

Period 4: 1800-1848

AP United States History

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.

National parties continued to debate the **tariff** 关税, the national **bank** 银行, and **internal improvements** 内部改良 (federally funded roads and canals). These were arguments about how much power the national government should have.

The Supreme Court settled part of that argument. Its decisions established the **primacy of the judiciary** 司法至上 in determining the meaning of the Constitution - the principle of **judicial review** 司法审查 - and generally strengthened federal power over the states.

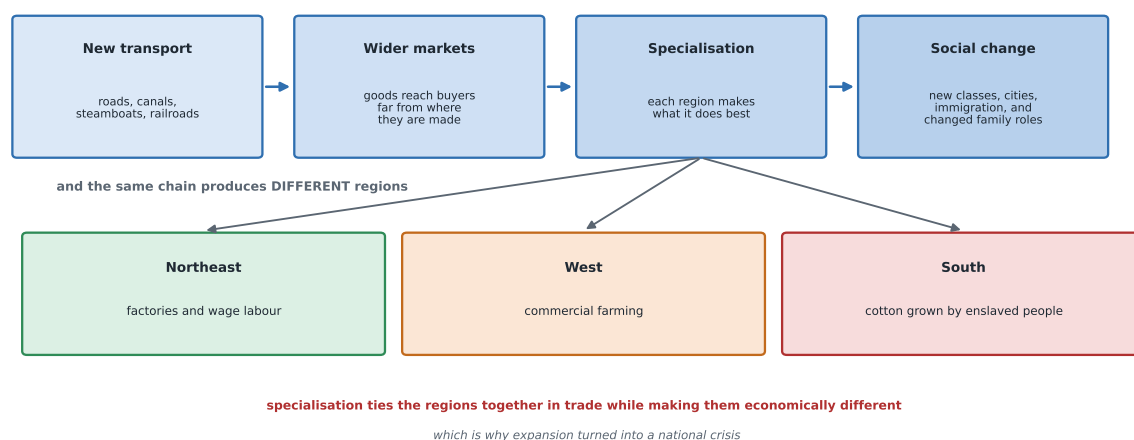
Expansion began early: after the **Louisiana Purchase** 路易斯安那购地, the government sought influence and control over the West, sending expeditions and negotiating with American Indian nations.

Politics, Regions, and the World Stage

As the country grew, **regional interests** 区域利益 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.

Abroad, the United States struggled to create an **independent global presence** 独立的国际地位. It fought the **War of 1812** 1812 年战争, expanded foreign trade, and in the **Monroe Doctrine** 门罗主义 declared the Western Hemisphere closed to further European colonisation - an assertion of influence well beyond the country's actual power at the time.

The Market Revolution



The market revolution is a chain, not a list: each link is what turns the previous one into a change in how people lived

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

The mechanism is what the exam wants. Cheaper transport widened **markets** 市场; wider markets let regions **specialise** 专业化 in what they did best; specialisation tied the regions together in trade while making them economically different from one another.

The results by region: **factory production** 工厂生产 and wage labour in the Northeast, **commercial farming** 商业化农业 in the West, and in the South an intensified reliance on **cotton** 棉花 grown by enslaved people.

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** 中产阶级 and a new **wage-earning working class** 雇佣劳动者阶级.
- A **separation of home and workplace** 家庭与工作场所分离 encouraged an ideology assigning women a domestic role, even as many women worked for wages in mills.
- **Immigration** 移民 rose sharply, especially from Ireland and Germany, producing both a larger labour force and organised **nativist** 排外主义 hostility.
- **Urbanisation** 城市化 accelerated, with the social problems that followed.

Expanding Democracy and Jackson

The transition to a **more participatory democracy** 更具参与性的民主 came through expanding **suffrage** 选举权 - 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.

Andrew Jackson 杰克逊 embodied and tested the new politics. His presidency featured a war on the national bank, the **nullification crisis** 废止危机 over the tariff, and the **Indian Removal Act** 印第安人迁移法 - the forced removal of southeastern nations along what became known as the **Trail of Tears** 血泪之路.

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** 第二次大觉醒, a wave of religious revival emphasising personal salvation and human perfectibility.

That conviction fed reform. Americans formed **voluntary organizations** 自愿团体 aimed at changing individual behaviour and institutions:

- **Temperance** 禁酒运动 and prison, asylum, and school reform.
- **Abolitionist and antislavery movements** 废奴与反奴隶制运动, which gradually achieved emancipation in the North and grew louder nationally.
- A **women's rights movement** 妇女权利运动, which sought greater equality and opportunity and expressed its ideals at the **Seneca Falls Convention** 塞内卡福尔斯会议.

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

African Americans and the Society of the South

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

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

In the South, although the majority of southerners owned no enslaved persons, most supported the system. As overcultivation depleted arable land in the Southeast, slaveholders **relocated westward** 向西迁移, carrying slavery into new territory - which is precisely what made westward expansion a national crisis rather than a regional one.

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 real AP exam question). The 2023 exam set the long essay *"Evaluate the extent to which commercial development changed United States society from 1800 to 1855."* A high-scoring thesis takes a position on *how much*, and names the areas of change: *"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."* Notice the shape: **Evaluate the extent** rewards a qualified position - "to a great extent, though..." - because that structure lets the essay use evidence on both sides. A thesis that merely says commercial development "changed society a lot" cannot be argued.

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.