

# **America: Pathways to the Present**

## **Chapter 6**

# **The Origins of American Politics (1789–1820)**

# America: Pathways to the Present

## Chapter 6: The Origins of American Politics (1789–1820)

### Section 1: Liberty Versus Order in the 1790s

### Section 2: The Election of 1800

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# Liberty Versus Order in the 1790s

PRENTICE HALL

Chapter 6, Section 1

- **What was Alexander Hamilton's program for dealing with national and state debt?**
- **How did foreign policy issues divide Americans?**
- **What issues led to the emergence of political parties?**



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# Hamilton's Program

- **As Treasury Secretary, Alexander Hamilton was responsible for developing an economic program that would help repay the huge debts incurred during the Revolution.**
- **In 1790, Congress approved Hamilton's plan to allow the federal government to take responsibility for debts acquired by individual states.**
- **Southern states resisted this plan at first, since they did not want to help pay back the loans owed by northern states. However, Hamilton won southern support by promising to locate the nation's new capital in the South.**
- **By assuming states' debt, the federal government indirectly increased its strength. Since creditors now had an interest in the United States, not just individual states, they would help ensure that the new nation did not collapse.**



# Hamilton's Strategy and Opponents

## Hamilton's Strategy

- To raise money to pay off debts, Congress created a tax on whiskey and a **tariff**, or a tax on imported goods.
- Rather than pay off all debt at once, the United States paid **interest**, an extra sum of money that borrowers pay creditors in return for loans.
- Hamilton believed in a **loose construction** of the Constitution. That is, he believed that the government could take any action that the Constitution did not forbid.

## Hamilton's Opponents

- Many Americans disliked Hamilton's plan for the national government to take over state loans, viewing it as interference in state affairs. Many also disliked Hamilton's new taxes.
- Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson was particularly opposed to Hamilton's plans. Jefferson favored a **strict construction** of the Constitution, believing that the government should not take any actions other than those specifically called for in the Constitution.



## The French Revolution

- The French Revolution sharply divided Americans. Federalists saw the French Revolution as a democratic revolution gone wrong. Supporters of Jefferson, however, viewed it as an extension of the American Revolution.
- The political split grew more intense in 1793, when the French ambassador to the United States, “Citizen” Edmond Genêt, tried to convince private Americans to fight with the French against the British.

## American Neutrality and Jay’s Treaty

- The United States did not want to offend either nation in the war between Britain and France.
- President Washington issued a proclamation of neutrality in 1793, stating that the United States would remain **neutral**, or not take either side. This would not be easy.
- In 1794, Washington sent Chief Justice John Jay to Britain to negotiate an agreement with the British. The agreement, which became known as **Jay’s Treaty**, was highly controversial in the United States because it contained no protection for American shipping.



# The Whiskey Rebellion

- In western Pennsylvania and other frontier areas, many people refused to pay the new tax on whiskey. In addition to being a popular beverage, whiskey was one of the only products made out of corn that farmers could transport to market without having it spoil.
- The resulting **Whiskey Rebellion** followed in the tradition of Shays' Rebellion and protests against the Stamp Act. Rebels closed courts and attacked tax collectors.
- President Washington and Secretary Hamilton saw the Whiskey Rebellion as an opportunity to demonstrate the power of the United States government. An army sent to the Pittsburgh area soon dissolved the rebellion, demonstrating the United States' commitment to enforcing its laws.



# Political Parties Emerge

## The Jeffersonian Republicans

- Two **political parties** began to emerge in the new nation. A political party is a group of people who seek to win elections and hold public office in order to shape government policy and programs.
- The Federalists formed one of these parties. The other, composed of critics of the Federalists, were called Republicans or Democratic-Republicans because they stood for a more democratic republic. To avoid confusion, historians call them the Jeffersonian Republicans.

