

Study Guide



Chapter 11, Section 1

For use with textbook pages 334–339

JACKSONIAN DEMOCRACY

KEY TERMS

favorite son	Candidates backed by their home states instead of the national party (page 335)
majority	More than half the votes (page 335)
plurality	The largest single share of votes (page 335)
mudslinging	Attempts to ruin opponent’s reputation with insults (page 336)
landslide	An overwhelming victory (page 336)
suffrage	The right to vote (page 337)
bureaucracy	A system in which nonelected officials carry out laws (page 337)
spoils system	The practice of replacing government employees with the winning candidate’s supporters (page 337)
caucus	A system in which major political candidates were chosen by committees made up of members of Congress (page 337)
nominating convention	A system in which delegates from the states selected the party’s presidential candidate (page 337)
tariff	A fee paid by the merchants who imported goods (page 338)
nullify	To cancel (page 338)
secede	To break away from the United States and form a separate government (page 338)

DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

What presidential elections do you remember? Who were the candidates? Did the candidates insult each other during their campaign? Did the candidates accuse each other of things the voters would oppose?

This section focuses on two hotly contested elections that followed President Madison’s decision not to seek a third term.

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the chart on the following page to help you take notes as you read the summaries that follow. Think about how the political system changed under Andrew Jackson.

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Changes in the Political System Under Jackson	
Before	After
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.
6.	6.

READ TO LEARN

- **The Election of 1824** (pages 334–335)

Four candidates competed for the presidency in the election of 1824. Each represented different groups within the Republican Party. Monroe decided not to seek a third term. The candidates represented different regions of the country. They had different opinions about the role of the federal government. William H. Crawford of Georgia was the Republican Party candidate. The other three candidates were *favorite son* candidates supported by their home states. Andrew Jackson and Henry Clay represented the West. John Quincy Adams of Massachusetts, son of former President John Adams, represented the Northeast.

Jackson won the vote of the people, or popular vote. He also won the largest single share, or *plurality*, of electoral votes. Under the terms of the Twelfth Amendment to the Constitution, the House of Representatives decided the election. The House decided since no candidate won the *majority*, or more than half, of electoral votes. Henry Clay, Speaker of the House, used his influence to help defeat Jackson, and John Quincy Adams was elected president. Adams then appointed Clay as secretary of state. Many people accused the men of making a corrupt or unfair bargain. Adams’s policies that supported a strong federal government were opposed by Congress and the majority of Americans. The House and the Senate voted against many of his proposals.

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1. How did John Quincy Adams win the election of 1824?

- **The Election of 1828** (pages 335–336)

The Republican Party was divided. The Democratic-Republicans supported Jackson. The National Republicans supported Adams. Democratic-Republicans, or Democrats, were working people from small farms or factories who supported states' rights. National Republicans were merchants or successful farmers who supported a strong central government and federal programs.

It was a hard-fought campaign. For the first time, negative campaigning or *mudslinging*, was used. Both candidates tried to ruin each other's reputation with insults and accusations. Jackson's supporters used buttons and slogans, and also organized rallies and barbecues to persuade people to vote for their candidate. Calhoun switched parties to run with Jackson. They won by a *landslide*, Jackson received most of the electoral votes and 56 percent of the popular vote.

2. Why did new political parties form after the election of 1824?

- **Jackson as President** (pages 336–337)

Jackson was very popular with common people. He himself was a self-made man, coming from a poor background in Tennessee. Ordinary citizens viewed Jackson as being one of them. Many changes took place under Jackson's presidency. During his first term, *suffrage*, or the right to vote, was expanded to include all white American men, not just property owners. The presidential electors in 22 out of 24 states were chosen by the people rather than the state legislatures. Jackson expanded the democracy to involve more Americans in their government. Jackson opposed *bureaucracy*, a form of government in which nonelected officials carried out the laws. Nonelected officials were replaced with ordinary citizens who supported him. This practice was called the *spoils system*. Jacksonians believed that whoever won the election had the right to the benefits of victory. *Nominating conventions* replaced the *caucus* system. Delegates from each state chose the party's presidential candidate instead of committees of Congress members. The first nominating convention was held by the Democrats in 1832 in Baltimore, Maryland. Jackson won the required two-thirds of the vote and the party's nomination.

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3. How did the political system change under Andrew Jackson?

• **The Tariff Debate** (pages 338–339)

In 1828 Congress passed a **tariff**, or fee paid by merchants, on goods imported from Europe. Manufacturers supported the tariff. People would buy American goods because European goods would cost more. Southerners opposed the tariff because they traded cotton for European goods. Vice President Calhoun wanted the states to cancel, or **nullify**, the tariff. He felt it was unconstitutional. Calhoun believed that Southerners had the right to break away, or **secede**, from the Union and form their own government. He believed in states' rights, the powers of the states independent of the federal government. Northerners did not agree with Calhoun. President Jackson believed in keeping the country together. Calhoun was elected to the Senate and resigned his vice presidency. He wanted to support the views of the South in the Senate.

