Andrew Jackson and the Second Party System Alternate

* 1. The first Party System was the time in the early United States when the Federalists and the Jeffersonians struggled to control the future of the nation. After the Presidency of John Quincy Adams, the Federalist and Jeffersonian parties had fallen apart, and were replaced. The Jeffersonians were replaced by a new political party. This new party was the Democrats. Unlike the Jeffersonians, Democrats were entirely from the southern states. They were very similar to the Jeffersonians. Both groups wanted strong states and limited central (federal) government. The Democrats were also all pro-slavery.
  2. The first President to be elected by the Democrats was Andrew Jackson. Jackson had joined the Continental Army as a messenger boy during the revolution. He had been wounded in the war, and strongly hated the British. As he grew up, he became a lawyer on the frontier. He then entered politics. He was elected to congress in both the house and senate, and was appointed as a judge. When the War of 1812 began, he became a general. He was most famous for defeating the British at the Battle of New Orleans. After the War of 1812 ended, he crossed into Spanish Florida. Because of this invasion, Florida became an American territory in 1821.
  3. Jackson ran for president in 1828. In the process, he helped create the Democrats as a new political party. During the campaign, many rumors were spread about Jackson’s wife. Even though Jackson won the election, his wife died. He blamed the people who had spread rumors about him and his wife. His anger over this would later have dramatic consequences.
  4. The first major problem to confront President Jackson and Vice-President Calhoun was about taxes. The southern states were still mostly making their money by farming. They produced and exported cotton and tobacco and used slave labor. Meanwhile the northern states had become industrial centers. They produced manufactured goods. European manufactured goods were cheaper than what was being made and sold in the US. Because of this, many southern states bought goods from Europe instead of the northern states. To boost business for the north, Congress passed new laws that taxed European imports. This made the imported European goods more expensive. The goal was to get the southern states to buy more things from the northern states.
  5. This led to some bad feelings. The south was being forced to pay more money when buying manufactured goods. They would either pay for European goods along with the taxes, or just buy already high-priced goods from the north. The southern states were less than pleased by this. South Carolina was the first to declare that it would ignore the new taxes on imported goods. South Carolina claimed it had the right to nullify (or cancel) federal laws it did not like. The Vice-President was named John Calhoun. He sided with his home state of South Carolina in the argument over whether this nullification was legal.
  6. This was a problem. If states could just nullify federal laws, then what power did the federal government really have? Jackson was a strong believer in state's rights, but he was opposed to the idea of state nullification of federal laws. People from all over the country argued about whether nullification was legal. By 1832 the United States was on the edge of a civil war. Jackson had sworn to send troops to South Carolina to force them to pay the new import taxes. Calhoun had resigned the vice-presidency to become a senator for South Carolina. Jackson asked Congress to pass a bill authorizing the use of force. He was preparing to use the federal Army to fight against South Carolina.
  7. In Congress, a compromise was reached. Congress passed a law that lowered the taxes, but did not get rid of them completely. In exchange for this, South Carolina agreed to pay the taxes. It also passed a “force bill” giving the president permission to attack South Carolina. At the same time, the President agreed to not attack, because South Carolina had agreed to pay the taxes. The US had come to the edge of war over a disagreement about how much power the federal government had. By passing the force bill, Congress had essentially agreed that states did ***not*** have the right to nullify federal laws. The force bill also meant and that the central government had the right to use force to make the States do things. This would later help lead to the civil war.
  8. During the Nullification Crisis, there had been another problem: the Eaton Affair. One of Jackson's friends by the name of Senator Eaton married a young woman who had been widowed recently. There were rumors they may have been having an affair before her first husband died. They also got married only a few months after the first husband died. Because people disapproved, most of the leading ladies of Washington refused to talk to the new wife socially.
  9. This enraged Jackson. He believed gossip had killed his beloved wife. He refused to allow rumors to destroy another woman. He named Eaton as his Secretary of War. Jackson hoped that giving Eaton more power would force people to accept him and his new wife. This backfired. During 1831 the majority of Jackson's presidential cabinet resigned rather than continue to work with Eaton and be forced to associate with his wife. This even included Vice-president Calhoun. Jackson did not bother to appoint new officials. Instead, he created an informal "Kitchen Cabinet" to advise him. Among these advisors was Martin Van Buren. Van Buren would become Jackson’s new vice president in his next term.
