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Chapter 1 : Conservatism in the United States - Metapedia

Tue 1/30/ Whig Conservatism in Antebellum America. Reading: 1) Patrick Allitt, "Northern Antebellum Conservatism and the Whigs," from *The Conservatives* (),

Visit Website Historians have interpreted the Whigs in strikingly different ways. These dissimilar assessments are unsurprising given the heterogeneity of the party itself, in its leaders, policies and programs, political style, and rank-and-file supporters. Beyond that, however, there were Whigs and Whigs. Some played the demagogic anti-Catholic game; others scorned it. Some spoke critically of working people; others, admiringly. Detailed studies of the Whig party in the states and biographies of such Whig leaders as Clay, William Seward, Daniel Webster, and Horace Greeley reveal dissimilar policies from one state to another and important differences in the character, beliefs, and actions of the leaders. Thaddeus Stevens of Pennsylvania was more high-minded and not nearly as pragmatic as Clay of Kentucky. The tendency of Whig officeholders to vote as a bloc on certain issues, in opposition to Democratic blocs, helps account for the tendency of some historians to exaggerate the extent and depth of Whig single-mindedness. Studies of voting patterns in the states reveal Whig support of banks, limited liability for corporations, prison reform, educational reform, abolition of capital punishment, and temperance. Although the Whig party was hardly an antislavery party, free blacks and abolitionists overwhelmingly preferred it to more ardently proslavery Jacksonian Democrats. The relatively few rich men in the country did prefer Whigs to Democrats, but by a modest margin. Whigs fared well at the polls among people of all classes in economically dynamic communities heavily engaged in commerce. Yet Whigs could win presidential elections, governorships, and state legislature majorities only because they attracted mass support. Although they received the votes of many small farmers, shopkeepers, clerks, and artisans, they appear to have appealed particularly to what some modern historians call distinctive ethnocultural groups: In some states Whig leaders seemed so critical of political parties that they appeared to be religious zealots rather than party leaders. Yet for all their antiparty rhetoric, Whigs were as realistic and efficiently organized as their Democratic opponents. American major parties develop their own distinctive auras that are no less real for being intangible and unmeasurable. Whig and Democratic leaders were strikingly similar in such significant characteristics as wealth, occupational prestige, a fundamentally conservative social ideology, materialism, and opportunism. These similarities help explain why both major parties were attractive to moneyed men. The party died not because its unique aura no longer appealed to voters but because it could not cope effectively or persuasively with what after the Compromise of became the great issue of American politics, the expansion of slavery. Eric Foner and John A.

Chapter 2 : The conservatives : ideas and personalities throughout

Introduction -- The Federalists -- Southern conservatism -- Northern antebellum conservatism and the Whigs -- Conservatism and the Civil War -- Conservatism after the Civil War -- Conservatism in the 1890s and 1900s -- The new conservatism, -- The movement gains allies, -- The Reagan revolution and the climax of the Cold.

Thanks to the framers, American conservatism began on a genuinely lofty plane. This was classical conservatism in its most authentic expression. Federalists strongly opposed the French Revolution, defended traditional Christian morality and supported a new "natural aristocracy" based on "property, education, family status, and sense of ethical responsibility". In his *Defence of the Constitution*, Adams attacked the ideas of radicals like Thomas Paine, who advocated for a unicameral legislature Adams deemed too democratic. His translation of *Discourses on Davila*, which also contained his own commentary, was an examination of "human motivation in politics". Adams believed that human motivation inevitably led to dangerous impulses where the government would need to sometimes intervene. Hamilton was critical of both Jeffersonian classical liberalism and the radical ideas coming out of the French Revolution. He rejected laissez-faire economics and favored a strong central government. Whig statesmen led the charge for tradition and custom against the prevailing democratic ethos of the Jacksonian Era. A firm Unionist, his most famous speech was his "Second Reply to Hayne" where he criticized the argument from Southerners such as John C. Calhoun that the states had a right to nullify federal laws they deemed unconstitutional. He believed that lawyers were preservers and conservers of the Constitution and that it was the duty of the educated to govern political institutions. George Ticknor and Edward Everett. George Ticknor, a Dartmouth-educated academic at Harvard, was the chief purveyor of humane learning in the Boston area. A founder of the Boston Public Library and the scion of an old Federalist family, Ticknor educated his students in Romance languages and the works of Dante and Cervantes at home while promoting America abroad to his many international friends, including Lord Byron and Talleyrand. A famed orator in his own right, he supported Lincoln against Southern secession. Brownson was critical of both the Northern abolitionists and the Southern secessionists and was himself a solid Unionist. *The Bookman* and its successor, *The American Review*. Eliot, Christopher Dawson, et al. Eventually, Collins drifted towards support of fascism and as a result lost the support of many of his traditionalist backers. Led by Harvard University professor Irving Babbitt and Princeton University professor Paul Elmer More, the New Humanism was a literary and social criticism movement that opposed both romanticism and naturalism. Condemning northern industrialism and commercialism, the "twelve southerners" who contributed to the book echoed earlier arguments made by the distributists. *A New Declaration of Independence*. The new conservatives[edit] After the Second World War, the first stirrings of a "traditionalist movement" took place and among those who launched this movement and in effect the larger Conservative Movement in America was University of Chicago professor Richard M. From *Burke to Eliot*, written by Russell Kirk, which gave a detailed analysis of the intellectual pedigree of Anglo-American traditionalist conservatism. These conservative scholars and writers garnered the attention of the popular press of the time and before long they were collectively referred to as "the New Conservatives". Tonsor and Frederick Wilhelmsen. Kirk was a key figure of the conservative movement: *From Burke to Eliot*. *The Conservative Mind* was written by Kirk as a doctoral dissertation while he was a student at the St. Andrews University in Scotland. Belief that a divine intent rules society as well as conscience Political problems, at bottom, are religious and moral problems. Affection for the proliferating variety and mystery of traditional life, as distinguished from the narrowing uniformity and egalitarian and utilitarian aims of most radical systems. Conviction that civilized society requires orders and classes Persuasion that property and freedom are inseparably connected, and that economic leveling is not economic progress Faith in prescription and distrust of "sophisters and calculators. Recognition that change and reform are not identical A traditionalist counter-establishment[edit] The New Conservatives also contributed to the emerging conservative movement and formed a traditionalist counter-establishment,

