

The Early American Republic

1789 - 1800

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November 2015



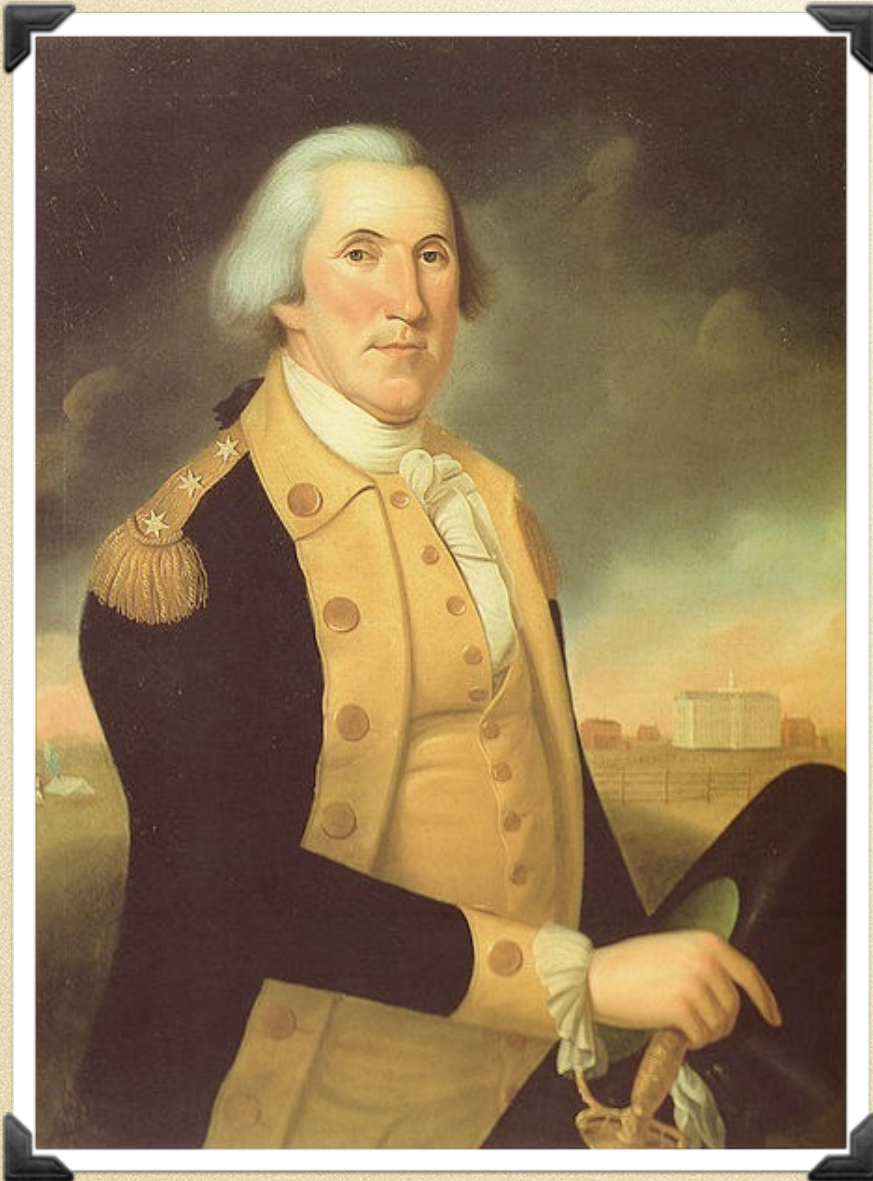
Gen. George Washington at Trenton
John Trumbull (1792)

North America in 1783



At the time of the Constitutional Convention, the United States was a small nation surrounded by foreign nations

Challenges faced as President



- ❑ He is the model for all future presidents -- his actions set precedents
- ❑ Had to create federal courts
- ❑ Had to select advisors -- his cabinet
- ❑ Had to deal with America's financial problems
- ❑ Had to deal with Native Americans
- ❑ Had to guide America's Foreign Policy - Hopefully avoid getting dragged into the ongoing conflict between England and France.

