

# WASHINGTON'S PRESIDENCY

---

# POPULATION

---

- ✗ First official census in 1790—4 million
  - + Cities blossomed: Philadelphia, 42,000; New York, 33,000; Boston, 18,000; Charleston, 16,000; Baltimore, 13,000.
- ✗ Primarily rural- about 90%
- ✗ All but 5% lived east of the Appalachians
- ✗ Frontiersmen—KY, TN, OH—restive and dubiously loyal
- ✗ Mississippi River—Spanish control



### **George Washington Inaugural Button**

Rather than the familiar “Long Live the King,” this inaugural button reflects America’s new governmental structure by proclaiming “Long Live the President.”

- ✗ Unanimously elected by Electoral College
- ✗ He did not seek office
- ✗ Uses strength of character rather than arts of a politician to govern
- ✗ Inauguration—April 30, 1789 – Wall Street in NYC

# WASHINGTON FOR PRESIDENT

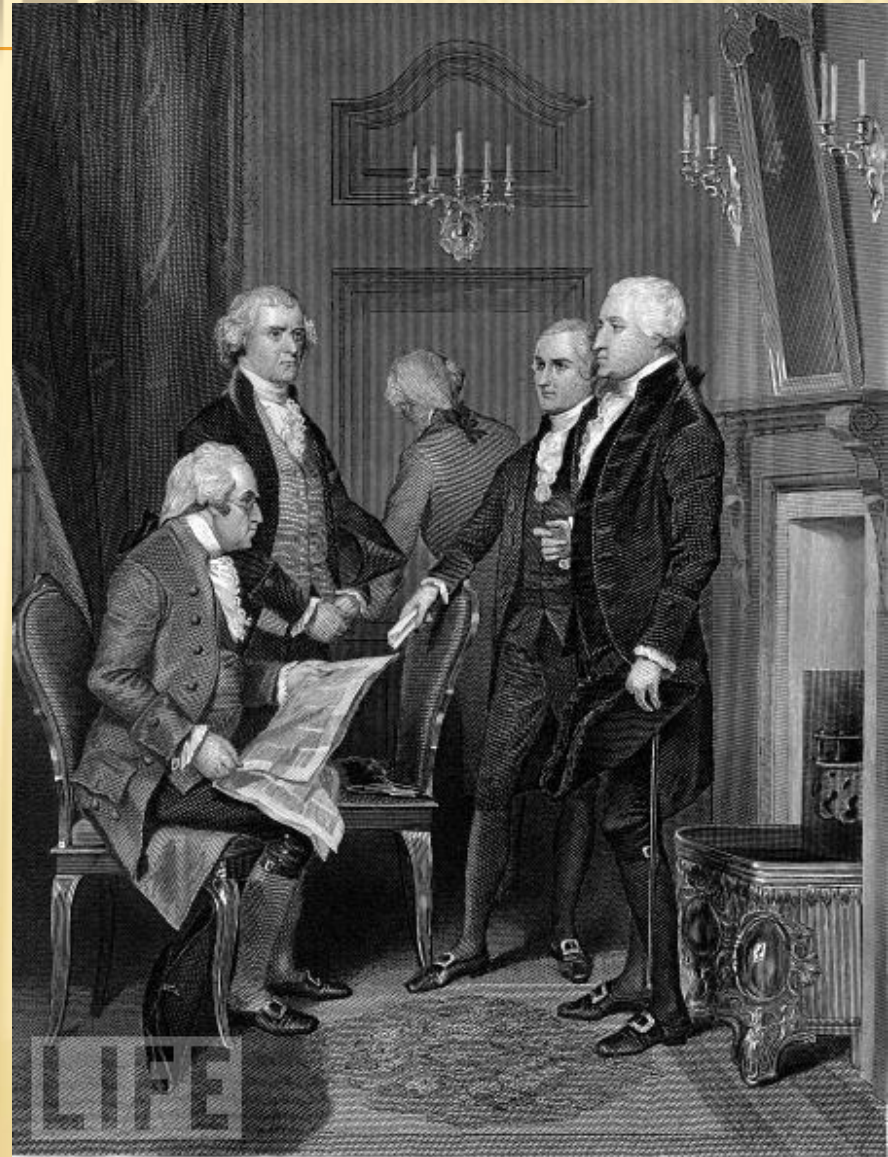


# DOMESTIC POLICIES

## ✕ Cabinet

- + Secretary of State: T. Jefferson
- + Secretary of Treasury: A. Hamilton
- + Secretary of War: Henry Knox
- + Attorney General: Edmund Randolph

\*Constitution allows for President to get written opinions from department heads... evolved into cabinet meetings



# MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS:

---

- ✗ Washing quickly sets precedents that will become hallmarks of the office
  - + Formality and absence of military marks
  - + Cabinet
  - + Legislative involvement
- ✗ Some details left out of the Constitution are immediately obvious
  - + Bill of Rights – James Madison
  - + Court System
  - + Tax & Economic Plan



## ✕ Federal Judiciary Act of 1789

---

- + Supreme Court—5 justices, 1 chief justice—John Jay
- + 13 district courts, 3 appeals courts
- + established a circuit court and district court in each judicial district
- + Supreme Court rules on decisions of state courts (appellate jurisdiction)
- + created the Office of Attorney General

**ORGANIZING THE  
FEDERAL COURT SYSTEM**

## ✗ Bill of Rights

---

- ✗ Madison writes 12 amendments – guides them through congress
  - + 2 failed ratification at the time
  - + One was finally ratified in 1992, the 27th Amendment
- ✗ Took effect December 15, 1791 after ratification by  $\frac{3}{4}$  States

