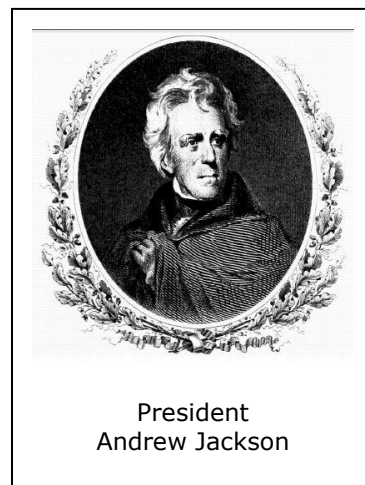


Twenty-First Congress

Dec. 7, 1829-Mar. 3, 1831

First Administration of Andrew Jackson

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Historical Background

Upon assuming the Presidency in 1829, Andrew Jackson was confronted by several issues of national importance, including the growing specter of Southern sectionalism, diplomatic controversies with France and England, and the need for a coherent Indian policy. Jackson’s addresses to the 21st Congress made clear his intention to helm in an ambitious, activist administration. Among Jackson’s proposals were amending the Constitution to eliminate the Electoral College, making the popular vote the sole method for selecting the President and Vice President. Jackson also opposed presidential elections being decided by members of the House of Representatives because of the potential for corruption: “the consequences of this feature of the Constitution appear far more threatening to the peace and integrity of the Union than any which I can conceive,” he said. Jackson also urged Congress to consider limiting the President to a single term of either four years or six years.

Jackson urged Congress to consider further amendments to the Constitution, specifically proposing an amendment that would facilitate the return of Federal tax money to the States. Jackson believed such tax money would accumulate in the Treasury once the national debt was paid, so he proposed returning the money to the States based on “their ratio of representation.” However, if that turned out to be unconstitutional, Jackson said “an amendment authorizing” such a plan would be “expedient” for the return of those funds to the States.

Other changes to the Federal Government sought by Jackson included a reorganization of the Federal Judiciary that would create two classes of

House	Senate
Majority Party: Jacksonian (136 seats)	Majority Party: Jacksonian (25 seats)
Minority Party: Anti-Jacksonian (72 seats)	Minority Party: Anti-Jacksonian (23 seats)
Other Parties: Anti-Masonic (5 seats)	Other Parties: none
Speaker of the House: Andrew Stevenson	President Pro Tempore: Samuel Smith

Circuit Court Judges so the backlog of cases could be quickly adjudicated. Jackson also proposed eliminating the U.S. Marine Corps by merging it with “the artillery or infantry.”

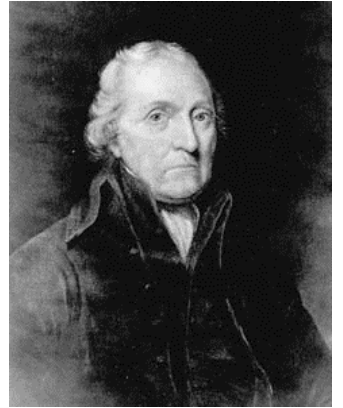
While many of Jackson’s proposed changes to the Federal Government never saw fruition, he did manage advance his agenda in regard to the Native American communities living within the territory of the United States. He argued that if they stayed within the boundaries of the U.S. “surrounded by whites, with their arts of civilization,” the States “by destroying the resources of the savage, doom him to weakness and decay.” Since to allow tribes to remain would mean the destruction of the tribes and their people, “humanity and national honor demanded that every effort should be made to avert so great a calamity.” This was accomplished through the forced ousting of the Native American tribes from the states to a territory west of the Mississippi River. While Jackson openly referred to the aboriginal inhabitants of the American continent as “savages,” he justified the need to remove them from the States as a means to “preserve” them, and because many had formed governments within the States where they were located, which he said was unconstitutional. Congress codified Jackson’s request with the Indian Removal Act of 1830.

Sources:

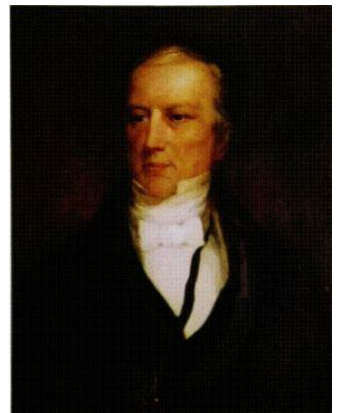
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President Pro Tempore
Samuel Smith



Speaker of the House
Andrew Stevenson

War or Peace?

