

Jeffersonian Democracy 1800-1812

*Timid men...prefer the calm of despotism to
the boisterous sea of liberty—Thomas
Jefferson, 1796*

Background to the Election of 1800

John Adams vs. Thomas Jefferson

- Adams' handicaps
 - Alien and Sedition Acts
 - Hamiltonian wing of Federalists
 - Private pamphlet written by Hamilton attacks Adams
 - Decision not to go to war against France
 - Public wants war to avenge XYZ Affair
 - Public debt soars to raise money for possible war
 - Dreaded stamp tax

Jefferson's Handicaps in Election

- Victim of first “whispering campaign”
 - Accused of robbing a widow and her children of a trust fund
 - Accused of having fathered numerous mulatto children
 - Sally Hemmings—Recent DNA testing confirms his paternity of lineage
 - Accused of atheism yet he is a believer
 - Separation of church and state in Virginia

The Election of 1800

The Election of 1800	Problem	Solution	Outcome
	<p>Jefferson is running for president and Aaron Burr for Vice President, for the Republican Party. Republican electors cast two votes, one each for Burr and Jefferson. The two men unexpectedly tie and Burr decides to challenge Jefferson for the office of the President</p>	<p>After multiple votes which result in a tie, Alexander Hamilton gets Representative Bayard to cast a ballot for Jefferson and a blank ballot rather than one for Burr. Though Hamilton disliked both candidates, he decided Jefferson was the lesser of two evils!</p>	<p>Jefferson became President and the "Revolution of 1800" took place, in which power was transferred to a new party. Hamilton and Burr eventually duel each other in 1804, after Hamilton hinted Burr was an unfit candidate for governor of New York. Hamilton, whose son was killed in a duel, did not fire his weapon, and was killed by Burr.</p>

“We are all Republicans, We are all Federalists”

<i>Observance of Federalist Policies</i>	<i>Observance of Republican Policies</i>
Neutrality in foreign affairs	Alien and Sedition Acts expire
Dismisses few Federalist public servants	Naturalization Act—restores residency requirements to 5 years
Continues funding national debt at par while reducing debt— Secretary of Treasury Albert Gallatin	Abolishes excise tax
No attacks on National bank	Reduced the size of the military—2500 men standing army; navy less fearful
Does not repeal mild protective tariff	Eliminates the number of federal jobs

Judiciary Act of 1801

Topic	Problem	Solution	Outcome
<p>The Judiciary Act of 1801</p>	<p>Before leaving office, the Federalists obtained the passage of a judiciary act that created new judicial offices and judgeships. Adams stayed up late on his last day in office to appoint Federalists to the positions. He left the appointments for Jefferson to deliver</p>	<p>Jefferson refused to allow his Secretary of State, James Madison, to deliver the appointments.</p> <p>One of his appointees, William Marbury, sues to receive his appointment. The court case, Marbury v. Madison, resulted.</p>	<p>In the court case, Judge Marshall determined that the whole Judiciary Act was unconstitutional. As a result, Marbury didn't get the job. But Marshall did claim for the court the right of judicial review.</p>

John Marshall

- US Supreme Court Justice
 - Federalist—aims to strengthen powers of National Government in decisions of the Court
 - 34 years on Court; appointed by Adams
 - Cousin to Jefferson
 - He had served at Valley Forge—while cold and hungry, he woefully recognizes problems of limited government
 - He shaped the American legal tradition with his powerful intellect and commanding personality

Judicial Impeachment

- Samuel Chase, 1804
 - House impeaches; Senate acquits
 - His actions do not rise to “high crimes and misdemeanors”
 - Decision upholds the integrity and independence of Supreme Court justices
 - One can not remove justices for political reasons

