

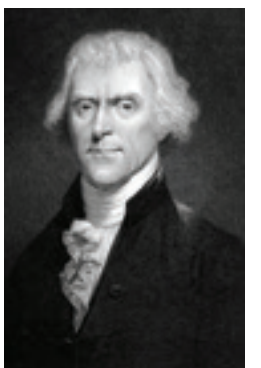
## The Battle for the Power State in the United States

*And [Jesus] said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those who exercise authority over them are called ‘benefactors.’ But not so among you; on the contrary, he who is greatest among you, let him be as the younger, and he who governs as he who serves.” (Luke 22:25-26)*

Jesus describes Gentile leadership as that which wants to exercise authority over others. Ungodly men seek to collect more power for themselves, and this usually involves big taxes, big spending, and huge numbers of government employees and regulations. There is a tendency among government leaders to want to control everybody and everything. They want to centralize power in one city or in one national government. It is the spirit of the men of Babel who built that big tower. They said, “Go to, let us make a name for ourselves. Let us build a tower and a city.” This temptation was very great among America’s early leaders. At points these men gave into the impulse, and at other points they resisted it, which makes the first half century of American government quite an engaging historical conflict.

### Thomas Jefferson’s Agenda: More Freedom, Less Power for Government

When **Thomas Jefferson** (1743-1826) was sworn in as President of the United States on March 4, 1801, he moved into the new Capitol Building in Washington, DC. Previously, the United States government had met in Philadelphia, New York, Annapolis,



Thomas Jefferson  
(1743-1826)

Maryland, and a few other locations. The United States Senate had assembled there first on November 17, 1800.

As opposed to the Federalist party, Thomas Jefferson and his Democratic-Republicans wanted more of a limitation of powers for the federal government. So right away, Jefferson set out to cut taxes and spending. George Washington and John Adams had run the national debt up

from \$71 million to \$83 million between 1789 and 1800. During these years, American debt never exceeded 19% of the annual national income. (This compares with huge debts later on. Throughout the 2000s, federal debt rose to over 100% of the annual national income.

Over his eight years in office, Jefferson actually reduced the federal debt from \$83 million to \$57 million. His government budgets ran between

## The Debtor Is Servant to the Lender

In no uncertain terms, God's Word notes that the debtor is servant to the lender. Nations in long-term debt are not enjoying the blessing of God.

*"Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth... You shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow. And the LORD will make you the head and not the tail; you shall be above only, and not be beneath." (Deuteronomy 28:1-2, 12-13)*

It may come as a surprise to learn that Thomas Jefferson was generally opposed to a full-time standing army.<sup>1</sup> He called it "inconsistent with [a people's] freedom." Although standing armies have come to be expected with most countries in the modern world, this was not always the case. Israel wanted a king and a standing army because the other nations had them. In so doing, Israel disregarded God's warnings given by the prophet in 1 Samuel 8:11-20.

President Jefferson was obviously still influenced by certain elements of the old Christian worldview that had ruled America for 150 years. He did not trust governments to handle great accumulations of power and money. A Christian view of man sees in him a tendency towards political corruption, bribery, deception, and greed. Therefore, the more power given over to men, the more destruction will come from their sinful works as they wield that power. In his first inaugural address, Jefferson said,

*"Sometimes it is said that man cannot be trusted with the government of himself. Can he then be trusted with the government of others? Or have we found angels, in the form of kings, to govern him? Let history answer this question."<sup>2</sup>*

He further explained that "Agriculture, manufactures, commerce, and navigation, the four pillars of our prosperity, are the most thriving when left most free to individual enterprise..."<sup>3</sup> For Jefferson, it was "that government governs best that governs least."

In keeping with his commitment to constitutional liberties, Jefferson made sure of the death of the onerous Alien and Sedition Acts. He pardoned those who had been accused under the acts.



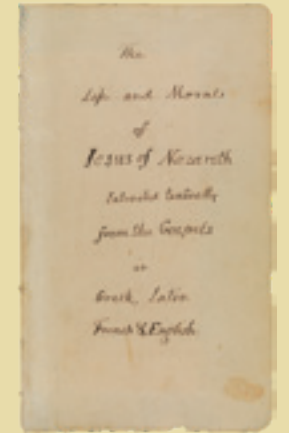
The Sedition Act

## Thomas Jefferson's Bible

When the Continental Congress suggested a day of fasting and prayer, Thomas Jefferson objected. Both John Adams and Benjamin Rush were deeply offended by his attitude, and referred to Jefferson as "an enemy of Christianity."<sup>4</sup> Jefferson cut and pasted together his own version of the New Testament. He eliminated references to Christ's resurrection and His miracles in what the United States Congress later dubbed "The Jefferson Bible."

