

# CHAPTER 13

# The Age of Jackson 1824–1842

▶ OSCEOLA, SEMINOLE LEADER



## SETTING THE SCENE

### Focus

By the early 1820s, most of the leaders of the American Revolution had died or lay near death. A new generation of leaders stepped forward to take their place. Many Americans demanded that these leaders guide the nation toward greater democracy. Andrew Jackson heeded their call. In 1828 voters sent Jackson to the White House. This rough-and-tumble President from the frontier breathed a new spirit of equality into American politics.

### Concepts to Understand

- ★ How American democracy expanded during the early 1800s
- ★ What federal actions brought **conflict and cooperation** among Americans in the North, South, and West

### Read to Discover . . .

- ★ the groups that gained or lost rights in the 1820s.
- ★ the new political practices that emerged in the Jackson era.

## Journal Notes

Imagine that you are a newspaper reporter assigned to cover Andrew Jackson. Keep a record of your thoughts about this strong-minded President.

### United States

1824 John Q. Adams chosen President by House of Representatives

1828 Andrew Jackson elected President

1832 Jackson challenges the Bank of the United States

### 1820–1824

### 1825–1829

### 1830–1834

### World

1821 Greece begins war of independence

1825 First public railroad opens in Britain

1830 Revolutions occur in France, Belgium, and Poland

## SECTION 1

# The People's President

### SETTING THE SCENE

#### Read to Learn . . .

- ★ why some Americans wanted a greater voice in government.
- ★ how the election of 1824 divided Americans.
- ★ why the election of 1828 marked a turning point in politics.

#### Terms to Know

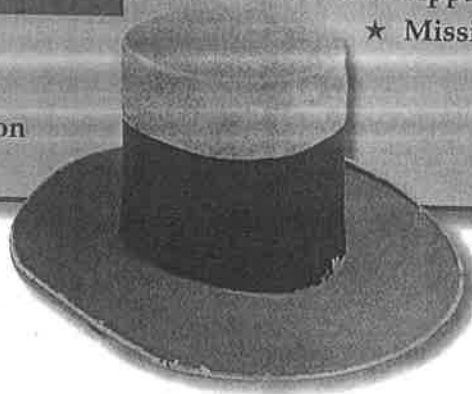
- ★ suffrage
- ★ caucus
- ★ nominating convention

#### People to Meet

- ★ Henry Clay
- ★ Andrew Jackson
- ★ John Quincy Adams
- ★ William Crawford

#### Places to Locate

- ★ Appalachian Mountains
- ★ Mississippi River



◀ JACKSON'S WHITE BEAVER HAT

On the evening of July 3, 1826, a small group of people stood quietly in a darkened bedroom at Monticello, a home in Virginia. They watched as 83-year-old Thomas Jefferson struggled to breathe. Another group gathered in a darkened bedroom of a house in Quincy, Massachusetts. This group stayed near the bed of 91-year-old John Adams.

In the early dawn hours, Jefferson asked weakly if it was July 4. His friends assured him it was. "Just as I wished," murmured Jefferson. A few hours later, on the 50th anniversary of the approval of the Declaration of Independence, Jefferson died. John Adams followed several hours later.

The deaths of these two giants from the American Revolution left people stunned. Clearly, Americans stood on the threshold of a new era. They looked around for leaders to guide the nation on its journey toward greater democracy.

### ★ Broadening Political Power

The Declaration of Independence held out a great promise. "All men are created equal," declared the document. In fact, however, only a select group of people—white male property owners—made decisions about government.

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## New Voices From the West

As new states entered the Union, the rules of leadership began to change. Settlers who carved out states in lands between the **Appalachian Mountains** and the **Mississippi River** judged leaders by new standards. Westerners respected self-made leaders—people who succeeded on their own rather than on inherited wealth or family name. The hardships of frontier life had taught people the value of cooperation and hard work.

When new Western states wrote constitutions, they gave **suffrage**, or the right to vote, to all white men. States in the East soon followed the example of the West. One by one, they eliminated voting restrictions based on property, payment of taxes, or religion. By the 1830s, the number of qualified voters in the United States had skyrocketed.

## Limits on the Vote

While large numbers of free white men won the right to vote, many free African American men lost it. Most northern states had allowed them to vote early in the 1800s. However, these states took the vote away or restricted it during the 1820s and 1830s.

Other groups in the United States also had no voice in politics. Women, Native Americans, and enslaved African Americans were still denied the right to vote.

## An End to "King Caucus"

The white men who did win the right to vote in the 1820s and 1830s made sure leaders heard their voices. In addition to voting at the polls, they wanted a say in choosing who would run for President.

Under the political practices of the time, a handful of party officials gathered in private meetings to nominate people for office. Such a closed political meeting is called a **caucus**. Because only party

leaders took part in nominating caucuses, people called this method of choosing candidates "King Caucus." Critics said the process limited democracy. People demanded an end to "King Caucus."

