

HST 202: History of United States W19 (Escobar)

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Taking Sides - Election of 1828
by [Joe Escobar](#) - Friday, January 18, 2019, 9:06 PM

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IMPORTANT - SUBJECT LINES

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Jackson -Election of 1828
by [Trevor Mejia](#) - Sunday, January 20, 2019, 12:39 PM

I found this article to be quite informative, I believe with the "yes" side of a large voter turn out to help Jackson win the election of 1828. However i also see some points from why it sounds so unlikely for Jackson to get such a huge turn out. Logically speaking it seemed as if the whigs where in charge for a while, Jackson saw a flaw with them all being rich guys and probably focused on the fact more people are middle class and used them as his focal point. farmers, bakers, work hands, frontiers all making around the same amount of money but their are for of them for every Whig. Altho the biggest evidence from the opposing side is how pre 1824 we saw such low numbers in elections what created the boom of voters in 1824. That i simply think was Jackson, the last president before jackson was John Quincy Adams who was a whig himself this i feel shows the long lasting power that whigs held before a new option of change was offerred that everyone jumped on board for.

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Re: Jackson -Election of 1828
by [Bailey Deverell](#) - Friday, January 25, 2019, 8:53 PM

You made some interesting points here. One thing that got me thinking while reading your analysis was that it seems like the common white folk were more interested in Andrew Jackson as a candidate than any other segment of American society. But it is also important to note that Jackson swept the electoral college in the election of 1828. While I don't necessarily believe this means that there was a "mighty democratic uprising" taking place at the time it still begs the question of why Andrew Jackson saw such immense support during the election. I think that there are a lot of reasons why Andrew Jackson was so popular among American voters in 1828. Jackson's campaign was largely based around rooting out perceived corruption in the United States federal government, and accusing the other candidates of corrupt bargains and back-alley deals. In other words a large part of Jackson's bid for presidency was making the other candidates look worse in comparison. Considering that the first economic depression that the United States had experienced occurred in 1819, it was

likely very easy for Jackson's campaigners to convince the American people of corruption in the government. A lot of his accusations of corruption would be directed at the Bank of the United States, which many viewed as the reason for the Panic of 1819. Jackson was also a war hero, as was noted by Mr. Remini in the first essay of our assigned Forum reading. In 1818 Jackson had his forces invade parts of Spanish-controlled Florida to attack the Seminole Indians, an act of revenge for the Seminole's raids into American territory. It became a highly public event as the cabinet of the president at the time, James Monroe, became split in opinion on Jackson's actions. Some believed that Jackson had openly defied the President and violated the constitution by attacking Spanish territory when the U.S. was not at war with Spain, but a Congressional investigation exonerated Jackson. When the American people saw that Jackson was willing to, in their eyes, fight for the good of the American people even when the president had not ordered it, that surely played a role in his increase in popular support. I think Jackson's heroism that was perceived by the American people in the late 1810's and early 1820's, coupled with the accusations of corruption launched by Jackson's campaign, had a lot to do with swaying the American vote.

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The election of 1828 roused the American People into political responsibility

by [William Wilson](#) - Sunday, January 20, 2019, 2:25 PM

In review of Remini's position on the importance of the election of 1828 on the formation of a two party system I would have to agree. Contextually we deduce the statistics could be represented in such a way and show no real change happened until the 1840s to solidify a two party system. Adversely the social and political climate of the time and the rallying of the American people to a sense of civic duty and a real choice emboldened the voters to take political stances and exercise their rights to vote and effectively shape the government to serve them better. Though the two party system did not develop to what we know as it is today of the Republican and Democratic parties the election of 1828 did lead to the development of it through its election of Jackson.

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Re: The election of 1828 roused the American People into political responsibility

by [Brayden Lane](#) - Friday, January 25, 2019, 12:45 AM

I agree with Reminis side as well and that it was a revolt in the 1828 election. I also haven't thought about it this way yet of people having a since of civic duty but I fully agree. The people of them took it upon themselves to change and reshape the way the government worked. The thought of also 2 party system starting its beginning then to is very interesting. The way that election alone changed the way people would vote for years to come and the sense of "rallying" they had in order to take political stances also helps me further believe the election of 1828 was truly revolt among the people.

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Who do I agree with and why?

by [Megan Wayne](#) - Sunday, January 20, 2019, 5:14 PM

I agree with Richard P. McCormick that the Election of 1828 was not a democratic revolt of the people because it was only an introduction of the new political parties that spiked people's interest rather than it being a purposeful rebellion against democracy. Andrew Jackson represented the new "Democratic-Republican" party, while John Adams stayed, but with an updated name, as a "National-Republican." Jackson's political party was different in a sense that it put the American people's needs first and it was where social equality was a priority. Along with this, Andrew Jackson as a person was extremely inspirational to American citizens in this time. In Robert V. Remini's essay, he states that Andrew Jackson "was a living, authentic legend, the greatest feat of arms in American history. There was a dignity and bearing about him that bespoke leadership and authority" (page 3). Jackson's likeness and popularity played a significant part in his Presidential victory. These votes sparked during this time I think simply because of his similarity between himself and the common-man. He was seen as a fellow citizen and not just a person with authority. Jackson also had a quality about him in which he understood what the average citizen wanted within the government. On top of this, the way he introduced the Democratic view and the values it held had great impact over America in 1828.

