

APPLICATION: THE ELECTION OF 1824

Application: Presidential Election of 1824

- Presidential Candidates (all Democratic-Republicans)

- John Quincy Adams (MA)

- Secretary of state, eldest son of Jon Adams



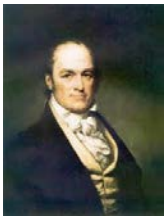
- Andrew Jackson (TN)

- Hero of the Battle of New Orleans, former member of the U.S. House



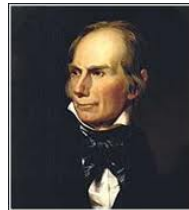
- William Harris Crawford (GA)

- Secretary of the treasury, elected President by the caucus system, but that was just for fun.



- Henry Clay (KY)

- Speaker of the House.



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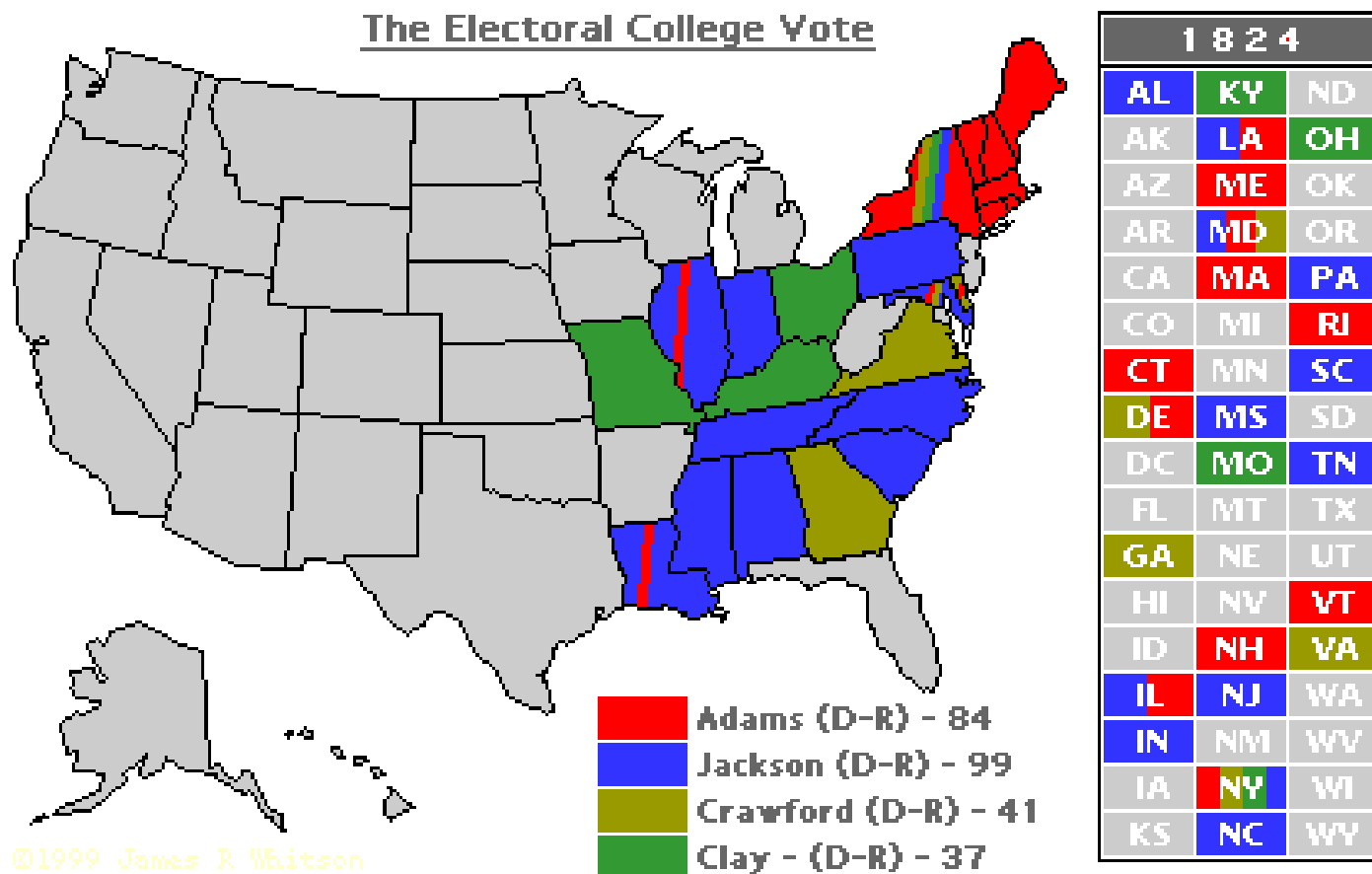
- Election Results
 - Jackson won the popular vote and a “plurality” of the electoral college.
 - Since no one won a majority of the electoral college, the U.S. House of Representatives got to decide.
 - The House chose Adams.
- Alleged vote trade
 - After winning, Adams named Henry Clay his Secretary of State.
 - Since Clay supporters swung the vote in the House, Jackson claimed that Adams and Clay made a “corrupt bargain.”
 - Historians have echoed Jackson’s claim.

