

Chapter 1 : John Caldwell Calhoun - People - Department History - Office of the Historian

A Biography of John Caldwell Calhoun () March 18, in South Carolina, Calhoun was born, and educated at Yale College. From to an economic recession hit the United States and Calhoun realized that British policies were ruining the economy.

He proceeded to study law for two years under Judge Tapping Reeve at the Litchfield Law School, the most prominent institution devoted to legal training during this period. House of Representatives in As a congressman, Calhoun continued to embody republican principles and acquired the reputation as a moral statesman who regarded republicanism and patriotism as synonymous: President Monroe asked Calhoun to assume the helm at the War Department in , where served until Calhoun was generally considered too philosophical for such a practical post, but he accepted the appointment out of a republican sense of duty. In the course of two terms in office Calhoun completely reorganized and revitalized the War Department and its general staff, resolved its financial problems resulting from the war, and demonstrated a new, more compassionate approach to Native American affairs. Calhoun also began reforming West Point through a new spirit of openness in terms of admissions and administrative procedures. Calhoun has been described as the ablest war secretary the Government had before Jefferson Davis in Initially entering the presidential field, Calhoun realized he lacked adequate support and withdrew after Pennsylvania nominated Andrew Jackson. Accepting the vice-presidential nomination, Calhoun was elected by a large majority. The president-elect proceeded to appoint Clay as Secretary of State. Calhoun and either Adams or his representative engaged in a pseudonymous debate about the sources of political power. It was as part of this ticket, later known as the Democratic Party, that Calhoun was elected Vice President in The falling apart of the political union between Calhoun and Jackson is one of the most remarkable events in American politics. Calhoun had hoped Jackson would assume the republican political mantel, but his expectations were not fulfilled. When Jackson decided to seek a second term and selected Martin Van Buren as his vice presidential candidate, several controversies were ignited that raised questions about the corruptibility of the administration. The most important concerned Mrs. Out of a sense of propriety, Mrs. Calhoun and most ladies in Washington refused to receive her into their homes. As a result of the dispute with Jackson, Calhoun resigned as Vice President and was elected to the Senate. Troubled by the increasing influence of abolitionism and the rise of sectional conflict, Calhoun would devote the remainder of his life to defending the South and attempting to avoid conflict. Retiring from the Senate in , he unsuccessfully pursued the presidency for the last time. In , Calhoun was appointed as Secretary of State. Returning to the Senate in , Calhoun served as a thoughtful critic of the war with Mexico, and suggested the conflict would encourage disharmony between the North and South. Many leading South Carolina politicians threatened drastic responses to a troublesome new tariff and the questionable status of Texas. His last years were spent attempting to unify the South and avoid strife. On March 31, , Calhoun died in Washington, D. In death, Calhoun became a source of inspiration for the Confederate government, its leaders, and the South. *The South as a Conscious Minority*, New York University Press, ; reprint, Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, *Calhoun and Popular Rule*. University of Missouri Press, Busick, and Carey Roberts, Editors. Houghton Mifflin Company, Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Webster, Clay, and Calhoun. Oxford University Press, *The Political Theory of John C. Calhoun and American Democracy*. Longmans, Green and Company, *Calhoun and His Critics*. *A Journal of History*, Volume 9 Fall , pp. Calhoun to the United Nations. *The Revelance of John C. From Burke to Santayana*. Henry Regnery, , pp. Tabarrok, Alexander, and Tyler Cowen. Edited by Joel Myerson. Gale Research Company, , pp. *The Economic Platform of John C.* University Press of Virginia,

Chapter 2 : John C. Calhoun - Conservapedia

Memoir of John Caldwell Calhoun: to the city of Charleston, which has recently exhibited a magnificent and impressive funeral pageant in honor of the.

It was his tragedy to become the spokesman for the dying institution of slavery. The family was Scotch-Irish and Calvinist and was relatively wealthy; his father owned twenty or more slaves, was a judge, and served in the state legislature. John graduated from Yale in 1804. He studied in the law school of Tapping Reeves in Litchfield, Conn. He quickly established a practice in Abbeville near his family home. In 1806 Calhoun married a distant cousin, Floride Bouneau, by whom he had nine children. The marriage brought him a modest fortune. He enlarged his holdings and in 1811 established a plantation, called Fort Hill, in his native area. Handsome in early life and with a commanding presence and piercing eyes all his life through, Calhoun had a striking personality. He had a gracious manner, and Daniel Webster and others not his partisans paid tribute to his character and integrity. In later years he struck observers as a "thinking machine," speaking very rapidly and always terribly in earnest. Political Career Calhoun was elected to the South Carolina Legislature in 1808 and 2 years later won election to the U. S. Calhoun led the effort in the House to supply and strengthen the Army, and after the war he continued to work for a stronger military establishment. He advocated measures which he would later denounce as unconstitutional: Federal encouragement of manufactures by means of a protective tariff, and internal improvements to "bind the republic together with a perfect system of roads and canals. He became less and less militaristic through his life. In 1812 he had said that "a war, just and necessary in its origin, wisely and vigorously carried on, and honorably terminated," would establish "the integrity and prosperity of our country for centuries. In 1814 John Quincy Adams appraised Calhoun as "a man of fair and candid mind & of enlarged philosophic views, and of ardent patriotism. He is above all sectional and factional prejudices more than any other statesman of this Union." Even without these irritants the clash would have come. Calhoun had anonymously written the "South Carolina Exposition" in response to the so-called Tariff of Abominations of 1828. He argued the right of a state to "nullify" a Federal enactment injurious to its interests if the state believed the law to be unconstitutional. Henry Clay brought forth a compromise, which Calhoun supported, to lower the tariff gradually over a decade; the crisis subsided for a time. In the Senate in 1830, Calhoun attacked the abolitionists, demanding that their publications be excluded from the mails, that their petitions not be received by Congress, and finally that a stop be put to agitation against slavery in the North as had been done in the South. By 1836 he was defending slavery as "a positive good" and had become an advocate for the suppression of open discussion and a free press. In his efforts for the annexation of Texas, Calhoun wrote a famous letter to the British minister in Washington, arguing that annexation was necessary to protect slavery in the United States and asserting against the position of the British government, which was urging the emancipation of slaves throughout the world that freed African Americans tended to be deaf, blind, and insane in far higher proportions than those in slavery. The letter did not help his cause in Congress. The treaty of annexation which he negotiated with the Republic of Texas was rejected by the Senate, where it was impossible to muster the required two-thirds vote in its favor. Calhoun then supported the device, of doubtful constitutionality, of admitting Texas by a joint resolution of Congress. Calhoun returned to the Senate in 1845, where he first opposed the war against Mexico and then the Wilmot Proviso, which would have prohibited slavery in all the territories acquired from Mexico by that war. He denounced the Compromise of 1850, which did not guarantee the right of Southerners to take their slaves into all territories of the Union. He did not live to see that compromise adopted, dying on March 31, 1858. His last words were, "The South!" His two works, *Disquisition on Government* and *Discourse on the Constitution and Government of the United States*, were published posthumously. Calhoun argued that government by mere numbers must inevitably result in despotism by the majority, a proposition supported by the men who drew up the Constitution. He also insisted that the Constitution should be based upon the "truth" of the inequality of man and on the principle that people are not equally entitled to liberty. Calhoun said the U. S. Constitution lacked the necessary restraints to prevent the majority from abusing the minority. He proposed to give the minorities the minority he had in mind was the Southern slaveholders a

