

8th grade new format study guide

Andrew Jackson and his Aftermath Part II:

Andrew Jackson's First State of the Nation Address, 1829 (excerpt)

"The (jobs) of all public officers are... so plain and simple that men of intelligence may readily qualify themselves for their performance; and I... believe that more is lost by the long continuance of men [having the same person in a position year after year] in office than is generally to be gained by their experience. [T]he efficiency of the Government would... be promoted... I shall endeavor to select men whose diligence and talents will insure... able and faithful cooperation..."

Robert V. Remini, The Life of Andrew Jackson, 1988

... Unfortunately, Jackson refused to listen [to Van Buren]. He liked Swartwout because he had been an early supporter...and so he went ahead with the appointment. In time, of course, Swartwout absconded with \$1,222,705.09. It was monumental theft...Jackson was mortified.

When the scandal broke, Jackson's opponents doubled over with laughter... Here, then, was the bitter fruit of rotation, hooted the President's critics. Here the dreadful consequence of denying the government the service of an elite bureaucracy in order to serve some idealistic democratic principle.

Document 1: Andrew Jackson's Veto Message Against Re-chartering of the Bank of the United States

[3] . . . It appears that more than a fourth part of the stock is held by foreigners and [what is left] is held by a few hundred of our citizens, [mainly] of the richest class. . .

[4] . . . Of the twenty-five directors of this bank five are chosen by the Government and twenty by the citizen stockholders. From these elections, the foreign stockholders are excluded [from voting]... The entire control . . . would fall into the hands of a few citizen stockholders. . . . It is easy to conceive that great evils to our country and its institutions might

flow from such a concentration of power in the hands of a few men irresponsible to the people.

[10] . . . It is to be regretted that the rich and powerful too often bend the acts of government to their selfish purposes...

Document 2: The Reply of Senator Daniel Webster, July 11, 1832

[2] . . . Congress passed the bill, not as a favor to the present stockholders, not to comply with any demand on their part, but to promote great public interest. Every bank must have some stockholders, . . . and if the stockholders, whoever they may be, conduct the affairs of the bank [with care], the expectation is always, of course, that they will make it profitable to themselves, as well as useful to the public. If a bank charter is not to be granted because it may be profitable, either in a small or great degree, to the stockholders, no charter can be granted [to any bank]. The objection [is] against all banks. . . .

Jackson's message to Congress concerning the removal of Native Americans from east of the Appalachian Mountains, December 7, 1835.

All preceding experiments for the improvement of the Indians have failed. It seems now to be an established fact that they cannot live in contact with a civilized community and prosper. No one can doubt the moral duty of the Government: to protect and if possible to preserve and perpetuate [keep alive/sustain] the scattered remnants of this race.