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Addressing with which argument I agree

by [Justin Miller](#) - Sunday, January 20, 2019, 8:45 PM

I agree with McCormick's position more as I find his answer to be a more honest interpretation of the question. I say this as Remini concedes that the truth of the statistics may disagree with his point but that that doesn't matter as "... what is believed the electorate is frequently more important than the objective reality" (p.3). On the other hand, McCormick focuses almost entirely on the statistics and analytics of the situation. Through this, he comes to the conclusion that the true revolution came twelve years later in 1840, "In a surge to the polls that has rarely, if ever, been exceeded in any presidential election, four out of five (78.0 per cent) of the adult white males cast their voters for Harrison or Van Buren. This new electorate was greater than that of the Jackson period by more than 40 per cent" (p.7). I find this to be more honest as it shows that the voter turnout of this election far exceeds that of the 1828 election, which had a voter turnout of "56.3 per cent" (p.6). McCormick does admit that this is "more than double the 1824 figure" (p.6), but that it still pales in comparison to what occurred in 1840.

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Why I Was Convinced of McCormick's Argument

by [Justin Miller](#) - Wednesday, January 23, 2019, 7:00 PM

The first fact that McCormick sites is that, prior to the 1824 election, voter turnout amongst the electorate was in excess of 50% in 15 of the 18 states where the popular vote determined the election. In the 1824 presidential election, the first one Jackson ran in, only 2 of those states exceeded that, and "the average rate of voter participation in the election was 26.5 per cent," showing a significant drop. (p. 6)

The second fact he sites is that even though voter turnout for the 1828 election was 56.3 percent, there were only recorded new highs in six of the twenty-two states. In half of these, the gains were "inconsiderable," and in the other half these gains can be attributed more to suffrage movements in 1821 and 1826. He also states that "Six states went over the 70 per cent mark, whereas ten had bettered that performance before 1824," showing that even the number of states that had huge numbers of the electorate vote was still smaller than in previous elections. (p. 6)

The third fact he uses is in showing that the election of 1832 had a smaller voter turnout than the election of 1828, despite Jacksons increased popularity and the fact that he won both elections. And to tie all this together, he says that "Thus, after three Jackson elections, sixteen states had not achieved the proportions of voter participation that they had reached before 1824," showing that Jackson did not in fact represent a revolution of democracy. (p. 6)

He also says that voter turnout in local and state elections has always been in great excess of any presidential election of to this point and that the excuse that the common man was uninterest or "bared from voting by suffrage barriers before 1824 is untenable in light of this evidence," showing that people were just less interested in presidential election at this time. (p. 7)

This, together with the fact of the 78% voter turnout of 1840 (p. 7), is what convinced me of McCormick's argument.

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Re: Why I Was Convinced of McCormick's Argument

by [Ryan Monett](#) - Thursday, January 24, 2019, 6:57 PM

One of the things that has shifted my original very strong belief that it was indeed a revolt (although less so after today) is the number of states that restricted the votes to those that were property holders in the 1828 election. When any government restricts voting to only certain individuals, it's very difficult to get a full picture of the true spirit and vote of the people. What was interesting is just how restrictive the voting population was in 1828, which is why McCormick's argument holds more value today in my mind than yesterday. It's amazing how one fact can change beliefs in an argument such as this.

I still subscribe with the belief that, yes, it was indeed a revolt. However, with these "new pair of glasses" I'm understanding things aren't always black and white. There are reasons statistics change (like in WWII when the Irish immigration came to a halt, not only because of the war but because our nation was broke). Statistics have meanings behind them. Here's a hooray to McCormick's side of this discussion.



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The Melodramatic Election of 1828

by [James Croxton](#) - Monday, January 21, 2019, 12:31 PM

It's probably obvious by the subject line that I agree with Richard P. McCormick's assertion that the 1828 election of Andrew Jackson was *not* the outcome of a "democratic revolt of the people" as some would suggest and instead, was a gradual increase in participation.

I arrived at the conclusion based on the overwhelming amount of data provided that both shows the numbers and also puts them into perspective of each other. The other main reason is that the counter-argument, by Robert V. Remini, seemed to me to be a lot of opinion - and much less data-driven.

"The average voter participation for all states in 1828 was 56.3 per cent. Before 1824 fifteen of the twenty-two states had surpassed that percentage. Among other things, 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." This brief paragraph, to me, sums up the idea that this was no major uprising.

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Re: The Melodramatic Election of 1828

by [William Wilson](#) - Monday, January 21, 2019, 2:51 PM

I am glad you put it this way, I think what I was most agreed with in Remini's take on the 1828 election and its importance in the gradual call to vote of the common man. If I were to change my view solely based on the statistics of the era I would agree with your take on the voter turn out being greater in the 1840's than in previous elections. Though what I do agree with Remini about is that Jackson did in fact give the people a representative that they could back from there common mans view calling to the importance of their presence at the polls and exercising their right to vote of which some it was their first ability to do so.

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Re: The Melodramatic Election of 1828

by [Justin Miller](#) - Tuesday, January 22, 2019, 7:15 PM

I agree that the election of 1828 was not a democratic revolution and I agree with your reasoning, but I'm going to disagree with your interpretation of Remini's argument. You see, I thought that Remini's argument was based in the idea that the people of the time, especially the elites, believed this to be a democratic revolution. So, to your statement that it was much more opinion based and less data driven, well, that's the point. He argues that the data may disagree with him, but that it doesn't matter because the people who witnessed that election agreed with him and that that's what ultimately matters the most. He even says that many Democratic politicians believed that the election was a battle between the aristocracy and democracy of America and that the outcomes of the election convinced them of their own propaganda. I do disagree with this opinion, but I do find his argument to be sound and based in facts.

Source p. 3 of "Did the Election of 1828 Represent a Democratic Revolt of the People?"

