

# *Chapter 9:*



## *Jacksonian America*



**“Our Federal Union – It Must Be  
Preserved”**

**Andrew Jackson**

# The Rise of Mass Politics

- Andrew Jackson was sworn in as President on March 4, 1829 and his inauguration marked an era of rule by the “common people” in American history
- While the age of Jackson did not so much advance the cause of economic equality, it did bring about a major change in American politics



# The Rise of Mass Politics

## Expanding Democracy

- Before the 1820s only white land owners could vote
- Debates were held to decide what should entitle people to a vote



# The Rise of Mass Politics

- It was decided that the Declaration of Independence maintained that life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, not property, were the main concerns of society and government – the property requirement was abolished



# The Rise of Mass Politics

## The Dorr Rebellion

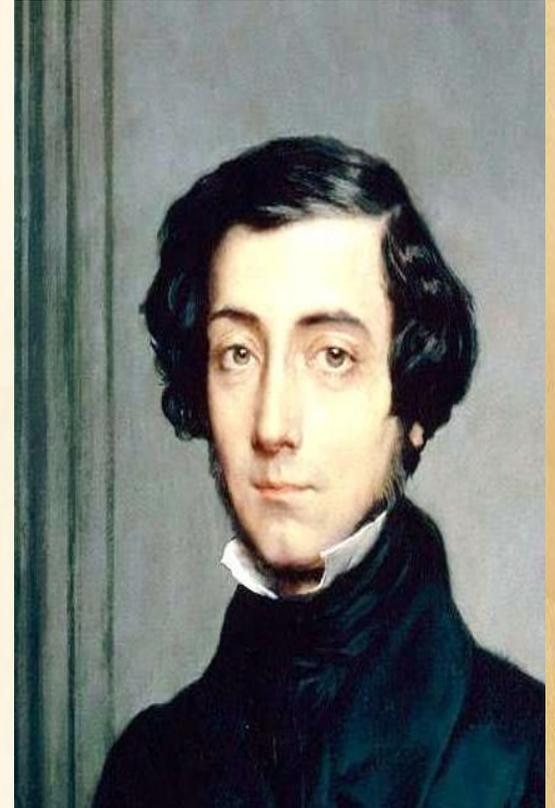
- In 1840, Thomas Dorr held a convention and formed the “People’s party” in Rhode Island
  - Created a new Constitution
- This resulted in a clash of two governments, but eventually the Dorrites were defeated



# The Rise of Mass Politics

## Tocqueville and Democracy

- The growth of American democracy emerged as one of the most striking events of the 19th century
- **Alexis de Tocqueville**
  - **Democracy in America** showed the appeal of American democracy in other parts of the world such as France



# The Rise of Mass Politics

## The Legitimization of the Party

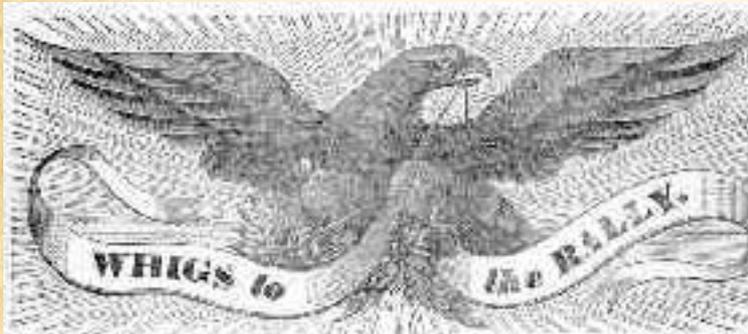
- The idea of the parties was not originally ideal
- The high level of voter participation greatly contributed to the emergence of political parties
  - More groups could vote, and therefore different viewpoints arose of how the country should be run



# The Rise of Mass Politics

- Some felt as though the existence of parties were necessary for democracy.
  - “Parties of some sort must exist, tis in the nature of our government”
    - New York Newspaper

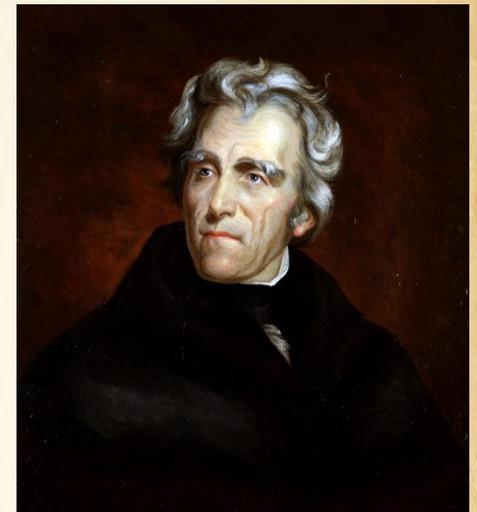
Jackson supporters vs. Jackson opponents  
Democrats Whigs



