

Tariffs (through 1846) and Politics in the 1840s

Tariff Rates (1816-1846)

- **1816 (25%)**- 1st truly protective tariff in the history of country, part of Clay's American System
- **1828 (45-50%)**- Tariff of Abominations, election trick pushed through by Jackson supporters in Congress to blame John Quincy Adams for the high rate, causes the nullification crisis
- **1832 (35-40%)**- 1st compromise tariff to settle nullification crisis, South still not satisfied
- **1833 (25%)**- Henry Clay's famous compromise to defuse the nullification crisis, Force Bill/Bloody Bill attached to the passage of this tariff
- **1842 (32%)**- passed under Tyler administration, actually favors south because rate kept relatively low even though there were calls for a much higher rate
- **1846 (25%)**- Walker Tariff, passed under Polk administration

Politics in the 1840s

- **Election of 1840**
 - first modern election in history of the country (2 defined parties, modern politicking utilized by both sides)
 - Tippecanoe (Harrison) and Tyler too (Harrison dies 4 weeks later)
 - Tyler (former Democrat turned Whig due to hatred of Jackson)
 - goes against Whig platform, expelled from the Whig party, and attempts made by Whigs in the House to impeach him
- **Election of 1844**
 - Polk was a "dark horse" but defeats Clay
 - Polk (Democrat)- 4 point Plan
 1. lower tariff (i.e. Walker Tariff)
 2. restoration of the Independent Treasury
 3. acquisition of California
 4. settle Oregon dispute with Great Britain
 - Polk a true expansionist who embraces Manifest Destiny
- **Election of 1848**
 - Taylor (Whig), Cass (Democrat), Van Buren (Free Soil)
 - Taylor wins due to Free Soil party taking votes away from Cass in New York
 - Free Soil Party
 - Supported Wilmot-Proviso and against slavery in any of the territories
 - Opposed slavery primarily because it prevented free white workers from competing for jobs and attaining the American Dream of upward mobility