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creating and expanding traditionalist organizations and forming new journals and publications. Many traditionalists were contributors to William F. The s and early s resulted in a traditionalist "renaissance" and laid the foundation for future traditionalist efforts to succeed. The Goldwater movement and the campaigns of and [edit] Former U. Senator Barry Goldwater In , conservatives around the nation, especially the New Right represented by the National Review magazine, were united behind the presidential campaign of Arizona Senator Barry Goldwater. Goldwater had first come to the attention of the public by way of *The Conscience of a Conservative* , a book ghostwritten for him by L. In a brutal campaign where he was maligned by liberal Republican primary rivals Rockefeller, Romney, Scranton, etc. Johnson , Goldwater again found allies among conservatives, including the traditionalists. Kirk advocated for Goldwater in his syndicated columns and campaigned for him in the primaries. Traditionalists in the Reagan era[edit] Most traditionalists were enthusiastic supporters of former California Governor Ronald Reagan when he became president, even when he appointed William J. Earlier in the administration he held the position of Counselor to the Attorney General. The restoration of tradition and community in the 21st century[edit] As the conservative movement consolidated itself in the s under the Reagan presidency, found itself in healthy opposition to the Bush and Clinton Eras and came into the presidency of George W. Bush, a new crop of traditionalists, who could be labeled the "neo-traditionalists" appeared. Please help improve this section by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. July Learn how and when to remove this template message Echoing the sentiments of the older generation of traditionalists, the fourth generation would also expand the traditionalist arguments into the digital era, taking to blogs and websites to get their message out, a message of communitarian and family-centered values, of limits on government power and of the necessity of organic society and a sense of roots and of place. Consisting of such figures as Dr. Harmer , Jeffrey O. Nelson , Mark C. Henrie , Caleb Stegall , Rod Dreher , Daniel Larison and others, these traditionalists largely from Generation X proved to be a vanguard against both the progressives and the mainstream conservatives who were dominated by the neoconservatives and the Religious Right. Leading contemporary traditionalist statesmen[edit] Former U. In , then-Congressman Mike Pence acknowledged Kirk as a major influence. Weaver and writer-farmer Wendell Berry.

Some Northern antebellum states never had laws saying blacks could not vote nor did they have miscegenation laws. California did have miscegenation laws until but never had laws barring other races from attending schools.

They believed the heir presumptive, if allowed to inherit the throne, would endanger the Protestant religion, liberty and property. This new parliament did not meet for thirteen months, because Charles wanted to give passions a chance to die down. When it met in October, an Exclusion Bill was introduced and passed in the Commons without major resistance, but was rejected in the Lords. Charles dissolved Parliament in January, but the Whigs did not suffer serious losses in the ensuing election. The next Parliament first met in March at Oxford, but Charles dissolved it after only a few days, when he made an appeal to the country against the Whigs and determined to rule without Parliament. Without Parliament, the Whigs gradually crumbled, mainly due to government repression following the discovery of the Rye House Plot. His early ministry was largely Tory, but gradually the government came to be dominated by the so-called Junto Whigs, a group of younger Whig politicians who led a tightly organised political grouping. The increasing dominance of the Junto led to a split among the Whigs, with the so-called "Country Whigs" seeing the Junto as betraying their principles for office. The Country Whigs, led by Robert Harley, gradually merged with the Tory opposition in the later s. However, as the War of the Spanish Succession went on and became less and less popular with the Tories, Marlborough and Godolphin were forced to rely more and more on the Junto Whigs, so that by they headed an administration of the Parliament of Great Britain dominated by the Junto. Anne herself grew increasingly uncomfortable with this dependence on the Whigs, especially as her personal relationship with the Duchess of Marlborough deteriorated. In the spring of, Anne dismissed Godolphin and the Junto ministers, replacing them with Tories. The Tory administration led by Harley and the Viscount Bolingbroke persuaded the Queen to create twelve new Tory peers to force the treaty through. Whiggism The Whigs primarily advocated the supremacy of Parliament, while calling for the toleration for Protestant dissenters. They adamantly opposed a Catholic as king. As Wilson and Reill note: In his great Dictionary, Johnson defined a Tory as "one who adheres to the ancient Constitution of the state and the apostolical hierarchy of the Church of England, opposed to a Whig". He linked 18th-century Whiggism with 17th-century revolutionary Puritanism, arguing that the Whigs of his day were similarly inimical to the established order of church and state. Johnson recommended that strict uniformity in religious externals was the best antidote to the objectionable religious traits that he linked to Whiggism. The economic historian William Ashley claimed that this Act witnessed the "real starting-point in the history of Whig policy in the matter of trade". When the Tory Lord Bolingbroke proposed a commercial treaty with France in that would lead to freer trade the Whigs were vehemently against it and it had to be abandoned. All of the Whig leaders attacked this on traditional Whig anti-French and protectionist grounds. The Jacobite rising of discredited much of the Tory party as treasonous Jacobites, and the Septennial Act ensured that the Whigs became the dominant party. Between and, the Tories died out as an active political force, but always retained a considerable presence in the House of Commons. The governments of Robert Walpole, Henry Pelham and his older brother the Duke of Newcastle dominated between and with a brief break during the also-Whig Carteret ministry. The leading entities in these governments consistently referred to themselves as "Whigs". After a decade of factional chaos, with distinct "Grenvillite", "Bedfordite", "Rockinghamite" and "Chathamite" factions successively in power and all referring to themselves as "Whigs", a new system emerged with two separate opposition groups. The Rockingham Whigs claimed the mantle of "Old Whigs", as the purported successors of the party of the Pelhams and the great Whig families. With such noted intellectuals as Edmund Burke behind them, the Rockingham Whigs laid out a philosophy which for the first time extolled the virtues of faction, or at least their faction. Early activists in the colonies called themselves "Whigs", [example needed] seeing themselves as in alliance with the political opposition in Britain, until they turned to independence and started