Financial Hardships

The total cost of fighting the Revolutionary War has been estimated at \$21.6 billion (in 2010 currency)

http://allthingsliberty.com/2015/02/how-was-the-revolutionary-war-paid-for/#_edn14

After the war, America's economy fell and the U.S. headed toward bankruptcy - unable to pay its debts

Alexander Hamilton, the Secretary of the Treasury, was in charge of fixing America's economy



Hamilton's Financial Plan

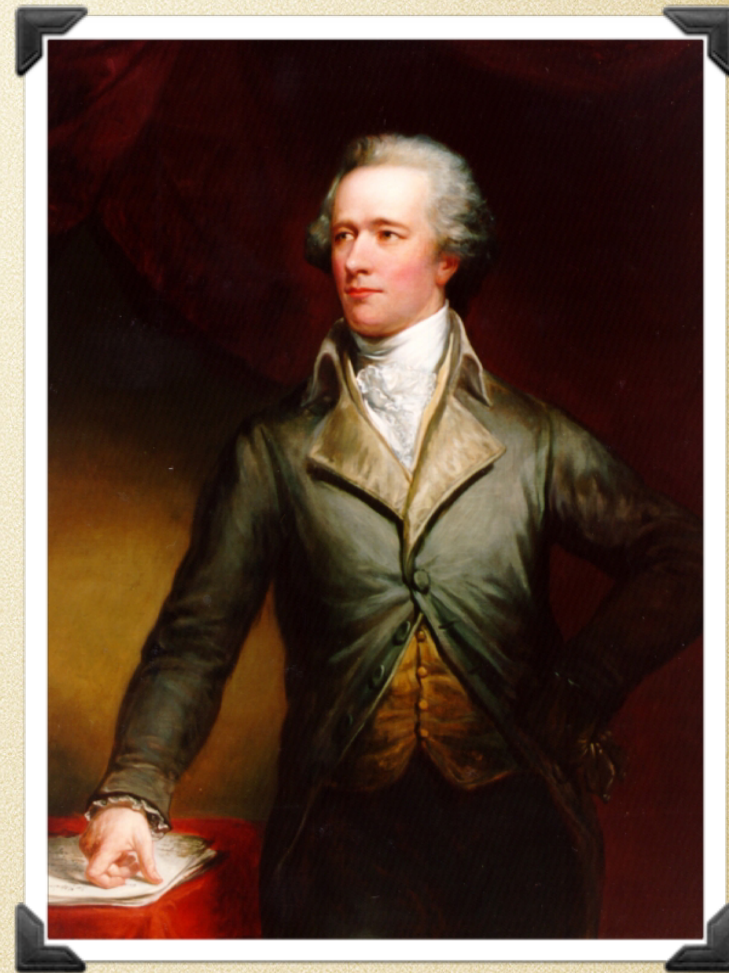
The U.S. government will pay-off all debts from the Revolutionary War - both national debt and state debts — Assumption Policy

A tariff was placed on goods coming into the United States.

A tax was placed on whiskey made in the United States.

Created a national bank

- a place where the government could safely deposit money
- provide loans to businesses



Thomas Jefferson



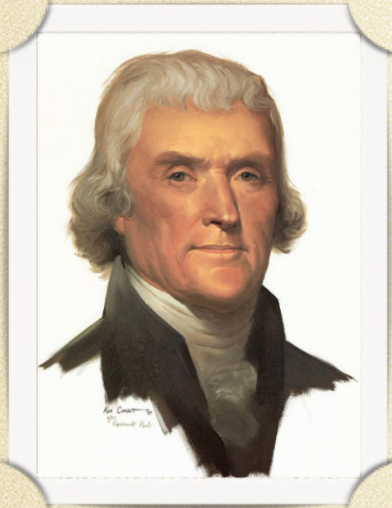
Jefferson was a member of Washington's Cabinet - serving as Secretary of State

Jefferson believed in a strict interpretation of the Constitution.

The national government could only do what was stated in the Constitution.

Jefferson disagreed with Hamilton's plan - gave the government too much power

Guiding America's Foreign Policy



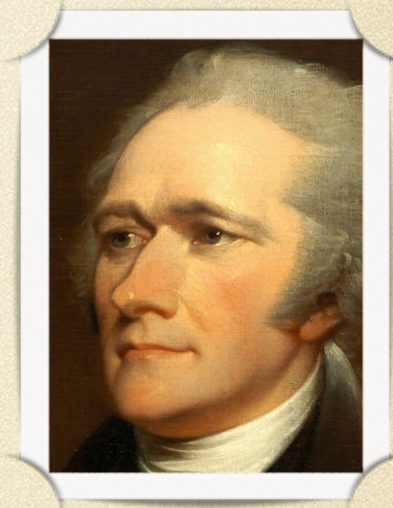
Jefferson

Inspired by
events in France

Wanted a strong
relationship
with France



French Revolution
began in 1789



Hamilton

Horrified by
events in France

Wanted a strong
relationship
with England

Washington generally supported Hamilton over Jefferson

*Hamilton's Financial Plan was put into effect

- * Other Key Actions (**Precedents**)

- * **Judiciary Act of 1789, SUPREME COURT**
- * Set up "**Cabinet**" (advisors, "unwritten")
- * Sent troops to put down Whiskey Rebellion in western PA

- * **ADVICE UPON LEAVING OFFICE**

(**His Farewell Address**):