The Tripoli War (Barbary Pirates), 1801

- North African Barbary States blackmail and plunder merchant ships ventured for Mediterranean
 - The Federalist Administrations had paid tribute for protection
 - At time of French crisis of 1798, when Americans shout, “Millions for defense, but not one cent for tribute,” twenty-six barrels of blackmail dollars were being shipped to pirates in Algiers
 - The Jefferson Administration offends Tripoli with its poor showing of money
 - Tripoli informally declared war against the US and cut down the American flag from its consulate in Tripoli
 - A 4-year war ensues
 - Jefferson extorts a treaty of peace from Tripoli in 1805
 - US pays \$60,000 payment in ransom for captured Americans

Jefferson's Lesson from the Tripoli War

- First foreign war with a non governmental power
 - Difficult to define victory
 - Concept that we do not negotiate with terrorists
- Small gunboats had been used successfully against the pirates
 - Jefferson orders a build-up of “Jeffs” or “mosquito fleet”
 - He believes the gunboats, (frail, but fast,) would prove valuable in guarding American shores and need not embroil the US in diplomatic incidents on the high seas
 - 200 gunboats constructed
 - Often mounted only one unwieldy gun
 - More of a menace to the crew than to the enemy
 - During a hurricane and tidal wave in Savannah, GA, one was deposited inland in a cornfield—Federalists toast to the best gunboats in the world...on land!

Background to the Louisiana Purchase (1803)

- The Louisiana Territory and New Orleans had been claimed by Spain
- In 1800, the French military and political leader Napoleon Bonaparte secretly forced Spain to give the Louisiana Territory back to its former owner, France
 - Rumors of the transfer proved true when in 1802, Spain withdrew its right of American deposit under the Pinckney Treaty
- Napoleon hoped to restore the French empire in the Americas
- By 1803, however, Napoleon lost interest in this plan for two reasons

Napoleon loses interest in Louisiana territory

1. He needed to concentrate French resources on fighting England

- *Napoleon fears that if France loses to Britain, he might have to cede the land to Britain

- *Napoleon sells the land to use the money to fight Britain

2. A rebellion led by Toussaint l'Overture against French rule on the sugar-rich island of Santo Domingo had resulted in heavy French losses

- *Louisiana was to serve as a source of foodstuffs for the island

American interest in Louisiana

- Settlers in the western frontier depended on the Mississippi for the economic survival
 - Settlers clamored for government action
- Jefferson feared that so long as a foreign power controlled the river at New Orleans, the US risked entanglement in foreign affairs

Negotiations

- Jefferson sent ministers to France with instructions to offer up to \$10 million for both New Orleans and a strip of land extending from that port eastward to Florida
- If ministers failed in negotiations with the French, they were instructed to begin discussions with Britain for a US-British alliance
- Napoleon's minister offered to sell the ENTIRE Louisiana Territory for \$15 million—828,000 square acres at about 3 cents an acre!
- The surprised American ministers quickly went beyond their instructions and accepted

Constitutional predicament

- Jefferson and most Americans strongly approved of the Louisiana Purchase
 - Strict Constructionism—No clause in the Constitution explicitly stated that a president could purchase foreign land
 - He argues the president may purchase lands through his treaty powers outlined in the Constitution
- The Republican-dominated Senate quickly ratified the treaty

Consequences of Purchase

- The Louisiana more than doubled the size of the US
- It removed a foreign presence from the nation's borders (France)—avoids a possible war and entangling alliances with other European nations
- It guaranteed the extension of the western frontier to lands beyond the Mississippi
- It strengthened Jefferson's hopes of an agrarian future of independent farmers
- Politically, it increased Jefferson's popularity
- It showed the Federalists to be a weak, sectional party (New England)
- It established a pattern of the acquisition of foreign territory and peoples by purchase

Captain Meriwether Lewis and Lieutenant William Clark

- Spring 1804, Thomas Jefferson authorizes Lewis and Clark to explore the northern part of the Louisiana Territory—St. Louis through Rockies to Oregon coast
 - Shoshoni woman, Sacajewa
- Yields a rich harvest of scientific observations, maps, knowledge of Indians and hair-raising wilderness adventure stories
- Demonstrates the viability of an overland trail to the Pacific
 - Zebulon Pike explores southern portion of Louisiana Territory

