

#flo #hw

1 | Andrew Jackson and the Age of Democratic Revolution

the article.

- Refers to Jackson as - irascible - distracted
- used to be a boy soldier during American Rev
 - captured by the British!
 - got slashed in the head by the soldier, very proud of it because it represents his patriotism
- almost got impeached, Senate was not happy
- was very polarizing: love and hatred, no middle ground! Hmm..
- and modern historians don't like him! He is no longer a hero..?
 - ignorant, violent, suppressed abolitionists, ruined economy, etc
- pos: Jackson as the enemy of a soulless market Rev that widened the US econ and social life inequality
- neg: aggressive self-promoting "laissez-faire" capitalism
 - dominates the country during the Gilded Age
 - also, avatar of racism
- **this clash in interpretations is confusing!**
 - stems from long-term changes in basic ideas and ideals
 - "basic American vocab" is very diff now than it was in the 1830s
- transposing political labels onto the old people is a bad idea!
 - calls it, anachronistic, deceptive, distorted.

"The idea, for example, that there has always been a pro-big government party and a laissez-faire party

- parties have always blended the small and big gov policies
 - argues, this doesn't mean that political parties are unprincipled and "bend their ideas merely to advance their own interest; it means that party politics cannot be reduced to simplistic formulas about federal versus state powers, in either the past or the present"
 - * Hmm... so argues that there is some deeper connection here that we are missing? also doesn't imply that parties *aren't* unprincipled
- Jackson was a heavy mix of these two parties ideologies

All efforts to judge Andrew Jackson by political standards other than his own, and those of his time, are

uh.. no??

- people at the time considered him very anti-slavery and such
- believes himself to be very egalitarian
 - coincided with the "Age of Democratic Revolution in the Atlantic world"
 - * age of political upheaval! challenged "unquestioned authority of royalty and aristocracy." (all over the atlantic world)
- about eradicating corrupt privilege END, start of page 6 *
- was the head of the first mass democratic party in the world
- anti-jacksonian: 'it is with them, the poor against the rich; and it is not to be disguised'
- had lots of paradoxes
 - **great challenges**: making sense of these paradoxes
- was really very anti-aristocratic, and this was what led to him shutting a bunch of things down
- reject the idea of universal equality, but also that it doesn't matter.
- the real issue is:
 - artificial inequality
 - * ie, inequality manufactured by people for their own benefit
 - * jackson says: gov should undo this *artificial* inequality
 - * **foundational idea!!**
- so the question becomes, what is natural and what isn't?
 - like, for example, racism
- says that we should interpret jackson as a **transitional democrat**

2 | Legacies of Andrew Jackson

why we care: argues that coming to terms with jackson is crucial to the understanding of american history

- historians rate prez at the top, washington lincoln and FRD all were during the "three great political revolutions that defined the american experience"
 - US rev + constitution,
 - civil war,
 - new deal
- jackson oversaw the decline of the elites getting people
- argues: he causes the civil war through his 'incompleteness?'

The widespread judgment that Jackson lacked a guiding political philosophy, and was motivated chiefly by

- says, ofc he changed his ideals and opinions! that's what good leaders do!
- jackson's view of *the people* were the "humble members of society"
- nonsense. literal nonsense.