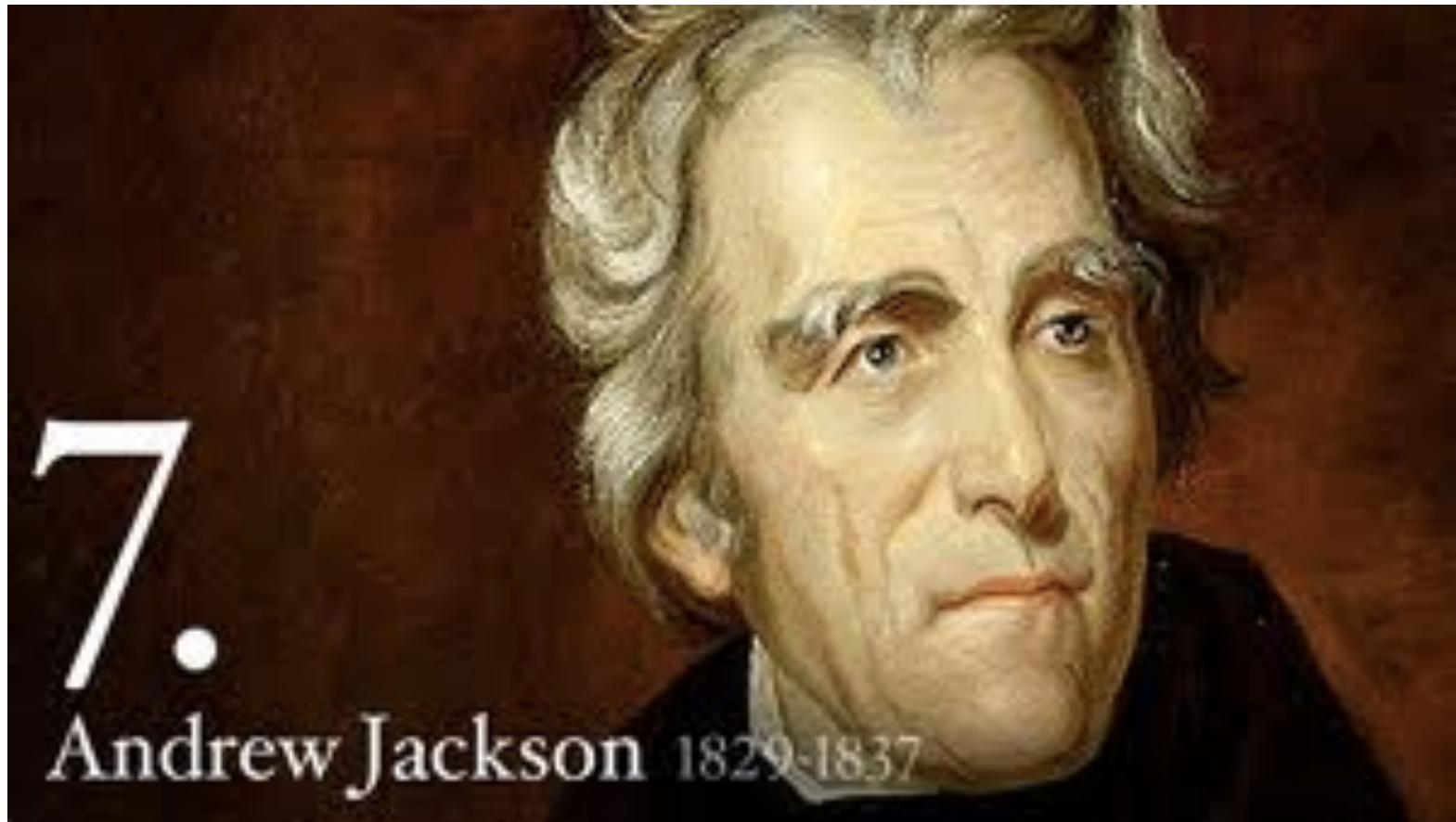


# **SSUSH7: INVESTIGATE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS DURING THE AGE OF JACKSON.**



***ELEMENT A: Explain Jacksonian Democracy, including expanding suffrage, the Nullification Crisis and states' rights, and the Indian Removal Act.***