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- Electoral Procedure
 - According to Article 12 of the Constitution, if no candidate wins a majority of the electoral college, then the top three candidates will be considered by the House voting in state blocs and candidate winning *majority* of state delegations will win.
 - Bloc voting means that each state gets one vote. The state's vote is determined by the majority of its delegation.
 - Ex: If there are three representatives from GA, two vote for Crawford, one votes for Jackson, then the state vote is for Crawford.

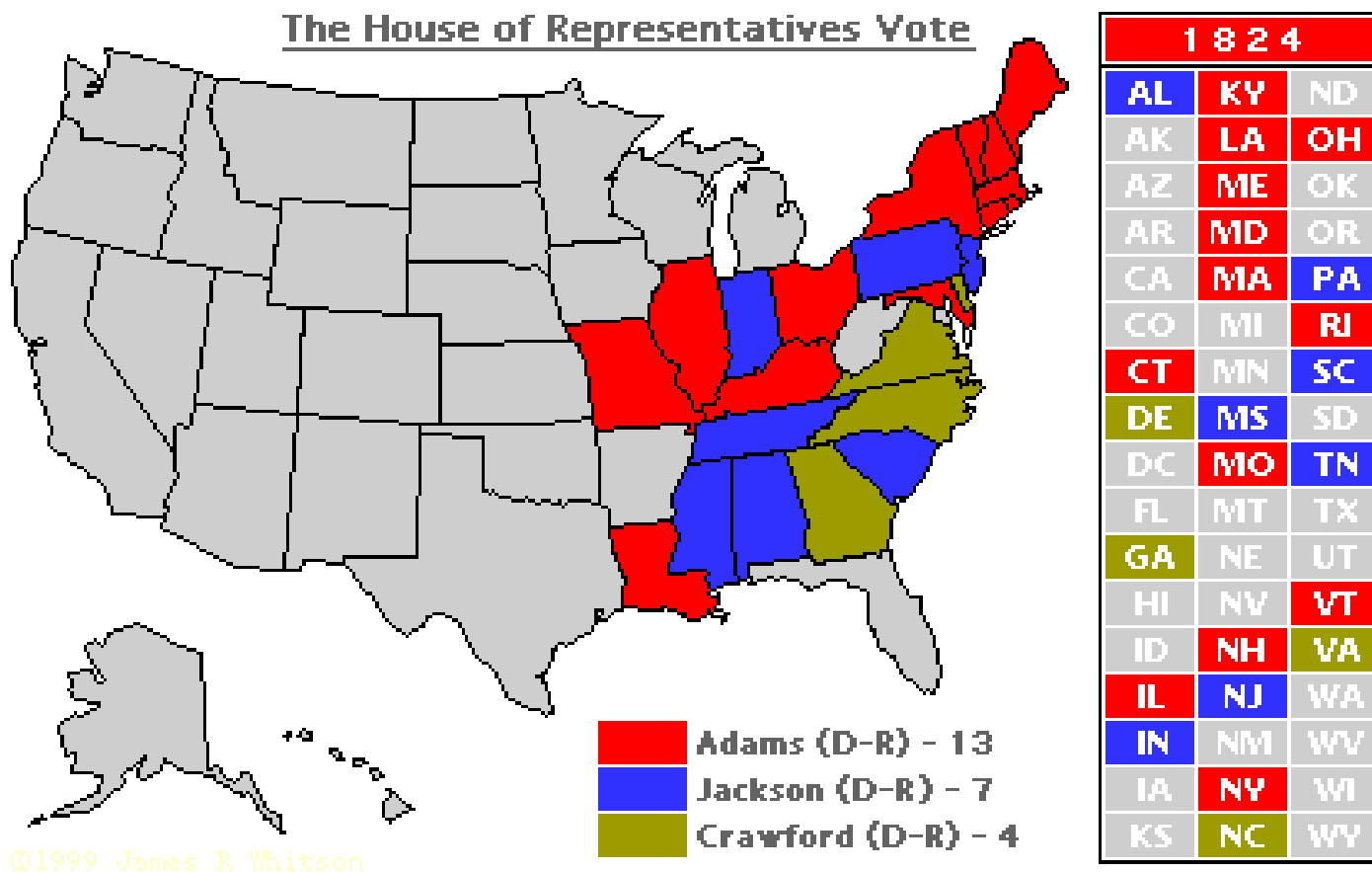
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- Electoral College Results (261 electors)



