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A GROWING NATION

1820 to 1855 were turbulent years in American history. Ten different presidents served during those thirty-five years. Only five had served in the first thirty years of the nation. All of the first five presidents except one, John Adams, had served two terms in office. Of the next ten, only one, Andrew Jackson, succeeded in obtaining a second term. The upheaval in the presidency was simply a reflection of the upheaval in the nation.

This was an era of new political parties, expansion, and the rise of sectionalism. The long-ruling Democratic-Republicans fell victim to their own success as they split into factions. Two of these emerged as opposing political parties, the Democrats and the Whigs. The two alternated in control of the government throughout this time period. By 1855, the issue that would not go away, slavery, produced yet another party, the Republicans.

The nation continued to grow at an alarming rate during these years. American immigrants in Spanish/Mexican Texas took over that land and eventually brought it into the Union. A war with Mexico added all of the Southwest and California. Settlements were reached with Britain over Maine and Oregon. A small piece of Mexican land was purchased in 1853 as a railroad route across Arizona and New Mexico. By 1855, all of the land that would create the contiguous 48 states was under U.S. control. Nine new states were added to the nation between 1820 and 1855 as their population grew to reach the required minimum. The natural problems caused by such rapid growth were part of the upheaval of the era.

Slavery and North-South differences were major issues from 1820 to 1855. The country was, at first, divided into three sections: North, South, and West. As the West matured, it joined either the North or South on the slavery issue. Prior to that two-way division, each section had its own agenda and its own representative giant in Washington. Henry Clay from the West, John Calhoun from the South, and Daniel Webster from the North were renowned in their own time for their oratory and their leadership. These men would provide much of the statesmanship that would keep the nation together until after they had died.

OBJECTIVES

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAC®.

When you have finished this LIFEPAC, you should be able to:

1. Name the leaders of the era and explain their accomplishments.
2. Describe the presidency of Andrew Jackson and its effect on America.
3. Trace the development of the slavery and tariff issues from 1820 to 1855.
4. Define Manifest Destiny and describe its course in America.
5. Describe the course of the Texas Revolution and Mexican War.
6. Define the Industrial Revolution and name the people, innovations, and inventions that contributed to it.
7. Describe the effects of the Industrial Revolution in America.
8. Describe the Second Great Awakening and the reform movements that followed it.
9. Describe the compromises that kept the nation together and what ended them.
10. Describe the changes in America and American life in this era.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>President</th>
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<tr>
<td>James Monroe</td>
<td>1817-1825</td>
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<td>John Quincy Adams</td>
<td>1825-1829</td>
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<td>Andrew Jackson</td>
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<td>Millard Fillmore</td>
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<td>Whig</td>
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<tr>
<td>Franklin Pierce</td>
<td>1853-1857</td>
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* Died in office

**States Admitted to the Union:**

- Maine 1820
- Missouri 1821
- Arkansas 1836
- Michigan 1837
- Florida 1845
- Texas 1845
- Iowa 1846
- Wisconsin 1848
- California 1850

**Population:**

1820: 9,638,453
1850: 23,191,876
I. JACKSONIAN ERA

Andrew Jackson’s election as president was, like Jefferson’s before him, a step in the expansion of democracy in America. The right to vote had been expanding as more and more states dropped property requirements for voters. Jackson, therefore, was elected by the votes of ordinary working people, not the land-owning aristocrats who dominated the voting population a few years before that. His election was a turning point in our history. He was the people’s president.

Andrew Jackson was also a man who would shape the government in his own fashion. He had strong opinions and the will, popular support, and party machinery to force them through. He believed he had the support of the people and saw no reason to compromise with Congress or the Supreme Court. His enemies called him “King Andrew I” with good reason. He did exactly what he wanted and changed the face of American government and politics forever.

