**Jacksonian America and   
Westward Expansion**

**I.  Jackson ascendant**

* **Election of 1824** 
  + For first time since 1800, multiple candidates run for office--including William Crawford, J.Q. Adams (son of John Adams), Henry Clay, and Andrew Jackson
  + Jackson gets largest percentages of popular and electoral votes (43% and 38% respectively)
  + Since Jackson does not have a majority of electoral votes, election thrown into House of Reps. for decision (Crawford and Clay drop out)
  + each state gets one vote in Congress to break the electoral deadlock
  + Adams gets 13 of 24 votes (gets some votes originally meant for Clay
  + Clay gets appointed secty. of state--Jackson's supporters cry "corrupt bargain"
* **Presidency of J.Q. Adams** 
  + Adams was a less effective president than his father
  + Adams underestimates the dislike of a strong national government that formed during this period
  + Continues to push the First American system forward--banks, RR's and canals, protective tariffs
* **Election of 1828 and birth of party politics** 
  + Election again pits Adams against Jackson
  + Intensely personal campaign--Jackson blames death of wife Rachel (question about when divorce from previous husband took place--bigamy) on abuse poured on him during campaign
  + With the backing of Martin Van Buren's organized political machine--the Democratic Party--Jackson ran the first party-based campaign
  + Jackson rewards supporters (and reinforces power of the party with "spoils sytem"--giving government posts (usually postmaster positions) to key national and local supporters
* **Jackson's philosophies of government** 
  + Democrats differ sharply from idea of strong national government--such as one Adams and Clay advocated
  + Followed Jeffersonian concept of an agrarian society
  + Democrats believed that a strong central government was the enemy of individual liberty--a type of tyranny to be feared and fought
  + individualism was key principle under Jackson
  + Jacksonians also feared concentration of economic power as much as concentrated political power
    - thus viewed any government aid to economy as helping special-interest groups
    - lashed out against privilege and monopoly
    - favored the artisan and yeoman farmer over corporations or planters--Republicanism
    - Jackson's supporters also attacked reform movement, and its ideology
      * disliked reformers' calls for government intervention
      * felt reforms restricted individual freedoms

**II.  Crises under Jackson**

* **Nullification controversey**
  + Tariff of Abominations (1828)
    - high protectionist tariff, hurt South
    - Provoked Calhoun into responded anonymously with Exposition and Protest--where he argues a state could nullify a federal law with which it disagrees
  + Jackson is elected, Calhoun his V.P. (stays silent about nullification)
  + By 1830, dispute over tariffs has reached floor of Senate
    - Daniel Webster (N.H.) and Robert Hayne (S.C.) debate the tariff and principle of nullification
    - Hayne argues that U.S. is a compact of states, and that states can nullify laws to protect themselves--protection of a minority against tyranny of majority
    - Webster argues nation a compact of people, not between states--therefore state cannot nullify
    - Webster evokes image of crisis and civil strife and bloodshed if nullification allowed
  + Jackson and Calhoun quickly make their positions known--Jackson for dominant union and Calhoun for states' rights
  + 1832, S.C. nullifies Tariff of 1832--making it unlawful for officials to collect duties in state after Feb. 1 1833
  + Jackson gets tough
    - moved federal troops to forts in S.C.
    - prepared U.S. marshalls to collect the tariff duties
    - asked Congress for the Force act--renewed Jackson's power to call out troops--also gave him way to use navy to board ships and collect duties before they reach S.C.
  + Jackson and Calhoun compromise
    - Jackson asks Congress to reduce tariffs
    - Calhoun, now in Senate and fearful of where S.C. is headed, helps rewrite tariff law
    - S.C. rescinds nullification
    - Jackson removes troops
* **Rechartering the national bank** 
  + In operation since 1816, the 2d Bank of the U.S. acted as a clearinghouse for state banks
  + most state banks resent power National Bank has over their operations--saw it as unresponsive to their local needs
  + Conservative nature of Nicholas Biddle, president of the bank, was viewed by many as representing all that was wrong with the National Bank
  + Biddle got Congress to renew the charter for the bank early--in 1832, hoping to create public pressure to force Jackson to sign the bill
  + Jackson instead, vetoes bill, presenting a veto message stating why he did so
    - first time President has vetoed a bill on grounds other than it being unconstitutional
    - attacked the bank as being undemocratic, aiding special privilege and concentrating economic power in hands of a few
    - Congress does not override the veto
  + Jackson then proceeds to kill the bank by depositing federal funds in his favorite state-chartered banks--without money the Second National Bank withers
* **Species Circular** 
  + in 1836, worried about speculation on buying public lands would lead to a craze that could threaten state banks, Jackson issues Species Circular--providing that only gold or silver would be accepted as payment for federal lands
  + significantly reduced purchase of public lands
  + the circular created a demand for specie, thus squeezing the state banks which began calling for payment of loans
  + created a credit crunch which affected the entire economy, though not until Jackson had left office