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Re: The Melodramatic Election of 1828

by [Jesse Carr](#) - Thursday, January 24, 2019, 9:23 PM

I agree strongly with your stand on the topic and have the same basic views. The data that McCormick gives in his article is a lot more persuasive argument than the argument Remini has. Like you I think statistics are a lot better way to show the result of something rather than an opinion.

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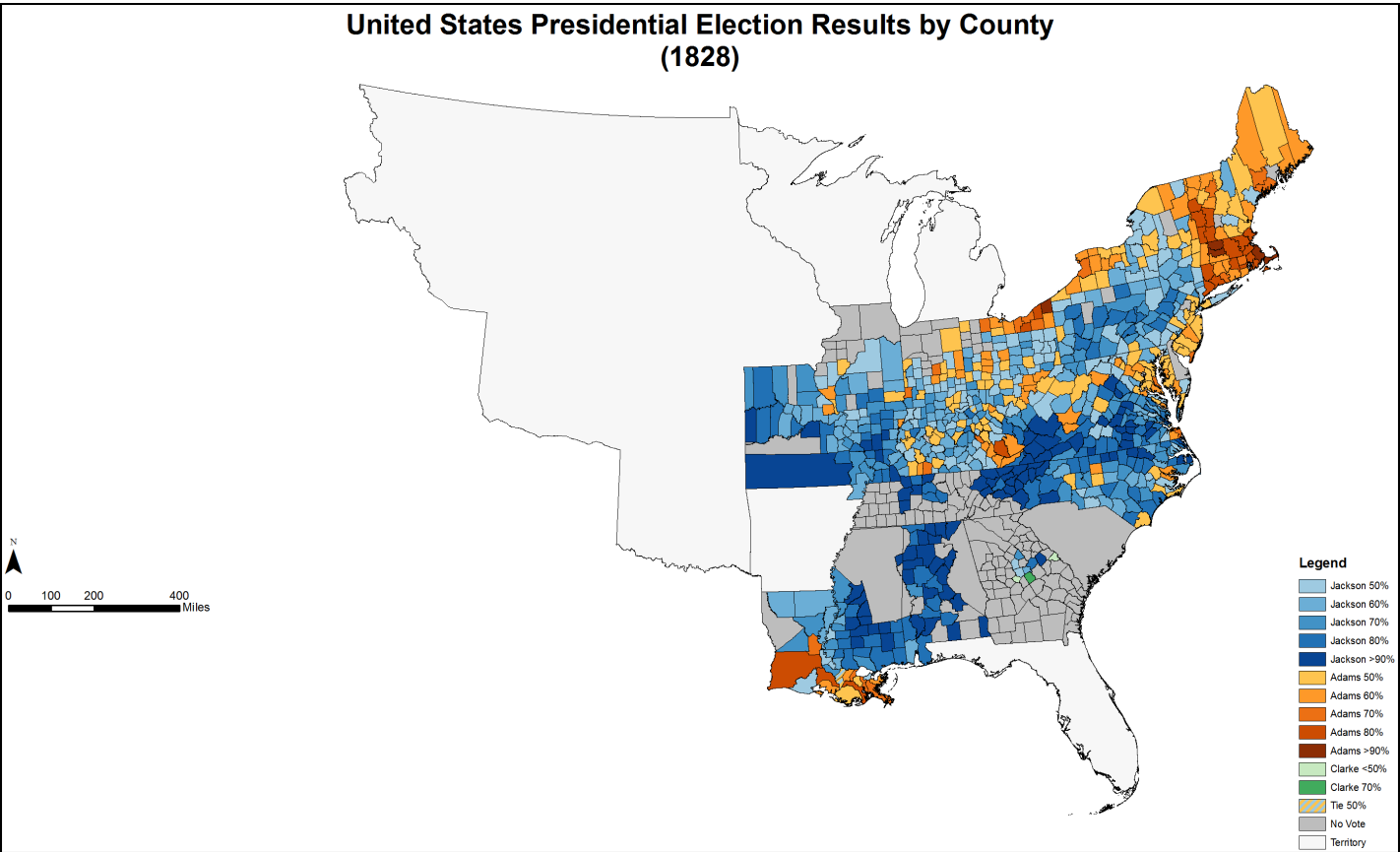
A Revolutionary Election

by [Ryan Monett](#) - Monday, January 21, 2019, 1:11 PM

The election of 1828 was certainly a revolt of the people.

The old Federalist (one might say) way of governing the people simply was not of satisfaction to Americans. It gave way to a two-party system (although changed and reformed from what it is now), this also represents a break from the norm of the times. Americans voted in a wide margin for a "Southerner" in large numbers even in the northern states. The combination of the Electoral College vote (178 to 83) and the Popular vote (56% to 43.6%) was revolutionary.

Think of it in today's terms; if a candidate won BOTH the Electoral College and the Popular Vote by huge margins, it would be a revolt against the system hands down. A man of less education and prestige broke barriers. The turnout was of much larger magnitude. Jackson even held not only the South and West, but East and some of New England:



One might argue statistics, as Richard McCormick does. However, imagine 20,000 Americans showing up in 1828 for the Inaugural Address in Washington. That kind of crowd, in a time without the ability to book a flight or rent a car, is without parallel.

The enthusiasm, margin of defeat, both electoral college and popular vote, plus an increase in voter turnout across vast sections of America was truly a Revolt.

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Sources:

Wikipedia: [Election of 1828](#)

Web: [US History](#).

Escobar, J. Lane Community College, 2019. Lecture.

