The Federalist Era: (1789-1801)

DOMESTIC ISSUES

I. America c. 1790
   A. Population nearly 4 million in 1790 census: doubling every 25 years.
      1. About 90% of Americans lived on farms
      2. Relatively few large towns existed:
         -- Exceptions: Philadelphia, NY, Boston, Charleston, Baltimore
      3. 5% lived east of the Allegheny mountains
         -- New states: Kentucky, 1792; Tennessee 1796; Ohio 1803;
   B. Finances of the new nation were precarious
      1. Public debt was enormous; revenue had significantly declined
      2. Worthless paper money, both state & national, was in heavy circulation.
   C. Foreign challenges by Britain and Spain threatened unity of the U.S.

II. President Washington's Administration
   A. Washington unanimously elected president by the Electoral College in 1789
      -- Only Presidential nominee ever to be honored unanimously.
      1. Many believe Congress was willing to give the presidency power due to Washington's immense respectability
      2. Took oath of office on April 30, 1789 in temporary capital of New York City.
         -- John Adams sworn in as vice president
   B. Washington's cabinet
      1. Precedent: Consulting of cabinet members (department heads) in order to make decisions.
      2. Constitution does not mention a cabinet
      3. The cabinet has become an integral part of the "unwritten constitution."
      4. In the beginning, only three full-fledged department heads existed:
         a. Secretary of State -- Thomas Jefferson
         b. Secretary of the Treasury -- Alexander Hamilton
         c. Secretary of War -- Henry Knox
         d. Edmund Randolph--Attorney General; became the 4th major cabinet member after passage of Judiciary Act of 1789.
      5. Cabinet characterized by feud between Hamilton and Jefferson.
III. Bill of Rights
   A. One of first priorities facing the new government
      1. Antifederalists had sharply criticized the Constitution for not
         having one.
      2. Many states had ratified under the condition that one be included.
   B. Amendments to the Constitution could be achieved two ways:
      1. A new constitutional convention requested by 2/3 of the states
         (has never happened)
      2. 2/3 vote by both houses of Congress and ratification by 3/4 of
         states (has happened on 18 separate occasions--we now have 27
         Amendments)
   C. Federalists feared another constitutional convention might reverse
      their victory
      1. James Madison drafted and submitted amendments to Congress.
      2. Madison's draft based largely on George Mason's bill of rights in
         Virginia.
   D. Bill of Rights -- First ten amendments to the Constitution adopted in
      1791
      1. Provided safeguards for some of America's core principles:
         Amendment I: Freedom of speech, religion, press, petition &
         assembly
            (Memory Aid: RAPPS -- Religion, Assembly, Press, Petition,
            Speech)
         Amendment II: Right to bear arms
         Amendment III: Troops may not be arbitrarily quartered on the
         people
         Amendment IV: Unreasonable searches and seizures forbidden
         Amendment V: The individual is guaranteed certain rights
         when on trial and the right to life, liberty and
         property
         Amendment VI: Right to a fair and speedy trial in criminal
         cases
         Amendment VII: Right to a trial in civil cases (law suits against
         other citizens)
         Amendment VIII: Excessive fines and unusual punishments are
         forbidden.
         Amendment IX: The people retain rights not enumerated in the
         Constitution
         Amendment X: Powers not delegated to the federal government
         are reserved to the states and the people.

IV. Judiciary Act of 1789
   A. Organized the Supreme Court with a chief justice (John Jay) and
      five associates
   B. Organized federal district and circuit courts.
   C. Established the office of attorney general
D. Fatal provision: law stated Supreme Court could force presidential Appointments of judges. This law would be overturned in 1803 (Marbury v. Madison) and a new judicial act would need to be written.

V. Hamilton’s Financial Plan
A. Economic Philosophy
   1. Report on Public Credit (1790)
      a. Plan to shape fiscal policies of the administration to favor wealthier groups
      b. In return, the wealthy would lend the gov't monetary & moral support
      c. Prosperity would trickle down to the masses
      d. Became the basis for assumption of state debts and funding at par (see below)
   2. Report on Manufactures (1791)
      a. Advocated promotion of a factory system in U.S. so the nation could exploit its national resources and strengthen capitalism.
      b. Was the basis for the tariff component in his financial plan.