# Andrew Jackson



- ❑ Andrew Jackson emerged from the War of 1812 as a very popular war hero.
- ❑ He soon entered the political arena and questioned the existing framework for democracy.
  - Jackson challenged the Democratic-Republicans and their expanding power.
    - He believed that the party's original mission to restrict the power of the federal government and preserve the rights of states and individuals was being lost in the country's growth.
    - Instead of supporting individuals, states, and agricultural pursuits, Jackson believed the Democratic-Republicans were becoming more centered on industrial progress, expanding federal power, and the upper-class.
- ❑ The aggressive challenge Jackson lodged against the Democratic Republicans ended the Era of Good Feelings' national unity and returned the country to a two-party system

# Jacksonian Democracy

- ❑ Jackson and his supporters shared a political philosophy later referred to as Jacksonian Democracy.
  - It sought a stronger presidency and executive branch, and a weaker Congress.
  - Out of respect for the common man, it also sought to broaden public participation in government, so it expanded voting rights to include all adult white males, not just landowners.
  - The implementation of universal male suffrage by state legislatures dramatically increased the number of voters in the United States.
    - The number of voters in the presidential election of 1824 was approximately 350,000.
    - With the push by Jackson and his supporters for the expansion of voter eligibility, 2.4 million Americans participated in the 1840 presidential election.



Most of the new voters were from the lower classes, which had previously been restricted from voting due to property requirements.

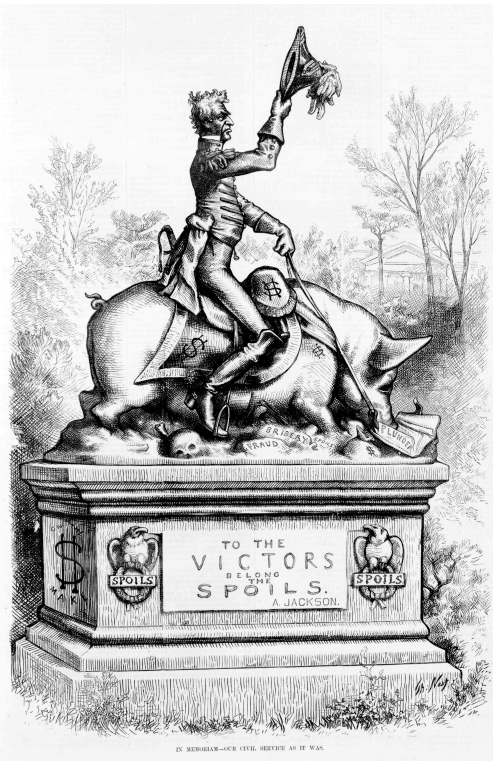
- These common men tended to support Andrew Jackson and their movement coalesced into a new political party – the Democratic Party.

- ❑ The old Democratic-Republican Party also transitioned at about the same time into the Whig Party.
  - The Whig Party tended to favor industrial expansion and was supported primarily by the upper-classes.
  - The United States was once again divided between two strong political parties with very different perspectives and goals for governing.



THEY COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE WORSE.