veto power over Federal legislation and action by means of what he called the "concurrent majority. Indeed, as critics have pointed out, although he spoke in general terms and categories, he was really interested only in defending the rights of a specific propertied minority—the slaveholding South. The Works of John C. Calhoun, edited by Richard K. Calhoun, edited by Robert L. A representative collection of essays by Calhoun scholars is John L. It provides an excellent introduction to the literature on Calhoun. The comprehensive biography is Charles M. The best one-volume biography, with a better interpretive balance, is Margaret L. For a more critical account see Gerald M. To examine the changing interpretations of Calhoun over the last century see the biographies by John S. Calhoun ; Gaillard Hunt, John C. Calhoun ; William M. Calhoun and American Democracy

Chapter 3 : John Caldwell Calhoun – Biography

John Caldwell Calhoun (/ k ˈ ɑː l d w ɛ l ˈ h u ː n /; March 18, - March 31,) was an American statesman and political theorist from South Carolina, and the seventh Vice President of the United States from to

Mayo attended subscription schools until he enrolled to Kentucky Wesleyan College in Millersburg. He graduated class of and began teaching school in Paintsville at the age of While attending college, Mayo had realized the potential of coal and other mineral deposits in the Big Sandy Valley. He would in turn sell the land or the rights to the land to eastern iron and coal companies at a considerable profit, while convincing them to invest in exploration and mining of the region. Mayo formed a real estate company in that specialized in acquiring land and mineral rights in Eastern Kentucky and Southwestern Virginia. In , the company became known as the Paintsville Coal and Mining Company. This money was used to further expand the land and mineral rights owned by the Paintsville Coal and Mining Company. His plans were expanded for a classic revival mansion with forty rooms. Construction broke ground in a swampy area. The construction crews filled in the swampy area and then went to work on building the foundation for the estate. The stones were then transported from the farm across a distance of three-quarters of a mile by an overhead tram. The stone columns surrounding the exterior of the mansion were each transported through the creek during dry periods on sleds pulled by twenty-oxen teams. The masonry for the mansion was performed by Italian stonemasons from Cincinnati. Originally, light was to be provided in the mansion by using carbide gas, but near the end of construction, Paintsville received electrical service. The plans for the mansion were changed to include electrical wiring. The mansion was also designed to include running water, by pumping water from a well to a cistern and then to the house as required. Rain water from the gutters went into the cistern and in turn to the house also. He used portions of his wealth to help elect governors and congressmen. He also contributed heavily to the presidential campaign of Woodrow Wilson. He is the only eastern Kentuckian to ever be a member of the Democratic National Committee. This tour was a trip of both business and pleasure. On August 20, he returned to Paintsville. An elaborate reception was given by John E. Buckingham, a close friend of Mayo. It was soon released to the public that Mayo was ill. Originally, the newspapers reported that Mayo had pneumonia and was resting at his mansion. A week later, Mayo conducted business as usual, but citizens of Paintsville could tell he was seriously ill. Specialists were soon called in from Cincinnati. Mayo had been experiencing periods of unconsciousness according to reports. On March 1, , Mayo was taken by special train to the Jewish Hospital in Cincinnati, where an entire floor was occupied. Historical marker in Paintsville commemorating the life of Mayo. In late April, Mayo was finally moved to the Waldorf Astoria in New York City where another group of specialists were in wait to care for him. On May 9, it was announced that Mayo had developed peritonitis. Nearly 5, people attended his funeral on May 14, Funeral services were held at what is now known as Mayo Memorial United Methodist Church , the same church that Mayo had built just across the street from his mansion and to which Andrew Carnegie had donated the pipe organ. The governor of the Commonwealth, James B. Bascom Slemp represented the U.

Chapter 4 : John C. Calhoun - Wikidata

John C. Calhoun was an American congressman, secretary of war, seventh vice president, senator and secretary of state. He championed states' rights and slavery. In President James Monroe.

March 18, Death Date: March 31, Place of Birth: South Carolina, United States Nationality: It was his tragedy to become the spokesman for the dying institution of slavery. The family was Scotch-Irish and Calvinist and was relatively wealthy; his father owned twenty or more slaves, was a judge, and served in the state legislature. John graduated from Yale in 1807. He studied in the law school of Tapping Reeves in Litchfield, Conn. He quickly established a practice in Abbeville near his family home. In 1810 Calhoun married a distant cousin, Floride Bouneau, by whom he had nine children. The marriage brought him a modest fortune. He enlarged his holdings and in 1812 established a plantation, called Fort Hill, in his native area. Handsome in early life and with a commanding presence and piercing eyes all his life through, Calhoun had a striking personality. He had a gracious manner, and Daniel Webster and others not his partisans paid tribute to his character and integrity. In later years he struck observers as a "thinking machine," speaking very rapidly and always terribly in earnest. Political Career Calhoun was elected to the South Carolina Legislature in 1810 and 2 years later won election to the U. S. Calhoun led the effort in the House to supply and strengthen the Army, and after the war he continued to work for a stronger military establishment. He advocated measures which he would later denounce as unconstitutional: Federal encouragement of manufactures by means of a protective tariff, and internal improvements to "bind the republic together with a perfect system of roads and canals. It ought to be construed with plain, good sense He became less and less militaristic through his life. In 1812 he had said that "a war, just and necessary in its origin, wisely and vigorously carried on, and honorably terminated," would establish "the integrity and prosperity of our country for centuries. In 1814 John Quincy Adams appraised Calhoun as "a man of fair and candid mind He is above all sectional and factional prejudices more than any other statesman of this Union Even without these irritants the clash would have come. Calhoun had anonymously written the "South Carolina Exposition" in response to the so-called Tariff of Abominations of 1816. He argued the right of a state to "nullify" a Federal enactment injurious to its interests if the state believed the law to be unconstitutional. Henry Clay brought forth a compromise, which Calhoun supported, to lower the tariff gradually over a decade; the crisis subsided for a time. In the Senate in 1819, Calhoun attacked the abolitionists, demanding that their publications be excluded from the mails, that their petitions not be received by Congress, and finally that a stop be put to agitation against slavery in the North as had been done in the South. By 1820 he was defending slavery as "a positive good" and had become an advocate for the suppression of open discussion and a free press. In his efforts for the annexation of Texas, Calhoun wrote a famous letter to the British minister in Washington, arguing that annexation was necessary to protect slavery in the United States and asserting against the position of the British government, which was urging the emancipation of slaves throughout the world that freed African Americans tended to be deaf, blind, and insane in far higher proportions than those in slavery. The letter did not help his cause in Congress. The treaty of annexation which he negotiated with the Republic of Texas was rejected by the Senate, where it was impossible to muster the required two-thirds vote in its favor. Calhoun then supported the device, of doubtful constitutionality, of admitting Texas by a joint resolution of Congress. Calhoun returned to the Senate in 1823, where he first opposed the war against Mexico and then the Wilmot Proviso, which would have prohibited slavery in all the territories acquired from Mexico by that war. He denounced the Compromise of 1850, which did not guarantee the right of Southerners to take their slaves into all territories of the Union. He did not live to see that compromise adopted, dying on March 31, 1850. His last words were, "The South! His two works, *Disquisition on Government* and *Discourse on the Constitution and Government of the United States*, were published posthumously. Calhoun argued that government by mere numbers must inevitably result in despotism by the majority, a proposition supported by the men who drew up the Constitution. He also insisted that the Constitution should be based upon the "truth" of the inequality of man and on the principle that people are not equally entitled to liberty. Calhoun said the U. S. Constitution lacked the necessary restraints to prevent the majority from abusing

