

# ***Notes on the Pendulum Swing in American Presidential Elections, 1789-1865***

## ***I Trends and Fluctuations***

### ***Political Competition and Franchise Extension***

Parties compete against one another: Franchise extended for white males (not women, not free African-Americans in some cases): state by state process

### ***International political environment impacts American elections***

Great Britain outlaws slavery domestically, then in Empire

Wars of French Revolution and Napoleon impact American trade/shipping policy leading to War of 1812

Latin America and Mexico become independent, outlawing slavery (except in Cuba and Brazil)

Revolutions of 1848 and Growing Nationalism in Europe

### ***Booms and Busts in American Economy***

Are banks to blame? Hard money versus soft money

### ***Evolving Morality and Market Logic***

Second Great Awakening: morality becomes increasingly important (temperance, slavery, church going)

Purists versus the politicians

Manchester Doctrine: Free trade and crucial importance of free use of labor (labor theory of value): positive incentives impact e(h) and h

Is market logic independent from morality? Virtue.

### ***Acquisition of Western Lands***

Louisiana Purchase and Florida

Texas and Wars with Mexico

Settling border disputes with Great Britain

**II Phase I: Federalists versus Jeffersonians (Democrat-Republican)**

**1789-1829**

Federalist	Democrat-Republican
<p>George Washington and John Adams (1789-1801)</p> <p>First Bank of the United States</p> <p>Pro-Great Britain during Wars of French Revolution and Napoleon (Jay Treaty)</p> <p>Alien and Sedition Laws</p>	
	<p>Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, John Quincy Adams</p> <p>(1801-1829)</p> <p>Louisiana Purchase</p> <p>Embargo Act (1807) mainly aimed at Great Britain</p> <p>War of 1812 (Andrew Jackson emerges as hero after Battle of New Orleans)</p> <p>Northern states abolish slavery</p> <p>Great Britain abolishes slavery as do most new states in Americas, Canada in 1833</p> <p>Panic of 1819</p> <p>Missouri Compromise: emergence of four regional leaders: John C. Calhoun (South); Martin Van Buren (New York); Henry Clay (Kentucky)</p> <p>Clay promotes American System: protection and development of infrastructure aimed at Western development</p> <p>Second Great Awakening</p> <p>Anti-Masonic movement (anti-elitist)</p> <p>Extension of franchise</p>

**III Phase II: Whigs Versus Democrats (1829-1861)**

Whig	Democrat
	<p>Andrew Jackson, Martin Van Buren (1829-1841)</p> <p>Extension of franchise</p> <p>Attack on the Second Bank of the United States</p> <p>Hard money for land sales in West</p> <p>“The Tariff of Abominations” and “40 bales per 100” bales campaign in South</p> <p>Attack on South Carolina’s Nullification Ordinance</p> <p>Trail of Tears: Indian Removal</p> <p>Rise of radical abolitionism (William Lloyd Garrison’s <i>Liberator</i>) – purists</p> <p>Nat Turner Rebellion (1831)</p> <p>American Colonization Society versus American Anti-Slavery Society</p> <p>Postal law: censoring mail in the South</p> <p>Veto of Second Bank of the United States</p> <p>Texas becomes a Republic independent from Mexico, slavery expands in Texas</p> <p>John Quincy Adams becomes anti-slavery advocate, Van Buren defends slavery</p>
<p>William Henry Harrison-John Tyler (1841-1845)</p> <p>Log Cabin campaign</p> <p>Pro-Clay’s American System</p> <p>Annexation of Texas to the United States a campaign issue</p>	
	<p>James Polk (1845-1849)</p> <p>Texas annexation</p> <p>War with Mexico</p> <p>Wilmot Proviso</p>

**Phase II: Continued**

Whig	Democrat
	<p>James Polk (1845-1849)</p> <p>Liberty Party emerges in North (anti-slavery) merging with Whigs</p> <p>Free Soil Party emerges in North as a third party, opposes expansion of Slave Power to the Western Federal territories</p> <p>Gold rush in California</p>
<p>Zachary Taylor/Millard Fillmore (1849-1853)</p> <p>Compromise of 1850: Clay's last stand (1) California free; (2) New Mexico carved out of Texas; (3) New Mexico and Utah open as to slavery; (4) Slave trade abolished in Washington, D.C.; (5) Stronger Fugitive Slave Law</p> <p>Underground Railroad (Harriet Tubman)</p> <p>Harriet Beecher Stowe publishes <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i>; Melville publishes <i>Moby Dick</i></p> <p>John Brown organizes League of Gileadites recruiting African-American soldiers</p> <p>Civil disobedience: Henry David Thoreau and Ralph Waldo Emerson (Transcendentalists)</p> <p>Frederick Douglas active as abolitionist speaker</p>	
	<p>Franklin Pierce (1853-1857)</p> <p>Kansas-Nebraska Act overturns Missouri Compromise</p> <p>Civil War in Kansas "Bleeding Kansas" – John Brown's terrorist campaign</p> <p>Transcontinental railroad planning</p> <p>Should the United States takeover Cuba from the Spanish?</p>
	<p>James Buchanan (1857-1861)</p> <p>Dred Scott decision of Taney Supreme Court *</p>

**Phase III: Breakdown in the Two Party Pendulum Swing System. The Election of Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War**

**Election of 1860**

Candidate	% of Popular Vote	Electoral College Votes
Abraham Lincoln (Republican) Commander in Chief during Civil War Emancipation Proclamation Homestead Act National Banks Transcontinental Railroad construction	39.9%	180
John Bell (Conservative Union)	18.2	39
Stephen Douglas (Northern Democrat)	29.4	12
John Breckinridge (Southern Democrat)	12.6	72
	100.0	303

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**From Sean Wilentz, *The Rise of American Democracy*, page 712:**

“Contending that Negroes had not been among the sovereign people who framed and ratified the Constitution – that they had, in fact, been held ‘so far inferior that they had no rights which the white man was bound to respect’ – [Chief Justice Taney summing up the Dred Scott decision] rejected the proposition that blacks, slaves or free, were American citizens.”