**III.  Birth of Whig Party**

* Whig party formed in the 1830's as opposition party to the Democrats
  + Whigs believed in an activist government
  + supported government economic measures--national bank, corporate charters, and paper currency
  + believed government should help reform movements
* Democrats believed that government should be minimal
* Whigs tended to come more from British stock and be evangelical Protestant in the North, Democrats tended to be more from non-British Catholics and non-evangelical Protestants---in South, Whig party gained most of its strength in the backcountry (more centered on economic issues)
* Van Buren elected president
  + First contest between Whigs and Democrats came in 1836, when three Whig candidates lost to Democratic power boss Martin Van Buren (of New York)
  + Van Buren had a hard time from the beginning because of economic collapse
  + Jackson's Specie Circular had caused a severe tightening of the credit markets
  + Van Buren's continued insistence on a hard money policy only made matters worse--causing a depression that lasted from 1839-1843
* Tippecanoe gets you Tyler too
  + Van Buren's economic woes paved the way for a Whig victory in the presidential election of 1840
    - William Henry Harrison runs as Whig candidate
  + Large voter turnout--due to dissatisfaction over depression and very colorful campaigning
  + Harrison defeats Van Buren
  + Harrison dies of cold after long-winded (over two hours) inauguration speech
  + John Tyler steps up and assumes presidency--showed himself to be more in line with Democrats than Whigs--not very successful
    - attempts to gain popularity with success in foreign policy
    - In 1844, Tyler and Secty. of State John C. Calhoun sign treating annexing Texas--Calhoun then hampers efforts with letter defending slavery and its expansion
    - Senate rejects treaty, northerners fearing annexation a plot to spread slavery

**IV.  Westward expansion**

* Not all participated in growth of industry, some moved westward to escape it
  + as population grew, people began to move westward in search of opportunity--i.e. land
  + settlers tended to move in groups, not the isolated pioneers of legend (Some families would sell small tract of expensive land in East and move westward to find larger tracts at cheaper prices--that way whole family could be accommodated)
* most Americans of European descent from the eastern part of the country had little regard for those they pushed out of the way--mention James Fenimore Cooper's Last of the Mohicans’s
  + Indian Removal
  + Assimilation of Native Americans in Euro-American culture had long been the expressed goal of Indian policy
  + Native Americans could never quite become sufficiently assimilated to satisfy majority of whites
  + Push to remove different Indian groups from eastern lands began in ernest during 1820s
  + 1826--Georgia took lead in removal of unwanted Creek Indians from it boundaries--despite threats from President John Quincy Adams
  + Georgia continued to push for removal of all Indians, this time the Cherokee, in late 1820s, 1830s
  + Despite U.S. Supreme Court rulings in favor of Cherokee, President Jackson sides with Georgia
  + Jackson creates a new Indian Territory for Cherokee and other southeastern nations in what is now Oklahoma (Jackson challenges Supreme Court to do something about his actions)
  + Jackson begins by sending Choctaw, Creek, and Chickasaw tribes to Indian Territory in 1830s
  + Trail of Tears--1838--20,000 Cherokee marched to territory, close to 5,000 die during march
* **Manifest Destiny** 
  + Indian removal just one part of westward expansion in U.S.
  + Manifest Destiny--concept that American westward expansion was inevitable, and good for the brown folk that lived there
* **Republic of Texas** 
  + Tejano settlers and conflict with Hispanic elites in Texas
  + Conflict arises with Mexican government, Anglos and insurgent Hispanics rebel in 1836
  + 1836-- Alamo and San Jacinto
  + Texas not immediately recognized as a free government by U.S.
  + Texas not annexed into U.S. until 1845--opposition before then based on issue of expansion of slavery
* **The Mexican War** 
  + Reasons U.S. goes to war with Mexico
    - stated reasons
    - underlying reasons
  + Wilmot Proviso
    - David Wilmot
    - proposal to keep slavery out of newly gained territories
    - Calhoun's response--Congress has no right to regulate slavery in territories
    - Wilmot Proviso defeated
  + **Henry David Thoreau** 
    - protest of the war
    - Essay on Civil Disobedience
  + Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo
    - cedes California, New Mexico, and Utah territories to U.S.
    - Announcement that gold is found in California comes right after the treaty signed, even though it had been found earlier
    - Between Texas, the land ceded in the treaty of Guadulupe Hidalgo, and the Gadsen Purchase, Mexico loses half of its territory to the U.S. in 15 years
  + **Fate of Latinos living in West**

