

Chapter 68 - Andrew Jackson's Second Term

Time: November – December 1832

Jackson Wins The Election Of 1832

Based on the 1830 Census, the Electoral College map show sizable gains for the Western states and for those where slavery is banned.

The election is again held from November to December 1832 and the turn-out is up 12% over 1828 to nearly 1.3 million voters.

Shifting Electoral Power: Old/New and Slave/Free

| Geography | 1828 | 1832 | chg |
|----------------------|------|------|-----|
| Old Established East | 196 | 199 | 3 |
| Emerging States West | 65 | 85 | 20 |
| | | | |
| Free | 147 | 165 | 18 |
| Slave | 114 | 119 | 5 |

Despite the turmoil surrounding the “Nullification Crisis,” and the concerted efforts of the three opposing political parties to bring him down, nothing puts a dent in Jackson’s popularity with the public – and he wins in a landslide, with 55% of the popular vote and a 223-67 electoral margin.

Clay’s National Republicans take only six states out of the total of twenty-four. The Nullifier Party wins in one state – South Carolina – where the legislature (not the public) pick the electors. The Anti-Masons garner 8% of the popular vote, but also carry only one state, Vermont.

Jackson’s victory also bodes well for his Secretary of State and longtime confidant, Martin Van Buren, of New York, who emerges as a likely successor in 1836.

Results of the 1832 Presidential Election

| Candidates | Party | Pop Vote | Electors | South | Border | North | West |
|----------------|---------------------|-----------|----------|-------|--------|-------|------|
| Andrew Jackson | Democrat | 701,780 | 223 | 80 | 7 | 97 | 39 |
| Henry Clay | National Republican | 484,205 | 49 | 0 | 23 | 26 | 0 |
| John Floyd | Nullifier/sc | 0 | 11 | 11 | | | |
| William Wirt | Anti-Mason | 100,715 | 7 | | | 7 | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Total | | 1,286,700 | 290 | 91 | 30 | 130 | 39 |
| Needed to win | | | 146 | | | | |

The magnitude of Jackson’s win is evident in its breadth. He dominates in the North and the East, as well as the South and the West. He is favored in the Free states and the Slave states.

1832 Results by Regions of the U.S.*

| | Slavery Allowed (12) | Slavery Banned (12) | AJ Total |
|---|--|--|------------------|
| Old Established East Coast States (15) | 52 Jackson 6 clay 11 floyd 69 Total | 97 Jackson 26 clay 7 wirt 130 Total | 149 (75%) |
| Emerging States West Of Appalachian Range (9) | 35 Jackson 15 clay 50 Total | 35 Jackson 0 clay 35 Total | 70 (82%) |
| AJ Total | 87 (73%) | 152 (92%) | 219 (77%) |

*Excluding Territorial Votes (4)

Time: 1832

The Democrats Dominate Both Houses Of Congress

As was the case in 1828, Jackson’s popularity translates into wins for Democrats in the Congress.

The tight margin that prevailed during John Quincy Adams’ presidency has now widened comfortably in the Democrats’ favor.

Seats in Both Houses of Congress

| U.S. House | 1823-25 | 1825-27 | 1827-29 | 1829-31 | 1831-33 | 1833-35 |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Total Seats | 213 | 213 | 213 | 213 | 213 | 240 |
| Democrats | 89% | 49% | 53% | 64% | 59% | 60% |
| Opposition | 11 | 51 | 47 | 36 | 41 | 40 |
| U.S. Senate | | | | | | |
| Total Seats | 48 | 48 | 48 | 48 | 48 | 48 |
| Democrats | 90% | 49% | 53% | 64% | 59% | 60% |
| Opposition | 10 | 51 | 47 | 36 | 41 | 40 |
| President | J Mon | JQA | JQA | AJ | AJ | AJ |

The message here being that the new contenders – be they from Clay, Calhoun or Weed – will need to find stronger arguments in the future if they hope to unseat the Democrats.

Time: March 4, 1833

Jackson's Second Inaugural Address



Andrew Jackson (1767-1845)

Jackson is sworn in on March 4, 1833, by Chief Justice John Marshall, who administers the oath in the House chamber of the Capitol.

While the immediate turmoil over the Tariff nullification threat from South Carolina has dampened by Jackson's threat of force and a rate compromise, that topic along with the future of the Union are on the President's mind as he delivers his Inaugural Address.

As usual, the ex-General is a man of relatively few, but always precise, words.

He begins by expressing his gratitude for the honor of serving again.

