

Who Was Andrew Jackson

Andrew Jackson

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Andrew Jackson (March 15, 1767 – June 8, 1845) was the seventh president of the United States from 1829 to 1837. He rose to fame as a U.S. Army general and served in both houses of the U.S. Congress. His political philosophy, which dominated his presidency, became the basis for the rise of Jacksonian democracy. Jackson's legacy is controversial: he has been praised as an advocate for working Americans and preserving the union of states, and criticized for his racist policies, particularly towards Native Americans.

Jackson was born in the colonial Carolinas before the American Revolutionary War. He became a frontier lawyer and married Rachel Donelson Robards. He briefly served in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, representing Tennessee. After resigning, he served as a justice on the Tennessee Superior Court from 1798 until 1804. Jackson purchased a plantation later known as the Hermitage, becoming a wealthy planter who profited off the forced labor of hundreds of enslaved African Americans during his lifetime. In 1801, he was appointed colonel of the Tennessee militia and was elected its commander. He led troops during the Creek War of 1813–1814, winning the Battle of Horseshoe Bend and negotiating the Treaty of Fort Jackson that required the indigenous Creek population to surrender vast tracts of present-day Alabama and Georgia. In the concurrent war against the British, Jackson's victory at the Battle of New Orleans in 1815 made him a national hero. He later commanded U.S. forces in the First Seminole War, which led to the annexation of Florida from Spain. Jackson briefly served as Florida's first territorial governor before returning to the Senate. He ran for president in 1824. He won a plurality of the popular and electoral vote, but no candidate won the electoral majority. With the help of Henry Clay, the House of Representatives elected John Quincy Adams as president. Jackson's supporters alleged that there was a "corrupt bargain" between Adams and Clay (who joined Adams' cabinet) and began creating a new political coalition that became the Democratic Party in the 1830s.

Jackson ran again in 1828, defeating Adams in a landslide despite issues such as his slave trading and his "irregular" marriage. In 1830, he signed the Indian Removal Act. This act, which has been described as ethnic cleansing, displaced tens of thousands of Native Americans from their ancestral homelands east of the Mississippi and resulted in thousands of deaths, in what has become known as the Trail of Tears. Jackson faced a challenge to the integrity of the federal union when South Carolina threatened to nullify a high protective tariff set by the federal government. He threatened the use of military force to enforce the tariff, but the crisis was defused when it was amended. In 1832, he vetoed a bill by Congress to reauthorize the Second Bank of the United States, arguing that it was a corrupt institution. After a lengthy struggle, the Bank was dismantled. In 1835, Jackson became the only president to pay off the national debt. After leaving office, Jackson supported the presidencies of Martin Van Buren and James K. Polk, as well as the annexation of Texas.

Contemporary opinions about Jackson are often polarized. Supporters characterize him as a defender of democracy and the U.S. Constitution, while critics point to his reputation as a demagogue who ignored the law when it suited him. Scholarly rankings of U.S. presidents historically rated Jackson's presidency as above average. Since the late 20th century, his reputation declined, and in the 21st century his placement in rankings of presidents fell.

Andrew Jackson Jr.

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Andrew Jackson Jr. (December 4, 1808 – April 17, 1865) was the son of seventh U.S. president Andrew Jackson. Andrew Jackson Jr., a biological child of Rachel Jackson's brother Severn Donelson and Elizabeth Rucker, was the one child among the more than three dozen wards of Andrew Jackson that they considered to be their own child. As presented in an 1878 newspaper feature on the surviving Jackson descendants still resident at the Hermitage, "In after years Gen. Jackson had other nephews, to whom he gave a hearty welcome into his home, but to none other did he ever give his name or make heir to his fortune. One of these other nephews was the distinguished Andrew Jackson Donelson, who ran for Vice President on the Fillmore ticket, and who was always associated with the General, but who was not the bona fide adopted son, as many suppose." According to historian Robert V. Remini, Andrew Jackson Jr. was "irresponsible and ambitionless, a considerable disappointment to his father." Junior was sued 13 times in the last seven years of Andrew Jackson's life. When former president Jackson died in 1845, Junior inherited real and enslaved human property valued at roughly \$150,000. Within a decade, he had turned this fortune into roughly \$100,000 in debt. Jackson Jr. died of tetanus in 1865 after he accidentally shot himself while hunting.

Presidency of Andrew Jackson

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Andrew Jackson was the seventh president of the United States from March 4, 1829, to March 4, 1837. Jackson took office after defeating John Quincy Adams, the incumbent president, in the bitterly contested 1828 presidential election. During the 1828 presidential campaign, Jackson founded the political force that coalesced into the Democratic Party during Jackson's presidency. Jackson won re-election in 1832, defeating National Republican candidate Henry Clay by a wide margin. He was succeeded by his hand-picked successor and vice president, Martin Van Buren, who won the 1836 presidential election.