B. Hamilton’s Plan contained five major components:
   1. Funding at Par
      a. Purpose: Bolstering national credit
         -- Believed gov't couldn't borrow money without investor confidence
      b. Urged Congress to pay off the entire national debt by “funding at par” all gov't bonds incurred by the states during the Revolutionary war.
      c. Debts would be paid at face value plus accumulated interest
      d. Gov’t bonds had depreciated to 10 or 15 cents on the dollar since the new Treasury was believed incapable of paying its obligations.
         i. Speculators still had large amounts of bonds.
         ii. Many wealthy investors rushed to buy as many bonds as possible in rural areas at rock-bottom prices before news of Hamilton's plan reached countryside.
         iii. Many original bondholders (common people) sold their bonds unknowingly as they were often poor and desperate for immediate cash.
      e. Hamilton was bitterly criticized for not alerting original bondholders to the plan.
2. Assumption of State Debts
   a. Hamilton urged Congress to assume the states' debts.
   b. Hamilton's ulterior motive: further obligate states to the federal gov't.
      i. Hamilton believed nat'l debt was a "blessing" that would cement the union.
      ii. States with huge debts favored the plan (especially Massachusetts)
      iii. States with less debt or no remaining debt were unhappy
           -- Hated being taxed to pay someone else's debt (Virginia especially angry)
   iv. North-South struggle ensued over assumption
   c. Compromise achieved in 1790 through a process called "log rolling"
      i. "Log rolling" occurs when two opposing factions agree to vote for each other's bills so that their own cherished bills will pass.
      ii. Federal government would assume all state debts
      iii. South would get new federal district-- now District of Columbia.
           -- Pierre L'Enfant: Created map plan for the new city.
           -- Benjamin Banneker: African American who surveyed land Washington was to be built on.
      iv. Madison and Jefferson instrumental in helping set up compromise.
           -- Jefferson later lamented he was outwitted by Hamilton

3. Tariffs (customs duties) became a source of revenue for paying the debt
   a. Tariff revenues depended on a healthy foreign trade.
   b. Revenue Act of 1789 -- imposed an 8% tariff on dutiable imports
      i. First tariff law passed in U.S. History at the national level
      ii. Secondary goal was to help protect infant industries.

4. Excise taxes
   a. 1791, Congress passed an excise tax on whisky.
      i. Backcountry distillers most affected by 7 cent per gallon tax.
         -- Poor roads made grain transportation practical only by horseback which severely hampered profit potential of cash crops.
      ii. Whiskey flowed so freely in this region it was often used as money.
   b. Hamilton not overly concerned with the protests from the frontier -- most had been anti-federalist in sentiment during the ratification debate.
5. **National Bank**: most important Hamilton v. Jefferson issue
   a. Foundation of Hamilton's financial plan was a Bank of the United States
      -- Washington requested written opinions from Jefferson & Hamilton

   b. Provisions:
      i. Gov't would be major stockholder despite bank being a private corporation.
         -- 1/5 of members of its board of directors would be government appointees.
      ii. Federal Treasury would deposit its surplus revenues in the bank
          -- Federal gov't would have a convenient safe.
          -- Federal funds would stimulate business by remaining in circulation.
      iii. Government would print urgently needed paper money thus providing a sound & stable national currency.

   c. Jefferson (and Madison) strongly opposed the bank
      i. States' righters feared liberties would be jeopardized by a huge central bank.
         -- Moneyed interests would benefit at the expense of farmers.
         -- State banks would not be able to compete against federal bank.
         -- Federal gov't did eventually enjoy a monopoly of surplus funds
      ii. **strict construction** -- strict interpretation of the Constitution
          -- Jefferson: Constitution did not stipulate creation of a national bank.

   d. Hamilton argued Constitution would support a plan for a national bank
      i. **loose construction** -- Hamilton urged a broad interpretation of the Constitution
         -- Set a precedent for enormous federal powers.
      ii. “elastic clause” -- Provided for passing any laws "necessary & proper” to carry out the powers vested in the various governmental agencies."
         -- Also known as Congress’ Implied Powers
      iii. Bank would be "necessary” to store revenues from taxes and the regulation of trade, both of which were stated in the Constitution.
e. Washington reluctantly signed the bank measure into law in February, 1791
   i. Hamilton's views had prevailed over Jefferson's
   ii. Bank chartered for 20 years; located in Philadelphia
   iii. Old North-South friction surfaced again
       -- Bank favored commercial and financial centers in the North.
       -- The agricultural South saw their state banks decline.
   f. Bank issue sparked the open public split between Hamilton and Jefferson.