Fellow-Citizens: The will of the American people...calls me before you to...take upon myself the duties of President of the United States for another term. For their approbation of my public conduct through a period which has not been without its difficulties...I am at a loss for terms adequate to the expression of my gratitude. It shall be displayed to the extent of my humble abilities in continued efforts so to administer the Government as to preserve their liberty and promote their happiness.

In regard to foreign policy, he says the nation is at peace and facing "few causes of controversy."

The foreign policy adopted by our Government...has been crowned with almost complete success, and has elevated our character among the nations of the earth. To do justice to all and to submit to wrong from none has been during my Administration its governing maxim, and so happy have been its results that we are not only at peace with all the world, but have few causes of controversy, and those of minor importance, remaining unadjusted.

His focus shifts to the home front, reaffirming his commitment to preserving both the states' rights and the integrity of the Union.

In the domestic policy of this Government there are two objects which especially deserve the attention of the people and their representatives, and which have been and will continue to be the subjects of my increasing solicitude. They are the preservation of the rights of the several States and the integrity of the Union.

A first principle in balancing the two lies in the willingness of the states to obey all laws passed by the federal government. (“Nullification” is not an option.)

These great objects are necessarily connected, and can only be attained by an enlightened exercise of the powers of each within its appropriate sphere in conformity with the public will constitutionally expressed. To this end it becomes the duty of all to yield a ready and patriotic submission to the laws constitutionally enacted and thereby promote and strengthen a proper confidence in those institutions of the several States and of the United States which the people themselves have ordained for their own government.

At the same time, it is important that the federal government not encroach upon the rights of the states.

My experience...confirm(s)...that the destruction of our State governments or the annihilation of their control over the local concerns of the people would lead directly to revolution and anarchy, and finally to despotism and military domination....therefore...my countrymen will ever find me...arresting measures which may directly or indirectly encroach upon the rights of the States or tend to consolidate all political power in the General Government.

But what is of “incalculable importance” is insuring the sacred Union, without which liberty would never have been achieved or could not be maintained.

But of incalculable, importance is the union of these States, and the sacred duty of all to contribute to its preservation by a liberal support of the General Government in the exercise of its just powers. You have been wisely admonished to...indignantly frown upon the first dawning of any attempt to alienate any portion of our country from the rest or to enfeeble the sacred ties which now link together the various parts." Without union our independence and liberty would never have been achieved; without union they never can be maintained.

He turns to his growing concern about “dissolution,” arguing that it would lead to the loss of freedom, and the end of good government, peace, plenty and happiness.

Divided into twenty-four, or even a smaller number, of separate communities, we shall see our internal trade burdened with numberless restraints and exactions; communication between distant points and sections obstructed or cut off; our sons made soldiers to deluge with blood the fields they now till in peace; the mass of our people borne down and impoverished by taxes to support armies and navies, and military leaders at the head of their victorious legions becoming our lawgivers and judges. The loss of liberty, of all good government, of peace, plenty, and happiness, must inevitably follow a dissolution of the Union.

He says that the eyes of the world are on America's "existing crisis" – the threat of "nullification" – which must be resolved through a proper mix of "forbearance and firmness" to escape the current dangers.

The time at which I stand before you is full of interest. The eyes of all nations are fixed on our Republic. The event of the existing crisis will be decisive in the opinion of mankind of the practicability of our federal system of government. ...Let us exercise forbearance and firmness. Let us extricate our country from the dangers which surround it and learn wisdom from the lessons they inculcate.

He reiterates his ongoing commitment to financial integrity, controlling federal spending and limiting taxation.

At the same time, it will be my aim to inculcate...those powers only that are clearly delegated; to encourage simplicity and economy in the expenditures of the Government; to raise no more money from the people than may be requisite for these objects, and in a manner that will best promote the interests of all classes of the community and of all portions of the Union.

Sensing the growing regional discord, he wishes for compromise and reconciliation "with our brethren in all parts of the country" – with partial sacrifices made by each to preserve the greater good of the whole.

Constantly bearing in mind that in entering into society "individuals must give up a share of liberty to preserve the rest," it will be my desire so to discharge my duties as to foster with our brethren in all parts of the country a spirit of liberal concession and compromise, and, by reconciling our fellow-citizens to those partial sacrifices which they must unavoidably make for the preservation of a greater good, to recommend our invaluable Government and Union to the confidence and affections of the American people.

He ends with a prayer to the Almighty Being on behalf of the nation's continued well-being.

