

felt it his duty to deny these accusations. In a speech wholly unprepared he shattered Hayne's elaborate arguments, and proved the charges absurd. Hayne, inflamed at the nature of this reply, arose to speak a second time.

This time he made a bitter attack upon New England, upon Daniel Webster personally, and upon the character and patriotism of Massachusetts. He then introduced and expounded at length a series of principles, which were then maintained by the leading Senators and Congressmen of the South. He made an eloquent defence of this South Carolina Doctrine, as he called it, showing its origin, development, and necessity for state existence. Thus we see that the debate had now drifted from the original resolution, to a discussion of the famous nullification doctrine of the South.

This doctrine, based on the theory of State sovereignty, was first publicly asserted in the Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions of 1798 and 1799, when those two States, objecting to certain measures of Congress, declared "that whenever the general government assumes undelegated powers, its acts are unauthoritative, void, and of no force, and that each State had the right of deciding whether a law of Congress was constitutional or not." These resolutions met with public disfavor at the time, and did not produce much effect, but unhappily they were never officially withdrawn or suppressed. Now the principle was again put forth, more strongly supported and with more capable men as its defenders. Great ill-feeling existed between the North and South owing to political differences, the latter claiming that the North had influence over the government, and caused many Acts to be passed which were detrimental to the interests of the South. Therefore, something must be done to defend State Rights, and to overthrow majority oppressions. The chief points of contention were the Revenue, Internal Improvements, and especially the Tariff.

The Tariff question was the one that created the greatest wrangling, and it was the immediate cause of South Carolina's revolutionary attitude.