

Food For Thought: In what ways and to what extent was the impeachment of President Johnson by the House of Representatives in 1868 similar to the resignation of President Richard Nixon in 1974 and the impeachment of President Bill Clinton in 1998?

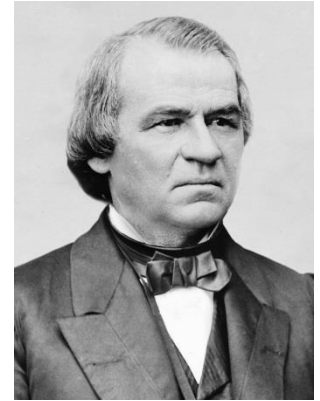
Articles of Impeachment Against President Johnson, 1868

The full House of Representatives passed (eleven articles of impeachment. In the Senate, the vote fell short of the 2/3 majority that was required to convict Johnson and remove him from office.)...RESOLVED, That Andrew Johnson, President of the United States. . . .

Article One: . . . did unconstitutionally [without the advice and consent of the Senate, as required in the 1867 Tenure of Office Act] issue an order removing Secretary Edwin M. Stanton from his position as the head of the Department of War. . . .

Article Four: . . . did unlawfully attempt to intimidate the Secretary for the Department of War [to cause his resignation from the post]. . . .

Articles Five, Six and Seven: . . . did unlawfully conspire with another government official to prevent the execution of the Tenure of Office Act and An Act to Define and Punish Certain Conspirators. . . .**Article Ten:** . . . did, designing and intending to set aside the rightful authorities of Congress, attempt to bring into ridicule, disgrace, hatred, and contempt the United States Congress...by saying things such as..."We have seen a Congress in a minority assume to exercise power which, if allowed to be consummated, would result in despotism or monarchy itself. . . ." **Article Eleven:** . . . did, in disregard to the Constitution, declare in a public speech that the Thirty-Ninth Congress of the United States was not a valid Congress for all of the people in the United States . . . thereby denying its power. . . .



Articles of Impeachment against President Nixon, 1974

These articles were passed by the House Judiciary Committee but never voted upon by the full House because President Nixon resigned before a vote could occur...RESOLVED, That Richard M. Nixon, President of the United States, is impeached for high crimes and misdemeanors. . . .

Article One: [for] making false or misleading statement to delay, cover up, or conceal evidence relating to the Watergate break-ins by:

- making false and misleading statements to the government and the people -withholding information
- allowing/encouraging witnesses to give false or misleading statements -attempting to interfere with FBI and other investigations into the break-ins
- allowing secret payments to influence witnesses -attempting to misuse the CIA
- insinuating that people who refuse to testify against him or who give false testimony will receive favors
- leaking information about the investigation to help the accused

Article Two: . . . [for having] engaged in conduct violating the constitutional rights of citizens . . . and impairing the due and proper administration of justice . . . by:

- using confidential tax return information to initiate tax audits in a discriminatory manner
- misusing the FBI, Secret Service, and other government employees by allowing their information to be used for purposes other than national security or the enforcement of laws
- allowing a secret investigative unit within his office -using campaign contributions and the CIA in an attempt to sway the fair trial process
- has failed in faithfully executing the law
- knowingly misusing the executive power by interfering with agencies within the executive branch

Article Three: . . . has willfully disobeyed the subpoenas of and failed without lawful cause or excuse to produce papers and information for the House Judiciary Committee . . . assuming to himself the functions and judgments given to the House of Representatives by the Constitution.



Articles of Impeachment against President Clinton, 1998

While four articles of impeachment were created by the House Judiciary Committee, only the two below were approved by the full House. In the Senate, the vote fell short of the 2/3 majority that was required to convict Clinton and remove him from office.

RESOLVED, That William Jefferson Clinton, President of the United States, is impeached for high crimes and misdemeanors . . .

Article One: In his conduct while President of the United States . . . in violation of his constitutional oath to faithfully execute the office of the President . . . has . . . undermined the integrity of his office . . . betrayed his trust as President . . . and acted in a manner subversive of the rule of law by:

- willfully corrupting and manipulating the judicial process of the United States for his personal gain and exoneration
- willfully committing perjury by providing false and misleading testimony to the grand jury in relation to his relationship with an employee
- willfully committing perjury by providing false and misleading testimony to the grand jury in relation to prior perjurious testimony in a civil rights action brought against him
- allowing his attorney to make false and misleading statements in the same civil rights action
- attempting to influence witness testimony and slow the discovery of evidence in that civil rights action

Article Three: . . . has [in the Paula Jones Case] prevented, obstructed, and impeded the administration of justice by:

- encouraging a witness to give a perjurious affidavit -encouraging a witness to give false testimony if called to the stand
- allowing and/or encouraging the concealment of subpoenaed evidence -attempting to sway a witness testimony by providing a job for that witness
- allowing his attorney to make misleading testimony -giving false or misleading information to influence the testimony of a potential witness in a Federal civil rights action
- giving false or misleading information to influence the testimony of a witness in a grand jury investigation



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