

Era of Good Feelings, Clay's American System, The Monroe Doctrine, and the Elections of 1824, 1828

- I. **Era of Good Feelings** (approximately 1815-1820)
 - A. Main results of the War of 1812 for U.S.
 - Economic independence, increased sense of nationalism, development of a recognizable American identity, western expansion
 - B. On the surface it **appeared** to be a great period in U.S. History
 - Although the War was truly a stalemate, the perception was that of an American victory so the U.S. gained some respect and legitimacy around the world
 - British threat no longer perceived to be a problem despite Canada continuing to function as a British colony
 - Americans finally established a sense of identity and national pride (reflected in truly "American" literature and art in the 1820s)
 - Economy was strong and diversifying
 - W. Expansion continued and additional states added to the Union
 - One political party (perception of political unity)
 - C. In **Reality**.....
 - Strength of the economy was false
 - One political party----not really (Federalist name tarnished due to the **Alien and Sedition Acts** and later the **Hartford Convention** but the beliefs did not go away and political divisiveness was as strong as ever)
 - Slavery issue still lurked (1808 banned International Slave Trade not Domestic Slave Trade)
 - **Sectionalism** (excessive devotion to local interests above that of the country) was continuing to grow thus further dividing the country especially the North and South
 - D. **Panic of 1819** and **Missouri Compromise** brought the so-called Era of Good Feelings to an end
 - **Panic of 1819**----overextension of credit in the west and over speculation in frontier land (Clay's American System partly to blame for the Panic)---proof that economy was not so strong
 - **Mo. Compromise**--1820 (slave vs. free state debate started)---Slavery issue, Sectionalism, and political division evident

II. Henry Clay's American System (1815-1816)

- A. Developed on the foundation of post-war nationalism
- B. Truly hoped to isolate America and create a unified, self-sufficient nation
- C. Three main parts to the American System
 1. **Strong Banking System** (re-charter the Bank of the U.S.-----2nd Bank of the United States) that would provide credit to almost everyone
 - 1st Bank of U.S. (1791-1811)
 - 2nd Bank of U.S. (1816-1836)
 2. **Tariff to protect industry** in the N.East (Tariff of 1816----25%, barely protective but 1st one in U.S. History)---result of British flooding the U.S. market with cheap products in post war years
 3. **Internal Improvements** (network of roads and canals to improve transportation)
 - Necessary to industrialize the country going forward
 - Hope was to unify country economically and politically
 - South and West (raw materials)
 - North and East (manufactured goods)

III. President Monroe (1817-1825) and the Monroe Doctrine

- A. Given credit for the post-war nationalism, economy, and expansion
- B. Popular enough that re-elected in 1820 despite the "Era of Good Feelings" being shattered
- C. **Monroe Doctrine**
 - Result of two things:
 1. U.S. wanted to maintain its tradition (Washington's Farewell) of isolationism and avoiding crippling alliances
 2. Between 1815 and 1860, most of Europe attempted to restore the glory of the Monarchs (NO DEMOCRACY) and create stability in order to prevent further war
 - Monroe states in his annual address to Congress that U.S. foreign policy toward European powers would be **Non-colonization** and **Non-intervention** in the New World.
 - Could U.S. really back this up? Did it really need to?
 - could not if pressed (still a fragile nation)
 - main reason for restoration of monarchs was to bring back some peace and stability to Europe so all Western countries looking to avoid war

IV. Election of 1824 and the “Corrupt Bargain”

- Candidates---John Q. Adams (Mass.), Henry Clay (KY), Wm. Crawford (GA), Andrew Jackson (TN)-----all candidates claimed to be Democratic-Republicans and each represented unique regions of the country
- Jackson wins popular vote by approximately 45,000 or 10% of the vote but fails to get a majority (simple) in the electoral college (99-Jackson-84-Adams-41-Crawford-37-Clay)
- According to the 12th Amendment, House of Representatives would decide among the top three candidates (Clay eliminated but presided over the House----Speaker of the House)
- **“Corrupt Bargain”**----supposedly Clay helped influence support for Adams in the House (Clay then became Secretary of State----stepping stone to the Presidency-----i.e. Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, Quincy Adams)

V. President John Quincy Adams (1825-29)

- Viewed as one of the worst and least effective Presidents in the history of the country
- Did not have the “Mandate of the People” (popular and electoral vote seen as not his)
- Stories of the “Corrupt Bargain” taint his term from the start
- Masses/Common Man hate him (N.East elitist that stole the election from Jackson---hero of the common man)
- Jackson essentially begins campaigning for 1828 election as soon as the House declares Adams the winner in 1824 (constant attack on Adams Administration’s policies)

VI. Election of 1828 (“Revolution of 1828”)

- Jackson (Dem-Republican), Adams (National-Republican)
- Jackson wins by a landslide (178-83 electoral college) (Adams only support in N.East)
- Marked a shift from Elitist Aristocrats (East) to the common man (West)----shift of the political center in country (now candidates had to pay attention to the voters in the West)