# The Rise of Mass Politics

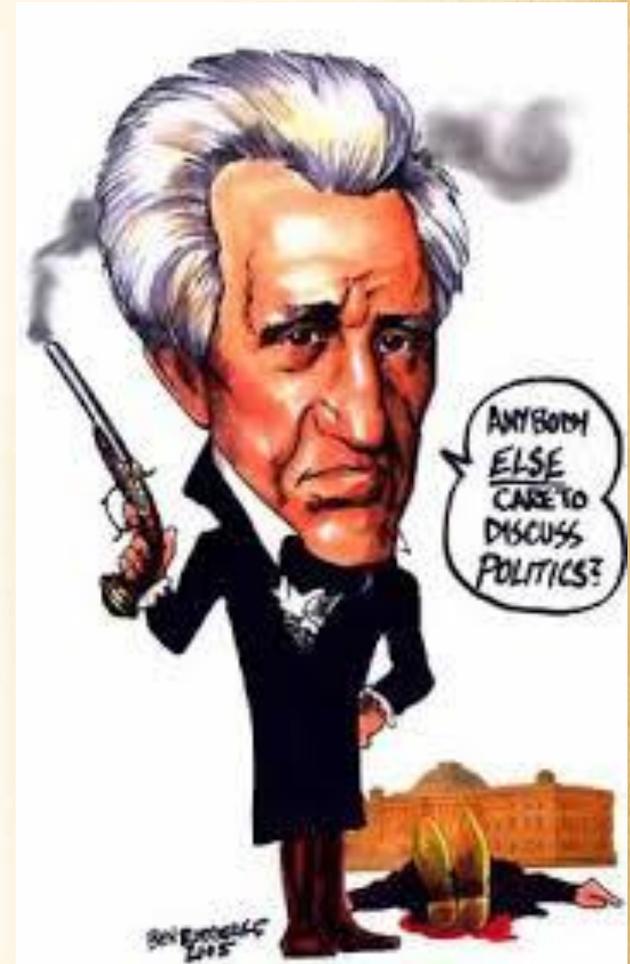
## President of the Common Man

- Jackson believed in “equal benefits and equal protection” to all white male citizens
  - Favoring no region or class over another
- Jackson and his followers would attack the eastern aristocrats to extend opportunities to the rising classes of the west and south.



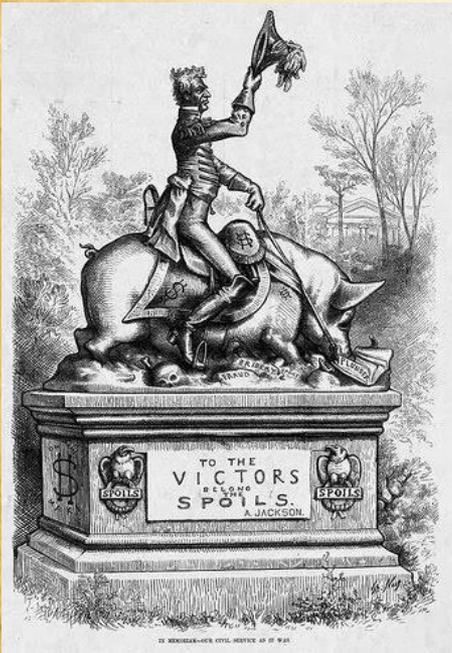
# The Rise of Mass Politics

- Jackson went after the entrenched officeholders in the government
- Jackson embraced the philosophy of the spoils system
- Against a congressional caucus for nominating the presidential candidates
  - A national party convention would be “more democratic”



# The Rise of Mass Politics

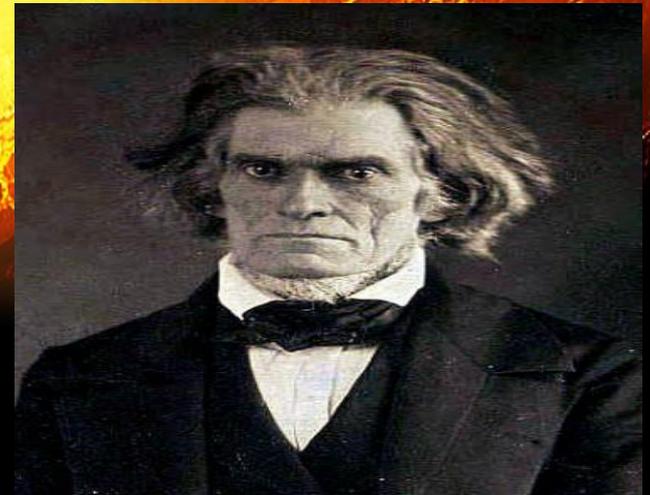
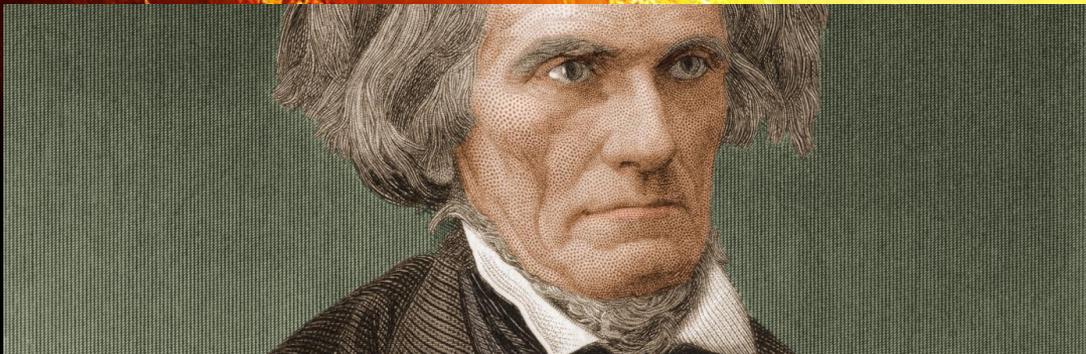
- Even though the spoils system and the political convention did serve to limit the power of two entrenched elites, neither really transferred power to the people.
  - Political opportunity within the party was expanding, however, it was much less so than Jackson had suggested.