emphasising the label Patriots. In contrast, the American Loyalists , who supported the monarchy, were consistently also referred to as "Tories". Later, the United States Whig Party was founded in and focused on opposition to a strong presidency just as the British Whigs had opposed a strong monarchy. All historians are agreed that the Tory party declined sharply in the late s and s and that it ceased to be an organized party by . The research of Sir Lewis Namier and his disciples [Even the Whigs ceased to be an identifiable party, and Parliament was dominated by competing political connections, which all proclaimed Whiggish political views, or by independent backbenchers unattached to any particular group. The following Shelburne administration was short-lived, however, and in April Fox returned to power, this time in an unexpected coalition with his old enemy Lord North. Although this pairing seemed unnatural to many at the time, it was to last beyond the demise of the coalition in December . It was only now that a genuine two-party system can be seen to emerge, with Pitt and the government on the one side, and the ousted Fox-North coalition on the other. On 17 December , Fox stated in the House of Commons that "[i]f [From that moment I put in my claim for a monopoly of Whig principles". However, the opposition Whigs were split by the onset of the French Revolution. While Fox and some younger members of the party such as Charles Grey and Richard Brinsley Sheridan were sympathetic to the French revolutionaries, others led by Edmund Burke were strongly opposed. They split in early with Fox over the question of support for the war with France and by the end of the year they had openly broken with Fox. After the fall of the Talents ministry in , the Foxite Whigs remained out of power for the better part of 25 years. The members of the government of Lord Liverpool from to called themselves Whigs. They had no definite programme or policy and were by no means even united. Generally, they stood for reducing crown patronage, sympathy towards nonconformists , support for the interests of merchants and bankers and a leaning towards the idea of a limited reform of the voting system. The most prominent exception was Henry Brougham , the talented lawyer, who had a relatively modest background. The fresh support strengthened their position in Parliament. Whigs rejected the Tory appeals to governmental authority and social discipline and extended political discussion beyond Parliament. Whigs used a national network of newspapers and magazines as well as local clubs to deliver their message. The press organised petitions and debates and reported to the public on government policy, while leaders such as Henry Brougham " built alliances with men who lacked direct representation. This new approach to the grass roots helped to define Whiggism and opened the way for later success. Whigs thereby forced the government to recognise the role of public opinion in parliamentary debate and influenced views of representation and reform throughout the 19th century. They triumphed in as champions of Parliamentary reform. They made Lord Grey prime minister " and the Reform Act Grey championed became their signature measure. It broadened the franchise and ended the system of " rotten boroughs " and "pocket boroughs" where elections were controlled by powerful families and instead redistributed power on the basis of population. It added , voters to an electorate of , in England and Wales. Only the upper and middle classes voted, so this shifted power away from the landed aristocracy to the urban middle classes. It purchased and freed the slaves, especially those in the Caribbean sugar islands. After parliamentary investigations demonstrated the horrors of child labour, limited reforms were passed in . Catholic emancipation was secured in the Catholic Relief Act , which removed the most substantial restrictions on Roman Catholics in Britain. The Whigs also passed the Poor Law Amendment Act that reformed the administration of relief to the poor. This view led to serious distortions in later portrayals of 17th-century and 18th-century history, as Macaulay and his followers attempted to fit the complex and changing factional politics of the Restoration into the neat categories of 19th-century political divisions. This new club, for members of both Houses of Parliament , was intended to be a forum for the radical ideas which the First Reform Bill represented: Until the decline of the Liberal Party in the early 20th century, it was de rigueur for Liberal MPs and peers to be members of the Reform Club, being regarded as an unofficial party headquarters. Transition to Liberal Party[edit] The Liberal Party the term was first used officially in , but had been used colloquially for decades beforehand arose from a coalition of Whigs, free trade Tory followers of Robert Peel and free trade Radicals , first created, tenuously under the Peelite Earl of

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Aberdeen in and put together more permanently under the former Canningite Tory Lord Palmerston in 1841. Although the Whigs at first formed the most important part of the coalition, the Whiggish elements of the new party progressively lost influence during the long leadership of the former Peelite William Ewart Gladstone and many of the old Whig aristocrats broke from the party over the issue of Irish home rule in 1885 to help form the Liberal Unionist Party, which in turn would merge with the Conservative Party by 1906. However, the Unionist support for trade protection in the early twentieth century under Joseph Chamberlain probably the least Whiggish character in the Liberal Unionist party further alienated the more orthodox Whigs. By the early twentieth century "Whiggery" was largely irrelevant and without a natural political home. One of the last active politicians to celebrate his Whiggish roots was the Liberal Unionist statesman Henry James.

The Whig Party was a political party active in the middle of the 19th century in the United States. United States Presidents belonged to the party while in office. It emerged in the 1830s as the leading opponent of Jacksonians, pulling together former members of the National Republican (one of the successors of the Democratic-Republican Party) and the Anti-Masonic Party.

These rapid changes in the political parties reflected the sharp disagreement between North and South over slavery, but also the fact that the North and the South were becoming two different societies with opposing political goals. From 1800 to 1860, the Whigs and Democrats had sustained an uneasy peace in issues of slavery. Each party included among its supporters both Northerners and Southerners, and so each party worked out its own compromises on the slavery issue to please all their members. Initially, it was other factors, primarily industrialization and immigration, that were responsible for upsetting the balance. Know-Nothing Party In the 1850s, industrialization, the large-scale use of labor-saving machines to produce goods, led to an increasingly urban city society in the Northeast. The new industrial society produced wealth for its leaders, but also poverty and filthy living conditions for multitudes in the northeastern cities. Southerners viewed the industrialized North with disgust. Their hope to remain an agricultural society, and to avoid the dirty, crime-ridden conditions of some of the northeastern cities, became tied to the institution of slavery, which provided the labor Southerners felt they needed to sustain their farming economy. Industry and the promise of jobs drew millions of immigrants from Europe to northeastern cities in the 1840s and 1850s. Northern Democrats generally welcomed immigrants and brought them into their party. The powerful Democratic political machines often supported the newcomers with their unofficial systems of political organization based on the spoils system, in which votes are promised in return for favors and political appointments are used as rewards. Whigs, in contrast, generally feared that the immigrants would be willing to work in menial or unsafe conditions at extremely low wages, lowering the standards for everyone. Ignorance and prejudice against religious and ethnic minorities heightened these fears. After 1850, the Whigs in the North increasingly abandoned their party for the new American Party, or Know-Nothing Party, which vowed to end the immigrant tide. Part political party and part secret society, it maintained lodges open only to white, native-born citizens and inducted new members with secret initiation rituals. By 1854, some northerners had left both the Whigs and the Democrats, forming the Free Soil Party, which worked to stop slavery from expanding into the vast territories won from Mexico during the Mexican-American War. By 1856, the Whig Party had been thoroughly shattered by the immigration issue. Though the Democratic Party was still a mix of Southerners and Northerners, Southerners controlled it. Democratic leaders took advantage of their new strength by reopening slavery issues. In 1854, the powerful U.S. With the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act, slaveholders were free to settle with their slaves in any territory they chose. To many, it seemed that the South could not be trusted to abide by any compromise. To halt the expansion of slavery and limit the power of the southern states, Free Soilers and antislavery Whigs and Democrats came together to establish a new party. In 1854, the Republicans nominated their first presidential candidate, western explorer John C. Lincoln, the Republican spokesman Stephen Douglas was up for reelection to the Senate in 1858. To oppose him, Republicans nominated little-known Illinois lawyer Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln challenged Douglas to a series of debates as a way of introducing himself to the voters; Douglas accepted. In the Lincoln-Douglas debates, Lincoln went on the offensive, attacking Douglas as a tool of the alleged Southern conspiracy to nationalize slavery. Douglas, in turn, branded Lincoln a proponent of the abolition movement and racial equality. He received the Republican nomination for the presidency in 1860. Democratic Party split While the Republicans united behind Lincoln in 1860, the Democrats began to split along sectional lines. Southern Democrats demanded more protection for slavery as part of the party platform. Northern Democrats, feeling they had already gone too far to gain the goodwill of the South, refused these demands. Unable to agree, the two sides split. Breckinridge on a platform promising protection and even

