need to Know”

1. Corrupt Bargain of 1824
2. Election of 1828
3. spoils system
4. “Tariff of Abominations
5. “nullies”
6. Trail of Tears
7. Bank War
8. Nicolas Biddle
9. “Biddle’s Panic”
10. Specie Circular
11. Whig Party
12. Alamo
13. General Sam Houston
14. two party system
15. Force Bill
16. South Carolina Exposition and Protest

Reading Questions:

The "Corrupt Bargain" or 1824

1. What was unusual about John Quincy Adams's victory in the presidential election of 1824?

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A Yankee Misfit in the White House

2. Was John Quincy Adams well suited to be president? Explain.

Going "Whole Hog" for Jackson in 1828

3. Describe the tone and tactics used in the 1828 election.

"Old Hickory" as President

4. What was there about Andrew Jackson which made him a man of the people?

The Spoils System

5. Defend Andrew Jackson's use of the Spoils System.

The Tricky "Tariff of Abominations"

6. What circumstances led to the passage of the Tariff of Abominations?

"Nullies" in South Carolina

7. Describe the nullification crisis.

The Trail of Tears

8. What was particularly unfair about the treatment of the Cherokee Tribe?

The Bank War

9. Do you agree or disagree with Nicholas Biddle's nickname, "Czar Nicholas I?" Explain.

"Old Hickory" Wallops Clay in 1832

10. What two things were unique about the election of 1832?

Burying Biddle's Bank

11. "Andrew Jackson's killing of the BUS forced him to issue the Specie Circular." Assess.

The Birth of the Whigs

12. What is so alluring about being associated with "the common man?"

The Election of 1836

13. Describe the development of the second party system from 1828-1836.

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Big Woes for the "Little Magician"

14. Why was Martin Van Buren unpopular?

Depression Doldrums and the Independent Treasury

15. What caused the Panic of 1837, and what was done by the president to try and end it?

Gone to Texas

16. What made Texas so appealing to Americans?

The Lone Star Rebellion

17. How did Texas, a part of Mexico settled by Americans, become independent of both?

The Log Cabins and Hard Cider of 1840

18. What does the election of 1840 tell you about politics and voters in America at that time?

The Two-Party System

19. Who were the Democrats and what did they believe? The Whigs?