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REPORTING FROM NEW YORK

Trump makes puzzling claim about Andrew Jackson, Civil War



A portrait of former President Jackson hangs on the wall behind President Trump, accompanied by Vice President Mike Pence, as he speaks in the Oval Office on March 31. (Andrew Harnik / Associated Press)

President Trump made a puzzling claim about Andrew Jackson and the Civil War in an interview.

Speaking to the Washington Examiner, Trump wondered why issues that triggered the war “could not have been worked out” in order to prevent the bloody conflict. Trump praised the accomplishments of Jackson, the populist president he has cited as a role model.

He made the puzzling claim that Jackson “was really angry that he saw what was happening in regard to the Civil War.” But Jackson died in 1845, and the Civil War didn't begin until 16 years later, in 1861.*

Trump then said, “People don't ask the question, but why was there the Civil War?”

*Trump then tweeted this, presumably to correct his earlier statement:

Donald J. Trump

@realDonaldTrump

President Andrew Jackson, who died 16 years before the Civil War started, saw it coming and was angry. Would never have let it happen!

5:55 PM - 1 May 2017

Final History Project: Looking at Jackson & the Civil War
Critical Thinking Essay-Question Test
Due 5/11

Respond to the following questions, using your history textbook and credible sources to research. Answers should be typed, double-spaced, 12pt. font.

1. Should Andrew Jackson be on the \$10 bill? Give evidence to support your answer.
2. Would Jackson have been “really angry” about the Civil War? Give reasons to support your conclusion.
3. Why was there a Civil War?
4. Do you agree with President Trump that Andrew Jackson would never have let the Civil War happen? What evidence is there to support this conclusion?