Aaron Burr

- 1804—A Republican caucus (closed meeting) decided not to nominate Burr for a second term as vice president.
 - Federalist Conspiracy
 - Burr planned to win the governorship of NY in 1804, unite that state with the New England states, and then lead the states in secession
 - Hamilton exposed the plan and helped to defeat and foil the conspiracy

Aaron Burr

- Duel with Hamilton
 - Burr angered by insulting remark attributed to Hamilton
 - Burr challenged Hamilton to a duel
 - Burr fatally shot Hamilton
 - Incident deprived Federalists of their last great leader
- Trial for Treason
 - By 1806, Burr turned westward with a plan to take Mexico from Spain and possibly unite Louisiana under his rule
 - Jefferson ordered his arrest and trial for treason
 - Chief Justice John Marshall presided at trial
 - Jury acquitted Burr—based on no witnesses and narrow definition of treason

Jefferson elected to second term

- 1804—Jefferson rides a wave of popularity to a second term
 - 162 Republican electoral votes
 - 14 Federalist electoral votes

Napoleonic Wars and the US

- In 1803, France's Napoleon renews war with Britain
- The US benefits for two years
 - Commercial neutral carrier
- Setback for US (1805)
 - Battle of Trafalgar—One-eyed Horatio Lord Nelson, British, smashed combined French and Spanish forces off Spanish coast
 - *Ensures British dominance on seas
 - Battle of Austerlitz in Austria—Napoleon crushes Austrian and Russian armies
 - *Ensures French dominance on land---→STALEMATE!

Challenges to US neutrality

- Unable to hurt each other directly, France and Britain strike indirect blows
 - France and Britain attempt naval blockade of enemy ports
 - France and Britain regularly seize the ships of neutral nations and confiscate their cargoes
 - British government—Orders in Council—edicts close European ports under French control to foreign shipping, including American ships
 - Napoleon retaliated—ordered the seizure of all merchant ships entering British ports, including American ones
 - Americans view Britain as the chief offender since Britain ruled the seas
 - Most infuriating is the practice of impressment

Chesapeake-Leopard Affair

- American frigate, *Chesapeake*, attacked by British frigate, *Leopard*, about 10 miles off the coast of Virginia
 - British captain demanded surrender of 4 alleged deserters
 - American commander refused request
 - *Leopard* fired on the *Chesapeake*
 - 3 Americans killed; 18 wounded; 4 deserters dragged away
- London Foreign Office apologizes
- Americans want revenge
- Jefferson wishes to maintain neutrality and resorts to diplomatic and economic solutions to the crisis

Embargo Act of 1807

- Prohibited American ships from sailing to any foreign port—“peaceful coercion”
 - Jefferson hoped that the British would stop violating American neutrality rather than lose US trade
 - The plan backfired—Britain turned to South America for its goods and enforced its stronghold on the seas

Effects of Embargo Act of 1807

- It hurt the American economy
 - Merchant marines and shipbuilders of New England hurt
 - Southern and western farmers stockpile grains, cotton & tobacco
 - Depression so bad that New England threatens secession
 - Illicit trade mushroomed in 1808
 - Britain turned to South America for its goods
 - Jefferson attacked
- Federalist Party revived
 - Poll 47 electoral votes in 1808 up from 14 in 1804
 - Jefferson called for the repeal of the act in 1809
 - 3 days before he leaves office

Reasons for failure of Embargo Act

- Jefferson underestimates determination of Britain to defend seas and overestimates Britain's dependence on American foodstuffs
 - Bumper grain crops blessed British Isles
 - Latin American republicans open ports
- Napoleon controls most of Europe on land
 - He tightens belt
 - He continues to seize American ships and steal cargoes
- The Embargo Act was only in effect for 15 months and not enforced tightly enough

Unexpected Success of Embargo Act

- New England, with shipping tied up and imported goods scarce, reopened old factories and erected new ones
 - The foundations of modern American industrial might were laid behind the protective wall of the act
- New England manufacturing thrived

Non-Intercourse Act (1809)

- Replaces Embargo Act and reopens trade with all nations EXCEPT Britain and France