

# Study Guide



## Chapter 8, Section 1

For use with textbook pages 266–272

### JACKSONIAN AMERICA

#### KEY TERMS AND NAMES

- spoils system** the practice of appointing people to government jobs on the basis of party loyalty and support (*page 267*)
- caucus system** a system of selecting presidential candidates in which members of a political party chose the nominee for president (*page 268*)
- Tariff of Abominations** tariff of 1828 that made imports extremely expensive (*page 268*)
- secede** to withdraw (*page 268*)
- John C. Calhoun** vice president of the United States and proponent of the idea of nullification (*page 268*)
- nullification** the idea that states have the right to declare a federal law null, or not valid (*page 268*)
- Daniel Webster** senator from Massachusetts and opponent of nullification (*page 269*)
- Force Bill** law that authorized the president to use the military to enforce acts of Congress (*page 269*)
- Indian Removal Act** law that provided money to relocate Native Americans (*page 270*)
- Trail of Tears** forced march of the Cherokee in Georgia to Arkansas and Oklahoma, during which thousands died (*page 270*)
- Panic of 1837** economic crisis in which many banks and businesses failed, thousands of farmers lost their land, and unemployment soared (*page 271*)

#### DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

What are the major political parties in the United States today? How do they differ on major issues?

In this section, you will learn about the administration of President Andrew Jackson. You will also learn about the issues facing the nation at that time.

#### ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the chart below to help you take notes. The United States faced several issues during the administration of President Jackson. Explain Jackson’s stand on the issues listed below.

Issue	President Jackson’s Stand on Issue
Nomination of presidential candidates	1.
Nullification	2.
Native Americans	3.
Second Bank of the United States	4.

# Study Guide



## Chapter 8, Section 1 (continued)

### READ TO LEARN

#### • A New Era in Politics (page 266)

Starting in the early 1800s, the United States saw a growth of democracy. Hundreds of thousands of males gained voting rights. This happened because many states eliminated property ownership as a voting qualification. Also, the number of urban workers who did not own property had increased. They paid taxes, however, and wanted a voice in elections. Many of these new voters voted for Andrew Jackson in the 1828 presidential election.

President Jackson believed in the capability and intelligence of average Americans. He believed that ordinary citizens should play an active role in government. As a result, Jackson supported the **spoils system**, the practice of appointing people to government jobs on the basis of party loyalty and support. Jackson replaced large numbers of government employees with his own supporters. He believed that opening government offices to ordinary citizens increased democracy.

Jackson and his supporters also wanted to make the way in which presidential candidates were chosen more democratic. At that time, political parties chose presidential candidates through the **caucus system**. Party members who served in Congress would meet to choose the nominee for president. Jackson believed that this method gave only the well connected the opportunity to hold office. He and his supporters replaced the caucus with the national nominating convention. Delegates from the states met to decide on the party's presidential nominee. Supporters of this method believed that it allowed political power to come more directly from the people. President Jackson was renominated in a nominating convention in 1832.

#### 5. Why did President Andrew Jackson support the spoils system?

---

---

---

#### • The Nullification Crisis (page 268)

The economy of South Carolina was weakening throughout the early 1800s. Many people blamed the nation's tariffs for this situation. South Carolina had to purchase many manufactured goods from Europe. Tariffs placed on these goods made them very expensive. In 1828 Congress placed a new tariff on imports, which people called the **Tariff of Abominations**. Many South Carolinians threatened to **secede**, or withdraw, from the union.

**John C. Calhoun**, the vice president, was torn between following the country's policies and helping his fellow South Carolinians. Calhoun proposed the idea of **nullification**, which said that states had the right to declare a federal

# Study Guide



## Chapter 8, Section 1 *(continued)*

law null, or not valid. He said that states had this right because they had created the Union. The issue came up again in 1830 when two senators—Robert Hayne of South Carolina and **Daniel Webster** of Massachusetts debated each other on the Senate floor. Hayne supported the right of states to do what they wanted. Webster defended the Union.

