**Chapter 8**

Varieties of American Nationalism

*Reviewing Objectives*

**A thorough study of Chapter Eight should enable the student to understand:**

1. The effects of the War of 1812 on banking, shipping, farming, industry, and transportation.
2. The “era of good feelings” as a transitional period.
3. The causes of the Panic of 1819, and the effects of the subsequent depression on politics and the economy.
4. The arguments advanced by North and South during the debates over the admission of Missouri, and how they were in influence sectional attitudes.
5. The ways in which the status of the federal judiciary was changed by the Marshall Court, and how the Court’s decisions altered the relationships between the federal government and the states and the federal government and business.
6. The reasons why President James Monroe announced his “doctrine” in 1823, and its impact on international relations at the time.
7. Presidential politics in the “era of good feelings,” and how they altered the political system.
8. The frustrations experience by John Quincy Adams during his term as president.
9. The reason why Andrew Jackson was elected in 1828, and the significance of his victory.

##### Pertinent Questions

##### Chapter Eight

**A Growing Economy**

1. Who were the leading exponents over the “national” over the “local” or “sectional” point of view that rose after the war? What factors contributed to the growth and development of this attitude?
2. What were the programs proposed by the “Nationalists” to deal with problems of currency and credit, “infant industries”, and transportation? How were these separate programs linked together into a cohesive plan to develop America?
3. What was the “internal improvements bill”? How did it fit into the nationalists program, and what happened to it?

## Expanding Westward

## What were the general characteristics of the westward movement after the war of 1812, and what geographical factors affected the decisions of where to settle?

## How did the advance of the southern frontier differ from the advance of the settlement in the North?

##  Describe the trade that developed between the western regions of North America and the United States early in the nineteenth century.

**The Era of Good Feelings**

1. Why were the leaders of New England disturbed at the nomination and election of James Monroe for president, and what did Monroe do to calm these fears?
2. Why did the United States want to annex Florida? How much did the Adams-Onís negotiations resolve this issue?
3. What were the causes of the Panic of 1819? What political and economic questions did the panic raise?

**Sectionalism and Nationalism**

1. What were the major elements of disagreement in the debate over the admission of Missouri into the Union?
2. What was the Missouri Compromise? Why did the nationalists regard it as a “happy resolution of danger to the Union”? Why were others less optimistic?
3. What was the net effect of the opinions delivered by the Marshall Court? How did these opinions reflect John Marshall’s philosophy of government?
4. Who led the opposition to the Marshall Court, and what was the position they took in denouncing it?
5. How did the case of *Cohens v. Virginia* answer these critics?
6. What was the long-range significance of the of the case of *Gibbons v. Ogden*? Of immediate importance, how did this case help to blunt criticism of the Court?
7. How were the nationalist’s inclinations of the Marshall Court visible in its decisions concerning the legal status of Indian tribes within the United States?
8. How was it that the United States’ proclamation of neutrality in the wars between Spain and its colonies actually aided the colonies? Why did the United States do this?
9. What was the Monroe Doctrine? Why was it announced and what was its significance?

**The Revival of Opposition**

1. Why was the caucus system viewed with such disdain before the election of 1824?
2. Who were the candidates in the election of 1824? What was the “platform” of each?
3. What was the outcome of the election in 1824? How was the result arrived at, and what role did Henry Clay play in it?
4. What was the “corrupt bargain” and why did it take place?
5. What did John Quincy Adams plan to accomplish during his presidency? What role was the federal government to play in these plans? Was he successful? Why?
6. What problems brought on the tariff debates of 1827 and 1828? In what way did the South respond to the northeastern demands for a higher tariff, and on what did the anti tariff forced base their stand?
7. What was the outcome of these tariff debates, and why is it that few were pleased with these results?
8. How had Andrew Jackson’s supporters prepared for the election of 1828? What were the issues in the campaign and what was the outcome?
9. Who were the National Republicans? Who were their leaders? What programs did they support, and from what areas did they draw their strength?

# **Summary**

After the War of 1812 a new spirit of nationalism and expansion emerged, and the nation, led by a president determined to heal old wounds, embarked on an "era of good feelings"--party and sectional divisions forgotten. That attitude was soon challenged. The 1820s and 1830s were highlighted by two forces, one divisive and the other unifying. The first appeared during the Missouri debates, which, despite overtones that resembled the earlier Federalist-Republican clashes, brought the issue of slavery and its expansion to the forefront. The immediate

question--which section would control the Senate--was dealt with through the Missouri Compromise, but the underlying problem was more difficult to resolve. What the debates revealed was that some in the nation saw the addition of slave states (not just western states, but slave states) as a threat. Southern politicians, it was apparent, had come to equate the expansion of slavery with the expansion of their own political philosophy (and power). How true these beliefs were is not the issue. What is important is that they were believed, and, as the years passed, more would come to share these convictions. Countering this divisive force was the growing spirit of nationalism and the emergence of two parties--both with a national following. These developments seemed to overshadow sectional concerns, and with the election of Andrew Jackson, one of the most popular political figures since George Washington, the nation seemed more concerned with unity than division. How long this was to last was another question.