

Jackson's Administration

The Big Idea Andrew Jackson's presidency was marked by political conflicts.

Main Ideas

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

Main Idea 1: Regional differences grew during Jackson's presidency.

North

- Economy based on manufacturing
- Support for tariffs—American goods could be sold at lower prices than British goods

South

- Economy based on agriculture
- Opposition to tariffs increased the cost of imported goods

West

- Emerging economy
- Support for internal improvements and the sale of public lands

Tariff of Abominations

- In 1827, northern manufacturers demanded a tariff on imported wool goods.
 - Would provide protection against foreign competition
- Southerners opposed a tariff because it would hurt their economy.
- Congress passed a high tariff on imports before Jackson became president.
- The South called it the **Tariff of Abominations**.

Main Idea 2: The rights of the states were debated amid arguments about a national tariff.

- Jackson was forced to deal with growing conflicts over tariffs.
- The question of an individual state's right to disregard a law passed by Congress was at the heart of a growing conflict over tariffs.
- Vice President John C. Calhoun supported the South
 - Advanced **states' rights doctrine**
 - States' power greater than federal power because states had formed national government
 - States could nullify, or reject, federal law judged unconstitutional.
- Calhoun's theory was controversial.
 - Produced the **nullification crisis**

States' Rights Debate

- Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions of 1798-99 were early discussions on states' rights.
- **Daniel Webster** debated Robert Y. Hayne in Senate on nullification.
 - Webster argued that the United States was one nation, not a pact among independent states.
- Jackson urged Congress to pass lower tariff rate in 1832.
 - Jackson opposed nullification, but was worried about the southern economy.
- South Carolina enacted Nullification Act to void tariffs.
- Congress then passed another lower-tariff compromise.
- States' rights controversy continued until Civil War.

Main Idea 3: Jackson's attack on the Bank sparked controversy.

- Jackson did not always support federal power.

- Opposed Second Bank of the United States.
 - Believed it unconstitutional: only states should have banking power.
- Southern states opposed the Bank because they believed it only helped the wealthy.
- In *McCulloch v. Maryland*, Supreme Court ruled the national bank was constitutional.
 - McCulloch was a cashier at the Bank's branch in Maryland who refused to pay the tax that was designed to limit the Bank's operations.
- Jackson vetoed the renewal of the Bank's charter in 1832.

Main Idea 4: Jackson's policies led to the Panic of 1837.

- Jackson took funds out of the Bank and put them in state banks.
- State banks used funds to give credit to land buyers.
 - Helped land expansion but caused inflation
- Jackson tried to slow inflation.
 - Ordered Americans to use only gold and silver to buy land
 - Still did not help the national economy
- Jackson's banking and inflation policies opened the door for economic troubles.

Elections of 1836 and 1840

- Jackson chose not to run again in 1836; Vice President Martin Van Buren was nominated.
- Van Buren defeated four candidates nominated by the new **Whig Party**.
- A severe economic depression called the **Panic of 1837** followed the election.
- People blamed Van Buren even though Jackson's economic policies had contributed to the panic.
- Van Buren was defeated in 1840 by Whig candidate **William Henry Harrison**.