

Period 4: 1800-1848

AP US History ■ Period 4

AP US History



What we will cover

- 1 Jefferson's Era and the Courts
- 2 Politics, Regions, and the World Stage
- 3 The Market Revolution
- 4 Society and Culture in the Market Revolution
- 5 Expanding Democracy and Jackson
- 6 Religion, Reform, and American Culture



Jefferson's Era and the Courts

Period 4 runs from 1800 to 1848. Three things happen at once: democracy widens, the economy transforms, and the country expands – and each one deepens the argument over slavery.

These were arguments about how much power the national government should have.

Four things the early republic did

Louisiana Purchase

The **Louisiana Purchase** doubled the territory at a stroke – and forced Jefferson to use a federal power he had argued against.

Judicial review

Marbury v. Madison established **judicial review**: the Court may strike down a law as unconstitutional.

An independent global presence

The republic asserted an **independent global presence** – the Barbary wars, the War of 1812, and finally the Monroe Doctrine.

Nullification crisis

The **nullification crisis** of 1832 put the question plainly: may a state refuse a federal law? The answer held, and the question did not go away.

Each of these is a precedent. In an essay, say what it made possible later – that is the causation the rubric rewards.



Politics, Regions, and the World Stage

As the country grew, **regional interests** diverged. The North favoured tariffs to protect manufacturing; the South opposed them as a tax on its exports; the West wanted internal improvements and cheap land. Nearly every political dispute of the period maps onto that triangle.

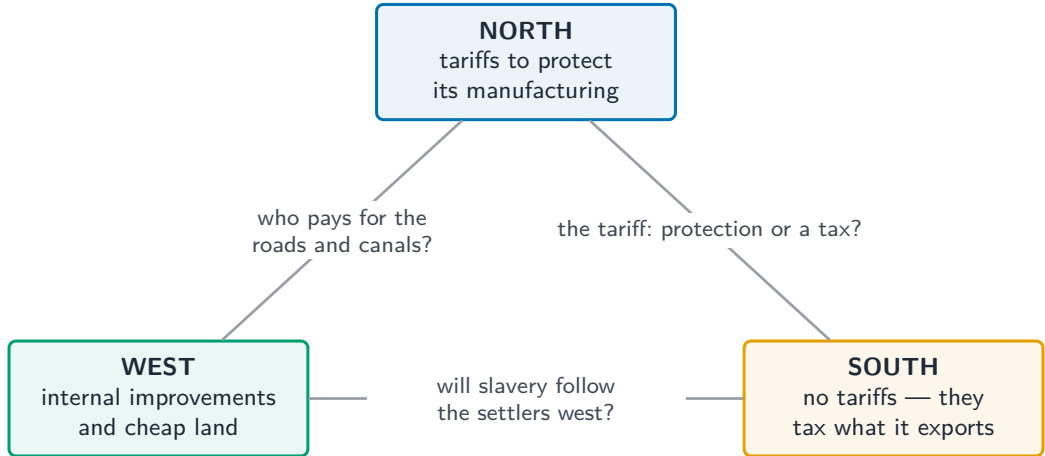
It fought the **War of 1812** 1812, expanded foreign trade, and in the **Monroe Doctrine** declared the Western Hemisphere closed to further European colonisation – an assertion of influence well beyond the country's actual power at the time.

Every dispute is an edge of this triangle

As the country grew, **regional interests** diverged.

The North favoured tariffs to protect manufacturing; the South opposed them as a tax on its exports; the West wanted internal improvements and cheap land.

Every dispute is an edge of this triangle, in detail



As the country grew, **regional interests** diverged.

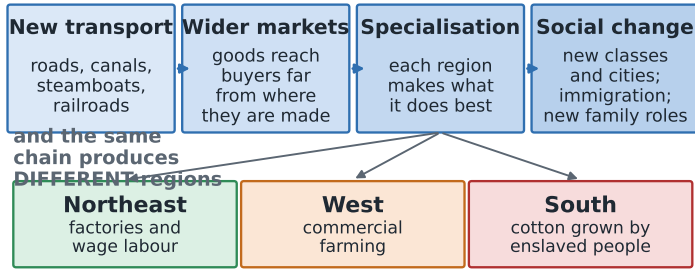


A chain, not a list

New **transportation systems** - roads, **canals** such as the Erie, steamboats, and then **railroads** - together with new technologies dramatically expanded manufacturing and agricultural...

The mechanism is what the exam wants.

A chain, not a list, in detail



specialisation ties the regions together in trade while making them economically different
which is why expansion turned into a national crisis

New **transportation systems** - roads, **canals** such as the Erie, steamboats, and then **railroads** - together with new technologies dramatically expanded manufacturing and agricultural...

The Market Revolution

New **transportation systems** – roads, **canals** such as the Erie, steamboats, and then **railroads** – together with new technologies dramatically expanded manufacturing and agricultural output.

Cheaper transport widened **markets** ; wider markets let regions **specialise** in what they did best; specialisation tied the regions together in trade while making them economically different from one another.

The market revolution, and who was moved

Factory production

Factory production concentrated work under one roof and one clock, replacing the artisan's workshop.

Commercial farming

Commercial farming grew for distant markets rather than the household – which is what the canals and railroads were built for.

Relocated westward

Under the **Indian Removal Act** of 1830, southeastern nations were **relocated westward** by federal force.

Trail of Tears

The Cherokee removal became the **Trail of Tears**: thousands died on the march, after the Supreme Court had ruled in their favour.

The market revolution and removal are one story: the demand for cotton land is what made removal politically irresistible.



