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***Presidential Profile***

1. **Name:**

* Andrew Jackson
* March 15, 1767 to June 8, 1845

1. **State of Birth/ State Ran for President:**

* Born on the border between North & South Carolina
* Ran for president from Tennessee

1. **Educational and Occupational Background:**

* Education – no formal education
* Occupations –
  + Lawyer
  + Soldier
  + Politician
* Political Offices –
  + Member of U.S. House of Representatives (1796-1797)
  + United States Senator (1797-1798)
  + Justice on Tennessee Supreme Court (1798-1804)
  + Governor of the Florida Territory (1821)
  + United States Senator (1823-1825)

1. **Presidential Term:**

* March 4, 1829 to March 3, 1837
* 7th President of the United States

1. **Issues of the Election:**

* 1828 – After the four years of John Quincy Adams’s presidency and the controversial policies that were made, Jackson played off this in his political campaign, claiming that he would “clean out the corruptionists and restore purity and economy in government.” He was the hero of the common man, scorning the frivolous aristocracy that had ruled the nation in earlier years. Jackson’s popularity with the people resulted in his becoming the first president elected from west of the Appalachians, receiving 178 electoral votes to Adam’s 83.
* 1832 – The election of 1832 marked the introduction of the **national nominating convention to nominate candidates to run**. Henry Clay was nominated by the National Republicans. William Writ was nominated by the Anti-Masons. During his first term, Andrew Jackson made many controversial policy decisions such as his opposition to the American System and veto of the re-chartering of the Bank of the United States. These decisions caused extreme opposition to him from the National Republican and emerging Anti-Masonic parties. This opposition, however, did not change the results of the election. Jackson received 219 electoral votes to Clay’s 49 and Writ’s 7. Jackson took this victory as a popular affirmation of his policy decisions. His opponents, however, claimed it was his “untouchable personal popularity.”

1. **Opponents:**

* 1828 – John Q. Adams (National Republican)
* 1832 – Henry Clay (National Republican), William Writ (Anti-Masonic), John Floyd (National Republican)

1. **Vice President(s):**

* John C. Calhoun (1829-1832)
* Martin Van Buren (1833-1837)

1. **Political Party:**

* Democratic

1. **Major Domestic/ Political Happenings:**

* Andrew Jackson Becomes President (1829) – Andrew Jackson became the 7th president when he was inaugurated on March 4, 1829.
* Webster-Hayne Debate (1830) – The controversy involved in the Webster-Hayne debate occurred as a question of Constitutional interpretation. Robert Hayne of South Carolina defended the doctrine of state sovereignty, claiming that the states, who were the ones who created the Constitution, had the final say in interpreting the Constitution. Daniel Webster of Massachusetts, however, supported the Supreme Court as the final interpreter of the Constitution. In his response, Webster sowed more confusion than support of his cause. Still, in the end, the Supreme Court became the final interpreter of the Constitution, as John Marshall’s policies set the stage for early on.
* South Carolina Ordinance of Nullification (1832) – The ordinance in which the state of South Carolina, by convention on November 24, 1832, nullified the acts passed by Congress that imposed tariffs on the importation of foreign goods. They did this because they felt that the tariffs were doing more to hurt their economy than to help it. They were not going to willingly abide by such a law.
* Jackson’s Proclamation In Response to South Carolina’s Ordinance of Nullification (1832) – Jackson addressed the state of South Carolina in his Nullification Proclamation. In this proclamation, Jackson claimed that members of the union couldn’t just follow pieces and parts of the Constitution and legislation. He said that the constitution was “the perpetual bond of our Union,” and as part of this union they pledge “to each other our lives and fortunes here, and our hopes of happiness hereafter, in its defense and support.” Jackson’s cry was not, however, an outcry against them, but instead he called “in that paternal language,” that they were “deluded” and should return home to America. This proclamation was Jackson’s way of preventing the nation from falling into civil war.
* Force Act (1833) – This act was passed with the encouragement of Andrew Jackson in response to South Carolina’s ordinance of nullification. It gave the president the power to use the army and navy to enforce the laws passed by Congress.
* Andrew Jackson Begins 2nd Term (1833) – Andrew Jackson won the election of 1832, gaining another four years in the white house.
* Arkansas Admitted to Union (1836) – Arkansas became the 25th state on June 15, 1836.
* Michigan Admitted to Union (1837) – Michigan became the 26th state on January 16, 1837.

