

# Forty-Third Congress

---

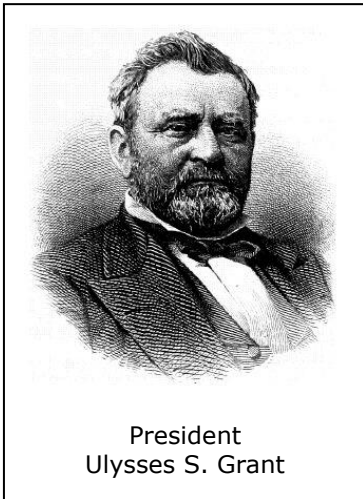
Dec. 1, 1873-Mar. 3, 1875

## Second Administration of Ulysses S. Grant

---

Historical Background.....	1
War or Peace? .....	2
Economic Trends and Conditions.....	4
Landmark U.S. Supreme Court Decisions.....	6
1873 Events.....	6
1874 Events.....	7
Major Acts.....	9

---



### Historical Background

During the fall of 1873, the Nation was hit by a major financial panic and then plunged into a severe economic depression. That September the New York Stock Exchange closed its doors for ten days, numerous businesses failed, and railroad construction was curtailed, with some railroads even having to default on their bonds. Amidst these conditions, Congress reconsidered and then repealed passage of the "Salary Grab Act of 1873," which (among other things) had raised the salaries of Members of Congress.

Another casualty of the panic (and years of poor management) occurred with the bankruptcy of the government of the District of Columbia. In June 1874, Congress enacted a measure replacing the territorial Government of the District with a three-man commission, a form of government which remained in effect for more than 90 years, until 1967.

Also in June 1874, Congress passed a Currency Act fixing the amount of greenbacks (paper money) in circulation. The Specie Resumption Act, of the following January, provided for the replacement, "as rapidly as practicable," of greenbacks with gold coin. Provision also was made for reducing the circulating greenback total from \$382 million to \$300 million. (The actual resumption of specie payments was to be carried out under the Hayes administration.)

In response to the protest of Black Americans against the denial of equal access to public accommodations and the right to serve on juries, Congress enacted the Civil Rights Act of 1875, granting all such rights to all Americans.

House	Senate
Majority Party: Republican (199 seats)	Majority Party: Republican (47 seats)
Minority Party: Democrat (88 seats)	Minority Party: Democrat (19 seats)
Other Parties: Liberal Republican (4 seats); Independent Democrat (1 seat)	Other Parties: Liberal Republican (7 seats)
Speaker of the House: James Gillespie Blaine	President Pro Tempore: Matthew H. Carpenter; Henry B. Anthony

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. 97<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session, 82-156 GOV. ProQuest Congressional, CRS-1982-GOV-0005

---

## War or Peace?

### Indian Wars

The Army was utilized in the protection of farmers and their property along the southern border of the U.S. Witnesses claimed that Mexican and Native Americans would raid farms for cattle and supplies, often accompanied with violence to farmers and their families. Army personnel worked with law enforcement and other federal agencies, such as the State Department, to track and arrest raiders, often crossing into Mexican territory to apprehend known criminals.

At the outset of his second term, President Grant articulated a Peace Policy that would govern his administration's approach to the former rebellious states as well as to the Native American tribes that inhabited with the western part of the United States. With respect to the Indian tribes, this policy was driven by Grant's sense that unless the Federal government adopted an active policy of accommodating the indigenous inhabitants of the land in the face of continued westward expansion, genocidal conflict would be inevitable.

Though Grant's Peace Policy reduced the number of armed confrontations between the Federal government and the Indian tribes, it did not eliminate them entirely. In Texas there was increasing pressure between cattle ranchers hoping to exploit the high price of beef and the state's vast open pasture lands and the area's indigenous tribes—most particularly the Comanches.