## The Election of 1796

- President Washington chose not to run for a third term in 1796. With the nation politically divided, the election of 1796 was close. The Federalists won a narrow victory, making John Adams the second President. Jefferson, who finished second in the electoral vote race, became the new Vice President.
- In his Farewell Address of 1796, Washington drew on his years of experience and offered advice for the young nation in the years ahead. He warned against competing political parties and advocated a foreign policy of neutrality.





# Liberty Versus Order in the 1790s— Assessment

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Chapter 6, Section 1

Which of the following best describes Hamilton's plan for dealing with debt?

- (A) All states' debt would be forgiven.
- (B) Every state would pay back its own debt.
- (C) The United States would take responsibility for state debts.
- (D) Only southern states would have to repay their debts.

What was the significance of the Whiskey Rebellion?

- (A) It led to support of Hamilton's economic programs.
- (B) It provided an opportunity to demonstrate the power of the United States government.
- (C) It led to the emergence of two political parties.
- (D) It inspired the United States to join the war between France and Britain.

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# The Election of 1800

- **What actions did John Adams take as President?**
- **Why was the election of 1800 a turning point?**
- **What was significant about the transfer of power between parties in 1801?**



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# John Adams as President

## The XYZ Affair

- At the beginning of the Adams administration, the United States was drifting toward war with France.
- The United States sent officials to France to negotiate. These officials were met by three secret agents: X, Y, and Z, who demanded a bribe and a loan to France.
- The U.S. officials refused to pay the bribe and were met with public acclaim for their patriotism upon their return home.
- This **XYZ affair** infuriated Americans, resulting in what amounted to an undeclared naval war with France.

## The Alien and Sedition Acts

- The Federalists took advantage of the war crisis to push important new measures through Congress. These included the **Alien and Sedition Acts** of 1798.
- Under the Alien Act, the President could imprison or deport citizens of other countries living in the United States.
- Under the Sedition Act, persons who wrote, published, or said anything “false, scandalous, and malicious” against the American government could be fined or jailed.



# Increasing Tensions

- Jefferson, James Madison, and other Republicans believed that the Sedition Act violated the constitutional protection of freedom of speech.
- These men responded to the Alien and Sedition Acts with the **Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions**. The resolutions allowed these two states to nullify federal laws which they felt were unconstitutional.
- Tensions between Federalists and Jeffersonian Republicans continued to grow during the late 1790s.
- Enslaved African Americans, although barred from participation in the political system, embraced the discussions of liberty going on around them. A blacksmith named Gabriel Prosser and several other slaves in the area around Richmond, Virginia attempted a slave revolt. **Prosser's small-scale rebellion** failed before it could get underway.



# Adams Loses Federalist Support

- **Adams angered many Federalists when he sought a peaceful solution to the undeclared naval war with France. Federalists such as Alexander Hamilton were in favor of a harsher policy toward France, including a declaration of war.**
- **Adams entered the election of 1800 with several disadvantages. First, when the United States made peace with France, the Jeffersonian Republicans' support for France became less of a rallying point for the Federalists. Also, the unpopular Alien and Sedition Acts became even less justified without the threat of imminent war.**
- **Adams's bid for re-election was further damaged when Aaron Burr, the Jeffersonian Republican nominee for Vice President, obtained and printed a damaging pamphlet against Adams written by Hamilton.**



# The Campaign and Jefferson's Victory

## The Campaign

- By 1800, Thomas Jefferson emerged as the leader among those who preferred local to national government.
- Jefferson ran against Adams in what became a nasty presidential campaign.
- Jefferson's campaign accused Adams of being a monarchist. Adams's campaign claimed that Jefferson would lead the nation into chaos.

## Jefferson's Victory

- Jefferson won the popular vote but did not win a majority in the electoral college. He tied with his vice presidential running mate, Aaron Burr.
- As specified in the Constitution, the House of Representatives voted to choose the President. Voting was deadlocked until the House elected Jefferson on its thirty-sixth ballot.
- Jefferson's victory was aided by the support of his usual nemesis Hamilton, who preferred Jefferson over Burr.



