



9.1 THE JEFFERSONIAN PRESIDENCY

THE ELECTION OF 1800	<p>The foreign and domestic crises of the 1790s gave rise to POLITICAL PARTIES, a concept the writers of the Constitution despised because they feared that factionalism would result in the Republic's demise.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The FEDERALISTS grew out of support for the Constitution in 1788. They dominated Congress and the presidency through the 1790s, supported initiatives to strengthen the economy and the federal government, and advocated a pro-British foreign policy. ■ The REPUBLICANS came together in opposition to the whiskey tax, Jay's Treaty, and the Alien and Sedition Acts. Representing a diverse coalition of farmers and southerners, they were united by an antifederalist suspicion of a powerful national government. In contrast to the Federalists, they advocated states rights and were pro-French in sentiment.
Politics Parties	<p>During the election of 1796, the Federalists and Republicans FORMALIZED THEIR ORGANIZATIONS and MOBILIZED SUPPORT AMONG VOTERS. By 1800, the labels Federalist and Republican denoted not only competing philosophies of government but also the proper names of political parties</p>
Tie in the Electoral College	<p>In 1800, John Adams faced competition from Republicans and his own Federalist Party. Not only did he lose the election, but a TIE IN THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE between Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr THREW THE ELECTION INTO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. There, ironically, through the influence of Hamilton, Jefferson was elected president in February, 1801, after thirty-seven separate ballots.</p>
An Orderly Transfer of Power	<p>Despite party strife and threats of civil war, CONSTITUTIONAL PROCEDURES ULTIMATELY WORKED, allowing a PEACEFUL TRANSFER OF POWER. The success of the Republicans, with their desire to return to the promises of the Declaration of Independence and a strict interpretation of the Constitution, constituted the "Revolution of 1800" according to Thomas Jefferson.</p>
JEFFERSON AS PRESIDENT Republican Virtue	<p>Jefferson believed his mission was to direct the nation back to the PRINCIPLES OF THE REVOLUTION, from which the Federalists had strayed. He believed the INDEPENDENT FARMER was the source of true freedom in America and that widespread landownership would make for a VIRTUOUS CITIZENRY. He had traveled widely in Europe, had seen the effects of industrialization on living conditions there, and thought an agricultural economy would preserve "happiness and permanence of government" in America:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Those who labor in the earth are the chosen people of God, if ever He had a chosen people . . . Corruption of morals in the mass of cultivators is a phenomenon of which no age nor nation has furnished an example. . . . While we have land to labor then, let us never wish to see our citizens occupied at a workbench, or twirling a distaff. . . . For the general operations of manufacture, let our workshops remain in Europe. . . . The loss by the transportation of commodities across the Atlantic will be made up in happiness and permanence of government.</i></p>
Reversal of Federalist Policies	<p>With faith in the common man, Jefferson strongly believed in universal suffrage, but thought education was a necessary prerequisite:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>...By that part of our plan which prescribes the selection of the youths of genius from among the classes of the poor, we hope to avail the State of those talents which nature has sown as liberally among the poor as the rich, but which perish without use, if not sought for and cultivated. But of all the views of this law none is more important, none more legitimate, than that of rendering the people the safe, as they are the ultimate, guardians of their own liberty</i></p> <p>As president, Jefferson reversed many of the programs of his Federalist predecessors, emphasizing instead simplicity and informality. To achieve economy in government, he CUT MILITARY SPENDING, ELIMINATED ALL FEDERAL INTERNAL TAXES, and drastically REDUCED THE</p>

<p>The Principal of Judicial Review</p>	<p>NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES in the executive branch.</p> <p>Within a few months of taking office, Jefferson became involved in a battle with the judicial branch. Infuriated by outgoing president John Adams's last minute appointment of "MIDNIGHT JUDGES," Jefferson denied many of their appointments. In a showdown between the executive and judicial branches, William Marbury brought suit against the executive branch for attempting to deny his judicial appointment. In the landmark decision <i>MARBURY V. MADISON</i>, Federalist Chief Justice John Marshall ruled that Marbury had a right to his appointment but that ordering Secretary of State Madison to make it would be unconstitutional. Marshall had sidestepped the confrontation but in the process ESTABLISHED THE CONCEPT OF JUDICIAL REVIEW.</p>
<p>The Louisiana Purchase</p>	<p>Although he had argued for a strict interpretation of the Constitution during the political debates of the 1790s, Jefferson supported a LOOSE INTERPRETATION when given an opportunity to double the size of the country with the PURCHASE OF LOUISIANA from Napoleon. Since the end of the French and Indian War in 1763, the Louisiana Territory had belonged to Spain. However, in 1800, Spain secretly ceded the territory back to France, a situation that aroused American fear since France was militarily strong. Jefferson sent an American delegation to France to try to purchase New Orleans, but when Napoleon realized that he could not defend the territory, he allowed the United States to purchase the entire Louisiana Territory in 1803 for \$15 million.</p> <p>The Louisiana Purchase added 828,000 square miles to the United States. (See map showing territorial growth up to 1810: http://www.jmu.edu/madison/louispurchase.htm.) Thirteen states or parts of states were eventually carved from the Louisiana Purchase Territory: Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Wyoming, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Colorado, and Montana.</p>
<p>The Lewis and Clark Expedition</p>	<p>Even before the purchase was finalized, Jefferson had been interested in the trans-Mississippi west. In 1803, he had arranged for his personal secretary, Meriwether Lewis, and Kentuckian William Clark to go on a SECRET JOURNEY into the area TO SATISFY HIS SCIENTIFIC INTERESTS. Congress had more traditional aims, asking the expedition TO SCOUT OUT LOCATIONS FOR MILITARY POSTS, TO INITIATE TRADE AGREEMENTS with the Indians, and TO SEEK A NORTHWEST PASSAGE waterway to the West. Lewis and Clark and their party reached the Pacific in November of 1805 and returned as heroes carrying invaluable information about the unknown West.</p>
<p>Western Expansion Creates Sectional Tensions</p>	<p>Fearing that western expansion would ultimately weaken northeastern power, some NEW ENGLAND FEDERALISTS TALKED OF SECESSION. AARON BURR, the former Republican vice president, CONSPIRED TO SEIZE POWER in the west and was TRIED FOR TREASON. However, Chief Justice John Marshall acquitted Burr. Rather than creating unity, the Republican's expansionist policies INCREASED SECTIONAL TENSIONS and gave new life to states' rights.</p>
<p>VOYAGES OF DISCOVERY</p>	<p>After exploring PBS Online's Lewis and Clark Web site (http://www.pbs.org/lewisandclark/) and reading the section entitled "Circa 1803," (http://www.pbs.org/lewisandclark/inside/idx_cir.html), describe the lifestyle, geographical knowledge, and rumors about the Western part of the North American continent at the time of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.</p> <p>The Jeffersonian Perspective (http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/7970/jefpcont.htm) provides commentary on today's social and political issues based on the writings of Thomas Jefferson. Some of the issues discussed include: animal rights, Microsoft and corporate equal rights, cloning humans in a free society, cultural diversity, educational elitism, morality and government, the O.J. Simpson verdict, religious fundamentalism v. democracy, school shootings and social disintegration, welfare and government assistance. Explore an issue that interests you and describe how Jefferson might have viewed the issue.</p>
<p>DISCUSSION QUESTIONS</p>	<p>Why was the election of 1800 so significant?</p> <p>Are Jefferson's views on republican virtue, agrarian society, and an educated citizenry relevant to American society today?</p> <p>What made Marbury v. Madison a landmark supreme court decision?</p>