**Presidency of George Washington**

George Washington became president in 1789. He then set up the first cabinet. It included:

1. Alexander Hamilton: Secretary of the Treasury
2. Thomas Jefferson: Secretary of State
3. Henry Knox: Secretary of War

When Washington came into office, there were many things going on in the country that needed to be addressed. THE BIGGEST PROBLEM FACING AMERICA WAS the debt from the American Revolution!

Since Hamilton was Secretary of the Treasury, he came up with his Financial Plan to help solve America’s finances. This ends up being one of the big arguments between the Federalists and the Democratic-Republicans (the old Anti-federalists).

Hamilton’s Financial Plan

1. Funding the Debt: He separated the debt into three different categories: foreign, domestic, and state.
   1. Foreign (money owed to other countries)-Hamilton wanted to: pay it all back at once
   2. Domestic (debt within a country)-America paid for the war by selling war bonds. Hamilton wanted to delay this payment.
   3. States (money that individual states owed to citizens and foreign countries) Hamilton wanted to ASSUME the individual state debt, a plan called assumption which would lump all the state debt into the national debt. The problem is that most southern states had already paid off their debts. As a compromise, the south got to choose the new capital of the U.S. (this is how Washington D.C. ended up in the south!)
2. National Bank:
   1. The Constitution did not give the national government the power to create a national bank. If they did make a bank, this would increase the power of the national government. This is an example of the different between STRICT and LOOSE interpretation of the Constitution.
      1. STICT: The national government can only do EXACTLY what is written in the constitution
      2. LOOSE: The national government has the power to do what is necessary and can INTERPRET the wording of the constitution to include broader items
   2. FEDERALISTS SUPPORT LOOSE INTERPRETATION!
3. Excise Tax (a tax on domestic goods)
   1. Hamilton decided to: put an excise tax on whiskey
   2. This is really going to hurt farmers. Whiskey was an important source of their income. Since the tax affects farmers, and most farmers were Democratic-Republican, this only made them angrier. This eventually leads to: the Whiskey Rebellion.
   3. The Whiskey Rebellion was a rebellion led by a group of angry farmers that was put down by the federal army. It demonstrated: the power of the new national government and that it intended to enforce its laws.
4. Democratic-Republican Response
   1. Funding of the debt:
      1. They felt: as though they had spent many of the last years taxed heavily and they wanted a break from harsh taxes
      2. Wanted: to pay back the debt gradually rather than all at once. They were also against taking on state debt.
   2. National Bank:
      1. They felt: that it would give the national government too much power
      2. Wanted: the majority of the power to remain in the states and not to give the national government any power that wasn’t in the Constitution
   3. Excise tax:
      1. They felt: this was a tax that was costing the Democratic-Republicans and benefiting the Federalists so it was not fair
      2. Wanted: Hamilton and the Federalists to implement something that would benefit them. No tax!

In addition to the financial plan, Democratic-Republicans also clashed with the Federalists on foreign policy

1. With France:

* America had made an agreement with France to: help them whenever either side got involved in war.
* However, once they were in a democratic revolution, under the advice of Hamilton, Washington: decided to declare America’s neutrality with the Proclamation of Neutrality (Proclamation of 1793)
  + Jefferson was: outraged. He knew we owed France for our independence and now that they were fighting for democracy, we should help.
  + However Washington believed: America needed to help itself and take care of its debt before we could become involved in another war

1. With England:

* England and America had not gotten along since: the American Revolution
* In order to boost trade, Washington decided to: sign a peace treaty with England known as Jay’s Treaty: the first peace with England since the Revolution.
  + The Democratic Republicans: were already angry about not helping France and now they are even angrier because we signed a peace treaty with France’s enemy
  + Now not only was America not helping the country they promised but: they are at peace with the country trying to keep democracy out of France

1. With Spain:
   * America and Spain were arguing over the border of Florida
   * They signed Pinckney’s Treaty
     1. America could: use the Mississippi River and New Orleans for trade
     2. Spain got: to keep Florida
     3. This made farmers: incredibly happy to have another profitable southern port

Other Important Issues:

* Judiciary Act of 1789: set up the Supreme Court and the other Federal courts and named John Jay the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
* Washington’s Farewell Address: he steps down after serving two terms, setting the precedent for only serving two terms and in a final address he warns the country against two things:
  + Foreign Alliances
  + Political Parties

**Presidency of John Adams**

Election of 1796

* President Washington didn’t run for a 3rd term
* Adams and Jefferson emerged as the front-runners
* Adams ended up with 71 electoral votes; Jefferson had 68…making Adams the president and Jefferson the vice president
* The 12 Amendment ratified in 1804, altered this process. It now allows for electors to cast two separate ballots; one for president and one for vice president.