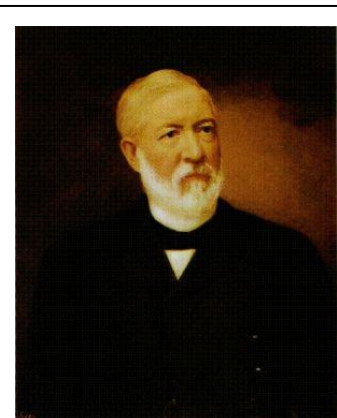
Colonel Ranald Mackenzie's campaigns against the Comanche in west Texas beginning during the previous Congress proved to be a turning point in the Federal government's long-running confrontation with the Comanche Indians. It was the first time government forces penetrated the Comanche's historical homeland, the so-called Comancheria. Moreover, the strategy of forcing the Comanche's onto reservations by destroying their villages was so successful that it became the model for General Philip Sheridan's attack on the Comanche and Kiowa Indians in summer 1874, known as the Red River War, which led to the effective extinction of the Southern Plains tribes. Mackenzie himself would lead the 4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry in pursuit of the Comanche chief Quanah. In September 1874, Mackenzie's 4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry attacked and destroyed five Indian villages and more than 1,000 of the Comanches' horses in Palo Duro Canyon. The destruction of the Comanches' homes and their horses was the beginning of the end of Comanche resistance in Texas and Chief Quanah would be captured in early 1875 and would subsequently style himself Quanah Parker spending his remaining years working to facilitate his people's success in their new circumstances.



President Pro Tempore  
Matthew H. Carpenter



President Pro Tempore  
Henry B. Anthony



Speaker of the House  
James Gillespie Blaine

## **Modoc War**

Elsewhere, in northern California and southern Oregon, a conflict rooted in an ill-conceived between members of the Klamath, Modoc, and Yahooskin tribes and the Federal government was coming to a head. According to the terms of the Great Treaty of Council Grove, the included tribal bands, consisting of over 1,000 individuals, the majority of whom were from the Klamath tribe, agreed to cede large tracts of their ancestral home lands to the Federal government in exchange for the establishment of a reservation and distribution of provisions to help them establish themselves in their new territory. The resultant Klamath Reservation was dominated by the eponymous tribe, historical rivals to the Modoc. Virtually immediately upon beginning to construct their settlements, the Modoc experienced harassment by the Klamath, including the theft of the building materials with which they were to construct their homes. The Modoc left the reservation in 1870, attempting to return to their former territory near the Lost River, only to find much of the land occupied by settlers. The Modoc formally petitioned U.S. Superintendent of Indian Affairs for Oregon Alfred B. Meacham for a reservation of their own. Meacham was sympathetic to the plight of the Modoc and sent a recommendation to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs in Washington to that effect. Meanwhile, complaints from settlers about the returning Modoc increased and Meacham requested assistance from officials in Oregon in relocating the Modoc to the portion of the Klamath Reservation he favored for a Modoc-specific reservation.

As these developments unfolded, Meacham was replaced as Superintendent by Thomas Benton Odeneal, who had none of Meacham's deep, granular knowledge of tribal relations in the area, and who was given a directive to remove the Modoc from the Lost River area. Odeneal sent a representative to arrange a negotiation with the Modoc, but their leader, Captain Jack, refused. The new Superintendent then issued a request to the commanding officer of Fort Klamath that he muster a force to compel the Modoc to return to the reservation. On November 28<sup>th</sup>, 1872, a contingent of 40 soldiers led by Captain James Jackson left Fort Klamath to confront the Modoc. Though all involved seemed to genuinely wish to avoid a violent conflict, tensions were raised when Jackson ordered the Modoc to surrender their weapons. Captain Jack initially, if somewhat reluctantly, agreed, but in the confusion of the moment, shots were fired, and the Modoc retrieved their weapons and engaged in a brief skirmish before escaping to the south, ultimately establishing a stronghold in an area of lava beds on the shore of Tule Lake.