# Jacksonian Democracy: Spoils System



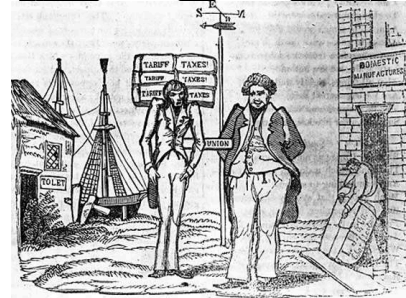
- ❑ Another principle of Jacksonian Democracy was that politicians should be allowed to appoint their followers to government jobs as a way of limiting the power of elite groups. This process became known as the spoils system.
  - Jackson believed that the President had to make sure the executive branch employees were carrying out the business of the government according to the plans of the party in power.
    - Therefore, he believed these government jobs, of necessity, should be held only by people who had demonstrated their loyalty to the party by working in campaigns.
  - The new spoils system he implemented sometimes led to corruption and unqualified workers in government positions.
- ❑ Jacksonian Democracy also favored limiting the power of the federal government in favor of expanded state power.
  - This issue of states' rights was a very divisive issue during the early 19th century.
  - The idea of states' rights revolved around who held the supreme power of government – states or the federal government.
    - The root of the argument became fixed in the Constitutional debates between the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists during the ratification process.
    - The issue re-emerged in 1798 with the passage of the Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions, which opposed the legality of the Alien and Sedition Acts



# Jacksonian Democracy: Nullification Crisis

- ❑ The issue of whether states could nullify federal law nearly split the United States.
- ❑ Congress had passed the Tariffs of 1828 and 1832 to protect American manufacturers from competition with cheap British imported goods.

- Southerners believed that the tariff was purposely passed to hurt southern plantation owners and would only benefit northern industrialists.
- In response, South Carolina legislators nullified the tariff.
  - Andrew Jackson's Vice President, John C. Calhoun, argued with the President about the right of states to nullify (cancel) federal laws they opposed.
    - Calhoun, a South Carolinian, resigned from the vice presidency to lead the efforts of the southern states in the crisis.
    - He even went so far as to suggest South Carolina's secession from the Union.
    - Calhoun's loyalty to the interests of the southern region/section of the United States, rather than to the United States as a whole, made clear how divided the nation had become.

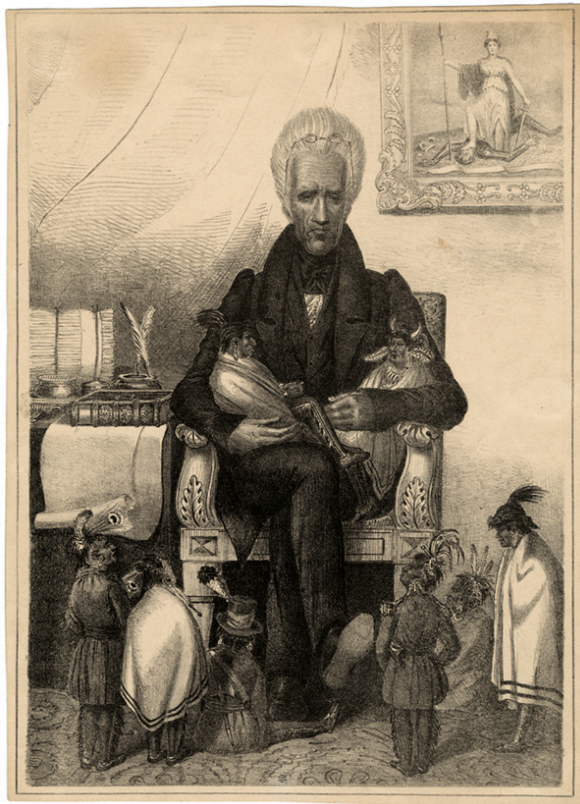


The Nullification Crisis was resolved when a compromise tariff was passed and Jackson's Congressional supporters authorized the President to use the army and navy to enforce federal law.

- South Carolina then backed down from its secessionist threats.
- ❑ The Jacksonian Democracy that purported to uphold states' rights placed a limit on the approach when it threatened the Union as a whole.

