

Name: _____

PrepUS History

Date: _____

Unit 3 - The New Nation

“King Andrew the First”

Andrew Jackson often did what he wanted to do rather than follow the rules of the constitution or national policy. He once said that he did this because “One man with courage makes a majority.” His critics accused him of being a tyrant, or a ruler who uses his or her power without thinking about how it might help or hurt their people. The newspaper *The New York American* said Jackson was a “maniac,” who would “trample the rights of our people under his feet.” The Whig convention of 1834 declared, “Your president has become your MONARCH.”

Both of those beliefs are shown in this political cartoon that portrays Jackson as a king.

Ancient portraits of kings often showed them grinding their conquered enemies beneath their feet. Beneath Jackson’s feet are the torn pages of the Constitution.

In one hand, Jackson is holding a scepter, a kind of fancy cane kings and other rulers used to hold as a symbol of their kingly power, while in his other hand he is holding the veto, a symbol of his presidential power.

Analyzing Political Cartoon – Questions

1. What does this cartoon suggest about Jackson’s attitude toward the Constitution?
2. What does this cartoon suggest about Jackson’s attitude toward the will (or wishes) of the American people?