

## Jacksonian Era (Democracy) vs. President Jackson

The key to understanding this is to keep the Jacksonian Era separate from President Jackson's two terms. In other words, Jacksonian Democracy is not just dealing with Jackson's two terms in office it is the prevailing view of government during this time period.

**Jacksonian Era or Democracy (1824-1848)**----this refers to the general political beliefs of this entire time period (regardless of the President or political party)

**President Jackson (1829-1837)**----this refers to Jackson's time as President and obviously includes the general political beliefs of the Jacksonian Era but also includes Jackson's actions as President.

### **Jacksonian Era or Democracy (major characteristics)----1824-1848**

- Many interpretations of Jacksonian Democracy (some see it as democracy gone wild, others see it as defending/supporting the common man)
- New version of Democracy
  - extension of democracy (socially, politically and economically) to the common man--more perceived power will lead to greater participation
  - encourages voting for all citizens (white males---removal of property qualifications) which results in very high turnout at the polls  
1824---25%  
1828---50%  
1840---80%
- Great expansion of Executive branch power and influence at the expense of the Legislative branch
- 5 main guiding principles found during this entire period
  1. strict construction (constitution)
  2. laissez-faire approach to the economy
  3. Patronage---spoils system
  4. Manifest Destiny
  5. Expanded Suffrage (white males only)
- Changing politics in the Jacksonian Era
  - Emergence (permanent) of the two party system
  - Modern political tactics utilized especially during campaigns (1840---1<sup>st</sup> modern election in the history of the country)
    - Mudslinging, party conventions, parades, written party platforms, banners, meet and greet sessions, buttons, slogans (i.e. Tippecanoe and Tyler Too)

### **Jeffersonian vs. Jacksonian Democracy**

Jacksonian Democracy is, in part, an evolution of Jeffersonian Democracy but....

**Jeffersonian Democracy** believed that capable, well educated leaders should govern in the people's interest. **Jacksonian Democracy** believed that the PEOPLE should manage government affairs.

**Jeffersonian Democracy** reflected a chiefly agricultural society. **Jacksonian Democracy** reflected an agricultural AND rising industrial society

**Jeffersonian Democracy** limited democracy to chiefly its political aspects. **Jacksonian Democracy** expanded democracy beyond political aspects to include social and economic factors.