

## Tariffs (through 1846) and Politics in the 1840s

### Tariff Rates (1816-1846)

- **1816 (25%)**- 1<sup>st</sup> 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%)**- 1<sup>st</sup> 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