



## **The formation of Jackson's Kitchen Cabinet**

This unconventional advisory system was initially composed of newspaper editor Francis Preston Blair, journalist Amos Kendall, Secretary of State Martin Van Buren, and Attorney General Roger B Taney among others. These individuals didn't hold formal governmental positions at the time but were instrumental in shaping policy decisions due to their close association with President Jackson. Their meetings usually took place outside the formal settings such as in the White House kitchen or even local taverns hence earning them their unique moniker 'Kitchen Cabinet'. Over time they became vital assets for President Jackson providing strategic advice on national issues like economic policies and diplomatic relations while also helping him manage public opinion through effective media channels which made them highly influential throughout his presidency.

## **Key members and their respective roles within the Kitchen Cabinet**

Among other key members was Amos Kendall, a journalist with a keen understanding of public sentiment. He served as an influential liaison between Jackson's administration and the press – crafting speeches, penning editorials that favored Jackson's policies, and offering advice on dealing with criticism from opposition parties. Another member was Attorney General Roger B Taney who later became Chief Justice of the Supreme Court; his legal expertise had profound implications on many policy decisions during Jackson's tenure. Francis Preston Blair held sway over public opinion through his control of The Washington Globe newspaper which championed Democratic ideals under Jackson's presidency.

## **Influence of the Kitchen Cabinet on Jackson's presidency**

As a close-knit group of trusted advisers with diverse skills and backgrounds, the Kitchen Cabinet was able to offer President Jackson comprehensive advice that encompassed different perspectives. This allowed him to make more informed decisions on matters such as economic policy or foreign relations. The group also played a crucial role in dealing with controversies during his presidency and helped shape his legacy as one characterized by populism and strong executive leadership.

## **The impact of Kitchen Cabinet decisions on US policies**

In addition, Martin Van Buren, another member of this informal council and later Vice President under Jackson's second term, was integral in navigating diplomatic relations with European powers. He helped steer foreign policies that upheld American interests while maintaining peaceful relationships with these nations. This not only solidified America's standing on global affairs but also set precedents for future administrations on how to balance diplomacy and national interests effectively.

## **Controversies and criticisms surrounding the informal advisory group**

Many disapproved of their influence over media representation and perception of Jackson's administration. The fact that several members controlled popular newspapers gave them significant sway in shaping public opinion - a power that critics believed could be easily abused for personal or political gain. This fear seemed realized when it was discovered that some Kitchen Cabinet members had been involved in a scandal known as the "Petticoat Affair," which fueled further distrust towards this unofficial advisory body.

## **Legacy and long-term effects of the Kitchen Cabinet's influence**

The Kitchen Cabinet was instrumental in shaping public perception through strategic media engagement which set a precedent for managing presidential image and communication. They were also pioneers in utilizing partisan newspapers as tools of political persuasion. This tradition continues today with various forms of media used to influence public opinion during elections or policy debates - an enduring testament to Jackson's innovative Kitchen Cabinet.