Chapter 10: The Triumph of White Men’s Democracy, 1820-1840

1. Growth of Mass Democracy - Why and How? Is this going to have a positive or negative impact on the United States? Why? What were the limitations of this type of mass democracy?

How did the relationship between the government and the people change during this time?


3. Democracy=direct rule of the people (1820s and 1830s) – We were moving away from the Founding Era belief that a "natural aristocracy" should govern.

4. “The voice of the people is the voice of God.” This reflects a more positive view of the common people’s ability to make good decisions (Jacksonian Democracy is therefore very Jeffersonian in its ideals).

5. Growing economic inequality (growing gap between the rich and poor).

6. Roll of popular press (newspapers and magazines)

7. New forms of art and literature?

8. Influence of American Romantic Literature and Art

9. William Sidney Mount: “Paint pictures that will take with the public – never paint for the few but the many.”

10. “Brahmin Poets” *know examples of this time period.

11. American Novelists *know examples of this time period.

12. Universal, White Manhood Suffrage – All white men could vote.

13. Removal of Voting Restrictions (Influence of New Western States *See board notes)

14. Increased Voter Turnout and Campaigning by Politicians

15. Growth of the two-party system


What political conflicts did President Andrew Jackson face and how did he resolve them?

17. Andrew Jackson (aka “Old Hickory”)

18. Election of 1824

19. “Corrupt Bargain”


21. Election of 1828 – birth of a new era of mass democracy

22. Democrats – first modern American political party

23. Emergence of the two-party system

24. “Spoils System”

25. Peggy Eaton Affair

26. Indian Removal

27. Georgia and the Cherokees

28. Worcester v. Georgia (1832)

29. Trail of Tears

30. Nullification Crisis

31. John C. Calhoun and his written endorsement of states’ rights and the theory of nullification known as The South Carolina Exposition

32. Tariff of 1828 “Tariff of Abominations”

33. Examples of President Jackson’s support for states’ rights
   - Indian Removal
   - Maysville Road Veto

34. Jackson’s opposition to the theory of nullification

35. Jackson: “Our Union: it must be preserved.”

36. Calhoun: “The Union. Next to liberty, the most dear. May we always remember that it can only be preserved by distributing equally the benefits and the burdens of the Union.”

37. Tariff of 1832

38. Force Bill

39. Compromise Tariff of 1833 (Henry Clay)

What were the arguments for and against the Bank of the United States?

40. Nicholas Biddle

41. The Bank War

42. Jackson’s Bank Veto in 1832

43. Election of 1832

44. Killing the Bank

45. Jackson’s “pet banks”

46. Emergence of the Whigs as a new national party
   - Henry Clay
   - Daniel Webster
   - John C. Calhoun

47. Anti-Masonic Party

48. Election of 1836

49. Jackson’s “Specie Circular”

50. Panic of 1837

51. Martin Van Buren – Democrat elected President in 1836

52. Van Buren’s proposal for an independent sub-treasury

53. Election of 1840

54. William Henry Harrison and John Tyler (“Tippecanoe and Tyler, too”)

What was the two-party system, and how were the parties different?

55. “Second party system”

56. Whig Party platform and base of support?

57. Democratic Party platform and base of support?

58. Alexis de Tocqueville’s Democracy in America
   - The essence of American democracy was local self-government.
   - American society was unique because of the participation of ordinary citizens.
   - Americans did not concede liberties to a centralized state.
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