Basic US History

Unit 4 - The New Nation

Adams and Jefferson

**Washington Struggles to Stay Neutral**

When Britain and France went to war in 1793, some Americans sympathized with France. Others supported Britain. Washington hoped that the United States could stay neutral and issued the Proclamation of Neutrality, which prohibited Americans from fighting in the war and barred French and British warships from American ports. Neutrality, however, was difficult to maintain. The British captured American ships that traded with the French. Then, they forced the American crews into the British navy. Americans were outraged by this practice of **impressment**.

Washington sent John Jay, chief justice of the United States, to make a treaty with the British. In Jay’s Treaty, the British agreed to withdraw from American soil, but there was no mention of impressment or British interference with American trade. Few Americans approved of this treaty. Washington also found fault with it but believed it would end the crisis. After fierce debate, the Senate approved Jay’s Treaty in a close vote.

Jay’s Treaty specified that the British would

A. stop impressments of American sailors.

B. withdraw from American soil.

C. turn over their forts to Americans.

D. stop interfering with American trade.

True or False

Jay’s Treaty was very unpopular with many Americans.

**Pinckney’s Treaty with Spain**

Spanish leaders, nervous about Jay’s Treaty, feared that the United States and Great Britain would now work together against Spain in North America. Washington sent U.S. diplomat Thomas Pinckney to Spain to settle their differences. In 1795, Pinckney’s Treaty gave the Americans free navigation of the Mississippi River and the right to trade at New Orleans.

**The Presidential Election of 1796**

In the Election of 1796, Federalists chose John Adams and Charles Pinckney and Republicans chose Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr. Adams won 71 electoral votes, mostly from New England, winning the election. Jefferson finished second with 68 votes, mostly from the South. Under the rules of the Constitution at that time, the person with the highest number of electoral votes – Adams – would be President. The person with the second-highest electoral vote total—Jefferson—would become vice president. So in this election, the two men who had run against each other were now President and Vice President – working together(?)!

Which treaty resulted from Spanish fears that the United States and Great Britain would work against them in North America?

A. Pinckney’s Treaty C. Jay’s Treaty

B. Treaty of the Northwest Territory D. Treaty of Greenville

**The XYZ Affair**

The nation was in the middle of a dispute with France when Adams took office. The French viewed Jay’s Treaty as an American attempt to help the British in their war with France. To punish the United States, the French seized American ships that carried cargo to Britain.

President Adams sent a team to Paris to try to resolve the dispute in the fall of 1797. Three French agents met the Americans and demanded a bribe and a loan in order for them to meet with France. The Americans refused. Adams was furious. In his report to Congress, Adams used the letters X, Y, and Z in place of the French agents’ names. As a result, the event came to be called the XYZ affair.

**Alien and Sedition Acts**

After the XYZ affair, many Americans were angered by foreign attempts to influence their government. They became more suspicious of **aliens**—residents who are not citizens. Some Americans questioned whether aliens would remain loyal if the US went to war with France.

In response to these concerns, Federalists passed the Alien and Sedition Acts in 1798. **Sedition** (sih • DIH • shuhn) means activities aimed at weakening the government. The Alien and Sedition Acts allowed the president to imprison aliens. The president could also **deport**—send out of the country— those thought to be dangerous. President Adams was a strong supporter of these laws.

The Alien and Sedition Acts referred to activities

A. aimed at weakening the government

B. that protected the nation’s security

C. that invited aliens into the country

D. designed to prevent immigration

**Domestic and Foreign Affairs**

Democratic-Republicans saw the Alien and Sedition Acts as Federalist **tyranny**, or abuse of their power. Madison and Jefferson wrote statements of protest that the Virginia and Kentucky legislatures passed as resolutions. The Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions claimed that the Alien and Sedition Acts violated the Constitution. They declared that the states should not put them into action. The Kentucky Resolution further said that states could **nullify** (NUH • luh • fy)—or legally overturn—federal laws they thought were unconstitutional.

Meanwhile, the Federalists urged Adams to declare war on France. Adams, knowing that the U.S. was not prepared for war, resisted this pressure. Instead, he sent a representative to seek peace with France. In 1800 the French agreed to stop their attacks on American ships. This agreement was unpopular with those who wanted war and hurt Adams’s chance for reelection.

**The Election of 1800**

In the election of 1800, Federalists supported President Adams for a second term and Charles Pinckney for vice president. Republicans nominated Thomas Jefferson for president and Aaron Burr as his running mate.

According to the Constitution, electors cast the ballots that actually elect the president and vice president in the Electoral College. Each state has as many electoral votes as it has members of Congress. Electors were to cast two ballots—the candidate with the most votes became president, and the candidate with the next-largest number of votes became vice president.

In 1800, 73 Jefferson and Burr got the same number of votes. Because of the tie vote, the House of Representatives had to decide the election. In the House, Federalists tried to keep Jefferson from becoming president by supporting Burr. For 35 ballots, the election remained tied. Finally, one Federalist decided not to vote for Burr.

Because no one wanted to see another tie between a presidential and vice-presidential candidate, Congress passed the Twelfth Amendment to the Constitution in 1803. From then on, electors cast one of their votes for president and the other for vice president.

According to the Twelfth Amendment, to prevent a tie between a presidential and vice-presidential candidate, the electors

A. cast one vote for president and one for vice president

B. choose the president and the Senate chooses the vice president

C. appoint the person with the most popular votes president

D. no longer choose the president

**Jefferson As President**

President Thomas Jefferson had strong ideas about government and he surrounded himself with people who shared similar views. Jefferson reduced the national debt and cut down on military expenses. He also limited the number of federal government workers to a few hundred people. He believed that these changes were needed to make the United States a great nation.

