Chapter 10
The Years of Andrew Jackson
1829-1836

The Democrats support Jackson
- Old Hickory was a nickname for him
- War hero-The Battle of New Orleans.
- Defeated the Creeks in numerous battles.
- Extremely bigoted towards Native Americans
- In 1828, John Quincy Adams was unpopular.
- In 1824, Jackson was “defeated” by Adams in an election whose outcome was suspect.

The “Stolen Election” of 1824
- Jackson wins plurality of electoral votes but not a majority as required by Constitution.
- John Quincy Adams, the son of a president, is “elected” president when the Electoral College is unable to declare a winner.
- House of Representatives chose Adams as President with each state having one vote.
- Jackson stays politically active after defeat.

Andrew Jackson
- Born in South Carolina right on N.C border.
- Tennessee’s first Congressman in 1796.
- In 1797, elected Tennessee’s Senator.
- Major General of the Tennessee militia.
- Father died before his birth.
- Scotch-Irish Frontiersman
- Indian Fighter as head of state militia.

Jackson’s Checkered Past
- Modern political character assassination would have stopped this political career early.
- Accused of adultery by Adams’ loyalists, wife had not divorced first husband properly.
- He had killed Charles Dickinson in a duel.
- Earned money as an attorney specializing in evictions; somehow kept populist image.
- His hatred of Indians not part of scandals.
- Neither was attacking Florida without authority

A Common Man
- The first man to become president who was not from either the landed elite, like Washington, Jefferson, Monroe & Madison, or the rich merchant class like John Adams.
- Though his life as politician and military leader will produce wealth, he was the first president born into poverty.
- The republic is becoming more democratic.

Missouri Compromise
- Missouri applies for statehood
- One faction wants slavery, one opposes it.
- One slave state admitted for one free state.
- No slave states above 36°30” except Missouri; this creates need for Mexican land
- Slave owners want to expand Slavery
- Importation of slaves no longer allowed
End of Era of Good Feelings

- Regional rivalries emerge, South vs. North
- Jackson wins popular vote but lost electoral vote; the elite protect their interests.
- House of Representatives select Jackson.
- In 1828 Jackson transcends regionalism and is elected; viewed as a man of the people.
- Jackson leaves Republican party.

Industrialization Begins

- Industrialization begins in Northern States
- Factories grow from system of mills and trades, most located in the coastal plane
- Industrialism begins in England and spreads to New England; the region with the most trade.
- Industrialization produces elite social class.
- This concentration of wealth unanticipated.

Wealth Changes American Culture

- Wealth earned by the elite in vast amounts beyond Founders’ comprehension.
- Unanticipated in Jeffersonian agrarian ideal.
- No income taxes, they live in opulence
- Though there are no titles, but a de-facto royalty will emerge; they believe it too.
- They will think of themselves as anointed

Industrialism Impacts on Workers

- Emergence of working class not on farms.
- Low wages--Earn just dollars a week while elite grow more wealthy than royalty; disparity.
- Coal miners must rent pick, shovel, wheel barrow and mule from mine owner.
- Unskilled workers—Possessing skills actually a disadvantage; poor played off against poor.
- Totally dependent upon wages for living.

Working-Class culture

- Repetitive work; daily 10-12 hours, 6 day week.
- Child labor; children must work to help family
- No longer living near extended family.
- Notion of community support is absent.
- Alcohol relieves tedium and dulls the discomfort--sometimes results in alcohol abuse
- Immigrants arrive with traditions of responsible drinking; too often blamed for problem.

Rise of Abolitionism

- Religious traditions of Northeast take on political dimension through moral values.
- Quaker opposition to slavery part of legacy.
- Articulate former slaves contradict notions that these enslaved people were sub-human.
- Some whites had never seen a Black man.
- Frederick Douglass—escapes to freedom.

