

# **The Market Revolution and the Rise of American Democracy, 1815-1840**

## **I. The Market Revolution, 1800-1850**

**A. A New Economy: Steamboats, Canals, Railroads, Telegraph**

**B. A New Society**

1. Commercial farming

2. Growth of Cities

3. The Factory System and Industrial Wage Workers

**C. Freedom and Its Limits**

1. The West and Spatial Freedom (Social Freedom)

· Individualism

2. Economic Freedom

3. Limits

## **II. The Rise of American Democracy, 1815-1840**

**A. Expansion of Suffrage (Political Freedom)**

**B. A Democracy by Gender and Race**

**C. Parties and Politics in the Age of Jackson, 1828-1840**

1. Andrew Jackson (and John Quincy Adams)

2. Democrats and Whigs

## **DEMOCRATS AND WHIGS OF THE 1830S AND 1840S**

- Government should be hands-off with the economy (laissez faire, 'let alone').
- Poorer farmers in the West and southern backcountry, urban workingmen, slave holders.
- Liberty a private entitlement best secured by local government and endangered by powerful national authority, hence emphasis on 'states' rights' and weak national authority.
- Individual morality a private matter, not a public concern. Opposed attempts to impose unified moral vision on society
- Federal government should guide economic development, promote prosperity. Protective tariff, national bank, and promotion of internal improvements (roads, canals).
- Strongest in Northeast. Businessmen, bankers, commercial farmers. But also largest slave holders in South.
- Liberty and national power complementary.
- Liberty required a prosperous and moral America, promoted by government. Individuals had to be self-directed moral agents, character traits government could help instill.