1. **Major Economic Issues:**

* Veto of the Maysville Road Bill (1830) – The Maysville Road was to start at Maysville, Kentucky and run south along the Ohio River to Lexington. The bill authorized the spending of $150,000 to buy stock in the company building the road. The bill was passed by Congress. Andrew Jackson, however, felt that they were spending the money in the wrong place. According to Jackson, Congress’s projects should be “general, not local, national, not state.”
* Veto of Bill to Re-Charter the Second Bank of the United States (1832) – This bill was intended to re-charter the national bank, which held the money of United States treasury. Jackson, however, was opposed to the support of a single institution with the entirety of the national treasury. He, thus, vetoed the bill on July 10, 1832. As a result of this veto, the treasury’s deposits were removed and placed in various state banks. Many people questioned the constitutionality of this veto, for it was the first presidential veto that was not based on the bill vetoed being unconstitutional.
* Compromise Tariff (1833) – This tariff was on imported goods. It established that the protective tariff passed in 1828, would gradually be reduced by 10% over 8 years, returning the tariff to its original amount. After drafting the bill, the compromise tariff was quickly rushed through Congress. After the establishment of this tariff, the South Carolina convention reassembled and repealed their ordinance of nullification.
* Specie Circular (1836) – Because of the inflation caused by the series of “pet” banks in America along with various issues involving fraud, speculation, and monopolies, the specie circular demanded that all public lands must be bought with only gold and silver.

1. **Major Supreme Court Cases:**

* Cherokee Nation vs. Georgia (1831) – This case was presented on behalf of the Cherokee Nation, in attempt to prevent the state of Georgia from executing and enforcing its laws within the Cherokee territory, for the Cherokee nation was a nation independent from the United States as determined by various treaties. The Supreme Court ruled in favor of the Cherokee Nation.
* Worcester vs. Georgia (1832) – This case occurred when the Georgia government, seeing how Samuel Worcester was advising Cherokee leaders of their political rights under the Constitution and various treaties, passed a law that prohibited “white persons” from living within the boundaries of the Cherokee Nation. Worcester was arrested for disobeying this law. When he appealed to the Supreme Court regarding this case, they ruled in Worcester’s favor, claiming that, as a separate nation, the Cherokee people had the right to determine who could and couldn’t live within their borders.
* Charles River Bridge vs. Warren River Bridge (1837) – In 1785, the Charles River Bridge company was granted a charter that permitted it to build and run a toll bridge between Boston and Cambridge. In 1828, the Warren River Bridge company received a charter to build a second bridge across the Charles River. The Charles River Bridge company sued the Warren River Bridge company, claiming that their charter, which had not expired, granted them a monopoly on traffic in the area. The Supreme Court, however, ruled in favor of the Warren River Bridge company, stating that since no grant of monopoly existed in the charter except by assumption, there could be no enforcement of the monopoly by law. This ruling, under Chief Justice Roger Taney, was in the spirit of Jacksonian democracy and in favor of the public good.

1. **Major Foreign Policy Decisions:**

* Indian Removal Act (1830) – This act, signed by president Andrew Jackson, provided for the removal of various tribes of Native Americans, including the Cherokee, from their homelands to “unwanted” land west of the Mississippi River. As a result of this act, approximately 60,000 Native Americans were forced to migrate from 1830 to 1840, in what is now known as the “trail of tears.”
* Black Hawk War (1831-1832) – This conflict occurred between the Sac and Fox Native Americans, under the leadership of Black Hawk, and the Unites States. In treaties taking place in 1804 and 1831, the United States sought to remove the Indians from land east of the Mississippi. Black Hawk and his followers refused. However, when he did not get the support he expected Black Hawk accepted defeat. When he sent a peaceful emissary, however, the emissary was shot down provoking Black Hawk’s rage. Black Hawk’s party then successfully attacked the larger American force and retreated to Wisconsin. The final battle, however, came when Black Hawk’s party was attacked by American troops, under General Henry Atkinson, and a Sioux war party. Knowing he had no chance, Black Hawk displayed a white flag. This was ignored and the attacking party slaughtered most of his party, including many women and children.
* Treaty of New Echota (1835) – This treaty was signed by Native American leader, Stand Watie, who favored moving in the face of white intrusion of land. It set forth the terms for the exchange of Cherokee lands in Georgia and Alabama for new land in the territory which is now Oklahoma. The majority of the Cherokee people, however, opposed this treaty.
* Second Seminole War (1835) – The second Seminole war occurred between the Seminole Indians (with runaway black slaves) and the American government. The Seminole Indians retreated into the Florida Everglades. From this position they fought a harsh guerrilla war. However, in 1837, when an American commander seized their leader, Osceola, under a flag of truce, the Seminoles found their efforts doomed. The war lasted five additional years. After which, some Seminoles fled deeper into the Everglades, while most underwent forced migration to the territory which is now Oklahoma.
* Texas War for Independence (1836) – The American pioneers making their homes in Texas were not interested in following Mexico’s laws, especially the abolishment of slavery. In 1836, they, therefore, declared their independence from Mexico, making Sam Houston their commander in chief. Following this declaration they were forced to fight a war for this said independence.
  + Battle of the Alamo – The Texans’ fight for independence would not go unhindered. Santa Anna, a Mexican leader, with 6,000 men trapped approximately 200 Texans at the Alamo in San Antonio. They laid a siege that lasted thirteen days. This did not scare the Texans though. As their commander, Colonel W. B. Travis, said, “I shall never surrender nor retreat… Victory or Death.” At the conclusion of the siege, it was death that they received. Santa Anna and his troops slaughtered nearly everyone inside the Alamo that day, including figures such as Jim Bowie and Davy Crockett.
  + Battle of San Jacinto – The Texans, however, would not accept defeat. Under the leadership of General Sam Houston, the mighty Texans lured Santa Anna and his troops to San Jacinto. The Texans were outnumbered 1300 to 900. That didn’t stop them. On April 21, 1836, Houston’s troops attacked. Taking advantage of the Mexican siesta, they were able to wipe out the Mexican troops and capture Santa Anna. They forced Santa Anna to sign treaties declaring Texas as no longer part of Mexico. However, Santa Anna later declared the treaties illegal. Either way, the tides had finally turned in the Texans favor.

