

ANDREW JACKSON

Questions:-

Q-What are the salient features of Andrew Jackson's Presidency and Democracy?

Background of Andrew Jackson:

Andrew Jackson, was born in South Carolina on 15th March 1767. At the age of 14, he ran from his house. During the revolution he served as local militia and was taken as a prisoner by the British. After he was released, he ~~was~~ joined as an assistant to a saddle maker. ~~He~~ later he took up teaching and completed his law in spare time. He died on 8th June 1845.

ANDREW JACKSON ENTERED IN POLITICS:-

He joined as the member of the state state of Constitution Convention. He was elected as the member of Representatives House of Representatives from Tennessee in 1796.

ANDREW JACKSON IN MILITARY :-

He like his military career more than

the political. He left politics and joined army. In 1813-1814 war against Greek, US won and Andrew Jackson became the Governor General of US army. In the war of 1812, in 1815 he led the army in New Orleans and won hence came to be known as the 'National Hero'.

Resumed Politics:-

He was selected as the ^{Governor} member of the Florida in 1821, but he was resigned. In 1823, was elected as the member of the senate and resigned too. In 1825, he won the maximum votes in the election of 1824, but due to the intrigue of Clay and Adams the Congress gave the decision against him. Jackson termed it as the 'Corrupt Bargain'. In the election of 1828, Jackson won and became the 7th President of the United States.

DIFFERENCE Between Jackson and other Presidents:

i) Geographical difference:

All the previous presidents were either from Massachusetts or Virginia. Jackson was the only president from the west. He was from Tennessee. Hence indicating different

Cultural background.

ii) Educational Background:

The other presidents belonged to highly intellectual and academically qualified. Jackson was impulsive, short tempered and no concern ideology. His ideologies developed over time.

The salient features of Andrew Jackson's Presidency and Democracy:

i) Opposition to the prestigious class:

Unlike, Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Madison, Monroe and John Quincy Adams Jefferson did not belong to the elite class. He was a commoner. He was against the idea that the important ^{posts} ~~notes~~ were exclusively for the prestigious class. He believed everyone is equal and equality. He removed 10% of the office holders to appoint commoners. This gave birth to the Spoils system. Many people participated in election campaign mainly for the job hunt. This ideology was later discredited and the Spoils system was replaced by the Civil Services Recruitment. Hence, Andrew Jackson paved way for the commoners to become part of the ruling party and due to his

efforts America can see multiple participation of the commoners.

ii) Opp Policy towards the 2nd National Bank:

Andrew Jackson highly mistrusted the moneyed aristocracy. He was convinced that the national central banks were there to exploit the poor and benefit the rich. He was against this idea. Hence, when Congress passed the Bill for the extension of 2nd National bank's tenure, Andrew vetoed the decision. He ordered the federal deposits to be taken out from the bank resultantly bank closed.

iii) Strengthen the States:

All the previous presidents were supporting the idea of strengthening central federal government. Whereas, Andrew Jackson supported the states must be strengthened. Stood for the program of internal improvements by States but favoured their own execution. He ordered the federal system to assist if needed.

He asserted the management of the Treasury fund to deposit the amount in different banks of the states that was withdrawn from the federal bank.

iv) Changes in the policy of suffrage: To expand the voting sample, Jackson removed the eligibility of owning property. The new set criteria for suffrage was white man and man. An American white man had the authority to vote no matter owns property or not thus maintaining equality.

v) Relation with Native Americans/Indians:
His policy towards native Americans was rigid. 94 treaties were signed either to recognize them and their culture or to move them to Oklahoma from their territory. In 1831, office of Indian affairs was established. They were given compensation who surrendered their land. Force was used against those who resisted. Black Hawks War and Dolenzal war was against Native Americans.

vi) Relations with Congress:

The previous governments and the president belonged to the prestigious class. Jackson being a commoner could not maintain a cordial relationship with the Congress. He asserted his single independent position and was against the stranglehold of Congress. Vetoes more legislations in his two terms than any of his predecessors. Without taking any action, he vetoed the Bill

of extension. The critics thought his attitude towards the Congress was such that he wanted to usurp such powers that were not granted to the president through constitution. Jackson answered that his obligation was towards defending constitution and to serve his people.

VII] Division of Democratic Party:-

The policy of the Jackson led to conflict and division in the democratic party. He showed scant regard towards his cabinet and civil servants. Illustrating shuffling of the officers. Mostly appointed his henchmen at high important offices. He would not tolerate any criticism against his policies.

VIII] Foreign Policy under Jackson:

Jackson believed in friendly relations hence maintained good terms with British, French and European Powers. After long negotiations, Jackson's govt came on conciliatory terms with the British to open ports for US trade on the basis of reciprocity. In 1831, signed treaty with French to maintain better relations.

ix) Jackson's Kitchen Cabinet:

Jackson's informal group of trusted advisors and friends who influenced Jackson's decision making outside of his actual cabinet. They played significant role in shaping Jackson's policies and ideologies. However, this cabinet was often criticized by Jackson's opponents.

x) Nullification Crisis: The states that saw the president's authority as unfair had the right to nullify. Hence South Carolina, led by John Calhoun nullified the unnecessary and unfair tariffs imposed by Jackson's government. He so, Jackson asserted the federal authority to exert force to enforce the federal laws, thus preserving the Union and demonstrating his commitment to the strong centralized govt.

Impacts of Jackson's policies and Jackson as a leader:

The era of Jackson is known as the 'historical era'. The division of democratic and republican party's which is the emergence of the 2-party system happened. For the first

time a commoner came to the highest position and till date gives hope to the commoners. Affordable Western lands to white people. Was a people-person and stood for the commoners. Supported industrial development for the growth of American economy which is practiced till date. Hence, history is witness the policies that Jackson applied are still regarded and following few US has well-developed herself.