**King Jackson I**

Stubborn, argumentative, tough, and opinionated. Are these qualities the President of the United States should possess? These characteristics perfectly describe Andrew Jackson- a person some may argue was one of our greatest and most accomplished U.S. Presidents. I completely disagree! **"King" Andrew Jackson was a terrible President who set many precedents that led to future Presidents expanding the power of the Chief Executive.**

**Andrew Jackson abused the power of his office and the laws outlined in the U.S. Constitution. For example**, the U.S. Supreme Court declared that Jackson's Indian Removal Act was unconstitutional, and that the U.S. government could not legally force the Cherokee Tribe to leave its ancestral land. And yet, the Cherokees and several other Southeastern American Indian tribes, were forcibly marched from their homes to land west of the Mississippi River. This "Trail of Tears" cost thousands of innocent American Indian lives. By defying the Supreme Court's ruling, Jackson clearly violated the policy of Judicial Review, which states that a law is **null and void** if the Supreme Court finds it **unconstitutional**. By his actions in this case, Jackson showed his defiance of the Constitution and completely ignored its system of checks and balances.

**In addition to President Jackson abusing the power of the Presidency, he also made decisions and policies for the United States based on his *own, personal* beliefs rather than for the good of our country. For instance**, Jackson once stated, "I have always been afraid of banks." (Quote Bank). This personal belief led to his war with the Bank of the United States. The Bank of the U.S.A. was the most important bank in the country in 1832, and it was critically important to the U.S. government and large businesses. It was led by a man named Nicholas Biddle- a personal enemy of Andrew Jackson. When the Bank of the U.S.A.'s charter came up for renewal, Jackson vetoed the bill to renew the Bank of the U.S.... *even though Congress had approved it.* Without this essential part of the U.S. economy, an economic depression and panic occurred in 1837. **Another example** of Jackson's personal beliefs deciding government policy was his "Spoils System". Jackson felt that, "...public service should only last for a short time..." (The People's President, p. 87) to prevent corruption and dishonesty. This belief led Jackson to replace about 10% of government officials and workers regardless of their effectiveness. To some, this "principle of rotation in office" (the hermitage.com) may have prevented government corruption, but, to me, it was merely a way for Andrew Jackson to give friends and supporters jobs and positions in government.

There is an old saying- "The ends justify the means." This means that things can be done that are morally wrong as long as the results are good for *most* people. Many historians believe that Andrew Jackson's actions as President were justified (proven correct) because the American people at the time benefited from them. I disagree.  **Andrew Jackson proved through his decisions, like the Indian Removal Act, Bank War, and "Spoils System,” that he was far from a great U.S. President. In fact, "King" Andrew I" would have been a far more appropriate title for him than "President of the United States".**