

Name

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The Contributions of Daniel Webster and John C. Calhoun

John Caldwell Calhoun, was born in 1782 and died in 1850 in South Carolina. He was a renowned and fierce political figure, often referred to as the cast iron. This cast iron nature was belied by his soft and tender approach in his personal life. In his life he got many political roles such as the becoming the seventh American vice president, secretary of state, secretary of war and finally he became the state representative of his home area, South Carolina. He even tried a hand at the presidency but had to drop out due to opposition from other party members. In his lifetime he was a strong symbol of the old south (Carpers). He represented its values, ways and traditions as fiercely as he supported his very own opinions.

Calhoun was a farmer who helped in the development of the positive good of slavery as it benefited his trade. After a change of heart, he became one of the most vocal supporters of state power and a weak national. He even opposed the tariff the was to be imposed on the states and wanted that they get the power to veto some of the laws imposed on them by the national government. He is also responsible for leading the American people into the war for independence against the British. During his tenure in politics he enabled the annexation of Texas. Due to the bills he forwarded in parliament he is considered as one of the people who enabled the establishment of the second Bank of the United States (Carpers).

He is by far the most constant and passionate in his delivery of speech and action. His achievements laid the foundations for the creation of laws that helped the country maneuver

in business, politics and societal issues. He offered incredible support to the states which made each state grow and not be crushed by a dominant national government. However, the only flaw in his tenure was his support of slavery. He went so far as to refuse the admission of California and Oregon as free states for slaves. This was one of the major negative effects of to society that he is remembered for.

Daniel Webster was as formidable at his career as a constitutional lawyer as he was a political figure. In his lifetime he was a secretary of state and also a member of the senate. Daniel is considered as one of the most eloquent and charismatic leaders of the early 19th century. Webster grew up in a farm in his early years. To attain his practice, he worked for a lawyer as was the practice before law schools became prominent. He married two wives and had four children. He first gained political prominence at an independence rally where he gave a speech in opposition to the war against Britain.

As a constitutional lawyer he argued many important cases that helped to shape constitutional law. An example of one such case was *McCulloch v. Maryland* (1819) where he maintained that the state could not charge tax upon a government agency (McNamara). In 1842, he was successfully wrote and enabled implementation of the Webster-Ashburton Treaty. This treaty helped in resolving the border dispute between the united states and Britain in Maine. He is also responsible for laws such as the fugitive slave act. I his tenure in politics he was an avid supporter of the reconstruction of the Bank of America. In his political career he advocated for the rights of corporate America, this was in part because of his affiliations with the business class. He also rejected slavery but compromised his stance due so as to keep the union as one (McNamara). In his life he was also against the annexation of Mexico and rejected the war that would follow such an annexation. Despite his reputation as a compromiser his legacy lived on.

His charisma and stature earned him a reputation that preceded and still precedes him. Through his speeches he encouraged, moved and silenced his opposition. Because of this charisma he was able to change many laws such as those dealing with taxation. Another impact he had on society was his unifying agenda. He was against all wars that were proposed and proposed that they would do more harm to the citizenry. This was why he initiated the creation of treaties to resolve conflict amicably. The only flaw that he can be charged with was the way he compromised his stance on slavery for the unification of the states. Despite the noble intention his change of opinion had far reaching consequences for the African American community of the era.

The two men are quite similar in their political approach. They both a hand at presidency although they failed. Some of their major differences comes in their principles. Whereas Webster advocated for a strong national government, Calhoun was the states' rights advocate. In his early years, before the civil war pressure mounted, he was against slavery and all it stood for while John advocated for slavery because of its benefits to farmers. The two men also represented different factions of power in the country. Whereas Calhoun represented the farming rural community Webster represented corporate America.

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