In his last letter to Roger Weightman, written on June 24, 1826, Jefferson mocked the "grace of God" and claimed that the world had restored "the free right to the unbounded exercise of reason."<sup>5</sup>

John Adams died on the same day as Thomas Jefferson—July 4, 1826. In his final words, Adams wrote in a more humble tone: "The longer I live. . . the less I seem to know. Do justly, Love mercy Walk humbly. This is enough."<sup>6</sup> A Unitarian to the end, Adams concluded, "He who loves the Workman and his work, and does what he can to preserve and improve it, shall be accepted of Him."<sup>7</sup>



Title page to "The Jefferson Bible"

\$11 and \$13 million, about 2.5% of the gross national income. To compare these numbers with the federal budgets of the 2000s, the United States spends about 24% of the gross national income each year.<sup>8</sup> Jefferson reduced military spending, and he reduced the size of America's Navy to thirteen frigates. Although President Jefferson was not a Christian, he still recognized the value of a free nation that was not a servant to the lender. A nation that is in debt to foreign countries will find that those foreign countries will begin to control its policies.

## Political Games

*"Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others." (Philippians 2:3-4, ESV)*

Thomas Jefferson and James Madison formed the Democratic-Republican party in the early 1790s

to oppose the Federalists. They saw themselves as representing the farmers and the country people as opposed to the city folk. The Democratic-Republicans controlled the United States presidency and Congress from 1801 through 1825.

## Marbury v. Madison—Empowering the Court

One of the judges appointed by Adams was never put into office, because James Madison (Jefferson's Secretary of State) refused to follow through for reasons of political differences. He did not commission some of the men Adams appointed to office. One appointee by the name of William Marbury sued in court on the basis of the Judiciary Act of 1789. In this famous case, called **Marbury v. Madison**, Chief Justice John Marshall and his court ruled part of the Judiciary Act as unconstitutional on February 24, 1803. This action gave the Supreme Court power over Congress to conduct judicial review on legislation. It was the power to declare a law unconstitutional. Thus

empowering the Judiciary branch would pave the way for radical court decisions made during the 1960s and well into the 2000s.

## The Feds Get into the Land Business

In the early years, the United States government could not impose an income tax on the people, because the Constitution did not allow for anything but indirect taxation. From 1789 through 1865, the United States federal government received most of its income from tariffs on goods imported into the country, and

excise taxes on tobacco and alcohol. Thomas Jefferson's decision to buy the Louisiana territory from France in 1803 for \$15,000,000 changed the game. After the Louisiana Purchase, the federal government added land sales to its bottom line annual income. Between 1805 and 1830, the feds received as much as 10% of their income from these western land sales.<sup>9</sup> The government bought the gigantic land mass of 828,000 square miles for only 3 cents an acre. After the Improved Land Act of 1820, the government would sell off the acreage for about \$1.25 per acre. Although not a bad profit, the land was still cheap—only \$35 per acre in today's money.



## Which Political Party Is More Righteous?

Political parties (or partisan politics) often nurture the perception that a certain party is *far* more righteous and *far* better than the other. This is not always the case. Most political parties in the modern world do not use God's law or God's Word as the basis of determining what is right and wrong. So one party or the other party may be a little more aligned with God's law in one area, but less so in another area. Nonetheless, those who align themselves with a party are usually pretty sure their party is a thousand times better than the other party. It is too easy to lose perspective when it comes to party lines. For this reason, Christian leaders do not often fit comfortably into one party or the other.

As a last-ditch attempt to keep the Federalists in control of the Supreme Court, the Congress passed a "Judiciary Act" on February 27, 1801. Days before Jefferson took over, the Federalists established sixteen brand new circuit courts so that President John Adams could make last-minute judicial appointments. Judges serve for life, unless they are impeached, so this would have provided a political edge for the Federalists. The new Republican-dominated Congress quickly repealed the law and introduced their own law in 1802.

## The Good Years— God's Blessings on a Nation

Between 1816 and 1832, America practically eliminated its entire Federal Debt. This occurred under the administrations of James Monroe, John Quincy Adams, and Andrew Jackson—arguably America's most fiscally responsible presidents. Then, from 1832 to 1860, the country was more-or-less debt-free.

President James Madison's Secretary of State, **James Monroe**, was asked to run for president in 1814. James Monroe did so only on the condition that he would align himself with *no* political party. Also, he continued serving as Secretary of State during the race and refused to campaign (as the Federalist candidate, Rufus King did.) James Monroe presided over a time in America called "The Era of Good Feelings."

