panics made the people bent on a change. Van Buren's administra-
tion left the Democrats strong, compact and well organized in
spite of a split-off coupled with an overwhelming defeat, and
prepared to put up a winning fight four years later. It was
Jackson's party still.

CHAPTER XIV
ONE MONTH OF WHIGISM, FORTY-SEVEN OF DEMOCRACY
1841-1845

Hybrid Administration—Remarkable Tactics Deprive Clay of Whig Nomina-
tion—Curious Clay-Tyler Missalience—Campaign Starts in Decem-
bter—Democratic Convention in May—Platform—Van Buren's Cam-
paign—Liberty Party—Landslide for Whigs—John Tyler—No Whig—
Party Company with Party—Bank Bills Vetoed—Congress—Texas
Question.

The Harrison-Tyler administration belongs nominally to Whig
history, but actually to Democratic annals. Harrison was an old
Jeffersonian with Whig leanings and Tyler an anti-Jackson
Democrat. Harrison's campaign and election much resembled
Jackson's of 1828, and his few weeks in office carried the resem-
bblance further, for hordes of office-seekers of the common or farm
variety flocked to Washington and besieged the old General,
many of them sleeping in the corridors of the White House, so
as to be able to reach the President in the early hours before the
crowd had gathered. "The latch string on the outside" had been
a campaign slogan, and Harrison lived up to it thirty days. He
fastened on the country as a national system what before had
been only a party practice—the spoils system.

There were three references to the principles of Jefferson in the
inaugural address; slavery agitation was deprecated, and paper
money advocated which was taken to mean the President favored
a national bank. Clay declined any place in the cabinet; Web-
ster was given the State Department; Ewing, the Treasury;
John Bell, War; Budger, Navy; Granger, the Arm-Mason, Post-
master General, and Crittenden, Attorney General.

Clay and Webster immediately clashed on appointments and
Harrison bluntly charged with attempt at dictation; shortly
afterward he requested Clay to make his recommendations to
him in writing. An extra session of Congress was called for
May 31st.

Old and in shattered health, the exposure of a long inaugural
ceremony in inclement weather, the cares of office and the har-
rassment of office-seekers brought Harrison to his death in exactly
thirty days.
A democracy is a method of selecting the people who will hold the power, not a method of selecting the people who will vote. The essence of it is that the people who are chosen to hold the power are accountable to the people who have been chosen to vote. This is not to say that elections are the only way to select leaders; it is simply to say that elections are a common practice for the purpose of choosing leaders. The question of how to hold elections is not a question of whether elections should be held, but rather how they should be held. The method of holding elections is determined by the nature of the society in which the election is to be held. For example, in a democratic society, elections are typically held through a process of voting. In a society that is not democratic, elections may be held through other means, such as by appointment or by lottery. The method of holding elections is an important factor in determining the success of a democracy, as it affects the participation of the people in the democratic process.

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CHAPTER 14

THE STORY OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

The rise of the Democratic Party was a product of the post-Civil War era, when Reconstruction politics were intense and polarizing. The party was founded in 1828, with Andrew Jackson, a former war hero and hero of the War of 1812, as its first presidential candidate. Jackson's victory in the election of 1828 marked the ascendancy of the Democratic Party and the beginning of a new era in American politics.

In the years that followed, the Democratic Party became known for its support of states' rights, and its opposition to federal intervention in the affairs of states. The party also advocated for a strong executive branch, and it opposed the expansion of the federal government's role in the economy.

The Democratic Party's most famous leader was Abraham Lincoln, who became the party's candidate for president in 1860. Lincoln's election marked the beginning of the Civil War, as the Southern states, which were predominantly Democratic, seceded from the Union to form the Confederate States of America.

The Civil War was a turning point in American history, and it had a profound impact on the Democratic Party. The party lost many of its Southern supporters, who had been loyal to Jefferson Davis, the president of the Confederacy. The post-war period saw the rise of the Populist Party, which opposed the Democratic Party's support of the gold standard and its opposition to the use of paper money.

The Democratic Party continued to be a major force in American politics throughout the 20th century, but it faced many challenges. The party was divided over the issue of civil rights, and it struggled to attract a broad coalition of voters. The party's candidate in the 2008 presidential election, Barack Obama, became the first African American to hold the office of president.