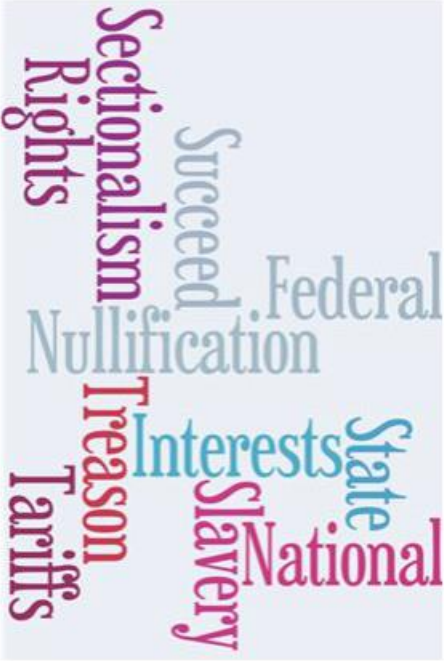


Module 5: The Civil War and Reconstruction – 1860 to 1877

Topic 1 Content: Sectional Tensions and the Nullification Crisis

Introduction

Sectional Tensions and the Nullification Crisis



1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Introduction

Political and economic issues were debated by the North and South. The issues of slavery and tariffs led to the creation of laws that benefited one region while hurting the other. In this interactivity, click **NEXT** to learn about sectional tensions and the Nullification Crisis.

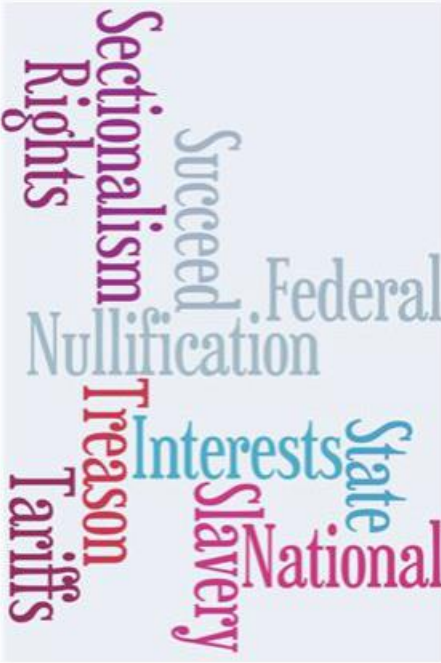
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Module 5: The Civil War and Reconstruction – 1860 to 1877

Topic 1 Content: Sectional Tensions and the Nullification Crisis

Tariffs

Sectional Tensions and the Nullification Crisis



Sectionalism
Rights
Succeed
Federal
Nullification
Treason
Interests
State
Slavery
National
Tariffs

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Tariffs

After the War of 1812, the American market was flooded with an abundance of British goods. The British goods were less expensive than the American goods, which threatened the livelihood of American merchants. In order to protect the young American economy, Congress passed a tariff, or a tax on foreign goods, in 1816. Congress increased the tariff in 1824 and once more in 1828.

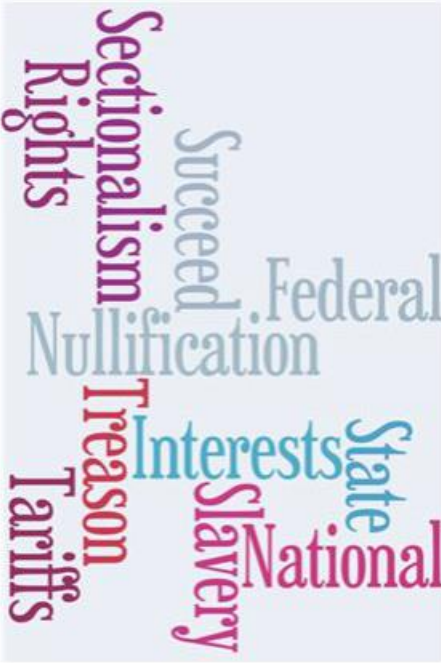
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Module 5: The Civil War and Reconstruction – 1860 to 1877

Topic 1 Content: Sectional Tensions and the Nullification Crisis

Sectional Tensions

Sectional Tensions and the Nullification Crisis



1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Sectional Tensions

Merchants were unwilling to pay the hefty tariffs, and inexpensive British exports were not making it into America. Southerners were left with no other choice than to purchase more expensive goods that had been manufactured in the North. Many Southerners began to feel that Congress was exploiting the South, inhibiting the sale of less expensive British exports and forcing them to purchase costly goods produced in the North. Tensions between the North and South began to escalate.

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Module 5: The Civil War and Reconstruction – 1860 to 1877

Topic 1 Content: Sectional Tensions and the Nullification Crisis

Nullification

Sectional Tensions and the Nullification Crisis

Sectionalism
Nullification
Federal
Interests
State
National
Slavery
Tariffs
Treason
Rights
Succeed

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Nullification

Vice President Calhoun, a South Carolinian, decided to take action. He felt the United States Constitution was an agreement between sovereign, independent states. In December 1828, he wrote the South Carolina Exposition and Protest. This document argued against the recent tariffs, claimed each state had a right to nullify any federal law it felt was unconstitutional (essentially rejecting the law and refusing to enforce it), and contended that if Southern states felt the tariff was unconstitutional, they had the right to nullify the tariff. The document also stated that South Carolina would