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promotion of slavery in all the territories; the Northerners nominated Douglas. Dissatisfied with both these alternatives, a group of border-state moderates formed yet another party, the Constitutional Union movement, with a platform that offered little more than a veiled promise to stick to the middle ground on slavery issues. Republicans worked hard for Lincoln, promoting an image of their candidate as a man of the people and an American success story. Consequences of Republican triumph The Republicans had won, but the huge divide between North and South was deepened. Even as Lincoln carried a united North, the proslavery Democrats carried an almost equally united South. Southerners declared that they would never accept Lincoln as president—that he was an outsider imposed on them against their nearunanimous vote at the polls. Feeling unrepresented by the Republican majority, the Southern slaveholders determined to secede from the Union. This set the stage for the Civil War. Cite this article Pick a style below, and copy the text for your bibliography. Retrieved November 02, from Encyclopedia. Then, copy and paste the text into your bibliography or works cited list. Because each style has its own formatting nuances that evolve over time and not all information is available for every reference entry or article, Encyclopedia.

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Chapter 5 : Brooks, "Energetic" Government, and the Whigs | The American Conservative

Introduction --The Federalists --Southern conservatism --Northern antebellum conservatism and the Whigs --Conservatism and the Civil War --Conservatism after the Civil War --Conservatism in the s and s --The new conservatism, --The movement gains allies, --The Reagan revolution and the climax of the Cold War.

The American Two-Party System Soft Money Until recently, political parties were able to indirectly provide large amounts of money to candidates. The campaign finance laws passed in the mids limited donations to campaigns: Individual donors, however, could give unlimited amounts of money to parties and some political groups. Political scientists call this type of unregulated donation soft money. Although the parties could not use soft money to help candidates directly by donating it to a campaign, for example, the parties could spend it in ways that helped their candidates. Parties use soft money to sponsor the following: Voter registration and GOTV drives: The party can selectively register voters who are likely to support the party. During get-out-the-vote GOTV efforts, parties wage campaigns to encourage voting and target people likely to vote for the party. Therefore, parties can run ads attacking the opponent and saying good things about their nominee. Parties could no longer raise unlimited amounts of unregulated money. However, parties have responded by delegating some of their duties to groups named after section of the Internal Revenue Code. These private organizations are not officially affiliated with the parties and can therefore raise and spend money in much the same way that parties could before the reform law. For this reason, some critics allege that campaign finance reform did nothing but weaken the parties. Other noteworthy groups during the election cycle include Progress for America conservative and Moveon. History Most Americans look favorably on the two-party system because it has dominated much of American politics from the very beginning. The Republican and Democratic parties have existed for more than years, and that history gives them a legitimacy that third parties do not have. The two-party system is also self-perpetuating. Polarizing Issues Throughout much of American history, central issues have divided the electorate. In the early decades of the republic, for example, the extent of federal power dominated politics. Such polarizing issues have helped maintain the two-party system in the United States: Each party rallies around one side of the issue at hand. Federalists Versus Antifederalists " The first political issue that divided American statesmen was the ratification of the Constitution. On one side were the Federalists, who wanted to ratify the Constitution in order to create a stronger national government; the Antifederalists, on the other side, feared that the Constitution would strip people of the liberties they had just won in the Revolutionary War. Although the Constitution was ratified, this early political division extended into the first decades of the republic. Neither faction was a true party in the modern sense, though, because both lacked strong cohesion. Democrats Versus Whigs " The first modern political party was the Democratic Party, which formed in the wake of the highly contested presidential election of , when Andrew Jackson won the popular vote but did not win a majority of electoral votes. The Democrats rebounded in four years and elected Jackson to replace Adams in . The Democrats were also the first major grassroots party, building support from the ground up. Democrats Versus Republicans " Over the next few decades, slavery emerged as a hugely divisive issue, as pro-slavery forces fought abolitionists with increasing intensity. Neither the Whigs nor the Democrats could respond adequately to the new issue. As a result, both parties split in two along sectional lines. The Republican Party formed in the late s and early s out of abolitionist Democrats and northern Whigs. The Democrats, on the other hand, now consisted primarily of Southerners and rural Westerners. In , the Republicans nominated Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln narrowly won the race with promises of maintaining the Union, but his election nevertheless prompted South Carolina and several other Southern states to secede. The Reconstruction Era " The northern Republicans and southern Democrats continued to vie for power in the decades after the Civil War. Blacks were able to vote for a brief period after the war, and they mostly voted Republican, in part because they associated the Democrats with slavery and the Republicans with emancipation. Democratic efforts to dissuade blacks from voting also

encouraged many blacks to vote Republican. Strong Parties and Patronage During the nineteenth century, political parties were strong, powerful organizations. At times, the head of a party organization wielded even more power than elected officials from that party. Until fairly recently, party leaders chose people to run for office, with little or no input from the public. Leaders met in caucus, or informal closed meetings, to set the party platform and choose nominees. The party could punish a recalcitrant member by refusing to nominate that person for the next election, which meant that the member would lose his or her job. At times, party organizations doled out government jobs and contracts were given out to allies in return for political patronage. These party organizations are called machines because they transform favors and patronage into votes. The Gilded Age

The next great issue to divide America was industrialization, as massive corporations began hoarding capital and dominating the unregulated marketplace. The Democratic Party incorporated much of the Populist platform into its own platform in the election of 1896, which inadvertently killed the Populists as a potent third party. Except for the election of 1896, the Republicans won every presidential election between 1860 and 1932.