Jackson's presidency saw several important developments in domestic policy. A strong supporter of the removal of Native American tribes from U.S. territory east of the Mississippi River, Jackson began the process of forced relocation known as the "Trail of Tears". He instituted the spoils system for federal government positions, using his patronage powers to build a powerful and united Democratic Party. In response to the nullification crisis, Jackson threatened to send federal soldiers into South Carolina, but the crisis was defused by the passage of the Tariff of 1833. He engaged in a long struggle with the Second Bank of the United States, which he viewed as an anti-democratic bastion of elitism. Jackson emerged triumphant in the "Bank War" and the federal charter of the Second Bank of the United States expired in 1836. The destruction of the bank and Jackson's hard money policies would contribute to the Panic of 1837. Foreign affairs were less eventful than domestic affairs during Jackson's presidency, but Jackson pursued numerous commercial treaties with foreign powers and recognized the independence of the Republic of Texas.

Jackson was the most influential and controversial political figure of the 1830s, and his two terms as president set the tone for the quarter-century era of American public discourse known as the Jacksonian Era. Historian James Sellers has stated that "Andrew Jackson's masterful personality was enough by itself to make him one of the most controversial figures ever to stride across the American stage". His actions encouraged his political opponents to coalesce into the Whig Party, which advocated for a stronger federal role in shaping the economy through centralized banking, protective tariffs on manufactured imports, and federally funded infrastructure like canals and harbors. Of all presidential reputations, Jackson's is perhaps the most difficult to summarize or explain. A generation after his presidency, biographer James Parton found his reputation a mass of contradictions: "he was dictator or democrat, ignoramus or genius, Satan or saint". Thirteen polls of historians and political scientists taken between 1948 and 2009 ranked Jackson always in or near the top ten presidents, although more recent polls have tended to place him in the teens or lower.

Rachel Jackson

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Rachel Jackson (née Donelson; June 15, 1767 – December 22, 1828) was the wife of Andrew Jackson, the seventh president of the United States. She lived with him at their home at the Hermitage, where she died just days after his election and before his inauguration in 1829—therefore she never served as first lady, a role assumed by her niece, Emily Donelson.

Rachel Jackson was married at first to Lewis Robards in Nashville. In about 1791, she eloped with Andrew Jackson, believing that Robards had secured the couple a divorce. It was later revealed that he had not, meaning that her marriage to Jackson was bigamous. They were forced to remarry in 1794 after the divorce had been finalized.

She had a close relationship with her husband. She was usually anxious while he was away tending to military or political affairs. A Presbyterian, Rachel was noted for her deep religious piety. During the deeply personal prelude to the 1828 election, she was the subject of extremely negative attacks from the supporters of Andrew Jackson's opponent, John Quincy Adams. Jackson believed that these attacks had hastened her death, and thus blamed his political enemies.

Andrew Jackson and slavery

Andrew Jackson, the seventh U.S. president, was a slave owner and slave trader who demonstrated a lifelong passion for the legal ownership and exploitation

Andrew Jackson, the seventh U.S. president, was a slave owner and slave trader who demonstrated a lifelong passion for the legal ownership and exploitation of enslaved black Americans. Unlike previous slaveowning presidents Thomas Jefferson and George Washington, Jackson "never questioned the morality of slavery." Existing records show that Jackson and his immediate heirs owned 325 enslaved people between 1788 and 1865. Jackson personally owned 95 people when he was first sworn in as U.S. president and 150 at the time of his death in 1845. Only 0.1% of southern slaveowner families owned 100 or more slaves at the time of the American Civil War.

Charley (Andrew Jackson captive)

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Charley (fl. February–April 1814) was a Native American baby or child given by Tuskena Hutka of Talladega, also known as James Fife, a White Stick Creek interpreter and member of the Creek National Council, to Andrew Jackson during the Red Stick War. Jackson wrote home on February 21, 1814, from Fort Strother:

...say to my little darling Andrew, that his sweet papa will be home shortly, and that he sends him three sweet kisses—I have not heard whether Genl Coffee has taken on to him little Lyncoya—I have got another Pett-given to me by the chief Jame Fife, that I intend for my other little Andrew [Jackson] Donelson and if I can a third I will give it to little Andrew [Jackson] Hutchings...

Charley was sent to the Hermitage to live and was intended for as a companion for Donelson, who was then about 12 or 13 years old. Rachel Jackson wrote Andrew Jackson on April 7, 1814, "...your Little Andrew is well Is much pleased with his Charley—I think him a fine Boy indeed." The next day, April 8, 1814, Andrew Jackson Jr., who was about five years old, wrote the general asking about the impending arrival of Lyncoya and offering a critique of his companion: "...I like Charly but he will not mind me."

