

Was President Jackson an Autocrat or a Democrat?

Read the Documents that follow and answer the following questions:

Document 1: King Andrew the First

1. What view of Jackson is presented in the illustration? What is this view based on? From whose perspective was the illustration made?

Document 2: Office Hunters for the Year

2. What political practice is the cartoonist commenting on? What is the cartoonist's view of the Practice?

Document 4: South Carolina Ordinance of Nullification

3. According to the document, who had the authority to decide the constitutionality of federal laws? Why? Similar to what other documents we've read in class?

Document 4: Jackson's Proclamation to the People of South Carolina:

4. How did Jackson respond to South Carolina? What was his view of the doctrine of nullification?

Document 5: Jackson's Bank Veto Message –

5. Explain THREE reasons why Jackson opposed the Bank. Who, according to Jackson, had the authority to decide the constitutionality of Federal laws? Was he right? What authority did the Supreme Court have?

BORN TO COMMAND.

KING ANDREW

THE FIRST.

“Born to Command.”

A KING who, possessing as much power as his Gracious Brother William IV., makes a worse use of it.

A KING who has placed himself above the laws, as he has shown by his contempt of our judges.

A KING who would destroy our currency, and substitute *Old Hags*, payable by no one knows who, and no one knows where, instead of good *Silver Dollars*.

A KING born to command, as he has shown himself by appointing men to office contrary to the will of the People.

A KING who, while he was feeding his favourites out of the public money, denied a pension to the Old Soldiers who fought and bled for our independence.

A KING whose *Prize Minister* and *Bel Apparent* was thought unfit for the office of ambassador by the people!

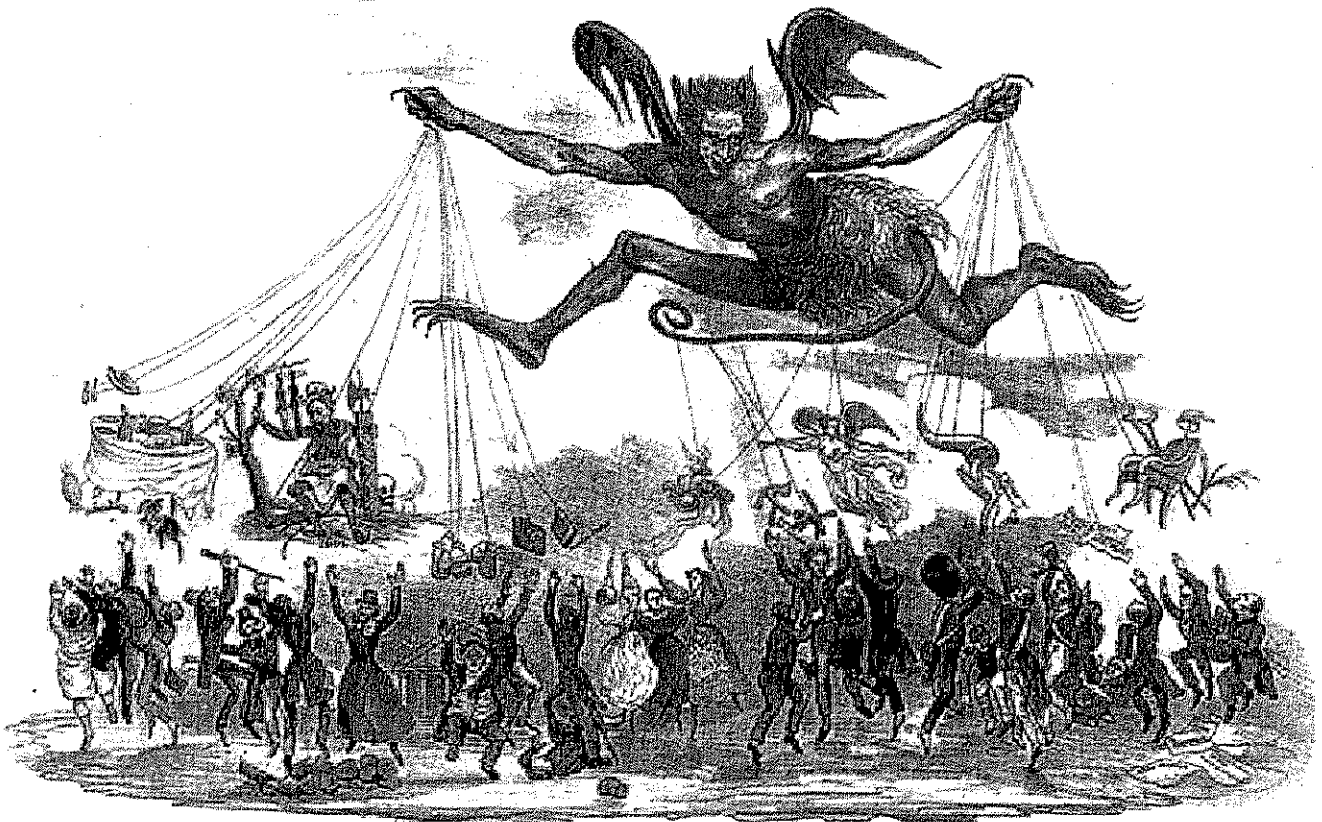
**Shall he reign over us,
Or shall the PEOPLE RULE?**

OF VETO MEMORY.

