

# SECTION 1 Jacksonian Democracy

## Guide to Reading

### Main Idea

The United States's political system changed under Andrew Jackson.

### Key Terms

favorite son, majority, plurality, mudslinging, landslide, suffrage, bureaucracy, spoils system, caucus, nominating convention, tariff, nullify, secede

### Reading Strategy

As you read Section 1, create a chart like the one below and in the boxes describe the political parties in 1828.

	Candidate	Views
Democratic Republicans		
National Republicans		

### Read to Learn

- why the nation's sixth president was chosen by the House.
- what political changes came under President Jackson.

### Section Theme

**Continuity and Change** James Monroe's decision not to seek a third term was followed by two hotly contested presidential elections.

### Preview of Events

♦ 1825

**1825**

John Quincy Adams wins presidency in House election

♦ 1830

**1828**

Andrew Jackson elected president

**1830**

Webster and Hayne debate

♦ 1835

**1832**

South Carolina threatens to secede



*Jackson sewing box*

## AN American Story

The presidential campaign of 1828 was one of the most vicious in American history. Supporters of John Quincy Adams in Philadelphia distributed a pamphlet titled "Some Account of Some of the Bloody Deeds of General Jackson." One illustration in the pamphlet showed a ferocious-looking Andrew Jackson plunging his sword through the body of a helpless civilian. Meanwhile Jackson's supporters falsely accused John Quincy Adams of kidnapping a young American girl and selling her to the ruler of Russia.

## The Election of 1824

From 1816 to 1824, the United States had only one political party, the Jeffersonian Republicans. Within the party, however, differences arose among various groups that had their own views and interests. In 1824 James Monroe was finishing his second term as president but declined to run for a third term. Four candidates from the Republican Party competed for the presidency.

The four candidates' opinions differed on the role of the federal government. They also spoke for different parts of the country. The Republican Party nominated **William H. Crawford**, a former congressman from Georgia. However, Crawford's poor health weakened him as a candidate.

The other three Republicans in the presidential race were **favorite son** candidates, meaning they received the backing of their home states rather than that of the national party. Two of these candidates—**Andrew Jackson** and **Henry Clay**—came from the West. Clay, of Kentucky, was Speaker of the House of Representatives. He fought for his program of internal improvements, high tariffs, and a stronger national bank.

General Andrew Jackson of Tennessee was not a Washington politician, but he was a hero of the War of 1812. Raised in poverty, he claimed to speak for the Americans who had been left out of politics.

**John Quincy Adams** of Massachusetts, son of former president John Adams, received support from merchants of the Northeast.

### Striking a Bargain

In the election Jackson received the largest number of popular votes. However, no candidate received a **majority**, or more than half, of the electoral votes. Jackson won 99 electoral votes, which gave him a **plurality**, or largest single share. Under the terms of the Twelfth Amendment to the Constitution, when no candidate receives a majority of electoral votes, the House of Representatives selects the president.

While the House was preparing to vote on the next president, Henry Clay met with Adams. Clay agreed to use his influence as Speaker of the House to defeat Jackson. In return Clay may have hoped to gain the position of secretary of state.

With Clay's help Adams was elected president in the House. Adams quickly named Clay as secretary of state, traditionally the stepping-stone to the presidency. Jackson's followers accused the two men of making a "**corrupt bargain**" and stealing the election.

### The Adams Presidency

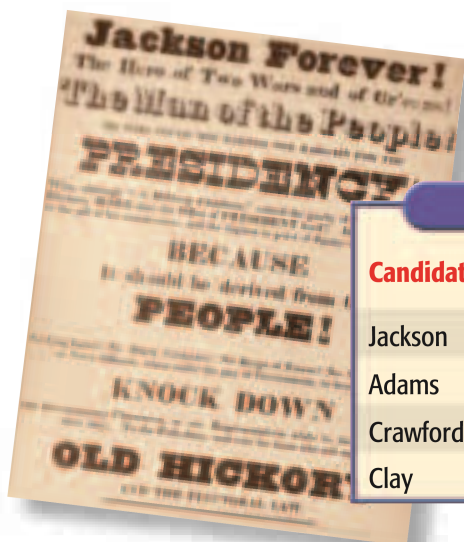
In **Washington, D.C.**, the "corrupt bargain" had cast a shadow over Adams's presidency. Outside the capital Adams's policies ran against popular opinion. Adams wanted a stronger navy and government funds for scientific expeditions. Adams also wanted the federal government to direct economic growth.

