

Nullification Crisis

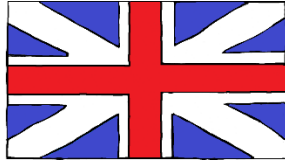


What does Nullification Crisis mean?

The word "**nullify**" means not to formally recognize or accept something. In this case, **South Carolina** rejected the **Tariff of 1828** (a legislation) and refused to follow federal law. Crisis refers to a time period of great difficulties.

Tariff of 1828

The legislation required placing higher **tariffs (taxes)** on imported goods from foreign countries. This was aimed to protect the American manufacturing industry from competition with **cheaper British goods**. The Tariff of 1828 was highly disliked by Southerners as they called it the **Tariff of Abominations** (horror and disgust).



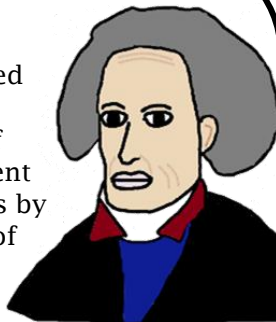
Why was the South upset?

The South threatened to **secede (leave)** the Union! Why? Southern states were upset with the high tariffs on **imported goods (bought)** into the United States. Since the South could not produce manufactured products, they relied on foreign goods. If foreign goods were expensive, then the South was forced to buy only American products from the North. The South viewed the Tariff of 1828 as beneficial only to **Northerners** as their manufactured industry was protected but not theirs. Instead, the Tariff of 1828 had an adverse effect as it weakened business relationships between the South and foreign countries. If America placed high tariff rates on foreign products, then foreign countries would do the same on imported **Southern cotton**. This would have a detrimental effect on the South's agricultural cotton economy!



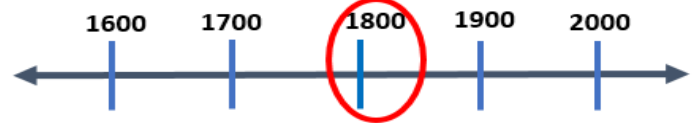
Support from John C. Calhoun

Vice President, John C. Calhoun, of President Andrew Jackson supported Southern states the right to **nullify (ignore) federal law**. As a native of **South Carolina**, he thought President Jackson would support Southerners by **repealing** (overturning) the Tariff of 1828 as it was passed in the previous presidency. Due to Jackson's lack of support, Calhoun promoted the **nullification theory** in which states either follow federal law or declare it **unconstitutional**. He justified by stating federal power was derived from states and therefore need state approval. According to southern states, the tariff raised revenue for the federal government and protected northern states.



When did Nullification Crisis occur?

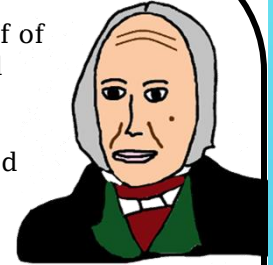
It started in the year of 1828 (early 19th century), right before Andrew Jackson's presidency!



Did you know? The Tariff of 1828 was passed at the end of John Quincy Adams presidency!

Sectional Tensions

The nation was divided on the Tariff of 1828 as southern economy suffered while northern economy prospered. The South was angered in paying higher taxes on British manufactured goods and profiting less as British taxed on imported southern cotton. This led to a **divided nation** as



northerners and former president **John Quincy Adams** disapproved of nullification. He disagreed states rights held more **supremacy (power)** than the **Supreme Court** in deciding the constitutionality of a legislation.



Additionally, President Andrew Jackson agreed nullification would threaten the stability of the nation. Any direct opposition to the federal government sent a message to foreign countries that the United States was weak in enforcing its laws. Nullification was also viewed as a threat to state secession from the Union.

Any Solutions?

Keep in mind Andrew Jackson just started his presidency. A divided nation with South Carolina threatening for **secession (leaving)** was not a good impression! Although he supported **states' right**, he would not jeopardize it for disunion. A **compromise (agreement)** was needed to bridge the differences between the **South and North**.

Jackson proposed to **lower tariff rates** to satisfy the South. However, the South was not content because they wanted Jackson to **repeal (completely rid)** Tariff of 1828! South Carolina was furious with the slow progress and immediately threatened to secede (leave) the Union. It also passed a resolution that nullified the Tariff of 1828 and the new Tariff of 1832. Angered by South Carolina's actions, President Jackson responded by persuading Congress to pass the **Force Bill**. It allowed the president to take military action in South Carolina as it was considered **treason** (betraying country) to nullify federal laws and leave the Union. Faced with pressure, South Carolina did not secede and accepted lower tariffs passed by Congress.



Name: _____ Class/Period: _____ Date: _____

Nullification Crisis



Directions. Complete the below questions using the accompanied reading.

#1. Why were the tariffs beneficial to northern economy but detrimental (worse) to the southern economy?

#6. How do you think the Force Bill set a precedent (example) for cases regarding states' rights versus federal power?

#2. How did the Nullification Crisis lead to increased sectional tensions between the North and South?

#7. Define the following terms.

a. Secession

b. Nullification

#3. Do you agree or disagree with Calhoun that states should be allowed to declare if federal laws are unconstitutional? Explain.

c. Tariff

#8. Imagine you were a South Carolina cotton farmer. How would you feel about the Tariff of 1828? Write a short journal entry.

#4. Why did President Andrew Jackson proclaim federal power over states' rights?

#9. Now, imagine you were a Northern manufacturer. How would you feel about the Tariff of 1828? Write a short journal entry.

#5. If you were President Jackson, how would you respond to South Carolina's nullification of Tariff of 1828? Explain.

#10. Why do you think the South called Tariff of 1828 the "Tariff of Abominations"?