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Forum 1 A Democratic Revolt?

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A Democratic Revolt?

by Joe Escobar – Friday, January 15, 2016, 7:23 PM

Make sure you have read [How Forums are Graded](#). After studying the required materials, address and discuss the various questions with your group members **throughout the week**.

DO NOT attempt to answer every question in a single post. In this class, forums are a place for sharing informed comments having analytical discussions. (Forums are NOT a place for students to publicly display full essays.)

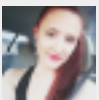
To make your POSTS, click the reply link in this, MY post. To reply to another student's post, be sure to click the reply link within in THEIR post.

IMPORTANT – SUBJECT LINES

BE SURE to use an informative subject line for your post, something that describes which question(s) you are addressing . Do NOT simply leave it RE: A Democratic Revolt? This will help keep the discussion organized.

Sum of ratings: –

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Yes, I agree with Remini

by Lauren Collett – Saturday, January 16, 2016, 8:40 PM

When I looked at whether or not this was indeed a democratic revolt as Remini believes it was I quickly googled a definition of revolt.

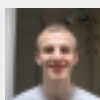
Revolt: *noun* an attempt to put an end to the authority of a person or body by rebelling.

So who was this person or authority they were rebelling against? Some of them were rebelling against the election of John Quincy Adams and others simply against the power of government. This was the "rise of the common man. "Many people had viewed Adams supporters as more wealthy and Jackson's supporters as the working man or "common man", as Remini talks about on page 4 in the first paragraph. The people felt they needed to take back the power and vote.

This election also saw an 800,000 increase in voters from the previous election of 1824. In Pennsylvania alone the voters went from 47,000 to 152,000 (Pg. 3) This seems to show pretty good evidence for a democratic revolt by sheer numbers. Sure some of the increase could be explained by changes of laws allowing more people to vote as Remini mentions. Obviously also the margin of error in the statistics provided and the aggressive campaigning but I believe these numbers are too large to simply be ignored. This is in a time when the population of the United States is only around 10 to 13 million people compared with the 318.9 million we have today where in 1928 800,000 would represent somewhere around 10 to 12 percent of the population.

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Sum of ratings:3 (1)



Percentage of eligible voters

by [Robert Driver](#) – Tuesday, January 19, 2016, 5:18 PM

The 800,000 extra votes would be incredible if the population (of eligible voters) had increased by one million over those four years. But if the number of eligible voters increased by three million over those four years, 800,000 more people actually voting means that the percentage of people voting is decreasing. So just looking at the increase in the number of votes is looking at the facts without much context.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Jackson was influential, but not in the voting arena

by [Jessica Driver](#) – Tuesday, January 19, 2016, 9:33 PM

Lauren, I liked your well-stated points, although I only agree with one of them. Part of this is due to my interpretation of the "revolt" being discussed – I took it to mean the (more or less enduring) drastic rise in voting levels that occurred in 1840.

I hold this interpretation for the same reason that I disagree with one of your points. You said that 1828 represented a "democratic revolt by sheer numbers". The statistics you referred to – an 800,000 increase in voters, or as was stated on page 8 of the forum materials, more than twice the 1824 percentage – did not stand out much from the established highs. The 1824 election involved only one party and four candidates. This produced pitiful voting levels (pages 8 and 10). (Imagine if, this year, there were absolutely no presidential candidates other than the Republicans. We'd probably be getting a lousy turnout, too.)

I don't think that the surge of voting that occurred in 1828 had a long-term significance. I do agree with you, though, that Jackson was influential apart from the voting arena. He appealed to the "common man" (who had just gained the right to vote, as Daniel pointed out below). His campaign tactics (ironically, his opponents', too) caught the imagination of a sentimental public (Textbook, pp.379–381). As was described on page 5 of the PDF, people were magnetized by his leadership. They thought he was significant, and I agree. But his impact on voting levels was mediocre at best, which is why I agree with McCormick.

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Agreed, but numbers could still correlate.

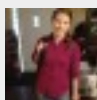
by [Lauren Collett](#) – Wednesday, January 20, 2016, 6:14 PM

I agree with you that just the numbers alone can't prove that it was a democratic revolt although it is a pretty large turnout difference. Although I think it might be better stated to say that it at least shows more people were taking interest in this election. I agree that four candidates for one party would not inspire a large turnout of voters.

I just believe that like the charts we were shown in class by Mr Escobar voter turnouts continue to rise for sometime before they drop back down. So doesn't that show the possibility of long term effects? Also if you look at a similar chart to the one we saw in class you'll see the established highest voter turnout was only somewhere around 40 percent of eligible voters in the election of 1812 compared with the almost 60 percent turnout of 1828. (<http://www.electproject.org/national-1789-present>)

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Different interpretation of the data

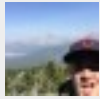
by [Jessica Driver](#) – Wednesday, January 20, 2016, 7:16 PM

I think it is reasonable to say that Jackson inspired at least some of the voting that went on in 1828, especially considering the graph you linked to, which helped visualize the data. But the graph also

shows that the midterm elections had produced a turnout over 50% in 1814, which would be the established high in election turnout overall. Also, slide #22 from the Week 2 slides shows that after 1828, the election turnout went down until Jackson was out of the picture. 1836 turnout looks like roughly the same level as 1828, and only after that did it go up in earnest. So yes, 1828 was a nice, beefy election in terms of voter percentages. And if it weren't for the "no contest" factor (see pg 10 of the forum materials, last full paragraph), it would probably have been even bigger. But in the end, I think Jackson's influence came too early to have affected the voting spike of 1840 directly.

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

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Re: Different interpretation of the data

by [Zachary Sielicky](#) – Friday, January 22, 2016, 4:09 PM

I totally agree with you, I believe that though the number of voters was not as high in 1828 does not mean that the "revolt" did not start then. Good post!

