Essential Question

Champion of the “Common Man”? OR “King” Andrew?

Jackson’s Top Ten

10. Andrew Jackson was the first President from a state west of the Appalachian Mountains.
9. Andrew Jackson was the first Tennessean to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives.
8. Andrew Jackson was the first territorial Governor of Florida.
7. Andrew Jackson was the first person to serve as a U.S. Representative, Senator, and President.
6. Andrew Jackson exercised his veto power 12 times as President, more than all of his predecessors combined.

Jackson’s Top Ten

5. Andrew Jackson was the first President to articulate that as President he represented all the people and the will of the majority must govern.
4. Andrew Jackson helped found and was the first U.S. President to represent the Democratic Party.
3. Andrew Jackson is the only U.S. President to be censured by the U.S. Senate. The censure (official criticism) was cancelled in the last year of his presidency.

Jackson’s Top Ten

2. The first assassination attempt on a sitting U.S. President occurred on January 30, 1835, when Robert Lawrence failed to slay Andrew Jackson.
1. Andrew Jackson was the only President in American History to pay off the national debt and leave office with the country in the black.

What were the democratic (Egalitarian) trends between 1800 to 1830?

Andrew Jackson: 1767 - 1845
President: 1829 - 1837
• Population shift and West becomes politically powerful
• Jackson appealed to the Common Man because he was one.

Voter Turnout: 1820 - 1860

Why Increased Democratization?

1. White male suffrage increased
2. Party nominating committees.
3. Voters chose their state’s slate of Presidential electors.
4. Spoils system.
5. Rise of Third Parties.
6. Popular campaigning (parades, rallies, floats, etc.)
7. Two-party system returned in the 1832 election:
   - Democrats (1828)
The Age of Jackson and the Rise of the Common Man

- The Planter Elite in the South
- People on the Frontier
- State Politicians – *spoils system*
- Immigrants in the cities.

Jackson's Faith in the Common Man

- Intense distrust of Eastern “establishment,” monopolies, & special privilege.
- His heart & soul was with the “plain folk.”
- Belief that the common man was capable of uncommon achievements.

The Rise of a Democratic Society

- European visitors to the U.S. in the 1830s were amazed by the informal manners and democratic attitudes of Americans
  — Alex de Tocqueville
- The hero of the age was the “self-made man”

**NEW DEMOCRACY**

**JEFFERSONIAN DEMOCRACY**

People should be governed as little possible

**JACKSONIAN DEMOCRACY**

Whatever governing needed to be done, it should be done by the common man. “Government by the majority of people; instead of a government governed by the upper class was introduced during Jackson’s Presidency.

- Property ownership/education not needed to vote
- Growth of political power of the working class
  - Increased number of elected officials
    - Land easy to get out West
- Ideas of the DOI become important and people saw inequalities in society.

Direct Balloting for President

*The Old System* (Aristocracy)

By 1836, voters in all states except for South Carolina were casting direct ballots for presidential electors. South Carolina continued to select electors indirectly until 1860.
Jackson's Early Life

First Known Painting of Jackson, 1815

General Jackson During the Seminole Wars

Jackson The Man

- Born March 15, 1767, on North Carolina/South Carolina border
- Father died when he was a baby.
- Read a copy of the DOI to the townspeople who were illiterate.
- Hated the British and blamed them for the death of his mother and brother.
- Orphaned at 13, self-educated and no formal education.
- Did not care for President Washington.
- Called him an “aristo” (short for aristocrat or “upper class, wealthy and rules”)
Jackson’s First Hermitage Residence

Born in the Carolinas and moved to Hermitage, Tennessee

Jackson’s First Hermitage Residence

General Jackson’s Military Career

- Defeated the Creeks at Horseshoe Bend in 1814
- Defeated the British at New Orleans in 1815
- Took Florida and claimed it for the US in 1819.
- Loved by his soldiers called him “Old Hickory”

Jackson The Man

• Emotional, arrogant and passionate.
• Duled—could drink, smoke, curse and fight with the best of them
• Lawyer, Judge, senator, general and finally President
• First president from the West

Appealed to the Common Man because he was one…..

1824, Thomas Jefferson said of Jackson

“When I was President of the Senate he was a Senator; and he could never speak on account of the rashness of his feelings. I have seen him attempt it repeatedly, and as often choke with rage. His passions are no doubt cooler now.….BUT HE IS A DANGEROUS MAN.”

Jackson's First Presidential Run
The “Common Man’s” Presidential Candidate

The Election of 1824

-261 electoral votes and 131 needed to win.

Adams vs. Jackson

- Even with Jackson winning the popular vote, he had to win the electoral vote as well.
- There were 261 total electoral votes and Jackson needed 131 to win the electoral vote and the election.
- Jackson did not receive a majority of electoral votes to win the election.
- Sent to the House of Representatives to choose the president.

A “Corrupt Bargain”? 

The Corrupt Bargain

- Henry Clay gives his support to John Adams and the House of Representatives chooses Adams as the President.
- Two weeks later, Adams appoints Henry Clay as his Secretary of State....
- Jackson cries out corruption and calls this the “Corrupt Bargain.”
- Jackson promises he would run again for the Presidency in 1828 and would smash Adams.
Suspicions of a "corrupt bargain" have been strengthened by entries in the diary of John Q. Adams. On January 1, 1825, after a public dinner, he wrote, "He (Clay) told me (in a whisper) that he should be glad to have with me some confidential conversation upon public affairs. I said I should be happy to have it whenever it might suit his convenience."

In the diary entry for January 9, reads in part, "Mr. Clay came at six and spent the evening with me in a long conversation explanatory of the past and prospective of the future."

Exactly a month later, with Clay’s backing, Adams was elected. This happened because Clay was Speaker of the House.....They also hated Andrew Jackson......

