

## **Power Notes: 1789 to 1824**

### ***LEARNING OBJECTIVE: Understand why political parties developed during the early national period.***

- 1) Political parties develop so that people who disagree can gain decision-making power without having to resort to violence. The election of 1800, when power transferred from the Federalists to the Democratic-Republicans, illustrated that this principle succeed in the U.S.
- 2) Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton developed a plan with the purpose of strengthening the national government at the expense of the state governments by: a) funding the national debt; b) assuming the state debts; c) creating a national bank; and d) protective tariffs.
- 3) When Pennsylvania farmers rebelled against a whiskey excise tax in 1794 the federal government crushed the rebellion and used it as an example of its ability to enforce federal laws (unlike the Confederation government during Shays' Rebellion in 1786).

### Characteristics of First Political Parties

#### **FEDERALISTS:**

- 1) The party of Alexander Hamilton, John Adams and John Marshall.
- 2) Led by merchants, bankers and lawyers living primarily in New England.
- 3) Favored a strong central government.
- 4) Interpreted the Constitution loosely.
- 5) Believed in a government by the elite.
- 6) Passed the Alien and Sedition Acts (1798).
- 7) Pro-England.
- 8) Favored Hamilton's financial policies.

#### **DEMOCRATIC-REPUBLICANS:**

- 1) The party of Thomas Jefferson and James Madison.
- 2) Led by planters, farmers and wage earners living primarily in the South and West.
- 3) Favored strong state governments.
- 4) Interpreted the Constitution strictly.
- 5) Favored rule by the educated masses.
- 6) Supported individual liberties; passed the KY & VA Resolves.
- 7) Pro-France.
- 8) Opposed Hamilton's financial policies.

**Importance:** Learning the values of the first political parties enables us to understand what was important to people living during the early national period.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVE: Understand the conflict over the nature of political dissent between 1798 and 1803.**

- 1) The 1798 Alien and Sedition Acts passed by the Federalists allowed the president to deport aliens, and judges to impose fines and jail sentences on people who criticized federal officials.
- 2) The Republicans responded with the Kentucky & Virginia Resolves. These set forth the doctrine of nullification: "a state legislature can declare null & void a federal law if it believes the law is unconstitutional."
- 3) In the election of 1800 the Republican presidential candidate (Thomas Jefferson) and vice presidential candidate (Aaron Burr) tied. Hamilton told the Federalist controlled Congress to vote for Jefferson. The 12th amendment (1804) requires each party to nominate the president and vice president as a team.
- 4) In *Marbury v. Madison* (1803) the Supreme Court, under the Federalist Chief Justice, John Marshall, established the principle of judicial review (the Supreme Court can declare laws unconstitutional).

**Importance:** After Jefferson's election in 1800 the Republicans could have retaliated against the Federalists for the Alien and Sedition Acts. The Republicans did not retaliate, and the tradition of political dissent was protected and encouraged in America.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVE: Understand the United States' foreign policy for the period 1789-1803.**

- 1) Every country's foreign policy is based on four criteria: a) Domestic political considerations--the impact a foreign policy decision has on internal politics; b) Ideology--the theories, ideas, concepts and aims that make up a country's political and social programs; c) Economics--the access to raw materials and markets and the impact foreign policy has on the domestic economy; and, d) Security--protecting the country from military danger.
- 2) During the period of the Napoleonic wars U.S. foreign policy had four specific goals: a) gain respect from other countries; b) protect its international trade; c) protect and expand its borders; and, d) end British aid to the Indians in the Northwest.
- 3) The XYZ Affair (1797). The U.S. refused to pay a bribe to France. Used by the Federalists to embarrass the Republicans and helped cause the Quasi [non-declared] War with France (1798-1800).
- 4) Louisiana Purchase (1803): The U.S. bought 828,000 square miles from France for \$15 million. Significance: a) averted possible war with France & an alliance with Britain; b) removed a strong country from the U.S.'s border; and, c) more than doubled the size of the U.S.

**Importance:** Differences over foreign policy help lead to the creation of political parties in America. These differences help us understand what people considered to be important issues during the early national period.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVE: Understand the War of 1812.**

- 1) Steps to war: a) France & Britain restricted U.S. trade; b) impressments of American sailors by the British navy; c) Chesapeake Affair (June 1807); d) Embargo Act (1807); e) Nonintercourse Act (1809); f) Macon's Bill #2 (1810); and g) declaration of war, June 1812.
- 2) Reasons for war: a) protect U.S. commerce; b) assert U.S.'s status as a sovereign nation ("the 2nd war of independence"); c) stop the British from supplying arms to the Indians; d) defend the nation's honor; and e) get British Canada.
- 3) The British navy controlled the seas, bombarded Baltimore and burned Washington, DC. The U.S. won the battle of New Orleans in January 1815 after the Treaty of Ghent (12/24/1814) had been signed.
- 4) Federalist opposition to the war at the Hartford Convention helped kill their party.
- 5) Treaty of Ghent formally recognized that neither side won the war and restored the status quo ante-bellum.
- 6) The Rush-Bagot Agreement (1817) limited the number of warships to 4 each that Britain & the U.S. could have on the Great Lakes.

7) The Convention of 1818 with Great Britain: a) settled trade and fishing problems; and, b) dealt with U.S.-Canadian boundary & joint occupancy in the Oregon territory.

**Importance:** Nineteen years after gaining its independence, the U.S. was again at war with Britain. Understanding the causes of the war helps us understand what values and beliefs Americans were willing to fight for.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVE: Understand how and why the United States acquired Spanish Florida.**

1) U.S. wanted Florida for the following reasons: a) its strategic location; b) its economic importance; c) Indians & pirates raided U.S. territory from it; and, d) slaves escaped to it.

2) The U.S. acquired Florida through the Transcontinental (Adams-Onís) Treaty of 1819. The U.S. paid its citizens' claims against Spain up to \$5 million and the treaty drew a boundary line between Spanish & U.S. territory. Spain gave the U.S. its claims to Oregon.

**Importance:** The acquisition of Florida and Spanish claims to Oregon illustrate that U.S. leaders were interested in expanding the country's borders from the beginning of the country's existence.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVE: Understand the U.S. response to Latin American independence (the Monroe Doctrine, 1823).**

1) Britain wanted the U.S. to act with it in protecting Latin American independence for trade and military reasons. The U.S. wanted to act independently in order to keep its options open in Latin America.

2) The Monroe Doctrine (1823) established three U.S. principles toward Latin America: a) noncolonization—the countries of the New World are “not to be conceived as subjects for future colonization;” b) the “two-spheres” concept—the Old and New world are separate spheres and Europe should not interfere in the New World; and, c) nonintervention—the U.S. would regard any attempt by an European power to oppress or to control Latin America as an unfriendly act.

**Importance:** The Monroe Doctrine is still the basis of U.S. policy toward Latin America. The U.S. regards Latin America as its sphere of influence, and any foreign country that attempts to influence a country in the region (as the Soviet Union did in Cuba and Nicaragua in the late 20th century) will meet U.S. resistance.