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Facts matter

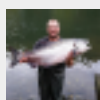
by [Rebecca Heard](#) – Saturday, January 16, 2016, 11:33 PM

I am taking the side of Robert Remini. Yes, I believe the election of 1828 represents a democratic revolt of the people. The most influential examples that Robert uses to win my persuasion is that this was a brand new time for our country, brand new machines had been made, and this was the first time of the reemerged two party system. "He arrived just as the country was undergoing profound economic and political changed..." (pg.204) explains that during the time that Jackson came to, both the economy and politics were undergoing some new changes. During changes like these, a country is already going to have their guard up, and be extra careful with who they choose to be in control, right? This to me, makes every one of Jackson's votes seem a little more earned. Another factor that helped influence me was that this was the very FIRST time our country had been introduced to this two party system. With that being said, this really divided the group into two different sides, and helped narrow it down even more to what the country wanted. Lastly, and the most logical example in my opinion, is that it was also stated that there was newly equipped machines to better count votes. This as a citizen, would give me much more confidence with whom was being elected than if I was having to worry about a false counter. I also wanted to point out that despite the per cent of voters at the time, each candidate had complete equality and it shouldn't have made any sort of difference.

–Becca Heard

Sum of ratings: 1 (1)

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Political revolution vs. democratic revolt

by [Daniel Swisher](#) – Sunday, January 17, 2016, 11:33 AM

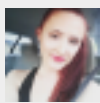
I side with Richard P. McCormick when he argues that the election of 1828 was not a democratic revolt of the people. He uses statistics to back his argument. The statistics from the election of 1840 shows much more of a democratic revolt of the people. Although the election of 1828 was not a democratic revolt, I do believe that it was somewhat of a political revolution. Changes that occurred during this election set a standard for how elections would be organized in the future. I do not believe it was changed because of the people though. "Mudslinging" at your opponent was introduced, this made it much easier for the "political machines" to persuade people in their communities to vote for their respective candidate.

During this time in history, America was in dire need of a "common mens president", thus the reason why Jackson was able to overcome all of the propaganda put forth by his rival candidate and his political machines. In 1828, you no longer had to own land to vote. This brought on a new group of voters from a lower class that needed a "common mens president".

Sum of ratings: 2 (1)

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Re: Political revolution vs. democratic revolt



by [Lauren Collett](#) - Wednesday, January 20, 2016, 6:27 PM

I'm thinking that political revolution wouldn't be the correct term here. I believe a political revolution is when a government is is overthrown and replaced but in this case that did not happen simply a change in parties and higher voter turnouts.

Revolution:a forcible overthrow of a government or social order in favor of a new system.(google definition)

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Political revolution vs. democratic revolt

by [Titus Young](#) - Friday, January 22, 2016, 6:53 AM

I agree that in today's world revolution seems to fit but back in 1828 revolution meant something different. As with each generation, the understanding of words changed. Back in 1828 the definition for revolution was: "In politics, a material or entire change in the constitution of government." (Webster's 1828 dictionary) That is different then todays definition. Back then a revolution sounds like the French Revolution..."a material of entire change in the constitution of government", not the election of 1828, which was more like people switching sides from Whig to Democrat and vise versa.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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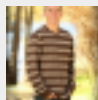
Re: Political revolution vs. democratic revolt

by [Zachary Sielicky](#) - Friday, January 22, 2016, 4:15 PM

I think that the phrase "political revolution" is meant as an actual revolt against the government and more in terms of a massive change within the voters. It was a voting revolution and it changed the way politics worked in the sense that Jackson was a "New" kind of president, he was not a founding father nor was he a direct descendent of one like the 6 presidents before him. So it was a revolution in terms of a change, and not an actual overthrow of any government entity.

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In agreement with McCormick

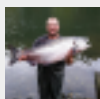
by [Justin Smith](#) - Sunday, January 17, 2016, 6:09 PM

I agree with McCormick that the election of 1828 was not a democratic revolution. There is no denying that the election was of great importance seeing as it produced one of the most popular presidents in United States history, but it is hard to justify a democratic revolution when you only have an average of 56.3 percent of all voters in the United States voting in the 1828 election (especially when women aren't voting yet, so it is an even smaller amount of people voting). Not only that but the election of 1828 was very dirty in it's campaigning with many personal attacks happening on both ends of the spectrum. With that being said it is very hard to justify the reason why people decided to vote, was it because they actually agreed in the policies of the candidate or were they simply voting for some sort of social reason to spite the other candidate?

I think one of the strongest points made in this article is the voting numbers of the 1840 election. In the 1840 election a whopping 78 percent of voters were voting! With this information, you could almost assume that with Andrew Jackson being in office for two terms people may have been so fed up with his policies that he actually caused the democratic revolution to happen.

Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Re: In agreement with McCormick

by [Daniel Swisher](#) - Monday, January 18, 2016, 10:30 PM

I agree with you when you talk about why people were voting for the candidate that they voted for. This was the first election in which "mudslinging" took place. I believe that many men voted for their candidate because of the negative things he heard about the other candidate. When we hear something negative about one of today's candidates, we can do a quick 5 minute google search on our smart phones to prove or

disprove what we heard about the candidate. They didn't have these kinds of luxuries back then. Therefore I believe the campaign tactics were much more effective back then. They had to believe everything that they heard.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re:recources

by [Rebecca Heard](#) – Saturday, January 23, 2016, 10:27 AM

Your comment about our smartphones is interesting and opened up my mind a little. I never looked at it that way, today we have many political questions at the touch of our fingers, literally. That plays in a much larger attribute than we would realize. In 1828, the candidates could get away with being untruthful much easier than they're able to do today. I would be curious to see what the turn out changes would have been if we placed smartphones in the hands of every elector in 1828.

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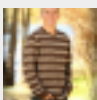
Re: In agreement with McCormick

by [Rebecca Heard](#) – Wednesday, January 20, 2016, 10:54 AM

As stated in class, I don't believe saying that because "women weren't allowed to vote yet" their were less voters is a valid argument. Women shouldn't even be considered in this debate, as they were not even thought of back then. Yes, the voting was lessened but it is still revolved around the proportion that CAN vote.