the minority. He proposed to give the minorities the minority he had in mind was the Southern slaveholders a veto power over Federal legislation and action by means of what he called the "concurrent majority. Indeed, as critics have pointed out, although he spoke in general terms and categories, he was really interested only in defending the rights of a specific propertied minority--the slaveholding South. The Works of John C. Calhoun , edited by Richard K. Calhoun, edited by Robert L. A representative collection of essays by Calhoun scholars is John L. It provides an excellent introduction to the literature on Calhoun. The comprehensive biography is Charles M. The best one-volume biography, with a better interpretive balance, is Margaret L. For a more critical account see Gerald M. To examine the changing interpretations of Calhoun over the last century see the biographies by John S. Calhoun ; Gaillard Hunt, John C. Calhoun ; William M. Calhoun and American Democracy Need a custom written paper? Let our professional writers save your time. Need an original paper?

Chapter 5 : John Caldwell Calhoun - John Caldwell Calhoun Biography - Poem Hunter

John Caldwell Calhoun (March 18, - March 31,) was a leading American politician and political theorist from South Carolina during the first half of the 19th century. Calhoun eloquently spoke out on every issue of his day, but often changed positions. Calhoun began his political career as.

Calhoun during his last major bid for the presidency of the United States. These few phrases illustrate principles that Calhoun espoused during his career that continue to be relevant in contemporary America. Calhoun served in Congress, both in the House of Representatives and Senate, and as a cabinet member, as secretary of war and secretary of state. He was elected as vice president twice, serving two different administrations, and he was the first vice president to resign voluntarily from office. Since politics in Washington took precedence over supervising his plantation, he left it to relatives and overseers to manage the day-to-day farming operations of Fort Hill, often to his financial detriment. Calhoun not only owned an antebellum southern agricultural plantation of over 1, acres of land, but also some enslaved African-Americans. His father, Patrick Calhoun, was originally from Donegal, Ireland. Like other immigrants of this period, Patrick traveled south from Pennsylvania through western Virginia. Adam was one of the first slaves brought into the Piedmont of South Carolina. Patrick Calhoun would eventually own 30 more slaves. He was a precocious child, and his three older brothers, recognizing his potential, helped to pay for his education. Calhoun received his early formal education from the Rev. Moses Waddel, the husband of his sister Catherine, in Appling, Georgia. When he graduated in , Calhoun was a member of Phi Beta Kappa honors society. After he completed this course of study in July , he sought further legal training, first under Judge Henry W. Early in his career, Calhoun demonstrated an interest in politics. On that occasion, Calhoun commanded the attention of Abbeville political leaders when he addressed the audience. Courtship to Floride Bonneau Colhoun: The Colhouns had a summer home in Newport, Rhode Island, where Calhoun would visit during school breaks. The couple married in January During this time, Calhoun chaired a committee that altered the state constitution of South Carolina, eliminating the property qualification to vote while providing universal white male suffrage. According to historian Walter Edgar, this made South Carolina the first state to do so in American history. Calhoun entered the national political arena. He was elected to represent the Abbeville district, taking the congressional seat of a cousin, Joseph Calhoun. Since politics kept Calhoun mostly in Washington, the responsibility of managing the plantation fell to his young wife, Floride. During his seven years in the House of Representatives, Calhoun supported a renewed national bank, internal improvements and the Tariff of Calhoun was referred to by colleagues in the U. In addition, he oversaw treaty negotiations with Indian nations, and he moved to censure Gen. During his tenure as secretary of war, his growing family lived mostly at Oakly, his home in the Georgetown Heights section of Washington, now known as Dumbarton Oaks. Oakly was the first of two properties that the Calhouns would live in that was owned by his mother-in-law. During the Monroe administration, Calhoun also supported the passage of the Missouri Compromise, which barred slavery north of latitude 36 degrees 30 minutes N outside the boundary of Missouri , and the Monroe Doctrine, which warned European states that America would view any effort to create colonies in the Western Hemisphere as an act of aggression. Calhoun ran for president of the United States. After seeing his chances for party support dwindle, he withdrew from the presidential campaign and ran for vice president. He believed this office would help him to win the presidency in the future. Calhoun was elected vice president in , serving with President John Quincy Adams from to As the editor of The Papers of John C. During his first term as vice president, tariffs emerged as a major issue in American politics. The Tariff of and the Tariff of , or the so-called Tariff of Abominations, created a great stir throughout South Carolina and the agrarian South. These tariffs with high rates were designed to protect Northern industry, particularly the textile industry, and they were regarded by Southerners as indirect taxation to raise revenue from the cotton producing states. As an outgrowth of his understanding of the concept of nullification, Calhoun deemed secession to be a justifiable option if nullification or amendment and compromise were ineffective. May we all remember that it can only be preserved by respecting the rights of the States and