1. **Major Conflict of the Administration:**

* The major conflict of Andrew Jackson’s administration was South Carolina’s ordinance of nullification. By nullifying the “tariff of abominations,” South Carolina was challenging the government. Everyone in the government, however, was not opposed to this nullification. John C. Calhoun, Jackson’s vice president, in fact, supported states in the nullification of the tariff. This conflict of interests threatened South Carolina’s secession from the union and certain civil war. Jackson had to be careful if he wanted to prevent such a war. In his nullification proclamation, addressing the state of South Carolina, Jackson was just that—careful, speaking as a father who calls his son home. However, it wasn’t until the compromise tariff was passed in 1833 that South Carolina officially repealed their ordinance of nullification, ending the threat of civil war temporarily.

1. **Major Social Happenings:**

* Cult of Domesticity Takes Root (1829) – The cult of domesticity set forth new ideals for the women of the middle class society. These included piety, purity, submissiveness, and domesticity. Piety: Women should be religiously devout. Purity: Women should be sexually pure, virgins until marriage. Submissiveness: Women should be submissive to fate, duty, God, and men. Domesticity: Women should find work only in the private sphere of the home. This cult of domesticity developed as the family’s purpose as an economic unit ceased and women found themselves trapped in the home, as a sort of “cultural hostage.”
* Nat Turner’s Rebellion (1831) – Nat Turner claimed that God had spoken to him, telling him to fight against the abomination of slavery. Fight he did. On August 21, 1831, Nat Turner and six others started their attack in Southampton County, Virginia, beginning with Turner’s masters. They intended on killing every white man, woman, and child. Twenty-four hours after their initial attack, their group of seven had increased to seventy and over fifty-seven whites were dead. Many whites, upon hearing of the attacks, fled the county and/ or state.
* Peggy Eaton Affair (1831) – Also known as the “Petticoat Affair,” the “Peggy Eaton Affair” refers to an instance where Jackson’s friend, Senator John Eaton, married Margaret “Peggy” O’Neill shortly after her husband’s death. It was rumored that the two had had an affair even before Peggy’s husband had died. As a result many of the cabinet wives, especially Mrs. Calhoun, refused to attend the same events as Peggy Eaton. Andrew Jackson was upset by this drama, primarily due to the fact that his wife had been deeply hurt by scandalmongering. Out of all the cabinet, only Martin van Buren defended the Eaton’s. That same year, however, both John Eaton and Martin van Buren resigned.
* First Issue of *The Liberator* Published (1831) – Created by William Lloyd Garrison, this newspaper was first published on January 1, 1831 and would continue circulation, though never more than 3,000 papers, until December 29, 1865. *The Liberator* demanded the immediate and complete abolition of slavery. It became famous for its rash and quotable writing, based entirely on moral persuasion.
* Alexis de Tocqueville Writes Volume I of *Democracy in America* (1835) – Alexis de Tocqueville was a French politician and writer. His book *De la démocratie en Amérique* or *Democracy in America*, published in 1835, was based off the observations he made during a government mission to the United States, studying the penal system, in 1831. He believed that political democracy and social equality, like that in America, would eventually replace the aristocratic institutions of Europe.

