

Jacksonian Democracy

The Big Idea The expansion of voting rights and the election of Andrew Jackson signaled the growing power of the American people.

Main Ideas

- Democracy expanded in the 1820s as more Americans held the right to vote.
- Jackson's victory in the election of 1828 marked a change in American politics.

Main Idea 1:

Democracy expanded in the 1820s as more Americans held the right to vote.

- America changed fast in the early 1800s.
 - Large-scale factories replaced workshops in the North.
 - Small family farms gave way to cotton plantations in the South.
- Wealth was concentrated among fewer people.
- Many ordinary Americans believed the wealthy were tightening their grip on power in the United States.
- Small farmers, frontier settlers, and slaveholders backed Andrew Jackson in the election of 1828.
 - They believed he would defend the rights of common people and the slave states.

Voting Reforms

-Democracy spread in the early 1800s as more people became active in politics.

-Democratic reform made voting reform possible.

-Many states lowered or eliminated the property ownership requirement for men to be eligible to vote.

-Political parties held **nominating conventions**, which allowed party members, not just leaders, to select candidates.

*-This increase of voting rights by lowering property requirements later became known as **Jacksonian Democracy**.*

Election of 1828 Jackson vs. Adams

- **Democratic Party** arose from Jackson's supporters.
- Backers of President John Quincy Adams called National Republicans.
- Jackson chose **John C. Calhoun** as running mate.
- Jackson portrayed as war hero who had been born poor and worked to succeed.
- Adams was Harvard graduate and son of the second president.
- Jackson defeated Adams, winning a record number of popular votes.

Main Idea 2: Jackson's victory in the election of 1828 marked a change in American politics.

Jackson's Inauguration

Supporters saw Jackson victory as win for common people.

Spoils System

Jackson rewarded political backers with government jobs, called spoils system, from "to the victor belong the spoils of the enemy."

Martin Van Buren

One of Jackson's closet advisors and member of his Kitchen Cabinet.

Kitchen Cabinet

Jackson relied on an informal group of trusted advisers who met sometimes in White House kitchen.

