

# HST 202: History of United States W18 (Escobar Meta 30898 30897)

Home ► My courses ► HST 202 W18 (Escobar Meta 30898 30897) ► Week 3 ► Forum 1 ►  
Age of Jackson

  
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## Forum 1

### Age of Jackson

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**Age of Jackson**

by Joe Escobar - Wednesday, January 24, 2018, 10:40 PM

This thread is for discussions on the Age of Jackson topic.

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: Age of Jackson

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[Permalink](#) | [Edit](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**Re: Age of Jackson**

by Isaac Anderson - Friday, January 26, 2018, 8:46 PM

After watching the new forum materials, I have decided to stand by my initial decision. No, the election of 1828 was not a democratic revolt. Democracy is a “system of government by the whole population or all the eligible members of a state, typically through elected representatives (google definitions).” I understand that this definition might create a grey area between “the whole population” and the “eligible members of the state.” In the Jacksonian era, “virtually all white men have the right to vote (0:27, Eric Foner Video).” The definition of democracy will lead us to believe that this was not a democratic revolt considering the entire American population was not entirely white. Women and blacks didn’t hold any political power

at this time. If we go ahead and define democracy as being a vote by all of the “eligible members of the state” then, yes maybe this was a democratic revolt because the eligible members of the state (white males) voted in large numbers to protect themselves economically. How do we define democracy? Has the definition always been absolute or is it relative to the past?

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### Historians in Video Say Yes

by Rachel Gragg - Saturday, January 27, 2018, 12:01 AM

After watching the videos, it seems pretty apparent to me that all of the historians agree that the Jacksonian times were times of democratic revolt. Eric Foner (first video) stated that the election of 1828 brought people into politics and enhanced the common man’s interest in politics. Harry Watson (second video) said that during this time period, people saw opportunities to seek out more liberty. People were encouraged to vote and be active in picking the president because they felt directly affected by it.

People liked Jackson because of how he represented the “common man.” As a political strategy, John Quincy Adams decided to question Jackson’s character and details of his marriage, which ended up working in Jackson’s favor. According to our textbook, “The attempt to brand Jackson as a lawless man, in fact, enhanced his image as a melodramatic hero who battled shrewd, unscrupulous, legalistic enemies by drawing on his natural nobility and force of will” (*Liberty, Equality, Power* Pg 379-380). People liked Jackson because he was a “common man” and he wasn’t perfect and he wasn’t elite. According to Watson, Jackson paved the way for the political tactic that politicians still use to this day to “Act as though the ordinary American voter was the wisest judge of American affairs.” Jackson changed political strategies and brought so many people together, the election of 1828 has to have been a cause of a democratic revolt.

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### Age of Jackson, Democratic Revolt?

by Kerianne Guza - Saturday, January 27, 2018, 11:47 AM

The first video, interviewing Foner, gave me the impression that he may believe the election of 1828 did represent a Democratic revolt. He told viewers that the “participation in public life expanded enormously” during that time period (Foner). However, it was still apparent that many individuals, such as women and people of color, still could not vote.

The second video also supports this when Theda Perdue voices that “It is a period in which the United States becomes more democratic for adult white men, but less democratic for everyone else”. This leads me to conclude that these historians believe that the election sparked as much of a democratic revolt as was possible in its time period.

I began this debate on the side of the election not being a revolt, but as more information becomes apparent I find it more difficult to stand by that answer. This topic is very complex and differs in opinion can come from just simply a difference in definition on what a revolt is.

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### **Age of Jackson was not a revolt**

by Jason Yeager - Saturday, January 27, 2018, 2:45 PM

My position on this subject is that the election of 1828 did not represent a revolt. I feel that the jump in voter turnout occurred because of increased literacy and increased newspaper circulation, as well as sharp politicians from both sides realizing that these increases were leading to an expanded national understanding of how the U.S. political machine worked, leading them to devise campaign strategies to cater to this new consciousness and get their candidate elected.

Ordinary citizens seemed to realize that their vote actually mattered, and that whoever they elected would likely have some impact on their day-to-day lives. As Harry Watson of UNC states in the second video, "People begin to look upon the government and realize that the government makes economic decisions, and they want to control these decisions." (Watson, *Age of Jackson* video) As is almost always the case, money is the great motivator in society, and an understanding by citizens that one candidate or the other might affect their financial standing would naturally stimulate them to become part of the political process, thereby increasing voter turnout.

As I stated in a post on the other forum, there was not some major upheaval of the white-male dominated political power structure, so I don't think that the election of 1828 constituted a "revolt." As Theda Purdue of UNC claims in the second video, the Age of Jackson "is a period in which the United States becomes more democratic for adult white men, but less democratic for everyone else." (Purdue, *Age of Jackson* video) So if democracy was actually lessened for the majority of Americans, this period in history can't really be classified as a "democratic revolt."

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### **I Agree With the Historians**

by Rachel Gragg - Saturday, January 27, 2018, 4:30 PM

The videos have only furthered my opinion that the election of 1828 was a spark for a democratic revolt. Harry Watson stated that people in this time period were fearful of other people having power over them and that encouraged them to vote for Andrew Jackson who was trying to represent the "common man." Richard Ellis stated that the people of this time period were starting to realize that the government wants to control decisions and that those decisions might benefit elites over the public, further proving the amount of people voting for Jackson. A revolt is defined as a group of people wanting to stand up for what they believe in and change a power over them and that's what Jacksonians set out to do. Theda Purdue states that, "It is a period in which the United States becomes more democratic for adult white men." All of the historians from the video are stating that they believe this election was the start of a revolt and I agree.

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