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- Vote in the House (24 states)

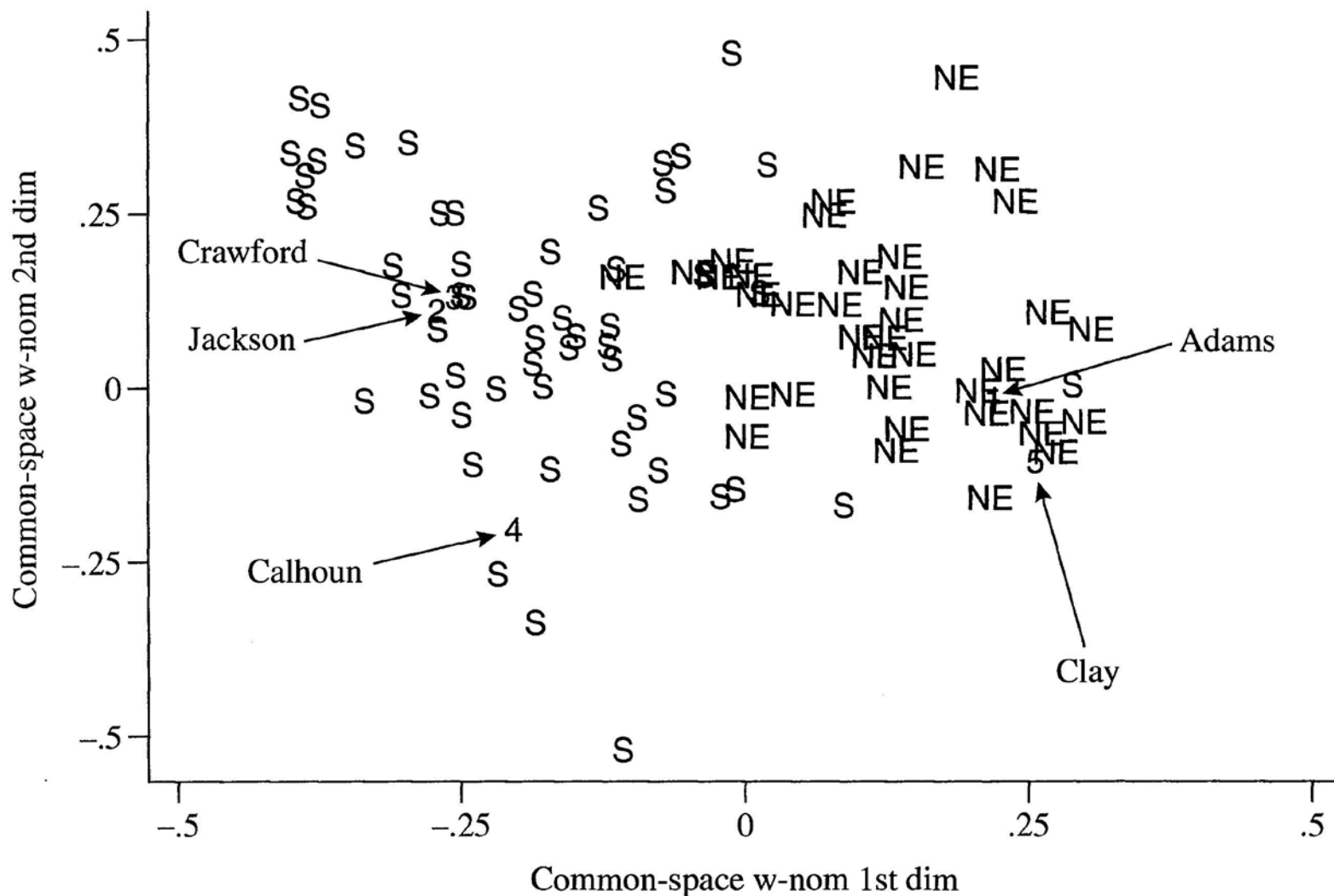


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- Spatial Analysis
 - To evaluate the corrupt bargain, Jenkins and Sala infer the ideal points of the members of the U.S. House and determine who they would vote for under a sincere vote.
 - If Adams would win under a sincere vote, then there was no need for a vote trade.
 - If Jackson would win under a sincere vote, then members of Congress probably voted strategically.