Sojourner Truth

- Born a slave in Ulster County, New York.
- Spoke only Dutch until a teenager.
- Real name Isabella Baumfree
New York ends slavery in 1828.
Moves to NYC to become domestic.
Eloquent orator advocating for abolitionism.
Also advocated for women’s suffrage.
Eloquence was an example of humanity.

**American Anti-Slavery Society**
- Founded by publisher William Lloyd Garrison
- First conference in Philadelphia in 1833
- Pledged to end slavery in the United States
- In 5 years has 1350 chapters, 250,000 members
- Their existence was a threat to Southerners.
- Frederick Douglass was a leader of the society
- Garrison was like dictator; group fractures.

**The Liberator**
- Garrison's vehicle for informing the nation of the evils of slavery and the need for abolition; national distribution only 500.
- Got Southern papers to publish editorials & articles in anger which resulted in more attention in Northern papers; clever.

**Nat Turner’s Rebellion**
- Took place in Southampton Virginia in 1831.
- He believed he had visions directing to free slaves; became something of a preacher.
- There had been other revolts prior to this.
- Turner and 5 other slaves murder his slave owner’s family. Sixty slaves joined him; killed about 50 men, women, & children.
- He was hanged with 55 other slaves.

**The Jacksonian Democracy**
- Democracy evolves from aristocracy
- Property requirements removed from voting qualifications--white males can vote.
- States establish direct election of presidential electors--no more appointed electors.
- First election where the people have a semi-direct say in the president
- Van Buren creates the Democratic Party.

**Whig Political Party Formed**
- Exists from 1834 to 1856, named for party with same name in England.
- The name is meant to imply they opposed the reign of a king, i.e. President Jackson
- Jackson was considered a king because he believe he could veto a law for any reason.
- Until this time it was the practice that the president could only veto unconstitutional laws, that was never in U.S. Constitution.

**The Development of the West**
- Jackson favored low prices for public land.
- The problem with the Native Americans.
- The Five Civilized tribes hold valuable land in the southeast; some had own alphabet.
- Northwest Territories still had large Native American population; there by treaties.
- Indian Removal Act blatant land grab.
- Supreme Court supports Cherokees and Jackson refuses to enforce ruling.
Indian Removal Act
- Passed into law during Jackson's second year as President; reflected his hostility.
- Plan was to remove all Native American tribes to places west of the Mississippi.
- The policy was enforced under duress.
- Seneca, Tuscarora, and Onondaga avoided removal; most Oneida sent to Wisconsin.

Scots-Irish President
- Remember: Scot-Irish long-standing tradition of hatred of native peoples; the Irish & Indians
- In Ireland they had hated the indigenous people, the Irish, as they hated Indians in America
- Lived along the frontier, always in conflict
- Jackson is the first Scots-Irish President
- Made his reputation as an Indian Fighter
- Rabidly anti-Indian in his views.

States’ Rights Re-surfaces
- Nullification- A state can ignore a federal law
- South Carolina nullifies tariff passed by Congress; this violates U.S. Constitution
- First use of premise which eventually leads to Civil War; though Confederacy will forbid it.
- President Jackson opposes nullification.
- Jackson lowers tariff and South Carolina gives in; avoids national crisis for more than 30 years.

The Rationale of States’ Rights
- Return to the way in which the Articles of Confederation viewed state sovereignty.
- The South Carolina slave-owning elite control the state’s political process.
- A rationale to protect the immoral source of profit for the Southern elite slave owners.
- Often introduced to protect rights of elite.

Jacksonian Reforms
- Jackson goes to war with national bank
- Believes it benefits only the wealthy.
- Removes all federal deposits from bank.
- Impasse leads to economic instability
- First president elected by popular voter;
- First president with a populist base who played a role in his election.