U.S. troops staged an attack on the stronghold on January 17, 1873, but the superiority of the Modocs' defensive placements and an especially thick, concealing fog allowed the tribe to successfully repel the much larger invading force without suffering a single casualty. Initial attempts by the government to organize peace negotiations failed due to the government's suspicion of treachery on the part of the Modoc. Another attempt was made in April of that year when Captain Jack arranged a meeting with Alfred B. Meacham. This first meeting on April 5<sup>th</sup> failed to generate an agreement and it was decided to try again April 8<sup>th</sup>. When the U.S. negotiators received intelligence that the Modoc intended to kill them, they initially balked, then sent a message to Captain Jack requesting that they meet at the peace tent on

April 11<sup>th</sup>. The negotiations that day were heated and the lead negotiator General Edward Canby informed the Modoc that no decisions could be made on their demands until they received permission from Washington. Then, at a signal by Captain Jack, the Modoc opened fire on the U.S. delegation, killing General Canby and Reverend Eleaser Thomas and wounding several others before those who remained made an escape. The government responded by attacking the stronghold on April 15<sup>th</sup>, inciting a battle that lasted three days, but accomplished very little. Then, on April 26<sup>th</sup>, a band of Modoc set upon a contingent of troops led by Captain Evan Thomas, killing 18 of the party, wounding many others, and forcing the remnants to retreat. Then, on May 10<sup>th</sup>, the Modoc attacked a military outpost at Dry Lake, only to be repelled by the charging troops. Five Modoc warriors were killed in the battle, including Ellen's Man, a leader seen as a rival of Captain Jack. This first defeat sowed dissent among the Modoc, leading a rogue group led by the Modoc warrior Hooker Jim to surrender to the Army and agree to help capture Captain Jack in exchange for amnesty for the murders committed over the course of the conflict. Captain Jack and his family were captured on June 4<sup>th</sup> and he and three of his chief accomplices were tried and executed for the crimes, with two other members of the band sentenced to life imprisonment on Alcatraz Island. The remaining members of the Modoc band were forcibly relocated as prisoners of war to Indian Territory in present-day Oklahoma.

Sources:

Grant, Ulysses S. [\*Message from the President of the United States, Transmitting a Communication from the Secretary of State, and a Copy of the Report of the Commissioners to Inquire Into Depredations on the Frontiers of Texas\*](#), Committee on Foreign Affairs. House, May 26, 1874, 43<sup>rd</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session, H.exdoc.257. ProQuest Congressional, 1615 H.exdoc.257

Belknap, William W. [\*Report of the Secretary of War\*](#), Department of War, Nov. 22, 1875, 44<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session, H.exdoc.1/6 (W1.1:875/v.1) ProQuest Congressional, 1674 H.exdoc.1/6

---

## **Economic Trends and Conditions**

The nation's economic woes were instigated by an event known as the Panic of 1873. The Panic was really a series of economic crises with complex underlying causes that led to a long economic contraction in Europe and North America. One of the major contributing factors to the Panic was the shift in U.S. currency policy instigated by the passage of Coinage Act of 1873, which ended the silver coinage policy and returned to a simple gold standard for U.S. currency. The act had the immediate effect of bringing down the value of silver, which negatively impacted the western mining industry. This compounded the inflationary pressures of the postwar economic boom leading to the failure of the banking firm Jay Cooke & Company, among others.

President Grant acknowledged the nation's economic depression in his 1874 address before a joint assembly of Congress, calling it a "prostration in business and industries such has not been witnessed with us for many years." He said labor and capital were both in abundance but that domestic

and foreign debt were contributing factors to the damaged economy. President Grant was against the idea of increased currency regulation, stating “Congress should make the regulation under which banks may exist, but should not make banking a monopoly by limiting the amount of redeemable paper currency.” However, Congress passed the Specie Resumption Act, which in turn, fixed the amount of currency in circulation.

From 1873 to 1875, as many as 18,000 businesses had failed, which forced the unemployment rate to rise from 3.99% in 1873 to 5.83% in 1875. Social activism and demonstrations were popular responses to hardship conditions, as demonstrated by a gathering in New York City in 1874. Seven thousand people had gathered in Tompkins Square Park in Manhattan to call for increased public works employment from the government. City officials had prior knowledge of the gathering and decided to send a heavy police presence, totaling 1,600. Police officers eventually charged the crowd and began clubbing anyone attending the rally, which sent thousands fleeing in all directions with officers giving chase. The police arrested forty-six individuals and civil unrest continued in the adjacent areas for several hours afterwards.