President John Adams

* Inaugurated on March 4, 1797
* One of the biggest problems facing Adams was foreign relation issues with France
  + France believed that America owed them their independence and therefore wanted help in their war against Britain
  + When Washington decided to remain neutral with the Proclamation of Neutrality, France started IMPRESSING (attacking and seizing U.S. ships and forcing the merchants to serve in the French military) Americans in 1797. Within months, France had seized over 300 American ships.
  + Hamilton and the Federalists wanted war with France; Adams knew that Jefferson and the Democratic-Republicans did not. So, trying to keep the nation together, he tried to negotiate peace. At the same time, he also prepared for the worst.
  + XYZ Affair: When the Americans arrived to France to meet with the French foreign minister, they were kidnapped and held for ransom by agents X, Y, & Z of the French minister. They sent word back to Adams that the only way the delegates could meet with the minister is if America would pay $250,000 in a bribe, and then loan the French $12 million for their current war. Adams said no…the Americans got sent back and then this led to an undeclared naval war with France.
  + The XYZ Affair led to a major crisis at home: Congress was divided between the Democratic Republicans who felt like the Federalists were trying to force them into a war with their greatest ally, France. The Federalists thought that the Democratic Republicans were violent radicals who wanted to initiate a French-style revolution leading to massive bloodshed.
  + Convention of 1800: This meeting was the official end of the alliance from 1778 between America and France
  + This led to the Alien and Sedition Acts
* The other major problem Adams had to deal with was the growing split between the Democratic Republicans and the Federalists. He truly believed the nation was growing restless and violent with led to the passage of the Alien and Sedition Acts. They had four parts:
  + The Naturalization Act increased the amount of time that it took a person to become a U.S. citizen from 7 years to 14 years (Most new immigrants to the U.S. were Democratic Republicans…this would prevent more votes going to DR candidates)
  + The Alien Act allowed the government to deport any foreigner they considered to be a threat to the U.S.
  + The Alien Enemies Act allowed the government to imprison any foreigner they considered to be a threat to the U.S.
  + The Sedition Act made it a crime to criticize the federal government. You could be put in prison or fined up to $5,000—it sent reporters, newspaper publishers, and even a congressman to jail.
  + This limit on civil liberties sent the situation between the Federalists and the DRs on fire and it was spiraling out of control.
* Two states, Virginia and Kentucky, issued their own papers called the Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions saying that they would nullify (or disregard, refuse to follow), the Alien and Sedition Acts within their states. These papers were written by Jefferson and Madison…Hamilton was ready to send in the troops into these states
* Adams realized he had to fix the current situation and so took action
  + Fired two cabinet members that he thought were too loyal to the fiery Hamilton
  + Sent another peace negotiating group to France
  + Single-handedly ended the naval war with France
* Even for this last bit of success, Adams will still be known as the great political mind who couldn’t quite handle the responsibility of the job as president.

**Presidency of Thomas Jefferson**

Election of 1800

* The nation was in disarray after the Presidency of John Adams due to the fact that the division between the DRs and the Federalists had grown so deep.
* The election was between Adams, Jefferson, and Aaron Burr. John Adams didn’t stand a chance; Burr and Jefferson received the same amount of electoral votes. As it says in the Constitution, whenever there is not a clear winner in the presidential election, the decision goes to the House of Representatives.
  + This would be a test to the Constitution and how well it worked
  + Alexander Hamilton convinced the House to vote for Thomas Jefferson even though they were political enemies.
  + This would one of the big reasons leading to the duel between Hamilton and Burr that would lead to the Hamilton’s death.
  + THE ELECTION OF 1800 PROVED THAT THE CONSITUTION WAS A WORKING DOCUMENT
* Adams lost due to the fact that he had made a lot of enemies with the Alien and Sedition Acts and the XYZ Affair…he was decisive, which leads to criticism.

Jefferson comes into office

* To help ease the tension between the two political parties, Jefferson issues the statement “we are all Republicans, we are all Federalists” at his inauguration.
* One of his first acts as president is to free all of the people in prison due to the Alien and Sedition Acts
* He tried to balance the budget: he cut the size of the government and the military and also took away many taxes, including the whiskey tax…

