

The Age of Jackson

Section 2



MAIN IDEAS

1. Regional differences grew during Jackson's presidency.
2. The rights of the states were debated amid arguments about a national tariff.
3. Jackson's attack on the Bank sparked controversy.
4. Jackson's policies led to the Panic of 1837.

Key Terms and People

Tariff of Abominations a tariff with very high rates

states' rights doctrine the belief that state power should be greater than federal power

nullification crisis the dispute over whether states had the right to nullify, or disobey, any federal law with which they disagreed

Daniel Webster a senator from Massachusetts who spoke out against nullification and believed the nation had to stay united

McCulloch v. Maryland the case in which the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the Second Bank of the United States was constitutional

Whig Party a political group supported by people who opposed Andrew Jackson

Panic of 1837 a financial crisis that led to a severe economic depression

William Henry Harrison a general and the Whig presidential candidate in 1840

Academic Vocabulary

criteria basic requirements

Section Summary

SECTIONAL DIFFERENCES INCREASE

In Andrew Jackson's presidency, people's reaction to almost every policy was based on where they lived and the economy of their region. The North's economy depended on trade and manufacturing. The North supported tariffs, which helped it compete with foreign manufacturers. Southerners marketed a large portion of their crops to foreign countries. Most southerners opposed tariffs, which led to higher prices in manufactured items that they bought. Westerners wanted cheap land.

Why did northerners disagree with southerners on the issue of tariffs?

Section 2, continued

Northerners continued to demand high tariffs to guard their new industries from foreign competition. In 1828 Congress passed a law that southerners called the **Tariff of Abominations**. (An abomination is a hateful thing.) The tariff intensified sectional differences.

How did the Tariff of Abominations help industries in the North?

STATES' RIGHTS DEBATE

Vice President John C. Calhoun supported the **criteria** of a strong central government. Later on, he argued for the **states' rights doctrine**. The debate over states' rights led to the **nullification crisis**. Jackson opposed nullification. Calhoun resigned from office. South Carolina's legislature declared that a new 1832 tariff would not be collected in the state. **Daniel Webster** backed a unified nation. Congress finally agreed to lower the tariffs gradually. South Carolina's leaders agreed to obey the law but still backed the nullification idea.

What caused the nullification crisis?

JACKSON ATTACKS THE BANK

President Jackson and many southern states questioned the constitutional legality of the Second Bank of the United States. However, in the case *McCulloch v. Maryland*, the Bank was found to be constitutional. Jackson moved most of the Bank's funds to state banks. This action caused inflation.

What happened when the federal bank's funds were moved to state banks?

PANIC OF 1837

The **Whig Party** backed four candidates for president in 1836, and the Democrat, Martin Van Buren, won. When the country experienced the **Panic of 1837**, Van Buren was blamed. In 1840 the Whigs nominated **William Henry Harrison**, who won with an electoral landslide.

Why might voters have chosen Harrison over Van Buren?

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Summarizing Design a poster that illustrates President Jackson's actions in his two terms. Use captions.