Such ideas horrified those who desired a more limited role for the federal government, and Congress turned down many of Adams's proposals. This was especially true after the congressional elections of 1826, when enemies of Adams controlled both the House and Senate.

 **Reading Check** **Describing** Why were Adams and Clay accused of making a "corrupt bargain"?

### The Election of 1828

By the election of 1828, the party had divided into two separate parties: the **Democratic-Republicans**, who supported Jackson, and the **National Republicans**, who supported Adams. Jackson's Democratic-Republicans, or Democrats, favored states' rights and mistrusted



*Jackson campaign poster*

Election of 1824			
Candidate	Electoral Vote	Popular Vote	House Vote
Jackson	99	153,544	7
Adams	84	108,740	13
Crawford	41	46,618	4
Clay	37	47,136	—

#### Chart Skills

The presidential election of 1824 was decided in the House of Representatives.

**Analyzing Information** Which candidate received the most electoral votes?

strong central government. Many Democrats were individualists from the frontier, immigrants, or laborers in the big cities.

The National Republicans wanted a strong central government. They supported federal measures, such as road building and the Bank of the United States, that would shape the nation's economy. Many were merchants or farmers.

During the campaign both parties resorted to **mudslinging**, attempts to ruin their opponent's reputation with insults. The Democratic-Republicans accused Adams of betraying the people. They put out a handbill calling the election a contest "between an honest patriotism, on the one side, and an unholy, selfish ambition, on the other."

The National Republicans fought back. They created a vicious campaign song to play up embarrassing incidents in Jackson's life. One involved Jackson's order in the War of 1812 to execute several soldiers who had deserted.

Mudslinging was not the only new element introduced in the 1828 campaign. Election slogans, rallies, buttons, and events such as barbecues were also used to arouse enthusiasm. All of these new features became a permanent part of American political life.

## Jackson Triumphs

In the election of 1828, Jackson received most of the votes cast by voters of the new frontier states. He also received many votes in the South, where his support for states' rights was popular. John C. Calhoun of South Carolina, who had served as Adams's vice president, switched parties to run with Jackson. Calhoun also championed states' rights. Jackson won the election in a **landslide**, an overwhelming victory, with 56 percent of the popular vote and 178 electoral votes.

 **Reading Check** **Summarizing** How did Jackson try to get the support of people in the election of 1828?

## Jackson as President

Andrew Jackson was everything most Americans admired—a patriot, a self-made man, and a war hero. On March 4, 1829, thousands of farmers, laborers, and other ordinary Americans crowded into the nation's capital to hear Jack-

son's Inaugural Address. After Jackson's speech a crowd joined him at a White House reception. They filled the elegant rooms of the mansion, trampling on the carpets with muddy shoes, spilling food on sofas and chairs. They were there to shake the hand of the general who seemed just like them.

## "Old Hickory"

Like many of his supporters, Andrew Jackson had been born in a log cabin. His parents, poor farmers, died before he was 15. As a teenager Jackson fought with the Patriots in the American Revolution. Before he was 30, he was elected to Congress from Tennessee.

Jackson gained fame during the War of 1812. He defeated the Creek Nation in the Battle of Horseshoe Bend and defeated the British at the Battle of New Orleans. His troops called him "Old Hickory" because he was as tough as a hickory stick.

Small farmers, craft workers, and others who felt left out of the expanding American economy loved Jackson. They felt that his rise from a log cabin to the White House demonstrated the American success story. His popularity with the common man changed politics in Washington, D.C.

## **Citizenship**

### New Voters

President Andrew Jackson promised "equal protection and equal benefits" for all Americans—at least for all white American men. During his first term, a spirit of equality spread through American politics.

In the nation's early years, most states had limited **suffrage**, or the right to vote, for men who owned property or paid taxes. By 1815 many states had loosened or soon would loosen the property requirements for voting. In the 1820s democracy expanded as people who had not been allowed to vote voted for the first time. Between 1824 and 1828, the percentage of white males voting in presidential elections increased from 26.9 to 57.6 percent. For the first time, white male sharecroppers, factory workers, and many others were brought into the political process.