In the 1830s, party officials bowed to public pressure. They began to hold **nominating conventions** instead of party caucuses. At the nominating conventions, delegates from each state cast their votes for political candidates.

Expansion of the vote and the death of "King Caucus" created an air of excitement. More and more people felt the drama of politics. As a result, voter turnout increased sharply. In the presidential election of 1824, fewer than 27 percent of qualified voters took part. By 1840, voter turnout was more than 80 percent. By contrast, voter turnout has been less than 60 percent in recent present-day presidential elections.

## ★ The Disputed Election of 1824

In 1824 Western voters saw a chance to elect one of their own "favorite sons," or regional candidates, to office. That year, two Westerners competed for the presidency—**Henry Clay** of Kentucky and **Andrew Jackson** of Tennessee. An Easterner—**John Quincy Adams** of Massachusetts—and a Southerner—**William Crawford** of Georgia—also ran. All candidates ran as Democratic-Republicans, the only political party at that time.

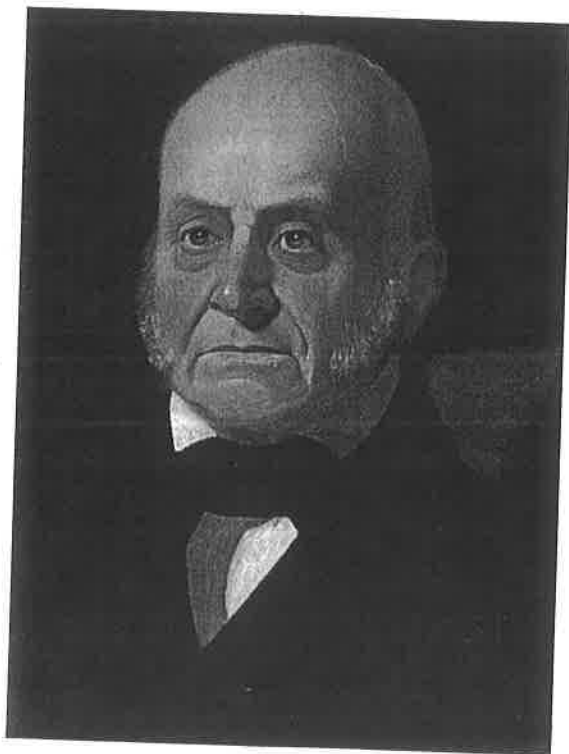
## The Candidates

John Quincy Adams, the son of President John Adams, had spent his life studying national politics. As former secretary of state under President Monroe, he had also learned much about foreign affairs. Adams, however, was not well liked. Many people found him cold.

Henry Clay, on the other hand, won people over almost immediately with his quick wit and charm. These traits had helped Clay earn respect for his skill at compromise in the House of Representatives. His ability to negotiate deals had led Clay to become speaker of the House.

Like Clay, William Crawford enjoyed national fame as a longtime member of Congress. People knew him best as President Monroe's secretary of the treasury.

The fourth candidate, Andrew Jackson, captured popular attention as the hero of the Battle of New Orleans. Even more important, people saw him as the symbol of a self-made man of the Western frontier. Although Jackson owned land and held enslaved persons, he constantly reminded people of his humble origins. Many ordinary Americans looking to expand democracy saw Jackson as very much like themselves.



**Picturing  
History**

▲ **JOHN QUINCY ADAMS** Without a majority of the popular vote, John Quincy Adams won the presidential election of 1824.

**Who received the majority of the popular vote in the election of 1824?**

## The "Corrupt Bargain"

In the election of 1824, Jackson won far more popular votes than any of the other candidates. Neither Jackson nor any other candidate, however, won a majority of the electoral votes. For the second time in United States history, the House of Representatives would choose the President. Henry Clay received the fewest electoral votes and so was out of the race. Ill health forced Crawford to withdraw. By the time the vote was to begin, the House had only two candidates to choose from—Adams and Jackson.

People waited in suspense as the House began voting. As speaker of the House, Henry Clay was in a position to influence the final count. At Clay's urging, most of his supporters threw their votes to Adams. Clay's action gave Adams enough votes to win the presidency. A short time later Adams named Clay his secretary of state.

Enraged supporters of Jackson charged Adams and Clay with reaching a "corrupt bargain." "[Clay] shines and stinks like a rotten mackerel by moonlight," declared John Randolph of Virginia.

## ★ New Political Parties

Following the 1824 election, the old Democratic-Republican party began to split apart. People who supported Adams and Clay called themselves National Republicans. The National Republicans included Eastern business owners, Southern planters, and former Federalists. Supporters of Jackson were determined that Adams should not succeed. They branded the National Republicans enemies of the common people. They then formed a new version of the Democratic-Republican party to challenge them. The name would later be shortened to Democratic party. Today's Democratic party traces its roots to the time of Jackson.

