Fitzgerald Name –



Notes for Andrew Jackson – Good President or Bad President?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Topic | Reaction to Election of 1824 |
| Notes from Video | * Election controlled by Washington politicians - Jackson, a frontiersman from Tennessee, seemed a long shot * Leading politicians aghast - seen as wild-eyed military chieftain, hot-tempered - executed two Brits without authority or reason, Jefferson said he was the most unfit man ever * John Eaton, a Jackson supporter, published a series of letters proposing an entirely new standard for a president - not based on mental qualifications but strength of character and perseverance, steadiness of purpose * This new standard was the opposite of John Quincy Adams - he had experience in Europe, in diplomacy, in many government offices - this was seen now as signs of corruption, of insider status, of being out of touch with the people * So Jackson's absence of experience WAS a qualification * When the votes for the election were counted - astonished to see Jackson had won a majority of the popular vote * BUT because there were four candidates, two from the West and one each from the Northeast and South, no one had won a majority (+50%) * SO the vote went to the House * The candidate who came in last was Henry Clay from Kentucky, the speaker of the House - since he was last he was out of the running and could give away his votes * he truly believed Jackson was unfit and gave his votes to John Quincy Adams * Adams quickly glace Clay the position of Secretary of State * Jackson was outraged - he said there had been a corrupt bargain between Adams and Clay to steal the presidency from him though he had clearly been the choice of the people * Jackson believed that Washington insiders had stolen the presidency from the people * So he planned to run again in 1828 and planned the truly political campaign that would appeal directly to the average person * He would end the rule of the corrupt politicians |
| Readings in the Book  p. 350   * circumstances of election throwing it into the House * influence of Henry Clay * Adams win * Jackson belief that it was a corrupt bargain against majority rule |  |

Fitzgerald Name –



Notes for Andrew Jackson – Good President or Bad President?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Topic | People's President |
| Notes from Video | * born on frontier, father dead before born, fought in Revolution at 12, refused to clean officer's boots, orphaned and completely without family at 14, educated through apprenticeship in law, moved to Tennessee frontier, elected to House but resigns after a year, self-made wealth in raising horses and plantation, military career fighting Indians, British, and Spain - gaining land and safety for farmers * after losing in 1824 - vowed to prevent Washington insiders from controlling the government   + launched the first true political campaign in American history   + by then all states had given all white men the vote and he sought to inspire them to vote - to rally Americans around the idea that the average man should chose the president, not Washington insiders and the wealthy   + he flooded the country with lithographs of himself as the hero of the battle of New Orleans   + he went to the militia grounds, the taverns. the fairs, the streets   + he held rallies, conventions, and assemblies in which average men meet and make resolutions to vote and hold barbecues - he publicized these rallies in the newspapers * Inauguration - 100s of farmers and tradesmen were invited into White House to celebrate the election of the first president they can identify with - they believed it was the beginning of a new truly democratic age in America   + But the inauguration celebration got wild and dangerous turning into a riot - insiders said this demonstrated that the mob was not to be trusted, that Jackson was manipulating unintelligent, violent people and would use their support to turn himself into a dictator, like Napoleon |
| Readings in the Book  p. 352   * beliefs of Jackson's supporters * restart of two party politics, beginning of nominating conventions   pp.353-4   * working class supporters of Jackson's, * Inauguration - the People's day or the rule of the mob? |  |

Fitzgerald Name –



Notes for Andrew Jackson – Good President or Bad President?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Topic | Spoils System |
| Notes from Video | * He had promised to reform government if elected - to take it out of the control of Washington insiders   + As soon as he takes over in Washington, he fires more people than all previous presidents ever had combined   + He replaces those fired with people who helped him get elected * The name “spoils system" comes from the famous quote, “To the victor go the spoils.”   + He has won (“the victor”), so the people expect him to take over * Jackson defended the system - saying it broke one group’s hold on the government, the group that got voted out * Others saw the practice as corrupt -   + People were bribed into helping you get elected by the promise of a job   + People got the jobs because they had helped get Jackson into office * People hired could not necessarily do the jobs well, while people who did the job well were fired |
| Readings in the Book  p.354   * description of the system * Jackson's defense of the system |  |

