

# A New Era In Politics

## The Election of 1824

There were four candidates in this election – John Quincy Adams (New England), Henry Clay, Andrew Jackson (West), and William Crawford (South). Andrew Jackson received the most popular votes in the 1824 election but not a majority of the electoral votes. The election would be decided by the House of Representatives (see your map). Henry Clay was Speaker of the House and used his influence to urge members to vote for Adams.

When John Quincy Adams became president, he named Clay as his Secretary of State. Jackson and his friends accused them of making a “Corrupt Bargain” and were furious.

## Unpopular President

Adams was a very unpopular President. He thought that the federal government should promote economic growth (similar to Alexander Hamilton). He called for internal improvements, promoted the arts and sciences, suggested building a national university and observatory, etc. But most Americans opposed to spending money this way in fear that the federal government would become too powerful. Congress approved money for roads and canals but nothing else.

## The Election of 1828

In 1828, John Q. Adams faced Andrew Jackson for the Presidency. It was very bitter. Jackson easily won the election – the common people (farmers in the West and South and city workers in the East) felt they were important.

## Jacksonian Democracy

Jackson represented the growing spirit of Democracy and the spread of political power to the people. He was the first westerner to occupy the White House. The common man followed him as he traveled to his inauguration and cheered him on.

## How did the Modern Democratic Party Begin?

The disappearance of the Federalist Party had ended party differences. In the 1830s, however, parties grew again out of the conflict between John Quincy Adams and Andrew Jackson.

Adams – Supporters of national growth called themselves National Republicans. In 1834 they began calling themselves **Whigs**. Whigs wanted the Federal Government to spur the economy. Included eastern business people, southern planters, and former Federalists.

Jackson – Supporters called themselves Democrats. Today’s Democratic Party traces its roots to Andrew Jackson’s time. Included frontier farmers and workers in Eastern cities.

*The two new political parties developed more democratic ways to choose candidates for President. Each party began to hold a **nominating convention** where delegates from all the states chose the party’s candidate. This also encouraged citizen participation in elections.*