

HST 202: ONLINE U.S. History W19 (Escobar)

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Age of Jackson Videos
by [Joe Escobar](#) - Friday, January 25, 2019, 1:29 PM

New materials for the forum were made available to all students this past Wednesday.

To make your POSTS, click the reply link in this, MY post. To reply to another student's post, be sure to click the reply link within in THEIR post.

IMPORTANT - SUBJECT LINES

BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post, something that describes which one of the questions you are addressing. Do NOT simply leave it RE: Age of Jackson Videos

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Re: Age of Jackson Videos
by [Miles Long](#) - Saturday, January 26, 2019, 10:50 AM

During this period of time public life was expanded but excluded still. At this time nearly all white men had the right to vote and property qualifications had been virtually eliminated. The democratic revolt of the people had enhanced the interest in politics and got more people involved which expanded public life. While life had been expanded for these white men, there were still groups that were excluded while public life was expanding. Women for example, did not have the right to vote still. They could do things such as write articles, but they were discouraged from participating in the political realm. African-Americans- both free and slaved did not have the right to vote. The vast majority of blacks at this time were still slaves. privilege shifted from property to race for inclusion and separation.

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Re: Age of Jackson Videos
by [Anna Rodriguez](#) - Saturday, January 26, 2019, 11:20 PM

If I have learned anything for years of history classes, it is the importance of reviewing multiple sources, when making a claim about the past. Now that I have read the collection of essays in, Did the Election of 1828 Represent a Democratic Revolt of the People?, and watched the explanations from Eric Foner and other historians, I feel that I have a broad understanding of the different viewpoints of the election of 1828. The authors and historians that we heard from gave varied arguments with regards to this "Jacksonian Era".

First, I think Eric Foner, would take sides with Richard P. McCormick on the stance that this election did not represent a democratic revolution. I came to this conclusion, while I was listening to his statement, because he made a point to comment of the exclusiveness of this era. According to Foner, Women and African-Americans still

could not vote in 1828, so the line of exclusion for en shifted from property-ownership to race. (Foner.mp4, 0.58) These thoughts support the claim that this election was not a true democratic revolution, because in a full democracy, everyone can vote.

The other Historians that spoke in the second video seemed to mostly be on Robert Remini’s side of the debate, in which they believe that the election of 1828 represented a democratic revolution. Harry Watson states that people used this era of the common man to increase their Liberty. (Other Historians.Mp4, 0.50) He talks about how it was a drastic change into a new era of democracy that had lasted through the ages. Richard Ellis, another historian who speaks in the video, also talks about a “majority rules” system that emerged in the election of 1828. He discussed how people realized, after a government-decided election in 1824, how much power they, as the majority, held if they would only exercise it. By supporting the idea of an outstanding increase in political involvement in the Jacksonian Era, Ellis would surely take the side of Remini and agree that this election was a revolution.

The only historia that spoke in the other Historians video, that I believe to be on the other side of the argument, is Theda Purdue. I believe that she would agree with my own beliefs that this election and the Jacksonian era did not represent a democratic revolution. She brings up another group of minorities, whom were left out of the democracy; The Native Americans. “The act of Indian Removal...was one more step in making the United States a White Man’s county.”(Purdue, Theda, Other_historians.mp4) She is stating facts that support Foner’s claim, more than Watson’s and Ellis’. If not all groups of people were involved in the Democratic Revolution, then it was not truly democratic.

I have broken down where I believe each speaker would stand on the question of “Did the Election of 1828 Represent a Democratic Revolt of the People?” They are split two and two on the issue, so I believe this is a good mix of sources to develop a valid response from. When we know the positions of the historians we get information from, then we will be able to recognize bias when it appears. This will ensure that our understanding of historical events is true and honest.

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Historians opinions
by [Kimberly Wong](#) - Sunday, January 27, 2019, 6:26 AM

Historians Eric Foner and Theda Perdue appear to share the same opinion that if you were a white American male than yes the election was a democratic revolt. But if you were anything else, another race, another sex then it was not a revolt at all but an exclusion. Henry Watson and Richard Ellis tend to overlook the exclusion and focus on the major changes that were occurring for people of the right sex and race. In consequence they do believe it was a revolt for the people.

