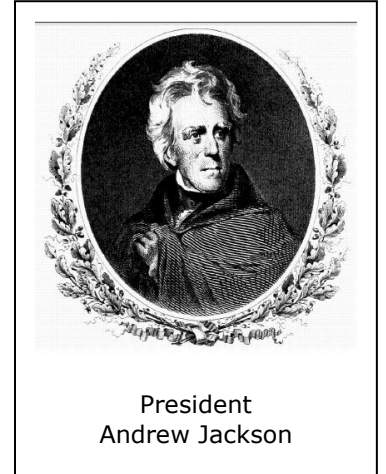


Twenty-Third Congress

Dec. 2, 1833-Mar. 3, 1835

Second Administration of Andrew Jackson

Historical Background.....	1
War or Peace?	2
Economic Trends and Conditions.....	3
Major Treaties.....	4
Landmark U.S. Supreme Court Decisions.....	4
1833 Events	4
1834 Events	5
Major Acts.....	6



Historical Background

President Andrew Jackson declared his reelection in 1832 to be a mandate for the removal of Government funds from the Bank of the United States—which Jackson called “the scourge of the people”—and during 1833 he ordered those funds be deposited in a number of State banks, popularly called “pet banks.” Jackson said the action taken was necessary because the Bank of the United States was using its funds to attempt “to influence the elections of public officers” and that required “measures be taken to separate the Government entirely” from the Bank. However, on Dec. 11, 1833 the Senate reacted to Jackson’s move by voting 23 to 18 to direct the President to provide Congress with a copy of a document about the bank issue that he read to his Cabinet. Jackson refused on the grounds that it was an unconstitutional encroachment on the executive office. As a result, on Dec. 26, 1833 Senator Henry Clay introduced two resolutions censuring President Jackson. Although both resolutions were approved by the Senate the following March, within three years Jackson was successful in having them expunged from the Senate journal.

By December 1833, the forced removal of the Native American tribes east of the Mississippi was winding down, according to Jackson, who sought the swift removal of all the tribes saying the Indians had neither “the intelligence, the industry, [nor] the moral habits,” to be “in the midst of another and superior race.” About six months later, the Department of Indian Affairs within the War Department was signed into law on June 30, 1834.

House	Senate
Majority Party: Jacksonian (143 seats)	Majority Party: Anti-Jacksonian (26 seats)
Minority Party: Anti-Jacksonian (63 seats)	Minority Party: Jacksonian (20 seats)
Other Parties: Anti-Masonic (25 seats); Nullifier (9 seats)	Other Parties: Nullifier (2 seats)
Speaker of the House: Andrew Stevenson; John Bell	President Pro Tempore: Hugh L. White; George Poindexter; John Tyler

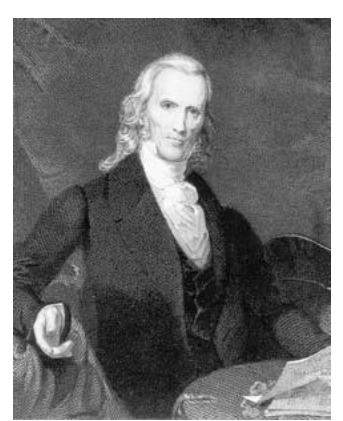
In 1833 and 1834, foreign affairs were a major concern of President Jackson, whose government was engaged in negotiations with several world powers, including Great Britain, France, Mexico, Portugal, Russia, and Spain. Most of the negotiations during this period focused on treaties, tariffs and cooperation on projects designed to increase the safety of sailing vessels, such as the construction of light houses in strategic locations. The talks with Great Britain and Mexico were especially important to the country for those negotiations were to finalize the United States' borders with Canada and Mexico. However, at that time Mexico was engaged in a civil war, which delayed the efforts to "define the boundaries between the two nations."

