



Elections of 1824 and 1828

The Era of Good Feelings had collapsed. Less than half the Democratic-Republican Party supported the party candidate William H. Crawford for president in 1824. Three other members of the party ran for the position: John Quincy Adams, Henry Clay and the outsider Andrew Jackson. The party elite favored strong federal involvement in the economic growth. Jackson favored local control and believed in the common man's ability to govern.

The campaigns filled with mud-slinging and smears to distort or fabricate lies. Jackson's wife was accused of being a bigamist and suffered other insults, which affected her health. Jackson would blame her death on certain party members. The aristocratic coastal candidates were not above making deals to influence election outcomes. Louisiana's electoral votes were given to Crawford by mischief of the Adams and Jackson people. Clay had won more popular votes than Crawford. Since no candidate had enough electoral votes to win the decision, the decision was sent to the House of Representatives.

Popular Vote	Electoral Vote	
John Quincy Adams	108,740	84
Andrew Jackson	153,544	99
Henry Clay	47,531	37
William H. Crawford	40,856	41

In January 1825, Adams and Clay had a meeting, which became known as the Corrupt Bargain. Clay's votes were given to Adams, who won the election of 1824. The Jackson side saw the election as illegitimate, setting the stage for the next election in 1828.

Andrew Jackson won, with 178 electoral votes to 83 for Adams. Adams carried the northeastern nine states, and Jackson carried the west and south. The elites began a campaign against Jackson as the leader of mob rule and referred to him as King Jackson. They began a rumor that he was semi-illiterate. They claimed he would approve documents with the first letters of Oll Korrek (OK). Later, historians of the New Deal would identify Martin van Buren, the Old Knickerbocker, as the origin of the letters.

Jackson was a national hero, a lawyer, a judge, a duelist and a slave owner, which were all used against him in the public press. He was accused of starting the spoils system that was already established in government. He was accused of hating Native Americans and being ruthless with the government power.

When South Carolina created the nullification crisis, Jackson threatened to send federal troops in and then reduced the tariff to settle the crisis. Floride Calhoun, a cabinet member's wife, told the president she would not sit at the same dinner table with Peggy Eaton. Jackson responded, "It looks like you will not be eating here much." Eaton was accused of bigamy and being a saloon woman by the members of the Petticoat Affair.

Jackson saw the Native American problem as three choices. First, the government could wipe them out—not going to happen. Second, they could assimilate—Georgia showed that would not work. Finally, remove them for protection. He passed the Indian Removal Act in 1830. History would blame Jackson for the Trail of Tears in 1838 that took place under Martin van Buren, the man who replaced Jackson as president.

Jackson had adopted an orphan Native American to raise as his own son, and that is not the action of an American Indian hater. Jackson saw that the franchise extended to more citizens. His period of history had the highest voter participation.