

# 1 The Early Republic

## TERMS & NAMES

tariff

*Marbury v. Madison*

Louisiana Purchase

Tecumseh

Monroe Doctrine

## MAIN IDEA

The United States faced great challenges in its early years.

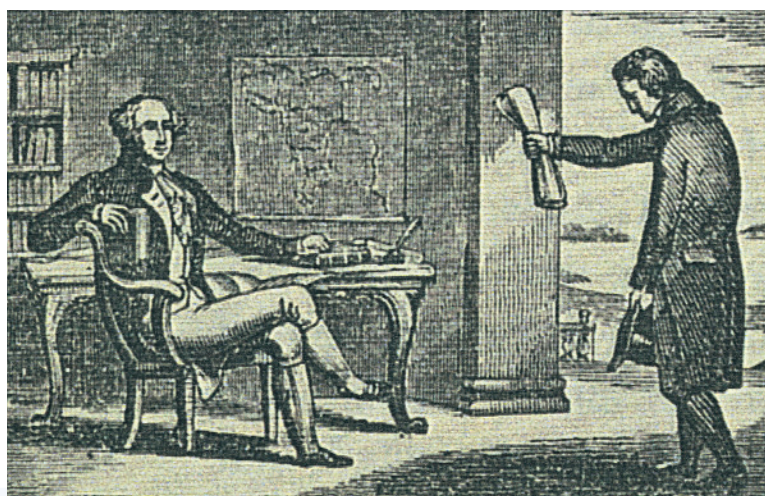
## WHY IT MATTERS NOW

Early policies and actions helped set a course for the nation.

## ONE AMERICAN'S STORY

Charles Thomson had known George Washington for many years. Thomson had served as secretary of the Continental Congress when delegates from the colonies first met in Philadelphia in 1774.

Now, 15 years later, on April 14, 1789, he had come to Mount Vernon, Washington's home, with a letter announcing Washington's election as the nation's first president. Before giving Washington the letter, Thomson made a short speech.



Charles Thomson delivers the letter to Washington announcing his election as president.

## A VOICE FROM THE PAST

I have now Sir to inform you that . . . your patriotism and your readiness to sacrifice . . . private enjoyments to preserve the liberty and promote the happiness of your Country [convinced the Congress that you would accept] this important Office to which you are called not only by the unanimous votes of the Electors but by the voice of America.

Charles Thomson, quoted in Washington's Papers, Library of Congress

As you will read in this section, Washington accepted the honor and the burden of his new office. He guided the nation through its early years.

## The Washington Presidency

As the nation's first president, Washington faced many difficult tasks. One of the most challenging problems was managing the economy. The country had to repay war debts of more than \$52 million. To win the respect of both foreign countries and its own citizens, the new nation had to show that it could manage its budget.

The job of creating an economic plan fell to Alexander Hamilton, the new secretary of the treasury. Hamilton believed in a strong central government that supported business and industry. Hamilton's plan called for the federal government to pay off all war debts. It also called for **tariffs**—taxes on imported goods—to raise money and encourage the growth of

## AMERICA'S HISTORY MAKERS



**GEORGE WASHINGTON**  
1732–1799

At the age of 16, George Washington worked as a surveyor, setting land boundaries in the wilderness. He learned to handle hardship by hunting for food and sleeping outdoors.

In the French and Indian War, Washington had many brushes with death. Yet he wrote, "I heard the bullets whistle, and, believe me, there is something charming in the sound."

That war made him the most famous American officer. People loved him for his courage. As commander of the Continental Army, Washington's popularity helped unite Americans.

**How did Washington's military record prepare him to lead the nation?**

American industry. In addition, it called for the creation of a national bank that could make loans and issue currency. Hamilton's plan helped stabilize the U.S. economy and increase the power of the federal government.

In 1794, a challenge to federal taxes arose on the frontier. A group of Pennsylvania farmers refused to pay a tax on whiskey. The farmers beat up a tax collector and threatened other attacks. Washington sent troops to put down this Whiskey Rebellion, as the event was known. In doing so, he demonstrated the power and authority of the government.