What is one way Jefferson lowered the national debt?

A. cutting military spending

B. refusing a salary

C. lowering the number of people in Congress

D. raising taxes

**Judiciary Act of 1801**

After the election and before Jefferson took office, the Federalists passed the Judiciary Act of 1801that set up a system of courts. John Adams used this act to make hundreds of appointments during his last days as president. In this way, Adams blocked Jefferson from making appointments and made sure the Federalists controlled the courts.

Adams’s appointments could not take effect until these last-minute appointees, known as “midnight judges,” received certain official papers, called commissions. When Jefferson became president, some of these appointees had not yet received their commissions. Jefferson told Secretary of State James Madison not to deliver them.

**The Growing Power of the Supreme Court**

One of the appointees who did not get his commission was William Marbury. He asked the Supreme Court to force its delivery. The Court said it did not have the **jurisdiction** (jur • iss • DIK • shuhn)—the legal authority —to force delivery of Marbury’s commission. Marbury had argued that an act of Congress gave the Court such authority, but the Court ruled that that act violated the Constitution.

The ruling in *Marbury* v. *Madison* affected much more than William Marbury’s career. In his opinion, Chief Justice John Marshall established the principle of **judicial review**: the judicial branch can declare laws unconstitutional. In short, Marshall claimed for the courts the power to find acts of other branches unconstitutional. Judicial review is a key check on the legislative and executive branches.

**Westward, Ho!**

In 1800 the territory of the United States extended as far west as the Mississippi River. The area west of the river—known as the Louisiana Territory—belonged to Spain. The Louisiana Territory was an enormous area of land, stretching south to the city of New Orleans and west to the Rocky Mountains.

Many pioneers set up farms along the Upper Mississippi River. They needed access to the Mississippi to transport their crops to markets. Their goods traveled down the Mississippi to New Orleans, where workers loaded them onto other ships bound for markets on the East Coast. The Spanish controlled the region, but they allowed the Americans to sail on the Lower Mississippi and trade in New Orleans. For the western farmers, this agreement was vital to their economic survival.

New Orleans was important to settlers because

A. without it, they had no way to ship their goods

B. they passed through the city on their way up the Mississippi River

C. they made money from taxes collected in the city

D. it was the capital of the new territory

**The French Threat**

In 1802, Spain and France agreed to transfer the Louisiana Territory and West Florida to France. The agreement between Spain and France posed a serious threat to the United States. French control would put American trade along the Mississippi River at risk. Congress authorized Robert Livingston, the new minister to France, to offer as much as $2 million for New Orleans and West Florida in order to gain control of the territory.

True or False

In 1802, the Louisiana Territory was transferred from Spain to France.

**Napoleon and Santo Domingo**

France’s leader, Napoleon Bonaparte, saw the Caribbean island of Santo Domingo as an important naval base from which he could control a Western empire. This empire would never exist. Toussaint L’Ouverture (too • SAN loo • vuhr • TOOR) led enslaved Africans in Santo Domingo in a revolt against the island’s plantation owners. After fierce fighting, the rebels won and declared the colony an independent republic. By 1804, the French were driven out of Santo Domingo. The country took its original name, Haiti.

**An Expanding Nation**

Napoleon had a problem: he needed money to finance his war against Britain. In order to solve his money problem, he decided to sell the Louisiana Territory (without Santo Domingo, Napoleon had little use for Louisiana). The new territory would provide plenty of cheap land for farmers for future generations and give the United States control of the Mississippi River. After a few days of negotiation, the parties agreed on a price of $15 million. The Senate approved the purchase in October 1803. The purchase of the Louisiana Territory doubled the size of the United States.



**The Lewis and Clark Expedition**

Jefferson wanted to learn more about the new territory he had just acquired. He persuaded Congress to sponsor an expedition west of the Mississippi to gather information about the new land. Jefferson chose his 28-year-old secretary Meriwether Lewis to head the expedition. William Clark, a friend of Lewis’s, became the 32 year-old co-leader of the expedition.

Lewis and Clark assembled a crew of expert sailors, gunsmiths, carpenters, scouts, and a cook. Two men of mixed Native American and French heritage and a Shoshone woman named Sacagawea (SA • kuh • juh • WEE • uh) joined their group as guides and interpreters. In the spring of 1804, the expedition left St. Louis and worked its way up the Missouri River. After 18 months and nearly 4,000 miles, Lewis and Clark reached the Pacific Ocean. The explorers had collected valuable information about people, plants, animals, and the geography of the West. Perhaps most important, their journey inspired people to move westward.

One of the goals of the Lewis and Clark expedition was to

A. negotiate a deal to buy the land from Native Americans

B. build forts

C. find the “Northwest Passage”

D. decide how much the land was worth

Who was Sacagawea?

A. a Shoshone guide for Lewis and Clark

B. William Clark’s enslaved person

C. a Native American leader that the Lewis and Clark expedition met

D. one of the members of Zebulon Pike’s second expedition

**Pike’s Expedition**

Lieutenant Zebulon Pike led two expeditions west between 1805 and 1807. He traveled through the Upper Mississippi River valley and into present-day Colorado. In Colorado, he found a snowcapped mountain he called Grand Peak, known today as Pikes Peak. From Pike’s travels, Americans learned about the Great Plains and Rocky Mountains. Pike also mapped part of the Rio Grande and traveled across northern Mexico and what is now southern Texas.

Americans learned about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from Zebulon Pike's expeditions.

A. the Pacific Northwest

B. all of the Louisiana Territory

C. the Rocky Mountains and the Great Plains

D. present-day Colorado and present-day Oregon