Impeachment of Andrew Johnson

by Chester G. Hearn

The Political Circus and Constitutional Crisis of Andrew Johnson's Impeachment. In February 1868, the Republican-controlled House of Representatives charged Andrew Johnson, the 17th president of the United States, with high crimes and misdemeanors. The charge was based on Johnson's decision to remove Edwin M. Stanton, the Secretary of War, and his later appointment of General Ulysses S. Grant as the Secretary of War. The trial of Andrew Johnson was held in the Senate on February 24, 1868, and lasted for 12 days. The trial was the first to be held in the Senate and was a major event in the political history of the United States. The trial of Andrew Johnson was the result of political conflict and the rupture of ideologies in the aftermath of the American Civil War, and the impeachment of Andrew Johnson was the result of the Radical Republicans' desire to remove a president who was not supportive of radical Reconstruction policies. The trial of Andrew Johnson was a major event in the political history of the United States, and it set a precedent for future attempts to impeach a president.
The United States government is separated into three branches: the Congress, the