



AP[®] United States History 2003 Sample Student Responses Form B

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As a new nation, the power of the national government increased in the early years of the republic. The power gained, however, received much opposition because the people thought that a tax might've been unfair, which sparked the whiskey rebellion, or that the government was in favor of special interest groups, igniting the nullification crises. Both of the causes for the rebellions was due to a fear of a strong central government, such as the monarchy they had so recently ~~over~~ overthrown.

Farmers in 1794 were deeply outraged by a new excise tax placed on whiskey. The tax was enacted with the goal of raising revenue for the government. Since whiskey was already expensive, the farmers did not want their own government to further hike up the prices. They rebelled and protested and boycotted and did so effectively. The ~~excise~~ excise tax was short lived and long ~~remember~~ remembered.

Another wave of opposition that met the new national government occurred in 1832. It was the nullification crises in South Carolina. President Andrew Jackson had just passed the 'olive branch and sword' act. This is the nickname given to the

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Compromise tariff and the force bill. The Southern farmers' wellbeing depended on imports and, mainly, exports. High tariff rates hurt them. They had just lived through some of the highest tariff rates in the nation's history, such as the "Tariff of ~~Abominable~~ Abominations." The compromise tariff was better, but still unacceptable to the South Carolinians and the fact that it was accompanied by the force bill outraged them. They nullified the force bill and compromise and threatened to secede from the union. Their actions, too, did not go without benefits, but they did not have a great victory. They did not secede and the tariff rates were lowered.

The increasing power of the national government has had its tests. Rebellions sprouted in the new nation such as the whiskey rebellion and the nullification crises of South Carolina. These problems occurred because the people felt that a government that was supposed to be by the people and for the people was not carrying out its duty.

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The National Government as created in 1789 by the constitution that ~~we~~ we abide by to this day, in its infancy was subject to ~~threats of~~ a variety of threats for a variety of reasons. The Whisky Rebellion in 1794 and the Hartford Convention in 1814-1815 show clearly the different kinds of obstacles the fledgling government, "the democratic experiment", was forced to overcome. ~~The~~ With motives ranging from high taxes to fear for trade and the actions from armed rebellion to review of the constitution, many would have liked the government to falter when it did not.

In 1794, in response to Madison's heavy taxation of Whiskey, ~~many~~ ^{armed} western frontiersmen marched on the capital demanding lower taxation and a system more fair to the interests of those on the frontier. Unlike the Articles of Confederation, which failed to halt a similar rebellion in less than a decade before because of lack of power and funding, the new constitution gave the federal government the wealth and the power to put down the disgruntled whiskey-men. Troops were used to deter the unhappy western frontiersmen and to prove the power of the new centralized government.

The situation in 1814 could hardly have been more different. Those in "revolt" to the government were the very men whose economic wishes created such hostility

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on the part of the westerners in 1794. ^{However,} These New-England land owners and merchants were concerned primarily with their own monetary well-being and prosperity just as the whiskey distillers of the west were. The difference ~~was that~~ ^{was that} ~~that~~ ^{was that} their in their actual complaints, and the measures they took against them. These New Englanders were concerned with the adverse affects on trade and commerce that was ^{the result of} the War of 1812 against Britain. ~~was having on their~~ interests. Instead of taking up arms, however, (they had seen already that this was not effective) they chose to fight the government with the document that gave it its power: the Constitution. They construed that because their states willingly joined the Union, they also might willingly leave, pioneering the concept of secession that was to become such a major issue 50 years later. The convention, however, unlike the future confederates, never took any action to implement these ideas, and the point became moot with the treaty of Ghent and the end of war soon after.

The actual motives ~~of~~ of these ~~obstacles~~ obstacles to the federal government were ostensibly very different, but the underlying theme was the same; concern for their own monetary well being. This concern has since spawned numerous other debates, ~~but~~ ~~and even led to the~~ "American ~~Dream of prosperity~~, but most ~~disputes~~ but most have been resolved in the American tradition of compromise rather than opposition to the government. The nature

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of their revolts, however is fundamentally different. The "armed resistance" style of rebellion has, of yet, never worked in American society and has seldom even been seriously attempted since the Whiskey Rebellion (with the ~~not~~ notable exception of the Civil War). The constitutional argument, however, has proven much more effective facilitating numerous reforms through the rulings of the Supreme Court. Even the Confederacy, many historians maintain, could have won a legal battle based on the document that gives the government its power. But, in the tradition of the Whiskey Rebellion, the pitched battle was lost and the government ~~is~~ remains a whole, and firmly in control.