Progressivism

Another social movement, called Progressivism, swept through the nation in the first two decades of the 20th century. Like the Populists, Progressives fought for government regulation of big business and more political power for the average American. Progressivism was bipartisan, which meant that Progressive politicians could be found in both the Republican and Democratic political parties. Roosevelt won a surprising number of popular and electoral votes in the three-way election of 1912 but divided Republican voters so deeply that the more organized Democrats managed to elect Woodrow Wilson. The Depression and the New Deal

Republican dominance ended with the Great Depression, which began with the stock market crash of 1929. Frustrated with Republican president Herbert Hoover, many voters turned to the Democrats. The Democratic nominee in 1932, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, proposed to revive the economy with a legislative package of relief and reform known as the New Deal. Roosevelt won and successfully put America on the road to recovery. This coalition consisted of groups who supported the New Deal, including workers, labor unions, Catholics, Jews, and racial minorities. The South continued to be overwhelmingly Democratic, and after 1945, African American voters moved in large numbers to the Democratic Party. For the next three decades, the Democratic Party dominated American politics. In the 1950s, a committee of respected political scientists called for responsible parties, parties that were strong enough not only to propose specific and substantive policies but also to carry them out if elected. In general, American parties are not very responsible because they cannot force members to follow the platform, unlike their counterparts in other countries. Because parties no longer have much control over their candidates, the vision of responsible party government is unlikely to be fulfilled anytime soon. The Democratic Party included nearly all white southerners, who still saw the Republicans as the party that invaded their homeland during the Civil War. At the same time, most African Americans were now Democrats. The tension between these groups caused the New Deal coalition to split in the late 1950s, and large numbers of southern whites switched to the Republican Party. By the 1960s, much of the South was solidly Republican. The critical election came in 1964. The Vietnam War, along with civil rights, caused stark divisions. George Wallace, the Democratic governor of Alabama, broke away from the Democrats and ran as a third-party candidate, which greatly hurt the Democrats. Republican Richard Nixon consequently eked out a narrow and bitterly fought victory. The chaotic election of 1968 also marked a decline in American political parties. Following the election, the Democrats worked to change the way their party operated, focusing heavily on the process of choosing nominees. Political scientists call the process of opening party leadership to new people party reform. The Democrats aimed at making convention delegates look more like party voters by including more women and minorities. The easiest way to achieve this goal was to hold primary elections, which allow voters to directly participate in the party nomination process. Beginning in 1968, the Democrats made increasing use of the primary election, taking great power away from party leaders. Republicans followed suit, in part because Democratic-controlled state governments forced them to do so. The Contemporary Party System

Present Republicans have fared very successfully since the election of 1980, particularly in presidential races; since 1980, only two Democrats have been elected president, Jimmy Carter in 1976 and Bill Clinton in 1992. Some

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scholars believe that the breakdown of the New Deal coalition produced a realignment that allowed the Republicans to dominate. Others, however, argue that instead of realignment, the United States is experiencing dealignment, the loosening of party ties. Since the s, more voters have identified themselves as independents, not belonging to either party. More people seem willing to cross party lines and vote for the other party. More voters are also engaging in split-ticket voting, voting for both Republicans and Democrats for different offices in the same election. Split-ticket voting has produced a number of divided governments in which one party controls the presidency while the other controls at least one house of Congress. The Reagan Democrats The so-called Reagan Democrats were notorious for crossing party lines in the s. The Reagan Democrats helped Reagan win two terms in office. Political parties today no longer have the ability to dictate nominees or control massive patronage. Candidates function independently from the party leaders, charting their own strategies and ignoring or dismissing the party platform. As the importance of parties has decreased, there has been a rise in candidate-centered politics, in which people tend to focus on the candidates instead of party labels when voting, particularly when electing presidents. Today, parties primarily provide services such as money, expertise, lists of donors, and name recognition to candidates and campaigns. Although candidates do not have to do everything party leaders say, they often work closely with their party leadership in order to win favors and party support. Some races are still party-centered, especially when voters know little about the candidates. Political parties sometimes change their names.

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Chapter 6 : calendrierdelascience.com: Customer reviews: The political culture of the American Whigs

For the election campaign of , the Whig Party was briefly revived in North Carolina as a Unionist alternative to secessionist Democrats and northern Republicans. During the Civil War, North Carolina Whigs evolved into the Conservative Party, which often opposed Jefferson Davis's administration and endorsed stronger individual and state rights.

The term Whig was taken from English politics, the name of a faction that opposed royal tyranny. In some respects the Whigs were the descendants of the old Federalist Party , supporting the Hamiltonian preference for strong federal action in dealing with national problems. Other components of the emerging coalition that became the Whig Party was the Anti-Masonic Party, the stated purpose of which was to combat the purported threat of Masonic power over political and judicial institutions. Neither was able to overcome sectional jealousies and gain the coveted presidency. Their record on the presidential level is as follows: The Election of Tyler, but they were unable to move forward with their desired " American System. Polk , the Democratic candidate, outdistanced Whig Henry Clay in a contest noted for its close popular vote. The Whigs did not believe that the result had been fair, and cited the practice of "naturalizing" immigrants almost as soon as they arrived. Daniel Webster denounced the practice and claimed that such fraudulent practices had led to the defeat of the Whig ticket in Pennsylvania and New York. The final Whig presidential victory, in which Zachary Taylor defeated Democrat Lewis Cass primarily because of votes diverted to third party candidate Martin Van Buren. President Taylor blocked their moves, but following his death on July 9, the vice president, Millard Fillmore , became president and gave the necessary support. The Compromise of was primarily a Whig accomplishment and Daniel Webster hoped to leverage it into a presidential victory for himself. However, the Whigs decided to again nominate a general, Winfield Scott , who was soundly defeated by the Democrat. The two great Whig leaders Clay and Webster had both died between the nominating convention and the election. Without their dominant leadership, the Whig Party began to unravel. It was torn in two directions by the issue of slavery, with Southern Whigs trending towards what they felt were the more sympathetic Democrats. Northern Whigs had already begun to defect to the Free-Soil Party and from on to the Republicans. The issue of slavery split the party. There was never a truly consistent Whig political philosophy, except in the negative sense of opposing excessively concentrated power in the federal government. Their objectives came about largely after their disappearance. With no Southerners in Congress and Abraham Lincoln, a former Whig from Illinois, in the White House, the Republican Party finally passed much of the economic legislation regarding banking and tariffs that had long been advocated by the Whigs.

Political Parties of the Antebellum Era. In the decade before the American Civil War (), the two established political parties, the Whig Party and the Democratic Party, underwent extreme changes, resulting by in the end of the Whig Party and the rise of the Republican Party.