# Our Federal Union

## Calhoun and Nullification

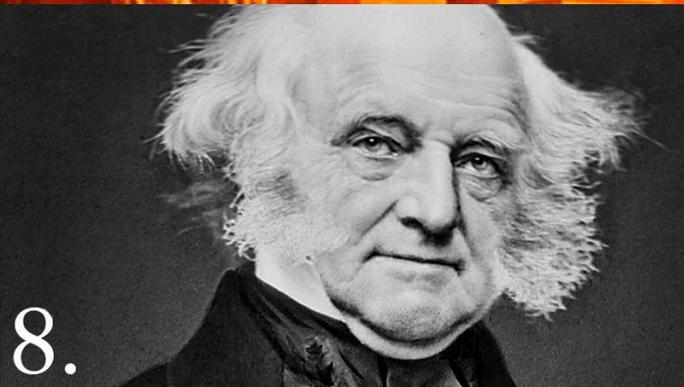
- John C. Calhoun, Jackson's Vice President, was a respected Southerner who strongly disagreed with the tariffs
- In response to the tariff of abomination, Calhoun Created the **theory of nullification**
  - Calhoun argued that a state could nullify any federal law that was not in the interest of the people



# Our Federal Union

## The Rise of Van Buren

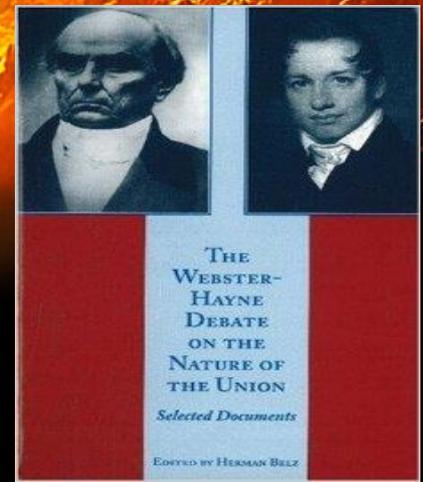
- Martin Van Buren was appointed secretary of state
- Van Buren became a prominent member of the **kitchen cabinet**, and Jackson eventually appointed him as his successor after the **Peggy-Eaton affair**
  - Kitchen Cabinet was Jackson's personal cabinet of advisors that he trusted



# Our Federal Union

## The Webster Hayne Debate

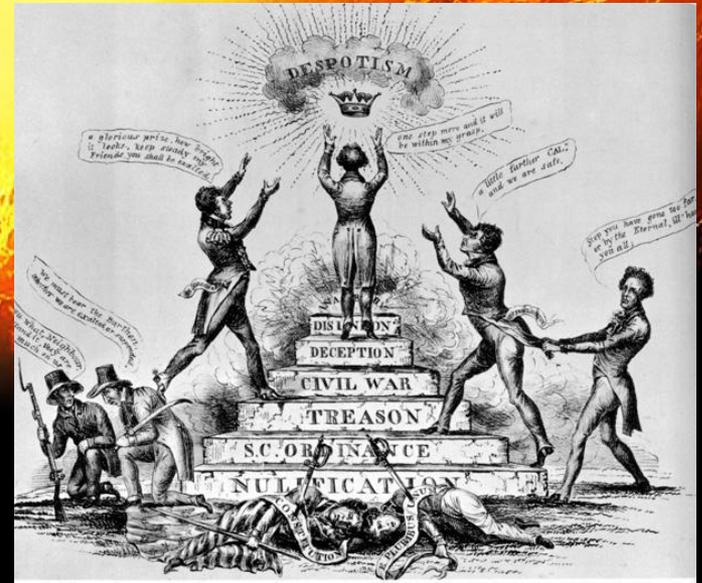
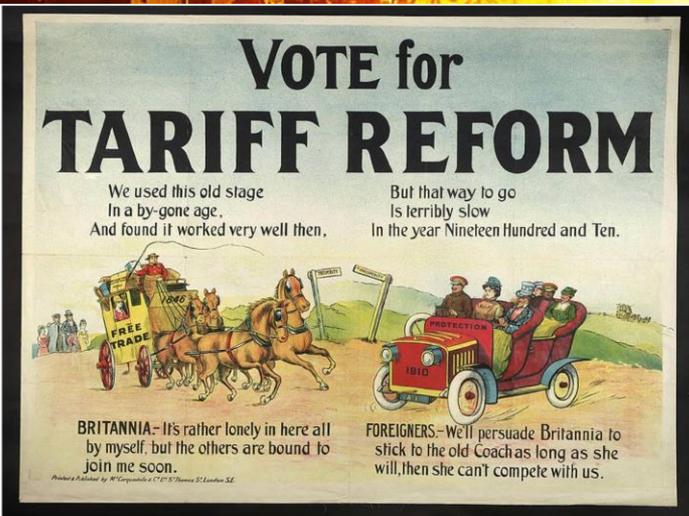
- Debate over nullification and state's rights swept over the nation
- This eventually led to the **Webster Hayne Debate**
  - Hayne (South, State's rights) v. Webster (North, Unionification)
- Debate increased sectionalism and forced Jackson to realize that the Federal Union should be preserved



# Our Federal Union

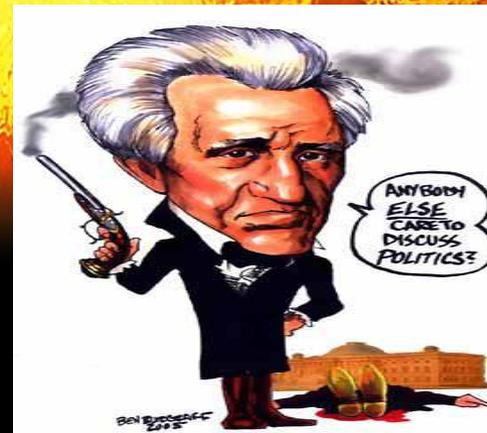
## The Nullification Crisis

- In 1832, congress passed a tariff that did not alleviate the Tariff of abomination for Southerners
  - As a result, South Carolina **nullified** the tariff
- Jackson was enraged by the nullification, and claimed that anyone that supported it was guilty of treason