## The National Bank

*"Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely." (Lord Acton)*

At the insistence of Alexander Hamilton (and approval by Congress), the first national bank was formed in AD 1791. Thomas Jefferson and the Republicans were generally opposed to the bank. They saw it as an "engine for corruption," and the government let the first charter lapse in 1811. Then, President James Madison signed the charter for the Second Bank of the United States in 1816 with the understanding that the bank would kick back \$1.5 million annually to the federal government. This offered a back-door source of income for a central government seeking to grow. Congress salivated over the money, and attempted a bill to distribute the money to the states for infrastructure (roads and canals). President Madison vetoed the bill, because under the Constitution, the federal government was not responsible for funding state projects. However, he did approve funds for the construction of the Cumberland Road.

The first major American road built from Lancaster to Philadelphia was constructed by private investors in the 1790s. It gave the stockholders as much as 15% annual dividends. However, the federal and state governments were strongly tempted to enter into projects of this sort, and the



James Monroe (1758-1831),  
5th President of the United States

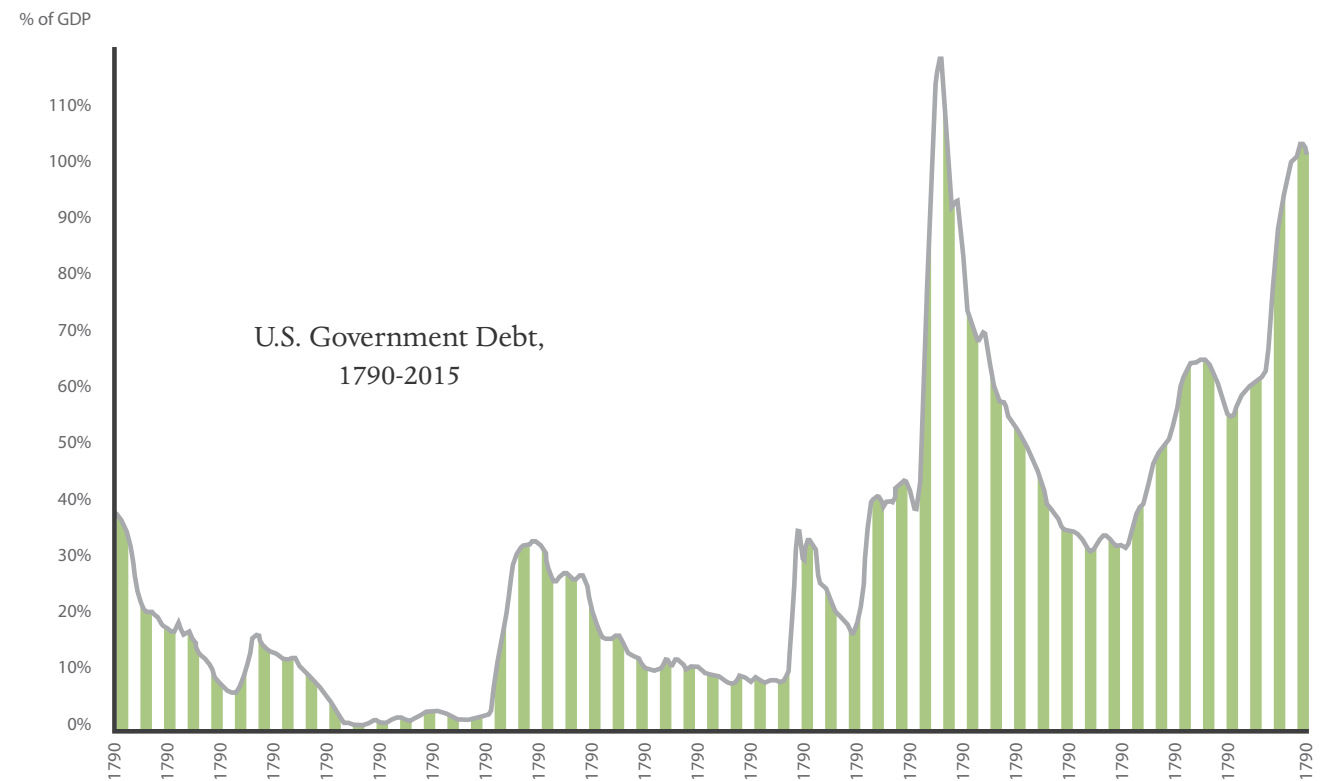
State of New York completed the Erie Canal using public dollars in 1825.