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## The Election of 1828

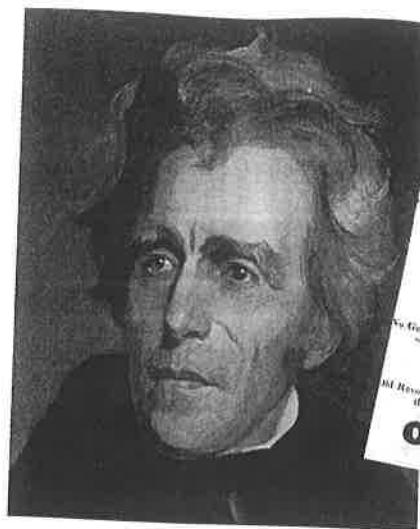
A new face of politics showed itself in 1828. No longer did people choose among heroes of the American Revolution. They now watched as Adams and Jackson, again running for President, bitterly attacked each other.

Jackson labeled Adams an aristocrat, or a member of the upper class. Jackson also pointed to funds that Adams had spent on national projects such as roads and canals. He claimed that by supporting such projects, Adams had shown he favored a powerful federal government. Jackson hoped to turn voters who feared federal power away from Adams.

Adams struck back. He went so far as to call Jackson “a barbarian and savage who could scarcely spell his own name.” Adams’s backers painted Jackson as a ruffian with a furious temper.

### President From the West

On Election Day, Jackson won by a landslide. His support came from people newly armed with the vote—urban Eastern workers, farmers in the South, and people from the new Western states. Upon learning of Jackson’s victory, Massachusetts senator Daniel Webster wrote:



### Picturing History

▲ **ANDREW JACKSON** In 1828, Jackson campaigned as a man of the people, while trying to depict John Quincy Adams as an aristocrat. **What group from the South voted largely for Jackson?**

“ My opinion is that when he comes [to office] he will bring a breeze with him. Which way it will blow, I cannot tell. . . . My fear is stronger than my hope. ”

Jackson’s supporters believed that he represented the “common man.” He became the symbol of the growing power of democracy.

## ★ SECTION 1 REVIEW ★

### Checking for Understanding

1. Identify Henry Clay, Andrew Jackson, John Quincy Adams, William Crawford, Appalachian Mountains, Mississippi River.
2. Define suffrage, caucus, nominating convention.
3. What changes took place in voter qualifications in the early 1800s?
4. How did these changes benefit Andrew Jackson?

### Critical Thinking

5. **Determining Cause and Effect** How did the election of 1824 give rise to new political parties?

### ACTIVITY

6. Choose one of the candidates in the election of 1824, and create a campaign poster that reflects your candidate’s strengths.



# A New Spirit in the White House

## SETTING THE SCENE

### Read to Learn . . .

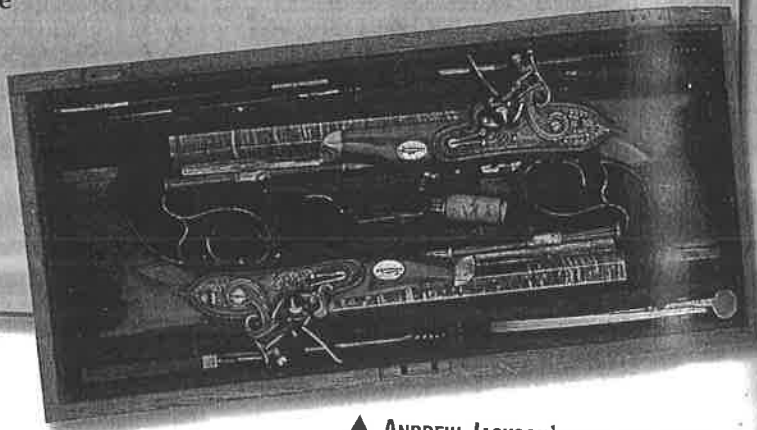
- ★ how the spoils system operated under President Jackson.
- ★ why President Jackson battled the Bank of the United States.

### Terms to Know

- ★ spoils system
- ★ kitchen cabinet
- ★ pet bank

### People to Meet

- ★ Nicholas Biddle
- ★ Roger Taney



▲ ANDREW JACKSON'S DUELING PISTOLS

A short time before his inauguration, Jackson's beloved wife Rachel died. The grief-stricken Jackson hardly looked like the person to lead the United States into a new era. Jackson, however, set aside his mourning in the name of the people.

In keeping with the new spirit of democracy, Jackson gave a giant inaugural party. Rugged country folk and enthusiastic townspeople poured into the White House. One onlooker described the scene:

“Ladies fainted, men were seen with bloody noses, and such a scene of confusion took place as is impossible to describe. . . . Ladies and gentlemen had only been expected at this Levee [reception]. . . . But it was the People's day, and the People's President, and the People would rule.”