Wherever possible, reviews at The Virginia Historian. The Virginia Historian may earn a small commission for a link to any Amazon products or services from this website. Your purchase there helps support this platform to make Virginia history accessible. This section is under construction. For reviews currently available, see the webpage for this topic, or Survey Histories of Virginia for general, political and ethnic histories. It illuminates the political divisions within Virginia between eastern and western sections as they developed geographically, ethnically and economically from to Independence, constitutional ratification, the rise of the Jefferson and Federalist parties, the personal entanglements of the National Republican period, and the Democratic-Whig party divisions are analyzed. Issues of internal improvements and slavery, the tariff and nullification, electoral reform, the churches and education are all explored. Fehrenbacher and edited by Ward M. McAfee in and reprinted in , now available in paperback. After analyzing the original Constitution as neutral regarding slavery, Fehrenbacher describes how the federal government became implicated in the institution of slavery, becoming congenial to it even as it became increasingly isolated in the southern national minority. Over time there came to be a hardening in the positions staked out by the two sections, and finally in the crucible of war the federal government adopted abolition as a war aim. Conjectures of Order Conjectures of Order: It is a two volume examination of over one hundred southern intellectuals, with Virginians and South Carolinians dominating. Southern intellectuals were nationalists, postcolonialists preferring Continental writers over British, and imperialists seeking to expand white liberty and the black slavery on which it rested. A late Enlightenment phase in the s emphasizing the self-reliant republican freeholder yielded to a romantic notion of belonging that lamented the passing of family and traditional connections. William Harper insisted a defense of slavery required a repudiation of egalitarianism. Henry Hughes rejected individualism for collectivity in a supreme state, and George Fitzhugh denounced individualism and social contract for power and subjection. McCormack in and reprinted in Beginning in with the end of the Jeffersonian Virginia Dynasty and extending to the s, a second American party system developed to elect the president with national party conventions, state caucuses and the extension of voter participation. In a party system remarkably free of sectional bias, each state among the 24 states in save South Carolina developed a competitive two party system between Democrats and Whigs. It gave way to a third party system of sectional division only in the s. McCormick describes the state constitutional and legal frameworks that defined party operation such as changing presidential elector methods, along with the selection of Congressmen and state officials. The parties became engines of candidate nomination and electioneering. The popular rhetoric of both parties made elections an emotional experience, and it fostered the expansion of the electorate. Only in the s did proslavery sentiment re-emerge to lead Virginians to defend slavery, whether readily or reluctantly. The first convention of and the two in and failed to provide for amendment to accommodate changes in population and regional wealth distribution that drove calls for changes in suffrage and representation. In both conventions of and , the contests among progressives and traditionalists, westerners and easterners, democrats and aristocrats resulted in persistent eastern slave property values dominating state government. The white population of the west which surpassed that of the eastern Tidewater found proportionate representation only in the House of Delegates only after Simms in and reprinted in It looks at the county results in presidential elections following the end of the presidential Virginia Dynasty. The Whig Party found adherents among commercial interests of the state as well as propertied men of industry and slaveholding. The state divisions were not so much east-west or slave-free labor, but those who had a felt need for commercial, banking and transportation development, and those whose existing conditions sufficed for their empowerment. While Whigs grew to a

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competitive party after they did not carry the state in presidential elections of and . Instead, they captured the General Assembly in and , and Virginia Governors in , , , and . The Democrats retained uninterrupted control, causing a deadlock for U. Senator, leaving only one representing Virginia. Though the Richmond Enquirer dominated the press and was countered by the Richmond Whig, other important papers are sourced from Lynchburg, Charlottesville and Winchester. Road from Monticello The Road from Monticello: Robert in and reprinted in . Goode had proposed that no measure to abolish slavery be taken up in committee, and Thomas Jefferson Randolph, grandson of Thomas Jefferson, proposed emancipation at birth for succeeding generations. Conservatives and slaveholders generally opposed abolition, an equal number of liberals and western Virginians generally favored it, and the balance of power was held by twelve who sought gradual emancipation after recover from the current economic downturn when it could be financed. It became a handbook for slavery advocates throughout the South. Virginians retreated from calls for abolition due to fear of dividing the state, the growing influence of the nullifiers, resistance to Abolitionists, and the exportation of half a million slave population to the booming cotton states. Here Freehling sees no retreat from Jeffersonian liberalism, although the terms of the debate shift from natural rights to economic concerns related to slave freedman removal. Antislavery forces gained a kind of victory with the preamble to a resolution looking forward to a future free soil Virginia, only without blacks. The emancipation movement depended on the success of colonization efforts of free blacks, but African-American Virginians were reluctant to migrate. Antislavery momentum declined with the forced removal of slaves into cotton Gulf states, but the east-west sectional divisions in Virginia led to the creation of West Virginia. In *The Dominion of Memories: Virginia* declined in population by the tens of thousands every decade throughout the Antebellum period, choosing agricultural methods that depleted its soil and so destroyed its very wealth producing capacity. The reactionary plantation elite held a gerrymandered General Assembly in its thrall, one that finally chose destructive civil war in a lost cause from its first beginnings. *The Slave Power* Leonard L. Richards wrote *The Slave Power: The Free North and Southern Domination*, in . It is now available in paperback. The three-fifths rule of Congressional apportionment awarding seats to slave-holding states influenced presidential elections and national policy through the Congressional Caucus. The South as a region changed the least in the antebellum period, while the North was transformed. Amidst Northern insecurities from urbanization, immigration and industrialization, the South was represented by northern thinkers as a blight to Northern progress and a threat to the republic. A truly national outlook became impossible in the face of aggressive Northern sectionalism. The North was energetic, entrepreneurial, free and virtuously republican, while the South was lazy, caste-ridden, slave-holding and run by petty despots. *Storm over Texas* Joel H. Silbey wrote *Storm over Texas: The ascendance of the James K. Polk faction in the Democratic Party dissolved sectional reciprocity*. Many northern Democrats adopted the abolitionist view that there was a slave power conspiracy to control the country. It is now available from the Yale University Press, on Kindle and online new and used. Around the number of agricultural, horticultural and floricultural societies exploded. Prominent agriculturists included Edmund Ruffin of Virginia who celebrated agricultural labor, local experience and systematic experimentation. First hand experience with the soil, even for a short period of time, took on a critical meaning, and knowledge of the soil became a way of credentialing public officials, and a common metaphor in public expression. Its proper manipulation brought the promise of restoration for exhausted lands with surplus slaves and hard scrabble yeomanry. Virginia, in . It is available in paperback new and used. Though growing at slower rate than New York City, Virginia cities had accelerating growth and prosperity following the Mexican War. But in its close integration with the slave-holding hinterland, it was related to sectionalism. Virginians prospered before secession, but they grew without developing entirely as a state because slave-holding interests proved to be an insurmountable obstacle to entrepreneurial plans. The book details an analysis of two failed canal companies in Albemarle County, Virginia and Cumberland County, Pennsylvania. Both counties were nearby major cities Richmond, Philadelphia. But Virginia never developed an integrated transportation centered on a single place, Tidewater slavery and slave interests enforced smothering policies