distributing equally the benefits and burdens of the Union! In the summer of , tensions rose, and, in this year, Mrs. The Constitution of the United States is, in fact, a compact, to which each State is a party. This right of interposition In response, Calhoun resigned in late December Floride enlisted other fashionable ladies to shun Peggy. Senate as a newly elected U. He worked to develop a compromise that over a period of years would gradually reduce the tariff load from what he called the Tariff of Abominations. He viewed himself as an independent in opposing Jackson and his successors. Though he was sympathetic to the newly organized Whig Party, he would eventually return to the Democratic Party. As a senator, Calhoun continued to defend the institution of slavery. But let me not be understood as admitting, even by implication, that the existing relations between the two races in the slaveholding States is an evil: I appeal to facts. Never before has the black race of Central Africa, from the dawn of history to the present day, attained a condition so civilized and so improved, not only physically, but morally and intellectually. I hold that in the present state of civilization, where two races of different origin, and distinguished by color, and other physical differences, as well as intellectual, are brought together, the relation now existing in the slaveholding States between the two, is, instead of an evil, a good â€” a positive good. Later, Calhoun would even suggest a dual presidency to keep the proposed concurrent majority and the Union alive. On March 3, , at the age of 60, four years short of the completion of his term in office, Calhoun resigned his seat in the U. Senate after serving continually in national office for nearly 32 years. In his final years in the senate, he served alongside Daniel Webster and Henry Clay. Calhoun, dying of consumption tuberculosis , was too ill to read his own speech. He had to be helped into the Senate chamber to listen to his friend Mason. How can the Union be saved? There is but one way by which it can with any certainty; and that is, by a full and final settlement, on the principle of justice, of all the questions at issue between the two sections. If you who represent the stronger portion, cannot agree to settle them on the broad principle of justice and duty, say so; and let the States we both represent agree to separate and part in peace. If you are unwilling we should part in peace, tell us so; and we shall know what to do, when you reduce the question to submission or resistance. Calhoun was a major force on the body politic, a man of independent ideas and independent philosophies. Calhoun, in a letter to his daughter Anna Calhoun Clemson two years before his death, summed up his life work and career. I hold, the duties of life, to be greater than life itself Calhoun was a product of his time, as were other politicians and slaveholders, including George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, who had similar complex relationships with enslaved African-Americans. Calhoun completely without an examination of his writing and political theory of slavery. In defense of slavery, Calhoun would quote both biblical references and examples from Classical Greek and Roman texts. Undeniably, Calhoun was an ardent believer in white supremacy. Calhoun, like many landed southerners, was a slave owner who firmly believed in the institution of slavery and all the benefits derived from it. Calhoun was born and reared in a society where slavery was taken as a given, and the moral issues surrounding slavery were rarely seriously debated or questioned. Like most slave owners, Calhoun expressed a paternalistic view toward his slaves. He provided what he deemed was proper housing, medical care, work days, holidays, clothing and marriage rites to his slaves so that he could procure the necessary labor from them. As a slaveholder, Calhoun was expected to follow the racial etiquette practiced throughout the South. He could not develop any relationship with a slave that challenged the established order. However, the constant contact of plantation life led to familiar bonds being formed. One such bond was the relationship between Calhoun and Sawney Calhoun Sr. The two hunted and fished together. He and his wife, Tiller, had several children who were mentioned in the Calhoun family correspondence, including Sawney Jr. Floride viewed Sawney Sr. However, Calhoun dismissed her suspicions and spoke in defense of Sawney. Other slaves were less fortunate at Fort Hill. It is the most severe punishment recorded for any of the Calhoun slaves. Calhoun viewed himself as a model slave owner, taking an active interest in the construction of the Fort Hill slave quarters and giving his son-in-law Thomas Green Clemson guidance on how best to preserve the value of his own slaves. Calhoun and Floride Colhoun Calhoun had 10 children:

Memoir of John Caldwell Calhoun To the City of Charleston, Which Has Recently Exhibited a Magnificent and Impressive Funeral Pageant in Honor of the Illustrious Dead, This Memoir Is Respectfully Dedicated.

See Article History Alternative Title: John Caldwell Calhoun John C. Two years after enrolling in a local academy at age 18, he entered the junior class at Yale College , where he graduated with distinction. After a year at a law school and further study in the office of a prominent member of the Federalist Party in Charleston , South Carolina, he was admitted to the bar but abandoned his practice after his marriage in to his cousin, Floride Bonneau Calhoun, an heiress whose modest fortune enabled him to become a planter-statesman. There he functioned as a main lieutenant of Speaker Henry Clay , and, in his capacity as chairman of the House Foreign Relations Committee, he introduced the declaration of war against Britain in June Thus, during this period, Calhoun was the major intellectual spokesman of American nationalism. He vigorously sought the office three times. During each attempt, an anonymous eulogistic biography appeared in print; these works were in fact autobiographies written in the third person. In the s Calhoun became as extreme in his devotion to strict construction of the United States Constitution as he had earlier been in his support of nationalism. In the summer of he openly avowed his belief in nullification , a position that he had anonymously advanced three years earlier in the essay South Carolina Exposition and Protest. Each state was sovereign , Calhoun contended, and the Constitution was a compact among the sovereign states. Therefore, any one state but not the United States Supreme Court could declare an act of Congress unconstitutional. Calhoun outlined his position in his Address to the People of the United States on November 24, , in which he said, in part: We, then, hold it as unquestionable that on the separation from the Crown of Great Britain, the people of the several colonies became free and independent states, possessed of the full right of self-government; and that no power can be rightfully exercised over them but by the consent and authority of their respective states, expressed or implied. We also hold it as equally unquestionable that the Constitution of the United States is a compact between the people of the several states, constituting free, independent, and sovereign communities; that the government it created was formed and appointed to execute, according to the provisions of the instrument, the powers therein granted as the joint agent of the several states; that all its acts, transcending these powers, are simply and of themselves null and void, and that in case of such infractions, it is the right of the states, in their sovereign capacity, each acting for itself and its citizens, in like manner as they adopted the Constitution to judge thereof in the last resort and to adopt such measuresâ€”not inconsistent with the compactâ€”as may be deemed fit to arrest the execution of the act within their respective limits. Such we hold to be the right of the states in reference to an unconstitutional act of the government; nor do we deem their duty to exercise it on proper occasions less certain and imperative than the right itself is clear. The proponents of the nullified measure, according to the theory, would then have to obtain an amendment to the Constitutionâ€”which required a two-thirds vote of each house of Congress and ratification by three-fourths of the statesâ€”confirming the power of Congress to take such action. Even Jefferson Davis , who later served as president of the Confederate States of America during the American Civil War , denied the right of a state to nullify a congressional act. A genius unto himself, Calhoun lacked the capacity for close friendship and eventually drove most of his associates into active enmity , not least among them President Jackson. His banishment by Jackson was, however, mainly a matter of bad luck. No one did more to make Jackson president than Calhoun, and his prospects in were most promising. Jackson leapt to the defense of Eaton and eventually fired his entire cabinet and broke with the vice president. Late in Calhoun resigned the vice presidency, was elected to the Senate , and vainly debated Daniel Webster in defense of his cherished doctrine of nullification. He spent the last 20 years of his life in the Senate working to unite the South against the abolitionist attack on slavery, and his efforts included opposing the admittance of Oregon and California to the Union as free states. We of the South will not, cannot surrender our institutions. To maintain the existing relations between the two races inhabiting that section of the Union is indispensable to the peace and happiness of both. It cannot be subverted without drenching the country in blood and extirpating one or the

other of the races. Be it good or bad, it has grown up with our society and institutions and is so interwoven with them that to destroy it would be to destroy us as a people. But let me not be understood as admitting, even by implication, that the existing relations between the two races, in the slaveholding states, is an evil. Far otherwise; I hold it to be a good, as it has thus far proved itself to be, to both, and will continue to prove so, if not disturbed by the fell spirit of Abolition. I appeal to facts. Never before has the black race of Central Africa, from the dawn of history to the present day, attained a condition so civilized and so improved, not only physically but morally and intellectually. It came among us in a low, degraded, and savage condition, and, in the course of a few generations, it has grown up under the fostering care of our institutions, as reviled as they have been, to its present comparative civilized condition. This, with the rapid increase of numbers, is conclusive proof of the general happiness of the race, in spite of all the exaggerated tales to the contrary.