# Our Federal Union

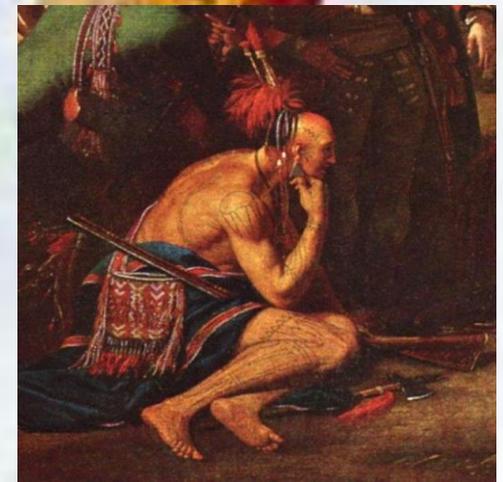
- South Carolina expected other states to come to their aid, but no other states wanted to help
- The **Nullification Crisis** was ended when Henry Clay proposed a compromise that would gradually lower the tariff by 1842
  - The Nullification Crisis showed that in order to go against the national government, the states would have to come together



# The Removal of the Indians

## White Attitudes Toward the Tribes

1. In the eighteenth century, American attitude towards the Indians were “noble savages”, meaning that Indians had no real civilization but had the potential to become civilized.
2. However, attitude changed by the early nineteenth century where many Americans (including Jackson) believed that the Indians were savages that were uncivilized.



# The Removal of the Indians

## Reasons whites wanted Indians to be removed from their land:

1. Whites believed that they were inherently superior to the natives
2. Feared for a potential continuous conflict between the expanding white settlers and natives
3. Desired the territory that the Native Americans were currently living on



# The Removal of the Indians

## The Black Hawk War

- After the Sauk ceded over their land to America, some Sauk members returned to the land and refused to move
  - Led by Black Hawk, the Indians went to war with the Illinois people
- Blackhawk was easily defeated
  - However, Whites were relentless and often exterminated the natives



# The Removal of the Indians

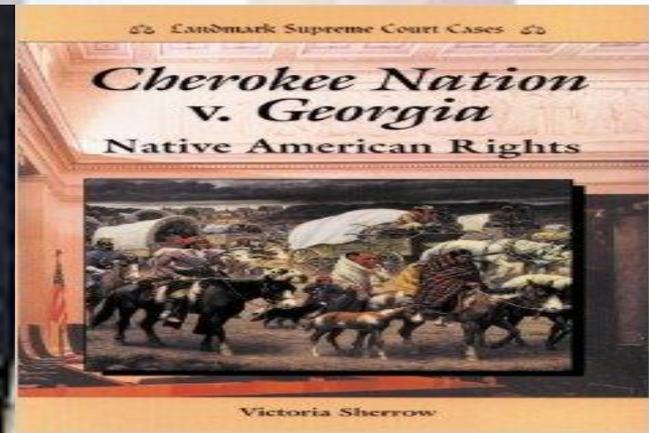
## The Five Civilized Tribes

- The **Five Civilized Tribes** lived in the Southeast near Georgia. These tribes had established agricultural lives and successful economies.
- Local whites desired their land and began passing laws regulating Indians, and in 1830 Congress passed the Indian Removal Act causing the Native Americans to move west.



# The Removal of the Indians

- Cherokees tried to stop the relocation using the Supreme Court
- ***Cherokee Nation v. Georgia***
  - In 1831, the Cherokee Nation sued the United States, saying the Indian Removal Act was unconstitutional. Supreme Court said that Cherokee was a domestic dependent nation but they could not sue the court
- ***Worcester v. Georgia***
  - In 1832, The Court reversed their decision and declared that the Cherokee Nation was an independent sovereign nation similarly to Georgia



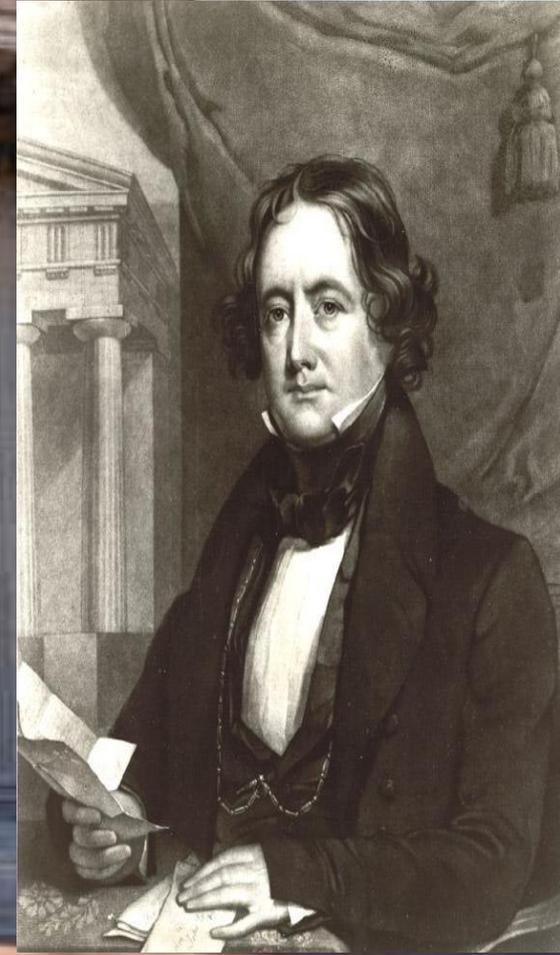
# The Removal of the Indians

- The Indians were forced to move west, and thousands of Native Americans died from starvation, disease, and exhaustion on the deadly trek from 1830-1838
  - Known as the **Trail of Tears**
- The Seminole Indians did fight back in Florida, but by 1838 most Indians were moved west