Charley's fate is unknown but he most likely died young. One scholar speculates that he was an older child and that he simply fled from Hermitage when the opportunity presented itself. Another theory is that he survived and was integrated into the Hermitage work force as a manager of Jackson's stable, as Jackson wrote to Francis P. Blair in 1842, "Under their late superintendent, my faithful Charly, [the horses] are doing well."

Scholars have speculated on Jackson's martial and psychological motives from bringing Indigenous children into his home, but the only testimony in his letters suggests that he identified with their orphanhood, as he had lost his entire surviving family (mother and two brothers) during the American Revolutionary War. Historian Lorman Ratner described Jackson as a boy without a father, and a man without sons, which may have motivated him to accept guardianship of at least 32 young people who lived with him at various times or who he assisted legally, financially, or socially. According to historian Christina Snyder:

Jackson clearly intended the child, as with Lyncoya and Andrew Jr., to endear him to his ward. The value of sending Indian children to his white male dependents lay in the assumption that both Jackson and the young white men within his household shared masculine prerogatives over people who were not unquestionably 'white'...[this] was part of a broader impulse on the part of the Southern general to inculcate in his son and his wards the sense that they had the right to consume the bodies and resources of others, in this case Indian people and their material possessions, to satisfy their own wishes."

Around the time Charley was being transported to the Hermitage, Jackson made a speech at the Horseshoe Bend battlefield expressing his feelings about the fate of the Muscogee, stating, "The fiends of the Tallapoosa will no longer murder our Women and Children, or disturb the quiet of our borders...They have disappeared from the face of the Earth...How lamentable it is that the path to peace should lead through blood, and over the carcasses of the slain!! But it is in the dispensation of that providence, which inflicts partial evil to produce general good."

List of violent incidents involving Andrew Jackson

Andrew Jackson, later seventh president of the United States, was involved in a series of altercations in his personal and professional life. Jackson

Andrew Jackson, later seventh president of the United States, was involved in a series of altercations in his personal and professional life. Jackson killed a man, was shot in a duel (in 1806), was shot in a tavern brawl (in 1813), and was charged, in separate incidents, with assault and battery (convicted), and assault with intent to kill (acquitted). In multiple incidents over several decades Jackson and his underlings reportedly brandished or deployed a wide array of weapons against their opponents, including horsewhips, knives secreted in canes, canes used as melee weapons, clubs, axes, pistols, and rifles.

Wards of Andrew Jackson

whom Andrew Jackson, seventh U.S. president, acted as pater familias or served as a guardian, legal or otherwise. Andrew and Rachel Donelson Jackson had

This is a list of people for whom Andrew Jackson, seventh U.S. president, acted as pater familias or served as a guardian, legal or otherwise. Andrew and Rachel Donelson Jackson had no biological children together. As Tennessee history writer Stanley Horn put it in 1938, "Jackson's friends had a habit of dying, and leaving their orphans to his care." As Jackson biographer Robert V. Remini wrote in 1977, "The list of Jackson's wards is almost endless...new names turn up with fresh examination." There was no comprehensive index of the wards until Rachel Meredith's 2013 master's thesis. Historian Harriet Chappell Owsley commented in 1982, "It would make an interesting study to follow each of Jackson's wards by means of their correspondence with him but this would require a book instead of an article as the correspondence is voluminous." (Owsley was writing about A. J. Donelson, who has since been the subject of a full-length book; Donelson was Jackson's private secretary during his presidency and was himself a vice-presidential

candidate on the Know-Nothing ticket in 1856.) Part of the reason the wards are such a presence in his correspondence, according to historian Mark R. Cheatham, is that "Much of Jackson's adult life was spent managing his nephews and adopted son."

Connections to blood relatives, extended periodically by marriage, were source of political and social power in the antebellum U.S. south. Jackson, through his kinship network, including the nephews and wards, led one of the major families competing for control over Tennessee politics in the 1810s through the 1830s. According to a study of Irish-American traders (like Jackson) working in colonial-era Mississippi River valley (like Jackson), "...after this first wave of migrants established themselves along the Gulf Coast, it was not uncommon for them to send for extended kin to join their firms. Nephews...who would not have inherited family estates...were a specific target of such encouragement." To some extent Jackson created a household out of "self-selected kin...young men whom Jackson collected...whom he put to work promoting his and their careers at once."

Some of Jackson's wards would have lived at Hunter's Hill, and others would have grown up at what is now called the "Log Hermitage," which was originally a two-story blockhouse and was later converted for use as a slave cabin.