Legacy Certainly the American Civil War was too vast an event to be the responsibility of any one man, but it can be argued that Calhoun contributed as much to its coming as did abolitionist crusader William Lloyd Garrison and Pres. The man himself was an enigma. Hammond, said that pre-eminent as he was intellectually above all the men of this age as I believe, he was so wanting in judgment in the managing of men, was so unyielding and unpersuasive, that he never could consolidate sufficient power to accomplish anything great, of himself and [in] due season and the jealousy of him his towering genius and uncompromising temper, has had much effect in preventing the South from uniting to resist [evil]. He has been credited with preceding Karl Marx in advancing an economic interpretation of history, yet most of his basic ideas, particularly that of nullification, were acquired from James Madison, who was 30 years his senior. Although Calhoun is remembered as the defender of minorities, he had no use for any minority—certainly not labourers or abolitionists—except the Southern one. His solution to the problem of the preservation of the Union was to give the South everything it demanded. He was truly devoted both to the Union and to the South, and death took him before he had to choose between them. But with rare insight, in he told a friend that the Union was doomed to dissolution: With his objective in mind, he chose a seemingly innocuous premise and then proceeded with hard logic to the desired conclusion. The historian William P. Calhoun led thought rather than men, and lacking imagination, he led thought badly. The gods thirsted after him, but he helped them along.

Chapter 7 : John C. C. Mayo - Wikipedia

John C. Calhoun was born on March 18, , in the uplands of South Carolina, the son of Patrick and Martha Caldwell Calhoun. The family was Scotch-Irish and Calvinist and was relatively wealthy; his father owned twenty or more slaves, was a judge, and served in the state legislature.

His grandfather, James Calhoun, emigrated from Donegal, Ireland, to Pennsylvania in , bringing with him a family of children, of whom Patrick Calhoun was one, a boy six years old. This was near the frontier of the Cherokee Indians; conflicts between them and the whites were frequent and bloody, and the Calhoun family suffered severe loss. Patrick Calhoun was distinguished for his undaunted courage and perseverance in these struggles, and was placed in command of provincial rangers raised for the defence of the frontier. His resolute and active character gave him credit among his people, and he was called to important service during the revolutionary war, in support of American independence. By profession he was a surveyor, and gained success by his skill. He was a man of studious and thoughtful habits, and well versed in English literature. His father was a Presbyterian, and he adhered to the religion of his fathers. In he married Martha Caldwell, a native of Virginia, daughter of an Irish Presbyterian immigrant, whose family was devoted to the American cause, and some of whom were badly treated by the Tories. By heredity, John Caldwell Calhoun was therefore entitled to manhood from his race, to vigorous convictions in faith, and to patriotic devotion to liberty and right. He was early taught to read the Bible, and trained in Calvinistic doctrines; and it is said that he was also devoted to history and metaphysics, but was compelled to desist from study because of impaired health. His father was a member for many years, during and after the revolution, of the legislature of his state, and his counsels made a deep impression on his son, though he died when the latter was thirteen years of age. Calhoun was ready for college, he was under the instruction of his brother-in-law, the Rev. Waddell, a Presbyterian clergyman, and went to Yale in . He evinced great originality of thought, devotion to study, and a lofty ambition, which won him the honors of his class, and the prophetic approval of President Dwight in the declaration, after an earnest dispute with him on the rightful source of political power, that he would reach the greatest eminence in life, and might attain the presidency. He studied law with H. Desaussure, of South Carolina, for a time, but was graduated at Litchfield, Conn. Few men were better trained for the career before him. Simple and sincere in his tastes, habits, and manners, strict and pure in his morals, and incorruptible in his integrity, severe and logical in his style, analytic in his studies, and thorough in his investigations, with a genius to perceive and comprehend the mass of elements that entered into the solution of the problems of our political life, and with a capacity for philosophic generalization of principles unequalled by any contemporary, he began, continued, and ended his life, in the manifestation of the highest qualities for debate, for disquisitions upon constitutional government and free institutions, for discussions on foreign relations, for the investigation of political and social economy, and for the conduct with ability of the general affairs and even for the details of departmental administration. When Calhoun entered congress, war with Great Britain was imminent. He was a member of the committee on foreign affairs. He drew a report which placed before the country the issue of war, or submission to wrong. He urged a declaration of war, and upheld the cause of his country with an eloquence that inspired patriotic enthusiasm, and with a logical force that gave fortitude and zeal to the army and navy as well as to the people. At the close of the war in the country was confronted with questions of currency, finance, commercial policy, and internal development, which offered to the genius of Calhoun fruitful subjects for his original and patriotic study. He pressed upon congress the bank bill, the tariff of , and a system of roads and canals. On these questions he afterward modified his views very greatly, but defended his real consistency of thought, under the appearance of inconsistency, by saying that the remedies proper for one condition of things were improper for others. A question arose in the discussion of the act to carry into effect the treaty of peace, as to the relation of the treaty-making authority to the powers of congress. He maintained the supremacy of the treaty power; that it prevailed over a law of congress; and that congress was bound to pass a law to carry a treaty into effect. The celebrated William Pinkney, then in the zenith of his fame, declared that Mr. Calhoun to the war department, which he filled until . In this new field he won real fame; to this day the

