

The Early Republic

The Washington Years

George Washington was elected to be the first president of the United States. He served for two-terms, lasting from 1789-1797.

The Hamilton's Financial Plan

Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton came up with a plan for growing the U.S. economy:

1. National government assumes (takes over) individual state debts.
2. Creation of a **national bank**.
3. **Protective tariff** (tax on imports) to help grow American industries by protecting them from foreign competition.

Hamilton's plan was very controversial (especially the national bank), and it was a major factor in the split of American political parties.

The First American Political Parties

Federalist: led by Hamilton and Adams; favored strong central government; loose interpretation of the Constitution; favored manufacturing and trade; wanted national bank and protective tariffs; favored British.

Democratic-Republicans: led by Jefferson and Madison; favored strong state governments; strict interpretation of constitution; favored agriculture; against national bank and tariff; favored French.

Washington's Farewell Address

- Encourage **neutrality** in foreign policy
- No "entangling alliances".
- U.S. can trade with other countries but should not get politically involved in foreign conflicts.

The Election of 1800

- John Adams (federalist) vs. Thomas Jefferson (democratic-republican).
- Jefferson won
- Significant because of peaceful transfer of power from one party to another

The Marshall Court

The Supreme Court under **Chief Justice John Marshall**, who served from 1801-1835, made several decisions that strengthened the power of the federal government.

- **Marbury v. Madison** (1803)-gave the Supreme Court the power of **judicial review** (the power to declare laws to be unconstitutional or governmental actions to be unconstitutional)
- **McCulloch v. Maryland** (1819)-upheld the creation of Second Bank of the United States, strengthening federal supremacy over state laws.
- **Gibbons v. Ogden** (1824)-strengthened power of federal government to regulate commerce.

War of 1812

- Started as a conflict between Britain and France
- U.S. tried to remain neutral but still trade with both sides
- British attacked U.S. ships and **impressed** U.S. soldiers (forced them into service)
- **War Hawks** encouraged war because they wanted to gain land
- Congress declared war on Britain
- Also known as “second war for independence”
- Ended in 1815 with the Treaty of Ghent
- **Results:** no clear winner; end of federalist’ power; U.S. gained international respect; Native Americans lost their British ally and were now unable to resist American expansion

The Monroe Doctrine

1823 statement by President Monroe that called for an end to European colonization and interference in the Western Hemisphere.

The American Economy

The American System

Senator Henry Clay’s plan for national economic growth that included:

- Improving the national transportation system
- Protective tariff
- Second national bank

Economic Revolutions

Industrial Revolution:

- New technologies allowed manufacturing to increase
- Factory system
- Manufacturing was primarily located in the North

Transportation Revolution:

- Railroad networks
- Canals (including Erie Canal)
- Roads
- Steam-powered boats

Market Revolution:

- Switch from household economy to market economy
- Instead of producing for just your own family or community, you produce goods to be sold on the open market for a profit.

Manifest Destiny

Americans thought it was their destiny to expand all the way to the west coast. The U.S. went through a series of expansions in the 1800:

Louisiana Purchase (1803)

- President Jefferson purchased the Louisiana Territory from France in 1803 for \$15 million
- Doubled the size of the U.S.-country now extended from east coast to Rocky Mountains
- Constitutional issue for Jefferson:

Florida (1819)

- Acquired from Spain in the **Adams-Onis Treaty**

Texas Annexation (1845)

- Texas declared its independence from Mexico and created the Republic of Texas in 1863. Soon after, Texas requested admission to the United States and joined in 1845.

Oregon Territory (1846)

- Gained from Great Britain in a treaty that made the 49th parallel the border with Canada

Mexican Cession (1848)

- Acquired from Mexico in the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo after the Mexican War

Gadsden Purchase (1853)

- Land in Arizona and New Mexico that was purchased from Mexico

The government encouraged settlers to move into the western territories through incentives like the **Homestead Act**.

The Jackson Presidency

- War hero, “people’s president”
- Increased presidential power (“King Andrew”)
- **Spoils system**- giving government jobs those who supported you during the election
- Vetoed the rechartering of the National Bank (ended it)
- **Indian Removal** (including the **Trail of Tears**)