A “Corrupt Bargain”?

"I see in the fact that Mr. Clay has made the President against the voice of his constituents, and that he has been rewarded by the man elevated by him by the first office in his gift, the most dangerous stab, which the liberty of this country has ever received. I will not be on that side. I am with the people."

John C. Calhoun
Vice President

A Yankee Misfit in the White House

- John Quincy Adams was a man of puritanical honor, and he had achieved high office by commanding respect rather than by boasting great popularity. Like his father, however, he was able but somewhat wooden and lacked the "people's touch" (which Jackson notably had).

- Adams' weaknesses included his deep nationalistic views at the expense of states' rights, the fact that only 1/3 of the voters voted for him, his tactlessness and sarcastic personality.

- During his administration, he only removed 12 public servants from the federal payroll, thus failing to kick out efficient officeholders in favor of his own, possibly less efficient, supporters.

John Quincy Adams

- [Note: The list of achievements and weaknesses is not fully transcribed here.]
In his first annual message, Adams urged Congress on the construction of roads and canals, proposed a national university, and advocated support for an astronomical observatory.

Public reaction was mixed: roads were good, but observatories weren’t important, and Southerners knew that if the government did anything, it would have to continue collecting tariffs.

With land, Adams tried to curb the sort of over-speculation that had led to Panic of 1819—much to Westerners’ anger—even though he was doing it for their own good.

And with the Cherokee Indians, he tried to deal fairly with them although the state of Georgia successfully resisted federal attempts to help the Cherokees.

The election had united his enemies and was creating a new party system.

- Adams, Clay, and the minority became National-Republicans
- Jackson and the majority became the Democratic-Republicans (later just Democrats)

John Quincy Adams

Successful as Sec. of State

Not popular, failed to relate the common man.

Supported protective tariff, BUS and internal improvements

Minority president, last of the Federalists and connection with the Founding Fathers....

AFTER ELECTION OF 1824

JACKSONIAN DEMOCRACY

Political world changed during the New Democracy. Two new political parties emerge

NATIONAL REPUBLICANS

1. Adams, Clay and Webster
2. strong national govt.
3. Favored the BUS, tariffs, internal improvements, industry, public schools and moral reforms such as prohibition of liquor and abolition of slavery.
4. Best/privileged run the govt.

DEMOCRATS

1. Jackson and Calhoun
2. Believed in state’s rights and federal restraint in economic and social affairs.
3. Favored the liberty of the individual and were fiercely on guard against the inroads of privilege into the government.
4. Protected the common man.

Belief in the Common Man

Universal (White Male) Suffrage

Popular Campaigning

“Jacksonian” Democracy?

Which came first???
What were the key issues in 1828?

• End corruption in Washington, D.C.
• Reform and eliminate the National debt
• The People vs. Special Interests
• Against King Caucus

A Man of the People

Jackson campaigned as a man of the people standing against “corrupt bargainers” like Adams.

The 1828 Campaign

- Candidate-centered
- Negative Advertising

Further Reading

Rachel Jackson

“Coffin Handbills”
Distributed by Adams supporters

Further Reading

Final Divorce Decree
Jackson and J. Q. Adams ran against each other for the presidency.

One anti-Jackson newspaper declared, “General Jackson’s mother was a common prostitute, brought to this country by the British soldiers! She, afterwards married a mulatto man with whom she had several children, of which one was Andrew Jackson.”

Anti-Adams people accused him of hiring a servant girl a visiting Russian ambassador…

Adams was accused of gambling in the White House.

• One of the worst elections in US History for its “mudslinging.”
• As a result of this, Jackson’s wife Rachel, died of a heart attack just before he became President…He blamed Adams and Clay and never forgave them.....

The Election of 1828

- Why such a difference between the election of 1824 and 1828?
- Population shifts to Western States and South which gives the Common Man more political power
- More men voting in 1828—why?
- Property restrictions and education dropped.
- Jackson appealed to common man because he was one.

261 total electoral votes and 131 electoral votes to win......

The Election of 1824

- Election of 1824, 355,817 voted.
- Election 1828, 1,155,350 voted.

Election of 1828

- Jackson in Mourning for His Wife
- Tomb of Jackson and his wife.

The Electoral Process

1790 to 1828
- Caucus—small group of individuals who would choose a candidate

1828 to 1900
- Convention—members from the political parties nominate a candidate. Eliminated, “King Caucus”
- Direct Primary—allow registered voters to participate in choosing a candidate

Current System Used

Which of these would be the most democratic way to nominate a candidate for your party to run against the opposition party for public office?
Jackson’s Inaugural was a victory for the Common Man
Thousands of commoners came to Washington, D.C. to see Jackson inaugurated.....

Peggy (O’Neal) Eaton was the wife of Jackson’s secretary of war (John Eaton) who was the target of malicious gossip by other cabinet wives
Jackson became her “champion” and stood up for her because of what happened to his late wife, Rachel....

When Jackson tried to force the cabinet wives to accept Eaton socially, most of the cabinet resigned.
VP Calhoun resigns and goes back to South Carolina.
Jackson creates the “kitchen cabinet” which were informal advisers, Jackson’s “good ole boys”.
The Story: [http://www.americanheritage.com/people/articles/web]

"To the victor belong the spoils…"

Political Patronage
Government offices given to political supporters

Political cartoon by Thomas Nast showing statue of Andrew Jackson on pig, with "fraud," "bribery," and "plunder" eating "victims." In Harper's Weekly, 1877 April 28, p. 325.

In memoriam—our civil service as it was. A political cartoon by Thomas Nast showing statue of Andrew Jackson on pig, with "fraud," "bribery," and "plunder" eating "victims." In Harper's Weekly, 1877 April 28, p. 325.