SECTION OBJECTIVES

Review these objectives. When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Name the leaders of the era and explain their accomplishments.
2. Describe the presidency of Andrew Jackson and its effect on America.
3. Trace the development of the slavery and tariff issues from 1820 to 1855.
9. Describe the compromises that kept the nation together and what ended them.
10. Describe the changes in America and American life in this era.

VOCABULARY

Study these words to enhance your learning success in this section.

abolitionist (ab ô lish’ un ist). Person seeking to abolish (end) something, especially slavery.
caucus (kaw’ kus). A closed meeting of a group of persons from the same political party to choose a candidate or decide on policy.
censure (sen’ chur). An official reprimand.
duel (doo’ ul). A formal combat with weapons fought between two persons in the presence of witnesses.
mandate (man’ dât). An authorization to act given to a representative.
nullification (nul i fi kâ’ shun). The action of a state attempting to prevent the enforcement within its territory of a law of the United States.

Note: All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAC appear in boldface print the first time they are used. If you are unsure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

Pronunciation Key: hat, âge, cäre, fär; let, équal, tèrm; it, śće; hot, őpen, őrder; oil; out; cup, put, ńül; child; long; thin; /TH/ for then; /zh/ for measure; /u/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil, /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.
Giants in Washington. By the beginning of the War of 1812, three men who would be among the most prominent of their era had begun careers in Washington. Henry Clay of Kentucky became a member of the House of Representatives in 1811. He was joined that same year by John Calhoun of South Carolina. They were leaders of the War Hawks who pushed for the war with Britain. Two years later, Daniel Webster of Massachusetts joined the House. These men would serve in Washington in the House, Senate, President’s Cabinet, and even the vice presidency until the early 1850s. None of them ever became president, although they all tried. However, no discussion of this era would be complete without an understanding of these men and their influence.

Henry Clay was born in Virginia but moved to Kentucky as a young man to practice law. Clay was a notable speaker and an ambitious, natural leader. He was elected to the House of Representatives, where he often served as the Speaker, and the Senate. He also served one term as secretary of state and ran unsuccessfully for president several times, usually as a Whig. Clay was called the Great Compromiser for his ability to wrangle agreements and resolve crises in the difficult years leading up to the Civil War. He exercised tremendous influence in Congress. He used it to promote programs and compromises to benefit the whole nation. Clay was an ardent nationalist who earned the title of statesman for his work on behalf of the American people.

John Calhoun was born in South Carolina and practiced law there until a wealthy marriage enabled him to concentrate on politics. His federal employment included the House of Representatives, Senate, secretary of war, secretary of state, and vice president. In many ways he reflects the splitting up of the nation that occurred between the Era of Good Feelings and the Civil War. He began his career as a strong Jeffersonian Democratic nationalist. He favored a strong federal government and supported Clay’s American System to benefit the entire nation. However, as time went on he began to focus more and more on the narrow needs of his own state and region. He opposed the tariffs that protected the northern manufacturers, and became very defensive of the South’s “peculiar institution,” slavery. In the end, Calhoun became the leading proponent of the doctrine of nullification and states’ rights. Ironically, he believed this was a way to save the Union by protecting the South. His philosophies became the basis for the Confederacy.

Daniel Webster was born in New Hampshire but moved to Massachusetts as a young man to practice law. He gained tremendous fame as an orator and was one of the best paid attorneys in the nation. He argued and won several key cases before the Supreme Court, including *McCulloch v. Maryland* (states cannot tax the national bank) and *Gibbons v. Ogden* (federal government controls interstate commerce). He served in the House of Representatives, the Senate, and the cabinet as secretary of state. He was a strong advocate for the manufacturing interests of the North. He opposed slavery, but as a nationalist, he supported compromises on the issue to maintain the Union, something that turned many abolitionists against him.

Missouri Compromise. One of the issues that would divide the nation was slavery. It had not been a significant problem when the new Constitution was accepted in 1789. Slavery, although widespread, was not very profitable and might have died on its own had it not been for the cotton gin. Cotton was a popular fiber for cloth,