Naval Buildup

During this period the United States was at peace. Nonetheless, the Army and Navy were prepared to defend against attacks by foreign aggressors, and to deter any “attempts at conquest” of the United States, Jackson said during the State of the Union address delivered Dec. 7, 1830. The real problem facing the country militarily was “attacks upon our commerce” by pirates in the service of foreign nations. Therefore, “a naval force adequate to the protections of our commerce, always afloat, with an accumulation of the means to give it a rapid extension in case of need, furnishes the power by which all such aggressions may be prevented, or repelled.” Citing the seizing of U.S. merchant ships by the “Barbary Powers” (Algiers, Morocco, Tripoli and Tunis) during the late 18th and early 19th Centuries, Jackson said the

“policy of keeping an adequate force in the Mediterranean as security” was necessary. A similar policy was needed in the Pacific to protect commerce and fisheries, he said.

While Jackson praised the Navy as “the best standing security of this country against foreign aggression” and for that reason should have “the special attention of the Government,” he was also aware of its costs and opposed maintaining ships that were not on active duty. “In time of peace, we have need of no more ships of war than are requisite to the protection of our commerce,” he said. Because warships not in use were being allowed to decay, he urged an end to the construction of new warships, with such construction resuming if needed. In another cost cutting measure, Jackson proposed eliminating the U.S. Marine Corps. He said the existing Marine Corps should be merged with “the artillery or infantry,” because that branch of the Navy (from its inception, the Marine Corps was designed to be naval infantry) suffered from defects. Merging the two was “the best mode of curing the defects in [the Marine Corps’] organization,” he said.

Jackson cited reports from the Secretary of War on the condition and readiness of the Army, the “officers and soldiers” of which were “imbued with a proper sense of duty, and conform to the restraints of exact discipline.” However, Jackson urged Congress to enact legislation setting limits on the number of officers and soldiers on active duty, as well as legislation regulating military pay.

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Economic Trends and Conditions

The Treasury reported that the Federal government began 1829 with a balance of more than \$5.9 million and that revenues from taxes and fees collected during 1829 surpassed \$24.6 million. Expenditures for 1829 surpassed \$26.1 million, leaving a surplus of more than of \$4.4 million at the beginning of 1830. During 1830, the Federal government started with a balance of \$4.4 million, and collected more than \$24.1 million in taxes and fees, while expenditures for 1830 were reported to be \$25 million. According to the Treasury, the listed end-of-year balance was \$4.8 million.

While President Jackson made paying off the national debt among the highest priorities of his administration, the need to facilitate global commerce, including securing treaties that opened ports to trade, were of vital concern to the President and Congress. That included ports along the

Black Sea and the Mediterranean Sea. In addition, an agreement was reached with Great Britain—after six previous negotiations—in which U.S. ships could exchange goods with England’s colonies in the West Indies. Prior to the treaty, U.S. merchants sending goods to the West Indies had to ship those goods to Canada where they were loaded onto British ships for transport to the West Indies. Also prior to the agreement, when U.S. ships were allowed to land at the West Indies to receive cargo, the amount of cargo a ship could transport was limited to 70 tons.

Related to trade, Jackson reported that a Government imposed tariff had “not proved so injurious” to agriculture or commerce, or “as beneficial” to manufacturing as anticipated. The importation of foreign goods has not been diminished by the tariff, with domestic competition responsible for an increase in production, according to Jackson. “The consequences have been low prices, temporary embarrassment and partial loss,” Jackson said. However, because manufacturing within the United States is “prudently managed,” it will “survive the shock, and be ultimately profitable,” he added.

While Jackson was a supporter of trade and commerce, he opposed Federal funding for some public works projects because such funding might not only increase State dependency on Federal money, but because it also had the potential for increasing Federal influence within the States. An example of his opposition to Federal funding for some public works projects occurred when Jackson vetoed a bill that sought to allocate funds for the construction of a 60-mile road connecting the Kentucky communities of Maysville and Lexington. Jackson vetoed the bill on the grounds that it involved an unconstitutional use of Federal money for an intrastate project, and had no connection with any established systems of improvements. If Congress thought subsidizing roads and canals was desirable, Jackson argued, they should be sanctioned by a constitutional amendment.