Sources:

Dell, Christopher and Stephen W. Stathis. [*Major Acts of Congress and Treaties Approved by the Senate, 1789-1980*](#). Government Division (CRS), Sept. 1, 1982. 97th Congress, 2nd Session, 82-156 GOV. ProQuest Congressional, CRS-1982-GOV-0005

Jackson, Andrew. [*Message at the Commencement of the 23rd Congress, First Session. Senate, Dec. 3, 1833*](#). 23rd Congress, 1st Session, S. Doc. 23-1/1 (Pr7.1/1:833). ProQuest Congressional, 238 S.doc.1/1

Jackson, Andrew. [*Message from the President of the United States to the Two Houses of Congress at the Commencement of the Second Session of the Twenty-Third Congress*](#). Senate, Dec. 2, 1834. 23rd Congress, 2nd Session, S. Doc. 23-1/1 (Pr7.1/1:834). ProQuest Congressional, 266 S.doc.1/1



President Pro Tempore
Hugh L. White



President Pro Tempore
John Tyler

War or Peace?

Civil Wars in Central and South America

The United States was at relative peace during this period, with the War Department reporting that the Army had not been engaged in any major campaigns. The only military action the Army had been involved in was the deployment of a regiment of cavalry to the area adjacent to the border with Mexico in response to attacks by "wandering and predatory tribes." Jackson reported the situation was resolved "without the commission of any act of hostility." The Army had been otherwise focused on constructing fortifications at "exposed points" while accumulating the supplies that would be needed to support the defense of the country.

During this period, the Navy had been reviewing its procedures to increase efficiency, which included reorganizing the Navy Board, and revising officers' pay. The Navy also sought funding to construct an additional dry dock, and steam batteries for defense.

While the United States remained mostly at peace, the government was aware of civil wars taking place in Mexico, Central America, and South America, including in the Republic of Columbia, a nation the U.S. sought friendly relations with. However, Columbia was in the midst of negotiating peace with New Grenada and Venezuela, while Ecuador remained in a state of civil war. Jackson, therefore, cautioned that it was not likely Columbia would engage in negotiations with the United States until those states

resolved the question of re-unification; a question the President did not believe would be resolved soon.

Sources:

Jackson, Andrew. [Message at the Commencement of the 23rd Congress, First Session. Senate, Dec. 3, 1833.](#) 23rd Congress, 1st Session, S. Doc. 23-1/1 (Pr7.1/1:833). ProQuest Congressional, 238 S.doc.1/1

Jackson, Andrew. [Message from the President of the United States to the Two Houses of Congress at the Commencement of the Second Session of the Twenty-Third Congress.](#) Senate, Dec. 2, 1834. 23rd Congress, 2nd Session, S. Doc. 23-1/1 (Pr7.1/1:834). ProQuest Congressional, 266 S.doc.1/1

Economic Trends and Conditions

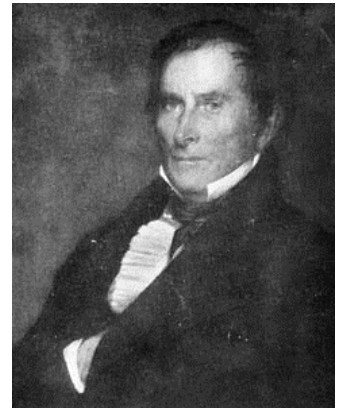
The Department of the Treasury reported that during 1833 the country collected about \$32 million in taxes and fees while government spending was less than \$25 million, leaving a surplus of about \$7 million for that fiscal year. The Treasury Department made a similar financial report for 1834 with the country collecting about \$32.3 million in taxes and fees, and spending \$25.5 million, leaving a surplus of more than \$6.7 million.

Jackson reported that “extensive frauds” had been discovered in the payment of pensions to Revolutionary War veterans. There were, in fact, so many fraudulent pensions being paid that Jackson supported “a re-examination” of the pension claim system.

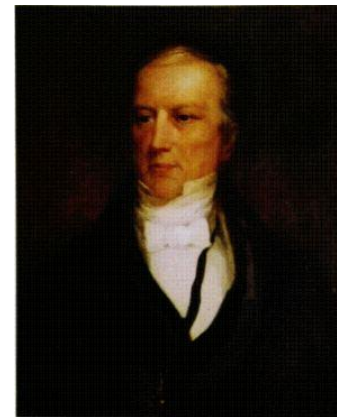
In addition, as the country developed road and waterway infrastructure, Jackson said he was opposed to Federal backing of such “internal improvements” projects (as demonstrated by a bill he vetoed, *An Act to Improve the Navigation of the Wabash River*). Jackson said, that while he was not fundamentally opposed to road construction and other public works projects, he opposed Federal backing of such projects because they created “opportunities and temptations” for the Federal government to meddle in “State concerns.”