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Re: A Revolutionary Election

by [Brayden Lane](#) - Friday, January 25, 2019, 12:29 AM

I agreed with the statement that the election was a revolt. The information you provided helps further me believe that it was. the results by itself and the picture shown shows me just how truly a revolt it was. Winning both the electoral college and popular vote shown tells me just how much of a turnaround it was. It shows just how much of the overall country Jackson had won, he didn't just win the north or south he has a little bit of all. I also like

the thought of putting it in todays terms. Today he would have different states all around. Along with that going outside just the political turnout, thousands of people came just to see the inauguration. today you can just fly to Washington D.C in a day, but back then it wasn't that simple it took days maybe weeks to go there. So overall I do believe it was a revolt.

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Re: Taking Sides - Election of 1828
by [Bailey Deverell](#) - Monday, January 21, 2019, 7:22 PM

As with many matters of disagreement, and especially regarding history, there may not be one definitive answer or point of view to have on the subject that was given. But despite that I find myself leaning toward a "no." While I do agree with Mr. Remini that if taken at its "base value" the nearly 800,000 more people that participated in the election of 1828 than that of 1824, coupled with the fact that Jackson swept the Electoral College, then that would certainly indicate that people were much more interested in Andrew Jackson as a candidate. However it is interesting to note, as Mr. McCormick has, that there was a decline in voter participation between 1828 and 1832, which certainly wouldn't indicate that people who could vote in the United States at the time (white men) became any more interested in politics after Jackson was elected. This in turn leans validity to the idea that there may not have been a "mighty democratic uprising" taking place when Jackson was elected, as Remini posits.

Sources

Remini, Robert V. *"Did the Election of 1828 Represent a Democratic Revolt of the People? Election of 1828"*.

McCormick, Richard P. *"Did the Election of 1828 Represent a Democratic Revolt of the People? New Perspectives on Jacksonian Politics"*.

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Re: Taking Sides - Election of 1828
by [James Croxton](#) - Friday, January 25, 2019, 4:30 PM

You make a good point with McCormick's note of a decline in voter participation.

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Remini YES or McCormick NO
by [Reed Battaglia](#) - Monday, January 21, 2019, 8:12 PM

When thinking about whether or not the election of 1828 represented a democratic revolt of the people, I agree with Remini. I think that it definitely represented a revolt. I agreed with Remini's stance more than that of McCormick's because Remini's use of his data was stronger than what I saw of McCormick's data. Remini's argument included specific and accurate dates, while McCormick used doubtful words such as "probably". Although both authors wrote two very compelling arguments, I agreed more with Remini.

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Why Statistics Really Matter: An Observation of Elections Around Andrew Jackson
by [Enya Smith](#) - Monday, January 21, 2019, 10:34 PM

While reading over the two documents discussing Andrew Jackson and his election year, my mind was racing with one question: why do historians consider Andrew Jackson's election one of the most influential and important elections in U.S. history? What is it about Andrew Jackson that made him the 'hero of the Democratic Party', where he is regarded as an idol? The man was hated so much [that his wife, Rachel, had a heart attack](#) following a stressful drop in the Jackson family's reputation. On top of that, according to Richard P. McCormick, voting was not necessarily special, with many states' voting numbers not necessarily going up by percentage at all (other than Connecticut) regarding the "remarkable feature of the vote in the Jackson elections [was] not its immensity but

rather its smallness." (Page 3, paragraph 2.) Yet, despite McCormick's throw down of statistics comparing the elections from 1918 to 1940, and despite a lack of evidence pointing to any *real* evidence of Jackson's election being anything special, Robert V. Remeni still tries to claim that "Jackson's appearance on the national scene in larger-than-life size was indeed fortuitous." (Page 1, Paragraph One), a clear bias that gets in the way of Jackson's realistically less-than-spectacular election event.

Now, Remeni isn't entirely wrong when he points out why some folks regard Jackson's election appeals to the working class. After all, page 1 gives us a whole detailed list of why people liked Jackson, but first and foremost, he represented the "Dream" that Americans of this time had: "Anyone, from anywhere, could be anything with enough hard work." Remeni mentions that one of the biggest draws of Jackson had to do with "the political system of the 1820's [failing] to respond to a changing society and that unless something were done right away it might collapse all together." (Page 1 Paragraph 4.) Jackson presented a new political party structure that represented not only the hard working farmers of the south, but also appealed to the ever growing middle class of the earth 1820s. As it turns out, people just want to be represented, and with enough word-of-mouth and an extremely dedicated staff of recruiters, Jackson was able to win the election.

But let's look at the facts (passed along to us thanks to McCormick) about election years around 1828 (the famous election year of Andrew Jackson), in which McCormick really answers the question: "Did the election of 1926 represents a Democratic revolt of the people?" The answer, overwhelmingly, is 'no', mostly because nothing *about* voting changed. Andrew Jackson's election was overwhelmingly press heavy, no doubt any different than our current president, but his election didn't really mean anything. According to McCormick's observations, population and new laws passed may have actually been the reason for the increase, not some charming president. ""In measuring the magnitude of the vote in the Jackson elections," He writes,"it is hardly significant to use the total popular vote cast throughout the nation." He goes on to compare several different election cases, all of which face different laws, restrictions, and regulations. McCormick suggests that Jackson's elections weren't really significant at all. He sites that 1940 was the true Democratic revolution, where votes, compared to other election years and in the context of laws: "Compared with the vast outpouring to the electorate in 1840, voter participation in the Jackson elections was unimpressive." (Page 4, Paragraph 4.) In the end, Jackson's fame was shortly lived, out shined by the 1940's elections and all elections that would come down the road. In the end, I side with McCormick, who was able to see the bigger picture, rather than the no-brainer situation Remeni discussed in terms of Jackson being loved by the working class.

