

Topic #7 Overview

Main Themes:

1. How mass participation became the hallmark of the American political system.
2. The growing tension between nationalism and states' rights.
3. The rise of the Whig party as an alternative to Andrew Jackson and the Democrats.

Objectives: [You should be able to explain each of these in some detail]

1. Andrew Jackson's philosophy of government and his impact on the office of the presidency.
2. The debate among historians about the meaning of "Jacksonian Democracy," and Andrew Jackson's relationship to it.
3. The nullification theory of John C. Calhoun and President Jackson's reaction to the attempt to put nullification into action.
4. The supplanting of John C. Calhoun by Martin Van Buren as successor to Jackson and the significance of the change.
5. The reasons for the Jacksonian war on the Bank of the United States, and the effects of Jackson's veto on the powers of the president and on the American financial system.
6. The causes of the Panic of 1837 and the effect of the panic on the presidency of Van Buren.
7. The differences in party philosophy between the Democrats and the Whigs, the reasons for the Whig victory in 1840, and the effect of the election on political campaigning.
8. The negotiations that led to the Webster-Ashburton Treaty and the importance of the treaty in Anglo-American relations.
9. The reasons John C. Calhoun, Henry Clay, and Daniel Webster were never able to reach their goal—the White House.