The **Nullification Crisis** was a [sectional](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sectionalism) crisis during the presidency of [Andrew Jackson](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrew_Jackson) created by [South Carolina's](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Carolina) 1832 [Ordinance of Nullification](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ordinance_of_Nullification). This ordinance declared by the power of the State that the federal [Tariffs of 1828](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tariff_of_1828) and [1832](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tariff_of_1832) were unconstitutional and therefore null and void within the sovereign boundaries of [South Carolina](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Carolina). The controversial and highly protective Tariff of 1828 (known to its detractors as the "[Tariff of Abominations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tariff_of_Abominations)") was enacted into law during the presidency of [John Quincy Adams](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Quincy_Adams). The tariff was opposed in the South and parts of New England. Its opponents expected that the election of Jackson as President would result in the tariff being significantly reduced.[1]

The nation had suffered an economic downturn throughout the 1820s, and South Carolina was particularly affected. Many South Carolina politicians blamed the change in fortunes on the national tariff policy that developed after the [War of 1812](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_of_1812) to promote American manufacturing over its British competition.[2] By 1828 South Carolina state politics increasingly organized around the tariff issue. When the Jackson administration failed to take any actions to address their concerns, the most radical faction in the state began to advocate that the state itself declare the tariff null and void within South Carolina. In Washington, an open split on the issue occurred between Jackson and his vice-president [John C. Calhoun](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_C._Calhoun), the most effective proponent of the [constitutional theory of state nullification](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nullification_%28U.S._Constitution%29).[3]

On July 14, 1832, after Calhoun had resigned his office in order to run for the Senate where he could more effectively defend nullification,[4] Jackson signed into law the Tariff of 1832. This compromise tariff received the support of most northerners and half of the southerners in Congress.[5] The reductions were too little for South Carolina, and in November 1832 a state convention declared that the tariffs of both 1828 and 1832 were unconstitutional and unenforceable in South Carolina after February 1, 1833. Military preparations to resist anticipated federal enforcement were initiated by the state.[6] In late February both a [Force Bill](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Force_Bill), authorizing the President to use military forces against South Carolina, and a new negotiated tariff satisfactory to South Carolina were passed by Congress. The South Carolina convention reconvened and repealed its Nullification Ordinance on March 11, 1833.

The crisis was over, and both sides could find reasons to claim victory. The tariff rates were reduced and stayed low to the satisfaction of the South, and the [states’ rights](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/States%E2%80%99_rights) doctrine of nullification had been rejected by the nation. By the 1850s the issues of the expansion of slavery into the western territories and the threat of the [Slave Power](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slave_Power) became the central issues in the nation.[7]