HAD I BEEN CONSULTED.



KING ANDREW THE FIRST.



OFFICE HUNTERS FOR THE YEAR 1854.

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Jackson's Bank Veto Message (1832)

... Having considered it [the bill for the rechartering of the Bank of the United States] with that solemn regard to the principles of the Constitution ... and come to the conclusion that it ought not to become a law, I herewith return it to the Senate, in which it originated, with my objections. ...

... It [the Bank] enjoys an exclusive privilege of banking under the authority of the General Government, a monopoly of its favor and support, and, as a necessary consequence, almost a monopoly of the foreign and domestic exchange. ...

Every monopoly and all exclusive privileges are granted at the expense of the public, which ought to receive a fair equivalent. The many millions which this act proposes to bestow on the stockholders of the existing bank must come directly or indirectly out of the earnings of the American people. ...

... It appears that more than a fourth part of the stock is held by foreigners and the residue is held by a few hundred of our own citizens, chiefly of the richest class. For their benefit does this act exclude the whole American people from competition in the purchase of this monopoly. ...

Should the stock of the bank principally pass into the hands of the subjects of a foreign country, and we should unfortunately become involved in a war with that country, what would be our condition? ...

... The Congress, the Executive, and the Court must each for itself be guided by its own opinion of the Constitution. ... The authority of the Supreme Court must not, therefore, be permitted to control the Congress or the Executive ... but to have only such influence as the force of their reasoning may deserve. ...

Experience should teach us wisdom. Most of the difficulties our Government now encounters and most of the dangers which impend over our Union have sprung from an abandonment of the legitimate objects of Government ... and the adoption of such principles as are embodied in this act. Many of our rich men have not been content with equal protection and equal benefits, but have besought us to make them richer by act of Congress. By attempting to gratify their desires we have in the results of our legislation arrayed section against section, interest against interest, and man against man, in a fearful commotion which threatens to shake the foundations of our Union.

- Explain 3 reasons for A.J.'s opposition to the bank. Was his opposition based mostly on economics or Constitutional concerns?
- How did Jackson view Presidential power in relation to Congress & the Judiciary? Do you agree? Explain

South Carolina Ordinance of Nullification, 1832

Whereas the Congress of the United States, by various acts, purporting to be acts laying duties and imposts on foreign imports, but in reality intended for the protection of domestic manufactures, and the giving of bounties to classes and individuals engaged in particular employments, at the expense and to the injury and oppression of other classes and individuals, and by wholly exempting from taxation, certain foreign commodities, such as are not produced or manufactured in the United States, to afford a pretext for imposing higher and excessive duties on articles similar to those intended to be protected, hath exceeded its just powers under the Constitution, which confers on it no authority to afford such protection, and hath violated the true meaning and intent of the Constitution.

... We, therefore, the people of the State of South Carolina, in Convention assembled, do declare and ordain, and it is hereby declared and ordained, that the several acts and parts of acts of the Congress of the United States, purporting to be laws for the imposing of duties and imposts on the importation of foreign commodities . . . are unauthorized by the Constitution of the United States, and violate the true meaning and intent thereof, and are null, void, and no law, nor binding upon this State, its officers or citizens;

And we, the people of South Carolina, . . . do further declare that we will not submit to the application of force on the part of the federal government, to reduce this State to obedience, as inconsistent with the longer continuance of South Carolina in the Union; and that the people of this State will henceforth hold themselves absolved from all further obligation to maintain or preserve their political connection with the people of the other States; and will forthwith proceed to organize a separate government, and do all other acts and things which sovereign and independent States may of right do.

ANDREW JACKSON: Proclamation to the People of South Carolina

The ordinance is founded, not on the indefeasible right of resisting acts which are plainly unconstitutional and too oppressive to be endured but on the strange position that any one state may not only declare an act of Congress void but prohibit its execution

If this doctrine had been established at an earlier day, the Union would have been dissolved in its infancy. The excise law in Pennsylvania, the embargo and nonintercourse law in the Eastern states, were deemed unconstitutional, and were more unequal in their operation than any of the laws now complained of; but, fortunately, none of those states discovered that they had the right now claimed by South Carolina.

consider, then, the power to annul a law of the United States, assumed by one state, incompatible with the existence of the Union, contradicted expressly by the letter of the Constitution, unauthorized by its spirit, inconsistent with every principle on which it was founded, and destructive of the great object for which it was formed.

This, then, is the position in which we stand. A small majority of the citizens of one state in the Union have elected delegates to a state convention; that convention has ordained that all the revenue laws of the United States must be repealed, or that they are no longer a member of the Union. The governor of that state has recommended to the legislature the raising of an army to carry the secession into effect, and that he may be empowered to give clearances to vessels in the name of the state.

Disunion by armed force is *treason*. Are you really ready to incur its guilt? If you are, on the heads of the stigmatizers of the act be the dreadful consequences; on their heads be the dishonor, but on yours may fall the punishment. On your unhappy state will inevitably fall all the evils of the conflict you force upon the government of your country. It cannot accede to the mad project of disunion, of which you would be the first victims. Its first magistrate cannot, if he would, avoid the performance of his duty. . . .

- ① According to the SC Ord, why was the tariff of 1832 unconstitutional? Is it a valid argument?
- ② What actions did the State say it would take?
- ③ What was A.J.'s argument against nullification? What action did he threaten to take?