

The Presidency of Thomas Jefferson (1801 – 1809) & Jeffersonian Democracy (1800-1824)

1. The Election of 1800
 - A. Dirty Campaign - Federalist and Republican Mudslingers
 - B. "whispering campaigns"
 - i. Jefferson becomes a victim
 - ii. Federalists accused him of having an affair with one of his slaves
2. The Jeffersonian "Revolution of 1800"
 - A. Thomas Jefferson beat John Adams
 - B. 73 to 65 electoral votes
 - C. Republicans also win control of Congress
 - D. Why was this "Revolutionary"?
3. Jeffersonian Changes
 - A. Jefferson quickly pardoned the prisoners of the Sedition Acts
 - B. The Naturalization Law of 1802
 - i. Undoes Alien Act
 - ii. reduced the requirement of 14 years of residence to the previous 5 years
4. Jefferson & the Courts
 - A. The Midnight Judges
 - i. Judiciary Act of 1801
 1. passed by the expiring Federalist Congress
 2. created 16 new federal judgeships and other judicial offices
 - ii. The new Republican-Democratic Congress
 1. quickly repealed the act
 2. kicked out the 16 newly seated judges
 - iii. Chief Justice John Marshall
 1. Federalist Justice
 2. was not removed
 3. served under presidents including Jefferson for 34 years
 4. shaped the American legal tradition more than any other person
 - B. *Marbury vs. Madison* (1803)
 - i. James Madison
 1. new secretary of state
 2. had cut judge Marbury's salary
 - ii. Marbury sued James Madison for his pay
 - iii. The Supreme Court ruled
 1. Marbury had the right to his pay
 2. But the court did not have the authority to force Madison to give Marbury his pay.
 3. Judiciary Act of 1789 unconstitutional
 - iv. Precedent:
 1. The Supreme Court had the final authority in determining the meaning of the Constitution

- C. Samuel Chase
 - i. Supreme Court Justice
 - ii. Democratic-Republican Congress Impeached him
 - iii. Retaliation for John Marshall's decision regarding Marbury
 - iv. was not removed due to a lack of votes in the Senate
 - v. Only Supreme Court Justice to be impeached

- 5. The Barbary War (1801-1805)
 - A. Jeff sent naval force to Med. Sea to break N. African Muslim rulers practice of exacting tribute from Western merchant ships
 - B. US reaches deal
 - C. Paid Tripoli \$60,000 for the release of captured Americans

- 6. Jeffersonian Economics
 - A. Albert Gallatin (Swiss) – Secretary of Treasury
 - B. Both men object to the debt
 - i. hate taxes
 - ii. taxes deemed necessary to pay interest on debt
 - iii. taxes burden virtuous farmers
 - iv. farmers are backbone of republic
 - v. taxes put money in the hand of wealthy creditors
 - vi. wealthy creditors - “parasites” who live off interest payments
 - vii. taxes tempt gov’t to build standing army
 - C. Jefferson & Gallatin’s Economic Plan
 - i. induced Congress to repeal most internal taxes
 - ii. slashed embassies overseas
 - iii. reduced size of army
 - iv. US projected to be debt free in 16 years
 - v. Problem
 - 1. European wars affected the US
 - 2. vast US could not be secured from attack without astronomical expense
 - 3. How do you avoid European entanglements when Euro powers have large land holdings in North America?

- 7. Jeffersonian Politics
 - A. European Powers in North America
 - i. Spain
 - 1. Weak, declining power
 - 2. Controlled East & West Florida
 - 3. Controlled LA Territory
 - 4. Treaty of Ildefonso (10/1/00) cedes LA to France
 - ii. France
 - 1. Napoleon is Emperor
 - 2. Wants Caribbean Empire
 - 3. Santo Domingo
 - a. 1790s bloody slave revolt

- b. 1800 takeover by Toussaint L'Ouverture
 - c. Napoleon sent troops & lost
 - d. Ends dreams of French Caribbean Empire
- B. The Louisiana Purchase
 - i. Jefferson
 - 1. dreams of "Empire of Liberty"
 - 2. empire should extend across NA & SA
 - 3. empire not by military
 - 4. empire by inevitable expansion of free & virtuous Americans
 - ii. 1802
 - 1. Spanish Administrator cut off New Orleans
 - 2. US cannot deposit produce for shipping to foreign lands
 - 3. Napoleon had not yet taken control of LA
 - 4. US, unaware of this, thought decision came from France
 - iii. Two Crucial Decisions
 - 1. Jefferson
 - a. sends James Monroe & Robert Livingston to France
 - b. negotiate to purchase NO & as much of FL as possible
 - 2. Napoleon
 - a. couldn't fight in both Caribbean & Europe
 - b. needed money to fight in Europe
 - c. offer all of LA to the US
 - iv. 1803
 - 1. Talleyrand & Monroe/Livingston haggle
 - 2. \$15 Million is paid to France for all of LA Territory
 - a. 3/4 US paid in cash
 - b. 1/4 US pays French debts owed to US citizens
 - 3. doubles the size of the US
 - 4. cost:13.5 cents an acre
- C. Exploring the West
 - i. Meriwether Lewis & William Clark group
 - 1. 48 men left St. Louis in 1804
 - 2. returned two years later with a wealth of scientific & anthropological information.
 - ii. Spring 1805, joined by Fr-Can fur trapper & pregnant Indian squaw, Sacagawea, who acted as guides & interpreters
 - iii. Strengthened US claim to Oregon territory
 - iv. Zebulon Pike exploring the middle parts of the Louisiana Terr. & mapped land
- D. The Essex Junto (1804)
 - i. New England Federalists saw western expansion as a threat to their position
 - ii. Tried to organize a secessionist movement
 - iii. Wooed Aaron Burr's support by offering to back him in his bid for Gov. of NY
 - iv. Hamilton led opposition to campaign, & when Burr lost he challenged to duel

