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| JACKSONIAN DEMOCRATS | WHIGS |
| * Party of the “common man” that rejected the political elitism of the wealthy and privileged | * Favored a nation based on industrial and commercial development |
| * Favored limited role of government, but did support expanding efforts to make political participation more inclusive | * Favored an expanded role of government with a strong federal system |
| * Opposed high tariffs, high land prices and a national bank | * Supported Clay’s “American System” – national bank, internal improvements and protective tariff |
| * Favored westward expansion and believed the future of the nation depended on agricultural growth | * Hesitant about westward expansion – believed that rapid territorial growth would cause political instability |
| * Supporters included small merchants and urban laborers from the Northeast, southern planters worried about industrial growth, westerners who supported an agrarian economy and were worried about industrial expansion      * These groups were not usually wealthy or from educated, aristocratic backgrounds | * Supporters included wealthy merchants and manufacturers of the Northeast, wealthier planters from the South, rising commercial class of the West * These groups tended to have more money, were more commercially ambitious and came from educated, more aristocratic backgrounds |