**The Antebellum North**

**I.  Life in the cities**

* **Growth in number and size of cities**
  + 40 years before Civil War saw most rapid urbanization in American history
  + Number of towns with more than 2,500 inhabitants jumped from 56 to 350 during that period from 1820-1850
  + N.Y. largest, with over 1,000,000 people when combined with Brooklyn
  + Large numbers of those living in large cities were transients--estimated in NYC that 1/2 of people moved every 10 years
* **Life in cities**
  + **Physical setting**
    - crowded housing--no high rises yet, so lots of people living in little space
    - problems with water and sewers--usually left to private companies at first, finally city takes over
  + Police and fire protection
    - in private hands at first--nightwatch and patrols
    - gradually moved to professional, especially with police
  + **Entertainment**
    - Theatre--different types for different classes--still Shakespeare was performed for all types (and appreciated)
    - Sports--horse racing, boxing, running, and baseball
    - Urban clubs--from sporting clubs, social clubs, to elitist associations such as Freemasons
    - Entertainment for lower classes found in the yards and streets--served as gathering places for a variety of events--chatting, political rallies, etc.
  + **Change in living patterns in cities**
    - In the cities, people began to live apart from their work--no longer home and business always combined
    - Wealthy elite gradually moved farther and farther away from the city center
    - away from smells and dangers of city, immigrants, migrants from the countryside, and lower classes
    - saw these lower-class people as polluting urban society--they were troublemakers
    - horse-drawn streetcars aid move
  + **Differences of wealth**
  + The rich control large part of wealth in cities
    - Rich form an aristocracy of wealth--brings them power
    - in NYC, by 1845, wealthiest 5 percent of population owned more than 80% of all wealth
  + **Day-to-day existence**
    - improvements in manufacturing and improved machine tools led to
    - mass production of products
    - reduced labor costs led to lower prices and faster development of products--sewing machine
    - world became a smaller place with spread of telegraph--news of events elsewhere reached city people quickly
    - for most in city, daily life still a precarious existence because of cyclical nature of economy
* **Life in the country also changes**
  + Agriculture was affected by new inventions
  + Cyrus McCormick introduces a mechanical reaper in 1834, making harvesting of wheat faster and easier
  + John Deere developed a steel-tipped plow in 1837, made it easier to cut through soil--opened the prairies to farming
  + Growth of crops also improved by introduction of better animal feed and the use of chemical fertilizers
  + Spread of railroads
    - stimulated economic growth of Midwest, tied the farms to the market
    - led to increased settlement, growth of towns and cities
  + Chicago and Milwaukee became the entrepot's of the new Midwest