Fitzgerald Name –



Notes for Andrew Jackson – Good President or Bad President?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Topic | Dealing with Threats of Nullification and Secession |
| Notes from Video | * John C. Calhoun, Jackson's Vice President and a leader of South Carolina, was obsessed with protecting slavery in a nation where slave holders were a minority, where the majority on the North was indifferent or even hostile to slavery * the ever increasing tariffs caused a crisis -   + it taxed the cheap British cloth the Southerners bring back when they have traded their cotton, they used this cloth for clothes for slaves   + it protected Northern textile (cloth) factories * Calhoun attacked the tariff by threatening to nullify it in South Carolina - saying every state has the right to not enforce within its borders a law it considers unconstitutional, like one that hurts the region of the minority to help the region of the majority   + this asserts states' rights - threatening power of federal law   + it asks the question of where power is held - by the federal government? by the states? or by the people? * Southerners supported Calhoun, * Northerners feared it will split the Union, * Jackson's position was unknown as he is from the West * Calhoun supporters decided to use a party for Jefferson to try to force Jackson to say he is on their side because he holds slaves * at the party they started giving toasts to states' rights, waiting for Jackson to give his toast * Jackson raised his glass, looked Calhoun right in the eye, and said "Our Federal Union, it must be preserved." He shocked Washington by going against nullification * Calhoun stopped speaking to Jackson, South Carolina formally nullified the tariff, it said that it will leave the Union (secede) if the federal government tries to enforce the tariff, it start gathering troops and preparing forts * Jackson wanted to lead the army in, put held back his anger and wrote a formal proclamation appealing to the people of South Carolina first * He asked them to say "We too are citizens of America, South Carolina is one of her proud states. her best blood has cemented this Union. Then add if you can without horror and remorse, this happy union we will dissolve, this picture of peace and prosperity we will deface, these fertile fields we will deluge in blood. Disunion by armed force is treason. Are you ready to incur its guilt? The Union is perpetual. It is not a union of states, it is a union of people. And I as its chief executive have sworn to enforce its laws." - These ideas are adopted by Abraham Lincoln. * Henry Clay negotiated a lower tariff in Congress, Jackson signs the bill, and South Carolina promised to abide by the new tariff, - War was averted. |
| Readings in the Book  pp.364-6   * tariff crisis * arguments for nullification * arguments against * Jackson's dramatic toast * South Carolina threatens to secede * Jackson addresses threat of secession |  |

Fitzgerald Name –



Notes for Andrew Jackson – Good President or Bad President?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Topic | Handling of Abolition Ideas |
| Notes from Video | * Jackson is a slave holder himself, owning over 100 slaves * His motivation for the invasion of Florida had bee not only to stop Seminole raids but to end the joining of runaway slaves with the Seminole. The runaways were inspiration to other slaves, and there was great fear of a slave-Indian alliance. * A New York abolition got the idea of using the new steam-powered printing press to do a mass mailing for the first time in American politics   + the abolitionist sent thousands of influential people, like ministers, in the South pamphlets to convince them to speak out against slavery * The first batch went to Charleston, South Carolina – but the postmaster in Charleston never delivered them, instead he burned them publicly in the town square * Southerners feared that word of Northern support would get to the slave population and instill slaves to revolt   + A recent dramatic, though unsuccessful slave rebellion, the Nat Turner Rebellion, had created paranoia in slave holders * Tampering with the mail is a serious federal offense, but Jackson instead of arresting the postmaster, encouraged other postmasters, employees of his executive branch, to destroy any other pamphlets and he demanded that Congress outlaw mailing them, saying that they incited riot and revolt * This shows Jackson’s views on democracy – as the ability to petition, to publically share your position on a political issue is a fundamental need in democratic societies, stated in our first amendment of the Constitution * He was attempting to squash a democratic voice |
| Not Covered in Book |  |

Fitzgerald Name –



Notes for Andrew Jackson – Good President or Bad President?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Topic | Indian Removal |
| Notes from Video | * Andrew Jackson believed, liked Jefferson believed, that small, self-employed farmers made America great   + He believed that the key to keeping America great was to continue to expand west, so that each new generation could have farms of their own   + the problem was that Native Americans were on that land, and this fundamental tension would become the story of Indian removal. * In 1830, Jackson won approval from Congress of $500,000 for the removal of all Native Americans from East of the Mississippi River to land west of the Mississippi   + In support of the act, Jackson said, "What good man would prefer a country covered in forest and ranged by a few thousand savages to our extensive republic, studded with cities, towns, and prosperous farms, occupied by 12 million happy people and filled with the blessings of liberty, civilization, and religion. * Native American tribes had an entirely different view of how to relate to the land, but the Cherokees had taken the advice of Thomas Jefferson, and in an attempt to preserve their land had embraced White ways.   + They had settled down, started prosperous farms had become excellent cattle breeders, wore European clothing, they had learned to read and write, had schools and newspapers, had a Constitution, had set up towns. But they still had to go.   + The state of Georgia wanted their land, on which gold had been found and planned to remove them.   + Two Christian missionaries filed suit in the Supreme Court on behalf of the Cherokees, and the court decided in the Cherokee's favor that the state had no jurisdiction over them.   + Andrew Jackson said, Marshal has made his decision, now let him enforce it. Jackson encouraged Georgia to ignore the verdict on the grounds that the Cherokee were not a real nation. * Jackson himself them enforced his Indian Removal Act, removing all Natives, not just the Cherokee from east of the Mississippi. * The Trail of Tears, the removal of the Cherokee, was the most dramatic example of a removal   + forced to leave with nothing but the clothes on their backs   + as they left their houses and belongings were plundered   + forced to march in cold, snow, and rain without adequate clothing   + 4,000 of the 16,000 removed died along the way |
| Readings in the Book  Ch 10 Sec 4 "Indian Removal" - pp. 355-359   * Cherokee assimilation to some aspects of America culture * Supreme Court decision that only federal law can deal with Native issues * Jackson refusal to enforce Supreme Court decision * Indian Removal Act * Trail of Tears |  |