During the 43<sup>rd</sup> Congress, the United States government was in negotiations with the government of Hawaii to settle the issue of import duties imposed on sugar imported from the Hawaiian islands. While the government of King William Charles Lunalilo sought reciprocity in terms of tariffs assessed on Hawaiian sugar—Hawaii levied much lower tariffs on U.S. imports—the U.S. sought control of Pearl Harbor for the purposes of establishing a naval base in the Pacific. The Hawaiian population was adamantly opposed to giving up sovereignty over any portion of the islands as they viewed it as a mere pretext to annexation and Lunalilo broke off the negotiations in November 1873. Lunalilo died without an heir so the Hawaiian legislature, which was empowered to select a successor in such circumstances, chose David Kalākaua to succeed Lunalilo. Under pressure from the U.S. government, Kalākaua reopened negotiations, eventually leading to the Reciprocity Treaty of 1875, which granted seven years tariff reciprocity in exchange for a lease on Ford Island, located in Pearl Harbor.

Sources:

Grant, Ulysses S. [\*Message of the President of the United States, with the accompanying documents, transmitted to the two Houses of Congress at the beginning of the first session of the Forty-third Congress\*](#), House, Dec. 7, 1873, 43<sup>rd</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session. H.exdoc.1/1 (Pr18.1:873) ProQuest Congressional, 1594 H.exdoc.1/1

Grant, Ulysses S. [\*Papers relating to the foreign relations of the United States, transmitted to Congress, with the annual message of the President, December 7, 1874\*](#), House, Dec. 7, 1874, 43<sup>rd</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session. H.exdoc.1/1 (Pr18.1:874) ProQuest Congressional, 1634 H.exdoc.1/1

[\*Report of the Secretary of the Treasury on the state of the finances for the year 1873\*](#), Department of Treasury, Dec. 1, 1873, 43<sup>rd</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session. H.exdoc.2 (T1.1:873) ProQuest Congressional, 1603 H.exdoc.2

[\*Report of the Secretary of the Treasury on the state of the finances for the year 1874\*](#), Department of Treasury, Dec. 7, 1874, 43<sup>rd</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session. H.exdoc.2 (T1.1:874) ProQuest Congressional, 1641 H.exdoc.2

---

## Landmark U.S. Supreme Court Decisions

*Slaughter-House Cases*, concluded that privileges and immunities of U.S. citizenship are protected by the Fourteenth Amendment, not by having citizenship in a particular state, 83 U.S. 36 (1873)

*Bradwell v. Illinois*, affirmed the Illinois' Supreme Court decision to deny law licenses to women, on grounds that the right to practice law was not a privilege or immunity granted under the Fourteenth Amendment, 83 U.S. 130 (1873)

Sources:

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

---

## 1873 Events

- **Jan. 6:** [United States Congress investigates the Crédit Mobilier of America scandal](#)
- **Jan. 17:** *Modoc War* – [The first Battle of the Stronghold is fought during the Modoc War, between U.S. Army regiments and the Modoc tribe of southern Oregon and northern California](#)
- **Jan. 30:** *Around the World in 80 Days* by Jules Verne is published
- **Feb. 20:** The University of California opens its first medical school in San Francisco
- **Mar. 4:** President Grant begins his second term in office
- **Mar. 22:** [Slavery is abolished in Puerto Rico](#)
- **Apr. 1:** The British steamer RMS Atlantic sinks off the coast of Nova Scotia, Canada, killing 546 passengers
- **May 7:** [American troops land in Panama to protect American lives and property](#)
- **May 20:** Levi Strauss and Jacob Davis receive a patent for their invention of copper rivets on denim work pants, and effectively begin producing blue jeans
- **June 4:** *Modoc War* – [The U.S. Army captures Modoc chief Kintpuash, effectively ending the Modoc War](#)
- **June 18:** [Susan B. Anthony is fined \\$100 for illegally voting in a Presidential Election](#)
- **July 21:** Jesse James and his gang, the James-Younger Gang, pull off their first successful train robbery at Adair, Iowa
- **Aug. 4:** [The U.S. 7th Cavalry under the command of Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer engages in its first clash with the Lakota Sioux near the Tongue River in the Dakota Territory](#)
- **Sept. 1:** Regular cable car service begins on Clay Street in San Francisco, California
- **Sept. 18:** [Stock markets in New York City crash as part of the Panic of 1873, starting the Long Depression](#)



