

The Age of Jackson: Jacksonian Democracy

U.S. History until 1877

Elections of 1824 and 1828

- William Crawford vs. John Quincy Adams
vs. Henry Clay vs. Andrew Jackson
- “Corrupt bargain”
- Election of 1828: Rematch
 - John Quincy Adams vs. Andrew Jackson

Election of 1828

Democratization of Politics

- Universal manhood suffrage
- Direct election of electoral college

“All Creation Going to the White House”

Jacksonian Democracy

- National movement
 - Equality & opportunity; born in a log cabin
 - No monopolies or privilege; anti-elite
 - “Spoils system”: federal jobs need no training
- Negative side of democracy
 - Catered to mediocrity; anti-intellectual
 - Incompetence & corruption in government
 - Political life uncomfortable for gentlemen
 - Excluded blacks, women, Indians

The Jacksonian Era

- An age of heroes
- Jackson and the era
 - Democratic Presidents are all Jacksonians up to 1861
 - James K. Polk: “Young Hickory”
 - Whig President William Henry Harrison a Jackson type