## ★ The Spoils System

Some Americans viewed the events of Jackson's Inauguration Day as a bad sign. Supreme Court Justice Joseph Story claimed that “the reign of King Mob seemed triumphant.” Jackson, however, saw the day as a signal of changes to come. He intended to involve his supporters in far more than White House parties.

## Rewards for Victory

Shortly after his inauguration, Jackson fired many government employees. He then replaced them with his own loyal supporters. Politicians had quietly followed this practice for years. Jackson, however, openly defended it. “To the victor belong the spoils of the enemy,” declared Jackson.

★★★★★  
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In war, spoils mean riches that a victorious army seizes from its enemy. For Jackson, the spoils of political victory meant taking government jobs from opponents and giving them to the victor's own supporters. Jackson handed out more political jobs to his supporters than any President before him. Thereafter, the practice became known as the *spoils system*.

Jackson believed the spoils system expanded democracy. He felt any intelligent person could fill a government position. Changing officeholders, argued Jackson, gave more people a chance to take part in governing.

### An Unofficial Cabinet

Jackson angered many people by relying upon a group of his own personal advisers, nicknamed the kitchen cabinet. Critics believed Jackson should seek the advice of the cabinet members approved by Congress. Jackson, however, turned a deaf ear to critics. "I care nothing about clamors," he once remarked. "I do precisely what I think just and right."

### ★ War With the Bank

In 1832 Jackson felt it "just and right" to do battle with the Bank of the United States. Debate had surrounded the Bank ever since its creation in 1816. The federal government deposited all of its money in the Bank. As a result, the Bank had complete control over credit. It also decided how much money state banks received. Farmers and merchants hated the Bank. So did Andrew Jackson.

### Footnotes to History

**Log Cabin President** Andrew Jackson was the first President born in a log cabin. Earlier Presidents came from wealthy families. He was also the first President in office to ride a train.



▲ POLITICAL CARTOON, "THE SPOILS SYSTEM"

Jackson focused his anger at Nicholas Biddle, president of the Bank since 1823. In Jackson's mind, Biddle represented the power of wealthy Easterners. Biddle, who came from a well-to-do Philadelphia family, viewed Jackson with equal distaste.

The two headstrong leaders finally tangled in 1832. That year, Biddle asked Congress to renew the Bank's charter, although the charter was not due to run out until 1836.

Henry Clay ran against Jackson for President. He saw the Bank as a way to unseat Jackson. If Jackson signed a congressional bill to renew the Bank, he would lose votes in the South and West. A veto of the Bank bill, on the other hand, would cost Jackson votes in the North.

Clay skillfully pushed the Bank bill through Congress. Jackson lay ill in his bed when the news reached him. He







## The Argument for States' Rights

In 1828 Calhoun stated that the Union was an agreement among *sovereign*, or independent, states. Each state government, said Calhoun, had the right to nullify, or cancel, any federal law—such as the tariff—that it considered unconstitutional.

Calhoun had raised a serious issue. Did the states have the right to limit the power of the federal government? Or did the federal government have the final say in differences with the states? Calhoun favored *states' rights*—the belief that an individual state may restrict federal authority.

## The Argument in Favor of the Union

In January of 1830, Senator **Daniel Webster** of Massachusetts delivered a scorching attack on states' rights. He saw states' rights as a threat to the Union. Webster stood on the floor of the Senate to challenge a speech given by Senator **Robert Hayne** of **South Carolina**. Hayne had defended the idea of *nullification*, or the right of states to declare federal laws illegal.

In a two-day speech, Webster defended the Constitution and the Union. Near the end of his speech he cried, "Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable!"

## ★ Jackson vs. Calhoun

Nobody knew exactly where Jackson stood on the issue of states' rights. Many Southerners dared to hope that Jackson—a planter and slaveholder—might side with them. In the spring of 1830, supporters of states' rights invited the President to a dinner party.

At the dinner, several guests gave toasts in favor of states' rights. Finally, Jackson rose. The President looked eyes with Vice President John Calhoun and declared: "Our Federal Union—it must be preserved!"

Calhoun did not flinch. With his eyes firmly fixed on Jackson, Calhoun stood to deliver his own toast. "The Union—next to our liberty, the most dear!" With these simple words, Calhoun placed the liberty of a state above the Union.

In December 1832, Calhoun resigned before his term as Vice President ended. He sought and won election as a senator from South Carolina. Martin Van Buren, who had run with Jackson in Jackson's successful reelection in the fall of 1832, became the next Vice President.

## ★ Nullification Crisis

Questions of states' rights continued to arise. In 1832 Southern anger boiled over when Congress passed a new tariff on imports. This tariff lowered earlier rates slightly, but the South had wanted it removed completely. South Carolina lashed out by passing the **Nullification Act**. This law declared the tariff "null, void, and no law." The people of South Carolina also threatened to *secede*, or leave the Union, if the federal government challenged the state law.