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Re: Why Statistics Really Matter: An Observation of Elections Around Andrew Jackson

by [Christopher Bischoff](#) - Friday, January 25, 2019, 5:04 PM

I really enjoyed reading what you had to say about whether or not the Election of 1828 represented a Democratic Revolt of the People. I agree with you that it does not represent a Democratic Revolt of the People.

What intrigued me was when you asked the question "What is it about Andrew Jackson that made him the 'Hero of the Democratic Party', where he is regarded as an idol?" because we haven't read or talked a lot about why he was so revered in American society in this class.

Chapter 11 introduces him as "The wild card", "The scourge of the southern Indians and victor over the British at New Orleans." "A frontier nabob with a reputation for violence: he had killed a rival in a duel, had engaged in a shootout in a Nashville tavern..." and without much background information it is hard to understand how such a violent man could be revered or even respected.

Andrew Jackson's fame comes from the Battle of New Orleans (Murrin 271) but before I talk about that battle I will talk a little about what led up to that battle being significant.

In 1812 the United States attacked British Canada in which they a expected a quick victory, instead the war had disastrous results for the Americans (Murrin 268). The United States lost a couple military forts, and General William Hull surrendered his army of 2,000 to a smaller British force. You could say that the pride that America had in its military capability was hurt.

Later in the war Americans redeemed themselves when General William Henry Harrison defeated the British Fleet off of the coast of Put-in-Bay. Then the following spring General Andrew Jackson's Tennessee militia and Indian Allies attacked and slaughtered the Red Sticks. The Red Stick were a group of Indians notorious for the Massacre at For Mims, in which they killed at least 247 men, women and children (Murrin 270).

The entire time the British were fighting the Americans they had also been fighting against Napoleon. The British had been engaged in a two front war the entire time and could not devote all their resources to fighting one opponent. Despite the difficulty of fighting a two front war, the British had made a formidable opponent for the Americans. So when the British defeated Napoleon in April 1814 and turned their complete focus on the American War it was no wonder why the Americans were nervous about the outcome. The British raided Chesapeake Bay, marched on Washington D.C., chased the army and politicians out of town and burned down the Capitol building and the president’s mansion! The British turned back the invasion of Canada and had again blockaded the American Coast, but neither the Americans nor the British could take and hold the other’s territory (Murrin 270).

The last ditch effort of the British was to capture and hold New Orleans as a bargaining chip in peace negotiations. The British landed a large force eight miles south of New Orleans. Throughout late December and early January they had exchanged artillery barrages and probed American lines. Then on January 8th, unaware of the peace treaty that had been signed on December 24th, the British launched a frontal assault of 6,000 troops against General Andrew Jackson’s army of 4,000. Jackson’s army was made up of U.S. Regulars, Kentucky and Tennessee militiamen, clerks, workingmen, free blacks from the city, and about a thousand French pirates. The British attack ended in failure when around 2,000 British troops died, and only 70 Americans died. “The Battle of New Orleans had no effect on the outcome of the war or on the peace terms, but it salved the injured pride of Americans, fostered a potent and unifying patriotism, and made a national hero and a political power of Andrew Jackson.” (Murrin 274).

America had had a history of revering tough and competent military generals like the first President George Washington. So it was no wonder to me why Americans and more particularly the Southerners from Kentucky and Tennessee had so much respect for Andrew Jackson, which resulted in enormous support for him when he ran for president.

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Re: Why Statistics Really Matter: An Observation of Elections Around Andrew Jackson

by [Ryan Monett](#) - Saturday, January 26, 2019, 1:40 PM

First of all, Enya, this was one of the best posts I've ever seen! Great job.

One of the things that has occurred to me as I review and discuss is that a lot of my notions have altered. I do agree with some parts of your post, namely that nothing spectacular in voting changed (the process) until later in history. Only four states more than in 1824 allowed all white males to vote in the election of 1828, but what is of more importance is not just the percentages as you referenced. It was the combination of both the electoral college blowout AND the popular vote. Jackson leads in the final count by a decisive 12.34 percentage points over Adams. The electoral college recorded as follows: 178 for Jackson/Calhoun vs. 83 for Adams/Rush.

Combine with that the number of states carried: Jackson at 15, Adams at 9. This is not a HUGE difference, but when we review the history of the United States up until this point, all presidents came from either Virginia or Massachusettes (think Adams) until "Old Hickory" from Tennessee.

State	Electoral Votes	Winner
NH	8	Adams
VT	7	Adams
MA	15	Adams
RI	4	Adams
CT	8	Adams
NJ	8	Adams
DE	3	Adams
MD	6	Adams
PA	20	Jackson
NY	16	Jackson
OH	23	Jackson
IN	11	Jackson
MI	16	Jackson
IL	12	Jackson
WI	10	Jackson
MO	9	Jackson
IA	7	Jackson
KS	6	Jackson
NE	7	Jackson
ND	3	Jackson
SD	3	Jackson
TX	10	Jackson
LA	10	Jackson
MS	7	Jackson
AL	7	Jackson
GA	5	Jackson
FL	3	Jackson

Legend: ■ Jackson ■ Adams ■ Territories ■ Disputed Claims

Also of significance, the era (and election) of Jackson brought about the two-party system precedent we have lasting to today. Yes, the roles of the parties have shifted greatly (Democrats of the 1800's are NOT the Democrats of today, in fact quite opposite!). Aside from the numbers, let's remember that this was a battle for a

less educated, non-elite class vs. establishment candidate. That, along with the social fever, and victories in both the Electoral College, Popular Vote, and change to a two-party system make this still a revolt.

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Sources:

<http://www.let.rug.nl/usa/biographies/andrew-jackson/the-1828-presidential-election.php>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1828_United_States_presidential_election

Escobar, J. Lane Community College, Lecture. 2019.