Memory Aid for Hamilton's Financial Plan: “BE FAT”
B ank of the U.S.
E xcise Taxes
F unding at Par
A ssumption of State Debts
T ariffs

C. The Whiskey Rebellion (1794)
1. Southwestern Pennsylvania backcountry folks hard hit by Hamilton's excise tax.
2. “Whiskey Boys” posed a major challenge to the new national government
   a. Torched buildings, tarred & feathered revenue officers, chased gov’t supporters from the region; some talked of secession from U.S.
   b. Tax collections came to a halt.
3. Washington summoned the militia of several states resulting in 13,000-man army.
   a. Washington accompanied troops part of the way; Hamilton all the way.
4. When the troops reached the hills of w. Penn., the Whiskey Boys dispersed.
   -- Washington later pardoned the two convicted participants to heal the rift.
5. Significance: Federal government showed it could ensure domestic tranquility
   a. Proved that another Shays'-type rebellion could not succeed under the new Constitution
   b. Jeffersonians condemned the action as a brutal display of force and gained increasingly more support from ordinary farmers.
D. Hamilton’s financial plan became the cornerstone of America’s financial system.
   1. Strengthened the government politically as well as financially.
      a. Established strong public credit:
      b. ”Loose construction” -- paved way for increase of federal power
      c. Report on Manufactures – anticipated the industrial revolution
   2. Jeffersonian opposition emerged due to encroachments upon states' rights

VI. Birth of the Party System
A. Founding Fathers in 1787 did not envision the existence of political parties.
   1. Organized opposition seemed disloyal and against spirit of national unity.
   2. No national political party had ever existed in America before Washington's administration.
   3. Factions had existed only over special issues: e.g. Tories & Whigs, Federalists & Antifederalists. But factions were not parties.
   4. Jefferson & Madison first organized their opposition to Hamilton only in Congress; did not anticipate creating a permanent, popular party.
   5. As their opposition to Hamilton grew, political parties emerged.
   6. By 1792-1793, two well-defined groups had crystallized:
      a. Hamiltonian Federalists
      b. Jeffersonian Republicans
   7. Our two-party system is largely owed to the clash between Hamilton & Jefferson.

**Important:** Be careful not to confuse the Federalists of the 1790s with the “Federalists” who supported the Constitution in the late 1780s. They are not necessarily the same!! For example, in the late 1780s Madison wrote part of the Constitution and Jefferson supported it yet they were not Federalists in the 1790s.
   ► Federalists in 1787-88 were a faction that supported the Constitution.
   ► Federalists in the 1790s became a political party that embodied Hamilton's financial plan and Washington’s presidency.

B. Federalists
1. Emerged from the “federalists” of the pre- Constitution period by 1793.
2. Believed in gov't by upper class (the "best people")
   a. Rich had more leisure time to study problems of governing.
   b. Enjoyed the advantages of intelligence, education, & culture.
   c. John Jay: "Those who own the country ought to govern it."
3. Distrusted the common people.
   a. Regarded democracy as a "mobocracy"
   b. Believed democracy too important to be left to the people.

4. Supported a strong central government
   a. Maintain law & order; crush democratic excesses (Shays’ Rebellion)
   b. Protect life & property of the wealthy.

5. Federal gov't should encourage business, not interfere with it.
   a. Federalists dominated by merchants, manufacturers, & shippers
   b. Most lived in urban areas of the eastern seaboard where commerce & manufacturing flourished.

6. Pro-British in foreign policy
   a. Foreign trade with Britain was key in Hamilton's plan.
   b. Many Federalists were mild Loyalists -- Welcomed bias in favor of the mother country.

C. Jeffersonians
1. Advocated the rule of the people; government for the people
   a. However, only by those who were literate enough to inform themselves.
   b. Believed in the wisdom of the common people; “teachability” of the masses

2. Biggest appeal was to middle class and the underprivileged -- yeoman farmers, laborers, artisans, and small shopkeepers.