- **Sept 20:** New York Stock Exchange closes for ten days
- **Nov. 19:** Mastermind of New York City's Tammany Hall political machine William "Boss" Tweed is convicted of over 200 misdemeanor counts relating to the approval of fraudulent city invoices
- **Nov. 20:** Rival Hungarian cities Buda and Pest unite to form the single metropolis Budapest

## 1874 Events

- **1874:** New York City annexes the territory of the Bronx west of the Bronx River, expanding beyond Manhattan for the first time
- **Jan. 13:** Thousands of unemployed workers demonstrating for relief from the economic fallout from the Panic of 1873 clash with New York City Police in Tompkins Square Park
- **Feb. 4:** The British general Garnet Wolseley burns the Ashanti capital of Kumasi in west Africa (modern Ghana), ending the war between the Ashanti and Britain
- **Feb. 14:** U.S. troops land in Honolulu to protect the king
- **Mar. 15:** France assumes a protectorate over Annam (part of modern Vietnam), which breaks off its vassalage to China
- **Mar. 18:** [Hawaii signs a treaty with the United States granting exclusive trading rights](#)
- **Apr. 15:** The first exhibition of the *Société Anonyme Coopérative des Artistes Peintres, Sculpteurs, Graveurs* opens in Paris, spawning the name "Impressionism" for the new aesthetic movement it showcased
- **July 4:** [The St. Louis Bridge over the Mississippi River in St Louis, Missouri is officially opened. The Bridge pioneered the use of steel and had three cantilevered hollow-steel arch trusses that could be raised, with the foundations planted at the record depths of 100 ft.](#)
- **Sept. 14:** [Battle of Liberty Place – In New Orleans, former Confederate Army members of the White League temporarily drive Republican Governor William P. Kellogg from office, replacing him with former Democratic Governor John McEnery. U.S. Army troops restore Kellogg to office five days later](#)
- **Sept. 28:** [Red River War – Troops under Colonel Ranald S. Mackenzie invade a village of Comanche, Kiowa, and Cheyenne Indians in Palo Duro Canyon forcing the Indians to vacate their settlement and confiscating 1,400 of their horses in the single most devastating victory of the conflict](#)
- **Oct. 25:** [Britain annexes the Fiji Islands in the southwest Pacific Ocean](#)
- **Nov. 12:** [Welsh-born U.S. journalist and explorer Henry Morton Stanley explores Lake Victoria and circumnavigates Lake Tanganyika before traveling down the Congo River to Africa's west coast](#)
- **Dec.:** [The 'Whiskey Ring' scandal involving whiskey distillers and U.S. government officials is first exposed](#)

Sources:

Anthony, Susan B. [Petition of Susan B. Anthony, praying for the remission of a fine imposed upon her by the United States Court for the northern district of New York, for illegal voting](#), Committee on the Judiciary. Senate, Jan. 22, 1874, 43<sup>rd</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session. S.misdoc.39 ProQuest Congressional, 1584 S.misdoc.39

[Argument Before the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate of the U.S., with Regard to a Treaty of Reciprocity Between the U.S. and the Hawaiian Islands](#). Executive Branch Documents, Jan. 1, 1875. 43<sup>rd</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session, 43-2-5. ProQuest Congressional, SED-43-2-5

Belknap, William W. [Report of the Secretary of War](#), Department of War, Nov. 22, 1875, 44<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session, H.exdoc.1/6 (W1.1:875/v.1) ProQuest Congressional, 1674 H.exdoc.1/6

[Whiskey Frauds](#). Committee Concerning Whiskey Frauds, House, Mar. 22 [...] Aug. 12, 1876, 44-1 H.Misc.Doc.v.9n.186. ProQuest Congressional, HRG-1876-WFS-0001

Committee on Banking and Currency. [Finance](#), House, Jan. 13-17, 19-23, Feb. 2-4, 9, 11, 1874, HB 43-A. ProQuest Congressional, HRG-1874-BCU-0001

Committee on Foreign Relations. [Petition of G. Rodney Burt and others on land owned by them in Fiji Islands](#)], Senate, June 24, 1890, 51<sup>st</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session, S.misdoc.173. ProQuest Congressional, 2700 S.misdoc.173