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Looking at things from a different angle
by [Kimberly Wong](#) - Sunday, January 27, 2019, 6:26 AM

This new info does not affect my overall opinion that it was not a revolt for the people. When I think of the question. Was the election of 1828 a democratic revolt of the people? My eyes fall on the word people. When I think of the people I think of all the people of all sexes and races. But after viewing the videos I was reminded that in that time only white males had the right to vote and then even then it was new for some with the recent change in voters rights. I now see that for this portion of the people it was a democratic revolt. But I still do not believe it was a democratic revolt for the people as a whole.

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Valid points
by [Kimberly Wong](#) - Sunday, January 27, 2019, 6:28 AM

The biggest way my other forum members changed my mind is by showing me that this election while not in itself a democratic revolt. Played a part in the democratic revolt that was going to happen. Initially after reading the materials and textbook I was of the mind that the actual democratic revolt happened years after this election and was not connected to it. But after reading the opinion of others in this forum. I can now see that this election could have been the beginning of events that led to the democratic revolt. Inconclusion the election itself was not a democratic revolt but it did start a chain of events that would lead to one.

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Re: Valid points

by [Anna Rodriguez](#) - Sunday, January 27, 2019, 8:11 PM

I hadn't come to that conclusion yet or read anything about anyone saying that. I wish I would have made that connection sooner. You are right! This election did have a major role in the revolution that was about to occur. It was in some way the first catlyst in the disagreements between the North and the South.

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Public participation

by [Katie Lauck](#) - Sunday, January 27, 2019, 11:54 AM

In my opinion, both of these videos seem to be supporting the fact that the 1828 election represented a democratic revolt. Professor Forner discusses the fact that the Jacksonian era was a time when public participation was at an all time high. With the democrats and the whigs gaining popularity, Forner tells us that “their competition brings people into politics” (Forner video, 0:40). I believe this supports the idea that since politics in general was becoming more relevant, votes for Jackson would have seen a large increase, spurring people on to believe it was a time of revolt. While these videos mostly cover the era of voting and democratic involvement, Theda Perdue also discusses the dark side of the Jackson era in video two. “...american history is not just about freedom and democracy, it teaches us that the United States in the name of majority rule, in the name of democracy, has sometimes done some terrible things.” (Video 2, 4:28). I think it is a good reminder that while this period was a step forward in many ways for our country, it was also a time of inequality, racial injustice, and exclusion for many citizens in our country.

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Re: Public participation

by [Daniela Rosales Name](#) - Sunday, January 27, 2019, 11:52 PM

If you are only viewing this from the perspective of an adult white male then I agree with what you're saying, but if you look at it from the perspective of anyone else then I would disagree. How can this time represent a democratic revolt when a big portion of the population was excluded? In fact, for part of the population this time presented a step back in democracy. So, I would dare to say it isn't possible for a true democratic revolt to be present until minority groups aren't undermined.

In terms of the voting increase, in the same video Professor Forner discusses how for this election the majority of white males were allowed to vote — a difference from the previous election. Wouldn't that, combined with the reasons Remini gave in his essay, support the argument that the rise in voter turnout cannot simply be attributed to a Jackson's popularity?

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Re: Historian Responses

by [Emilie Ormsby](#) - Sunday, January 27, 2019, 8:28 PM

Professor Eric Foner describes the Jacksonian era as the “age of the common man”. Though he wasn’t directly asked whether he considers the Election of 1828 to be a democratic revolt of the people, he elaborates on the participation in public life expanding and how the common people (white men, anyway) notably sought out to exercise their rights as citizens. I feel that in this video, his descriptions of the Jacksonian era seem to fit into the ‘Yes’ position of the question. Power was not equally spread among the people, being that only white men at this point were taken seriously in politics, but the people were still pushing social boundaries in attempts to live in a better country. While he seems to be less focused on Andrew Jackson as an individual, he speaks of the political parties and the political conventions getting more and more common people involved with politics. However, this also began to spark more awareness of the inequality among the new world as Foner described race as the line of exclusion and inclusion.