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that retarded development among both Piedmont slave-holding counties nearby Richmond, and free labor counties west of the Blue Ridge. Industrial Slavery in Maryland and Virginia in It is out of print, but available online new and used. The study traces the rise and fall of iron and coal production in the Chesapeake and Piedmont from British imperial suppliers beginning in , through new nation competition and its demise at the Civil War. Both state legislatures offered little support, and there was little innovation in new management procedures or technological advances. Slaves continued to be used when their hiring costs rose relative to free white laborers, further marginalizing competitive advantage. The Story of the James River and Kanawha in It is out of print but available online used. The title character is Joseph Carrington Cabell, who raised millions in private subscriptions and millions in legislature financing to promote the dream of a James River Canal. He advanced the dreams of visionaries such as Jefferson and Washington. Several canal and lock proposals were funded by joint public and private schemes and failed, most notably at the resignation Napoleonic engineer Claudius Crozet who in turn promoted railroads. Modernization and the Sectional Crisis in The Virginia and Tennessee Railroad from Bristol, Tennessee to Lynchburg with connections to Richmond, transformed the regional economy in the s. It promoted a commercial slave-based economy of tobacco and wheat, along with extractive industry and hot springs tourism. Appalachian Frontiers Robert D. Mitchell edited Appalachian Frontiers: Settlement, Society and Development in the Preindustrial Era in Appalachia in the pre-industrial antebellum period should be viewed as a place in process undergoing recognizable changes. But instead of identifying a retarded development, Mitchell sees a prolonged stage of subsistence agrarian forms. In Virginia the landed elites fostered policy that proved incapable of balancing disparate geographic and industrial interests. With limited canals improvements, restricted incorporation laws and prohibitive restraint on capital formation, Virginia fell behind Pennsylvania in coal production between and the end of the s. Kimball wrote American City, Southern Place:

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Chapter 8 : Antebellum, Civil War, and Reconstruction Eras, - The Virginia Historian

The Whigs were ardent protectionists. As a paleocon, I mean that as a compliment, but neocon Brooks conveniently neglected that part of the Whig program.

Whig is a short form of the word whiggamore, a Scottish word once used to describe people from western Scotland who opposed King Charles I of England in the late 17th century. In the late 18th century, Scottish and English opponents of the growing power of royalty were called Whigs. The Whigs maintained a strong position in English politics until the 1790s, when the Whig progressives adopted the term Liberal. In the American colonies, the Whigs were those people who resented British control, favored independence from Britain, and supported the Revolutionary War. The term was first used in the colonies around 1760. The term Whig fell into disuse after the colonies won their independence. However, political opponents of Democratic President Andrew Jackson revived the term in the 1830s. After Jackson soundly defeated a field of challengers representing an array of political parties in 1828, many of these challengers began coordinating their efforts under the Whig Party name. The Whig Party included former National Republicans, conservative factions of the democratic-republican party, and some former members of the Anti-Masonic Party. The Whig Party nominated four unsuccessful candidates for president in the election of 1840: William Henry Harrison from Ohio, Daniel Webster from Massachusetts, Hugh Lawson White from Tennessee, and Willie Person Mangum from North Carolina. Democrat Martin Van Buren won the election with 58 percent of the vote, while Harrison received 25 percent, White received 8. The Whigs simplified and consolidated their ticket in 1844, again offering Harrison for president and John Tyler for vice president. The Whigs triumphed, but Harrison died after one month in office, and Vice President Tyler, who had once been a Jacksonian Democrat, acceded to the presidency. Tyler embittered the Whigs by vetoing congressional bills that sought to restore the Bank of the United States, abolished by Jackson, and by opposing their plan to redistribute the proceeds from the sale of public lands. In the 1852 election, the Whig Party nominated Henry Clay from Kentucky for president. In the ensuing campaign, Clay refused to take a definite stand on the Texas annexation issue. This choice provoked northern abolitionists, who opposed the admission of Texas to the Union as a slave state, to support the little-known Liberty Party candidates, James Gillespie and Thomas Morris. The Whig split ensured victory for the Democratic candidate, James K. Polk. Once the Mexican War had been declared, controversy over allowing or forbidding slavery in the territories acquired during the war further splintered the party. Antislavery Whigs from Massachusetts, known as Conscience Whigs, opposed the so-called Cotton Whigs in the pro-slavery southern states. Despite the division, the Whig Party, with the popular general Zachary Taylor as its candidate, was successful in the presidential election of 1848. Before the stalemate could be resolved, Taylor died. The compromise of a series of laws passed by Congress to settle the issues arising from the deepening sectional conflict over slavery only served to intensify the divisions within the party. Southerners and conservative northerners who supported the compromise refused to cooperate with the northerners who opposed it. Consequently, the election of 1852 resulted in the overwhelming defeat of the Whig candidate, General Winfield Scott. Many supporters of the compromise subsequently began leaving the party. Southern Whig support for the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854, a law that created the territories of Kansas and Nebraska and gave both territories the power to resolve the issue of slavery for themselves, convinced most northern Whigs to abandon the party, and by the end of that year the party had essentially disbanded. Many voters who abandoned the Whig Party initially joined the so-called Know-Nothing Party. Most northern Whigs, however, eventually joined the newly formed Republican Party. In the South, most of the Whigs were soon absorbed by the Democratic Party. In 1856, a small Whig convention backed Millard Fillmore, the unsuccessful Know-Nothing candidate for the presidency. Cite this article Pick a style below, and copy the text for your bibliography.

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Chapter 9 : Whigs (British political party) - Wikipedia

Northern Whigs who were linked to northern cloth manufacturers and depended on Southern cotton, therefore they supported South's right to have slaves. Democrats Political party lead by Andrew Jackson from to