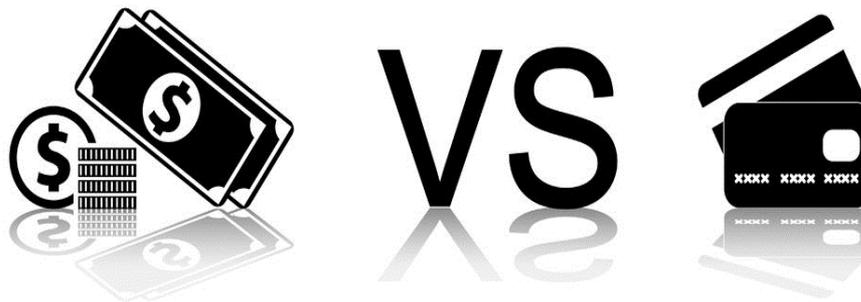
# Jackson and the Bank War

- He did not want economic power to go to the government of aristocratic institutions
- His opposition to too much economic power led to his war on the **Bank of the United States**
- **Nicholas Biddle**, the bank president, did everything he could to put the bank on a sound foundation, but Jackson saw the need to tear it down.



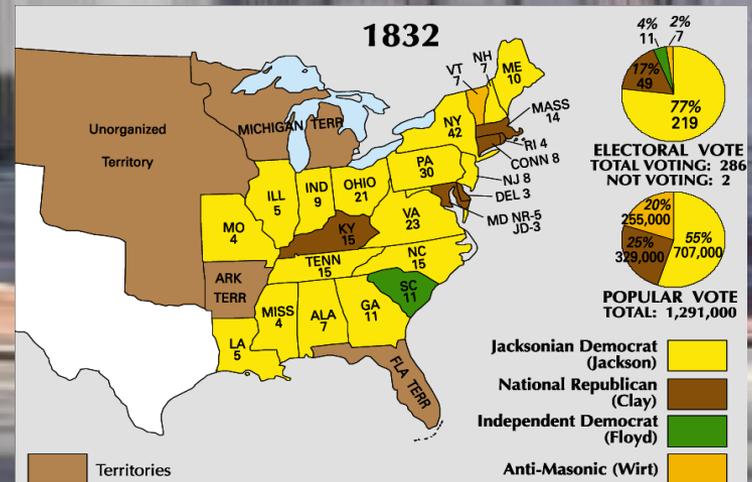
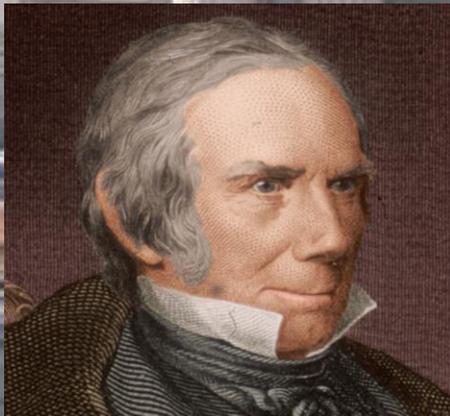
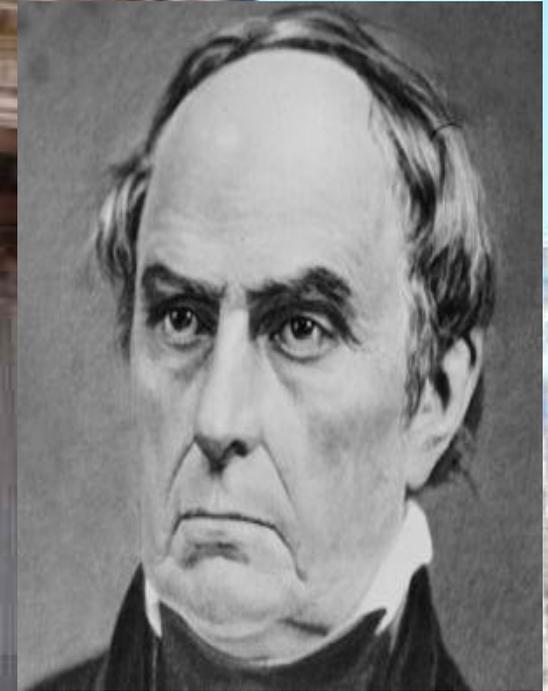
# Jackson and the Bank War

- Opposition to the bank came in two different forms: advocates of “**soft money**” and advocates of “**hard money**”
- Hard Money: backed by silver, Soft Money: more currency
- Jackson supported hard money because of personal economic failures