  10. Another problem during Jackson's presidency was the National Bank. You may remember that the first bank was begun during Washington's Presidency. It then was allowed to expire under President Madison, who believed the bank gave advantages to the rich and powerful. Later Madison realized the need for a large bank to arrange loans to the government after the War of 1812. Madison signed legislation establishing a Second National Bank in 1816. Jackson firmly believed the new bank to be a corrupt and evil institution. Jackson fought during his first term to eliminate it. He eventually succeeded when he vetoed new legislation to allow the bank to operate for another 20 years. Following that, he ordered the treasury to withdraw all US money from the bank. This withdrawal destroyed the bank. Angered by this, Congress voted for an *act of censure*. This was basically a formal statement of disapproval.
  11. The National Bank was dead, again. There was still a need for banks, though. Dozens of new banks were started all over the country. Most of these banks were operating on credit: they were issuing money and loans that they could not repay now, but might be able to repay later. This led to a period of easily available loans. As a result, the economy boomed. Jackson was thrilled. He thought had proven that many smaller banks were better for the USA than one big central bank. But then he got worried...worried that banks were making bad loans, and that people were buying things that they couldn't pay back. He disliked printed money, and was worried that the banks were inventing money from nothing. To stop banks from just printing more money, he ordered that any lands bought from the government could not be paid in banknotes. Instead, government lands had to be paid for in actual gold or silver coins. As a result, people took their banknotes back to the banks. They asked to exchange the banknotes for coins made from gold or silver. When the banks didn't have enough gold or silver to pay them all, the bank went out of business. When this happened any money deposited in savings with the bank basically disappeared. The resulting series of banks collapsing led to the Panic of 1837. People withdrew all their money, and stopped buying and investing. This was followed by a devastating depression. For the second time in a row, presidential actions had destroyed a national bank. In the process, the destruction of the National Bank had also proven how important it was.
  12. The last major problem of Jackson's administration was the Indian problem. The frontier settlements throughout the western border all were experiencing the same type of conflict. They were seeking to settle, farm and claim new land, but the land wasn't truly new. The native tribes that were already there resisted by fighting, or even sometimes by suing in state or federal courts. Andrew Jackson had first become a famous general while fighting the Seminole Indians in Florida and the Shawnee during the War of 1812. Like all the other Presidents, he believed the United States had an obvious fate: to expand westward. Anything and anyone who stood in the way of this Manifest Destiny should be removed.
  13. The primary Indian challenge of his administration was the Cherokee. This nation of 5 tribes had taken to European style farming. They developed a Cherokee written language. Instead of fighting or leaving, they tried to integrate themselves into the new USA. Sadly, gold had recently been discovered on Cherokee lands. White settlers were invading and driving the Cherokee off their lands. The Cherokee sued in court to stop this. The Supreme Court ruled that the states could not force the Cherokee off their lands. Jackson did not care. Jackson's administration wrote a treaty that required the Cherokee to leave their lands and travel west. (The Cherokee who signed this treaty were not actually rulers or representatives of the Cherokee Nation, but this would not matter.) The treaty would be enforced at gunpoint. The journey where the Cherokee were escorted west to new lands was called the Trail of Tears. This was a forced march where thousands would die. Once the Cherokee arrived at their new homes, nearly half would die while trying to survive in a new and hostile land.

The Jacksonian era was ending, but the era of Manifest Destiny was just beginning.

Use the SARs format to answer the following questions.

1. Explain the personal and political background of Andrew Jackson.

2. Explain the causes of the Nullification Crisis.

3. Explain the details of the Nullification Crisis.

4. Explain the how the Nullification Crisis was solved.

5. Describe what the Second National Bank was and how or why Jackson destroyed it.

6. What happened because the Second National Bank was destroyed?

7. Explain what Jackson thought about the policy of Indian Removal.

8. How did Jackson try to solve the problem of having Indians in the states?