Finally, it is my most fervent prayer to that Almighty Being before whom I now stand, and who has kept us in His hands from the infancy of our Republic to the present day, that He will so overrule all my intentions and actions and inspire the hearts of my fellow-citizens that we may be preserved from dangers of all kinds and continue forever a united and happy people.

Time: 1789 – 1861

Sidebar: Word Counts For The First Sixteen President’s Inaugural Addresses

| President | Date | Words |
|-------------------------------|---|--------------|
| George Washington | April 30, 1789 | 1431 |
| | March 4, 1793 | 135 |
| John Adams | March 4, 1797 | 2321 |
| Thomas Jefferson | March 4, 1801 | 1730 |
| | March 4, 1803 | 2166 |
| James Madison | March 4, 1809 | 1177 |
| | March 4, 1813 | 1211 |
| James Monroe | March 4, 1817 | 3375 |
| | March 4, 1821 | 4472 |
| John Quincy Adams | March 4, 1825 | 2915 |
| Andrew Jackson | March 4, 1829 | 1128 |
| | March 4, 1833 | 1176 |
| Martin van Buren | March 4, 1837 | 3843 |
| William Henry Harrison | March 4, 1841 | 8460 |
| John Tyler | <i>Succeeded following Harrison’s death</i> | |
| James K. Polk | March 4, 1845 | 4809 |
| Zachary Taylor | March 5, 1849 | 1090 |
| Millard Fillmore | <i>Succeeded following Taylor’s death</i> | |
| Franklin Pierce | March 4, 1853 | 3336 |
| James Buchanan | March 4, 1857 | 2831 |
| Abraham Lincoln | March 4, 1861 | 3637 |
| | March 4, 1865 | 700 |

Time: March 4, 1833-March 3, 1837

Overview Of Jackson’s Second Term

Jackson’s second term is largely devoted to finishing up on the priorities he set for himself in the first.

He is particularly drawn to continued initiatives aimed at securing the financial well-being of the nation.

These include eliminating the national debt – and in 1835 he becomes the last President in U.S. history who will pay it off entirely.

But, like Jefferson, nothing troubles him more than the monetary and banking systems established by Alexander Hamilton, the perpetual arch villain of the anti-Federalists. Jackson intuitively fears that simple greed will find state banks printing an oversupply of soft money, unbacked by gold/silver, to make speculative loans – and that this will result in ruinous inflation and collapse of the financial system.

He also believes that the Second Bank of the United States, a corporate entity, concentrates too much power in the hands of a few wealthy capitalists, who will prioritize their own interests over the good of the country.

During his second term, Jackson will act on both concerns, first shutting down the Second Bank, and then issuing his “Specie Circular” to reestablish the gold standard and the value of the American dollar. The short-run effect of these two moves will be a bank panic that begins in 1837.

The next four years will also see a sharp acceleration in the cession of Native American homelands and the relocation of the eastern tribes to new “reservations” west of the Mississippi. The moves themselves, memorialized as “The Trail of Tears,” will forever be associated with Jackson’s name.

The issue of US expansion into Mexican territory heats up when American settlers are killed in sieges at the Alamo and Goliad. After responding with a resounding military victory under Sam Houston at the Battle of San Jacinto, the Republic of Texas is founded in 1836. While Congress is eager to recognize and annex Texas, Jackson stalls for want of starting a war.

Finally, the growth of the abolitionist movement produces social tensions and violent reactions across all regions of the country. By the end of his second term, the American Anti-Slavery Society will have opened over 500 chapters in the North, the South will attempt to “gag” the reformers, and Jackson’s “sacred Union” will once again be in jeopardy.

Key Events: Andrew Jackson’s Second Term

| 1833 | |
|--------------|---|
| March 2 | Jackson signs the “Force Bill” and a “Compromise Tariff” To Resolve Nullification |
| March 4 | Jackson and Van Buren are inaugurated |
| August 28 | Great Britain abolishes slavery in her colonies |
| September 23 | Jackson says government will no longer put federal deposits in the Second BUS |
| September 26 | Roger Taney is named Treasury Secretary after predecessor opposes AJ on BUS |
| December 6 | Abolitionists Lewis Tappan & Dwight Weld found The American Anti-Slavery Society |
| December 26 | Clay introduces censure bills against Jackson and Taney for BUS actions |
| December | Lucretia Mott helps organize the Female Anti-Slavery Society in Philadelphia |