In the video “Other Historians Speak”, I feel that the historian by the name Richard Ellis could arguably be on the ‘Yes’ position of the question as well. In his portion of the video, he also expands upon common people taking ownership of their power as citizens. Because the government made economic decisions, the public wanted to be more involved to be assured that the government's decisions would not favor a certain elite group or not serve the

public justly. The people were rising up to take control of the decisions being made for them by the larger government. Accordingly, I feel Ellis would be on the ‘Yes’ position because of his comments on the government becoming open and how Andrew Jackson contributed to this emerging by being the first presidential candidate who was an actual hard working man who had to build his life. He described him as the first “grassroot candidate” for the presidency meaning he truly was a common man, especially in contrast to the elite groups.

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Re: New Information & my initial opinion
by [Emilie Ormsby](#) - Sunday, January 27, 2019, 9:34 PM

After reading this week’s chapter and listening to the different commentaries of the various historians, I feel that my initial position of the debate still remains the same. I do feel like I was able to consider the points made by the opposing side more clearly after reading/watching the new information given, however, as well as learn more about the less than happy attributes of Andrew Jackson and the events that occurred during this era. The informative commentaries given by the historians in the videos, such as Harry Watson, continues to describe the common people aspiring to increase their liberty and push social boundaries to reach ideal living between the public and the more elite groups. Because the market and western movement was still booming, the people were wanting to increase their power but still feared the idea of others having more power over them, including their employers, landlords, and a powerful government. In my opinion, this depicts a democratic revolt/uprising of the American people (or white men at the time) that’s worth acknowledging. I feel that Andrew Jackson was the perfect presidential candidate to rise up during this time because the common people were notably taking charge of their power, which makes sense as to why a hardworking and self built American would serve as such a symbol of democracy.

Additionally, in this week’s chapter reading, it discusses the differences in views of the political parties and their attitudes towards government, which persuades me towards the ‘Yes’ position because how the people ended up voting and acting during the Election of 1828. The Whig party was highly in favor of the government having more power and felt that “Forms of government are instituted for the protection and fostering of virtue, and are valuable only as they accomplish this.” On the other hand, the Democratic party was strongly against an activist government as well as, high taxes, and government partnerships with private interests that could potentially create too much privilege or inequality among them. The text stated “Democrats demanded limited government that was deaf to the demands of special interests.” The Democratic party was more concerned with equality and power to the people living under such government. Because of the Democrats views of not subverting equal rights regardless of what the elite commanded, Andrew Jackson was so heavily voted upon and the people were able to rise up democratically.

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Still not a revolt...
by [Daniela Rosales Name](#) - Sunday, January 27, 2019, 10:55 PM

These videos didn’t really change my mind. I thought there was no democratic revolt in my original post in the first thread and this video just reaffirmed that belief. The “Age of Jackson” — starting with the election of 1828 — wasn’t a true democratize revolt. In Eric Foner’s video what stood out to me is that in this election in pretty much all (with the exception of one to two states) white men have the right to vote. The line was no longer property it was skin color. This furthers my argument because it is easy to partially attribute the rise in vote number to the rise in men who could vote.

Additionally, It was an age in where, for most Americans, democracy regressed. Unless, that is, if you’re a white male. His presidency is marked by the loss of rights for most citizens. The woman in the five-minute video (whose name isn’t shown on the clip) highlights the many ways in which for different minority groups the Age of Jackson is terrible.

At the minute 2:04 she starts speaking to this. She states how in this period of time we saw the Indian Removal Act — that she later compares to racial cleansing — which “coincided with the development strict racial codes” and also coincides with a period of time where women lose some rights they previously had.

"It is a period in which the United States becomes more democratic for adult white men, but less democratic for everyone else," she said (2:20-2:30).

And so, I wonder how this can be considered a true democratic revolution if the country regressed in many ways through this period of time.

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Re: Age of Jackson Videos
by [Haylee Stevens](#) - Sunday, January 27, 2019, 11:23 PM

In the first video Foner says that it was a thriving democratic party but that women and african americans weren't allowed to vote. This helped make my initial opinion of no, stronger. If women and African Americans aren't allowed to vote, and they made up a good portion of the population, was it the actual blooming of the democratic party or was it the blooming of the white males getting excited over a new party? Even through watching both videos and hearing from all the historians, I still side with no.

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