# A Peaceful Transfer of Power

- **Jefferson took the oath of office on March 4, 1801, amid the construction of the nation's new capital.**
- **The Federalists peacefully stepped down and allowed the Jeffersonian Republicans to take power. In doing so, they proved that the American system of government was receptive to peaceful transfers of power.**





# The Election of 1800—Assessment

PRENTICE HALL

Chapter 6, Section 2

**What did the Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions provide?**

- (A) They declared a naval war with France.**
- (B) They prohibited false or malicious speech against the government.**
- (C) They allowed the President to deport citizens of other countries.**
- (D) They allowed those two states to nullify unconstitutional federal laws.**

**Which of these was a disadvantage to John Adams in the election of 1800?**

- (A) Tensions with France continued.**
- (B) The Alien and Sedition Acts remained unpopular.**
- (C) The District of Columbia was under construction.**
- (D) A slave revolt led by Gabriel Prosser failed.**

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# The Jefferson Administration

- **How did Jefferson reduce the power of the national government?**
- **What problem did Jefferson have with the federal courts?**
- **How did Jefferson achieve his program in the West?**
- **Why did Jefferson easily win reelection in 1804?**
- **How did Jefferson respond to increasing tensions with Europe?**



# Reducing Government

- Jefferson entered office with a straightforward **agenda**, or list of things that he wanted to accomplish. His goal was to reduce the influence of the national government in the lives of the American people.
- To do this, Jefferson reduced taxes and severely cut the size of the federal **bureaucracy**, the departments and workers that make up the federal government. He also reduced the size of the army to just over 3,000 men.
- Jefferson did not intend to destroy the government created by the Constitution, or even to undo all the acts of the Federalists. He let the Bank of the United States continue to function, knowing that its term would run out in 1811.



# Jefferson and the Courts

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## The Judiciary Acts

The Constitution did not fully explain the organization or the role of the judicial branch. Congress filled in the missing details with the Judiciary Acts of 1789 and 1801. These acts created a national court system headed by the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court would settle differences between state and federal laws.

## Adams Appoints Judges

Just before he left office, Adams appointed judges to federal courts who would be sympathetic to Federalist views. The appointment of these **midnight judges** angered Jefferson, who wanted to appoint judges from his own party.

## Marbury v. Madison

The historic case of **Marbury v. Madison** arose when Jefferson tried to deny the appointments of some midnight judges. Chief Justice John Marshall ruled that it was against the Constitution for the Supreme Court to order the executive branch to let appointee William Marbury take his judicial office.

## Judicial Review

In this ruling, the Court established the power of **judicial review**, in which courts decide whether or not laws are constitutional. It also allows federal courts to review state laws and state court decisions to make sure they are constitutional. In this way, the Court plays an important role in preserving the federal union.



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# Jefferson's Program in the West

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## The Land Act of 1800

Under the Land Act of 1800, Americans were able to buy land in the western territories in small parcels and on credit. This encouraged the development of the frontier.

## Napoleon and the French

When the French ruler Napoleon took over Spanish land in the West, the French began demanding large sums of money from American traders passing through New Orleans. Jefferson sent James Monroe and Robert Livingston to France to buy the city of New Orleans.

## The Louisiana Purchase

Napoleon offered not just New Orleans, but the entire French claim of Louisiana instead. Monroe and Livingston quickly offered \$15 million for the **Louisiana Purchase**. The purchase dramatically increased the size of the United States and its national debt.

## The Lewis and Clark Expedition

Congress agreed to fund an expedition to explore the Louisiana Purchase. The two-year-long **Lewis and Clark expedition** was successful in filling in many of the details of these vast lands.



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# The Election of 1804

- Although the Federalists were a strong force in national politics, they began to lose support. They opposed the widely popular Louisiana Purchase, and farmers in the new lands in the South and West tended to support Jeffersonian Republicans.
- Jefferson's Vice President, Aaron Burr, was infuriated when Alexander Hamilton ruined his bid for the Federalist nomination in the New York governor's race. This was not the first time that Hamilton had prevented Burr from scoring a political victory, and Burr challenged him to a duel. After killing Hamilton in this duel, Burr found his political career ruined.
- Jefferson's popularity, combined with a weakened Federalist Party, led to his landslide victory in the 1804 election.