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Election of 1828

by [Brayden Lane](#) - Monday, January 21, 2019, 10:38 PM

Yes I do believe it was a democratic revolt in the election of 1828. One quote that helped me believe even more was by Robert Remini in which he said "The notion of popular uprising in Jackson's favor was strengthened by the scenes that occurred during his inauguration as president." In this case Robert Remini points out that thousands of people traveled hundreds of miles just to see General Jackson's inauguration and acted as if they had been rescued from dreadful danger. To me that is a democratic revolt to see that especially in a time that wasn't a quick couple hour trip, and to see the large number of people there is truly spectacular.

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Re: Election of 1828

by [Enya Smith](#) - Wednesday, January 23, 2019, 12:57 PM

When comparing just 1824 and 1828, there certainly feels like there was some sort of uprising in Democracy, but I have speculation to believe that Andrew Jackson's election was anything special. In the 'yes' article written by McCormick, he mentions that there were changes made to the electoral process this year that made voting different. Perhaps a solid team of recruiters and a push towards working-men appealed to these folks, as a short lived hype?

For the sake of the discussion, let's use Remini's appeal theory: To the working class citizen's of the U.S., Andrew Jackson represented 'The Dream' -- "Jackson [was] a symbol of [the working class's] ambitions; they also saw him a living example of the self-made man." (Page 1, Paragraph 1 of "Election of 1828", Remini.) Throughout the article he discusses the extent in which the working class was willing to push for him to be elected. On top of that, Jackson pushed for state-control vs. government control, something a lot of the south was struggling with at the time.

I believe, from here, we need to decide: Do the elections *after* 1828 invalidate the social move in 1828 by slave states and middle class voters? Or can we eliminate all the statistics that McCormick provided to us to make Jackson's election look like a joke? After all, does breaking a world record in say, building heights, make the other previous record holders any less significant during their time at the top?

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Re: Election of 1828

by [Megan Wayne](#) - Thursday, January 24, 2019, 6:55 PM

I agree with you that there was nothing special about Andrew Jackson's election in terms of voting. Both Remini and McCormick both emphasize the hype of the election based on the number of votes, but I think the election sort of stood out in a different way. Presidency was still fairly new to people and when you think

about what a President should be, you tend to think of them having much more authority over you, serious, stern, and more. However, Jackson was much like the “common-man” and showed that he understood the various struggles and weaknesses that can come about. Someone in authority who wants to be viewed as a fellow citizen is very likable and this most likely played a factor within Jackson’s success. The amount of votes during this election has no connection with a revolt by the Democratic Party, I think. Also, Adam’s gave the American citizens reasons not to like his character by trying to tear down likable-Jackson’s marriage instead of talking about politics.

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Re: Election of 1828

by [Enya Smith](#) - Friday, January 25, 2019, 3:26 PM

It was very intriguing to me that you brought up Adams and his love for journalism affairs. I felt horrible when I read about what happened to Rachel Jackson.

[Briticanna](#) has a really great summary of the 1928 election, but most importantly of all, discusses something important: The reason that Andrew Jackson's election year felt like such a big deal not only had to do with the citizens of (most) states finally got access to voting, but reminds readers that a huge factor in the blow up with Andrew Jackson's election year was that he ran the year previous, tied with Adams, and ultimately lost out due to the House of Representatives deciding to go with Adams. In modern times, everyone enjoys a good rematch -- so why would that be any different then?

I do want to go on to discuss the fact that Jackson's loss in 1924 was a huge controversy. At the last minute, Henry Clay pulled his backing of Jackson so that John Quincy Adams could be president. This was an *outrage* to the Jackson supporters. "To most Jackson supporters, it looked as if congressional leaders had conspired to revive the caucus system, whereby Congress greatly influenced—if not determined—the selection of the President." Writes Margaret A. Hogan, a historian at the University of Virginia. ("[A Corrupt Bargain?](#)" [section, paragraph 1.](#)) As a democrat in this era, it may be why Jackson have had the backing of most of the south and why it felt like such a big deal, because it was in terms of putting the voting in the hands of the people *and* the anger of the people who felt betrayed in the election.

So while to us, it does not feel like a big deal (*especially* knowing the aftermath of the 1828 elections and all elections following that) to us as modern-day history students, I think we can all relate to the feeling of betrayal when political parties choose for us, not the other way around. (IE: GOP and Republican parties picking 'their favorites' and limiting the voting poll.)

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Re: Election of 1828

by [Megan Wayne](#) - Thursday, January 24, 2019, 7:50 PM

I disagree. The word “revolt” to me is too drastic of a word in this discussion. Andrew Jackson opened up a whole new world to American citizens by offering a different way of living within a new political party, which was favored especially by the “common-man.” Jackson had claimed victory because of his strong and relatable persona, as well as John Adam’s critical, negative point of view. Adam’s way of going about making people like Jackson less was a complete disaster and a great impact on his loss. In this 1828 election, I see no difference in today’s elections. The name calling and dragging of the opponents, people arriving to see the new elected President of their country... President Jackson’s inauguration was like any inauguration that has happened, including today’s! Back then, people had to travel super far (and not by plane) to see the President, so it makes sense that it was a long journey. And many people showed up because once again, it was a new way of thinking politically that was beneficial for countless of people that never thought politics would be on their side.