Literature in the New Republic
- Henry David Thoreau
- James Fenimore Cooper
- Herman Melville
- Nathaniel Hawthorne
- Edgar Allan Poe
- George Bancroft-historian
- Emergence of an American literary tradition

American Culture and Religion
- Communalism-restoring the sense of community lost to the Industrial revolution
- Shakers-celibate Christians famous for furniture
- The Oneida experiment-- A commune
The Second Great Awakening—Western New York State an active area for new religions.
A revival of religion in the United States
European religions had neglected America

The Mormons
Founded by Joseph Smith in New York State
Smith is assassinated in Illinois; Brigham Young takes over and moves them to Utah.
They believe Utah is a new Israel.
There sense of community, communalism, is invaluable in the settlement of the arid west.
They influence by practice and by example.
They will move to Utah to live in peace.

The Book of Mormon
Joseph Smith states he received a new Bible.
A new Bible delivered by an angel of God.
One that is specifically for America.
America rise to power part of God’s plan.
A Third Testament of the Bible.
An outline for religious life in the new world.
American exceptionalism becomes religion.

Exceptionalism
“The term ‘American Exceptionalism’, said to have been coined by Alexis de Tocqueville in 1831, has historically referred to the perception that the United States differs qualitatively from other developed nations, because of its unique origins, national credo, historical evolution, and distinctive political and religious institutions.” © Wikipedia

Alexis de Tocqueville
In 1831, Alexis de Tocqueville and Gustave de Beaumont, both in their 20’s and French, travel to the U.S. to study the prison system
Tocqueville interviewed presidents, lawyers, bankers and settlers and even met with Charles Carroll of Carrollton, Maryland
Here for 9 months, spends one month in “Lower Canada”, that is, Quebec

Democracy in America
A profound and insightful treatise on America
Though written in the 19th century its still true.
“All those who seek to destroy the liberties of a democratic nation ought to know that war is the surest and shortest means to accomplish it.”
“I know of no country in which there is so little independence of mind and real freedom of discussion as in America.”

Tocqueville’s View on Americans and Money
“As one digs deeper into the national character of the Americans, one sees that they have sought the value of everything in this world only in the answer to this single question: how much money will it bring in?”

Texas Independence
Fought for independence of the American-settled region called Texas.
Mexican dictator had invited Americans to settle there; the region was under populated.
The Americans wanted to own slaves and Mexico had abolished slavery.
• This last fact is edited out of the mythology.

**The Alamo**

• Impossible to separate myth from fact.
• Fact: Santa Ana was a dictator.
• Myth: They sought to fight “repression.”
• Fact: 189 men were held up there fighting.
• Myth: It is certain all of the men died there.
• There are indications, not verified, that a handful were captured and executed.

**The National Trades Union**

• Met in New York in 1834.
• Addressed all of the inequities that impinged on the disparity of wealth.
• A disparity that will be greatly enhanced by the onset of the Industrial Revolution.
• As people moved from farming to working in factories the nature of work changed.
• These complaints pre-date Karl Marx.

**NTU On Inequitable Economy**

• Therefore, be it resolved, that this Convention, deeply impressed with the conviction, that the primary causes of all the evils and difficulties with which the laboring classes are environed, can be traced to the want of a correct knowledge of their own value as producers, and the just estimate of their resources...”

**NTU-- The Challenge**

• …would recommend, that such of the working classes of these United States as have not already formed themselves into societies for the protection of their industry, do so forthwith, that they may by these means be enabled effectively to make common cause with their oppressed brethren, and the more speedily disseminate such knowledge as may be most conducive to their interests in their respective trades and arts, as well as their general interests as productive laborers.

**NTU On Education**

• “… this Convention view the systems of Education now in operation in these United States as destructive of that Equality which is predicated in the Declaration of Independence, because of their exclusive character in giving instruction to the wealthy few at the expense of the industrious many, fostering, by means of Colleges, Universities, Military or Naval Academies, &c., a professional Monopoly of Knowledge,...”

**NTU On Education- Part 2**

• “…thereby drawing a line of demarcation between the producers of all the wealth, and the other portions of society which subsist upon the fruits of the Working Man's industry.”
• Educational inequality existed from the very beginning in America.