President Jackson also defended the Union. When Congress passed another tariff law in 1832, Jackson asked that the tariffs to be cut significantly. South Carolina was still upset, and it called a special state convention. The convention supported the idea of nullification by declaring the tariffs of 1828 and 1832 to be unconstitutional. Jackson considered this an act of treason. He sent a warship to Charleston, South Carolina, and tensions increased. Congress passed the **Force Bill** in 1833, authorizing the president to use the military to enforce acts of Congress. Senator Henry Clay pushed through a bill that would lower the tariffs within two years. South Carolina repealed its nullification of the tariff law.

6. Why was South Carolina upset about the nation’s tariffs?

---



---



---



---



---

- **Policies Toward Native Americans** *(page 269)*

Like many other people, President Jackson believed that conflicts with Native Americans would end if they were moved to the Great Plains. In 1830 Jackson pushed through Congress the **Indian Removal Act**, which provided money to relocate Native Americans.

Most Native Americans gave in and resettled in the West. However, the Cherokee of Georgia refused. They sued the state of Georgia, and their case reached the Supreme Court. Chief Justice John Marshall sided with the Cherokee and ordered the state to honor their property rights. President Jackson did not support the Court’s decision.

President Martin Van Buren eventually sent the army to resolve the conflict with the Cherokee. The army forced them out of their homes and marched them west to what is now Oklahoma. Thousands of Cherokee died on the journey, which became known as the **Trail of Tears**. By 1838 the government had moved the majority of Native Americans east of the Mississippi to reservations. Although most Americans supported the removal policy, some, such as a few National Republicans and some religious denominations, denounced it.

---

# Study Guide

---



## Chapter 8, Section 1 (continued)

7. What was the purpose of the Indian Removal Act?

---

---

• **Jackson Battles the National Bank** (page 270)

President Jackson opposed the Second Bank of the United States. He believed that it benefited only the wealthy. The Bank played an important role in keeping the money supply and interest rates stable by regulating how state banks loaned money. Many Western settlers who needed easy credit to run their farms were unhappy with the Bank's policies for lending money. President Jackson also believed that the Bank was unconstitutional, even though the Supreme Court ruled otherwise.

Jackson's opponents in Congress introduced a bill that would extend the Bank's charter. Congress passed it, but Jackson vetoed it. The Bank became an issue in the 1832 presidential election. Henry Clay, the National Republican candidate, supported the Bank. Most Americans supported Jackson, and he easily won. Jackson interpreted his victory as a directive from the people to destroy the Bank. He removed the government's deposits from the Bank and placed them in state banks. This forced the Bank to call in its loans and stop lending. Many people later claimed that Jackson's action contributed to the nation's future financial problems.

8. How did President Jackson force the closing of the Second Bank of the United States?

---

---

---

• **A New Party Emerges** (page 271)

In the mid-1830s the Whig Party, a new party, formed to oppose President Jackson. They wanted to expand the federal government and to develop industry and trade. The Whig's ideas were very different from those of Jackson's Democrats, who wanted a limited government and distrusted eastern merchants and business leaders.

In the presidential election of 1836, Democrat Martin Van Buren easily defeated the Whigs, who had three candidates. Shortly after he became president, an economic depression called the **Panic of 1837** hit the United States. Many banks and businesses failed, and thousands of farmers lost their land. Unemployment among eastern factory workers soared.

The Whigs hoped that the economic crisis would lead to an easy victory over the Democrats in the 1840 presidential election. The Whigs nominated

---

## Study Guide

---



### Chapter 8, Section 1 *(continued)*

William Henry Harrison for president and John Tyler for vice president. They blamed Van Buren for the depression. Harrison won. He died 32 days after his inauguration, however, and John Tyler became president.

Tyler had been nominated by the Whigs mainly to attract the Southern voters. He actually opposed many Whig policies. As a result, he opposed the Whigs on instituting a Third Bank and a higher tariff. President Tyler also had to deal with foreign relations, particularly with Great Britain. The Webster-Ashburton Treaty established a firm boundary between the United States and Canada from Maine to Minnesota.

9. What helped the Whigs defeat President Van Buren in the 1840 presidential election?

---

---

---

---

---

---