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Source: Thomas Bailey and David Kennedy, *The American Pageant*, 1994.

...(T)he concept of a political revolution in 1828 is not completely farfetched. The increased turnout of voters proved that the common people, especially in the universal-white-manhood suffrage states, now had the vote and the will to use it for their ends....

So in a broader sense the election was a “revolution” comparable to that of 1800. It was a peaceful revolution, achieved by ballots instead of bullets.... “Shall the people rule?” cried the Jacksonians. The answering roar seemed to say, “The people shall rule!” In the struggle between the poorer masses and the entrenched classes, the homespun folk scored a resounding triumph, befuddling some members of the elite establishment. “I never saw anything like it,” a puzzled Daniel Webster mused about Jackson’s inaugural. “Persons have come five hundred miles to see General Jackson, and they really think that the country is rescued from some dreadful danger.”

America hitherto had been ruled by an elite of brains and wealth, whether aristocratic Federalist shippers or aristocratic Jeffersonian planters. Jackson’s victory accelerated the transfer of national power from the country house to the farmhouse, from the East to the West, from the snobs to the mobs. If Jefferson had been the hero of the gentleman farmer, Jackson was the hero of the dirt farmer. The plowholders were now ready to take over the government: their government.