



# Expanding American Democracy

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The Election of 1824



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- It was one of the most interesting elections in American history. At the time, there was just a single political party, the Democratic-Republicans.
- Four people vied for the presidency, John Quincy Adams (Secretary of State), William Crawford (Secretary of the Treasury), Henry Clay (Speaker of the House of Representatives), and Andrew Jackson (a military commander and the Hero of the Battle of New Orleans).
- After the voting, none of the candidates received a majority of the electoral votes. The vote totals were as follows:

Andrew Jackson- 99

John Quincy Adams- 84

William Crawford- 41

Henry Clay- 37

- Since none of the candidates received a majority, the election then would have to be decided in the House of Representatives and only the top three candidates could be considered.

# A Corrupt Bargain?

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- With the Election of 1824, now being decided in the House of Representatives and with William Crawford (in third place) having suffered a stroke, the fourth place finisher, Henry Clay of Kentucky, as Speaker of the House of Representatives now wielded tremendous influence.
- Clay threw his support to the candidacy of John Quincy Adams, in effect, making him the next President of the United States.
- Once in office, Adams would appoint Clay as his Secretary of State, which had been a stepping stone position to become the President of the United States.
- Both Jackson and his supporters were furious– claiming that a “Corrupt Bargain” to keep the famed military leader out of the White House was instituted between Clay and Adams.
- John Quincy Adams became an unpopular President who failed to get many of his campaign initiatives passed– mainly due to the supporters of Jackson who were looking forward to the next election and their chance to even the score.

# Universal White Male Suffrage

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- By the time of the Election of 1828, a new law which gave all white men the right to vote regardless of whether or not they were property owners had taken effect.
- With his immense personal popularity and a new voting law in effect, Andrew Jackson, easily became the President of the United States after emerging victorious in the Election of 1828.