

**Volume 13**

**Number 052**

**Jamestown Journey: Compromise of  
1833**

**Lead: Conflict over a protective tariff almost produced Civil War in the United States in 1833.**

**Intro.: Dan Roberts and *A Moment in Time*, with *Jamestown - Journey of Democracy*, tracing the global advance of democratic ideals since the founding of Jamestown, Virginia in 1607.**

**Angered over protective tariffs which benefited northern industry and hurt southern farmers, southerners, led by United States Vice-President John C. Calhoun of South Carolina in**

**the early 1830s, advocated nullification. If states were convinced the Federal government had passed laws that were unconstitutional, they could nullify them, declare them inoperative inside their state's boundaries.**

**Directly across the path to this constitutional solution was the President of the United States, Andrew Jackson, himself a southerner and generally sympathetic to the southern position on tariffs. He was, however, determined to enforce Federal law. In late 1832 a Convention in South Carolina declared the recently passed high tariff bill to be null and void inside their state and instructed**

**customs officials in Charleston not to collect the tax.**

**In a January 1833 message to Congress he declared that nullification violated the letter and spirit of the Constitution and called for a Force Bill which would permit the use of the Army and Navy should the necessity arise. South Carolina reacted by calling up the militia.**

**At that point, cooler heads prevailed and both sides stepped back from the brink and accepted the Compromise of 1833, but the South had learned that the mere threat of secession could bend the national will in its direction.**

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## Resources

**Dowd, Gregory Evans. "Declarations of Dependence: War and Inequality in Revolutionary New Jersey, 1776-1815," *A New Jersey Anthology*. Edited by Maxine N. Lurie. Newark: New Jersey Historical Society, 1994.**

**Fleming, Thomas J. *New Jersey: A Bicentennial History*. New York: W.W. Norton and Company, Inc., 1976.**

### Resources

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