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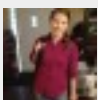
Re: In agreement with McCormick

by [Justin Smith](#) – Wednesday, January 20, 2016, 4:07 PM

I think women should be considered in this debate to an extent. I realize that, of course, in this time period of the 1820's women weren't allowed to vote, but what if somebody wanted to make an argument that the true voting revolution didn't occur until the 1920's when women were finally allowed to vote. That would make the non-existence of women's votes in the 1828 election very important in comparison.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Women's voting rights in 1828

by [Jessica Driver](#) – Wednesday, January 20, 2016, 7:36 PM

I don't think that women voting would have made an impact on the election of 1828. Only a minority of women in that day were even interested in voting, from what we can tell. The beginning of the Women's Rights push was introduced along with the abolition movement, which didn't become a factor until 1831 (as was stated in class). Given the culture of the day, women would very likely have just voted alongside their husbands anyway.

I think women getting the vote could be considered a democratic revolution, but I don't think it should be lumped with or substituted for the one in this discussion. In my opinion, women's suffrage isn't closely tied to the election of 1828.

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Re: In agreement with McCormick

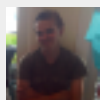
by [Jennifer Jones](#) – Saturday, January 23, 2016, 2:56 PM

I completely agree with your statement. I really appreciate how you mentioned the fact that men were scared to vote because of the threats they received when they were trying to vote. As well as some of the men were essentially forced into voting for someone who they may not have wanted to vote for. Although it is not

proven, they may have had an effect on Jackson's advantage.

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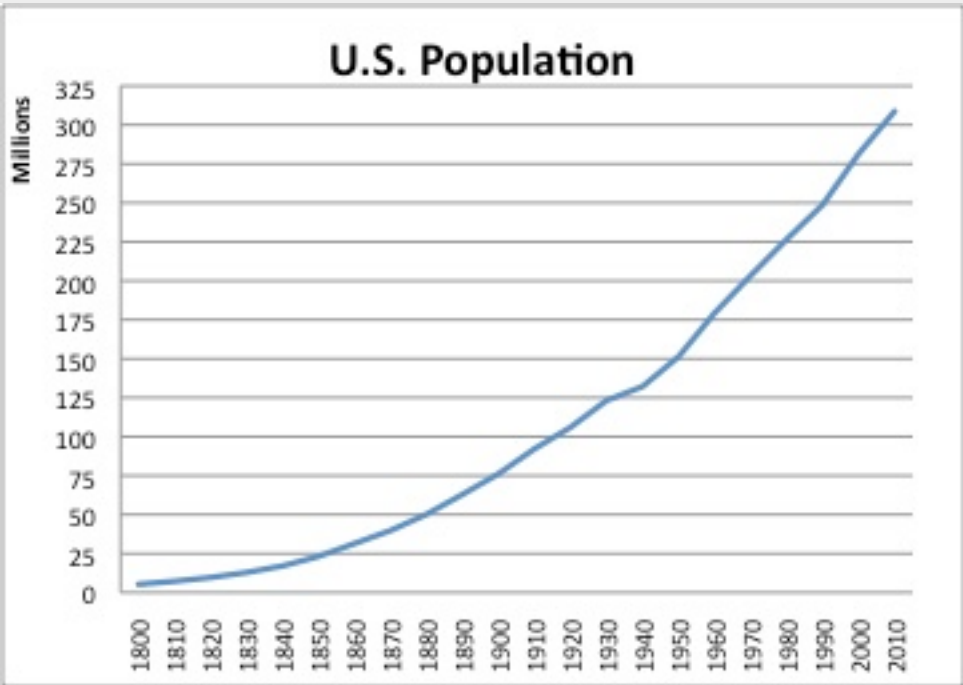


Revolution by contrast

by [Samuel Black](#) – Sunday, January 17, 2016, 7:55 PM

The presidential election of 1828 can be described as a “Democratic Revolution” because of the contrasts between itself and the previous election of 1824. Firstly, the graph from Thursday’s class shows us a giant increase in the percentage of voters from 1824-28 (1). When compared to a graph of the US population, we can see that these time frames do not align in such a way as to dismiss the percentage increase of voters (below). In fact, there has never been a point where the U.S. population has dropped so suddenly to explain such a rise.

The question is why? Why was there a revolutionary increase in the number of voters? Because, with the combination of the reinstatement of the two party system, and there being only two candidates one from both opposing parties. There was the ability to choose a side, to vote for an individual or party. With no single party having a monopoly on the election, as was the case in 1824(2), there was a freedom of choice for the American people. This coupled with the larger than life Andrew Jackson, the common man orphan from the backwoods, lead the people to rise up in a democratic revolution for the election of 1828.



From :: <http://www.fairus.org/united-states>

- (1) Class on Thursday, [week 2 lecture images](#) slide #22
- (2) Class on Thursday, link :: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_presidential_election,_1824

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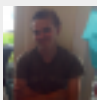
Re: Revolution by contrast

by [Rebecca Heard](#) – Wednesday, January 20, 2016, 7:22 PM

You make a great point when saying this was the first time there was a two party system. This has huge affect because like you said, there can't be a monopoly on one side. Having the two party system in my opinion made it easier to plan policy making among the different levels of government. In earlier election years before the two party system, it doesn't seam to have narrowed it down enough to what the country wants, making it more impactful now, hence the system still being used.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Important clarification

by [Samuel Black](#) – Wednesday, January 20, 2016, 11:39 PM

Thank you for taking the time to read my post, I would like to make an important clarification however. I did not say that "...this was the first time there was a two party system."(1) I actually said "...the reinstatement of the two party system..."(2). Now I know this sounds nit picky, but it is important. The reason being that the election of 1828 was not the first instance of a two party system that America had

seen. In fact, the election of 1796 (3) was the first one, between John Adams (a Federalist) and Thomas Jefferson (a Democratic–Republican). This two party system continued until the election of 1812 (4) when the Democratic–Republicans ran against themselves in James Madison versus DeWitt Clinton.

