

Significant Tariffs in US History

Tariff of 1816

Designed to defend US business from Britain

Created by nationalist congress

20 to 25% tax on imports

Calhoun supports tariff to help Southern manufacturing

Daniel Webster opposes tariff due to shipping priority over manufacturing

Tariff of 1824

35% tax on imports

Tariff of 1828

The abominable tariff angered South Carolinians

Majority southern nullifiers tried to nullify it in South Carolina

Minority unionists blocked the nullifiers

Tariff of 1832

Lessened some of the worst abominations of 1828 tariff

Reduced rate of 1828 tariff by 10%

Special state convention in South Carolina declares the tariff null in that state

President Jackson opposes the nullifiers and Calhoun. Clay throws his support to the southern nullifiers

Tariff of 1833

Compromise tariff

Opposition from New England States

South Carolina stands alone

Jackson deeply angered at Southerners

Tariff of 1842

Polk in the White House

Tariff lowered 32% to 25%

Walker lobbies measure through congress

Clayites oppose tariff

Walker Tariff of 1846

Revenue producer due to heavy imports

Tariff of 1857

Created in response to the financial crash of 1857

Reduced duties to 20%

Northerners angered about low tariff walls

Yet another source of north-south tension

Tariff of 1890 (McKinley Tariff)

Designed to keep protection high and surplus low
Democrats wanted moderate protection with adequate revenue
48.4% rate

Wilson-Gorman Law of 1894

High rates
Allowed to pass by Cleveland despite backdoor dealings
The tax which was popular struck down in 1895 by Supreme Court
Raised barriers against Hawaiian sugar

Payne-Aldrich Tariff of 1909

Taft signs bill and angers progressives
Progressives wanted high tariff
Aldrich tacks on hundreds of revisions

Underwood Tariff of 1913

President Wilson
27% rate
Reduced rates attacked by lobbyists
Created an income tax

Fordney-McCumber Tariff Law of 1922

38.5% rate kept Europeans looking to sell out of the US
Likewise US was kept out of Europe – "it works both ways"

Hawley Smoot Tariff of 1930

It brought the U.S. tariff to its highest point in history
The retaliatory tariffs of foreign nations caused a sharp decline in U.S. foreign trade
The act was sponsored by Rep. Willis C. Hawley (Oreg.) and Sen. Reed Smoot (Utah)