When Jackson heard the news, he vowed to use force if needed to uphold the federal law. South Carolina had hoped other states would follow its lead. No state did, however. In March 1833, Congress passed a compromise tariff proposed by Henry Clay. Although the tariff lowered rates only slightly, South Carolina accepted the proposal. The state legislature repealed the Nullification Act. However, the idea of secession remained firmly planted in the minds of many Southerners.

## ★ A Tragic Policy for Native Americans

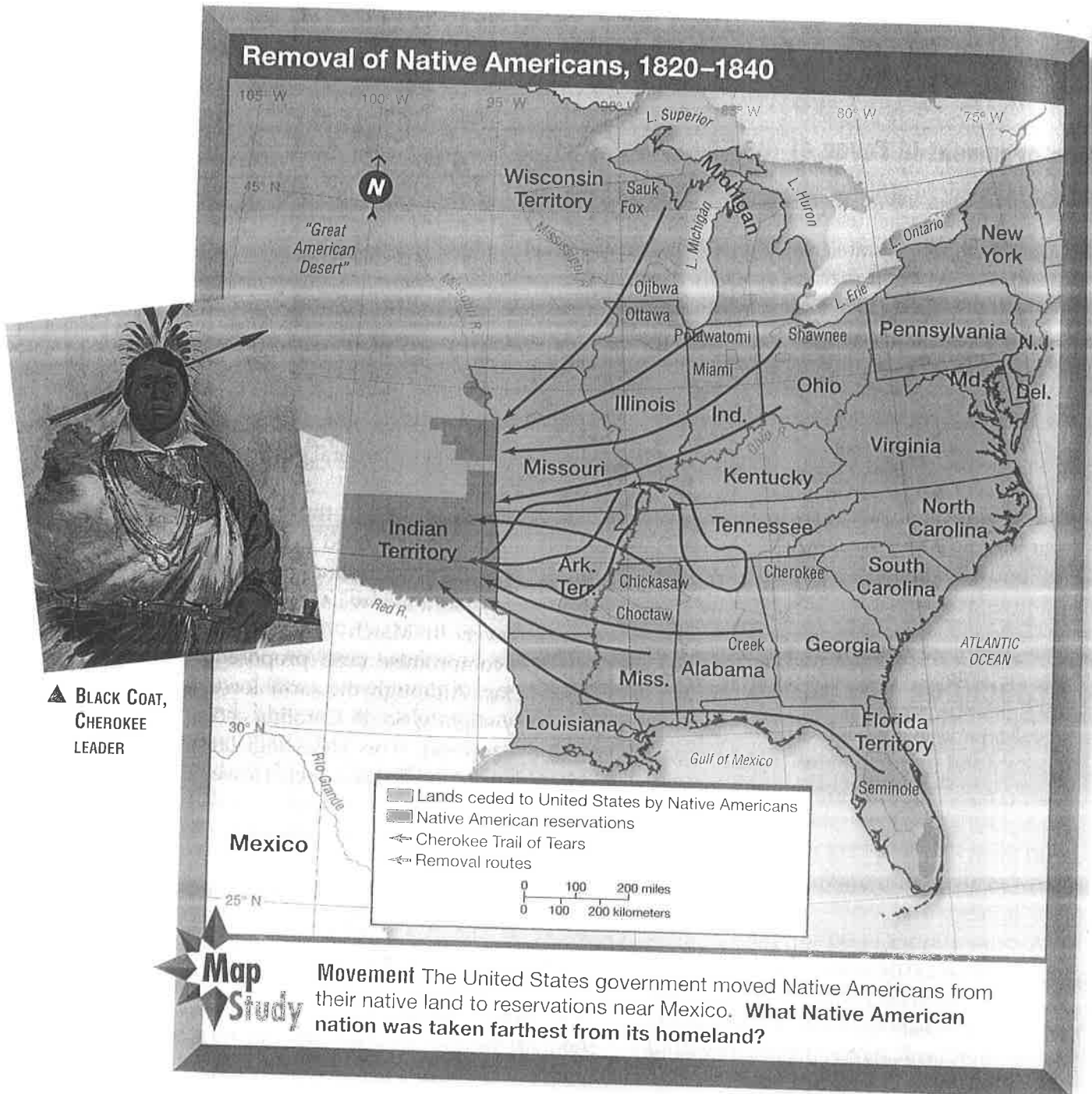
President Jackson took a firm stand against Southerners on the tariff and on nullification. He sided with them,

however, on another key issue of the 1830s. This issue involved the resettlement of Native Americans on lands west of the Mississippi River.