- (1) Re: Revolution by contrast: Rebecca Heard.
- (2) Revolution by contrast: Samuel Black
- (3) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_presidential_election,_1796
- (4)https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_presidential_election,_1812

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Jackson: Yes or No?
by Titus Young – Monday, January 18, 2016, 8:00 AM

From the beginning I thought that I would be against Jackson. However as I look at both parties I am finding that I agree with Jackson more and more. Robert V Remini tells us that "He (Jackson) arrived just as the country was undergoing profound economic and political changes, when a new generation of men was coming forward to seize leadership from an older social and political elite." (204), this implies that Jackson's rise in popularity went hand in hand with the "common man" wanting to have a greater say in matters of the state. Although Jackson had his own flaws, I had to agree with his "strict interpretation" (Mr. Escobar, lecture from last Thursday), of the constitution. I believe that the constitution should be followed strictly, even though there are a few spots that are left with some ambiguity. Such as the Marijuana topic that Mr. Escobar brought up in class. When Jackson won the election, a ton of people came to the white house just to see Jackson. There is a reason for that. Jackson really did stand for the people.

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Which authors possession do you most agree with and why?
by Clayton LeaMaster – Monday, January 18, 2016, 6:53 PM

I agreed most with Richard P. McCormick. He provided great information and statistics about the election(s). His writing also appeared clearer to me. “...scholars have recognized that a profoundly significant change took place in the climate of politics simultaneously with the appearance of Andrew Jackson on the presidential scene.” The three Jackson elections sparked new voting and voters and permanently changed elections.

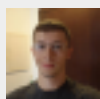
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Re: A Democratic Revolt?
by Jennifer Jones – Monday, January 18, 2016, 8:28 PM

I agree mostly with Richard P. McCormick’s article. Andrew Jackson and the Jacksonians built up this image of a “might democratic uprising” in the election of 1828, a image so thought so highly of and a thought everyone agreed on, that no one thought take an in depth look into it. McCormick wrote many insightful thoughts in this article, but the one that really captivated me was the thoughts on the common man. Jackson was known as the president for the “common man”, although when Jackson first ran in 1824 the average white male voting percentage was only at 26.5. Although when the election of 1828 came the percentage of average white males voting was at 56.3. McCormick states, “...this outpouring shrinks in magnitude when we observe that in only six of the twenty-two states involved were new highs in order voter participation established.” Which makes the poll result almost contradicting. Another one of the points that McCormick made was the mentioning of the Virginia dynasty. In the duration of the Virginia dynasty, there was no contest for presidency. So in turn when the termination of the Virginia secession came in 1824 as well as failure of the congressional caucus created the uprising in presidential election of 1828. This argument I believe offers the most analytical position because McCormick is very in depth with his research. To me, McCormick is a lot like the textbook authors in the sense he shows both sides of the topic but also subtly states what he believes is right and how history actually was.

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Revolution
by [David Adsit](#) – Monday, January 18, 2016, 11:01 PM

I'm assuming this form will be discussing how the possibility of a southern revolt came about?

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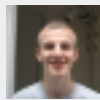


Forum topic clarification
by [Jessica Driver](#) – Tuesday, January 19, 2016, 9:19 PM

Not really. Did you read the "Required Forum Materials" PDF? If not, you will need to. The "revolt" under discussion is associated with voting. We have been interpreting it differently, but in general we are referring to a change in voting attitudes, voting levels, or both. We're debating whether or not there was such a revolt associated with the 1828 election. Reading others' posts should give you a better idea of what I mean. Hopefully that clears things up!

Sum of ratings: [1 \(1\)](#)

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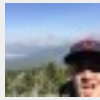


The Democratic Revolution came later
by [Robert Driver](#) – Monday, January 18, 2016, 11:25 PM

I would agree with McCormick that the democratic revolution happened in 1840 rather than 1828. The completion of the nationally organized two-party system was a major factor in this. The system may have started forming in 1828, but it wasn't until 1840 that both parties had strong support in every state. The completion of this "new democracy," as McCormick calls it (212), was responsible for the massive increase in voter turnout in 1840.

Sum of ratings: [2 \(1\)](#)

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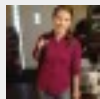


Re: The Democratic Revolution came later
by [Zachary Sielicky](#) – Thursday, January 21, 2016, 10:00 AM

I agree with you on the basis that the two party system played a major roll in forming a much larger election in terms of voter turnout. But the fact that the election of 1828 had such a profound impact on the common man, giving them the illusion that their vote finally meant something in terms of who the next president was going to be set precedent for many elections to come. Maybe the number of voters were not as large as the election of 1840, but without the "revolution" or introduction of the "common mans" vote the election of 1840 would never have been so large in terms of voter turnout.

Sum of ratings: [1 \(1\)](#)

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Voting spike wasn't caused by Jackson
by [Jessica Driver](#) – Monday, January 18, 2016, 11:37 PM

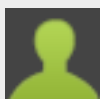
I agree with Richard McCormick. The “democratic revolution”, which I interpreted to mean the drastic rise in voting rates that occurred in the 19th century, was not associated with Andrew Jackson or the elections he was involved in. (I am assuming, for the purpose of discussion, that McCormick’s statistics are correct.)

While voter turnout in 1828 was twice what it was in 1824, it only approached previously established highs, as stated on page 211 of the “Forum Materials” PDF. The 1832 election was no improvement – in many states, voting rates down a bit from 1828. The “democratic revolution” didn't come until twelve years later, in 1840 (PDF p.212). By then Jackson was long gone. I don't believe that his popularity caused that spike, and the rise in voter rates associated with the 1828 election was only things going back to normal after a slow year (PDF p.213).

I believe Jackson made quite an impression on the people of his day, as Robert Remini describes on pp. 207–208, but it wasn't his popularity that inspired a nationwide revolution in voting habits.

Sum of ratings: [3 \(1\)](#)

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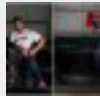
Re: Voting spike wasn't caused by Jackson

by [Zachary King](#) – Wednesday, January 20, 2016, 5:24 PM

I agree with you that the increase in voting numbers was a result of changes in the requirements to be able to vote, not anything to do with Jackson or any particular issue.

