
**Clay - Whig Principles**

Clay was a political leader with great popular gifts. A splendid orator, he possessed a remarkable ability to stir a crowd with visions of material growth and national greatness. Yet, the fascination of his personality and the fire of his rhetoric could not prevail against Andrew Jackson. After his crushing defeat in the election of 1832, Clay continued his fight against Jackson's policies and became one of the chief architects of the Whig party formed in 1834. The selection below is from a speech that Henry Clay made in 1840 when the Whigs turned the tables on their Democratic opponents with the landslide victory of the "log cabin and hard cider" campaign. We can assume that the principles which are presented in this speech represent much of the basic Whig consensus as it had been formed in the political battles of the 1830s.

**WHAT are the positions of the two great parties of the present day?**

Modern democracy has reduced the federal theory of a strong and energetic executive to practical operation. It has turned from the people, the natural ally of genuine democracy, to the executive, and, instead of vigilance, jealousy, and distrust, has given to that department all its confidence, and made to it a virtual surrender of all the powers of government. The recognized maxim of royal infallibility is transplanted from the British monarchy into modern American democracy, and the president can do no wrong! This new school adopts, modifies, changes, renounces, renews opinions at the pleasure of the executive. Is the bank of the United States a useful and valuable institution? Yes, unanimously pronounces the Democratic Legislature of Pennsylvania. The president vetoes it as a pernicious and dangerous establishment. The democratic majority in the same Legislature pronounces it to be pernicious and dangerous. The democratic majority of the House of Representatives of the United States, declares the deposits of the public money in the bank of the United States to be safe. The president says they are unsafe, and removes them. The democracy says they are unsafe, and approves the removal. The president says that a scheme of sub-treasury is revolutionary and disorganizing. The democracy says it is revolutionary and disorganizing. The president says it is wise and salutary. The democracy says it is wise and salutary.

The whigs of 1840 stand where the republicans of 1798 stood, and where the whigs of the Revolution were, battling for liberty, for the people, for free institutions, against power, against corruption, against executive encroachments, against monarchy.

We are reproached with struggling for offices and their emoluments. If we acted on the avowed and acknowledged principles of our opponents, "that the spoils belong to the victors," we should indeed be unworthy of the support of the people. No fellow-citizens, higher, nobler, more patriotic motives actuate the Whig party. Their object is the restoration of the Constitution, the preservation of liberty, and rescue of the country. If they were governed by the sordid and selfish motives acted upon by their opponents, they have only to change their names, and enter the presidential palace. The gate is always wide open, and the path is no narrow one which leads through it. The last comer, too, often fares best.

On a re-survey of the few past years we behold enough to sicken and sadden the hearts of true patriots. Executive encroachment has quickly followed upon executive encroachment; persons honored by public confidence, and from whom nothing but grateful and parental measures should have flowed, have inflicted stunning blow after blow, in such rapid succession, that, before the people could recover from the reeling effects of one, another has fallen heavily upon them. Had either of various instances of executive misuse stood out separate and alone, so that its enormity might have been seen and detested upon with composure, the condemnation of the executive would have long since been pronounced; but it has hitherto found safety and impunity in the bewildering effects of the multitude of its misdeeds. The nation has been in the condition of a man who, having gone to bed after his barn has been consumed by fire, is aroused in the morning to witness his dwelling-house wrapped in flames. So bold and presumptuous had the executive become, that, penetrating in its influence the hall of a co-ordinate branch of the government, by means of a surreptitious or subterranean majority of the Senate, it has caused a record of the country to be unfolded and expanded, the inviolability of which was guaranteed by a solemn junction of the Constitutional and that memorable and scandalous scene was enacted only because the offensive record contained an expression of disapprobation of an executive proceeding.

If this state of things were to remain—if the progress of executive usurpation were to continue unchecked, hopeless despair would seize the public mind, or the people would be goaded to acts of open and violent resistance. But, thank God, the power of the president, fearful and rapid as its strides have been, is not yet too great for the power of the elective franchise; and a bright and glorious prospect, in the election of William Henry Harrison, has opened upon the country. The necessity of a change of rulers has deeply penetrated the hearts of the people, and we everywhere behold cheering manifestations of that happy event. The fact of his election alone, without reference to the measures of his administration, will powerfully contribute to the security and happiness of the people. It will bring assurance of the cessation of that long series of disastrous experiments which have so greatly afflicted the people. Confidence will immediately revive; credit be restored; active business will return, prices of products will rise; and the people will feel and know that, instead of their servants being occupied in devising measures for their ruin and destruction, they will be assiduously employed in promoting their welfare and prosperity.

But grave and serious measures will, unquestionably, early and anxiously command the earnest attention of the new
In the context of the company's performance, it is crucial that the leadership:

- Enable and facilitate the development of employees at all levels.
- Foster a culture of continuous learning and improvement.
- Promote innovation and creativity within the team.
- Utilize feedback mechanisms to continuously improve processes and outcomes.
- Encourage open communication and collaboration among team members.
- Recognize and reward exceptional performance and contributions.

These strategies will contribute to the overall success and growth of the organization.