Chapter 8: THE REVIVAL OF OPPOSITION

Andrew Jackson
Democrat

John Quincy Adams
National Republican
Objectives:

- We will examine the controversy surrounding the election of 1824 and the alleged "corrupt bargain" between John Quincy Adams and Henry Clay.
- We will examine the frustrations experienced by John Quincy Adams during his term as president, including congressional intransigence and the "tariff of abominations".
- We will examine the reasons why Andrew Jackson was elected in 1828, and the significance of his victory.
Verse of the Day:

- Eph_4:29  Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.
After 1816, the Federalist Party offered no presidential candidate and soon ceased to exist as a national political force.

The Republican Party (which considered itself not a party but an organization representing the whole of the population) was the only organized force in national politics.
In 1820s partisan division emerged.

The Republicans had mirrored the early Federalists in promotion of economic growth and centralization.

And the opposition like the opposition in the 1790s objected to the federal governments expanding role in the economy.
But there was a crucial difference.

At the beginning of the century, the opponents of centralization had also often been opponents of economic growth.

Now the controversy was not WHETHER but HOW the nation continued to expand.
The Corrupt Bargain:

- Four candidates ran for president in the election of 1824.
- William H. Crawford of Georgia, the Secretary of Treasury and the favorite of extreme state’s rights faction of the party.
- John Quincy Adams had little popular appeal because of his cold personality.
The Corrupt Bargain:

- Henry Clay, the Speaker of the House, who advocated the American System which proposed creating a great home market for factory and farm producers by raising the protective tariffs, strengthening the national bank, and financing internal improvements.
The Corrupt Bargain:

- Andrew Jackson had no significant political record even though he had served in Congress and now a new member of the U.S. Senate.

- He was a war hero.
The Corrupt Bargain:

- Jackson won the popular vote and more electoral votes but he did not have a majority.
- The Twelfth Amendment to the Constitution passed after the elections of 1800 required the House of Representatives to choose among the three candidates with the largest number of electoral votes.
The Corrupt Bargain:

- Clay’s votes went to Adams because Clay believed that Adams was an ardent nationalist and would be likely supporters of the American system.
- Clay endorsed Adams and won the election in the house.
The Second President Adams

- The “corrupt bargain” brought political bitterness that caused Adam’s policies to be blocked by Jacksonians in Congress.
The Second President Adams

- Adams experienced diplomatic frustrations.
- He appointed delegates to an international conference that Venezuelan liberator Simon Bolivar had called in Panama in 1826.
- Congress opposed the idea of White Americans mingling with black delegates with Haiti being one of the nations invited.
- Congress delayed approving the Panama mission so long that the American delegation did not arrive until the conference was over.
The Second President Adams

- Adams lost a contest with the state of Georgia which wished to remove the remaining Creek and Cherokee Indians from the state to gain additional soil for cotton planters.
- The United States government in 1791 treaty guaranteed the land to the Creeks.
- But in 1825, White Georgians extracted a new treaty from William McIntosh, the leader of one faction in the tribe and a longtime advocate of Indian cooperation with the U.S.
- Adams believed the new treaty had no legal force since McIntosh did not represent the wishes of the tribe.
The Second President Adams

- Adams refused to enforce the treaty but the governor of Georgia defied the president and proceeded to remove the Indians with Adams powerless to stop him.
The Second President Adams

- Even more damaging to the administration was Adam’s support for a new tariff on imported goods.
- Massachusetts and Rhode Island woolen manufacturers demanded this tariff complaining that the British were dumping textiles on the American market at artificially low prices.
The Second President Adams

- But to win support from middle and western states, the administration had to accept duties on other items.
- This antagonized the original New England supporters as they had to pay more for raw materials and Southerners as well.
Jackson Triumphant:

- In 1828 a new two-party system had begun to emerge out of the divisions among the Republicans.
- On one side stood the supporters of John Quincy Adams, who called themselves the National Republicans and who supported the economic nationalism of the preceding years.
Jackson Triumphant:

- Opposing them were the followers of Andrew Jackson, who took the name Democratic Republicans and who called for an assault on privilege and a widening opportunity.
- Adams attracted the support of most of the remaining Federalists;
- Jackson appealed to a broad coalition opposed to the “economic aristocracy.”
Dirty Politics:

- But issues seemed to count for little in the end as the campaign degenerated into a war of personal attacks.
- Adams was charged by Jacksonians for waste of public funds to use gambling devices (Chess set and a billiard table) for the White House.
Dirty Politics:

- Adams supporters called Jackson a murderer of militiamen at the War of 1812 while they were legally executed for desertion.
- They insulted his beloved wife as a bigamist when she not knowing that her first husband was yet to divorce her married Jackson.
- When Jackson’s wife read the accusations against her shortly after the election, she collapsed and a few weeks later died not without reason.
Dirty Politics:

- Jackson blamed his opponents for her death.
- Jackson’s victory was decisive but sectional.
- He won 56 percent of the popular vote and electoral majority.
- Adams won all of New England and showed strength in the Mid-Atlantic region.
Jackson Wins:

- Jackson considered the victory as complete as important as Jefferson in 1800.
- Once again the forces of privilege had been driven from Washington.
- A champion of democracy would occupy the White House and restore liberty to the people and to the economy.
- It was a “age of the common man” a new era of democracy according to Jackson’s supporters.