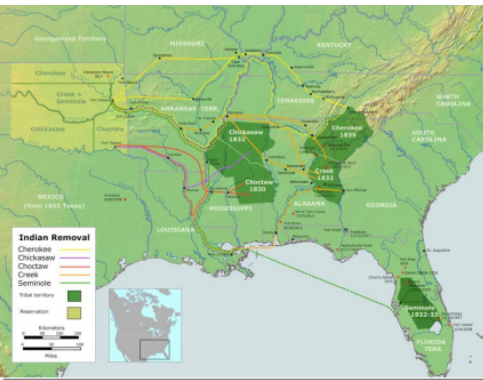
# Jacksonian Democracy: Indian Removal Act

- ❑ The Nullification Crisis had a profound effect on North-South relations.
  - Calhoun continued to vocally support the issue of states' rights and began to build a coalition of southerners who would not back down from the threat of force in the future.
  - Slave owners began to wonder what would happen if the Federal government decided to end slavery by law.
- ❑ Andrew Jackson's democratic philosophy and appeal to the common man did not encompass American Indians.
  - During his military career, Jackson was known for his attacks on the Seminole and Creek tribes in the southern United States and northern Florida during the War of 1812.
  - Once Jackson was elected President, he worked to expand the land available for white settlement.
    - To achieve this, Jackson signed the Indian Removal Act in 1830, which forced thousands of American Indians to leave their homelands and re-settle west of the Mississippi River.
    - The American Indians would be given land in the west in exchange for the lands they held in the east.
    - While most tribes resented the policy, they reluctantly complied.
      - However, a few tribes, such as the Cherokee Nation in Georgia, refused to give up their land to the state.

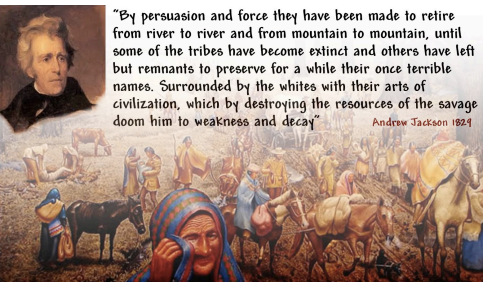


# Jacksonian Democracy: Indian Removal Act

- ❑ Georgia had passed a statute that abolished the Cherokee government and laws in the eyes of the state.
  - The state was planning to use this provision to take control of Cherokee lands that had been granted to them by a 1791 treaty with the United States government.
  - The issue in Georgia was highly charged since gold had been discovered in the northern part of the state.
    - The Georgia lands where white settlers flocked in the gold rush of the 1830s was mostly held by Cherokee Indians.
  - The Cherokee filed suit to challenge the loss of their land. The case was heard by the United States Supreme Court and Chief Justice John Marshall issued the ruling for Worcester v. Georgia.
    - In this 1832 decision, Marshall sided with the Cherokee Indians and said that the state of Georgia had no authority to legislate against the tribe.
    - After the Supreme Court issued the ruling, President Andrew Jackson openly challenged John Marshall and the decision. Jackson stated, “John Marshall has made his decision; now let him enforce it!”
    - In 1835, the Georgia Cherokee reluctantly surrendered their lands.
  - Over the next few years, the Cherokee’s were forced to travel to the west over what became known as the Trail of Tears.
    - The forced removal was difficult and thousands of American Indians died along the way due to starvation, disease, and exhaustion.



American Indian Removal Map (public domain)



"By persuasion and force they have been made to retire from river to river and from mountain to mountain, until some of the tribes have become extinct and others have left but remnants to preserve for a while their once terrible names. Surrounded by the whites with their arts of civilization, which by destroying the resources of the savage doom him to weakness and decay"

Andrew Jackson 1824



# Significance of Jacksonian Democracy

□ Jacksonian Democracy is a term that refers to more than the eight years Andrew Jackson served as President.



- It is more of a general term that encompasses the formation of the Democratic Party, the Jackson Presidency, and also the broad political reforms that extended political participation to the common man over the course of the 1830s through the 1850s.
- Not all groups were included in the Jacksonian Democracy movement.
- Although universal male suffrage was achieved through the promotion of Jacksonian Democracy, American Indians, enslaved and free Blacks, and women did not benefit from the egalitarian values the term suggests.