- * **No permanent foreign alliances**
- * **No political parties**
- * **President should not be long term**



Washington's Farewell Address

Letter written to “The People of the United States”

It was first published in a newspaper on Sept. 19, 1796

It is our true policy to steer clear of permanent alliance with any portion of the foreign world



George Washington
by Gilbert Stuart (1796)

John Adams, President 1797-1801



John Adams
by Gilbert Stuart (1800)

Adams, a federalist, was V.P. during Washington's presidency

Struggled to find acceptable response to the ongoing struggle between Britain & France

His policy of "avoiding war" was criticized by many, and Adams did not handle criticism very well

John Adams, President 1797-1801

Naturalization Act (1798) - Lengthened the residency requirement to become a U.S. citizen from 5 to 14 years

Alien Act (1798) - Gave the federal government greater power to deport foreigners.

Sedition Act (1798) - Prohibited the publication of insults directed toward the president or members of Congress. Those who broke this law could be jailed (and many were)!

Those who opposed Adams felt that these laws were unconstitutional violations of people's rights. . . . the actions of a federal government that had become too powerful

Presidential Election of 1800 - 1st election with Political Parties

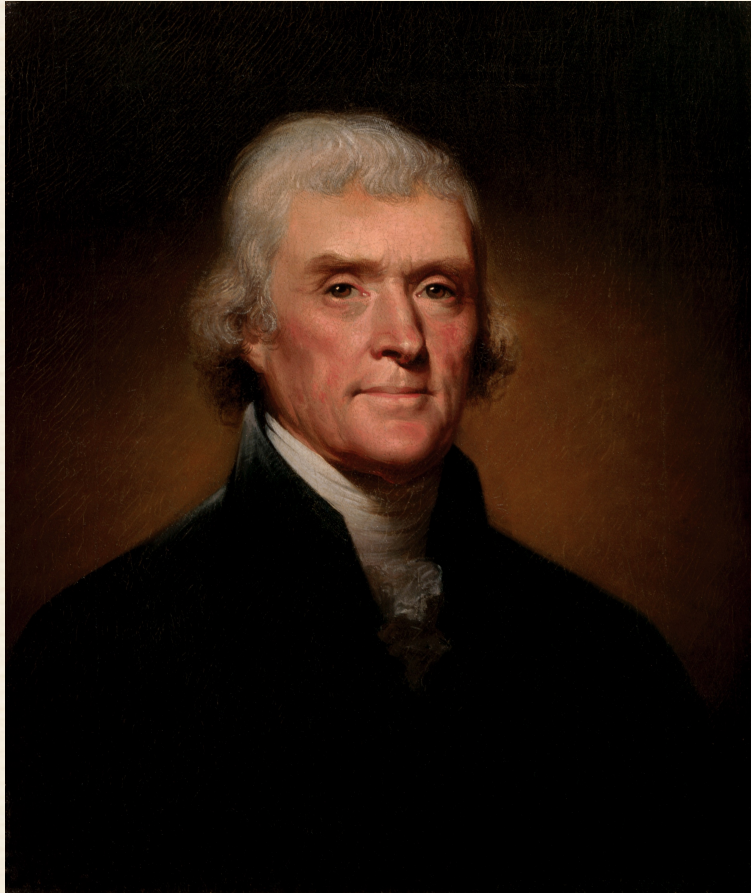
Federalists

- Strong Central Gov.
- Loose interpretation of the Constitution
- National Bank
- Industrial, Urban Economy, Big Business
- Pro-British
- Wealthy, Educated MEN

Democratic-Republicans

- State's Rights
- Strict Interpretation of the Constitution
- Farming, Agrarian
- Against Tariffs
- Oppose National Bank
- Pro-French
- Common Man

The Revolution of 1800



Thomas Jefferson

by Rembrandt Peale (1800)

U.S. President 1801-1809

Leader of the
Democratic-Republicans

Opposed the Federalists.
Wanted to limit the power of the
national government - more power
to the states & people

To achieve goals, taxes and
government spending were cut

Reduced military to 3,000 soldiers

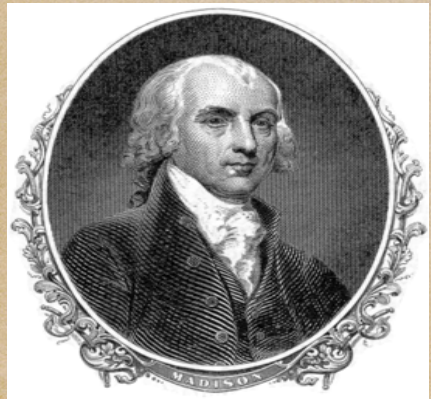
The Virginia Dynasty



- Thomas Jefferson: 1801-1809



- James Madison: 1809-1817



- James Monroe: 1817-1825