

How did two of the following contribute to the reemergence of a two party system in the period 1820-1840?

Major Political Personalities
States' Rights
Economic Issues

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Thesis

The re-emergence of the the two party system, the parties being the Whigs (who stood for protective tariffs, federal aid, and national banking) and the Jacksonian democrats (who stood for the government being run by the common man) was largely due to economic issues, prominent political figures, and states' rights issues.

States' Rights

Southerners were fearful of federal encroachments on the rights of states. The people of South Carolina were protective of slavery and had a protective tariff. This protective tariff was a burden to the southern states because it increased the prices of manufactured goods that the southern farmers paid for and needed and was a threat to stir counter production in those states. Vice President John C Calhoun was the leader of the states' righters in the state of South Carolina. He was for nullification and thought president Jackson was going to support it as well to help his native south. However, Calhoun and Jackson had a personal feud after the Eaton incident and other examples a Calhoun calling for punishment of Old Hickory. Jackson then called the support of nullification treason and justified the use of federal force against any state that denied the federal authority. Jackson strongly advocated that the federal government takes precedence of the state government. This led to a dichotomy among the people into two distinct political views, and essentially a reemergence of the two party system in America.

Economic Issues - The Bank War

Jackson hated the Bank of the United States and worked to destroy it. He was even quoted saying "The bank is trying to kill me, but I will kill it." Jackson disliked the bank as he felt that it concentrated power to the rich at the expense of the farmers, favored the Northeast, had a rivalry with the bank's president Nicholas Biddle, and the Bank had made loans to many of his political enemies. He would eventually succeed in killing it by vetoing its rechartering and by moving its money into state "pet banks" The issue of whether to have the bank created a political rift, those for it and those against it, which turned into the Whigs and Jacksonian Democrats respectively.

Economic Issues - The Panic of 1837

The Panic of 1837 also served to create the two parties of the time period. The Whigs said that the Panic of 1837 was largely caused by the killing of the Bank of America and President Martin van Buren's initial unwillingness to involve the government in the economy. The Jacksonian Democrats blamed the Panic on the Banks irresponsibility of printing excessive paper money which lead to inflation. Overall the Panic of 1837 greatly weakened the Jacksonian Democrats as van Buren took much of the blame, ensuring a Whig victory in the next election.

Conclusion

The re-emergence of the the two party system, the parties being the Whigs, who stood for protective tariffs, federal aid, and national banking, and the Jacksonian democrats, who stood the government being run by the common man, was largely due to economic issues such as the Bank War and the Panic of 1837, prominent political figures suck as Old Hickory and Henry Clay, and states' rights issues such as nullification.