When Jackson entered the White House, the federal government already had a long-standing policy of backing white settlers moving onto Native American lands. Jackson campaigned for office

by promising to continue this policy. He strongly believed that Native Americans should give up their lands to settlers. He also believed that Native Americans could live more freely in Indian Territory—or present-day Oklahoma.

By the 1820s, only about 120,000 Native Americans remained east of the Mississippi. Many of those belonged to the





**Picturing  
History**

▲ **THE TRAIL OF TEARS** The United States government forced Native Americans from their lands in the 1830s, relocating them to reservations west of the Mississippi River. **Why did the Cherokee call the forced march “The Trail of Tears”?**

Choctaw, Chickasaw, Creek, Seminole, and Cherokee Nations of the Southeast. Southern cotton planters looked hungrily at their rich lands and pressured Native American leaders to exchange their traditional lands for territory in the West.

**Resistance**

In 1828, the year Jackson first won the presidency, the Cherokee asked the Supreme Court to defend the rights of Native Americans in the Southeast. The state of Georgia had claimed the right to make laws for the Cherokee. The Cherokee claimed that federal treaties protected Native Americans as sovereign, self-ruling nations.

The Cherokee presented a strong defense. Most Cherokee had adopted the customs of white settlers. A leader named Sequoya had developed a written alphabet for the Cherokee. Using these letters, the Cherokee learned to read and write.

They published a newspaper called the *Cherokee Phoenix*. They also wrote a constitution that set up a representative form of government.

Chief Justice John Marshall sided with the Cherokee in their complaints against Georgia. In 1832 the Supreme Court declared Georgia’s actions against this Native American group unconstitutional. President Jackson, however, sided with Georgia. He ignored the Court’s decision.

**The Trail of Tears**

While the Supreme Court debated Cherokee claims, Jackson convinced his supporters in Congress to pass the **Indian Removal Act of 1830**. This act provided funds for the federal government to remove Native Americans from the eastern United States.

At first Native Americans refused to sign treaties recognizing the law. Jackson, however, used his power as President to



send federal troops onto Native American lands. At gunpoint, Native Americans signed new treaties.

The Cherokee held out until 1838. Then, they too agreed to move west. That fall Cherokee leader **John Ross** led his people on a forced march to Indian Territory. The brutal weather of the Great Plains claimed thousands of lives. Wrote one observer: "Even aged females . . . were traveling with heavy burdens attached to their backs, sometimes on frozen ground . . . with no covering on their feet."

By the time John Ross arrived in Indian Territory, about one-eighth of his people had fallen. Among those who died was his wife **Quatie Ross**. The Cherokee called their sorrowful trek "The Trail Where They Cried." History knows it as the Trail of Tears.

## Biography ★★★

### Osceola Makes War

In southern **Florida**, a Seminole leader refused to listen to soldiers who asked the Seminole to give up their land. The leader was **Osceola**, a Creek from present-day Alabama. Osceola had moved to Florida in the early 1800s while he was in his teens.

Living among the Seminole, he soon became a respected hunter and warrior.

Soldiers presented Osceola with a treaty to sign. The treaty called for the Seminole to move to Indian Territory within 3 years. Osceola spoke for all his Seminole followers. "I love my land and will not go from it!" he vowed. It is said that he then drove a knife through the treaty. In so doing, Osceola and the Seminole declared war against the federal government.

The Seminole had fought the government once before. A large group of runaway slaves lived with the Seminole and helped them in their fight. Jackson now used federal troops to fight Osceola in the Second Seminole War. The war lasted seven years, from 1835 to 1842. Federal troops in 1837 captured Osceola. They then put him in a prison near Charleston, South Carolina. Less than a year later, in January 1838, Osceola died in his prison cell.

Osceola's people continued to fight after his death. The federal government rounded up many Seminole and sent them west. Some Seminole, however, slipped far into the Florida swamps known as the Everglades. Their descendants still live there today. ★★★

## ★ SECTION 3 REVIEW ★

### Checking for Understanding

1. Identify John C. Calhoun, Daniel Webster, Robert Hayne, Sequoya, John Marshall, John and Quatie Ross, Osceola, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida.
2. Define tariff, sovereign, states' rights, nullification, secede, Trail of Tears.
3. Why did the Tariff of Abominations create a crisis for the Union?
4. How did Native Americans resist efforts to remove them from their lands?

### Critical Thinking

5. **Interpreting Primary Sources** In an appeal to the American people, the Cherokee wrote: "We wish to remain on the land of our fathers. We have a perfect and original right to remain." On what basis did the Cherokee claim ownership of land in the South?

### ACTIVITY

6. Create a newspaper drawing to illustrate the Indian Removal from the Native Americans' point of view for a special issue of the *Cherokee Phoenix*.



## SECTION 4

# The End of the Jacksonian Era

## SETTING THE SCENE

### Read to Learn . . .

- ★ what problems Jackson's successor faced.
- ★ why an economic crisis developed in 1837.
- ★ how the Whigs came to power.