Sources:

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Major Treaties

Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek. The first removal treaty carried into effect under the Indian Removal Act, it promised the Choctaw Nation 15 million acres of land in the newly establish Indian Territory in exchange for the 11

million acres the Choctaws possessed east of the Mississippi. Signed September 27, 1830. Proclaimed February 24, 1831. ([7 Stat. 333](#))

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Landmark U.S. Supreme Court Decisions

Craig vs. Missouri. Ruled that state loan certificates are unconstitutional because they were bills of credit emitted by a state in violation of Article I, Section 10 of the Constitution, 29 U.S. 410 (1830)

Sources:

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1829 Events

- **Mar. 2:** [The New England Asylum for the Blind, the first within the United States, is incorporated in Boston](#)
- **Mar. 4:** [Andrew Jackson is inaugurated as the seventh President of the United States, and an unruly crowd mobs the White House during the inaugural ball](#)
- **Mar. 22:** *Greek War of Independence* - With the London Protocol of 1829, Britain, France and Russia establish the borders of Greece as an internally autonomous but tributary state under Ottoman control
- **Apr. 13:** The British Parliament passes the Roman Catholic Relief Act 1829, which grants freedom of religion to Catholics and enables them to be elected to Parliament
- **Apr. 25:** The *HMS Challenger* arrives off the coast of modern-day Western Australia carrying Charles Fremantle, who on May 2 declared the Swan River Colony for the United Kingdom
- **Apr. 28:** The Dutch parliament accepts new press laws governing the licensing of books and restricting expression in all printing-press products, especially newspapers
- **July 23:** [The U.S. Patent Office awards William Austin Burt patents for his "typographer" \(typewriter\)](#)

- **Aug. 25:** [President Jackson offers to buy Texas from Mexico, but the Mexican government declines](#)
- **Sept. 14:** Russia and the Ottoman Empire sign the Treaty of Adrianople ending the Russo-Turkish War of 1828-1829
- **Sept. 25:** The Venezuelan military and political leader Simon Bolivar survives an assassination attempt
- **Sept. 28:** David Walker begins publishing his radical antislavery pamphlet *Walker's Appeal*, which urges slaves to revolt against their masters
- **Nov. 30:** [The First Welland Canal, a canal that runs from Lake Ontario to rivers located in the Canadian Province of Ontario and ultimately to Lake Erie, opens for a trial run](#)
- **Dec. 4:** Britain outlaws in India the practice of "suttee," in which a widow burns herself to death on her husband's funeral pyre

1830 Events

- **Jan. 7:** [The first railroad station within the United States opens in Baltimore, Md.](#)
- **Jan. 19:** *Haynes-Webster Debate* – [A week-long Senate debate between Robert Haynes of South Carolina and Daniel Webster of Mass. over States rights and the meaning of the Union](#)
- **Feb. 3:** Britain, France and Russia confirm Greece's sovereignty in the London Protocol of 1830 which amends provisions from the 1829 protocol that established Greece's borders
- **Mar. 26:** The Book of Mormon is published in Palmyra, New York
- **Apr. 6:** Joseph Smith and five others organize the Church of Christ (later renamed the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints), the first formally organized church of the Latter-Day Saint movement, in northwestern New York
- **May 13:** Ecuador separates from Gran Colombia
- **May 24:** The first passenger rail service in the United States is made available; the rail line uses horses to pull cars on tracks connecting Baltimore with Ellicott's Mill, Md.
- **May 28:** [The U.S. Congress approves the Indian Removal Act](#)
- **July 5:** France invades Algeria
- **July 27:** The July Revolution begins in France, with three days of riots resulting in the abdication of King Charles X and the creation of a constitutional monarchy under the King's cousin, Louis Philippe of Orléans
- **Aug. 25:** Belgium revolts against the Netherlands, thereby beginning the Belgian Revolution

- **Aug. 28:** [The first American built steam locomotive—called the “Tom Thumb”—begins providing service from Baltimore to Ellicott’s Mill, Md.](#)
- **Sept. 15:** Forty delegates of the first National Negro Convention meet in Philadelphia
- **Sept. 27:** [Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek signed with the Choctaw Nation \(the first treaty signed following passage of the Indian Removal Act\)](#)
- **Oct. 1:** Belgium’s provisional Government declares the secession of Belgium from Netherlands
- **Nov. 29:** Poles begin the “November Uprising,” an armed rebellion against Russia’s rule in Poland
- **Dec. 20:** Great Britain, Austria, France, Prussia, and Russia recognize Belgium as an independent nation

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["Removal of the Indians"](#) Register of Debate, 21st Congress, 1st Session (May 18, 1830) Vol. 6, p. 1049. ProQuest Congressional, RD-1830-0518

Major Acts

Indian Removal Act. Authorized the forced removal of the Indians to lands west of the Mississippi. Congress appropriated \$500,000 to facilitate this effort. Approved May 28, 1830. ([4 Stat. 411, Chap. 148](#))

Colonies of Great Britain Intercourse Renewal. Authorized the President to open the ports of the United States when British colonial ports were opened to American vessels without discrimination. Approved May 29, 1830. ([4 Stat. 419, Chap. 207](#))

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