A New Era in Politics
Disputed Election of 1824

• There were four candidates of the old Republican party:
  – John Quincy Adams (NE)
  – Henry Clay (west)
  – Andrew Jackson (west)
  – William Crawford (south)
  • Crawford soon became too ill to campaign.
The Candidates

• **Adams** – son of John Adams
  – Had served as Secretary of State and helped end the War of 1812 (experienced)
  – Intelligent and had high morals
  – Uncomfortable campaigning among common people

• **Clay**
  – Skillful negotiator that worked out several important compromises as Speaker of the House

• **Jackson**
  – Military hero from the War of 1812
  – Was a landowner and slave owner, but grew up poor and was seen as “a man of the people”
The “Corrupt Bargain”

• No clear winner emerged from the election of 1824
• Jackson won the popular vote, but did NOT win the majority of electoral votes
• As a result, the House of Representatives chose the winner
  – B/c he finished third, Clay was out and he urged members to vote for Adams.
  – As a thank you, Adams made Clay Secretary of State
  – Jackson claimed corruption, but what was done is what the Constitution stated
An Unpopular President

• Adams favored **economic growth**
  – He wanted internal improvements such as roads
  – He also encouraged projects that promoted the arts and sciences
    • He wanted a national university and an observatory

• However, most Americans objected to spending money on such programs because they thought it gave the government too much power
A Bitter Campaign

• The Election of 1828 put Adams against Andrew Jackson once again

• Instead of focusing on issues, the campaign focused on personality
  – Jackson charged that Adams was stuck up because he was a member of the upper class
  – Supporters of Adams called Jackson a “military chieftain” claiming he would become a dictator like Napoleon
The Political Parties

• However, there were some political tensions
  – Adams supporters were known as Whigs.
    • Whigs wanted the federal government to help the economy
    • Tended to be eastern businesspeople, some southern planters, and former Federalists
  – Jackson’s supporters were known as Democrats.
    • Democrats did not think the government needed to spur the economy
    • Tended to be frontier farmers (westerners) and workers in eastern cities
Jacksonian Democracy

• Jackson won the election easily
  – However, his politics focused mostly on farmers in the west and south

• His election showed the growth of democracy (spread of power to more people)

• aclifford.wikispaces.com/file/view/Jacksonian+Democracy.ppt
Andrew Jackson

The Jacksonian Era
(1824-1840)
Jackson as President (1829-1837)

- More democratic
- Common Man’s president
- Self-educated
- War of 1812 hero – Battle of New Orleans
- Reputation as an Indian fighter and frontier man
Jacksonian Democracy

- Refers not only to Andrew Jackson, but to the time period in which more people became involved in politics, not just the wealthy, well-educated citizens.
Opening Up of Politics

- White men 21 & over could vote (states dropped the property ownership requirement)

- Nominating Convention
  - Delegates choose the party’s candidates instead of caucuses
Jackson’s Presidency

Spoils System

- Appointing supporters to government job
Jackson’s Presidency

- Nullification Crisis
  - Disagreement over the 1830 Tariff between the North and South
  - Jackson stood firm against South Carolina
  - Crisis passed but tensions remained between the N & S
Jackson’s Presidency

- Indian Removal Act (1830)
  - Forced removal of Indians from the southeastern U.S.
  - Trail of Tears
  - Jackson went against the Supreme Court