- E. The Aaron Burr Conspiracies
 - i. Burr now a fugitive
 - ii. Became involved in a scheme to take Mexico from Spain & establish new nation
 - iii. Fall 1806, led a group of men down Miss to N.O.
 - iv. Arrested & tried for treason
 - v. Judge John Marshall acquitted & narrowed legal definition of treason
 - vi. Jeff tried to use “executive privilege” to influence the trial
 - vii. Following second treason charge, Burr jumped bail & fled to Europe for five years and tried to convince Napoleon to organize an invasion of the US
 - viii. Returned in 1812 and lived here colorfully until 1836
 - F. Reelected in 1804
 - i. 162 to 14 electoral votes
 - ii. defeats Federalist Charles Pinckney
 - G. Yazoo Land Claims
 - i. John Randolph, Jeff’s cousin, formed the “Quids” Repub opponents to Jeff
 - ii. They accused Jeff of complicity in Yazoo Land Controversy
 - iii. Georgia’s cession of her western lands to the federal government
 - iv. Created serious strife in Republican party & weakened Jeff’s effectiveness in second term
8. Napoleonic War
- A. Britain & France resume warfare
 - B. US remains neutral
 - 1. US prospers
 - 2. US vessels carry sugar & coffee from French & Spanish colonies to Europe
 - 3. Price of sugar & coffee from British WI declines
 - 4. Britain concludes US prosperity is the cause of British economic difficulties
 - C. Orders in Council – 1806
 - i. British Laws
 - ii. restricted trade by neutral nations unless they stopped in British ports first
 - D. Berlin Decree – 1806
 - i. French Laws
 - ii. blockade British Isles & seize ships trading with England
 - E. Milan Decree – 1807
 - i. French Laws
 - ii. restricted trade with ships that carried British goods or entered British ports
 - F. The Chesapeake-Leopard Affair – 1807
 - i. British ship HMS Leopard stopped USS Chesapeake off Chesapeake Bay
 - ii. Four alleged Brit deserters were taken off the ship
 - iii. Public outcry against Brits
 - iv. Jefferson finds it increasingly hard to remain neutral

G. Embargo Act – 1807

- i. Reaction to outcry for war
- ii. restrict all foreign trade with the US
- iii. pressures FR & GB to respect our neutrality
- iv. avoids conflict
- v. results in economic depression
 1. GB sales to US fall 50% between 1807 – 1808
 2. GB found new markets in South America & Spain
 3. 30,000 US seamen are unemployed
 4. merchants go bankrupt
 5. jails swell with debtors
 6. farmers devastated
 - a. couldn't export
 - b. couldn't sell to urban dwellers (they had no money)
 - c. couldn't pay debts
 7. land speculators lose money
- vi. some positive aspects of Embargo
 1. diverted merchant's capital into manufacturing
 2. America began producing its own finished goods
 3. Before 1808, US had 15 textile mills
 4. After 1810, US had 102 textile mills
- vii. Most unpopular policy of Jefferson's Presidency

9. Jeffersonian Democracy (1800 – 1824)

- A. A set of political writings, goals, & policies named after Thomas Jefferson
- B. Core Ideals:
 - i. Representative Democracy
 1. it's the core political value of America
 2. citizens have a civic duty to aid the state and resist corruption
 3. especially monarchism and aristocracy
 - ii. The Yeoman Farmer
 1. best exemplifies civic virtue and independence
 2. government policy should be for his benefit
 3. Financiers, bankers and industrialists make cities the cesspools of corruption and should be avoided
 - iii. "The Empire of Liberty"
 1. Americans had a duty to spread democracy to the world
 2. But should avoid "entangling alliances"
 - iv. The National Government is Dangerous
 1. Yet a dangerous necessity
 2. It is to be instituted for the common benefit, protection, and security of the people, nation or community
 3. It must be watched closely and limited in its powers
 - v. Separation of Church & State
 1. Wall of separation is the best method to keep:
 - a. religion free from intervention by the federal government
 - b. government free of religious disputes

- c. religion free from corruption by government
- vi. Rights of the Individual
 1. Federal Govt must not violate the rights of individuals
 2. The Bill of Rights is key for protection
- vii. States' Rights
 1. Federal Govt must not violate the rights of the states
 2. The KY & VA Resolutions of 1798 proclaim these principles
- viii. Freedom of Speech & Press
 1. Best method to prevent tyranny of the people by their govt
 2. Federalist violation of this ideal makes this a major issue
- ix. No Standing Army or Navy
 1. Dangerous to our liberty
 2. Should be avoided
 3. Economic coercion is a better diplomatic tool
- x. Strict Constitutional Interpretation
 1. The Constitution was written to ensure people's freedom
 2. However, "no society can make a perpetual constitution or even a perpetual law. The earth belongs always to the living generation."
(letter to Madison, 1789)