## Relations with Native Americans and Other Nations

Another challenge facing the new government was how to control the Northwest Territory, the land between the Ohio River and Canada. Britain had given up its claim on this region after the American Revolution but still kept troops there. In addition, Native American groups hoped to set up an independent nation in the territory with British support.

As white American settlers moved into the Ohio Valley, they clashed with Native Americans. Washington sent in federal troops and eventually won control of the territory. Native Americans then signed a treaty surrendering much of present-day Ohio and Indiana to the U.S. government.

Events in Europe also occupied the government's attention. In 1789, a revolution in France toppled the monarchy and led to war between France and Britain.

The United States decided not to take sides in the conflict. Britain made that choice difficult by seizing U.S. ships traveling from the French West Indies. When the United States protested, Britain agreed to pay for damages to U.S. ships. Britain also agreed to withdraw its forces from the Ohio Valley.

In 1795, the United States signed a treaty with Spain. At the time, Spain controlled Florida, New Orleans, and much of North America west of the Mississippi River. The treaty gave Americans the right to travel freely on the Mississippi River. It also set clear boundaries between Spanish Florida and the United States.

After eight years in office, Washington decided to step down. In 1796, two newly formed political parties fought for the presidency: the Federalists, led by John Adams, and the Democratic-Republicans, led by Thomas Jefferson. The two parties represented different interests. The Federalists wanted a strong national government and tended to support Britain. The Democratic-Republicans wanted a limited national government and tended to support France.

### ReadingHistory

#### A. Making

#### Inferences Why

might Washington have felt it was crucial to put down the Whiskey Rebellion?



## The First Political Parties

FEDERALISTS	DEMOCRATIC-REPUBLICANS
Strong national government	Limited national government
Fear of mob rule	Fear of rule by one person or a powerful few
Loose construction (interpretation) of the Constitution	Strict construction (interpretation) of the Constitution
Favored national bank	Opposed national bank
Economy based on manufacturing and shipping	Economy based on farming
Supporters: lawyers, merchants, manufacturers, clergy	Supporters: farmers, tradespeople

### SKILLBUILDER Interpreting Charts

1. Which economic interests were served by the Federalists?
2. Which party favored a ruling elite? Which put more trust in the common people?

### ReadingHistory

**B. Drawing Conclusions** Why did political parties develop?

Adams won the election, but Jefferson got enough votes to become vice-president. The Adams presidency was troubled by the threat of war with France and by political disputes between the two parties. Although Adams managed to avoid war, the political feuding left bitter feelings.

## The Jefferson Presidency

The presidential election of 1800 produced another tough political battle. This time Jefferson defeated Adams, shifting power from the Federalists to the Democratic-Republicans.

Jefferson wanted the United States to remain a nation of small, independent farmers. Such a nation, he believed, would uphold the strong morals and democratic values he associated with country living. Jefferson believed in a modest role for the federal government and sought to end many Federalist programs. He cut the number of federal employees and reduced the size of the military.

Jefferson had less impact on the courts, however. Before leaving office, Adams had appointed many Federalist judges. One of these, John Marshall, was the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. In a key ruling, *Marbury v. Madison* (1803), the Court established the principle of judicial review, which gives the Supreme Court final say in interpreting the Constitution. This ruling gave the Court more power than Jefferson would have liked.

In one case, however, Jefferson himself increased federal power. In 1803, France offered to sell the Louisiana Territory—a vast area stretching from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains—to the United States. Although the Constitution did not specifically give the president such power, Jefferson approved the **Louisiana Purchase** for \$15 million. This purchase doubled the size of the United States. Soon after, Jefferson sent Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to explore the new land.

While the United States was expanding, it also faced troubles abroad. The ongoing conflict between France and England continued to affect U.S. shipping. Both Britain and France tried to disrupt U.S. trade with their enemy.

Britain also continued to encourage Native American unrest in the Northwest Territory. James Madison, who won the presidential election of 1808, faced strong pressure to defend U.S. interests against foreign powers.

## The War of 1812

As tensions increased with Britain, some Americans began to call for war. One of the key issues was the impressment, or kidnapping, of U.S. sailors by the British navy. Another was British support for **Tecumseh**, a Shawnee chief who was attempting to unite Native Americans against U.S. settlers.