[Map of Mississippi River from St. Louis Bridge to Foster Island, showing location of works of improvement](#) in *Report of the Secretary of War [...] at the beginning of the first session of the Fiftieth Congress*, GPO, Jan. 1, 1887. H.exdoc.1/5, ProQuest Congressional, 2535 H.exdoc.1/5, map 34

Grant, Ulysses S. [Message from the President of the United States \[...\] relative to the war with the Modoc Indians in Southern Oregon and Northern California, during the years 1872 and 1873](#). Committee on Indian Affairs, House, Feb. 10, 1874. 43<sup>rd</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session, H.exdoc.122. ProQuest Congressional, 1607 H.exdoc.122

Morton, Oliver Hazard Perry Throck. [Resolutions expressing joy at Spain having abolished slavery on island of Porto Rico \[at end of volume\]](#), Senate, Mar. 24, 1873, 43<sup>rd</sup> Congress, Special Session. S.misdoc.9/2 ProQuest Congressional, 1546 S.misdoc.9/2

Poland, Luke Potter. [Credit mobilier investigation](#), Select Committee to Investigate the Credit Mobilier, No. 1. House, Feb. 18, 1873, 42<sup>nd</sup> Congress, 3<sup>rd</sup> Session. H.rp.77 (Y4.C86:P75) ProQuest Congressional, 1577 H.rp.77

Secretary, Department of State. [General index to published volumes of diplomatic correspondence and foreign relations of U.S., 1861-1899](#), GPO, Jan. 1, 1902, (S1.1/b:861-899). ProQuest Congressional, S101-2.1

Select Committee to Inquire into the Condition of Affairs in Late Insurrectionary States. Joint. [Louisiana affairs. Report of the Select Committee on that portion of the President's message relating to the condition of the south](#), House, Dec. 30, 1874, 43<sup>rd</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session. H.rp.101/2. ProQuest Congressional, 1657 H.rp.101/2

Smith, Edward P. [Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Office of Indian Affairs, Department of Interior](#), Nov. 1, 1873, 43<sup>rd</sup> Congress, 1<sup>st</sup> Session. H.exdoc.1/14 (I1.1:873/v.1) ProQuest Congressional, 1601 H.exdoc.1/14

Smithsonian Institution. [Annual Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, showing the operations, expenditures, and condition of the Institution to July, 1890](#). House, July 1, 1890. 51<sup>st</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session, H.misdoc.129 (SI1.1:890/[pt.1]). ProQuest Congressional, 2878 H.misdoc.129



## Major Acts

**Salary Grab Act Repeal.** Repealed the Salary Grab Act of 1873 with the exception of the increases in the salaries of the President and U.S. Supreme Court Justices. Approved Jan. 20, 1874. ([18 Stat. 4, Chap. 11](#))

**Reorganization of D.C. Government.** Abolished Home Rule in the District of Columbia, replacing it with a government of three commissioners appointed by the President. Approved June 20, 1874. ([18 Stat. 116, Chap. 337](#))

**Specie Resumption Act.** Reduced the value of greenbacks in circulation from \$382 million to \$300 million and allowed the resumption of specie payment by January 1, 1879. Approved Jan. 14, 1875. ([18 Stat. 296, Chap. 15](#))

**Civil Rights Act of 1875.** Guaranteed equal rights to all citizens in public accommodations and on public conveyances. The Act also prohibited exclusion of Negroes from jury duty. Approved Mar. 1, 1875. ([18 Stat. 335, Chap. 114](#)) Certain provisions of this Act were subsequently held unconstitutional in *Civil Rights Cases*, 109 U.S. 3 (1883)

**Tariff Act of 1875.** Reversed the trend of tariff reduction established by the Tariff of 1872, restoring duties to the levels previously established by the Morrill Tariff Act of 1861 and the subsequent increases of 1862, 1864, 1867, and 1869. Approved Mar. 3, 1875. ([18 Stat. 469, Chap. 136](#))

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. 97<sup>th</sup> Congress, 2<sup>nd</sup> Session, 82-156 GOV, ProQuest Congressional, CRS-1982-GOV-0005

---

Copyright©2018, ProQuest LLC. All rights reserved.