Society and Culture in the Market Revolution

The market revolution changed how people lived, not just what they produced.

- Work moved out of the household and into **factories** and offices, producing a growing **middle class** and a new **wage-earning working class** .
- A **separation of home and workplace** encouraged an ideology assigning women a domestic role, even as many women worked for wages in mills.
- **Immigration** rose sharply, especially from Ireland and Germany, producing both a larger labour force and organised **nativist** hostility.
- **Urbanisation** accelerated, with the social problems that followed.



Expanding Democracy and Jackson

The transition to a **more participatory democracy** came through expanding **suffrage** – the removal of property qualifications for white men – along with new campaign styles and mass political parties.

The limits matter as much as the expansion: this widening applied to white men, while free African Americans in several states **lost** voting rights in the same decades, and women had none.

Widening and narrowing, in the same decades

SUFFRAGE EXTENDED — property requirements fall away; nearly all white men vote



SUFFRAGE WITHDRAWN — free Black men lose the vote in most states



REMOVAL — the Indian Removal Act of 1830; the Trail of Tears follows



All three overlap in the **same** decades. “The age of the common man” is a phrase to **qualify**, not to repeat



Religion, Reform, and American Culture

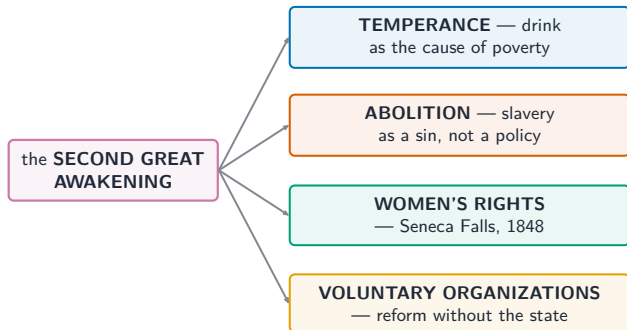
The rise of democratic and individualistic beliefs, a reaction against rationalism, and changes brought by the market revolution together produced the **Second Great Awakening**, a wave of religious revival emphasising personal salvation and human perfectibility.

- **Temperance** and prison, asylum, and school reform.
- **Abolitionist and antislavery movements**, which gradually achieved emancipation in the North and grew louder nationally.
- A **women's rights movement**, which sought greater equality and opportunity and expressed its ideals at the **Seneca Falls Convention**.

Religion, Reform, and American Culture, continued

Ideas about national identity increasingly found expression in **art, literature, and architecture** , while various groups maintained distinctive cultures of their own.

One premise underneath four movements



One premise – people and society can be perfected – under **temperance**, abolition, women's rights (Seneca Falls), and voluntary reform.

The courts, reform, and the cotton South

the primacy of the judiciary

Supreme Court decisions established the Court's authority to review, and a strong national government's constitutional basis

voluntary organizations

Americans formed them to change individual behaviour – temperance, abolition, education, asylum reform

the premise beneath them

that people and institutions could be **perfected** – the reform impulse's shared assumption

Andrew Jackson

expanded suffrage and executive power, and forced **Indian removal**

cotton

as overcultivation exhausted eastern soil, slavery expanded **westward** with it

southern support

although the **majority of southerners owned no enslaved persons**, most supported the system

That last point is the standard essay trap. Explaining *why* non-slaveholders defended slavery is where the analysis is.



African Americans and the Society of the South

Antislavery effort in the South was largely limited to **unsuccessful rebellions** by enslaved people, which were met with harsher laws and tighter control.

Enslaved and free African Americans created **communities and strategies** to protect themselves: family and kinship networks, religious practice, music, and covert resistance – a continuation of the pattern from Period 2.



Causation in Period 4

The period's reasoning skill is **causation**.

The strongest chain to hold: the market revolution and westward expansion were engines of growth, and both drove the sectional conflict that Period 5 resolves by war.

Worked example – a qualified position

2023 long essay: “*Evaluate the extent to which commercial development changed United States society from 1800 to 1855.*”

- **Scoring:** “*Commercial development transformed United States society to a great extent between 1800 and 1855, creating a wage-earning working class and a distinct middle class in the North and drawing the West into national markets, though in the South it deepened rather than displaced an existing slave-based agricultural order.*”
- **Evaluate the extent** rewards a qualified position – “to a great extent, though...”

The qualification is not hedging. It is what lets the essay argue rather than describe.

Exam tips

- Learn the market revolution as a **chain**: transport → wider markets → specialisation → different regional economies → social change.
- Give the **regional triangle** (North, South, West) when explaining a political dispute; tariff, bank, and internal improvements all fit it.
- Democracy expanded **for white men** while free Black men lost rights in several states. Saying so is what turns a description into an evaluation.
- Connect the **Second Great Awakening** to reform: revival supplied the belief that people and society could be perfected.
- Southern westward migration matters because it **carried slavery west**, turning expansion into the central national conflict.
- On **Evaluate the extent** prompts, qualify your position. "To a great extent, although..." is the structure the rubric rewards.



Period 4 – key takeaways

1

Market revolution

transport → markets →
specialisation → regions

2

Triangle

North, South, West on tariff,
bank, improvements

3

Democracy

expanded for white men; free
Black men lost rights

4

Slavery west

expansion carried slavery; that is
the conflict

Check yourself

- 1 Give the market-revolution chain in four steps.
- 2 For whom did Jacksonian democracy expand?
- 3 Why does southern westward migration matter?
- 4 What must an “evaluate the extent” thesis do?

Answers: transport → markets → specialisation → social change ▪ white men ▪ it carried slavery west ▪ take a qualified position