Moreover, the use of steam engines to power commercial naval vessels was increasing, and with the growth of the use of steam technology, so had the number of accidents—including fatal accidents—related to steam engine use. However, despite the growing number of fatal accidents, Jackson was unshaken in his faith in steam technology, and he blamed the accidents on improper use of those engines, calling it “criminal negligence.”

After Jackson vetoed the bill to re-charter the Second Bank of the United States in 1832 - arguing that the institution was unconstitutional - the Bank began to wind up its operations over the next four years. On Sept. 10th, 1833 Jackson removed all federal funds from the Second Bank of the U.S. and redistributed them to various state banks, known as ‘pet banks,’ effectively circumventing Congress and ending the Bank. As a result, state-charted banks relaxed their lending standards thereby exasperating what was an already volatile situation.



President Pro Tempore
George Poindexter



Speaker of the House
Andrew Stevenson

Sources:

Jackson, Andrew. [Message at the Commencement of the 23rd Congress, First Session. Senate, Dec. 3, 1833](#). 23rd Congress, 1st Session, S. Doc. 23-1/1 (Pr7.1/1:833). ProQuest Congressional, 238 S.doc.1/1

Jackson, Andrew. [Message from the President of the United States to the Two Houses of Congress at the Commencement of the Second Session of the Twenty-Third Congress](#). Senate, Dec. 2, 1834. 23rd Congress, 2nd Session, S. Doc. 23-1/1 (Pr7.1/1:834). ProQuest Congressional, 266 S.doc.1/1

Major Treaties

Treaty of Amity and Commerce between the United States and Siam.

The first treaty the United States signed with a country in Asia, its articles primarily covered trade. Concluded March 20, 1833. Approved by the Senate June 30, 1834. ([8 Stat. 454](#))

Source:

Van Buren, Martin. [Treaty of Amity and Commerce Between the United States and King of Siam](#). Department of State, Dec. 4, 1837. 25th Congress, 2nd Session, S. Doc. 25-1/2 (S1.1:837). ProQuest Congressional, 314 S.doc.1/2

Landmark U.S. Supreme Court Decisions

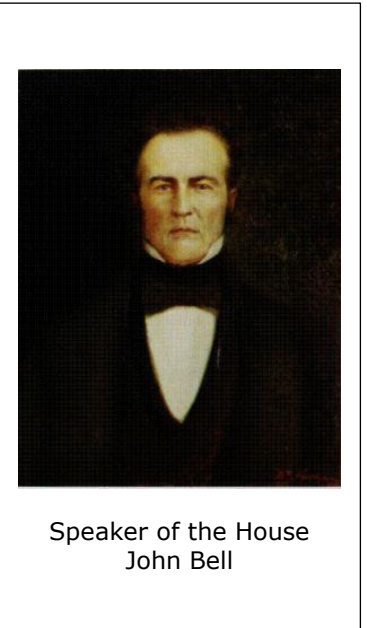
Barron v. Baltimore, held that the Bill of Rights applies only to the federal government, and not the state governments, therefore the Supreme Court lacked jurisdiction to hear Barron's case and dismissed it. The ruling held until passage of the Fourteenth Amendment, which bans states from depriving citizens of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, 32 U.S. 7 Pet. 243 243 (1833)

Sources:

Costello, George A. and Johnny H. Killian. [Constitution of the United States of America, Analysis and Interpretation](#). Senate, Jan. 1, 1996. 103rd Congress, 1st Session, S. Doc. 103-6 (Y1.1/3:103-6). ProQuest Congressional, 14152 S.doc.6