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Since the formation of the Constitution of United States, the power of the government had expanded due to various events. Decisions by Supreme Court headed by John Marshall and the creation of various ~~public~~ institutions such as "The Bank of the United States" and federal central over interstate commerce resulted in loose interpretation of the constitution, and the power of Federal government increased in regulating all types of matters. However, though the power of the government increased, there were often protests which at times challenged the power of the government.

One of the first challenges of the new government under the new constitution was collecting money to pay the debt generated in the American Revolution. Various taxes were created designed to bring the revenue. One of the taxes was put over the whiskey that the western farmers used to sell in the east. The whiskey taxes hurt the farmers and they felt the effects of it on their income and the products they sold. This inconvenience caused the Western farmers to rise up and take arms to protest against these unlawful taxes. When the state ~~pro~~ this uprising of rebellion caused great problems back in the capital. Washington pondered whether it was right to use forces against his citizens who were protesting against unfair taxes. President Washington decided to authoritatively deal with the matter. He sent the United States Army to the place where the ~~rebellion~~ ^{rebellion} was taking place. When the state militia joined the army, it was one of the biggest tests ever passed. It affirmed to the President that even though state militia was going against its people, it placed loyalty to Union above anything else. The rebellion was

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ultimately crushed and peace was restored. It was one of the ^{first tests} ~~first tests~~ of the democracy about whether it would take action against its own people and ~~also~~ how much loyalty to Union was present? The dealing of Whiskey Rebellion insured that the United States government was powerful and that it would not tolerate rebellions ~~at~~ that could affect the government and the nation. The ~~people~~ common people also ~~learn~~ learnt that the new government would not tolerate disloyalty to the Union.

South

South's economy consisted of growing tobacco, rice, indigo, and cotton and exporting them to ~~the~~ international and local markets. They often bought manufactured goods from other countries. North was more involved in industrial production of manufactured goods, and to encourage the young industrial industry, taxes were needed on imports to reduce foreign competition. In 1828, tariff of abominations was passed that tried to please both sections. However, south was still hugely affected by the tariff rates. South, containing slaves, and having a completely different economy, felt that North was trying to ruin the South. Andrew Jackson's administration attempted to lower these rates, but it was still met with disapproval by the South. South led by John Calhoun believed that people's liberties were most important and that ~~they could~~ the states had the right to declare any federal law ~~to~~ null and void, that ~~they~~ ^{the} people considered as unconstitutional. This sparked a debate in which Andrew Jackson ~~was for~~ believed that nullification by states threatened the Union. In the nullification crisis of 1832-1833, ~~the~~ Southern states

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~~states~~ stated succession as one of the ways to deal with the unfair tariff rates. ~~Andrew Jackson~~ who believe the southern states believed they had the right to declare any law unconstitutional and that they could ~~se~~ leave the Union whenever they want to. State rights ~~was~~ was placed first and then the Union came. Andrew Jackson ~~used to~~ who believed in the preservation of Union used his power to pass a Force Bill that ~~gave~~ gave President the right to use force against states if ~~they did not~~ to force them to obey the laws passed. Behind the scenes, a compromise Tariff lowering the rates was passed, which the South agreed ~~and further~~ ~~even~~ ~~aggravation~~ ~~were~~ forced. The Nullification Crisis showed the split in states and government view. South believed that states ~~could~~ rights were the most important. ~~The~~ ~~and~~ ~~the~~ measures taken by President Jackson showed that federal government could use its power to make the states obey. This ^{force} was considered different from the British force over the colonies in the sense that United States existence was due to the cooperation between the states. Breakup of cooperation would lead to breakup of Union, which would ultimately affect the democracy ^{in which} ~~on that~~ everybody had their pride. Thus, use of force symbolized preservation of democracy and the ideals for which the Revolutionary people had fought.

In conclusion, both ~~a~~ ~~whiskey~~ rebellion and nullification crisis challenged the authority of government. They were tests to what the government would do in times of turmoil. In both of the crises, the government showed its strength and its central ~~was~~