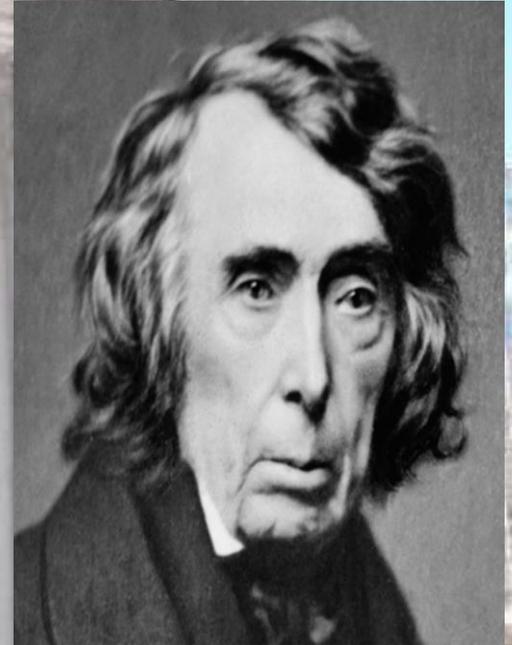
# Jackson and the Bank War

- Clay and Webster wanted Biddle to apply for the charter early, which Jackson vetoed. The bank now became a major issue in the **Election of 1832**.
- Jackson, aligned with Martin van Buren, crushed Henry Clay in the election. Now the bank was as good as done.



# Jackson and the Bank War

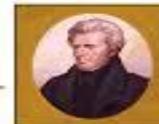
- Jackson appointed **Roger Taney** as the new Secretary of the Treasury and he placed the government's funds in state banks (Jackson called these "**Pet Banks**")
- The battle over the bank went from a political debate to a war between two proud men: Biddle and Jackson.



## The National Bank Debate



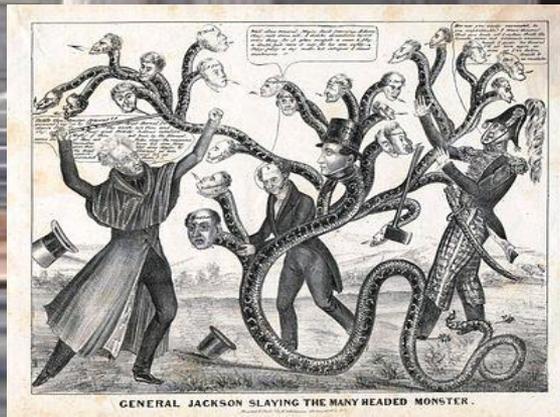
Nicholas  
Biddle



President  
Jackson

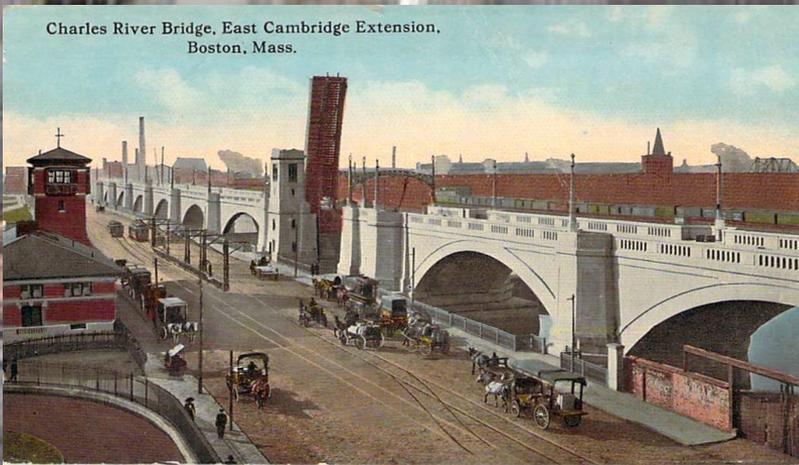
# Jackson and the Bank War

- When the recession hit, both men blamed each other. Jackson told people asking about the recession, **“Go to Biddle”**
- Biddle’s methods ended any chance of the bank being re-chartered.
- Jackson won and the bank died in 1836



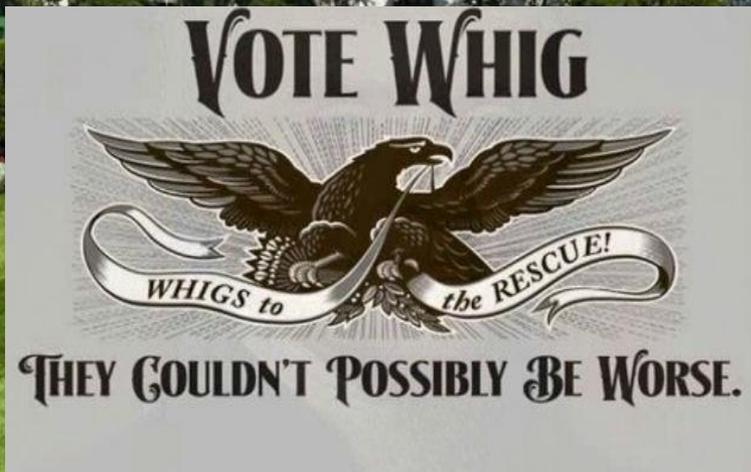
# Jackson and the Bank War

- John Marshall died leaving Jackson with the authority to appoint a new supreme court judge. He appointed **Roger Taney**.
- In the case *Charles River Bridge v. Warren Bridge*, put individuals against big business. Taney ruled in favor of individuals.



# The Changing Face of American Politics

- Jackson's crushing of the bank in such a tyrannical manner caused opposition to form in the form of the **Whig party**. They denounced Andrew Jackson as **King Andrew I**
- This formed a two-party system



# The Changing Face Of American Politics

• Even though the Democrats and Whigs differed in many ways they approached elections in the same way.