# Increasing Tensions With Europe

## The *Chesapeake*

- When Jay's Treaty, which ensured peace between the United States and Britain, expired in 1805, European nations were back at war with each other.
- French warships attacked American ships trading with Britain. British ships interfered with American ships trading with France.
- In 1807, a British ship, the *Leopard*, attacked the USS *Chesapeake*, inflicted 21 casualties, and searched the ship for deserters from the British navy.

## The Embargo of 1807

- Jefferson, like many Americans, was angered by this attack. In the Embargo Act of 1807, Jefferson sought to punish the British and French by imposing an **embargo**, or a restriction on trade, on almost all foreign countries.
- Americans who made their living through trade hated the embargo. Many also despised the direct interference of the national government in the economy. The embargo ruined Jefferson's second term.





# The Jefferson Administration—Assessment

PRENTICE HALL

Chapter 6, Section 3

Which of the following helped Jefferson meet his goal of reducing the influence of the national government?

- (A) The creation of an embargo
- (B) Cuts in the size of the federal bureaucracy
- (C) A duel with Aaron Burr
- (D) Acquisition of the Louisiana Purchase

What is judicial review?

- (A) The name of the Supreme Court's ruling in *Marbury v. Madison*
- (B) The appointment of judges at the last minute
- (C) The power of courts to decide whether laws are constitutional
- (D) A detail about the judicial branch mentioned in the Constitution

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# Native American Resistance

- **What led to war between the United States and Native Americans in the Old Northwest?**
- **In what different ways did Native American leaders react to United States expansion?**



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# War in the Old Northwest

## Chapter 6, Section 4

- In the early 1790s, the Miami, Delaware, Shawnee, and other Native American groups came together to fight American expansion. With the help of the British in Canada, and led by warriors such as Little Turtle and Blue Jacket, they won several victories over the United States.
- The tide turned when the British withdrew their support and a new national army, known as the Legion of the United States, was formed.
- At the 1794 **Battle of Fallen Timbers** in present-day northwestern Ohio, the Legion defeated the Native Americans. As a result, several groups of Native Americans were forced to accept the **Treaty of Greenville** in 1795.
- According to the Treaty of Greenville, these groups relinquished the southern two thirds of Ohio and accepted that the Ohio River would no longer be a permanent boundary between their land and that of the white settlers.



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# Native American Reactions

## Different Strategies

- In the early 1800s, several Native American leaders proposed different ways to deal with the United States.
- These strategies included accepting white culture, blending Indian and white cultures, returning to Indian religious traditions, and taking military action.

## Acceptance and Blending

- Some Native Americans, including Little Turtle, tried to live peacefully with white settlers.
- Others, including a Seneca named Handsome Lake, wanted to blend Native American customs with those of the white Americans.



# Other Native American Strategies

## Returning to Indian Traditions

- In Indiana, Tenskwatawa, known simply as “the Prophet,” called for a return to traditional Native American ways.
- **Tenskwatawa** was opposed to assimilation, the process by which people of one culture merge into and become part of another culture.
- From his home on a **reservation**, an area that the federal government had set aside for Native Americans, Handsome Lake urged Native Americans to focus more on their traditions than on war.

## Taking Military Action

- Tenskwatawa’s older brother, Tecumseh, believed that Native Americans needed to overcome local differences and unite in order to resist United States expansion.
- Tecumseh’s forces were defeated by those of the United States at the **Battle of Tippecanoe** in 1811. The battle shattered morale and eroded confidence in Tenskwatawa’s leadership.