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Hardly a Democratic Revolt of the People

by [Christopher Bischoff](#) - Monday, January 21, 2019, 10:47 PM

No, I do not think the Election of 1828 represented a Democratic Revolt of the People. By definition "A democratic revolution is a political science term denoting a revolution in which a democracy is instituted, replacing a previous non-democratic government, or in which revolutionary change is brought about through democratic means, usually without violence." (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democratic_revolution). According to both of the essays and the textbook, none of the above choices occurred. Even though Andrew Jackson was considered a "wild card" (Murrin 374.), I don't think he was a revolutionary change to America or American politics. I think that the fact that the previous election was decided by the House of Representatives was a bigger motivating factor in people voting in the election of 1828, rather than the overall popularity of Jackson.

The election of 1828 was also a completely different climate than the previous election of 1824 in which there were four people running instead of only two. I would argue that having four people running for president is more of a revolutionary than only two. Switching back to the historically and traditional two party system hardly seems revolutionary to me.

Furthermore, the voting class at the time only consisted of White Males who were eligible to vote. Anything they decided did not encompass the will of the entirety of the People of the United States, and therefore could not be considered a Democratic Revolt of the People.

What was revolutionary about the election of 1828 was the way the politicians had perfected their techniques of winning elections, by using machines to manage the popular vote (Remini 1.) and by using political cartoons to defame their opponents like the cartoon that "displays Clay as a tailor in the act of sewing Andrew Jackson's mouth shut " (Murrin 376.) Both techniques are traditions carried on to this day.

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Re: Taking Sides - Election of 1828
by [Jesse Carr](#) - Monday, January 21, 2019, 11:21 PM

I agree with McCormicks article more because I think he's does abetter job of using statistics to support that the voter turnout for Jackson wasn't as big as everyone thought it was. On page 8 of the handout he's says "Of the six highest states in voter participation in 1828, three favored Adams and three were for Jackson, which could be interpreted to mean that the convinced Adams supporters turned out no less zealously for their man that did the ardent Jacksonian's." This statement made me fee like he was a lot more impartial when it came to evaluating Jacksons election. I thought that Mccormick used a lot more statistics in his article than Remini did. I felt like this made it a lot easier to compare Adams and Jackson's election.

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Re: Taking Sides - Election of 1828
by [Elijah Cowsill](#) - Monday, January 21, 2019, 11:27 PM

Eli Cowsill

Democratic uprising will have to wait.

After going over both texts I have come to agree with Richard P. McCormick's sentiments of there not being a "democratic uprising" during the election of 1828. Robert's paper put a lot of emphasis on the people's thoughts and feelings of Andrew Jackson. His charisma seemingly had no bounds, he was supposedly venerated by his followers as a living legend. Jackson's fame and popularity among the people cannot be denied, but it seems Jackson's sweep of the election may not be as much of a flood as previously thought. In Richard's paper I found there was more consistent statistical analysis of not only the presidential elections, but local and state polls as well. Richard's paper better explained how to accurately analyze polls at the time. By knowing the degree to which potential voters participated in elections before, during, and after the period of Jackson's presidency, you get a more precise perspective of the times

voter politics. Understanding the politics leading up to the election is just as key as understanding the election itself. Richard’s paper had more precise numbers on the voter turnout pre-1824 election, showing that the voter turnout was not only similar to 1828, but actually higher in most cases. This doesn’t bode well for the “democratic revolution” that was touted around Jackson’s election. I found that though both papers gave good perspectives on the time, Richard’s simply had more concrete substance. For this reason I agree with the idea that the democratic uprising did not really occur until later by 1840.

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After Viewing different focal points- Election of 1828

by [Trevor Mejia](#) - Thursday, January 24, 2019, 10:40 AM

After reading all the responses so far, my point of view stays the same. Andrew Jackson, I feel could have caused a Democratic revolt out of all of the United States presidents. Andrew Jackson was one of the most beloved Presidents at the time, after he became a national war hero after defeating the British in the Battle of New Orleans during the War of 1812. This I feel helped people truly support Jackson and also showed that Jackson wasn't like our previous presidents who were Scribes and Scholars, or High-class Generals. Unlike Jackson who left school at 13, Jackson was the Common man according to the people. He had a large party of support and his two terms as presidency I feel show his support he gained from the people. For he was the people’s hero and I feel his relationship with the public that Jackson held is what helped him take theses wins. And when it comes to Voter turnout t was Deffinatly close with about 150,000 more votes for the democratic party. In all i feel i wouldn't quite call this a revolt but i do believe Jackson won this election by being the people hero.

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Re: After Viewing different focal points- Election of 1828

by [Jesse Carr](#) - Thursday, January 24, 2019, 9:38 PM

I think you have a lot good points. Jackson was a man of the people based on how much people loved him it seems like he could have cause a revolt and a huge jump in voter turnout. I agree with you because it feels like there could have been a democratic revolt because of all his support from the people, but it wasn't a revolt because the numbers just don't lie. Remi even gives another example of another revolt by proving the Harrison and Van Burren election had a greater turn out " four out of five (78.0 per cent) of the adult white males cast their votes for Harrison or Van Burren. This new electorate was greater than that of the Jackson period by more than 40 per cent." (Page7)

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Re: Taking Sides - Election of 1828

by [Elijah Cowsill](#) - Friday, January 25, 2019, 2:52 PM

After reading through the responses on the forum I’ve come to still agree more with McCormick’s paper on the issue. That being said, there have been some good arguments to the contrary that I do agree with to some degree; though they wouldn’t be enough for me to consider a “democratic uprising”. The statistical analysis of the time show that there really wasn’t a huge bump in voter turnout in 1828 compared to earlier elections. Though the voter turnout doesn’t show a definitive rise at the time, it doesn’t mean Jackson’s 1828 election wasn’t an important one. I find that the supposed “democratic uprising” that Remini saw was was made out to be bigger than it was due to a few emergent issues. At the time we were seeing the return of the two-party system, which saw only two candidates; as opposed to the half dozen or so usual candidates. This causes a very clear dichotomy between the two political parties, constantly being further fueled by political propaganda and cartoons. On top of that, the election itself was notoriously scandalous. This political warfare and poisoning of the well would have caused the election to be in the forefront of the minds of the citizens of both parties. These and countless other issues and controversies blew the election out of proportion. Jackson’s 1828 election may have seemed larger than it was in reality as a byproduct of of the aforementioned events. When you see the statistics and numbers in McCormick’s paper the perspective drastically changes. When taken at face value, it is hard not to come to the conclusion that the true democratic uprising did not take place for another decade.