## Whigs

1. Supported strong federal government
2. Wary of Western Expansion
3. Northern, wealthy businessmen

## Democrats

1. Valued helping the common man
2. Enthusiastic about Westward Expansion
3. Southern/Western, poorer farmers and workers



# The Changing Face of American Politics

- The Whigs were led by Henry Clay, Daniel Webster, and John Calhoun. The Democrats on the other hand were united behind one man: Jackson.

Election of 1836:

- Martin Van Buren v. 3 Whig opponents
- Buren won easily thanks to divided Whig party

The Presidential  
Election  
of 1836

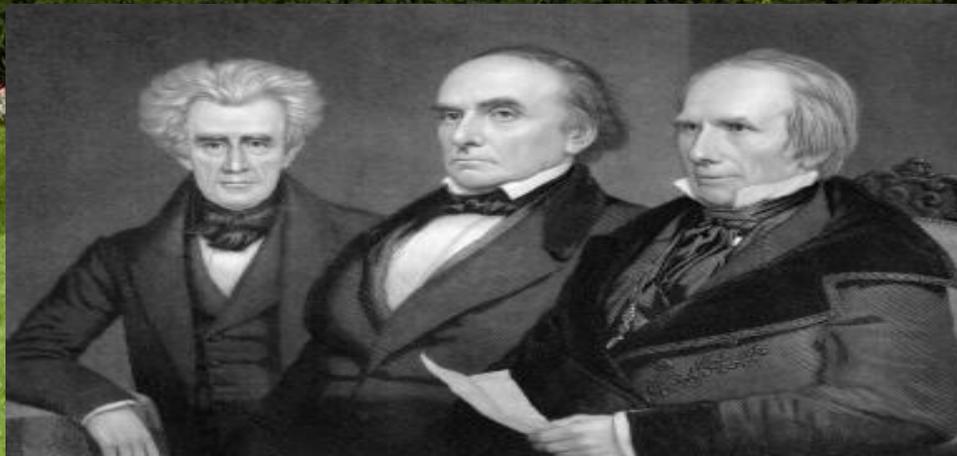


*Martin  
Van Buren*

vs.

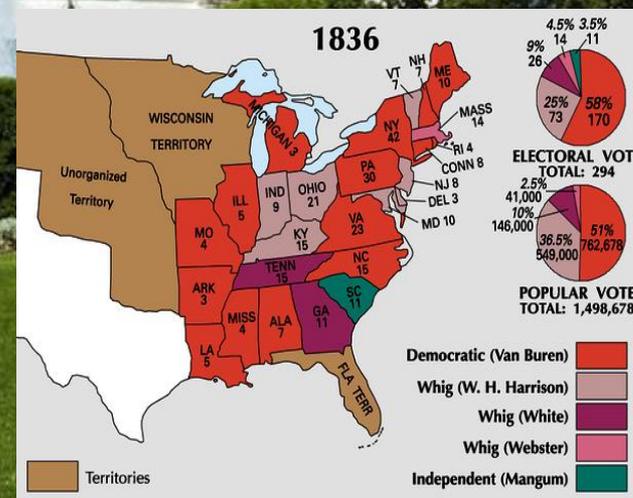
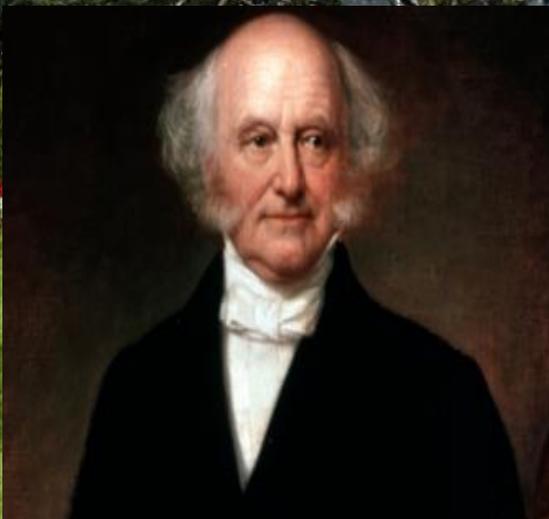


*A Bunch  
of Whigs*



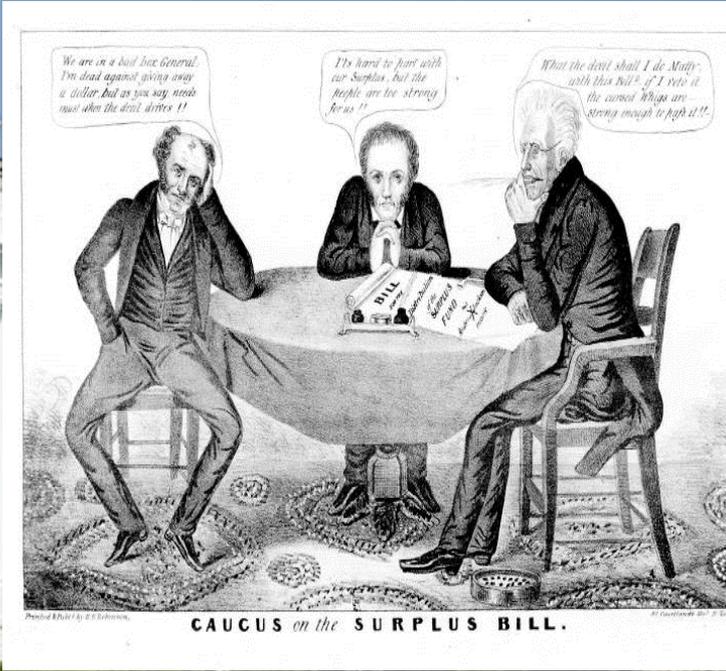
# The Changing Face of American Politics

- When Andrew Jackson retired from public life, a national treasure, **Martin Van Buren was never able to fill his shoes.**
- The Land Business became even more successful with the government **selling 40 million acres of public land, most of it to speculators.** This and tariff revenue created a surplus for the first time and no debt for the nation. This caused Van Buren to win the election.