**II.  Antebellum Reform Movements in the North**

* **Second Great Awakening**
  + Begins around the turn of the century and runs through the 1830s
  + Builds upon the evangelical movement that grew during the late 18th century
  + Lyman Beecher (New England) and Charles G. Finney (upstate New York) helped spark the movement with their sermons
  + The religious fervor in upstate New York, around Rochester, was so fierce that it became know as "the Burned Over District"--one person noted that "You could not go on the streets and hear any conversation, except upon religion."
  + Helps break down the establishment of religion in many states--talk about Baptists and Methodists in Virginia
  + Also leads to efforts to make political participation more widespread among white males and to a series of reform movements, especially in the North
* **Utopian movements**
  + Developed as attempt to form cooperative communities (communes) as alternatives to competitive, materialistic capitalism
  + **Mormons**
    - Joseph Smith, who grew up in Burned Over district of NY, formed Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons) in 1820s
    - Smith based this new religion on what he claimed was a newly found book of the Bible, the Book of Mormon
    - he quickly gains followers and enemies, moving steadily westward to escape persecution (received hostile reception wherever he went because many saw his claims as undermining authority of the Bible)
    - 1843, Smith creates even more controversey by claiming yet another revelation--polygamy
    - in 1844, Smith jailed in Illinois under charges of treason, where he and his brother murdered by a mob
    - Brigham Young takes over, moves Mormons west to Utah
  + **Shakers**
    - Began in late 18th century, but really began to grow during the 2d Great Awakening
    - Centered in upstate New York, one of the most unusual utopian movements
    - Believed strongly in perfectionism, the surrender of all worldly property to the community, and devoting oneself to bringing about the millennial kingdom of heaven
    - Shakers believed in absolute chastity--sex is a sin, pure and simple
    - Sect would continue through converting others
    - Shakers pretty much died out by the beginning of the Civil War
  + **Brook Farm and the Transcendentalists**
  + **Transcendentalists**
    - drew somewhat on the ideas expressed by British Romantic writers
    - transcendentalism embraced a theory of the individual that rested on a distinction between "reason" and understanding"
    - reason being individual's innate capacity to grasp beauty and truth by giving full expression to the instincts and emotions, understanding (objective, empirical thought) was a limited form of reason (limited by society's repression of instinct)--one thus becomes transcendent of traditional bounds
    - the self became the center of life and thought--subjective analysis, not scientific reasoning became the mode of approaching human problems
    - Ralph Waldo Emerson argued that in nature, all forms existed not as objective realities, but as subjective "expressions of some property inherent in man the observer."
    - leaders of the transcendentalist movement included Ralph Waldo Emerson, Bronson Alcott, Margaret Fuller, and Henry David Thoreau
    - concentrated near Concord, Mass.
  + **Brook Farm**
    - Boston transcentendentalist George Ripley and Bronson Alcott established Brook Farm in 1841 as experimental community in West Roxbury, Mass.
    - individuals would gather to create a new society permitting every member to have full opportunity for self-realization
    - everyone would share equally in labor of community so all could share too in leisure
    - tensions plagued experiment from the start, when fire breaks out and destroys main building in 1847, falls apart
    - The Dial--edited by Margaret Fuller, newspaper of Transcendentalists
* **Temperance**
  + attacks on "demon rum"
  + moved for Sunday closing laws
  + supported by employers, who deplored "St. Monday"
  + helped garner support for prohibition in a number of northern states (except for "medicinal purposes")
* **Asylums and Prisons**--Dorothea Dix gets her start in Mass. attempting to reform asylums
  + Dix's report to the Mass. legislature on facilities for the insane left it shocked
  + Stated that inmates were confined in "cages, closets, stalls, pens!  Chained, naked, beaten with rods, and lashed into obedience."
  + Dix suggested that an asylum with trained attendants be set up for the insane
  + Dix and others moved to get more humane treatment throughout the nation for inmates of public facilities--insane, deaf, dumb, and blind, and prisons
* **Public education**
  + 1800--no public schools outside of New England
  + 1860--every state has some form of public education
  + Horace Mann
    - heads Mass. state board of education
    - Mann claimed well-educated population essential to maintaining democracy
    - est. minimum school year (6 mos.), formalized training of teachers, emphasized reading and writing, emphasized applied skills rather than religious training
  + Public education accepted in North as businessmen learned that it allowed one to instill basic values in children at an early age
    - work hard and succeed
    - accept the instructions of your superiors
    - do not envy rich--God determines who will be rich or poor and you can't change it
* **Abolition**
  + abolitionist movement built up force again (following emancipation in northern states) in 1817, with formation of the American Colonization Society
    - pushed for gradual, compensated emancipation
    - return of blacks to Africa
  + American Colonization Society's conservative views of emancipation challenged by more radical voices
    - black abolitionists called for no colonization--most were native born Americans
    - David Walker, a free black from Boston, called for a rebellion to crush slavery
  + In 1831, William Lloyd Garrison begins The Liberator, a newspaper dedicated to spreading his radical abolitionist message
    - Garrison called for immediate emancipation and equal rights for blacks
    - he argued that Americans should stop supporting or participating in government, because it was immoral and illegal
    - northern African Americans supported Garrison's efforts
  + white and black abolitionists often sharply disagree on goals and methods
    - many white's sought only to abolish slavery, had no thought of treating African Americans as social or political equals
    - black abolitionists, often led by Frederick Douglas (an escaped slave) pushed for full equality
  + Being abolitionist dangerous--1837, abolitionist editor Elijah Lovejoy murdered in Illinois by angry mob
  + American Anti-Slavery Society forms in 1833
    - largest abolitionist organization in U.S.
    - in 1839, AA-SS split over two issues:
      * whether to form political party and run candidate for office (Garrison opposed any form of participation in government, said it legitimized illegal govt.)
      * role of women in organization
  + Abolitionists petitioned Congress
    - during early 1830s, abolitionists flooded Congress with petitions calling for an end to slavery in D.C.
    - to stop these petitions from interrupting business (which was their primary goal), southerners in government get Congress to pass "gag rule" which automatically tabled any abolitionist petitions (stopping any discussion of it)
    - "gag rule" causes a stink, even among congressmen who have no sympathy for abolitionists--overturned in 1845