Between 1811 and 1818, the number of banks in America rose from 88 to 392.<sup>10</sup> With the increase in banks, came tremendous increases in personal debt. However, debtors were required to pay off their land purchases within five years or lose their claim. Between 1815 and 1819, debt on land purchases rose from \$3 million to \$23 million.<sup>11</sup> The Bank of the United States funded a good deal of this debt. The banks were lending more money than they had in gold and silver reserves. Then, the powerful Bank contracted the money supply by slowing down the loans going out. This is probably what touched off the economic panic. It was the first time that America felt the effects of a powerful government-operated entity redirecting the whole economy.

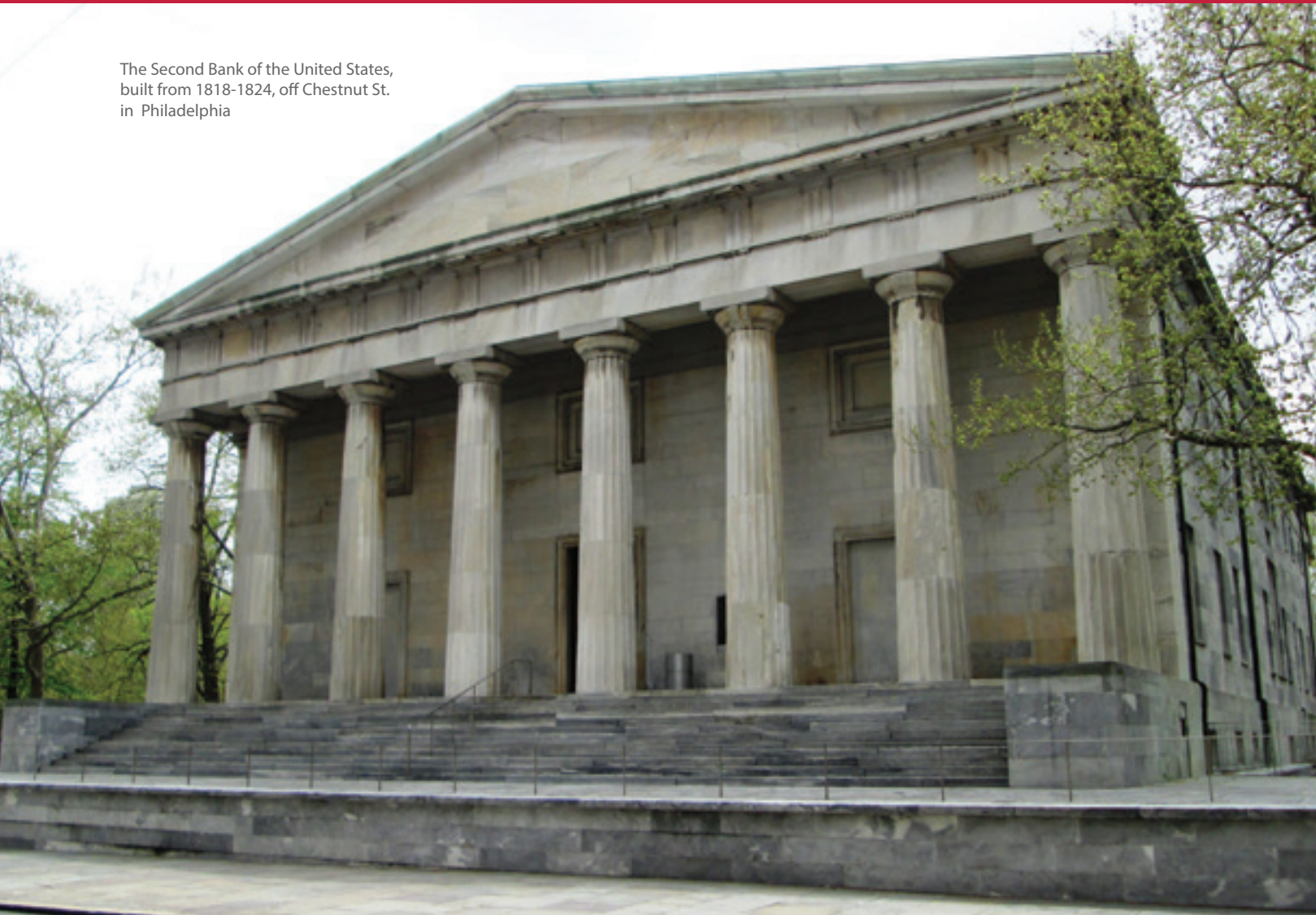
After the 1819 panic, Americans came to mistrust the government's controlling of banks

and the nation's money supply. Davy Crockett spoke for a lot of folks when he called the whole banking system "a species of swindling on a large scale." However, Chief Justice **John Marshall** and the Federalists on the Supreme Court advocated a strong national bank. In a decision called *McCullough v. Maryland* (1819), the court ruled that the states could not regulate or tax the national bank operating on their soil. This federal bank was owned by private investors, like other banks. However, by virtue of its special government charter, it was granted a monopoly and special protection from state taxes.

