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Chapter 11 Section 1

THE JACKSONIAN DEMOCRACY

Elections of 1824 and 1828

- From 1816 to 1824, there was only one political party-the Jeffersonian Republicans or the Republican Party.
- Monroe declined to run for a 3rd term and 4 candidates competed for the presidency.
- Each candidate had differing views for the role of the federal government.
- Crawford was nominated by the party then the others were favorite sons-Andrew Jackson, Henry Clay, and John Q. Adams.

Striking a Bargain

- Jackson received the larger number of popular votes but no one received the majority of the electoral votes.
- Because of this, the House of Representatives choose the president.
- The House was preparing to vote and Henry Clay struck a deal with John Quincy Adams.
- Adams won the presidency and named Clay his Secretary of State.

The Adams Presidency

- Jackson supporters accused Adams and Clay of making a “corrupt bargain” but Adams denied it. There was no evidence of the deal so nothing happened.
- The “corrupt bargain” cast a shadow on his presidency but he wanted to leave his mark.
- Adams proposed an ambitious program to improve roads and waterways and spend government money on a national university, observatories, and to support research.
- Congress granted money to the roads and waterways.



The Election of 1828

- In 1828, the Republican party divided into the Democratic Republicans who supported Jackson and National Republicans who supported Adams.
- The Democrats supported the states while the Republicans wanted a strong central government.
- The election resorted to mudslinging from both parties.
- Election slogans, rallies, buttons, and events also were used to stir up enthusiasm.



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- In the election of 1828, Jackson received most of the votes from the frontier states and the South.
- John C. Calhoun ran as Jackson's vice president and was a big supporter of states rights.
- Jackson won the election in a landslide victory.



Jackson as President

- Andrew Jackson was everything Americans admired-war hero, self-made man, and a patriot.
- People from all over the country came to hear Jackson and to get the chance to shake his hand.
- His men called him “Old Hickory” during the War of 1812 because they said he was as tough as a hickory stick.
- People loved that he came from a log cabin to the White House.



New Voters

- President Jackson promised “equal protection and equal benefits” for all Americans.
- A spirit of equality spread throughout American politics.
- More people were able to vote except the Native Americans, slaves, and women.

The Spoils System

- Democrats wanted to open up the federal government jobs to people from all walks of life.
- Jackson fired many workers and replaced them with his supporters.
- The workers protested and said that he was acting like a tyrant, but Jackson argued that new employees would be good for democracy.
- “To the victors belong the spoils.”



Electoral Changes

- Jackson supporters abandoned the unpopular caucus system and were replaced by nominating conventions.
- This allowed more people to participate in the selection of candidates.



The Tariff Debate

- The high tariff that was placed on European manufactured goods pleased Northeastern factory owners.
- This made European goods more expensive than American goods.
- Southerners hated the tariff because it meant higher prices.
- John C. Calhoun argued that a state had the right to nullify a federal law if it was considered to be against state interests.
- He said, because the states created the federal government, the states have the final authority.



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- Daniel Webster disagreed and said that nullification would destroy the Union.
- Nobody knew Jackson's views but he spoke directly to Calhoun and said "Our federal union...must be preserved!"
- Calhoun said the Union must take 2nd place to a state's liberty to overrule the Constitution if its interests were threatened.

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- In 1832, Congress enacted a lower tariff but it did not satisfy South Carolina.
- SC passed the Nullification Act which said it would not pay the illegal tariffs and the state threatened to secede from the Union if the US federal government interfered.
- Jackson tried to ease the situation by passing a bill that would gradually lower the tariff but also had Congress pass the Force bill, which allowed him to use military to enforce acts of Congress.
- South Carolina accepted the new tariff but nullified the Force Bill.