Origins[edit] The name "Whig" repeated the term that Patriots used to refer to themselves during the American Revolution. It indicated hostility to the king. Despite the identical name it did not directly derive from the British Whig Party see etymology. The Democratic-Republicans who formed the Whig Party, led by Kentucky Senator Henry Clay , drew on a Jeffersonian tradition of compromise, balance in government and territorial expansion combined with national unity and support for a Federal transportation network and domestic manufacturing. Casting their enemy as "King Andrew", they sought to identify themselves as modern-day opponents of governmental overreaching. In , Henry Clay re-entered the Senate and started planning a new party. He defended national rather than sectional interests. Jacksonians promoted opposition to the National Bank and internal improvements and support of egalitarian democracy, state power and hard money. However, Clay moved to pass the Compromise of , which met Southern complaints by a gradual reduction of the rates on imports to a maximum of twenty percent. The Whig Party began to take shape in The Whig Party emerged in the aftermath of the election , the Nullification Crisis , and debates regarding the Second Bank of the United States , which Jackson denounced as a monopoly"and from which he abruptly removed all government deposits. The Whigs nominated a war hero in , and emphasized that William Henry Harrison had given up the high life to live in a log cabin on the frontier" Harrison won. Rise[edit] In the elections, the party was not yet sufficiently organized or unified to run one nationwide candidate. Mangum ran in South Carolina. Whigs hoped that four candidates would amass enough Electoral College votes among them to deny a majority to Martin Van Buren. That would move the election to the House of Representatives , allowing the ascendant Whigs to select their most popular man as president. Van Buren won ballots in the Electoral College, with only ballots needed to win, but the Whig strategy came very close to succeeding. In late , the Whigs held their first national convention and nominated William Henry Harrison as their presidential candidate. In March , Harrison pledged to serve only one term as President if elected, a pledge that reflected popular support for a constitutional limit to presidential terms among many in the Whig Party. Harrison served only 31 days and became the first President to die in office. Tyler vetoed the Whig economic legislation and was expelled from the Whig party in September The One Qualification for a Whig President" a political cartoon about the presidential election that refers to Zachary Taylor or Winfield Scott , the two leading contenders for the Whig Party nomination in the aftermath of the Mexican" American War published by Nathaniel Currier in , digitally restored The central issue in the s was expansion, with proponents of " manifest destiny " arguing for aggressive westward expansion, even at the risk of war with Mexico over the annexation of Texas and Britain over control of Oregon. Daniel Walker Howe argues: Most Democrats were wholehearted supporters of expansion, whereas many Whigs especially in the North were opposed. They feared correctly that expansion raised a contentious issue the extension of slavery to the territories. On the other hand, many Democrats feared industrialization the Whigs welcomed. The Whigs, both Northern and Southern, strongly opposed expansion into Texas, which they including Whig Congressman Abraham Lincoln saw as an unprincipled land grab. They stopped criticizing the war and adopted only a very vague platform. However, at the same time the Free Soilers probably cost the Whigs several Midwestern states. Compromise of [edit] Taylor was firmly opposed to the proposed Compromise of an initiative of Clay and was committed to the admission of California as a free state. He proclaimed that he would take military action to prevent the secession of southern states. Fillmore helped push the Compromise through Congress in the hopes of ending the controversies over slavery and its five separate bills became law in September After , the Whigs were unable to deal with the slavery issue. Their Southern leaders nearly all owned slaves. The northeastern Whigs, led by Daniel Webster, represented businessmen who loved national unity and a national market, but cared

little about slavery one way or another. However, many Whig voters in the North thought that slavery was incompatible with a free labor, free market economy and supported the Wilmot Proviso , which did not pass Congress, but would have stopped the expansion of slavery. No one found a compromise that would keep the party united. Furthermore, the burgeoning economy made full-time careers in business or law much more attractive than politics for ambitious young Whigs, thus the Whig Party leader in Illinois, Abraham Lincoln , simply abandoned politics after , instead attending to his law business. Decline[edit] When new issues of nativism , prohibition and anti-slavery burst on the scene in the mids, few looked to the quickly disintegrating Whig Party for answers. The election of marked the beginning of the end for the Whigs. The deaths of Henry Clay and Daniel Webster that year severely weakened the party. The Democrats won the election by a large margin: Whig Representative Lewis D. Campbell of Ohio was particularly distraught by the defeat, exclaiming: The party is deadâ€”deadâ€”dead!. In , the Kansasâ€”Nebraska Act , which opened the new territories to slavery, was passed. Southern Whigs generally supported the Act while Northern Whigs remained strongly opposed. Most remaining Northern Whigs, like Lincoln, joined the new Republican Party and strongly attacked the Act, appealing to widespread Northern outrage over the repeal of the Missouri Compromise. Other Whigs joined the Know Nothing Party , attracted by its nativist crusades against so-called "corrupt" Irish and German immigrants. In the South, the Whig Party vanishedâ€”but as Thomas Alexander has shown, Whiggism as a modernizing policy orientation persisted for decades. The future in the North, most observers thought at the time, was Republican. Scant prospects for the shrunken old party seemed extant and after virtually no Whig organization remained at the regional level. The convention met for only two days and on the second day and only ballot quickly nominated Fillmore for President, who had already been nominated for President by the Know Nothing Party. Andrew Jackson Donelson was nominated for Vice President. Some Whigs and others adopted the mantle of the Opposition Party for several years and enjoyed some individual electoral successes. Legacy[edit] In , many former Whigs who had not joined the Republicans regrouped as the Constitutional Union Party , which nominated only a national ticket. It had considerable strength in the border states, which feared the onset of civil war. Its presidential candidate, John Bell , finished third in the electoral college. Later, their Southern colleagues dominated the white response to Reconstruction. In the long run, the United States adopted Whiggish economic policies coupled with a Democratic strong presidency. During the latter part of the American Civil War and during the Reconstruction Era , many former Whigs tried to regroup in the South, calling themselves "conservatives" and hoping to reconnect with ex-Whigs in the North. These merged into the Democratic Party in the South, but continued to promote modernization policies such as large-scale railroad construction and the founding of public schools. Party platform and base[edit] The Whigs suffered greatly from factionalism throughout their existence as well as weak party loyalty that stood in contrast to the strong party discipline that was the hallmark of a tight Democratic Party organization. In the s, Whigs won 49 percent of gubernatorial elections, with strong bases in the manufacturing Northeast and in the border states. The trend over time was for the Democratic vote to grow faster and for the Whigs to lose more and more marginal states and districts. After the close contest, the Democratic advantage widened and the Whigs could win the White House only if the Democrats split. This was partly because of the increased political importance of the Western states, which generally voted for Democratsâ€”and Irish Catholic and German immigrants , who voted heavily for the Democrats. The Whigs appealed to voters in every socio-economic category, but proved especially attractive to the professional and business classes: In general, commercial and manufacturing towns and cities voted Whig, save for strongly Democratic precincts in Irish Catholic and German immigrant communities. Protestant religious revivals also injected a moralistic element into the Whig ranks. Whigs demanded government support for a more modern, market-oriented economy, in which skill, expertise, and bank credit would count for more than physical strength or land ownership. Whigs sought to promote faster industrialization through high tariffs, a business-oriented money supply based on a national bank and a vigorous program of government funded "internal improvements" what we now call infrastructure projects , especially expansion of the road and canal systems. To modernize the

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inner United States, the Whigs helped create public schools, private colleges, charities and cultural institutions. Many were pietistic Protestant reformers who called for public schools to teach moral values and proposed prohibition to end the liquor problem. In general the Democrats enacted their policies at the national level while the Whigs succeeded in passing modernization projects in most states. Indeed, most states adopted one version or another of the system he established in Massachusetts, especially the program for normal schools to train professional teachers. It was essentially divided into two main factions: Winthrop and Abbott Lawrence. During the mids, several Conscience leaders played an important role in the founding of the Republican Party. In , the Florida Whig Party formed, and fielded one candidate for Congress in the elections of It disbanded in See also Stephen Simpson , editor of the Philadelphia Whig, a 19th century newspaper devoted to the Whig cause. Presidents from the Whig Party[edit].