The lesson learned from America's early economic troubles is simple. Greed, driven by debt and excessive lending, will make for an unstable economy. "The debtor is servant to the lender."



The Second Bank of the United States, built from 1818-1824, off Chestnut St. in Philadelphia



## The General Welfare of the United States

The Constitution strictly banned any funding of projects that would not provide for the “**general welfare**” of the whole nation. These presidents understood how quickly this government money would lead to corruption. Campaign donations could easily be turned around to fund pet projects via federal funds in the various states.

### Article 1, Section 8

*“The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.”*

## Big Government, Big Tariffs

The only significant way to make the federal government bigger was to raise the tariffs—the tax on goods imported into America (from England and elsewhere). So, President Monroe and the Congress increased tariffs on woolen

imports to 37% in 1824. Then, John Quincy Adams moved America towards bigger government by pushing for still higher tariffs. These tariffs were a benefit to northern businesses which did not want to compete with cheap imports from England. However, these higher tariffs would hurt the southern colonies forcing southerners to

## The Christlessness of the 19th Century

*Jesus said, “Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 10:32-33)*

If there is anything that stands out about the faith of the presidents of the 19th Century, it is a Christlessness. They would not confess the Lord Jesus Christ in their letters, autobiographies, or diaries. This confession just was not popular with the Deists, the Unitarians, and the Agnosticism of the day.

**James Madison** (1751-1836) was raised in the Anglican church, and received a good education from a Scottish Minister, Donald Robertson, and the pastor of Brick Church in Orange County. Also, he studied at the College of New Jersey under the Presbyterian minister, Dr. John Witherspoon (1722-1794). However, outside of a good education, it is not clear if Madison ever trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ as his Savior and Lord. As President, he opposed the idea of a Christian chaplain for Congress, and wrote not a word about his faith in private writings and correspondence.

**James Monroe** (1758-1831) was born, baptized, and buried as a member of the Episcopal Church. It is doubtful that he ever confessed faith. Even when his wife and his son died, he made no mention of an eternal hope or of heaven. Again, James Monroe refused to acknowledge the Lord Jesus Christ in his writings.

**Martin Van Buren** (1782-1862) would regularly attend church, although there is no indication that he joined the Dutch Reformed Church in which he was raised. His autobiography contains not one mention of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**John Tyler** (1790-1862) also refused to acknowledge Christ. However, it seemed he did fear God and considered humility before God a prerequisite to God's blessing. In his first act as President, he called for a day of prayer and fasting. Wording from the proclamation follows:

*“When a Christian people feel themselves to be overtaken by a great public calamity, it becomes them to humble themselves under the dispensation of Divine Providence, to recognize His righteous government over the children of men, to acknowledge His goodness in time past, as well as their own unworthiness, and to supplicate His merciful protection for the future... the people of the United States of every religious denomination... according to their several modes and forms of worship... observe a Day of Fasting and Prayer by such religious services... to the end that on that day we may all with one accord join in humble and reverential approach to Him in whose hands we are, invoking Him to inspire us with a proper spirit and temper of heart and mind under these frowns of His providence and still to bestow His gracious benedictions upon our Government and our country.”*

## Corrupting the Nation in Economics and Education

Stephen Girard, a Frenchman and an atheist, was the wealthiest man in America between 1810 and 1831. Historians call him the fourth wealthiest American of all time. He was the major investor in the Second Bank of the United States. These wealthy investors would borrow money to buy shares in the bank, and enjoy nice benefits from the bank. Since the bank was protected from bankruptcy (and taxation) by the United States government, this gave the investors an edge over their competitors (and the opportunity to gain a monopoly over the banking business.)

Upon his death, Girard left his ill-gotten estate to fund the construction of atheist schools. Some of his efforts were thwarted by a U.S. Supreme Court decision, however he built Girard College on the requirement that all clergy would be prohibited from entering the school. The corruption in government would inevitably contribute to the corruption of the minds of American children in years to come.



Girard College, in Philadelphia

pay more for their clothing and necessities. For example, English-made shoes were cheaper than shoes made in Boston. With the increases in tariffs under Presidents James Monroe and John Quincy Adams, the southern colonies were forced to pay more for shoes. President Adams' tariff became known as the "tariff of abominations." This paved the way to national disunity later in the century.