# THE BILL OF RIGHTS

## ✖ Economic and Financial Policies

---

- + Hamilton as Secretary of the Treasury develops a plan
  - ✖ Assume state debts and pay off war debt
  - ✖ Create a US Bond system for:
    - ★ Raising money to pay the debts
    - ★ Directly invest wealthy Americans in the government to increase support
  - ✖ Create a Bank of the US to:
    - ★ Print and regulate currency
    - ★ Help regulate and stabilize the economy
  - ✖ Create a set of Tariffs on British imports
  - ✖ Establish an excise tax on Whiskey
- + Congress stalls due to southern state opposition

# HAMILTON'S ECONOMIC PLAN



## Hamilton's Compromise



```
graph TD; A([Hamilton's Compromise]) --> B([The South agreed to...]); A --> C([The North agreed to...]); B --> D([...allow the federal government to take over the debts of the northern states.]); C --> E([...move the capital of the U.S. to the South. (Washington, D.C.)]);
```

The South  
agreed to...

...allow the federal  
government to take  
over the debts  
of the northern states.

Total national  
debt = \$75  
million

The North  
agreed to...

...move the capital of  
the U.S. to the South.  
(Washington, D.C.)

## ✘ Establishing the Rule of Law

- + Whiskey excise unpopular w/small farmers on the western frontier
- + More than 500 armed Pennsylvanians attacked home of tax inspector General John Neville.
- + Washington raised and led an army of around 12,000 and put down the rebellion
- + HOWEVER, the tax was repealed after midterm elections, proving Hamilton's point – Rebellion unnecessary under the constitution.

# WHISKEY REBELLION

## Hamilton's Federalists

- Privileges for upper class
- Merchant class (New Englanders)
- Pro-British
- Strong central gov't
- Gov't support for business
- Loose construction (elastic clause)

## Jefferson's Dem-Rep's

- Sympathy for common people
- Yeoman Farmer (poor southerners)
- Pay off the national debt
- Pro-French
- Universal education
- Strict construction

# POLITICAL PARTIES



## ✖ French Revolution

- + Washington proclaims neutrality 1793 –without the approval of congress
- + Citizen Genêt
- + British impressments of American sailors and seizure of American ships raise tensions
- + Jay's treaty increased economic ties but failed to address impressments and seizure



**Edmond-Charles Genêt,  
French ambassador to the  
US during French  
Revolution.**

# POLITICIZED EVENTS

# WASHINGTON'S FAREWELL ADDRESS

- ✗ Provided his rationale for leaving office after two terms
- ✗ Expressed warnings against political factions and parties
- ✗ Expressed warnings against foreign entanglements
- ✗ Expresses the importance of public character and morality

*Friends, & Fellow-Citizens.*

*The period for a new election of a Citizen to administer the Executive Government of the United States, being now at hand, and the time actually arrived, when your thoughts must be employed in designating the person, who is to be clothed with that important trust for ~~four~~ <sup>four</sup> years, it appears to me proper, espec-*



# ELECTION OF 1796

---

- ✗ first contested American presidential election
- ✗ electors had two votes, both were for President; the runner-up elected Vice President (12<sup>th</sup> Amendment)
- ✗ Adams won with 71 electoral votes, but was followed by Thomas Jefferson with 68 votes
- ✗ The president was a Federalist, but the vice president was the leader of the Republican opposition



# JOHN ADAMS



- ✗ 62 years old
- ✗ Federalist
- ✗ Seen as stuffy & stubborn
- ✗ Educated and moral
- ✗ But tactless and no appeal to masses
- ✗ Hated by Hamilton who resigned Treasury

## Adams inherits Foreign problems:

---

- ✖ French hate Jay Treaty
- ✖ War ships seize American merchant vessels (around 300 by 1797)
- ✖ Refuse to acknowledge US envoy in Paris
- ✖ Adams attempts to avoid war
- ✖ Sends 3 envoys to Paris to talk with French minister Talleyrand
- ✖ They are approached by 3 go-betweens **X,Y, & Z**

# ADAM'S PRESIDENCY

# QUASI WAR

---

- ✗ *“Millions for defense but not one cent for tribute”*
- ✗ War preparations begin - **undeclared naval war** called the Quasi War (1798-1800)
  - + Adams sent new diplomats to resolve the crisis
  - + These are properly received and war is avoided
- ✗ Navy Department created. Three-ship navy expanded. US marine corps established. New army of 10,000 authorized.

## X, Y, Z AFFAIR



# With potential war comes trouble

---

## × Alien Acts:

- + Federalists Congress raises citizenship requirements from 5 years to 14
- + President authorized to deport dangerous foreigners during peacetime and imprison in wartime

## × Sedition Acts:

- + Anyone openly critical of government policy subject to fines & imprisonment (newspapers...)

# ALIEN & SEDITION ACTS

# Sedition

---

- ✗ Jeffersonian editors were indicted (10 tried, all convicted)
  - + Editor Matthew Lyon: Adams has “unbounded thirst for ridiculous pomp, foolish adulation, and selfish avarice.” – serves 4 mo’s in jail for this.
- ✗ Federalist controlled Supreme Court upholds acts
- ✗ Law allowed to expire in 1801.
- ✗ The Acts were popular with common people due to hysteria over possible war with France
- ✗ Federalists scored a Congressional victory, 1798-99

## RESULTS OF THE ACTS

## Foreshadowing...

---

- ✗ Jefferson worried about one-party dictatorship
- ✗ Secretly writes series of resolutions which inspire the:
  - + KY resolution
  - + VA resolution – Drafted by MADISON
- ✗ KY and VA legislatures resolved to not abide by Alien and Sedition Acts.
  - + argued Acts unconstitutional and therefore void (states' rights & strict constructionism)
- ✗ States can *nullify* and *interpose*

1798-99