1833 Events

- **April 9:** [The first tax-supported public library is established in Peterborough, N.H.](#)
- **May 6:** Businessman John Deere, founder of Deere & Company, makes the first steel plough
- **May 16:** Antonio López de Santa Ana becomes President of Mexico
- **May 20:** [The United States and Siam sign a commercial treaty](#)
- **June 27:** [Prudence Crandall, a white teacher in Canterbury, Conn., is arrested for opening a school for black girls](#)
- **Aug. 12:** Chicago is established by 350 settlers
- **Aug. 29:** Britain's Slavery Abolition Act becomes law



Speaker of the House
John Bell

- **Sept. 3:** *The New York Sun* begins daily publication making it the first daily newspaper in the United States
- **Sept. 10:** Jackson removes all federal funds from the Second Bank of the U.S., redistributing them to various state banks known as 'pet banks'
- **Dec. 3:** Oberlin College in Ohio opens, thereby becoming the first coeducational college
- **Dec. 4:** Arthur Tappan forms the American Anti-Slavery Society in Philadelphia
- **Aug. 17:** Robert Fulton's steamboat, the *Clermont*, begins its first trip up New York's Hudson River

1834 Events

- **Jan. 29:** [President Jackson orders U.S. troops to suppress a labor dispute involving workers on the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal; it is the first time a President uses Federal troops to suppress labor unrest](#)
- **March 18:** The first railroad tunnel in the United States—the Staple Bend Tunnel, located near Johnstown, Penn.—is completed
- **March 28:** [The Senate censures President Jackson for removing Federal deposits from the Bank of the United States](#)
- **May 8:** Austria, Prussia and Russia sign a classified accord about Belgium
- **May 26:** After three years of civil war in Portugal, Dom Miguel capitulates ending the conflict
- **June 30:** [Congress creates the Indian Territory now known as Oklahoma and created the Department of Indian Affairs within the Department of War](#)
- **Aug. 18:** Britain's Slavery Abolition Act of 1833 takes effect ending slavery throughout the British Empire
- **Aug. 18:** [Mt. Vesuvius, a volcano in Italy's Gulf of Naples, erupts](#)
- **Oct. 14:** [Henry Blair is issued a patent for his "seed-planter" device making him the second African American to obtain a U.S. patent](#)

Sources:

["An Act to provide for the organization of the department of Indian affairs."](#) (June 30, 1834; 4 Stat. 735, Chap. 162). ProQuest Congressional

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["Chesapeake and Ohio Canal."](#) Register of Debates, 23rd Congress, 1st Session, (Feb. 10, 1834) Vol. 10, p. 2701. ProQuest Congressional, RD-1834-0210

Dallas, George Mifflin. [Pennsylvania. Proceedings of a meeting of democratic citizens of Philadelphia, approving the measures of the executive in removing the public deposits from the Bank of the United States](#). House, Mar. 24, 1834. 23rd Congress, 1st Session, H.doc.227. ProQuest Congressional, 257 H.doc.227

Gideon, J. & G.S. [List of patents for inventions and designs issued by U.S. from 1790 to 1847, with patent laws and notes of decisions of courts of U.S. for same period.](#) Department of State, Jan. 1, 1847. (S1.2:P27/4). ProQuest Congressional, S102-57

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Steiner, Bernard C. [History of education in Connecticut.](#) GPO, Jan. 1, 1893. Education Bur. Circ. of Info. No. 1893/2; Contributions to Amer. Educational History No. 14 (I16.5:893/no.2). ProQuest Congressional, I1605-23.2

["Treaty of amity and commerce between his Majesty, the Magnificent King of Siam, and the United States of America. March 20, 1833."](#) (8 Stat. 454; Mar. 1833). ProQuest Congressional

Major Acts

Department of Indian Affairs Act. It provided for the organization of the Department of Indian Affairs within the Department of War. Approved June 30, 1834. ([4 Stat. 735, Chap. 162](#))

Sources:

Dell, Christopher and Stephen W. Stathis. [Major Acts of Congress and Treaties Approved by the Senate, 1789-1980.](#) Government Division (CRS), Sept. 1, 1982. 97th Congress, 2nd Session, 82-156 GOV. ProQuest Congressional, CRS-1982-GOV-0005

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