Fitzgerald Name –

Notes for Andrew Jackson – Good President or Bad President?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Topic | War on the National Bank |
| Notes from Video | * The central question of Jackson's presidency became what to do to prevent the average American from being exploited by the rich and powerful, as industrialization was well underway * He set out to destroy an institution that he thought was giving the wealthy an unfair advantage - the National Bank.   + He disliked all banks, as he thought they lent more to the rich to get richer, while often denying loans to the average man, thus preventing him from being able to buy land or start a business, thus the rich got richer and the poor stayed poor.   + He felt the Bank had too much power for having no public accountability. * The bank controlled the giving of loans in the nation, as with so much more money than other banks (all government tax revenue), the interest rates it set and the number of loans it gave out became to standard by which other banks worked.   + So the National Bank controlled the nation's economy controlling how many new loans would be available for the starting of new businesses and the buying of land (for farms). * He was upset especially that it was funding a new kind of business - corporations.   + Corporations bothered Jackson.   + He felt they had no body to be kicked, no soul to be damned, they were faceless anonymous machines motivated only by the making of profit for shareholders.   + As a result, corporations were monsters that could grow so much larger that a consumer, a workers, or a citizen. * Jackson opponents thought corporations helped make America prosperous and thought Jackson's plans of ending the Bank were insanity.   + Henry Clay, the leader of Jackson's opponents created a plan to protect the Bank. He sought to extend its charter longer than 20 years, beyond Jackson’s presidency. He put the bill up for a vote right when Jackson was running for election to a 2nd term, thinking Jackson would be afraid to veto the bill. * Jackson vetoed the bill, refusing to extend the Bank's charter.   + He said the Bank is trying to kill me, but I will kill it.   + He sells the decision to the American people as an attempt to stop the rich, saying, "It is to be regretted that the rich and powerful too often bend the acts of government to their own selfish purposes....The humble members of society, the farmers, mechanics, and laborers having neither the time nor the means of securing like favors for themselves have the right to complain of the injustices of their government." * He was reelected by a landslide, and he thought this meant that the people wanted him to destroy the bank. * In his second term then, Jackson killed the Bank by removing all government funds from the it.   + He had to fire two Secretaries of the Treasury before finding a third to do this. * Clay felt the future of American democracy was at stake, and the Senate officially censured Jackson. |
| Readings in the Book  pp. 362-3   * work of 2nd National Bank, reasons some dislike bank, * Jackson's view of bank * Biddle's request for early renewal * Jackson's veto * difficulty handling economy without a national bank |  |

Fitzgerald Name –



Notes for Andrew Jackson – Good President or Bad President?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Topic | Jackson's Pet Banks and Financial Panic |
| Not covered in book - will give a copy of text from old book  These are notes based on the copied reading of the old book.  We will discuss the topic in class. | **Jackson handling of the government money he removes from the National Bank leads to the Panic of 1839 and a depression follows.**   * Jackson had removed all government funds from the Second National Bank and deposited all federal funds in state banks instead.   + His opponents called these banks his “pet banks.”   + This caused the National Bank to go out of business. * The “pet banks” loaned money too easily, especially to farmers to buy land   + With all the money loaned to them, the farmers bid against each other for the land they desired, and the price of land went up. * To fight the inflation in the cost of land, Jackson issued an order to require that people pay for public lands in gold or silver. * People took their paper money to banks because they thought Jackson was saying it wasn’t good and demanded gold and silver in exchange, but banks quickly ran out.   + When the banks ran out, many people lost trust in the banks and withdrew ***all*** their money.   + With no money, the banks went out of business.   + Most lost all they had saved and so were no longer spending any money, so businesses lost customers and begin to fail. * A depression followed.   + 90% of all factories in the East closed.   + Jobless workers had no money to buy food or pay rent and so were starving and homeless. Many froze in the winter with no money for fuel.   + Farmers were not hit as hard because they could raise crops for their family until people could afford their crops again. |