

Period 4: 1800–1848

In a Nutshell

The new republic struggled to define and extend democratic ideals in the face of rapid economic, territorial, and demographic changes.

Key Concepts

Part 1

- A. The United States developed the world's first modern mass democracy and celebrated a new national culture, while Americans sought to define the nation's democratic ideals and to reform its institutions to match them.
- B. The nation's transformation to a more participatory democracy was accompanied by continued debates over federal power, the relationship between the federal government and the states, the authority of different branches of the federal government, and the rights and responsibilities of individual citizens.
- C. Concurrent with an increasing international exchange of goods and ideas, larger numbers of Americans began struggling with how to match democratic political ideals to political institutions and social realities.
- D. While Americans celebrated their nation's progress toward a unified new national culture that blended Old World forms with New World ideas, various groups of the nation's inhabitants developed distinctive cultures of their own.

Part 2

- E. Developments in technology, agriculture, and commerce precipitated profound changes in U.S. settlement patterns, regional identities, gender and family relations, political power, and distribution of consumer goods.
- F. A global market and communications revolution, influencing and influenced by technological innovations, led to dramatic shifts in the nature of agriculture and manufacturing.
- G. Regional economic specialization, especially the demands of cultivating southern cotton, shaped settlement patterns and the national and international economy.
- H. The economic changes caused by the market revolution had significant effects on migration patterns, gender and family relations, and the distribution of political power.

Part 3

- I. U.S. interest in increasing foreign trade, expanding its national borders, and isolating itself from European conflicts shaped the nation's foreign policy and spurred government and private initiatives.
- J. Struggling to create an independent global presence, U.S. policymakers sought to dominate the North American continent and to promote its foreign trade.
- K. Various American groups and individuals initiated, championed, and/or resisted the expansion of territory and/or government powers.

- L. The American acquisition of lands in the West gave rise to a contest over the extension of slavery into the western territories as well as a series of attempts at national compromise.

Significant Topics

1. Development of American Political Parties

As various constituencies and interest groups coalesced and defined their agendas, various political parties, most significantly the Federalists and Democratic-Republicans in the 1790s and the Democrats and Whigs in the 1830s, were created or transformed to reflect and/or promote those agendas.

- a. Federalists

- b. Democratic-Republicans

- c. Election of 1800 (Revolution of 1800)

- d. Era of Good Feelings

- e. Democrats

- f. Whig Party

2. The Supreme Court, 1801-1835

Supreme Court decisions sought to assert federal power over state laws and the primacy of the judiciary in determining the meaning of the Constitution.

- a. midnight judges

- b. John Marshall

c. *Marbury v. Madison*, 1803

d. judicial review

e. *McCulloch v. Maryland*, 1819

f. *Gibbons v. Ogden*, 1824

3. **American Economic Development**

With the acceleration of a national and international market economy, Americans debated the scope of government's role in the economy, while diverging economic systems meant that regional political and economic loyalties often continued to overshadow national concerns.

a. market economy

b. Albert Gallatin

c. Embargo Act, 1807

d. Panic of 1819

e. Panic of 1837

- f. debates over the tariff and internal improvements

4. **Southern Slavery**

Many white Americans in the South asserted their regional identity through pride in the institution of slavery, insisting that the federal government should defend that institution.

- a. southern defense of slavery

- b. Slave Codes

- c. Calhoun's Speech in the U.S. Senate, 1837

5. **Second Great Awakening and American Reform Movements**

The Second Great Awakening, liberal social ideas from abroad, and Romantic beliefs in human perfectibility fostered the rise of voluntary organizations to promote religious and secular reforms, including abolition and women's rights.

- a. Second Great Awakening

- b. Charles Finney

- c. Seneca Falls Convention, 1848

- d. Elizabeth Cady Stanton

- e. Frances (Franny) Wright

- f. Dorothea Dix

- g. Horace Mann

- h. Utopian communities

6. **Abolition and the Rights of African Americans**

Despite the outlawing of the international slave trade, the rise in the number of free African Americans in both the North and the South, and widespread discussion of various emancipation plans, the U.S. and many state governments continued to restrict African Americans' citizenship possibilities.

- a. James Forten

- b. American Colonization Society, 1817

- c. William Lloyd Garrison

- d. Sojourner Truth

- e. Liberty Party, 1840

- f. Elijah Lovejoy

- g. Frederick Douglass

7. **Resistance to Reform**

Resistance to initiatives for democracy and inclusion included proslavery arguments, rising xenophobia, anti-black sentiments in political and popular culture, and restrictive anti-Indian policies.

8. **American Culture**

A new national culture emerged, with various Americans creating art, architecture, and literature that combined European forms with local and regional cultural sensibilities. Various groups of American Indians, women, and religious followers also developed cultures reflecting their interests and experiences, as did regional groups and an emerging urban middle class.

a. neoclassicism

b. Hudson River School, 1825-1875

c. transcendentalism

d. Ralph Waldo Emerson

e. Henry David Thoreau

f. John James Audubon

9. **African American Leadership and Culture**

Enslaved and free African Americans, isolated at the bottom of the social hierarchy, created communities and strategies to protect their dignity and their family structures, even as some launched abolitionist and reform movements aimed at changing their status.

a. Richard Allen

b. David Walker

- c. slave music

10. **American Technological Developments**

Innovations including textile machinery, steam engines, interchangeable parts, canals, railroads, and the telegraph, as well as agricultural inventions, both extended markets and brought efficiency to production for those markets.