# The Changing Face of American Politics

- Congress passed the **Distribution Act** to give the money to the states (in loans that weren't expected to be paid back).
- Jackson issued the **Specie Circular** which was catastrophic for the economy
- The mess was dumped into the lap of Martin Van Buren.



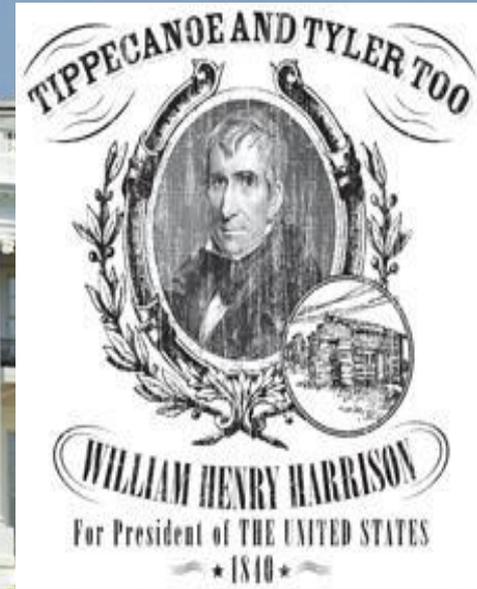
# The Changing Face of American Politics

- Crop failures and international economic problems also contributed to the crisis.
- Van Buren also created the **Independent Treasury** as a replacement for the failed Bank of the United States. No private banks would have the government's money.



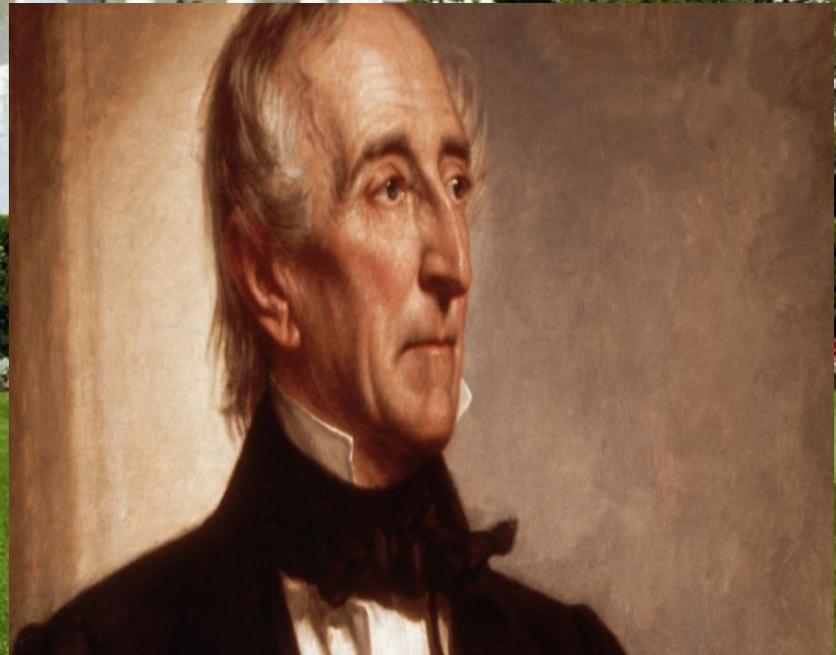
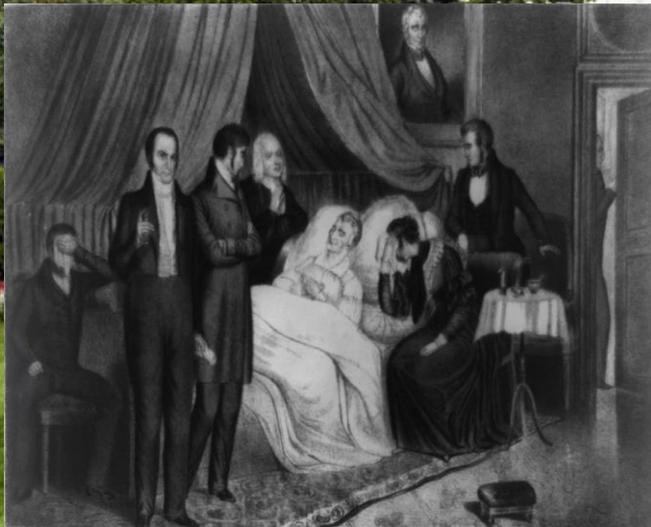
# The Changing Face of American Politics

- Since the Election of 1836 was a failure for the Whigs, they abandoned their previous method and went with just one candidate
- The Whigs chose William Henry Harrison with John Tyler as VP.
- Harrison was portrayed as a common man while Van Buren was portrayed as an alcoholic



# The Changing Face of American Politics

- William Henry Harrison died of pneumonia after a month in office and John Tyler assumed the presidency.
- Tyler was a former Democrat and showed his Democratic tendencies, which caused most of Tyler's cabinet to resign due to various events like preventing the re-chartering of the bank



# The Changing Face of American Politics

- In the **Aroostook War**, lumberjacks from Maine and Canada fought over land further igniting tensions.
- The **Caroline Affair** caused tensions to rise between Britain and America
- The **Webster-Ashburton Treaty** diffused disputes by setting a firm northern border between the United States and Canada.

