Who Pays, Who Decides?

Economic policy and political conflict in the early United States

SS24.US1.9c "Compare and contrast political and sectional views on economic policies, and explain how these views led to political conflict during the early to mid-nineteenth century."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline reasons people supported an economic policy, circle reasons people opposed one, and number two places where a disagreement became a political conflict. Use your marks to compare views within and across regions.

When Economic Choices Divided the Nation

1 In 1828, Congress raised tariffs, taxes on imported goods. Many northern manufacturers welcomed the higher rates because foreign cloth and iron would cost more, giving American factories an advantage. Many southern planters objected because they bought imported goods and feared that trade partners would buy less American cotton in return. Yet region alone did not decide every view: some northern merchants who depended on overseas trade also disliked high tariffs. The same law could look like protection for one business and a costly federal favor to another. Arguments about the tariff soon became arguments about whose economy Congress served.

2 South Carolina's leaders called the tariffs of 1828 and 1832 unfair to their state. In 1832, a state convention declared those federal tariffs void in South Carolina, a step called nullification. President Andrew Jackson opposed nullification and insisted that states could not cancel federal laws, even though he favored lowering tariff rates. Congress passed a compromise tariff in 1833 that gradually reduced rates. It also passed a Force Bill authorizing Jackson to use the military to enforce federal tariff laws. South Carolina accepted the lower tariff but symbolically nullified the Force Bill. The crisis exposed conflict over both economic costs and federal power.

3 Another fight centered on the Second Bank of the United States, which held federal deposits and helped steady the nation's money supply. Senator Henry Clay and other supporters argued that the bank made credit and trade more reliable. Jackson and many of his Democratic allies said it concentrated economic power among wealthy investors and favored some regions and businesses over others. Support for the bank was strong among many northeastern business interests, but its backers also lived elsewhere. In 1832, Jackson vetoed a bill to renew its charter, turning an argument about financial policy into a major issue in that year's presidential election.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did many northern manufacturers and southern planters view the tariff differently, and what larger question did their disagreement raise?

2. How did Jackson's position on tariff rates differ from his position on South Carolina's nullification? Explain why the dispute became more than an argument about prices.

3. Compare Clay's and Jackson's views of the bank. How did their disagreement enter national politics?

4. What two details challenge the idea that everyone in one region held the same economic views?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write an 80 to 100 word editorial addressed to readers in both North and South in 1833. Compare tariff and bank arguments, explain how each fueled a different political fight, and propose a way to debate these issues without assuming everyone in a region agrees.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 10 · SS24.US1.9c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline reasons people supported an economic policy, circle reasons people opposed one, and number two places where a disagreement became a political conflict. Use your marks to compare views within and across regions. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did many northern manufacturers and southern planters view the tariff differently, and what larger question did their disagreement raise?	**Manufacturers saw protection from foreign competition; planters feared higher costs and reduced cotton sales. Their disagreement raised the question of whose economy Congress should favor.**
2	How did Jackson's position on tariff rates differ from his position on South Carolina's nullification? Explain why the dispute became more than an argument about prices.	**Jackson favored lower tariff rates but opposed a state's attempt to cancel federal law. The dispute also became a conflict over federal and state power.**
3	Compare Clay's and Jackson's views of the bank. How did their disagreement enter national politics?	**Clay argued the bank supported reliable credit and trade; Jackson argued it concentrated power among wealthy investors. Jackson's veto made the bank an issue in the 1832 presidential election.**
4	What two details challenge the idea that everyone in one region held the same economic views?	**Some northern merchants opposed high tariffs, and bank supporters lived outside the Northeast.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Readers in North and South, the tariff is not simply a contest of good people against bad people. Many northern factory owners want protection, while southern planters fear higher costs and lost cotton sales. South Carolina's attempt to cancel federal tariff laws turned that dispute into a fight over federal authority. The bank divides Americans differently: Clay argues it supports stable credit, while Jackson warns it favors powerful investors. Their disagreement shaped the 1832 election. Listen to northern merchants who oppose tariffs, too. Judge each policy by its costs and benefits, not by a neighbor's address.

Accept accurate paraphrases. For the editorial, look for both policy comparisons, distinct political consequences, a qualifying example about regional views, and a proposed approach to debate.