Theodore (Andrew Jackson captive)

Theodore (c. 1813 – before March 1814) was a baby or child who was "adopted" by Andrew Jackson during the early 1810s and sent to live at the Hermitage

Theodore (c. 1813 – before March 1814) was a baby or child who was "adopted" by Andrew Jackson during the early 1810s and sent to live at the Hermitage. He is presumed to have been of Muscogee heritage, but his family background and tribal affiliation are unclear. Andrew Jackson wrote to his wife Rachel on October 13, 1813, "Say to my little Andrew I have got a little Indian for him—which I will bring him when I return."

Theodore was one of the prisoners taken from the tribal town of Littafuchee, near Big Canoe Creek, in present-day St. Clair County, Alabama. According to one researcher, "Jackson referred to Theodore as 'Indian' but he could have belonged to any nation. Some historians have posited that Theodore was an enslaved African-American...Since chiefs often gave children whom they had obtained from raids, or through captive-raiding and adoption practices, Theodore could have belonged to any nearby native nation and may have had some white or African-American ancestry." The headman of Littafuchee, Bob Cataula, had surrendered the entire town, including an enslaved Choctaw woman and her children, and an enslaved black named Cato. The prisoners, consisting of 27 women and children, and nine men, were sent to Huntsville and Nashville. The 36 prisoners sent away arrived as 35, because infant Theodore was "separated from his mother and sent to Jackson's home." Theodore was described as a "pet" or playmate for Andrew Jackson Jr., who was then about five years old. When Lyncoya, another Muscogee war orphan, was sent north to Nashville, Jackson described him as "about the size of Theodore and much like him."

Theodore died in the late winter or early spring of 1814. Jackson wrote his wife from Fort Strother on March 4, 1814, "...I am sorry, that little theodore is no more, I regret it on Andrew account, I expect he lamented his loss-to amuse him, and to make him forget his loss, I have asked Col Hays to carry Lyncoya to him..." Historian Evan Nooe wrote of Theodore's successor, Lyncoya, who survived until he was 16, "[He] lived a short life under the oversight of his parents' killers."

According to one historian, Jackson Jr. "threw a fit when his own playmate died and coveted Charley," who was another Indigenous captive and the assigned playmate of Andrew Jackson Donelson. Lyncoya Jackson, who was captured at the Battle of Tallushatchee ("all his family is destroyed") arrived at the Hermitage in May 1814.

Portraits of Andrew Jackson

portraits of Andrew Jackson, who served as the seventh president of the United States from 1829 to 1837. All surviving images of Andrew Jackson were created

This is a list of portraits of Andrew Jackson, who served as the seventh president of the United States from 1829 to 1837. All surviving images of Andrew Jackson were created after the Battle of New Orleans in 1815. Born with hair variously described as reddish or sandy, Jackson was 47 years old, middle-aged and with fully "iron-gray" hair, when he came to national renown.

Historians believe that Jackson sat for about 35 portraits, and that there are a total of about 200 paintings of Jackson done in oils or watercolor, many created posthumously and/or copied from existing images. His nephew-in-law Ralph Earl was considered the "court painter" of the Andrew Jackson administration, producing "numerous paintings of Jackson, some of distinction, but many repetitious in nature and mediocre in quality, which were political icons rather than art." John James Audubon, who lived in the lower Mississippi River valley in the early 1820s, saw one Earl portrait of Jackson that had been purchased by the city of New Orleans, about which he wrote in his journal, "Great God forgive Me if my judgment is Erroneous, I Never Saw A Worse painted Sign in the streets of Paris." On the other side of the coin, Jacksonians held "the firm opinion that Earl's canvasses reflect the true likeness and character of the General better than his more celebrated contemporaries. After all, they reason, Earl had the advantage of many years of intimate daily association with his subject."

Jackson also sat for photographers in the 1840s, resulting in four surviving daguerreotypes of him in old age, when he was constantly ill and toothless (physically if not behaviorally). The portrait on the US\$20 bill created by the U.S. Treasury department's Bureau of Engraving and Printing in the 1920s is based on Thomas Sully's posthumous paintings of Jackson based on earlier sketches drawn from life, such as the 1845 portrait now housed in the National Gallery of Art. Sully depicted Jackson with somewhat wavy hair, but Jackson's hair was usually described as "stiff and wiry" or "bristling."

Biographer Andrew Burstein divided the portraits of Jackson into three general categories of depiction: gentleman, enigma, and hero, creating a confusion such that "Jackson's elusiveness to the modern mind is well-symbolized" by the variation. Another writer commented: "after viewing this extensive Jacksonian gallery, one is prompted to exclaim: 'Will the real Andrew Jackson please stand up!'"

Color key: Pre- and post-presidential portraits Presidential-era portraits

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