3. Democratic-Republicans believed the best gov't was one that governed least.
   a. Bulk of power should be retained by the states.
   b. Limit federal authority via strict interpretation of Constitution

4. National debt was a curse to future generations that should be paid off ASAP.

5. Jeffersonians themselves were primarily agrarians
   a. Insisted on no special privileges for special classes, especially manufacturers.
   b. Farming was an ennobling profession


7. Basically pro-French
   -- Supported liberal ideas of the French Revolution.
VII. Defeat of Amerindians in the Old Northwest
A. Iroquois nation forced onto reservations in New York & Pennsylvania after the Revolutionary war.
   1. Many fled to Canada.
   2. No longer a major threat to U.S.
B. Amerindians in Northwest and Southwest borders, Shawnee and Miami tribes, were increasingly hostile toward Americans.
   -- Supported by British on the frontier.
C. Washington lost two armies in Northwest in 1790-91 to Shawnee & allied tribes
D. **General “Mad” Anthony Wayne** finally led U.S. forces to victory
   1. **Battle of Fallen Timbers** in August 1794 was the climactic battle.
      -- Amerindians finally forced to abandon their British allies
   2. **Treaty of Greenville** (1795) – cleared 2/3 of Ohio & Indiana of Indian tribes.
   3. Britain abandoned its forts in the Old Northwest.
E. Eastern Woodlands Amerindians now saw their lifestyle ruined by increased competition for the fur trade, white settlement, and ruining of hunting grounds.
   1. Forced westward; came into increased conflict with tribes west of Mississippi.
   2. A movement to regenerate Amerindian society swept through the region and was led by certain Indian prophets; eventually failed due to continued U.S. expansion.

**FEDERALIST ERA: Foreign Policy**

I. Impact of the **French Revolution**
   A. Significance: Single most important issue separating Federalists and Republicans
   B. Americans initially pleased; esp. Jeffersonians
      1. Saw the French Revolution as the second chapter of the American Revolution.
      2. 1792, supported France's war against Austria and Prussia.
      3. France proclaimed itself a republic (similar to the U.S.)
   C. **“Reign of Terror”**
      1. King Louis XVI & his wife, Mary Antoinette, beheaded
      2. Thousands of conservatives & anti-revolutionaries executed
      3. Christianity was abolished
      4. Jeffersonians regretted bloodshed but felt it probably could not be avoided
      5. Federalists frightened at the scope of the carnage; viewed Jeffersonian masses with concern.
D. French Revolution became a world war
   1. Britain sucked into the conflict
   2. U.S. had to decide which side to support when war spread to the Atlantic & Caribbean.

II. Washington's Neutrality Proclamation (1793)
   A. U.S. still obligated to France under the Franco-American alliance of 1778
      1. U.S. had pledged to protect French West Indies from enemies
      2. Jeffersonians favored the Alliance
   
   B. President Washington believed war should be avoided at all costs
      1. U.S. was militarily weak in 1793 and should stay out of the war.
   
   C. Neutrality Proclamation of 1793
      1. Announced U.S. neutrality in the war between Britain & France
      2. Warned citizens to be impartial to both Britain & France

D. American Reaction
   1. Jeffersonians enraged, especially by Washington not consulting Congress.
   2. Federalists supported it.
   3. Citizen Genet
      a. French envoy/profiteer undertook to entice U.S. profiteers to outfit French ships and supply the French war cause; he recruited Americans
      b. Believed Neutrality Act did not truly reflect American public opinion.
      c. Suggested bypassing Washington by appealing directly to the voters.
      d. Washington demanded his withdrawal & Genet was replaced.