# Native American Resistance—Assessment

PRENTICE HALL

Chapter 6, Section 4

**What occurred at the Battle of Fallen Timbers?**

- (A) The British in Canada began aiding Native Americans.**
- (B) The Legion of the United States defeated a group of Native Americans.**
- (C) Native Americans lost confidence in Tenskwatawa's leadership.**
- (D) Several strategies for dealing with the United States arose.**

**Which of the following leaders favored blending Native American and white American traditions?**

- (A) Tenskwatawa**
- (B) Tecumseh**
- (C) Handsome Lake**
- (D) Blue Jacket**

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# The War of 1812

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- **Why did war break out with Britain in 1812?**
- **How did the war's end affect the United States?**
- **What events led to the economic panic of 1819?**
- **What issues led to the Missouri Compromise?**



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# War Breaks Out

- Many Americans, including members of Congress, blamed the British for ongoing frontier violence between Native Americans and white Americans.
- Anger toward Britain increased due to the British practice of **impressment**, the act of forcing people into military service. British ships regularly stopped American ships at sea and removed men to serve in the British navy.
- President James Madison called for war with Britain, which Congress approved. The war that followed became known as the **War of 1812**.



# War on Land and Sea

## The Land War

The United States had only a small army and navy, giving it a disadvantage against Britain. Although the British defeated American forces attempting to invade British-held Canada, the American forces won some modest victories.

## The Naval War

Despite the much larger size of the British navy, Americans at first won a number of battles at sea. Victories such as the one by the USS *Constitution* (“Old Ironsides”) raised American morale. However, the superior British navy soon blockaded the United States coast.

## The Burning of Washington, D.C

In the summer of 1814, British troops entered Washington, D.C., and started fires that consumed the city. From Washington, the British moved on to Baltimore, where American forces turned them back. Lawyer Francis Scott Key witnessed an all-night British bombardment there and described it in “The Star-Spangled Banner.”



# The War Ends

- New Englanders suffered tremendous losses in trade during the war. In December 1814, they called a meeting known as the Hartford Convention to consider leaving the nation. Instead, the convention called for constitutional amendments to increase New England's political power.
- The War of 1812 officially ended on December 24, 1814, with the signing of the **Treaty of Ghent**, which restored all old boundaries between the United States and British territory in North America. The treaty did not, however, resolve many of the issues that had caused the war, such as the British practice of impressment.
- Before news of the treaty reached the United States, General Andrew Jackson won a spectacular American victory against the British at the **Battle of New Orleans**. The victory raised morale and allowed Americans to end an unhappy war on a positive note.



# Postwar Boom and Panic

## Growth and Prosperity

- After the war, Americans began moving westward at an incredible rate.
- Trade with Europe boomed, and banks lent an abundant amount of credit.
- James Monroe and the Republican Party dominated American politics, as the Federalists faded out of existence.

## The Panic of 1819

- In 1819, America experienced its first **depression**, or severe economic downturn.
- The depression, known as the Panic of 1819, began when London banks demanded that banks in the United States pay money owed to them. United States banks in turn demanded the money that they had loaned to the American public.
- Many Americans who had borrowed too much money in previous years were financially ruined.



# The Missouri Compromise

- In 1819, Congress began debating the admission of the state of Missouri to the United States. The basic issue at stake was slavery.
- Several members of Congress from the North objected to Missouri's admission as a slave state, fearing that this would upset the balance of free and slave states in the South's favor.
- A compromise known as the **Missouri Compromise**, engineered by Henry Clay, resolved the issue. Under the Missouri Compromise, Missouri would enter the United States as a slave state, Maine would enter as a free state, and all new states created above 36° 30' N latitude (the southern border of Missouri) would have to be free states.
- The economy soon improved, and politicians agreed to avoid the difficult issue of slavery. However, the questions raised by these issues would soon be impossible to ignore.



# The War of 1812—Assessment

Which of the following was a cause of the War of 1812?

- (A) The balance of power between free and slave states
- (B) The British practice of impressment
- (C) Andrew Jackson's victory at the Battle of New Orleans
- (D) The decline of the Federalist Party

What did the Treaty of Ghent provide?

- (A) Constitutional amendments to increase New England's political power
- (B) Restoration of former borders in North America
- (C) An end to impressment
- (D) An end to frontier violence

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