Sum of ratings: [\(1\)](#)

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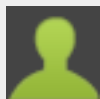
Re: A Democratic Revolt?

by [Lashun Woodard](#) – Tuesday, January 19, 2016, 8:05 AM

I think a peaceful revolt will not happen as we in our country are too deep in the wrong mindset. While the constitution is being eradicated, most American’s don’t understand what is going on, or “don’t want to know about it”. Our government right now is not for the people, there for corporations, this is why we need change in our government. How that change will come depends on the people, but I see no peaceful approach to change our situation now.

Sum of ratings: [1 \(1\)](#)

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Re: A Democratic Revolt?

by [Zachary King](#) – Tuesday, January 19, 2016, 10:16 PM

Based on the reading I tend to side with the NO side of Richard McCormick. I believe from the text that the numbers are skewed through different suffrage requirements and a system of poor accounting of the actual eligible voters.

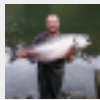
On page 210 McCormick talks about the failure of the reporting system and how the numbers prior to the 1828 election were actually much better than the traditionally held statistics, due to changing suffrage requirements, and other factors.

On page 206, Reminin states that part of the increase of the voter numbers were not due to the uprising of the common folk but the effort put out by the parties to increase the people voting.

It is my opinion that there was an increase in voter turnout, but that it was not as large as the data suggests and that the increase has more to do with the effort put forward by the parties than it did with an uprising of the common man.

Sum of ratings: [2 \(1\)](#)

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Re: A Democratic Revolt?

by [Daniel Swisher](#) – Wednesday, January 20, 2016, 9:07 AM

I believe that a major change in the 1828 election vs previous elections was that commen men were now able to vote. No longer did you need to own land to vote.

In “New Perspectives on Jacksonian Politics”,McCormick states:

”Since Jacksonian democracy consisted of urban workingmen, southern planters, venturous conservatives, farm–bred nouveaux riches, western frontiersmen, frustrated entrepreneurs, or yeoman farmers which are considered true "Jacksonians". Features of Jacksonian democracy are correspondingly diverse. Many of the people that made up the Jacksonian democracy were allowed to vote. Giving him more votes and earning him the title “the common mans president”.

Sum of ratings: [1 \(1\)](#)

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Re: A Democratic Revolt?

by [Zachary King](#) – Wednesday, January 20, 2016, 5:22 PM

I agree that the change in suffrage requirements meant that many people, mostly common people were

now able to vote, and that marked a big change in the numbers of common man voting.

But in context for this to be a revolt would require that only change was that now people that could vote before but had not done so were now coming out to vote due to the issue or candidate. If that had happened I would be more willing to agree that this was a revolt by the common man.

Instead because these voters simply could not vote prior, it does not mark a change in percentages, only in overall numbers, and therefore not a revolt, but simply an increase in numbers.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: A Democratic Revolt?

by [Daniel Swisher](#) – Wednesday, January 20, 2016, 7:03 PM

I quoted McCormick and have made 3 posts now regarding how I don't believe this was a revolt. I was agreeing with your view but explaining how common men were now able to vote. Hence the big change in voter turnout. I do not believe the election of 1828 was a revolt.

Sum of ratings: (1)

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Re: A Democratic Revolt?

by [Joel Silva-Rivera](#) – Thursday, January 21, 2016, 6:33 PM

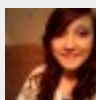
Okay in response to Daniel Swisher you are correct that many common people were allowed to vote in the election of 1828 but you must also acknowledge that back then:

“the states did not provide an official ballot; instead the parties printed their own ballots, distributing them to friends and employing high-pressure party hacks at the polls to get the voter to accept the ticket. It was not unusual for a person to be accosted by several hawkers at once and threatened with bodily harm unless he accepted the proffered ballot”

The quote above can be found on page 205 from the PDF that was provided for us. This quote makes me believe that some people were voting for presidential candidates just so they could refrain from “bodily harm.” Therefore, even though it was a major change (No longer did you need to own land to vote) from previous elections I have reasonable doubt about your post. (Daniel)

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Re: A Democratic Revolt?

by [Kaelin Kane](#) – Thursday, January 21, 2016, 7:29 PM

One problem formed by both Remini and McCormick (but more–so McCormick) is the assumption that the historical significance awarded to the success of the Democrats is based solely on the proportion of voters to the overall population. This point is an essential piece of the argument, but not the whole pie. If you look at just the voter turnout, you're ignoring context. Joel proposed another point that gives context to the overall picture on one hand of the argument. On the opposite side, you can look at how the people felt about the last republican president. When Adams "translated his fervent nationalism into domestic policy,"(*Liberty, Equality, Power*, 378) congressmen were appalled. "Here was a president who had received only one in three votes and who had entered office accused of intrigues against the democratic will... (who) at first opportunity he told Congress to pass an ambitious program and not to be "palsied" by the will of the electorate." His campaign attempts also backfired on him in the election of 1828. "(Voters) criticized Adams for making Jackson's private life a public issue and claimed that his rigid legalism left no room for privacy or for local notions of justice."(*Liberty, Equality, Power*, 379)

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Did the Election of 1828 Represent a Democratic Revolt of the People?

by [Joel Silva-Rivera](#) – Wednesday, January 20, 2016, 6:53 PM

I do not believe that the election of 1828 was a democratic revolt because of how ballots were handed out:

“The states did not provide an official ballot; instead, the parties printed their own ballots, distributing them to friends and employing high pressure party hacks at the polls to get the voter to accept the ticket, it was not unusual for a person to be accosted by several hawkers at once and threatened with bodily harm unless he accepted the proffered ballot” (Paragraph 3 Page 205)

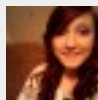
Consequently, this makes me believe that there were people who voted for Jackson just so they would not be harmed. Also:

“The average voter participation for all states in 1828 was 56.3% Before 1824 fifteen of the twenty-two states had surpassed that percentage. This means that the 1828 election failed to bring to the polls the proportion of the electorate that had voted on occasion in previous elections. There was, in other words, a high potential vote that was frequently realized in state elections but which did materialize in presidential elections.” (Paragraph 4 Page 211 – 212)