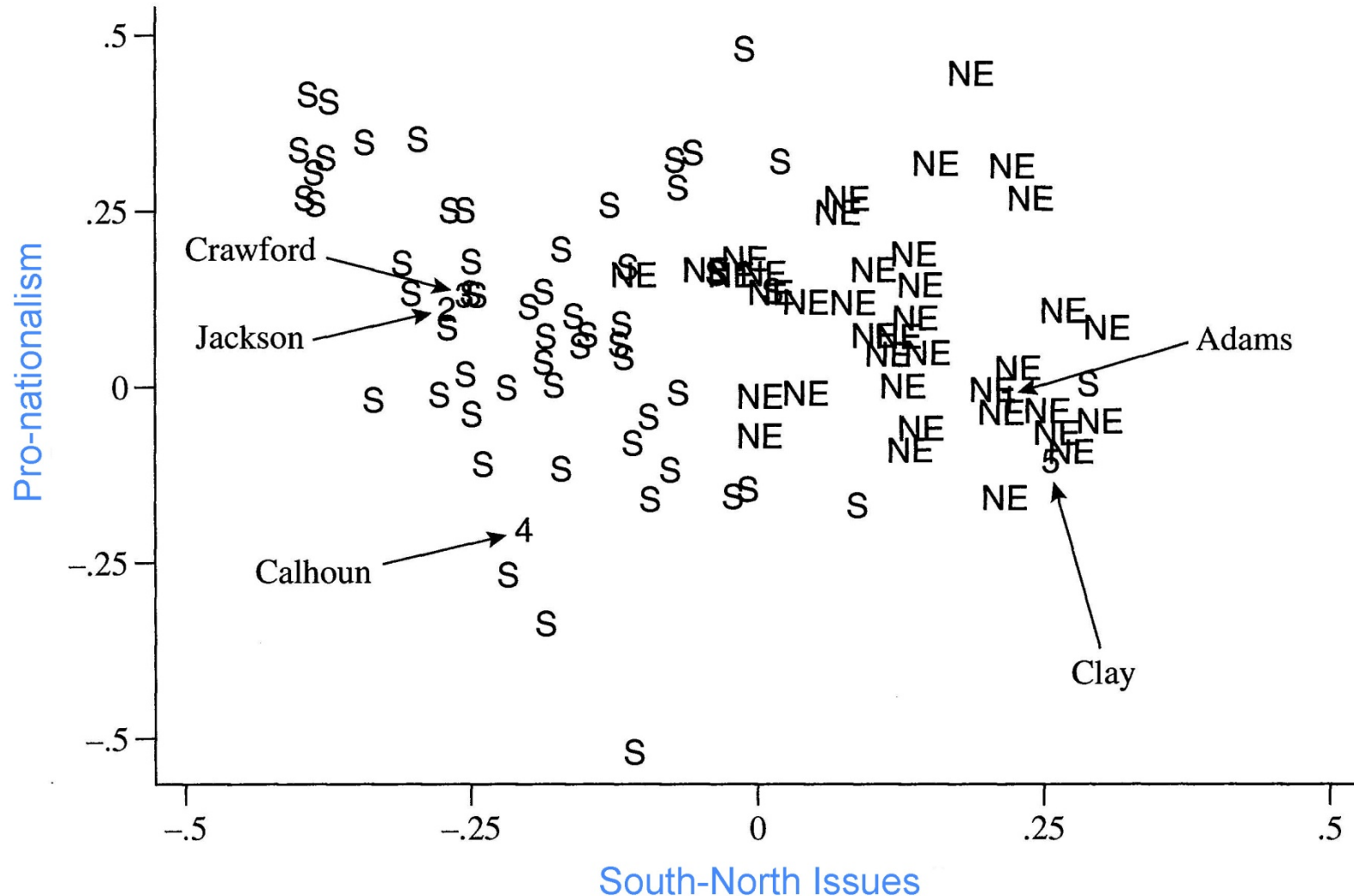
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Figure 1. Common-Space Nominate Scores by Region



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- Summary
 - Crawford and Jackson split the Southern vote.
 - Voting sincerely, Clay supporters voted for Adams.
 - Hence, no need for a vote trade.
- Additional Evidence
 - Representatives did not get punished at the next election for voting for Adams.
 - Those who voted for Adams but were supposed to vote for someone else according to the model, retained a greater proportion of their seats than those who voted for Jackson.
 - No additional signs of compensation for vote trades.
 - Adams did not appoint any of the lame duck representatives to office.
- Jenkins and Sala conclude: no corrupt bargain.

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- Discussion
 - What do you think? Do you believe there was a vote trade?
 - What other type of evidence would help you determine whether there was a vote trade?
 - Are there other reasons why those who voted for Adams retained a higher proportion of their seats than those who voted for Jackson?
 - Perhaps those voters were able to bring home the pork for the next two years because they supported Adams.