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Re: Taking Sides - Election of 1828

by [Megan Wayne](#) - Saturday, January 26, 2019, 3:04 PM

I agree. There necessarily a "revolt" or "rebellion," but instead a new idea and a new way for American citizens to live within a democratic nation. The election of 1828 was huge in history and is the source of the modern Democratic Party. The claimed "uprising" was only thought of that way because Remini made the voting numbers seem unbeatable. When in reality, the votes for the election of 1828 was not that big at all compared to almost all of the years in the future, especially 1840. I agree with you about how the layout of the election played a huge role in the citizens motivation to vote. The two-party system was newly introduced, where only two men are against each other rather than twelve, some being within the same party... So confusing! Also, there was more attention brought to this election because it was very dramatic on Adams's part. He made Jackson's marriage and private life one of the biggest topics throughout this election. All of these controversies and improvements in the election system sparked interest in the American people to be involved and vote!

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Whose essay was more analytical and logical to me?

by [Megan Wayne](#) - Thursday, January 24, 2019, 7:16 PM

I think Richard P. McCormick's essay was more analytical and logical than Robert V. Remini's essay. This is because in Remini's YES essay, he never considers the future elections. His main focus is simply and only the 1828 election. However, Remini talks about the differences between Jackson and Adam in a more detailed way than McCormick, and I think that their character and political differences played a big part in what created the outcome of the election. McCormick goes about his NO essay in a very logical way by comparing the percentages of voters in this 1828 election AND in elections that happened after! These statistics prove that Jackson's election did not make as big of an impact in history and was not a symbol of a Democratic party revolt. Simply, I think McCormick's response is more accurate than Remini's because he considers other elections. I do think there was a slight change in history though in this moment since it was an election with a new political party running against the National-Republican's.

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Yes, the 1828 Election set a precedent for two party elections.

by [Christopher Bischoff](#) - Saturday, January 26, 2019, 3:15 PM

After more consideration, I have come to the conclusion that the Election of 1828 was indeed revolutionary. There are many ways to look at the election, and looking at voter turnout and the number of popular/electoral votes is certainly one of them; from that perspective it may not be revolutionary.

However, if you look at the Election of 1828 from the perspective of a two-party two candidate system prevailing over a multiple party/ multiple candidate system it may be considered revolutionary. It was not the first election between two parties, but the work that Van Buren did highlighted and further established the precedent of the two party system.

I compared the results of earlier Presidential elections excluding George Washington's two terms as the book portrayed it in a way that made it seem like they weren't true competitions between candidates. "Almost by acclimation, George Washington became the first president under the constitution." (Murrin 237). So I compared the data between 1796 and 1824. Up until the Election of 1828 there was a there was a 50/50 split between 2 candidates compared to 3 or more candidates running for president (2=50% 3=12.5% 4= 37.5%).

In order to understand why Van Buren wanted a two-party system to prevail you have to look at his background and history. Van Buren built his career out of a commitment to Jeffersonian principles, and was known as the busiest and most astute of the Republicans at the time. Van Buren wrote " We must always have party distinctions, and the old ones are the best...If the old ones are suppressed, geographical differences founded on local instincts or what is worse, prejudices between free and slave holding states will inevitably take their place." So Van Buren worked hard to ensure a revival of the two party system. "Working with like minded politicians, Van Buren reconstructed the coalition of northern and southern agriculturalists that had elected Thomas Jefferson. The result was the Democratic Party and, ultimately, a national two-party system that persisted until the eve of the Civil War." (Remini 373)

Van Buren worked behind the scenes to ensure Andrew Jackson’s victory in the Election of 1828. Van Buren “stated that his concern for the political scene went further than a single election.” and he called for a “Revival of the two-party system”. What really stood out to me, and made me reflect on modern times is when Remini said that Van Buren “recognized that the political system of the 1820s had failed to respond to a changing society and that unless something was done it might collapse altogether.” So Van Buren vowed to “do everything possible to bring the entire Old Republican faction into the new coalition.” (Remini 1)

Van Buren’s work paid off and the election of 1828 was between two parties, the Jacksonian Democrats and the National Republicans. Van Buren and Andrew Jackson set the precedent for two-party two candidate elections. The reason I say that is because the data since then backs it up.

Number of candidates	Number of elections (1796-2016, 58 Elections total)	% of elections
2	30	
3	17	
4	8	
5	2	
6	0	
7	1	

I used the information from this source to construct my table. <https://www.270towin.com/historical-presidential-elections/timeline/>

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Final takeaway
by [Brayden Lane](#) - Saturday, January 26, 2019, 11:44 PM

Overall over the whole forum I come away with the thought that it was a revolt. I started with the thought that it was a complete revolt, between the voter turnout or the way the entire country had voted or the simple fact of how many people came to Jackson's inauguration. After watching the historian videos midway through the week I started to change my mind on the thought maybe it isn't as clear as I first thought. It may have been expansive but it also was an exclusive vote in the fact that all white men became able to vote but women and others could still not. After the different materials and video's that were provided and other students showed I still come away thinking that yes it was a revolt.

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