The problems for governments always begin when they tax some people (and some goods) more than others. This violates the scriptural principle contained in Deuteronomy 16:19.

*You shall not pervert judgment; you shall not show partiality, neither take a bribe: for a bribe does blind the eyes of the wise, and pervert the words of the righteous.*

When Andrew Jackson became president in 1828, the contention over the tariffs had intensified. His vice president, **John C. Calhoun**, encouraged southern states to ignore the federal law. He told

them to "nullify it," and simply refuse to collect taxes at the port cities. Jackson vehemently disagreed and Calhoun resigned office. South Carolina tried to ignore the federal law until Jackson sent a warship into Charleston harbor to enforce the tax. South Carolina then threatened to secede from the United States.

Nonetheless, overall Andrew Jackson proved himself to be a less-government kind of president. He pushed the compromise of 1833 which lowered the tariffs to 20 percent (maximum).

## The Greed of Bankers and Borrowers

The main problem with the banks was that they wanted to lend more money than they held in silver and gold deposits. If a bank had only \$30,000 in silver and gold coin in their safes, they wanted to lend out \$60,000 or more. Then, the banks would collect interest on the \$60,000 and

the bankers would get richer. This was a risk, because if people ever wanted to trade their cash and bank notes for silver or gold, this would cause a "run on the bank." The bank might even succumb to bankruptcy. Sometimes the banks would slow down their lending and this would cause a disruption in the economy.

Through the 1830s and 1840s, cotton prices dropped because the Bank of England had reduced its lending, and the English demand for cotton was very low. Business was slow and some companies lost everything. In 1837, Americans rushed into the banks to trade their paper money for gold and silver. Banks in New York and elsewhere refused to give people the gold and silver, and this caused another panic.

Greed and the desire on the part of the bankers to get rich quick is problematic. These are the toxic roots of economic destruction for any nation that gives way to this sin. Certainly, America was no exception to the rule. Proverbs 20:21 offers this age-old wisdom: "An inheritance may be gotten hastily at the beginning; but the end thereof shall not be blessed."

## Andrew Jackson vs. The National Bank

By 1830, the national Bank of the United States held one third of the nation's deposits in gold and silver coins. President **Andrew Jackson** declared a private war on the national Bank. Initially, he instructed his Secretary of the Treasury to place American assets in private banks. He refused, and Jackson fired him. His replacement also refused, and Jackson fired him as well.

In 1832, the President of the Bank of the United States, Nicholas Biddle, solicited the help of Daniel Webster (1782-1852) and Henry Clay (1777-1852) to introduce a bill in the U.S. Senate that would renew the official charter of the Bank.

Arguably, President Andrew Jackson's veto of the bank re-charter on July 10th, 1832 was the most gutsy and important presidential action in the nation's history to that point. In his veto message, Jackson criticized the government-supported monopoly. He protested against making some men rich "by an act of Congress," and the "prostitution of our Government to the advancement of the few at the expense of the many."<sup>12</sup>

In the 1832 elections, Senator **Henry Clay** campaigned for president strongly supporting the restoration of the national bank charter.

## An Unpopular Candidate Wins

In the 1824 presidential election, **John Quincy Adams** ran against Henry Clay, William Crawford, and Andrew Jackson. Although receiving less of the popular vote and less electoral votes than Jackson, John Quincy Adams ended up winning the election. Henry Clay decided to support Adams, and this tipped the election in Adams's favor. Jackson went on to form the Democratic Party and came back in 1828 to win the presidential election.



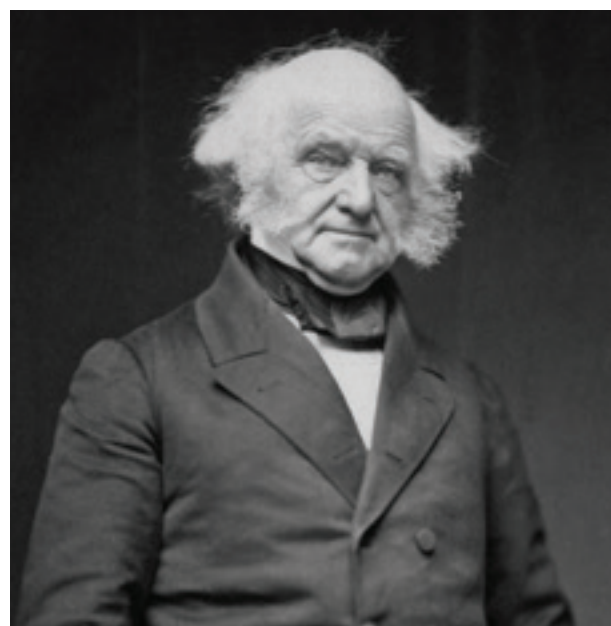
John Quincy Adams (1767-1848), 6th President of the United States

John C. Calhoun  
(1782-1850)

Common sense Americans found themselves agreeing with Andrew Jackson's perspective on the national Bank. They wanted nothing to do with monopolies and crony capitalists. Jackson swept the field, taking 219 of the 286 electoral votes. Attempts to revive the Bank failed, and what was left of the Bank of the United States was finally liquidated in 1841. Liberty won, big government lost, and America operated without a national bank until 1863.

