

The Age of Jackson



Andrew Jackson was the first person from the West to be elected President.

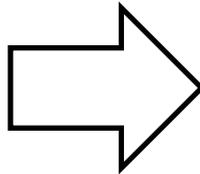
His presidency is considered a turning point in the progress of American democracy because it was marked by a growth in the involvement of the average citizen in public life. Jackson believed the nation had been corrupted by special interest groups. He made it his goal to fight against the wealthy, privileged bankers, investors, and merchants of the North and to stand up for farmers and Westward Expansion.

Cause

Effect

Corrupt Bargain

Jackson won the popular vote in the Election of 1824, but did not win a majority in the Electoral College. Henry Clay convinced the House of Reps. to elect John Q. Adams. Clay was rewarded with Secretary of State.

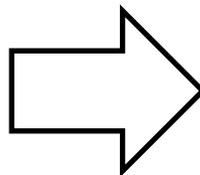


Election of 1828

Jackson's supporters, called the Democrats, were outraged by the Corrupt Bargain. They campaigned with rallies, parades. High voter participation in the next election got Jackson elected.

The Common Man

Jackson's supporters were "common people": laborers, farmers, and frontiersman. Jackson was not born into wealth, and he saw himself as a spokesperson of the average American citizen.

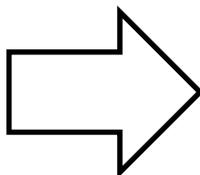


Expanded Suffrage

Before Jackson's presidency, most states required white adult males to own property in order to vote. Suffrage, or the right to vote, expanded when property qualifications were lifted.

Government Corruption

Jackson felt that if public officials were appointed and never rotated out, the gov. was more likely to become corrupt with power in the hands of a few permanent government officials.



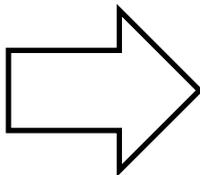
Spoils System

Supporters who helped in his election campaign were appointed to government posts. Jackson believed in rotating office-holders to give average citizens more experience in government, even if unqualified.

Cause

Indian Removal Act

To gain valuable land and resources, Jackson proposed the tribes living in the Southeast United States be relocated west of the Mississippi River. Most tribes signed new treaties and traded their land.



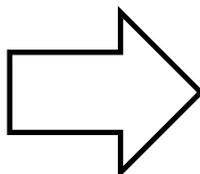
Effect

Cherokee Resistance

The Cherokee rejected Jackson's proposal. When the state of Georgia tried to remove them, they took their case to the U.S. Supreme Court. John Marshall ruled that the Cherokee were a nation with rights to their land.

Worcester v. Georgia

Georgia sued a white missionary, Worcester, who lived with the Cherokee. The Supreme Court freed him and declared that the states had no authority to deal with tribal nations. That power belongs to the federal gov.

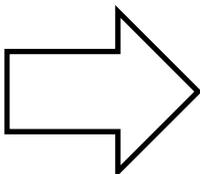


Trail of Tears

Jackson ignored Marshall's decisions regarding the rights of the Cherokee. Federal troops evicted 16,000 Cherokee to their new Indian territory (Oklahoma). 1/4 died on the 800-mile journey.

Tariff of Abominations

South Carolina was outraged by a high tariff. Vice President John C. Calhoun argued that based on states' rights, they had a right to nullify the tariff. S.C. threatened to secede if the fed. gov. tried to enforce it.

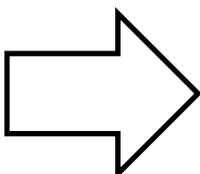


Nullification Crisis

Jackson called nullification treason and said states' rights are not supreme. Congress gave Jackson the authority to send troops to S.C. but also lowered the tariff. Under Jackson, the Union was preserved.

Bank Renewal

Jackson believed the national bank, which was privately owned, was unfair to farmers and prioritized the wealthy in the Northeast. Jackson vetoed the bill Congress passed to renew the bank's charter early.



Jackson Kills the Bank

Jackson was reelected and ordered the removal of all federal deposits from the National Bank. He had them placed in state banks. This action killed the National Bank before the charter expired.