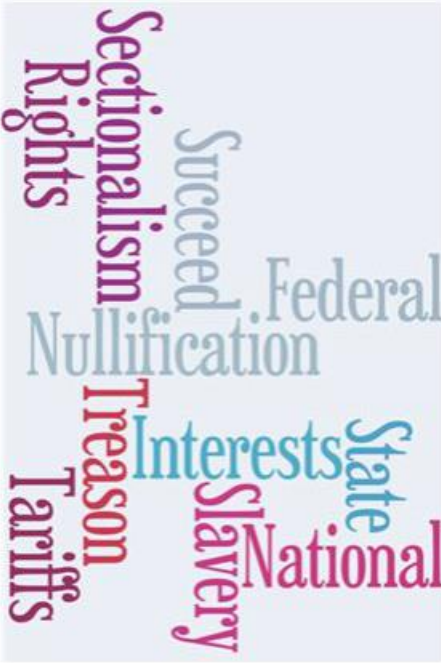
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Module 5: The Civil War and Reconstruction – 1860 to 1877

Topic 1 Content: Sectional Tensions and the Nullification Crisis

Ordinance of Nullification

Sectional Tensions and the Nullification Crisis



1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Ordinance of Nullification

Congress passed a new tariff in 1832 that would slowly reduce the rates. However, this was not enough for the people of South Carolina. In November of 1832, a state convention supporting the ideas that Calhoun had expressed in the South Carolina Exposition and Protest, adopted the Ordinance of Nullification. This declared the tariff laws null and void in the state of South Carolina, and prompted the Nullification Crises between South Carolina and the rest of the United States.

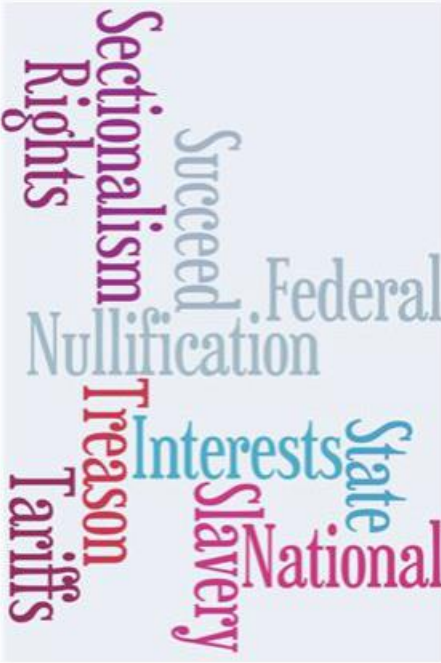
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Nullification Crisis

Sectional Tensions and the Nullification Crisis



Sectionalism
Rights
Succeed
Federal
Nullification
Treason
Interests
State
Tariffs
Slavery
National

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Nullification Crisis

South Carolina's refusal to enforce the tariff angered many individuals, including President Jackson. Although President Jackson was a Southerner and a slaveholder, he believed that Calhoun's views were wrong. He disagreed that individual states had the right to nullify federal laws, and threatened to send federal troops into South Carolina to uphold the power of federal law.

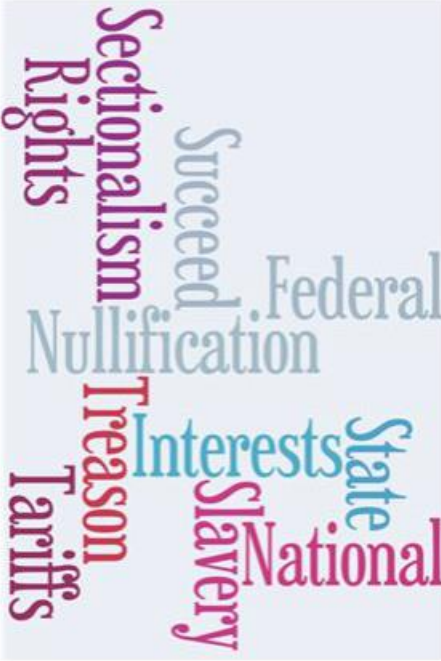
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Topic 1 Content: Sectional Tensions and the Nullification Crisis

Resolution

Sectional Tensions and the Nullification Crisis



Sectionalism
Rights
Succeed
Federal
Nullification
Treason
Interests
State
Tariffs
Slavery
National

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Resolution

Conflict seemed unavoidable, until Senator Henry Clay intervened. He drafted a compromise tariff of 1833 that would gradually decrease the tariffs over a ten-year period. The people of South Carolina thought the bill was good enough, and repealed the Nullification Ordinance in March 1833. For the present time, at least, conflict had been avoided.

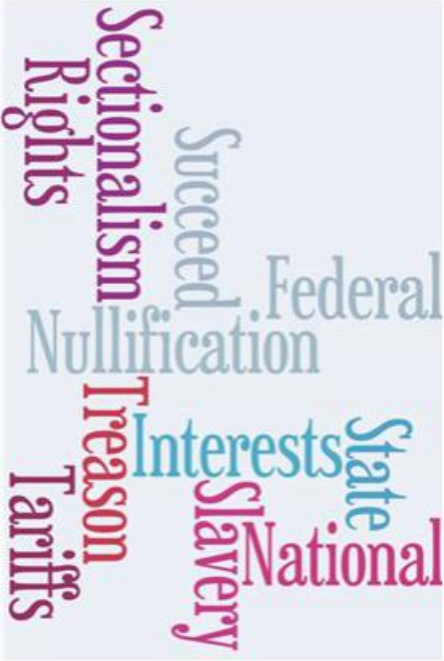
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Topic 1 Content: Sectional Tensions and the Nullification Crisis

Slavery

Sectional Tensions and the Nullification Crisis



Sectionalism
Rights
Succeed
Federal
Nullification
Treason
Interests
State
Tariffs
Slavery
National

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Slavery

The Nullification Crisis and rising tensions between the two sections of the country led to concerns regarding slavery. If Southern states seceded from the Union due to issues related to slavery, the young nation would dissolve. States' rights and the practice of slavery were matters that still ultimately needed to be resolved.

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