department, by the testimony of recent secretaries, feels the impress of his genius for organization and for the methodical adjustment of the functions of its various branches to each other and to its head. He organized the department by a bill that he drew for the purpose; and, under rules prescribed by him, introduced order and accountability in every branch of service, and established a system that has survived, in a large degree, to this day. Clay, in his eulogy on Mr. In there were four candidates for the presidency, which resulted in the election of John Q. Adams by the house of representatives. Calhoun was elected vice-president by a large majority. His vice-presidency marks the beginning of Mr. He said in Calhoun referred, was in full success. Jackson was elected president and Mr. The Jackson administration was the period during which the democratic party under Jackson and the whig party under Clay were organized for their great struggle for ascendancy. Calhoun took from the beginning the most prominent part in the attitude assumed by South Carolina against the protective system, which had reached its climax in the tariff law of Hamilton on state interposition, 28 Aug. Van Buren became paramount with the president, and the alienation between the latter and Mr. Van Buren was elected vice-president in The South Carolina convention in November, , passed the ordinance nullifying the tariff laws of and , and Mr. Calhoun was elected to the senate and took his seat in December, having resigned the vice-presidency. He appeared as the champion of his state, and defender of its ordinance of nullification, standing alone, but firm and undaunted. Both parties were opposed to him, and the administration menacingly so. A man of less intellect or less courage would have shrunk from the conflict. But he was courageous in conviction, and fearless of personal consequences. He gave up the second and surrendered all hope of the first, office in the country, to defend his state in her solitary attitude of opposition to the protective policy. Calhoun, in February, , made an elaborate speech against it. Webster replied with great fulness upon certain resolutions proposed by Mr. Calhoun on the general question, whereupon Mr. Calhoun called up his resolutions, and made, 26 Feb. The issue in this debate of the giants was on the first resolution, as follows: Almost all of the democratic party, and many of the whigs, held that the constitution was a compact, but denied the right of nullification by a state; and some of these denied the right of secession to a state, holding the indissolubility of the union of these states because bound by a perpetual compact. Webster denied his premise, and therefore his conclusion. Many, also, who believed in the right of secession, denied the right of nullification. The true nature of the doctrine of nullification was this: It was claimed as a remedy within the union, reserved to the state according to the constitution; a remedy for evils in the union; and to save, but not to dissolve, it. It was claimed for the state, as a party to the compact, to declare when it was violated, and to pronounce void an unconstitutional law; not to annul a valid law, but to declare void an unconstitutional law. Its effect was as claimed to make wholly inoperative the law so declared void, because unconstitutional, within the state, and it seems that the United States should, according to the doctrine, thereupon suspend its operation elsewhere, and appeal to the states to amend the constitution by a new grant of power to make valid the law so declared void by the state. This declaration of nullity of a law could not be made by the government of a state, but only by a convention of its people; that is, that the people of a state in convention, which had ratified in convention the constitution originally, should have power to declare unconstitutional an act done by the government created by that constitution. The genius of Mr. Calhoun was equal to the plausible and powerful support of this theory, which, however inconclusive from his premise of the constitutional compact, can not impair the truth of that premise, which, with transcendent ability and accurate historic research, he established on an impregnable foundation. The discussion had valuable results. It provided for a gradual reduction of duties during ten years, after which duties should be laid on a revenue basis. This issue ended, the re-charter of the bank of the United States, and the removal of the deposits therefrom by President Jackson, and the general question of currency, became prominent. Executive patronage also came into the debates of the last term of President Jackson. On all these questions Mr. Calhoun acted with the whig party. He took no part in the presidential election of ; but on the accession of Mr. Van Buren to the presidency, and in the extra session called by him in , to consider the financial panic of that year, he took ground for a total separation of the government from a bank or banks, favored the constitutional treasury plan, and acted generally with the democratic party, Gen. Harrison was elected president in , but died 4 April, , and was succeeded by Vice-President John Tyler. An extra session of congress was called in the summer of , when the struggle of Mr. Clay for the restoration of his American

system " including a bank, protective tariff, internal improvements, and a distribution of the proceeds of the public lands " brought on a memorable discussion, in which Mr. Calhoun was a leader, and facile princeps, of the democratic party. If the student of our history will consult the speeches of Mr. Calhoun in the senate, on the bank question generally, and on currency, from till , he will find how thorough his analysis of these abstruse questions was, and how broad were his generalizations of principles. When the tariff question came up again in , the compromise of was rudely overthrown, and the protective system placed in the ascendent. Calhoun discussed the question in several able speeches, but delivered one 5 Aug. He discussed the question of wages, and closed his speech with an animation not to be forgotten by one, who heard him utter these sentences: The few that still lag will soon be rallied under its ample folds. On that banner is inscribed: Free trade; low duties; no debt; separation from banks; economy; retrenchment, and strict adherence to the constitution. Victory in such a cause will be great and glorious; and long will it perpetuate the liberty and prosperity of the country. Tyler had frequently resorted to the veto power to defeat Mr. Clay proposed an amendment of the constitution for the abrogation of the veto power, and on 28 Feb. Calhoun delivered a speech against this proposition. The vacancy in the state department occasioned by the death of Judge Upshur was filled by Mr. Calhoun, who had ceased to be senator, in March, Two questions of great importance were considered by the new secretary. At that time the union had no Pacific population, California had not been acquired, and Oregon was not yet within our grasp. Great Britain had an adverse claim to Oregon. Our title rested on discovery and the French treaty of Access to it there was none but by sea around Cape Horn or across the isthmus. Calhoun vindicated our rights in a diplomatic correspondence upon grounds on which it was finally adjusted by treaty in In his speech on the Oregon question, 16 March, , he spoke of the physical elements of civilization steam and electricity.

Chapter 8 : John C. Calhoun Biography - Childhood, Life Achievements & Timeline

Memoir of John Caldwell Calhoun: to the city of Charleston, which has recently exhibited a magnificent and impressive funeral pageant in honor of the illustrious dead, this memoir is respectfully dedicated.

Early life Coat of Arms of John C. After the death of the elder Patrick in , the family moved to southwestern Virginia. He was known as an Indian fighter and an ambitious surveyor, farmer, planter and politician, being a member of the South Carolina Legislature. As a Presbyterian, he stood opposed to the Anglican elite based in Charleston. He continued his studies privately. When his father died, his brothers were away starting business careers and so the year old Calhoun took over management of the family farm and five other farms. For four years he simultaneously kept up his reading and his hunting and fishing. The family decided he should continue his education, and so he resumed studies at the Academy after it reopened. For the first time in his life, Calhoun encountered serious, advanced, well-organized intellectual dialogue that could shape his mind. Yale was dominated by President Timothy Dwight , a Federalist who became his mentor. Biographer John Niven says: No one, he thought, could explicate the language of John Locke with such clarity. He graduated as valedictorian in He was admitted to the South Carolina bar in Dwight, Reeve, and Gould could not convince the young patriot from South Carolina as to the desirability of secession, but they left no doubts in his mind as to its legality. Colhoun , a leader of Charleston high society. The couple had 10 children over 18 years: Three of them, Floride Pure, Jane, and Elizabeth, died in infancy. He was raised Calvinist but was attracted to Southern varieties of Unitarianism of the sort that attracted Jefferson. Southern Unitarianism was generally less organized than the variety popular in New England. He was generally not outspoken about his religious beliefs. After his marriage, Calhoun and his wife attended the Episcopal Church, of which she was a member. Brushing aside the vehement objections of both anti-war New Englanders and arch-conservative Jeffersonians led by John Randolph of Roanoke , they demanded war against Britain to preserve American honor and republican values, which had been violated by the British refusal to recognize American shipping rights. The opening phase involved multiple disasters for American arms, as well as a financial crisis when the Treasury could barely pay the bills. The conflict caused economic hardship for the Americans, as the Royal Navy blockaded the ports and cut off imports, exports and the coastal trade. Several attempted invasions of Canada were fiascos, but the U. These Indians had, in many cases, cooperated with the British or Spanish in opposing American interests. One colleague hailed him as "the young Hercules who carried the war on his shoulders. It called for a return to the borders of with no gains or losses. Before the treaty reached the Senate for ratification, and even before news of its signing reached New Orleans, a massive British invasion force was utterly defeated in January at the Battle of New Orleans , making a national hero of General Andrew Jackson. Americans celebrated what they called a "second war of independence" against Britain. This led to the beginning of the " Era of Good Feelings ", an era marked by the formal demise of the Federalist Party and increased nationalism. In he called for building an effective navy, including steam frigates, as well as a standing army of adequate size. The British blockade of the coast had underscored the necessity of rapid means of internal transportation; Calhoun proposed a system of "great permanent roads". The blockade had cut off the import of manufactured items, so he emphasized the need to encourage more domestic manufacture, fully realizing that industry was based in the Northeast. The dependence of the old financial system on import duties was devastated when the blockade cut off imports. Calhoun called for a system of internal taxation that would not collapse from a war-time shrinkage of maritime trade, as the tariffs had done. The expiration of the charter of the First Bank of the United States had also distressed the Treasury, so to reinvigorate and modernize the economy Calhoun called for a new national bank. Through his proposals, Calhoun emphasized a national footing and downplayed sectionalism and states rights. His gestures are easy and graceful, his manner forcible, and language elegant; but above all, he confines himself closely to the subject, which he always understands, and enlightens everyone within hearing. A later critic noted the sharp contrast between his hesitant conversations and his fluent speaking styles, adding that Calhoun "had so carefully cultivated his naturally poor voice as to make his utterance clear, full, and distinct in speaking and