When Tecumseh's warriors were forced to flee in 1811, they were welcomed in British Canada. Some American leaders called for Britain's removal from Canada, while others urged retaliation against British aggression at sea. Congress declared war on Britain on June 18, 1812.

The War of 1812 had two main phases. In the first phase, Britain focused on its war against France and devoted little energy to the North American conflict. The U.S. Navy won several key victories, including a hard-fought battle on Lake Erie.

The second phase began after Britain defeated France in 1814 and turned its full attention to the American campaign. British troops sacked Washington, D.C., burning the Capitol and the president's mansion. Then they laid siege to Fort McHenry at Baltimore. During that battle, Francis Scott Key, an American prisoner on a British ship, was inspired to write the "Star-Spangled Banner," which became the national anthem in 1931.

At Lake Champlain, the Americans fought back, preventing a British

invasion from Canada. In the last battle of the war, Andrew Jackson's troops scored a dramatic victory over the British at New Orleans. This battle actually took place after a peace treaty had been signed in Europe but before the news could reach the city.

The War of 1812 had no clear winner. No land changed hands, and trade disputes were left unresolved. Even so, the war did have important effects. The actions of heroic military leaders like Andrew Jackson fueled American patriotism. The war also broke the strength of Native American resistance to U.S. expansion.

### ReadingHistory

**C. Analyzing Causes** How could the Battle of New Orleans have taken place after a peace treaty was signed?

#### The Effects of the War



#### SKILLBUILDER Interpreting Charts

Which effect do you think resulted from the war's interruption of U.S. trade?

In addition, the disruption of trade caused by the war encouraged the growth of U.S. manufacturing. Above all, the United States showed that it could defend itself against the mightiest military power of the time. Many Americans now believed that the country would survive and prosper.

## The Monroe Doctrine

After the war, a strong feeling of national unity swept the United States. In 1816, Democratic-Republican James Monroe was elected president. He faced little opposition from the Federalist Party. In 1820, Monroe was reelected.

One of Monroe's goals was to protect the country from any interference from foreign powers. The main threat seemed to come from European monarchies that hoped to regain control of Latin American territories that had recently won their independence. Monroe feared that European meddling in Latin America might threaten the United States.

In December 1823, the president issued a statement that became known as the **Monroe Doctrine**. Monroe said that the Americas were closed to further colonization. He also warned that any European efforts to reestablish colonies would be considered "dangerous to our peace and safety." Over time, the Monroe Doctrine became an important part of U.S. foreign policy. It was used to justify many U.S. actions in the Western Hemisphere.

### Background

*Latin America* refers to the Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking nations of the Western Hemisphere south of the United States.

## America's HERITAGE

### THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

The "Star-Spangled Banner," inspired by the flag that flew over Fort McHenry (see below), continues to move Americans. On hearing this national anthem, patriotic listeners stand, take off their hats, and put their hands over their hearts. These actions pay respect to the American flag and the song that celebrates it.

Francis Scott Key's song enjoyed widespread popularity for more than 100 years before an act of Congress made it the national anthem in 1931.



## Section 1 Assessment

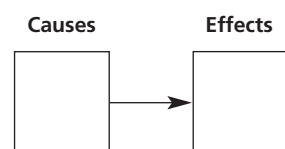
### 1. Terms & Names

#### Explain the significance of:

- tariff
- *Marbury v. Madison*
- Louisiana Purchase
- Tecumseh
- Monroe Doctrine

### 2. Taking Notes

Use a chart like the one below to show causes and effects of the War of 1812.



### 3. Main Ideas

- What were the elements of Alexander Hamilton's economic plan?
- Why was the Northwest Territory an area of conflict?
- What was Thomas Jefferson's vision for the United States?

### 4. Critical Thinking

**Analyzing Points of View**  
Why did Tecumseh think it was important for Native Americans to unite?

#### THINK ABOUT

- what he observed about white settlement
- what Native Americans would lose if they did not act together

### ACTIVITY OPTIONS

#### LANGUAGE ARTS

#### ART

Imagine that you are a member of the Lewis and Clark expedition. Write a **letter** or illustrate a **journal entry** about one of the places you see on your journey.