Southerners were still angry, even after Congress passed a lower tariff. South Carolina refused to pay the tariffs. They passed the Nullification Act, declaring the tariffs to be illegal. They threatened to form their own government if the federal government interfered. Jackson and Clay planned a compromise bill that would gradually lower the tariff over several years. Congress then passed a Force Bill. It gave the President the power to enforce acts of Congress with military power. South Carolina agreed to the compromise and a crisis was avoided.

4. Why did South Carolina threaten to secede?

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Chapter 11, Section 2 (continued)

READ TO LEARN

- **Moving Native Americans** (pages 341–344)

Many settlers wanted to live on fertile farmland in the Southeast. Five Native American groups had already established farming communities with successful economies in Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Florida. Settlers wanted the government to force them to move, or *relocate*, to lands west of the Mississippi, which were not good for farming. President Jackson supported the settlers. Under the terms of the Indian Removal Act of 1830, Native Americans were paid to move west. Most Native American groups felt they had no choice but to accept payment and move. The Indian Territory in present-day Oklahoma was set aside for Native American groups from the Southeast in 1834.

The Cherokee Nation sued the state of Georgia for refusing to abide by the terms of treaties made in the 1790s. The case went to the Supreme Court. The Court ruled that only the federal government had authority over issues involving the Cherokee. Georgia was told not to interfere. President Jackson ignored the Supreme Court’s decision. He supported Georgia when they tried to make the Cherokee relocate. A few Cherokee were tricked into signing a treaty with the federal government in 1835. In it they agreed to give up their lands. The majority of the Cherokee had never agreed to the treaty. They refused to abide by it. They tried to resolve the problem, but the government and the people did not listen.

In 1938 President Jackson sent an army of 7,000 troops, under the command of General Winfield Scott, to relocate the Cherokee. They threatened to use force if necessary. The Cherokee knew that fighting was useless. Defeated, they began the long march west to the Indian Territory. They carried their belongings on their backs. Thousands died along the way. The weather was cold and harsh. Many Cherokee were barefoot. Their journey is known in history as the “Trail of Tears.”

1. How were the Cherokee treated by the state of Georgia?

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- **Native American Resistance** (pages 344–345)

Some Native American groups decided to fight back. The Sauk and Fox people, led by Black Hawk, tried to recapture land in Illinois. They had given it away in a treaty. State and federal forces chased the Sauk and Fox to the Mississippi River where they were killed trying to escape to present-day Iowa.

The Seminole people of Florida, led by Chief Osceola, chose to go to war instead of signing a treaty. From 1834 until 1845, they were helped by escaped enslaved African Americans. Together they attacked white settlements using *guerrilla tactics*. They made surprise attacks and quickly retreated. The government finally gave up after more than 1,500 American soldiers were killed. Many Seminole died as well. The Seminole were the only Native Americans to successfully resist the relocation.

2. How did the Seminole people resist removal from their lands?

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Chapter 11, Section 3 (continued)

READ TO LEARN

- **War Against the Bank** (pages 348–351)

Jackson opposed the Bank of the United States because it was run by wealthy Eastern private bankers. In 1832 Jackson's opponents, Henry Clay and Daniel Webster, devised a plan to beat Jackson and win the election. They believed the people would turn against Jackson when he *vetoed*, or rejected, the Bank's request to renew its charter. They talked the Bank's president into applying for a new charter before the old one expired in 1836. As planned, Jackson vetoed the bill. Jackson criticized the Bank for favoring the wealthy and ignoring the poor. Clay and Webster's plan backfired. The people supported Jackson's actions. Jackson was easily reelected to a second term. His friend, Martin Van Buren, became the vice president. After his reelection, Jackson devised a plan to put the powerful Bank out of business. He withdrew the government's money and put it in smaller state banks. The Bank was forced to close.

In the election of 1836, Martin Van Buren easily defeated several opponents from the newly created Whig Party. His presidency was quickly overshadowed by a severe economic *depression*. It was a time when businesses lost money and people lost jobs. People lost faith in the economy. During the Panic of 1837, land values dropped, people lost money, and banks closed. Prices for basic goods were so high that people could not afford their food or rent. Van Buren lost the support of ordinary people because he failed to do anything about the economic crisis. Van Buren supported the principle of *laissez-faire*, the belief that government should not interfere with a nation's economy.

1. How did economic issues affect Jackson and Van Buren's presidencies?

- **The Whigs Come to Power** (page 351)

In the election of 1840, the Whigs chose William Henry Harrison and John Tyler as their candidates for president and vice president. Harrison was famous for defeating Tecumseh in the Battle of Tippecanoe during the War of 1812. The Whigs' *log cabin campaign* used the slogan, "Tippecanoe and Tyler, Too." A log cabin symbolized their candidate as an ordinary person. They tried to appeal to Jackson's supporters. They accused Van Buren of being a wealthy man who spent money lavishly during his presidency. Harrison was elected the first Whig president, but he died of pneumonia on April 4, 1841. Under the terms of the Constitution, Tyler became president.

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Tyler upset the Whig party and many of his supporters with his actions as president. The Whigs had elected him, but he supported Democratic policies. Tyler was expelled from the Whig party. Most of the cabinet members resigned. The Whig party was divided and lost the next election in 1844 to the Democrats. James Polk was elected president.

2. How did the Whigs campaign for William Henry Harrison?
