

Impeaching Andrew Jackson



Impeachment Article #1: The Bank Crisis

Pro

- Veto message acts against the wishes of Congress
- *McCulloch v. Maryland* has already determined that the Bank was Constitutional
- “that the veto has been applied to the bank of the United States, our only reliance for a sound and uniform currency; that the Senate has been violently attacked for the exercise of a clear constitutional power; that the House of Representatives have been unnecessarily assailed.”

Henry Clay:

- “The veto is an extraordinary power, which, though tolerated by the Constitution, was not expected, by the convention, to be used in ordinary cases. It was designed for instances of precipitate legislation, in unguarded moments.”

Con: Andrew Jackson

- “It appears that more than a fourth part of the stock is held by foreigners and the residue is held by a few hundred of our own citizens, chiefly of the richest class.”
- “Is there no danger to our liberty and independence in a bank that in its nature has so little to bind it to our country?”
- Nor is our Government to be maintained or our Union preserved by invasions of the rights and powers of the several States. In thus attempting to make our General Government strong we make it weak. Its true strength consists in leaving individuals and States as much as possible to themselves in making itself felt, not in its power, but in its beneficence; not in its control, but in its protection; not in binding the States more closely to the center, but leaving each to move unobstructed in its proper orbit.
- The presidential veto is a protected Constitutional power

Impeachment Article #2: The Nullification Crisis

Pro

- 10th Amendment
- Excessive force
- Excessive taxes

Con

- “Strict duty would require of me nothing more than the exercise of those powers with which I am now, or may hereafter be, invested, for preserving the Union, and for the execution of the laws.” -Jackson
- McCulloch v. Maryland: Federal law supersedes state law
- Constitution allows federal government to regulate commerce

Impeachment Article #3: Indian Removal

Pro

- Worcester v. Georgia
- Etc....

Con

- Humanitarian effort
- Etc....