His first term

* Starts off with a bang: *Marbury v. Madison*
  + John Adams left office and appointed numerous judgeships in the final hours of his presidency (Judges give presidents long lasting power because presidents pick people that agree with their political philosophy, and judges keep their position for life)
  + However, since Adams made these appointments at the end of his presidency, not all of them could be delivered by his Secretary of State, John Marshall. Those appointments were left on the desk of the new Secretary of State, James Madison.
  + Madison did not want to deliver the appointments and Jefferson agreed with him and ordered Madison to get rid of the appointments.
  + Marbury, one of the appointees who did not receive the official appointed sued Madison and Jefferson for the papers.
  + The Supreme Court listened to the case and decided:
    - Morally, Jefferson should turn over the appointments
    - However, the Constitution did not give the Supreme Court the power to tell the Executive branch what to do
    - In making this ruling, the Supreme Court INTERPRETED the Constitution, therefore starting the principle of JUDICIAL REVIEW, or the power the Supreme Court to interpret the meaning of the Constitution
* Expanding the country: The Louisiana Purchase
  + The Louisiana Territory had recently been given back to the French by the Spanish in 1802. Spain had been weak and so Jefferson had not worried about them controlling that land, however, the growing French government did worry him.
  + On a whim, Jefferson sent James Monroe to France to try and see if Napoleon would allow the America to buy New Orleans. The French shocked Monroe by offering to sell the whole Louisiana territory for just $15 million. The Senate approved the purchase which added 828,000 square miles or (529,920,000 acres) to the country
  + The problem is, remember, that Jefferson believed in STRICT interpretation of the Constitution, or that the national government should not extend their powers beyond what is strictly written within the Constitution. The power needed to make the Louisiana Purchase happen, wasn’t within the Constitution, Jefferson used loose interpretation, and he was viewed by some as a hypocrite
  + Lewis and Clark were sent by Thomas Jefferson to explore and survey the Louisiana Purchase. They sent back documents, maps, journals, letters, and even animals detailing all of the new land gained for the U.S. They were joined by Sacagawea, a Native American girl who had been kidnapped from her tribe and given as a guide to Lewis and Clark. She proved to be an invaluable asset to Lewis and Clark and she was able to keep their relationships with the Natives amicable.
  + Zebulon Pike was sent to explore the Southwestern part of the United States. He also kept a map and journals, however, while Lewis and Clark were respected by the Natives for the most part, Pike was captured and thrown into a Mexican prison and all of his documents were confiscated. He recreated all that he had seen onto secondary documents.

His Second Term

His first term had gone so well, there was no way that his second term could live up to it. His second term had many trials, and put Jefferson in a different frame of mind by the end, so much so that he left politics afterwards

* Impressment: The British and the French had once again begun impressing American merchants, thousands of Americans were kidnapped by the British alone.
* Chesapeake Incident: when the U.S. merchant ship was stopped by the British in 1807, they refused to allow the British to come onto it to seize goods. When they did this, the British opened fire on them.
* Jefferson passed the Embargo Act which cut off all of Europe from American trade with the rationale that the British couldn’t attack American ships if they were not in their waters headed to Europe.
  + This only hurt America, cutting average income by 50%
  + One of Jefferson’s last acts as President was to repeal the Embargo Act
* Many Americans were restless for more action to be taken against the British

**Presidency of James Madison**

1. Causes of the War of 1812- “Mr. Madison’s War”
   1. Continued impressments
   2. Belief that England was aiding and funding Native American attacks
   3. Ending of the Non-Intercourse Act, leading to another embargo
   4. Growth of the War-Hawks
      1. Led by: Henry Clay and John C. Calhoun
      2. Wanted war because:
         1. To expand the land of the U.S.
         2. Legitimize their attacks on Native Americans
         3. End impressments
   5. Tecumseh’s leadership of Native Americans. Tecumseh was a Native American who was against signing over land to the U.S. government. He was trying to get the Native Americans to united into a confederacy against the U.S. government to prevent American expansion.
2. Start of War
   1. June of 1812: Congress declares war on Britain
      1. New England and some of the Mid-Atlantic states were opposed to the war
      2. The South and the West were strongly for it
   2. American Invasion of Canada
      1. War Hawks thought it would last 2-4 weeks
      2. Lasted for 2 ½ years; with nothing gained for either side
   3. Beginning in early 1813, the tide of the war changes in American favor
      1. Victories at sea
      2. Invasion of Canada and the burning of their capital
      3. Battle of Thames: Tecumseh dies
   4. 1814
      1. August
         1. Britain invades at the Chesapeake Bay and marches to Washington
         2. 5000 troops march in the city and burn government buildings
            1. White House and the Capital almost burned to the ground
            2. Retaliation for our burning of their capital in Canada
         3. Then the British head north
      2. September
         1. The invasion of Baltimore, MD
         2. Fort McHenry defends the city
         3. Francis Scott Key writes the “Star-Spangled Banner” as he watches the night sky during the battle over Baltimore
         4. The British retreat
      3. December
         1. Hartford Convention
            1. Federalists in the North gather in Hartford, Connecticut to discuss their dissent towards the war
            2. Threaten succession from the union if the war continues
            3. They do not end doing anything really except sending a message of their discontent
         2. Treaty of Ghent is signed ending the War of 1812. No property or land changes ownership.
      4. January of 1815
         1. Word of the treaty has not gotten back to America
         2. Battle of New Orleans
            1. British navy lands at New Orleans
            2. General Jackson is waiting for them and he opens fire; his unit causes between 2,000-3,000 British casualties; America suffers 80
            3. America demolishes the most impressive navy in the world at this time
            4. Most glorious and decisive battle in war and probably American history up until that point
      5. Immediate outcomes of the war
         1. Neither country won
         2. America gave up any claim to Canada
         3. Britain agreed to abandon all aid to the Native Americans
         4. A commission was set up to determine the exact boundary for U.S. and Canada
         5. End of Federalist Party due to their embarrassment over the Hartford Convention
         6. Expansionism