### Martin Van Buren Carries on the Jackson Legacy

Andrew Jackson's Secretary of State from 1829 to 1831, Martin Van Buren, joined the Presidential campaign in 1832 as Jackson's Vice President. Van Buren was Jackson's biggest cheerleader in defeating the national Bank. After Van Buren was elected president in 1836, he continued fighting the newly-formed Whig party who wanted the

Martin Van Buren (1782-1862),  
8th President of the United States

Bank back. Instead, President Van Buren proposed holding all federal funds in gold and silver, and disallowing the printing of paper money. Van Buren wanted fair and honest money, where the government would not favor one person's or group's interest over another. He wrote that, "The less government interferes with private pursuits, the better for the general prosperity."

*"You shall not show partiality in judgment; you shall hear the small as well as the great; you shall not be afraid in any man's presence, for the judgment is God's." (Deuteronomy 1:17)*

### The Whig Party

In reaction to the Jacksonians, Henry Clay and others from the Western and New England states formed the Whig party. These men were in favor of:

- ✦ Big government, the national bank, and higher tariffs (taxes on imports)

Senator Henry Clay (1777-1852)  
of KentuckyWilliam Henry Harrison (1773-1841),  
9th President of the United States

- ✦ Protecting their favorite manufacturing businesses in New England
- ✦ Building roads and canals at the expense of the federal government
- ✦ Increased government involvement in certain social issues like prohibition (outlawing the consumption of alcohol)

When Martin Van Buren ran for re-election in 1840, the Whigs ran their war hero, **William Henry Harrison**. He was best known for his battles with the Shawnee Indian tribes in 1810 and 1811. Although Harrison had lost against Van Buren in the 1836 presidential race, it was a whole different story in 1840. The nation had been through an economic down turn, and the people blamed the troubles on the Jacksonians.

Harrison won the election. However, in God's sovereign providence, he only served 30 days before he contracted a disease and died. This left the presidency to **John Tyler**, Harrison's Vice President who did not support the Whig agenda.



John Tyler (1790-1862),  
10th President of the United States

### Saved in the End—The Christian Faith of Andrew Jackson

Although most people think of Andrew Jackson as a rough character, there were moments when some fear of God manifested itself. He was raised Presbyterian, and his mother taught him the Westminster Shorter Catechism in his early years. However, he married his first wife, Rachel, three years before her divorce with her first husband was finalized.

When a young man was scoffing at the doctrine of hell, Jackson replied to him,

*“Well, sir, I thank God that there is such a place of torment as hell... to put such rascals as you are in, that oppose and vilify the Christian religion.”*

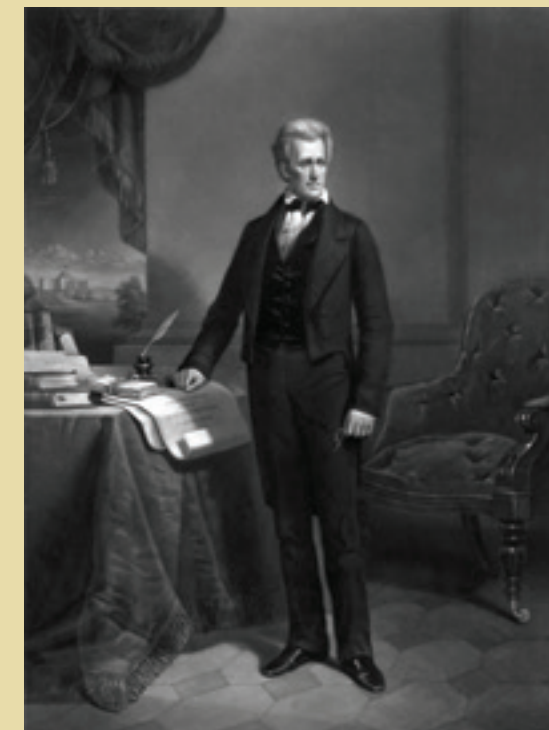
Upon his retirement, Jackson attended a series of religious meetings and came under conviction of his sins. According to his biographer Ray Chamberlin, Jackson “repented of his sins, and, through faith in Jesus Christ, had obtained forgiveness. Family prayer was immediately established... he was privileged to read through the Bible twice.”