### Terms to Know

- ★ specie

### People to Meet

- ★ Martin Van Buren
- ★ William Henry Harrison
- ★ John Tyler

### Places to Locate

- ★ Tennessee
- ★ New York



► HARRISON CAMPAIGN FLAG

**O**n March 4, 1837, popular President Jackson turned over the reins of government to **Martin Van Buren**. After Van Buren delivered his Inaugural Address, Jackson rose to leave for his home in **Tennessee**. As he headed for his carriage, the crowd raised its voice in one great cheer of love and admiration.

## ★ The Election of 1836

While he was still in office, Jackson was so popular that one observer suggested he could remain President for life. In 1836, however, Jackson used his influence to win the Democratic nomination for his hand-picked successor, Martin Van Buren.

The Whigs, the political party that included the National Republicans by this time, ran three candidates against Van

Buren. They hoped to split the popular vote and force the election into the House of Representatives. Van Buren stunned the Whigs by claiming a sweeping victory. Van Buren promised to walk "in the footsteps of President Jackson."

People from Van Buren's home state of **New York** hailed the new President for his skill in dealing with voters and other political leaders. Within two months of taking office, however, Van Buren ran into problems that overwhelmed his skills. The cause of his trouble reached back to Jackson's war on the Bank of the United States.

## ★ Problems Left to Van Buren

In 1836, the last full year of Jackson's presidency and the year before Van Buren took office, the charter for the Bank of the United States ran out. Left free of controls from the Bank, individual banks all over the country set their own rules for operating. Many state banks began to loan money freely. They also printed many paper notes as money, more than they could back up by specie. Specie is hard cash in the form of gold or silver.

Easy credit and the large amount of paper money from banks helped increase prices, especially the price of land. As land prices went up and up, speculators bought more and more land. As long as prices continued to rise, the speculators could hope to resell their purchases quickly for more than they had paid for them. Americans of all classes, from low-paid clerks to wealthy bankers, became speculators. Most used credit or borrowed paper money to pay for the land.



▲ MARTIN VAN BUREN

## An Economic Crisis

The rush to buy government land at rising prices had alarmed Jackson during his last year in office. He tried to stop the land speculators in 1836 by issuing a much-disputed paper called the *Specie Circular*. The paper stated that government land could be purchased only with specie.

Because most speculators did not have enough gold or silver to purchase land, sales of land quickly fell. Reduced sales lowered prices. As a result, many Americans who planned to pay off their loans by selling their land at higher prices could not pay their debts. Banks took over many properties. The banks, however, could not sell the land for enough money to recover the loans they had made to speculators.

## Problems for Banks and Business

With banks facing cash money problems, people began to fear that banknotes would lose their value. People rushed to exchange their paper money for gold or silver coins. As a result, more and more banks had trouble doing business.

The economic crisis worsened when the price of cotton dropped in the South. Lacking cash, many Southerners failed to repay their bank loans. A similar situation developed in the West when bad weather wiped out wheat crops in 1836.

Because many people had less money to spend, the demand for factory goods dropped. Factory owners cut back on the amount of goods they produced and laid off workers. In some Northeastern cities, jobless and homeless workers and families huddled together for comfort on cold streets.

## The Panic of 1837

Within three months after Van Buren took office, the economic crisis reached its peak. The so-called **Panic of 1837** set in. Several important banks in the East closed

# Linking Past and Present

## Two Wheelers

*Before the 1800s, Americans usually turned to wagons, coaches, and horses for transportation. The two wheeler, however, was on its way.*



## Then

### The Boneshaker

By about 1840, a few Americans were riding two wheelers called velocipedes. With no pedals or chains, the velocipede had to be moved along by the rider's feet pushing on the ground. Then pedals were added to the front wheels, and the early bicycle was born. The wheels themselves were wooden. They made the ride so bumpy that people called the early bicycles "boneshakers."



## Now

### Chains, Gears, and More

Today's cyclists ride in style and comfort. They speed along

on slim tires and have gears, chains, and hand brakes to aid them. If they are wise, they wear helmets for safety. Perhaps boneshaker riders would have liked a little padding too.

their doors and went out of business. Banks all over the country quickly did the same.

The new President was not responsible for the panic, but he did little to relieve it. He felt, as did many members of the Democratic party, that the government should not interfere in the economy.

