

Political Party Timeline: 1836-1864

1. In 1836, the leaders of the Whig Party, which derived from the National Republican Party, were Henry Clay and John Quincy Adams.
2. The Whigs originated out of New England and New York, mostly made up of middle-class people, market-oriented farmers, and native-born skilled workers. They generally united against Jackson's policies of the last eight years and especially disliked Martin van Buren, Jackson's successor.
3. In 1836, the Democratic Party was headed by Martin van Buren. They generally favored localism, westward expansion, and freedom from modern institutions. They had a strong stance on states' rights, a limited government, and an agrarian ideal. They were made up of artisans who felt threatened by industry; farmers hurt by tariffs; immigrants who desired to keep their own traditions; and Southerners and Westerners who wanted new land.
4. In 1840, the Whig Party introduces a new campaign called, "Log Cabin and Hard Cider" – used to debut new presidential candidate William Henry Harrison.
5. In 1840, the Democrats supported a platform that endorsed "strict construction" of the Constitution. They opposed the government's interference with the spread of slavery, the existence of a national bank, and the federal funding of internal improvements.
6. The Liberty Party was anti-slavery, created in 1839, when the movement factionalized into conservative and radical party. The radicals followed William Lloyd Garrison, who called for the ending of slavery, denounced the US Constitution, and allowed female activists into the movement. The conservatives formed the Liberty Party and sought to end slavery gradually.
7. The Free Soil Party took in men from the Liberty Party who had nowhere else to go; anti-slavery, Whigs; and "Barnburner" Democrats, whose anti-black prejudices allied them with anti-slavery men. Free Soilers were the only political group to officially denounce the Compromise of 1850. They demanded the repeal of the Fugitive Slave Law and opposed the further admission of slave states.
8. The Republican Party came out of resistance to the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854, which allowed slavery to spread into Western territory by popular sovereignty. The party included anti-slavery Whigs, Democrats, Free Soilers, reformers, and abolitionists.
9. Some men organized into a secret order known as the "Know-Nothings" and then politicized themselves in 1856 as the American Party. It was made up of mostly ex-Whigs who were anti-Catholic, anti-immigrant, and desired to lengthen the naturalization period, allow only citizens to vote, and only native-born citizens to hold office.
10. The Constitutional Union Party was the anti-extremist party, accepting Southern Whigs who didn't want to vote Democratic and Northern Whigs who felt the Republicans were too radical. They united in order to prevent a Republican victory.

Key Terms

-  **Doughface** – pliable, moldable, weak/to be led by a stronger will, northerner who supports south, Pierce, Buchanan

- ✚ **Barnburners** – anti-slavery Democrats, radicals, someone who would burn down their own barn to get rid of rats, destroy banks to end abuses
- ✚ **Hunkers** – conservative NY Democrats, anti-change, stick in the mud, favored banks, internal improvements, and minimized slavery issue