1. **Major Inventions:**

* Reaper (1834) – Invented by Cyrus McCormick, the reaper contained the strait reciprocating knife, guards, reel, divider, platform, main-drive wheel, and other innovations. The first public demonstration of this invention took place in July 1831. However, McCormick didn’t patent his invention until after Obed Hussey announced it in1834.
* Revolver (1835) – In 1835, Samuel Colt patented the revolving-breech pistol, an idea he had developed earlier on. He founded the Patent Arms Company in Paterson, New Jersey in order to sell these revolvers. However, in 1842, the company failed. However, when the government ordered his revolvers for use in the Mexican War in 1847, Colt was able to reestablish his business.
* Steel Tipped Plow (1837) – Nicknamed the “grasshopper plow,” the steel tipped plow was invented by John Deere. This large plow was made of iron and steel. It could cut through tough ground and sticky soil without clogging. This greatly assisted the farmers on the Great Plains. By 1855, John Deere’s factory was selling over 10,000 steel plows a year.

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1. **Overall Rating:**

Andrew Jackson served as a great, valiant military general. As president, however, Jackson wasn’t nearly as striking of a figure. Though he successfully prevented civil war and maintained a degree of popular support, Jackson made many serious **blunders throughout his presidency**. His unnecessary vetoes, attitude towards the Supreme Court, mistreatment of Native Americans, and unwise decision making earn Andrew Jackson the grade of “D.”

As president of the United States, Jackson’s goals included getting rid of the national bank in favor of state power through state banks and removing the Native Americans from valued territory within the existing states. Jackson was, in fact, suc**cessful at achieving both of these** goals. He was able to get rid of the national bank **through his veto of the bill to re-charter the** second bank of the United States in 1832. He was able to move the Native Americans to unwanted territory in the area now known as Oklahoma through the Indian Removal Act passed in 1830. **These goals were accomplished; however, whether or not the achievement of these goals benefited the nation is an entirely different question.**

Andrew Jackson made very few significant appointments during his presidency. This is because he chose people that he could control, instead of basing his choices on their merits. Mostly, he appointed friends and supporters to positions of power, as seen in the spoil system. The most significant appointment that Jackson made was likely when he appointed Roger B. Taney as chief justice of the Supreme Court. Taney went on to make many rulings including that of the Charles River Bridge vs. Warren River Bridge case. In this situation, if John Marshall had still been chief justice instead of Taney, the ruling may have been very different.

Andrew Jackson’s relationship with **congress was not very good**. He regularly vetoed acts passed by Congress, such as the Maysville Road Bill. He became the first president to veto an act based on personal opinion instead of constitutionality when he vetoed the Bill to Re-Charter the Second Bank of the United States in 1832. Even so, he was successful in pushing acts through Congress when he had the will to do so. This can be seen in the passing of the compromise tariff and force act in 1833.

The action of Andrew Jackson’s administration that proved to have the most positive outcome was the Compromise Tariff. Encouraged by Jackson and passed by Congress in 1833, the compromise tariff convinced South Carolina to repeal their ordinance of nullification. This prevented South Carolina from seceding from the union, thus stopping the breakout of a civil war. All the actions of Jackson’s administration were not good, like the compromise tariff. The action with the most negative outcome was the Indian Removal Act that Jackson was so supportive of, passed in 1830. This act called for the removal of Native Americans from their home lands to a new section of “unwanted” land in what is now Oklahoma. This enforcement of this act not only went against the rulings of the Supreme Court, but also ended any chance of the Native American’s assimilation into 19th century American society. This upset the Native Americans and made enemies out of allies for the United States. Some of the Native Americans even fought back, as is seen in the Black Hawk and Second Seminole wars.

Andrew Jackson was the people’s president, unlike the aristocrats that had held the office before him. Despite coming from a wealthy family, he ran his campaign on the basis that he was just another man. The people saw themselves in him and thus supported him. Though his ideas and policies were not always popular, especially with the National Republicans and Anti-Masons, he was always able to retain a certain degree of his “untouchable personal popularity.”

One decision Jackson made that influenced future generations was his decision to veto the bill to re-charter the second bank of the United States. This decision ended the consolidation of the national treasury’s money into one private institution. After this veto the money was moved to a series of state banks known as Jackson’s “pet” banks. This moved caused inflation, because there was no set value of money between varying banks. Later, this system would be replaced by the independent and sub-treasury system, with the money held by a governmental institution. If Jackson had not chosen to veto the national bank’s re-charter, it is very likely that the bank would have continued to serve as the foundation for the economy.

Though he retained popular support and did succeed in averting a civil war, Andrew Jackson made many blunders along the way. In fact, it is very likely that America was worse off at the end of his president than the beginning. This is due to his bad decision making, especially regarding the National Bank, Native Americans, and his method of choosing people for high offices. Because of these decisions on his part, Jackson rightfully earned himself the grade of “D.”