

# Just the Facts . . . the New Republic 1789-1824

## George Washington: 1789-1797

- *Father of Our Country*
- Did not run for office - unanimously chosen by Electoral College
- Set examples (precedents) for future presidents

## Washington's Precedents

**Selecting a Cabinet** - the president will pick a group of advisers to help him make decisions.

**"Mr. President"** - In a nation afraid of tyranny, it was agreed this would be a modest way to address the chief executive.

**Only serve 2 terms** - Washington was eager to return to private life after eight years of the presidency.

**Farewell Address**- When a president leaves office, he gives a good-bye speech. In Washington's farewell address he warned:

- Do not form political parties.
- Stay out of debt.
- Avoid entangling alliances with Europe.

## Domestic/Foreign Policy

Alexander Hamilton, the Secretary of Treasury, devised a plan to **pay off the Revolutionary War debt**. Southern states rejected the plan until the nation's capital was moved to the South which becomes Washington, D.C.

England and France went to war in 1793. Washington decided to keep the U.S. from choosing sides by issuing the **Neutrality Proclamation**.

**Jay's Treaty** (1794) Britain promised to remove forts in the northwestern frontier if the U.S. would pay pre-revolutionary debt to British merchants.

**Whiskey Rebellion** (1794) Farmers in western Pennsylvania protested tax on whiskey.

Washington responded with 13,000 troops and the farmers backed down. This action proved that the new national government had the authority to enforce its laws.

## Birth of Political Parties

When Washington left office, political parties formed from members of Washington's cabinet.

**Federalist Party:** Alexander Hamilton

- wanted an industrialized economy
- strong national (or central) government
- supported a national bank
- favored high tariffs
- loose interpretation of the Constitution

**Democratic-Republicans:** Thomas Jefferson

- wanted an agricultural economy
- strong state governments
- opposed a national bank
- favored lower tariffs
- strict interpretation of the Constitution

## John Adams: 1797-1801

**XYZ Affair** When Adams took office the French had been raiding American ships. Adams sent three Americans to negotiate, but the French demanded a bribe. The country wanted Adams to declare war, but he refused.

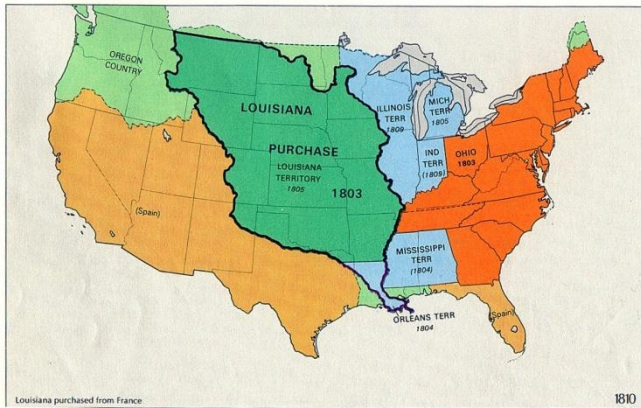
**Alien and Sedition Acts** To silence criticism, the Federalists passed the Alien and Sedition Acts giving the government the authority to imprison anyone considered dangerous.

**The Election of 1800** John Adams lost his bid for reelection to Thomas Jefferson and a new political party, the Democratic-Republicans. The election proved a flaw in the way the president was elected and a 12<sup>th</sup> Amendment was added.

## Thomas Jefferson: 1801-1809

When Jefferson took office, he first removed the **Alien and Sedition Acts** and reduced the size of the army and navy.

**Louisiana Purchase (1803)** The U.S. doubled in size when the Louisiana Territory was purchased from France for \$15 million. Jefferson hired **Lewis & Clark** to explore the land.



**Marbury V. Madison (1801)** Court case that gave the Supreme Court the right of judicial review. **Judicial Review** gave the court the right to check acts of the president and Congress and declare them unconstitutional.

**Embargo Act (1807)** England and France were at war and both nations resented U.S. trade. The U.S. was drawn into the conflict as American ships and sailors were forced into service (impressment). To prevent **impressment**, Jefferson passed the Embargo Act prohibiting American trade with all foreign nations. The **Embargo Act** was highly unpopular as American merchants suffered greatly along with Jefferson and the Democratic-Republicans.

## James Madison: 1809-1817

**The War of 1812** Many Americans believed the British were inciting Indians to attack the frontier and continue to impress American ships. The U.S. made its first declaration of war in June of 1812.

**Battle of New Orleans (January, 1815)** The British sought control of the Mississippi. The Americans, led by **Andrew Jackson**, crushed the British in one of the most lopsided victories ever. Oddly, the **Treaty of Ghent** was signed before the battle and the issue of impressment was never mentioned. No land had changed hands in the treaty.



## James Monroe: 1817-1825

**Missouri Compromise (1820)** Missouri joined the Union as a slave state; Maine joined the Union as a free state. The nation was careful to try and protect the balance of slave and free states.

**Monroe Doctrine (1823)** Latin America began to experience a series of independence movements. The U.S. feared Europe might try to take control of these fledgling countries. The U.S. warned European nations not to colonize Latin America or they would face the threat of military action.

### NOTES:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---