These two reasons are the ones that compel me the most of why it was not a democratic revolt.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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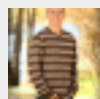
Is revolt really the right word?

by [Kaelin Kane](#) – Wednesday, January 20, 2016, 7:49 PM

The Democratic election of 1828 was not a revolt. Let me clarify that the definition of revolt, according to dictionary.com, is to break away from or rise against constituted authority, as by open rebellion; cast off allegiance or subjection to those in authority; rebel; mutiny. Neither sources recall any open rebellion of the people. The question that should be proposed here is not “was the election a revolt”, but rather, “How significant was the election of 1828 to the people?” The answer to this question is very much so. The Democrats of the election of 1824 (which, according to popular vote, were the majority) felt cheated and betrayed by the election process. “Reaction to the alleged Corrupt Bargain dominated the Adams administration and created a rhetoric of intrigue and betrayal that nourished a rising democratic movement.” (Liberty, Equality, Power, 376) After the unsatisfying presidency of John Q. Adams, it makes sense that the Democratic Party (which had already been the majority) would gain some supporters. The amount gained was significant for the Democratic Party, because the people don’t want to be cheated out of their desired candidates’ presidency again.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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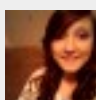
Re: Is revolt really the right word?

by [Justin Smith](#) – Thursday, January 21, 2016, 12:23 PM

You bring up a very good point that revolt probably isn't the best word. However, i do think that revolution could be a better word to use. Revolution is defined by google as a forcible overthrow of a government or social order in favor of a new system. We tend to think of force as a physical fight that is occurring, but think of force in a different way for this argument. I think that Remini does a fantastic job of describing the revolution that took place after the 1824 election on page 204 of the article; he says, "They built machines to manage the popular vote; they believed in organization; and they were determined to rule. As sharp-nosed professionals, like Van Buren, they were quick to sense the response the General's popularity produced among the "rising" classes of Americans and to realize that the association with Jackson might be crucial for their future position in politics, both nationally and locally." He is showing that people were starting to become more manipulative in their campaigning techniques and were starting to use a person's popularity to try and get them into the White House. The more popular a person was among the general population, the more he would bring people into the voting polls. Especially if it was a war hero such as Andrew Jackson.

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Re: Is revolt really the right word?

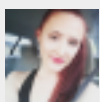
by [Kaelin Kane](#) – Thursday, January 21, 2016, 6:22 PM

I agree with the wording of "revolution" more than I do with "revolt", but there is still a problem with that definition. No fundamental system was being challenged. Technically, while things changed drastically under Democratic control after the election of 1828, they were still playing by the rules. No "system" was overthrown, power simply shifted from one party's hands to the other. As long as there was no real dramatic rebellion, you can't say the Republican Party was removed forcibly from power.

I strongly agree with your other statements and how they relate to the main argument.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Is revolt really the right word?

by [Lauren Collett](#) – Friday, January 22, 2016, 10:08 PM

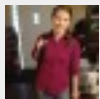
I think the word "revolt" and "revolution." don't exactly seem to fit in these contexts either. It seems once history names an event though it seems to stick. I'm thinking political awakening or democratic uprising? Although if you look at one of the other definitions of revolt on Dictionary.com the word seems to fit better.

Revolt:an expression or movement of spirited protest or dissent.

If you think of in that context revolt may fit better but I still believe revolution would not be the word to use here.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Is revolt really the right word?

by [Jessica Driver](#) – Saturday, January 23, 2016, 4:27 PM

Dictionary.com offers this definition for "revolution":

2. Sociology. a radical and pervasive change in society and the social structure, especially one made suddenly and often accompanied by violence.

"Political revolution" under this definition would mean a similar change in political structure and attitudes. While there was a shift in attitudes (and to some extent, behaviors) at this time, the political *structure* remained essentially unchanged. The political parties underwent changes, but these changes made slow progress at best. In class we have been comparing maps of the various elections to demonstrate the influence of the parties. In 1824, there was only one (textbook p.375); in 1828 there were two, mostly divided geographically (p.381). In 1836 the parties were well spread out geographically, but there were three candidates for the Whig party (p.396). Finally, in 1840, there was a two-candidate, two-party election in which candidate support was spread out over all three regions (p.398). The changes that began in 1828 were then complete, and the voting rate soared.

The parties and the electorate were restructured during this time, but not suddenly. The "age of Jackson" was the dramatic beginning and evidence of change, but those changes continued to develop and mature for another twelve years. Thus I don't think "revolution" is an appropriate word. So until someone thinks of something better, I guess we're doomed to using clunky phrases like "development of the modern party system".

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Facts

by [Clayton LeaMaster](#) – Wednesday, January 20, 2016, 8:24 PM

McCormick briefly gave popular vote example which I liked, “A comparison of the total vote cast in 1812, for example, when in eight of the seventeen states electors were chosen by the legislature, with the vote in 1832, when every state except South Carolina chose its electors by popular vote, has limited meaning. Neither is revealing to compare the total vote in 1824 with that in 1832 without taking into consideration the population increase during the interval.” McCormick also spoke about the difference of the amount of voters in 1828, “Prior to that critical election, fifteen of those eighteen states had recorded votes in excess of 50 per cent of their white male population, but in 1824 only two states—Maryland and Alabama—exceeded this modest mark. The average rate of voter participation in the election was 26.5 per cent.” The number grew to 54.9 per cent and just continued to grow.



Re: A Democratic Revolt?

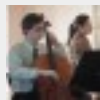
by Zachary Sielicky – Thursday, January 21, 2016, 12:12 AM

Zachary Sielicky

Yes Remini is Right

Though the number of voters in America did not reach unprecedented levels until the Presidential election of 1840, the beginning of a new revolution in which the people of America took initiative to vote was during the election of 1828. The argument isn't about the what year had a larger turnout of voters because that is a fact. The argument is; what election symbolized a voter revolution. The fact that this election was the first in which the president was not a founding father or a direct dissident of one.”These men saw in Jackson a symbol of their own ambitions; they also saw in him a living example of the self-made man.” (Remini, 204)This gave voters a sense that he was not above them like the founding fathers were. Jackson gave people hope and introduced the American population to new type of president, one that was not a hammy down of former presidents cabinets, a member of the highest social class.