Just weeks before his death in 1845, Andrew Jackson confessed openly:

*“I am in the hands of a merciful God. I have full confidence in his goodness and mercy... The Bible is true... Upon that sacred volume I rest my hope for eternal salvation, through the merits and blood of our blessed Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.”*

Minutes before he died, those present in the room recorded these words:

*“My dear children, do not grieve for me; it is true, I am going to leave you; I am well aware of my situation. I have suffered much bodily pain, but*



Andrew Jackson (1767-1845),  
7th President of the United States

*my sufferings are as nothing compared with that which our blessed Redeemer endured upon the accursed Cross, that all might be saved who put their trust in Him... God will take care of you for me. I am my God's. I belong to Him. I go but a short time before you, and... hope and trust to meet you all in Heaven, both white and black.”*

*This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. (1 Timothy 1:15)*

The Whigs in the Congress tried to resurrect the national bank, twice. Surprisingly, John Tyler opposed both attempts. The Whig party was not happy, and treated him as a turncoat. The next year

(1842), the Whigs tried raising tariffs, twice and Tyler vetoed both measures. Angered and disappointed, the Whigs started impeachment proceedings in the first attempt to remove a president from office.



They failed. They tried to use the sales of public lands to pay for roads and canals, and again, Tyler opposed them. Somehow, John Tyler survived his four years of presidency. During his last few months in office, he vetoed a bill requesting that the United States build a few small ships. Congress overrode the veto by 2/3 majority vote—it was the first successful override in American history.

The battle for big government on the part of power-hungry men is always a ferocious battle. Only principled and courageous men can stand against such tyrannical forces. Thanks to men like John Tyler, the impulse to grow government was stymied in the 1840s. America enjoyed just a little bit of freedom from power-hungry government leaders during these years.

## Self-Governed, Thank You Very Much

There is no perfect country in the world. Given its Christian roots, America had its bright spots. Although tyrants would eventually gain power in this country, it was harder to gain it here than elsewhere. It was a constitutional republic, where leaders had to obey the Constitution. There was an explicit “Bill of Rights” attached to the Constitution that maintained freedoms for the people. Most importantly, America was a collection of small countries called “states.” These states agreed to work together, which meant the government in DC did not have very much power. America was decentralized and self-governed.

**Alexis de Tocqueville** was a French writer who came to America in 1831 to study this strange, new country. He wrote an important book called *Democracy in America*, in which he noted that “Every village forms a sort of republic accustomed to conduct its own affairs.”<sup>13</sup> The problem that

Robin Hood had to deal with in the famous legend was that the Sheriff of Nottingham worked for the King. However, in America, the sheriff worked for the local county. He did not report to the President of the United States. This American system of governments was actually a perfecting of a decentralized system of European feudalism. This system protected American freedoms until the big government state in Washington started to grow. Americans viewed the Constitution (especially the 10th Amendment) as protecting these local and state governments from federal control. Americans used to say, “The United States *are* blessed of God.” (However, after the Civil War they would say, “The United States *is* blessed or not blessed of God.”)



Alexis de Tocqueville (1805-1859)

## In Review

In the early years of the Republic, there was a great battle that went on between those who wanted to increase power for the federal government and those that did not. Men like Thomas Jefferson, Andrew Jackson, and John Tyler stood their ground and pushed back against the federalists and Whigs. However, most of these early leaders of the country were not committed Christians and did not confess Christ. The greatest battle against corruption and power hungry men was played out over the national bank. Andrew Jackson's veto of the bank stands out as the most important governmental action in the first half of the century.

### Perspectives

“The two [national] banks represented the most important examples of crony capitalism in 19th century America. It was fully consistent with the crony capitalism that had been created in Great Britain in 1694 by the Bank of England. The great reversal came in 1832. The crucial document of this reversal was Jackson's veto of the bank... Given the importance of that veto, and given the fact that there was no replacement of that bank until 1913, I regard Jackson's veto as the most important document issued by any President in defense of limited government and personal liberty.” (Gary North, *Christian Economist*)

### For Further Study

#### Terms

General Welfare  
*Marbury v. Madison*  
*McCullough v. Maryland*

#### People

Thomas Jefferson	Henry Clay
James Madison	Alexis de Toqueville
James Monroe	John Marshall
John Quincy Adams	
Andrew Jackson	
Martin Van Buren	
William Henry Harrison	
John Tyler	