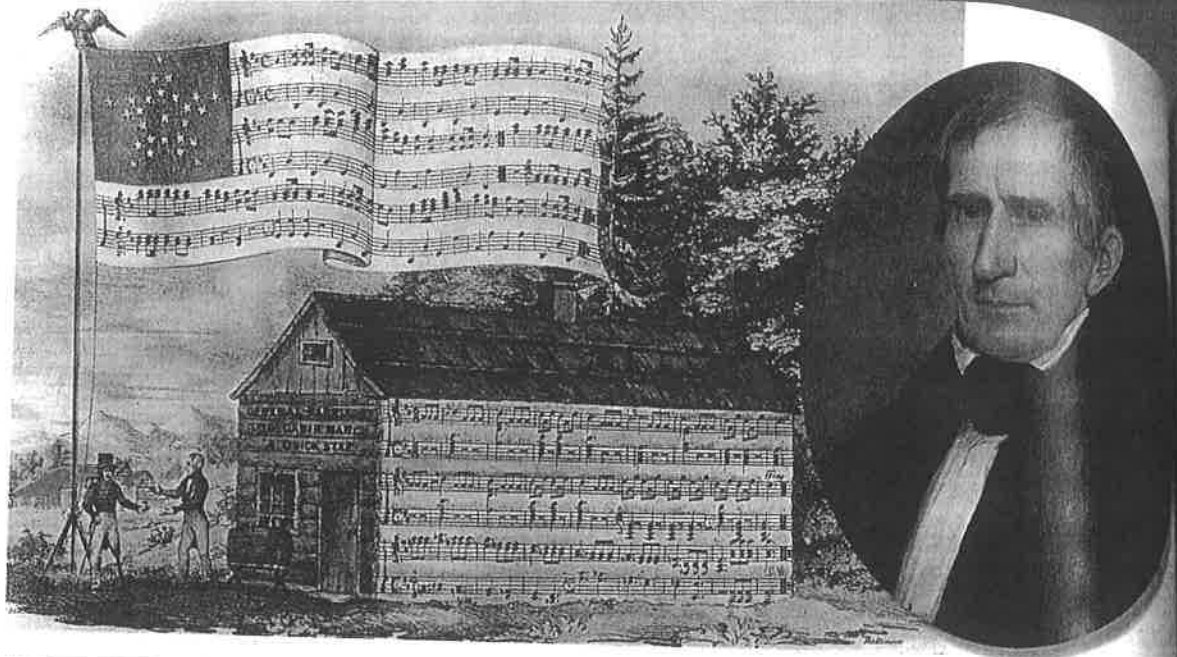
Van Buren did, however, persuade Congress to establish an independent federal treasury in 1840. The government would no longer deposit its money with private individual banks as it had started to do during President Jackson's war with the Bank of the United States. Instead, the government would store its money in the federal treasury. The private banks had used government funds to back their banknotes. The new treasury system would prevent banks from using government funds in this way and so help guard against further bank crises.

## ★ The Election of 1840

Before the Panic of 1837, Americans saw the Whigs as the party of the rich. The Whigs wanted to change this image. With the economic crisis spreading, the Whigs searched in the late 1830s to find a candidate who would appeal to the common people. In 1839 they chose General William Henry Harrison, the hero of the 1811 Battle of Tippecanoe.

### Log Cabin Campaign

Harrison came from a well-to-do Virginia family. He enjoyed a good education and lived in a 16-room mansion on 3,000 acres (1,215 ha) of land. Most Americans had no way of knowing about Harrison's background. The Whigs, therefore, bombarded the nation with advertisements



**Picturing History**

▲ **THE LOG CABIN CAMPAIGN** William Henry Harrison's 1840 election campaign was full of slogans, banners, rallies, and parades. **What was the Whigs' campaign plan?**

and posters that presented Harrison as a humble Ohio farmer born in a log cabin.

The Whigs used the log cabin as the symbol of the 1840 campaign. The Whigs selected **John Tyler** of Virginia as Harrison's running mate. They coined a catchy slogan to capture the public's imagination: "Tippecanoe and Tyler Too."

The Whigs took the campaign on the road. In towns all over the United States, they organized rallies, parades, and barbecues. The strategy paid off. In 1840 a huge voter turnout gave Harrison a sweeping victory. Harrison walked away with 234 electoral votes, compared to only 60 electoral votes received by Van Buren.

**Death of President Harrison**

Harrison had little time to enjoy his victory. While giving his inaugural speech, he caught a cold. Harrison died of pneumonia a month later.

Harrison's death thrust Tyler into the presidency. Tyler would change the course of history by following a policy of westward expansion that even Jackson would have approved.

John Tyler was the first Vice President to become President upon the death of an elected President. Since Tyler in 1841, six other Vice Presidents have become President because a President died in office.

★ **SECTION 4 REVIEW** ★

**Checking for Understanding**

1. Identify Martin Van Buren, William Henry Harrison, John Tyler.
2. Define specie.
3. What caused the Panic of 1837?
4. How did Van Buren respond to the economic crisis?
5. How did the Whigs win the 1840 election?

**Critical Thinking**

6. **Determining Cause and Effect** How was Jackson's war with the Bank linked to the Panic of 1837?

**ACTIVITY**

7. Write a campaign slogan for the election of 1840. Design a campaign button and write your slogan on it.