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Year | Supply of banknotes, unbacked by gold/silver, expands to support west land speculation |
| 1834 | |
| January 3 | Stephen Austin arrested after presenting resolution in Mexico to annex Texas |
| March 28 | The Senate supports Clay's bills of censure against Jackson and Taney |
| April 14 | Henry Clay's new political party is christened "Whigs" after Britain's opposition group |
| April 15 | Jackson protests censure bills and vows to defend himself |
| July 4 | An Anti-Slavery meeting in NYC sets off an eight day anti-black rampage |
| October 28 | Seminoles ordered to leave Florida as agreed in Treaty of Payne's Landing |
| November 1 | Train from Philadelphia to Trenton starts up |
| 1835 | |
| January 30 | Jackson unhurt after assassin's gun misfires as he leaves the House chamber |
| January | The Whig Party decides to run several regional candidates for president in 1836 |
| May 20 | The Democrats nominate Martin Van Buren for 1836 |
| July 6 | Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall dies; Roger Taney named to succeed him |
| July 6 | Charleston mob burns abolitionist literature and urges a post office ban on it |
| August 10 | An anti-black mob burns Noyes Academy in Canaan, NY, for admitting negroes |
| September 13 | James Birney and Gerrit Smith strengthen their commitment to emancipation |
| October 21 | Mob parades Lloyd Garrison with rope around his neck after Boston abolition meeting |
| October 29 | A Democrat faction called "Loco Focos" lobbies for urban workingmen's issues |
| November | A Second Seminole War begins as the tribe refuses to abandon its lands |
| December 16 | The new Anti-Mason Party nominates William Henry Harrison for 1836 President |
| December 29 | Cherokees sign the Treaty of New Echota to move west in exchange for \$5 million |
| 1836 | |
| January 11 | Abolitionists present petitions to Congress to end slavery in the District of Columbia |
| January 27 | France finally makes reparation payments to the US for war damages |
| January | James Birney launches his anti-slavery newspaper the <i>Philanthropist</i> |
| February 23 | The Alamo garrison is overwhelmed by Mexican forces led by Santa Anna (167 die) |
| March 17 | Despite Mexican ban on slavery, American settlers announce their support for it |
| March 27 | Santa Anna massacres another 300 Americans at their settlement at Goliad |
| April 20 | Congress splits off the Wisconsin Territory from the old Michigan Territory |
| April 21 | Sam Houston and his Texans defeat and capture Santa Anna at Battle of San Jacinto |
| May 25 | JQ Adams delivers House speech opposing Texas annexation for fear of Mexican war |
| May 26 | Southerners pass "Gag Order" to end reading of anti-slave petitions in the House |
| June 15 | Arkansas joins the Union as the 25 th state |

| | |
|-------------|---|
| July 1 | Congress votes to recognize the Republic of Texas, but Jackson delays fearing war |
| July 11 | Jackson issue Specie Circular requiring gold/silver to buy federal land to slow inflation |
| July 12 | Mob attacks James Birney's <i>Philanthropist</i> office |
| October 22 | Sam Houston sworn in as Texas Republic president |
| December 7 | Martin Van Buren elected President; House election needed to choose RM Johnson as VP |
| Year | Anti-Slavery Society chapters spread rapidly across the North |
| 1837 | |
| January 26 | Michigan is admitted as the 26 th state, restoring a 13:13 slave to free balance in Senate |
| February 12 | Flour warehouse in NYC stormed by mob protesting high cost of housing and food |
| February 14 | Supreme Court affirms community over corporate interest in <i>Charles River Bridge</i> case |
| March 1 | Jackson pocket vetoes Congressional bill to repeal the Species Circular policy |
| March 3 | Jackson finally recognizes the Republic of Texas on last day in power |
| March | Cotton prices collapse as concerns about the value of the dollar register globally |

The US economy continues to grow nicely throughout Jackson's time in office, including a sharp upswing in 1835 and 1836. But, underneath this boom period, lies rampant speculation and monetary inflation which is about to usher in a crippling bust cycle to plague his successor.

Key Economic Overview – Jackson's Terms in Office

| | 1829 | 1830 | 1831 | 1832 | 1833 | 1834 | 1835 | 1836 |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Total GDP (\$000) | 930 | 1022 | 1052 | 1129 | 1158 | 1219 | 1340 | 1479 |
| % Change | 4% | 10% | 3% | 7% | 3% | 5% | 10% | 10% |
| | | | | | | | | |
| Per Capita GDP | 74 | 79 | 79 | 83 | 82 | 84 | 90 | 96 |