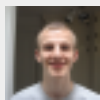
The 1928 election was revolutionary because it rang in a new era of president, one that was not going to be “automatically” chosen for their involvement with the construction of a new nation. One that was not above the rest of the population. This election got the voter and the people of America more involved with the process of choosing the leader of their country. A higher voting percentage does not define a revolution, because if it did then Professor McCormick’s prediction of a “voter revolution,” would have been off by 36 years (1876 had a voter turnout of 81.8%). It is not a statistic that defines a revolution, it is the meaning in which the revolution is taking place.



Why I agree with Remini

by Titus Young – Thursday, January 21, 2016, 6:50 AM

I agree with Remini that the 1828 was a kind of revolt. However, I do not think that "revolt" is the correct word. In my opinion, revolt has a lot of negative connotations, whereas this seemed to be just a spike in how many people voted. Remini pointed out that Jackson was "a man of the people"(207), People saw Jackson as a leader that they could count on to support the common folk, rather than the "political elite"(204). The main reason I side with Remini is not because some extra voters voted, but because when Jackson won the election, there was almost a riot of joy at the White House. Mr. Escobar pointed out in one of his lectures that that would be unheard of nowadays. Remini ends his paper with this: "Daniel Webster was dumb founded at the scene. "I never saw such a crowd here before," he said. "Persons have come five hundred miles to see General Jackson, and they really seem to think that the country is rescued from some dreadful danger."" That is why Reini called it a "revolt" , because people from five hundred miles away were there at the White House celebrating that a president won the election. I doubt we will see such enthusiasm in this coming election.



Propaganda, not a democratic revolt

by Robert Driver – Friday, January 22, 2016, 6:31 PM

I think this wild celebration was a product of the Democratic propaganda. The Democratic party’s campaign strategy in 1828 was to attack the “Corrupt Bargain.” Democrats such as Martin Van Buren argued that the alternative to their minimal government and states’ rights policies would be “an expensive and invasive national state (Adams’ “lighthouses of the skies”), the isolation of the slaveholding South, and mortal danger to the republic” (*Liberty, Equality, Power* 379). So when the Democratic party won the election, it would seem

to many devoted Democrats that the country was rescued from some dreadful danger. So I would say that the crazy celebration was due to the party propaganda, not the democratic revolt.

Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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Why I don't agree with McCormic

by [Titus Young](#) – Thursday, January 21, 2016, 2:05 PM

As I have stated previously, I agree with Remini. However that does not mean I am going to ignore the side of the argument. While McCormic does bring up good points, most (if not all), of them seem to correlate with numbers, and what percentage of votes did what. To me the election of 1828 was a "revolution" as far as voting goes. Although, as McCormic points out, they might not have been "record breaking" voting in each, state, what he fails to realize is that this all happened in the same election. He shows how certain states voted more in previous years, but when almost every state nears its records, that is when it is obvious why Remini calls it a revolt. As I read over some of my peer's posts, I noticed that one of them pointed out that number of people voting are relative to the number of eligible voters. That helps me to see that McCormic's evidence could be based on a time that there might have been less eligible voters, hence the higher percentage of voter turnout.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Why I don't agree with McCormic

by [Jennifer Jones](#) – Saturday, January 23, 2016, 3:21 PM

I am really glad you posted your opinion on this. It's a great point to bring up that McCormick did not recognize that this all happened in the same election. Although since it was not record breaking and that there were many reasons to why this should not be called a revolution, such as only white men voted, there were threats to voters, etc. For these authors, I think it depends on what side of the statistics they are looking at to decide what side they are truly on. I know we are not supposed to be in the middle on this topic, but it is clear to see why McCormick and Remini are right in their own ways. I still do stand on the side of McCormick, although I do not 100% agree with him.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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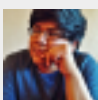
Revolt?

by [Titus Young](#) – Thursday, January 21, 2016, 6:52 PM

In my earlier posts I have asked whether or not "revolt" is the right word to describe the election of 1828. Today's Webster's dictionary definition of revolt is this: "To renounce allegiance or subjection (as to a government)". This definition definitely does not fit with the election of 1828. However, then I remembered that with every edition of the Webster's Dictionary, things were changed, even the actual definition of a word. The Webster's 1828 dictionary definition is this: "To renounce allegiance and subjection to one's prince or state; to reject the authority of a sovereign; as a province or a number of people. *it is not applied to individuals.*" That is quite similar to today's definition, or was it? Both of these definitions treat revolt as a verb i.e. they are threatening to revolt. Revolt actually can be treated as a noun as well as a verb. Today's dictionary only says the revolt is a verb, but the 1828 dictionary has revolt as a verb or a noun. The revolt noun definition is this: "Desertion; change of sides; more correctly, a renunciation of allegiance and subjection to one's prince or government." Finally, a definition of revolt that fits perfectly with the way it is being used, "...change of sides...", that particular clause makes me think how many Whigs changed sides and voted for the democrat, Andrew Jackson. At first I thought revolt didn't fit at all with the election of 1828, but now I realize there might not be a better word for it.

Sum of ratings:1 (1)

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Re: Revolt?

by [Joel Silva-Rivera](#) – Friday, January 22, 2016, 2:58 PM

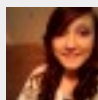
I completely agree with and how revolt can be used as a noun and not only as a verb. Another, place to find the noun definition of revolt can be found here: <https://www.google.com/search?>

q=revolt&rlz=1C1HIJA_enUS611US611&oq=revolt&aqs=chrome..69i57j0l5.1596j0j7&sourceid=chrome&es_s8

It is the third definition on the page.

