

## The Presidency of Andrew Jackson

### I. Jacksonian Democracy

- A. Jackson's election as president in 1828 was a new era in American history
  - 1. Represented the "common man" & the Democrats took advantage of extension suffrage to white men
  - 2. Jackson extended the power of the president via "negative activism" & using the veto
- B. Jackson advocated the spoils system to reward loyal supporters & reduce gov't corruption

### II. Jackson's First Term

- A. Peggy Eaton Affair ("Petticoat Affair") led Jackson to rely on the "Kitchen Cabinet"
- B. Jackson's veto of the Maysville Road project signaled the division of the National Republicans & Democrats
- C. Nullification Crisis
  - 1. Southerners, led by VP Calhoun, affirmed nullification in response to the Tariff of Abominations (1828)
  - 2. Jackson saw nullification as treason & supported the Force Bill of 1833 to make SC collect tariff taxes
  - 3. Significance of the Nullification Crisis
- D. Webster-Hayne Debate revealed sectional divisions: Daniel Webster (MA) declared the U.S. more than just states
- E. Indian Removal
  - 1. Jackson promised to help remove the Cherokee & called for the Indian Removal Act of 1830
  - 2. John Marshall upheld Cherokee rights in Cherokee Nation v. GA (1831) & Worcester vs. GA (1832)
  - 3. The U.S. army forced the Cherokee west in the Trail of Tears in 1838

### III. Bank War & the Second Party System

- A. The role & controversy of the Second Bank of the US
  - 1. The BUS held gov't money, made loans, & helped regulate loans by state-chartered private banks
  - 2. The BUS was controversial by ever extending credit & gave power to the elite (like manager Nicolas Biddle)
- B. The Bank War
  - 1. Clay, Webster, & Biddle wanted to re-charter the bank in 1832 but Jackson vetoed it ("dangerous to liberty")
  - 2. Jackson vetoed the charter claiming it was unconstitutional & dangerous to liberty
  - 3. Jackson's veto was popular in South & West so the BUS became a key issue in the 1832 election against Clay
  - 4. Jackson saw his victory over Clay as a mandate from the people to continue his war against the bank
  - 5. Jackson killed the BUS before its charter expired by withdrawing federal money in favor of state "pet banks"
- C. Criticism of Jackson
  - 1. Killing the BUS led to increased attacks on Jackson who was seen as overstepping his constitutional powers
  - 2. Jackson hoped to move the U.S. from paper money to hard currency by issuing the Specie Circular
  - 3. The U.S. led to the Panic of 1837 & a six-year recession
- D. The Whigs formed in 1834 as a coalition of anti-Jackson critics in North, West, and South

### IV. Conclusions