**The Changing Role of Women**

**I.  Creation of separate women's sphere (late 18th-mid 19th century)**

* Rise of industrialization and cities leads to changes in gender roles
  + men and women's lives increasingly grew apart from one another once manufacturing left the home and with the advent of larger department stores, wage work began to leave the home
  + this took place gradually, over a period of 40-50 years
  + In rural areas, households remained more centered, with overlap still occurring
* These changes led to the creation of separate spheres--as work took on greater gender meaning and segregation
  + Religion, education, morality, domestic skills and culture began to overshadow women's economic functions
  + A "True Woman" expected to have four cardinal virtues:
    - piety--religion is "exactly what a woman needs, for it gives her that dignity that best suits her dependence."
    - purity--terrible consequences befall women who lose their purity before marriage (madness, loss of child, etc.)
    - submissiveness--most feminine virtue, submit to husband (or father)
    - domesticity--woman's true place at her own fireside--she is to provide a haven of purity and comfort to men struggling in the wicked public world
  + Magazines, books, and sermons frequently spoke about this "new" role for women
* "Female World of Love and Ritual"
  + separate spheres for women create similar roles for all--women find themselves bound together by commonality of their experiences
  + rites of passage--marriage and birth of first child move girl from mother's circle to her own network of support

**II.  The Cult of Domesticity**

* many women go along with status quo
* some actively embrace status quo and urge separate spheres
  + Catherine Beecher, Sarah Josepha Hale, and Lydia Sigourney
  + *Godey's Lady's Book*, *The Ladies' Repository*, *The Ladies Companion*, and *The Young Lady's Book*
  + These authors advised women on proper ways to behave and think
* women begin to seek smaller family--use of birth control in form of condoms, rhythym method, coitus interruptus, and abortions (although outlawed in more than 20 states by beginning of the Civil War)
  + emphasis on children and changes in childhood begin
  + technological change brought changes in housekeeping
* What place would women like Martha Ballard or the Lowell Girls have in this world?

**III. Other women take advantage of separate spheres to form groups specifically for women**

* Women's groups are an urban phenomenon, not rural
* women began to form groups to aid other women
* groups formed primarily around churches
* women began to promote the idea of sisterhood
* women's movement well under way before the abolitionist movement begins

**IV. Separate spheres not really relevant in southern households before the war**

* Women remained part of an integrated household throughout the South
  + exception, some signs of separate seen in urban areas
  + in cities, labor and household divided, thus separate spheres begin to form
* Thus, did not move toward forming a "sisterhood" with other women until much later