Sum of ratings:1 (1) 1

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Interpretations

by Kaelin Kane – Friday, January 22, 2016, 3:10 PM

After having read multiple definitions regarding the meaning of the word "revolt", I've come to the conclusion that there is a scale by which the noun revolt can be used, ranging from a full blown revolution (complete with a whole system to rebel against) and any action that shows you don't accept the control or influence of something or someone (Merriam Webster). I've found that the more specific interpretations of the word, "revolt", result in agreement with McCormick and less specific interpretations with Remini.

Sum of ratings:1 (1) 1

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Professor Foner's Video

by Justin Smith – Friday, January 22, 2016, 6:06 PM

If you haven't watched Foner's video, you definitely need to. It is only two minutes and it is a very clear message that he is portraying.

I think that this is the best answer to the question so far. He brings up the fact that for the 1828 election most white men are allowed to vote (except for one or two states that required you to own property as well), he brings up the fact that women aren't allowed to vote or hold any political office, and he brings up the topic about race. He says that even in the northern states, freed Negroes are not allowed to vote; except in New England where the black population was very small. He ends the video by saying the line of exclusion for voting amongst men changes from owning property to what your race is. Looking at it from this point of view, I would say that a form of revolution has occurred because it is a change in the system (own property, white, and male=voting to white men=voting) that is allowing more men to vote.

Sum of ratings:2 (1) 2

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Revolt

by Clayton LeaMaster – Friday, January 22, 2016, 7:59 PM

McCormick’s argument provided the most logical and best analytical position. To me, he gave clearer information and compared his statistics better. I do think revolt is a well used term in this situation because of the many different meanings and ways it can be used.

Sum of ratings: (1) 0

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Re: Professor Foner's Video

by Lauren Collett – Friday, January 22, 2016, 10:20 PM

I really enjoyed the video as well. I love that Foner addresses the women and black population that can not vote although women do write and become involved with politics in other ways. Which comes back to what some people were discussing in the forum earlier on whether or not this would make a difference. It seems he believes it would because he makes it very clear that this was the time of white men voting and being involved in politics not women or Native Americans or African Americans. He does define though that it is not just white men who own property as it was in the past but in this time the line was drawn by peoples race and clearly there sex as well.

Sum of ratings:1 (1) 1

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What is a democratic revolt?

by Robert Driver – Friday, January 22, 2016, 9:03 PM

I would say that the 1828 increase in voter participation was due to the increased voting rights (as well as the well-organized, active new Democratic party), and the 1840 increase in voter participation was due both political parties being fully organized and active, drawing people in. What this means in terms of the democratic revolt depends on the definition of a “democratic revolt” (or “democratic revolution”; the term you use isn’t nearly as important as your definition of that term). If you define a democratic revolt as just a greatly increased number of people voting, then there were two separate democratic revolts, one in 1828 and one in 1840. If you define it as the common man being able to vote, then it’s obvious that the democratic revolt happened in 1828. If it’s defined as the people overthrowing the current system in favor of a new one, it would have happened between 1828 and 1840, when the one-party system was replaced by a two-party system that was nationally organized and active. It started around 1828 with the first victory of the new Democratic party and was completed with the election of 1840, when both political parties were fully organized and competing on a national scale. Personally, I agree with this last definition the most.

Sum of ratings: 3 (1)

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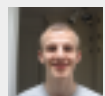
Re: What is a democratic revolt?

by [Jessica Driver](#) – Saturday, January 23, 2016, 4:49 PM

Good analysis, Robert. That clarifies a lot of the debate. It can be hard to debate this topic because it all depends on what factors you are considering and what your definitions are. Many different changes happened during this time period, which you laid out nicely. I would add Jackson as a factor in your "common man" definition. Several of our classmates have said that the people's excitement over Jackson as the first "common man" president is evidence that the election of 1828 constituted a democratic revolution.

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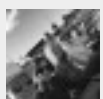
Re: What is a democratic revolt?

by [Robert Driver](#) – Saturday, January 23, 2016, 5:21 PM

Isn’t it interesting, though, how we’re all defining the term “democratic revolt” so that one happened sometime between 1828 and 1840? “Democratic revolt” could be defined as the people getting together and recreating their government (i.e. rewriting or heavily amending the Constitution). That definitely didn’t happen in 1828 or 1840 (or any time in between). It seems to me that half the disagreement in this forum is simply because we attach different meanings to the term “democratic revolt.”

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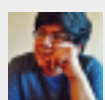
Re: The numbers

by [Rebecca Heard](#) – Saturday, January 23, 2016, 10:20 AM

Simply just focusing in on the graphs and numbers of voter increase during Jackson's election goes to show the excitement in the people in 1828. The people were proud and excited, and ready for a change. I would define this as a revolt considering to revolt meant to: rise in rebellion. They may not have been rebelling obviously on one thing, but in my opinion they were rebelling on the government in a way.

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Re: The numbers

by [Joel Silva-Rivera](#) – Saturday, January 23, 2016, 3:26 PM

I agree with you but even if you did not focus on the graphs and numbers of voters you have to realize that "The fact remains that no matter how the statistics are analyzed or interpreted the people themselves who lived at the time believed that Jackson's election represented a great surge of popular support for the General."

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Recovery, Not Revolt

by [Robert Driver](#) – Saturday, January 23, 2016, 4:28 PM



I would say that the increased number of voters in the 1828 election was not a rebellion against anything; it was just a recovery from the poor elections of 1824 and before, when there was only one political party. And by voting, wouldn't people be supporting the system rather than opposing it?

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Re: Recovery, Not Revolt
by Jessica Driver – Saturday, January 23, 2016, 5:02 PM

I agree that the voting increase was not a rebellion, but I think it had at least something to do with Jackson's popularity. This graph (<http://www.electproject.org/national-1789-present>) shows that the election of 1828 did exceed the turnout of any federal election before it by at least a small percentage. There could be other factors in this, such as the excitement of this contest as compared to the "Virginia Dynasty" elections. But Jackson's victory was virtually guaranteed in many states (page 213 of the PDF), which likely decreased the number of voters. If not for this factor, he probably would have gotten even more votes.

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