while not at all musical it yet fell pleasantly on the ear". He was often seen as harsh and aggressive with other representatives. No man was more stately, more reserved. He is above all sectional and factious prejudices more than any other statesman of this Union with whom I have ever acted. Calhoun took office on December 8 and served until He proposed an elaborate program of national reforms to the infrastructure that he believed would speed economic modernization. His first priority was an effective navy, including steam frigates, and in the second place a standing army of adequate size—and as further preparation for emergency, "great permanent roads", "a certain encouragement" to manufactures, and a system of internal taxation that would not collapse from a war-time shrinkage of maritime trade, like customs duties. The general lack of military action following the war meant that a large army, such as that preferred by Calhoun, was no longer considered necessary. Calhoun, though concerned, offered little protest. Later, to provide the army with a more organized command structure, which had been severely lacking during the War of 1812, he appointed Major General Jacob Brown to a position that would later become known as "Commanding General of the United States Army". He promoted a plan, adopted by Monroe in 1823, to preserve the sovereignty of eastern Indians by relocating them to western reservations they could control without interference from state governments. Thomas McKenney was appointed as the first head of the bureau. Four other men also sought the presidency: Crawford, and Henry Clay. Other states soon followed, and Calhoun therefore allowed himself to become a candidate for vice president rather than president. He won votes out of electoral votes, while five other men received the remaining votes. Calhoun also expressed some concerns, which caused friction between him and Adams. The two were never particularly close friends. The only other man who accomplished this feat was George Clinton, who served as Vice President from 1789 to 1797 under Thomas Jefferson and James Madison. They alleged that John and Peggy Eaton had engaged in an adulterous affair while she was still legally married to her first husband, and that her recent behavior was unladylike. The allegations of scandal created an intolerable situation for Jackson. The Petticoat affair ended friendly relations between Calhoun and Jackson. He and his late wife Rachel Donelson had undergone similar political attacks stemming from their marriage in 1793. Once the divorce was finalized, they married legally in 1795, but the episode caused a major controversy, and was used against him in the campaign. The Calhouns were widely regarded as the chief instigators. In 1823, reports had emerged accurately stating that Calhoun, as Secretary of War, had favored censuring Jackson for his invasion of Florida. This caused Calhoun to believe that Jackson had approved the publication of the letters. Van Buren thereby grew in favor with Jackson, while the rift between the President and Calhoun was widened. Constitution and Nullification Crisis Calhoun had begun to oppose increases in protective tariffs, as they generally benefitted Northerners more than Southerners. Calhoun had been assured that the northeastern interests would reject the Tariff of 1828, exposing pro-Adams New England congressmen to charges that they selfishly opposed legislation popular among Jacksonian Democrats in the west and Mid-Atlantic States. The southern legislators miscalculated and the so-called "Tariff of Abominations" passed and was signed into law by President Adams. Frustrated, Calhoun returned to his South Carolina plantation, where he anonymously composed "South Carolina Exposition and Protest," an essay rejecting the centralization philosophy and supporting the principle of nullification as a means to prevent tyranny of a central government. Nullification is a legal theory that a state has the right to nullify, or invalidate, any federal law it deems unconstitutional. Madison expressed the hope that the states would declare the acts unconstitutional, while Jefferson explicitly endorsed nullification. In his later years, Madison rebuked supporters of nullification, stating that no state had the right to nullify federal law. May we all remember that it can only be preserved by respecting the rights of the states, and distributing equally the benefit and burden of the Union. Jackson and Calhoun began an angry correspondence that lasted until Jackson stopped it in July. It was designed to placate the nullifiers by lowering tariff rates, but the nullifiers in South Carolina remained unsatisfied. On November 24, the South Carolina legislature officially nullified both the Tariff of 1828 and the Tariff of 1822, to be null and void as of February 1, 1832. Navy warships to Charleston harbor, and threatened to hang Calhoun or any man who worked to support nullification or secession. A bill sponsored by the administration had been introduced by Representative Gulian C. Verplanck of New York, but it lowered rates more sharply than Clay and other protectionists desired. South Carolina accepted the tariff, but in a final show of defiance, nullified the Force Bill. Why, then,

confer on the President the extensive and unlimited powers provided in this bill? Why authorize him to use military force to arrest the civil process of the State? But one answer can be given: That, in a contest between the State and the General Government, if the resistance be limited on both sides to the civil process, the State, by its inherent sovereignty, standing upon its reserved powers, will prove too powerful in such a controversy, and must triumph over the Federal Government, sustained by its delegated and limited authority; and in this answer we have an acknowledgment of the truth of those great principles for which the State has so firmly and nobly contended. Hayne was considered less capable than Calhoun to represent South Carolina in the Senate debates, so in late Hayne resigned to become governor. On December 28, Calhoun resigned as vice president to become a senator, with a voice in the debates. It is admitted that the former gentleman [Hayne] is injudiciously pitted against Clay and Webster and, nullification out of the question, Mr. Senate A portrait of Calhoun from When Calhoun took his seat in the Senate on December 29, , his chances of becoming President were considered poor due to his involvement in the Nullification Crisis, which left him without connections to a major national party. Calhoun sometimes affiliated with the Whigs, but chose to remain a virtual independent due to the Whig promotion of federally subsidized "internal improvements. Calhoun opposed this action, considering it a dangerous expansion of executive power. As evidence, he cited the economic panic caused by Nicholas Biddle as a means to stop Jackson from destroying the Bank. The Democratic replacement, meant to help combat the Panic of , was the Independent Treasury system, which Calhoun supported and which went into effect. For this reason, he opposed the candidacy of Whig William Henry Harrison in the presidential election , believing that Harrison would institute high tariffs and therefore place an undue burden on the Southern economy. Tyler, a former Democrat, was expelled from the Whig Party after vetoing bills passed by the Whig congressional majority to reestablish a national bank and raise tariffs. Upshur in the USS Princeton disaster. Senate had been spearheaded aggressively by Secretary Upshur, a strong pro-slavery partisan.

