

The Presidency of George Washington (1789 – 1797)

1. The Emergence of Political Parties
 - A. Political parties had not existed in America when Washington took office
 - B. Personal feud between Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton developed into a full-blown and bitter political rivalry
 - C. Jefferson and Madison
 - i. organized their opposition to the Hamiltonian program
 - ii. confined opposition to Congress
 - iii. this organized opposition grew
 - iv. the two-party system emerged
 - D. Washington's first administration had ended in 1793
 - i. a formation of two political groups had ensued:
 1. Jeffersonian Democratic-Republicans
 2. Hamilton Federalists.
2. The Impact of the French Rebellion
 - A. The French Revolution began in 1789
 - B. It began peacefully but entered a violent phase when France declared war on Austria in 1792.
 - C. Things get worse when:
 - i. King Louis XVI was beheaded in 1793
 - ii. the church was attacked
 - iii. the head-rolling Reign of Terror began
 - D. The Federalists supported the revolution but that view suddenly changed with the Terror
3. Washington's Neutrality Proclamation
 - A. Britain and France at war (again)
 - B. Democratic-Republicans wanted to get into involved to fight for France
 - C. The Federalists were opposed
 - D. Washington issued the Neutrality Proclamation of 1793
 - i. stating the US was neutral in the Britain-France war
 - E. Hamilton backed Washington
4. Conflicts with Britain post Revolution
 - A. British had retained the frontier posts on U.S. soil
 - i. in defiance of the peace treaty of 1783
 - ii. UK did not want to abandon the valuable fur trade in the Great Lakes region
 - iii. British agents openly sold firearms to the Miami Confederacy
 1. an alliance of 8 Indian nations who terrorized Americans
 - B. Jeffersonians felt that American should again fight Britain in defense of America's liberties
 - C. The Federalists opposed this action because Hamilton's hopes for economic development depended on trade with Britain

- D. Jay's Treaty of 1794
 - i. A last attempt to avoid war
 - ii. Washington sent Chief Justice John Jay to London to negotiate
 - iii. Opposed by Democratic-Republicans
 - iv. Jay's Treaty:
 - 1. British promised to evacuate the chain of posts on U.S. soil
 - 2. pay for damages for the seizures of American ships
 - 3. Britain stopped short of pledging anything about future maritime seizures or about supplying arms to Indians
 - 4. Treaty also called for the US to continue to pay the debts owed to British merchants on pre-Revolutionary War accounts
- E. Pinckney's Treaty of 1795
 - i. Caused by Jay's Treaty
 - 1. Spain, which feared an Anglo-American alliance
 - 2. strikes a deal with the US
 - ii. Pinckney's Treaty
 - 1. Spain granted the Americans free navigation of the Mississippi River
 - 2. US gets large disputed territory north of Florida
- F. Washington Leaves Office in 1797
 - i. Serves 2 terms and sets precedent
 - ii. In his Farewell Address to the nation, Washington urged against permanent alliances

The Presidency of John Adams (1797 – 1801)

- 1. The Election of 1796
 - A. John Adams beat Thomas Jefferson
 - i. becomes the 2nd President in 1797
 - ii. Jefferson becomes Vice President
 - B. Hamilton became the leader of the Federalist Party
 - i. known as the "High Federalists"
- 2. Unofficial Fighting with France
 - A. France was upset with Jay's Treaty
 - B. France started capturing American merchant ships
 - C. The XYZ Affair
 - i. President Adams sent John Marshall to France to negotiate in 1797
 - ii. Napoleon Bonaparte was the dictator of France
 - iii. US hoped to meet with Talleyrand, the French foreign minister
 - iv. Adams's envoy was secretly approached by 3 go-betweens
 - 1. Later referred to as X, Y, and Z
 - 2. Mme de Villette, Jean Conrad Hottinguer, Lucien Hauteral
 - v. XYZ demanded a bribe of \$250,000 just to talk to Talleyrand
 - vi. US angered by the intolerable terms

vii. Marshall and the envoy returned to the US

D. Results of XYZ Affair

- i. US infuriated with the France
- ii. High Federalists demand war
- iii. America began preparations for war:
 - 1. the Navy Department was created
 - 2. the three-ship navy was expanded
 - 3. the United States Marine Corps was reestablished

E. Adams's Response

- i. France did not want another enemy
- ii. if the Americans sent another negotiator minister, he would be received with proper respect
- iii. Convention of 1800
 - 1. Napoleon signed with American representative John Jay
 - 2. It annulled the peace treaty between France and America
 - 3. called for France to pay the damage claims of American shippers

3. The Alien & Sedition Acts

A. Federalist Congress passed a series of oppressive laws

- i. aimed at "aliens" or foreigners who came to America and supported Jefferson.
- ii. In order to decrease the number of pro-Jeffersonians,

B. These *Alien Laws*

- i. raised the residence requirements for aliens who desired to become citizens from 5 years to 14 years
- ii. Also stated that the President could deport or jail foreigners in times of peace or hostilities

C. The *Sedition Act*

- i. stated that anyone who impeded the policies of the government or falsely defamed its officials would be liable to a heavy fine and imprisonment

D. Response: The Virginia (Madison) and Kentucky (Jefferson) Resolutions

- i. States had the right to nullify laws created by the government
- ii. States Rights doctrines
- iii. Virtually no other state followed these two states' resolutions

4. Federalists versus Democratic-Republicans

A. Hamilton Federalists

- i. supported a strong central government
- ii. believed that the government should support private enterprise, not interfere with it
- iii. supported the British

B. Jeffersonian Anti-Federalists supported

- i. a weak central government
- ii. states' rights