- a. Samuel Slater

- b. Cyrus McCormick

- c. John Deere

11. **American Industry**

Increasing numbers of Americans, especially women in factories and low-skilled male workers, no longer relied on semi-subsistence agriculture but made their livelihoods producing goods for distant markets, even as some urban entrepreneurs went into finance rather than manufacturing.

- a. Lowell system

- b. Baldwin Locomotive Works

- c. anthracite coal mining

- d. interchangeable parts

12. Southern Cotton (The Cotton Belt)

Southern cotton furnished the raw material for manufacturing in the Northeast, while the growth in cotton production and trade promoted the development of national economic ties, shaped the international economy, and fueled the internal slave trade.

13. Development of a National Economy

Despite some governmental and private efforts to create a unified national economy, most notably the American System, the shift to market production linked the North and the Midwest more closely than either was linked to the South.

- a. American System, 1815

14. Development of Natural Resources

Efforts to exploit the nation's natural resources led to government efforts to promote free and forced migration of various American peoples across the continent, as well as to competing ideas about defining and managing labor systems, geographical boundaries, and natural resources.

15. Westward Migration

With the opening of canals and new roads into the western territories, native-born white citizens relocated westward, relying on new community systems to replace their old family and local relationships.

- a. Eire Canal, 1817-1825

- b. turnpikes

- c. National Road (Cumberland Road), 1811

- d. Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, 1828

16. European Immigration

Migrants from Europe increased the population in the East and the Midwest, forging strong bonds of interdependence between the Northeast and the Old Northwest.

17. The Southern Identity

The South remained politically, culturally, and ideologically distinct from the other sections, while continuing to rely on its exports to Europe for economic growth.

- a. Mason-Dixon Line

18. American Society

The market revolution helped to widen a gap between rich and poor, shaped emerging middle and working classes, and caused an increasing separation between home and workplace, which led to dramatic transformations in gender and in family roles and expectations.

- a. cult of domesticity

- b. Lydia Maria Child

- c. National Trades' Union, 1834

19. Sectional Economic Differences

Regional interests continued to trump national concerns as the basis for many political leaders' positions on economic issues including slavery, the national bank, tariffs, and internal improvements.

- a. Second Bank of the United States, 1816

- b. Tariff of 1816

- c. Tariff of Abominations, 1828

- d. Destruction of the Second Bank of the United States, 1833

- e. John C. Calhoun

f. Daniel Webster

g. Henry Clay

20. American Expansionism and Internationalism

Following the Louisiana Purchase, the drive to acquire, survey, and open up new lands and markets led Americans into numerous economic, diplomatic, and military initiatives in the Western Hemisphere and Asia. The U.S. sought dominance over the North American continent through a variety of means, including military actions, judicial decisions, and diplomatic efforts.

a. Louisiana Purchase, 1803

b. Lewis and Clark expedition, 1804-1806

c. War Hawks

d. War of 1812, 1812-1815

e. Adams-Onís Treaty, 1819

f. Monroe Doctrine, 1823

g. Webster-Ashburton Treaty, 1842

- h. Annexation of Texas, 1845

- i. Oregon Treaty, 1846

- j. Manifest Destiny

- k. Mexican-American War, 1846-48

- l. Mexican Cession, 1848

- m. Chinese trade

21. Questions Raised by Territorial Expansion

With expanding borders came public debates about whether to expand and how to define and use the new territories. (Should the territories be designated “slave” or “free”? Should the territories be designated Indian territory?)

22. Federal vs. State Power

Federal government attempts to assert authority over the states brought resistance from state governments in the North and the South at different times.

- a. Hartford Convention, 1814

- b. South Carolina Nullification Crisis, 1832-1833

23. Westward Expansion and American Indians

Whites living on the frontier tended to champion expansion efforts, while resistance by American Indians led to a sequence of wars and federal efforts to control American Indian populations.

- a. Tecumseh

- b. Indian Removal Act, 1830

- c. Black Hawk

- d. *Worcester v. Georgia*, 1832

- e. Trail of Tears, 1838

- f. Seminole Wars, 1814-1819, 1835-1842

24. Slavery in the Territories

The 1820 Missouri Compromise created a truce over the issue of slavery that gradually broke down as confrontations over slavery became increasingly bitter. As overcultivation depleted arable land in the Southeast, slaveholders relocated their agricultural enterprises to the new Southwest, increasing sectional tensions over the institution of slavery and sparking a broad-scale debate about how to set national goals, priorities, and strategies.

- a. Talmadge Amendment, 1819

- b. Missouri Compromise, 1820

Additional Information

Examples:

1. American Anti-Slavery Society

2. Essex Junto

Topic Number

#6—Abolition and the Rights of African Americans

#22—Federal vs. State Power