

# *A Brief History of the United States*

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## Unit Four

President George Washington established many of the customs that are still used today. One of his most lasting pieces of advice was a strict **Policy of Neutrality**, which lasted until after World War II in 1945. After two terms as president, Washington retired. In his **Farewell Address**, he warned against factions (political parties) and permanent foreign entanglements. The **election of 1800** was considered revolutionary for it was the first time that political power was transferred peacefully between two different political parties, the **Federalists** and the **Democratic-Republicans**. It was also decided in the House of Representatives, because no one received a majority of the electoral vote.

**Eli Whitney** invented the **cotton gin**, which led to fervor over producing more amounts of cotton. This caused the demand for slaves to increase dramatically. He also invented **interchangeable parts**.

### 1800-1824 Jeffersonian Democracy thru Era of Good Feelings

The United States began to grow with the acquisition of Louisiana and Florida. When Jefferson became president, he had the opportunity to **purchase Louisiana** in 1803 due to the Haitian Revolution. He sent **Lewis and Clark** to explore the vast area, which nearly doubled the size of the United States. There was also the **Pike Expedition**, to Colorado.

The **Supreme Court**, under the leadership of **John Marshall**, became a powerful organization. They ruled in the case of **Marbury v. Madison** that their function was **judicial review**, which is where they can rule that a law is **unconstitutional** and should be thrown out. Marshall extended the **Federalist Party** beyond its demise until he retired in the 1830's. His rulings showed the supremacy of the federal government over the state governments. Among the other great cases were: **Fletcher v. Peck**, **Cohen v. Virginia**, **Dartmouth College v. Woodward**, **McCulloch v. Maryland**, and **Gibbons v. Ogden**.

Britain and France were at war once again but Jefferson tried to ignore that situation and remain neutral as the British were **impressing** our sailors into service and France was taking cargo from American ships. Jefferson responded with the extremely unpopular **Embargo Act** which virtually froze all merchant activity and crippled the economy. Once the embargo was lifted Britain resumed its **impressment**.

During this time, contrary to the **Treaty of Paris**, the British still had military forts on our soil. The British soldiers supplied the hostile natives with weapons to terrorize our settlements. One such native, **Tecumseh**, attempted to get an alliance of natives together to attack the Americans. His effort was thwarted, however, and many Americans (called **War Hawks**) felt that it was fine to declare war on the British.

The **War of 1812** has been called the "second war for independence". During the war, Washington D.C. was burned and the **Star Spangled banner** was written. The **Treaty of Ghent** was signed, thus ending the conflict. Due to slow communication, **the Battle of New Orleans** was fought two weeks after the war was over. This battle was devastating for the British and made **Andrew Jackson** an American Hero. Jackson went on to grab **Florida** from the Spanish. Spain officially ceded the land with the **Adams-Onis Treaty**. The U.S. and Britain fought to a draw in the War of 1812. The **Monroe Doctrine** (actually written by Secretary of State John Quincy Adams) warned European powers to stay out of the Americas.

After the war, the Federalist party disappeared, having lost support due to its opposition to the war, and the US entered a period of one-party rule satirically labeled the **Era of Good Feelings**. During this so-called Era of Good Feelings, there was a sharp **recession** called the **Panic of 1819**.

**Henry Clay** introduced the **American System** of economic national development.

## 1824- 1840 Jacksonian Democracy- Manifest Destiny

The period during Andrew Jackson's presidency became known as Jacksonian Democracy. It offered expanded suffrage to the common man. Don't forget the spoils system. The regular people made the most of their new found voting rights, as elections in this time period had some of the highest voter turnouts in history. The era also produced a concern for fixing society in several Social Reform Movements. The only group not to benefit was the Native Americans, as they were forced aside to reservations.

The election of 1824 was very acrimonious. Some claimed that John Quincy Adams stole the election from Andrew Jackson with the help of Henry Clay through a Corrupt Bargain. Jackson's election in 1828 heralded the era of the common man, as suffrage was being spread to more individuals in this time period, without regard to land ownership.

By this time the United States had divided into three sections: the North, the South, and the West. In 1828 the tariff of abominations was passed. This caused the price of manufactured goods to increase, which hurt the agrarian south and benefited the industrializing north. The west stood to benefit as well because some of the money would be spent on internal improvements such as roads and canals in the West. This system, advocated by Henry Clay, is known as the American System. The south was under the leadership of John Calhoun who proposed nullification, or to erase the law. (This raised the considerable ire of Jackson who threatened to invade South Carolina.) Eventually a compromise was reached.

The Native Americans east of the Mississippi were in conflict with settlers looking to expand farm land. Jackson's policy of Indian Removal became the tool to displace thousands of Natives to Indian Territory (Oklahoma). Especially tragic was the Trail of Tears, in which the Cherokee were forcibly moved and thousands perished. During this time, the Seminole Indian Wars were fought, the second of which began in Cape Coral.

Jackson turned his attention to the Bank of the U.S. This was set up in the early days of the republic to regulate the economy. It was controlled by northern bankers and was not regulated by the Federal Government. Jackson saw it as an elitist operation and destroyed it. He distributed the funds to Pet banks, which led to rampant land speculation and the Panic of 1837.

Jackson made quite a few enemies. These diverse individuals created a second political party known as the Whigs.

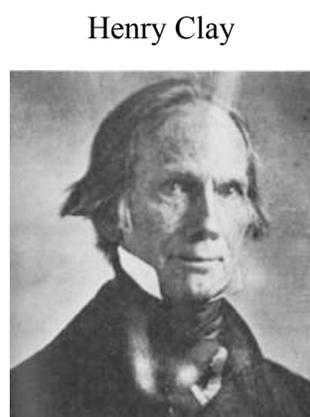
Although the Jacksonian time period is known as the "age of the common man" it did not embrace the immigrants. During the 1840's and 1850's large numbers of Irish and Germans began arriving. The Irish settled into Eastern cities. The Germans moved to the Midwest. Nativism reared its ugly head through secretive societies that tried to suppress the immigrant hordes. They even formed the political party called the Order of the Star Spangled Banner, more commonly known as the Know-Nothings.



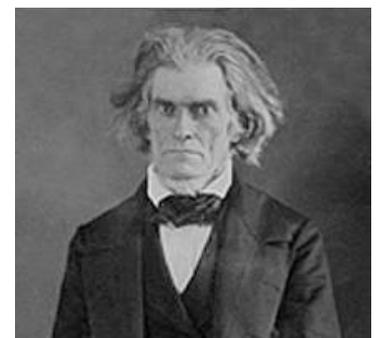
Chief Justice John Marshall



Andrew Jackson



Henry Clay



John C. Calhoun