

Missouri Compromise and Henry Clay:

The Missouri Compromise came to be in the early 1800s. At this time, Missouri was entering (or trying to) as a slave state to the Union. James Tallmadge, Jr. wanted an amendment that prohibited more slaves from entering Missouri and gave slave offspring freedom at age 25. The south did not support it, but the north did. A compromise was made between northern Federalists and southern Republicans. The Missouri Compromise allowed Missouri to become a slave state as long as Maine (which also was applying for statehood) became a free state. Slavery was also prohibited north of 36°30' which meant that the Northwest Territory was free of slaves. This compromise almost fell apart after Missouri declared that free blacks were not allowed in the state. Missouri was stopped from becoming a state until Kentucky Senator Henry Clay came up with a resolution. Missouri couldn't discriminate against other states' citizens but had control over its own people. The Missouri Compromise is important because it declared that the Northwest Territory would lead to free states. It also showed that Congress could allow or prohibit slavery, which would be an issue in the future (although it halted the conflict for a while). It promoted sectionalism through the 36-30 line as well.

The Panic of 1819:

In 1819 (early 1800s), the economy went downhill very quickly because of over-speculation in America. State banks had issued their own banknotes, but had given out too many and made bad investments. Also, after the Napoleonic Wars ended in Europe, European soldiers were able to leave the battlefield and return to their farm fields. With European farmers able to grow their own bumper crops (like wheat) again, they no longer relied on American farmers-just as Americans began to depend on their support. Land prices fell, and so did the market for crops. Since Europe no longer needed Americans' crops, the prices of said crops were nearly cut in half. Land prices fell, which hurt farmers and speculators. At this time, the Second Bank of the United States wanted all of its loans to be repaid in specie (gold) instead of in state bank notes. The states found this to be a problem because they had printed more bank notes than they had specie. They needed their loans to be paid by the farmers so that they could pay the national bank. The farmers, however, had very little specie to pay the states with. Because the banks needed specie and they were not receiving it from the farmers, they stopped issuing credit. Without credit, no one bought anything and thus land sales declined. Everyone faced bankruptcy and unemployment. The Panic of 1819 is important because it left a bitter taste in people's mouths when it came to banks. People, including Andrew Jackson, especially distrusted the Second National Bank. Jackson would later decide not to re-charter the bank when he became president. The panic stimulated demands for higher tariffs such as the Tariff of Abominations (1828). A result of the boom-bust cycle of capitalist nations and the dependency of foreign nations for prosperity, it also marked the end of the "Era of Good Feelings."

Lyman Beecher:

"Alcohol intake rapidly declined after voluntary societies were founded by Evangelists and other religious groups. Lyman Beecher and Dr. Jonathan Edwards, two Presbyterian leaders, formed the first American Temperance Society. This organization soon gained popularity and support. Getting rid of "demon rum," as it was called, was seen as a way to improve family lives and keep people on a more virtuous path and away from the Devil's temptation. As time went on, the complete prohibition of alcohol was encouraged by many."

Importance:

- He was part of 2nd great awakening
- Abolitionist

Alexis de Tocqueville and *Democracy in America*:

Alexis de Tocqueville was a Frenchman who spent time in America in the early 1800s. He recognized that there was inequality, but thought America was more equal than France. In his two-volume *Democracy in America*, he said that equality among the people was the fundamental shaping force of American society. This book, written in the mid-1800s, examined a democratic revolution that de Tocqueville believed had been going on for several hundred years. He also wrote other works that examined living standards and social classes in Western society. He was a critic of individualism and thought that if people came together they would be able to overcome selfish desires. Individualism, a term coined by de Tocqueville himself, was described by him as being a kind of selfishness that disposed humans to be concerned with only their own family and friends. He thought that it sapped the virtues of public life. Alexis de Tocqueville is important because he observed and recorded American life. He also reinforced our feelings about being unique and different. *Democracy in America* is important because it was read by other important political figures and also discussed democracy's effect on people. It talked about our unique society and how we should strive to be equal. It made us feel unique and caused the rise of American Individualism.

The Second Great Awakening:

The Second Great Awakening began in around Connecticut and Vermont in the late 1700s. It spread to the majority of the country during the early 1800s. At first, educated Congregationalists such as Timothy Dwight (Yale's President) led the revivals. Soon, however, camp meetings had more influence. Camp meetings were where many denominations gathered outside (since a building could not hold the huge number of people) and revivalists discussed the Second Coming of Jesus. Baptist and Methodist memberships rose the most and many revival leaders belonged to one of the two groups. People reacted against previous ideas such as skepticism, deism, and rational Christianity. New denominations formed and millions joined congregations. The Awakening was especially strong in the Northeast and Midwest. An important revivalist during this time was Charles Grandison Finney. Finney believed that the Gospel could reform society. As a Methodist, he also believed that religion was a matter of the heart (a personal matter) and that we had control over our own lives. He also allowed women to pray in public and developed "anxious benches" for those considering becoming Christians as well. The Second Great Awakening is important because it led to the launch of more schools and created more religious groups and converts while marking the end of the Puritans. More abolitionist and women's rights groups formed during the Age of Reform, causing more sectionalism between the north and south. People believed that they could control their destiny and their future. Law and order was also promoted during this time and the Second Great Awakening showed the changes that were happening in society.