John C. Calhoun, in full John Caldwell Calhoun, (born March 18, , Abbeville district, South Carolina, U.S.â€”died March 31, , Washington, D.C.), American political leader who was a congressman, the secretary of war, the seventh vice president (), a senator, and the secretary of state of the United States.

Harvard Square Library John C. Calhoun John Caldwell Calhoun March 18, March 31, was a United States representative, senator, secretary of war, secretary of state, and vice president. Calhoun was born in Abbeville, on the frontier of South Carolina, the fourth child, third son of Scots-Irish immigrant Patrick Calhoun and his second wife Martha Caldwell. Patrick was a landowner, a farmer, a legislator, an anti-Federalist political activist, and a slave owner. Education was hard to come by in the backwoods of South Carolina. John intermittently attended a school run by his brother-in-law, Moses Waddel, read voraciously, and acquired a taste for politics and history. The family recognized his academic gifts and, with his reluctant consent, decided to prepare him for a profession. Calhoun was raised a Calvinist, and remained a philosophical Calvinist in his firm work ethic, his resistance to such simple pleasures as dancing, and his bleak view of human nature. He was nevertheless strongly attracted to the philosophical and rational orientation of the emerging liberal tradition. It was at Yale that Calhoun first encountered Unitarian ideas, years before the formal split between Unitarian and Calvinist Congregationalists. After graduating from Yale in and a brief interlude studying law in a Charleston, South Carolina law firm, Calhoun returned to Connecticut to study at Litchfield Law School, a hotbed of Federalist and secessionist politics. Returning to South Carolina, he was admitted to the bar in and began courting his cousin Floride Colhoun, whom he married in The Calhouns settled first in Long Cane and later near Pendleton in the upper corner of South Carolina on a plantation called Fort Hill, where Calhoun divided his attention between his three passions of politics, farming, and family. Cotton was the main crop at Fort Hill, and slaves did much of the farming and household management. John and Floride had nine children, seven who survived to adulthood, including his beloved daughter and confidante Anna Maria. After the death of his wife and their two children, Clemson willed the Calhoun plantation to the state for a public university Clemson University. Calhoun was first elected to the United States House of Representatives in He brought to this new role the combination of a plantation upbringing and a New England education, with friends and colleagues from both North and South. Early in his career Calhoun was an ardent nationalist, a supporter of the War of against England, and a cautious supporter of the tariff always a point of contention between North and South as a source of revenue to replenish the Federal treasury after the war. His reservations about this tariff stemmed from its being advocated by northern manufacturers who wished to extend the favored status they had enjoyed during the British blockade, at the expense of the South, which wanted to export cotton and other agricultural products and buy cheaper European manufactures. At that time he also supported some centralizing policies, favoring renewal of the charter of the fledgling Bank of the United States and a federal role in creating transportation networks to encourage industry and development. Calhoun left Congress in to serve ably as Secretary of War in the Monroe administration, rising to prominence on the national stage at age Although in he was considering a run for the presidency, competition from John Quincy Adams and Andrew Jackson forced him to step back. Deadlocked in a three-way contest with Clay and Jackson in the Electoral College, Adams was chosen president by the House of Representatives. Calhoun, on the other hand, was elected Vice-President with a clear majority in the Electoral College. Thus he had a greater mandate than the new president, his political rival and fellow Unitarian. Presiding over the Senate, he was a leader of the opposition to the Adams administration. In Calhoun was re-elected Vice-President, once again serving with a President, Andrew Jackson, with whom his relationship was less than cordial. By the middle of the four-year term, mutual mistrust had evolved into open hostility. The most intense conflict centered around the tariff law, nicknamed the "Tariff of Abominations," which Calhoun opposed as detrimental to the interests of the South and the preservation of the Union. While protecting northern manufactures this tariff made it more difficult for southern trade with Europe. The South, particularly South Carolina, was outraged. It was in a speech in response to this tariff that Calhoun first articulated the doctrine of nullification. In South Carolina, however,

the nullifiers threatened secession if the Tariff of 1828 was not withdrawn. President Jackson warned that he would use armed force to preserve the Union. In order to avert civil war, Calhoun reluctantly collaborated with his political opponent Henry Clay to craft the Compromise Tariff of 1833. This victory was to prove short-lived. Another cabinet member, Secretary of War and former Tennessee senator John Eaton, had recently married a woman with a scandalous reputation. Although Calhoun began his political career as a nationalist, by the mid-1830s he had begun to identify closely with his home state and region in the sectional conflict over both tariffs and slavery. Like another slave-holding southern Unitarian, Thomas Jefferson, Calhoun was shaped in an agrarian culture that mistrusted industry and urbanization. A hands-on farmer in his early days, he later enjoyed extended visits to his Fort Hill plantation as respites from national politics. He never wavered from the defense of slavery, and foresaw chaos and economic hardship for Southern blacks and whites alike if slavery, the foundation of Southern agriculture, were to end abruptly. It was in this context that Calhoun fashioned his second contribution to political thought, the doctrine of "concurrent majorities. According to Calhoun, any policy that is potentially divisive, one that greatly benefits one group at the expense of another, should require separate concurrency by coalitions of states, regions, or interests. Despite its original use to protect the institution of slavery, the idea of concurrent majorities has since gained respectability as a means of accommodating diversity within a heterogeneous society. Although the slavery issue was becoming increasingly divisive, there were other issues to occupy his attention. He continued battles begun in the Jackson administration against the spoils system and political patronage. Senator Calhoun for the first time found himself allied with the President, as Tyler was also a slave-owning southern conservative. Calhoun also sided with Tyler in opposition to a central bank. In 1841, he resigned from the Senate in order to make another try for the Presidency. During his short tenure as Secretary of State he addressed two difficult issues, the annexation of Texas and the resolution of the northwest boundary dispute with England. Calhoun spent his remaining years back in the Senate, his lifelong quest for the presidency thwarted by political and sectional rivalries and the rising tide of opposition to slavery. Rather, his speeches reflected his exceptionally keen mind, legal training, and devotion to reason. He analyzed the underlying values and conflicts of issues and applied his political theories to resolve them. In both religion and politics he thought the same way: His family, however, was not similarly inclined; his mother-in-law remained a devout Presbyterian and his Episcopalian wife would not attend services at the new Unitarian Church although it was just a few blocks from their home. A 26 volume edition of his papers has been published under the editorship of W. Edwin Hemphill, Robert L. Lence has been issued as *Union and Liberty: The Political Philosophy of John C. Calhoun* has been the subject of numerous biographies, some laudatory, others damning. *American Portrait*, a lively account of his life and work, won the Pulitzer prize. *The Decline of a Southern Patriarchy* John Niven has an excellent and balanced biography, *John C. Calhoun and the Price of Union: Perhaps the most comprehensive biography is Charles M. Nationalist, ; Nullifier, ; and Sectionalist*, Links to third-party sites are provided solely as a convenience. DUUB does not endorse materials on other sites.