E. America & France benefited from U.S. neutrality
   1. America's neutrality meant it could still deliver foodstuffs to the West Indies.
   2. France did not officially ask the U.S. to honor the Franco-American treaty.
   3. If U.S. entered war, British navy would blockade U.S. coasts and cut off supplies the French relied on.
III. **Jay Treaty** (1794): Temporarily eased U.S. conflict with Britain
   A. Significance: Most important immediate cause for formation of the Democratic-Republican party.
   B. Background: British continued harassing American frontier settlers and U.S. ships on the oceans.
      1. British remained in their northern frontier posts on U.S. soil
         a. Violation of the Peace treaty of 1783
         b. Sold firearms and alcohol to Amerindians who attacked American settlers
      2. British navy seized about 300 U.S. ships in West Indies starting in 1793
      3. **Impressment:** Hundreds of Americans forced into service on British vessels; hundreds of others imprisoned.
   C. Federalists unwilling to go to war
      1. U.S. depended on 75% of its customs duties from British imports.
      2. Jeffersonians argued that U.S. should impose an embargo against Britain.
   D. Washington sent Jay, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, to London in 1794
      1. Jeffersonians feared the conservative Jay would sell out U.S. interests.
      2. Hamilton secretly gave Brits U.S.’s bargaining strategy; Jay handicapped
         -- Hamilton feared a war with Britain and was willing to appease her.
   E. **Provisions:** (America won few concessions)
      1. British renewed their pledge to remove their posts from U.S. soil (as in 1783)
      2. British consented to pay damages for recent seizures of American ships
      3. British refused to guarantee against future maritime seizures and impressments or the inciting of Native Americans to further violence on the U.S. western frontier.
      4. **U.S. forced to pay pre-Revolution debts owed to British merchants**
   F. Jeffersonian outrage resulted in creation of the Democratic-Republican party.
      1. South felt betrayed that northern merchants would be paid damages
      2. Southern planters would be taxed to pay pre-Revolution debt.
   G. War with Britain was averted
      1. Washington pushed for ratification of the treaty
         -- Realized war with Britain would be disastrous to the U.S.
      2. The Senate narrowly approved the treaty in 1795
IV. **Pinckney Treaty of 1795** (ratified by Senate in 1796)
   A. Normalized relations with Spain
   B. Spanish Motive: feared an Anglo-American alliance; sought to appease U.S.
      1. Spain a declining power in Europe
      2. Spain’s position declining on the American frontier
   C. Treaty provisions: (Spanish concessions)
      1. Granted free navigation of the Mississippi River to the U.S. including right of deposit at the port city of New Orleans
      2. Yielded large area north of Florida that had been in dispute for over a decade.
         -- 31st parallel recognized as legal border between U.S. and Spanish Florida.

V. **Washington’s Farewell Address** (1797)
   A. He had reluctantly accepted a second term at the urging of his Supporters; unanimously reelected
   B. Washington lost his nonpartisan standing when he became a Federalist
      -- Verbal abuse from Jeffersonian wing was significant
   C. Refused to accept a third term as President
      1. Set a precedent for the 2-term presidency
      2. Washington exhausted physically and weary of verbal abuse
   D. Farewell Address
      1. 2/3 domestic related: Warned against evils of political parties.
      2. Warned against permanent foreign alliances (like treaty with France)
      3. Jeffersonians angered; speech seemed to declare U.S. hostility toward France.
      4. Isolationism became dominant U.S. foreign policy for next 100 years.
   E. Washington thus kept U.S. out of war
   F. Review of Washington's Precedents
      1. President relied on and consulted regularly with his cabinet.
      2. Chief executive gained the right to choose his own cabinet.
         -- This custom grew out of Congress' respect for Washington
      3. Two-term office for president
      4. After Jay resigned, Washington went outside the Supreme Court to select a new Chief Justice

VI. **Election of 1796**
   A. **John Adams**, from Massachusetts, the Federalist candidate.
      -- Hamilton was too controversial to be a candidate.
   B. Democratic-Republicans gathered around Thomas Jefferson
      -- Decried the crushing of the Whiskey Rebellion and Jay's Treaty
   C. Adams d. Jefferson 71 to 66 in the Electoral College
      -- Jefferson, as runner-up, became vice president
VII. “Quasi War” with France
A. French Directory government condemned the Jay Treaty
   1. Saw it as an initial step towards a U.S. alliance with Britain
   2. Saw it as flagrant violation of Franco-American Treaty of 1778
   3. French warships seized about 300 U.S. merchant vessels by mid-1797
   4. France refused to receive America's newly appointed envoy.

B. XYZ Affair
   1. President Adams sent a delegation to Paris in 1797 (incl. John Marshall).
   2. US delegates secretly approached by 3 French agents: "X,Y, & Z"
      i. French demanded a large loan and a bribe of $250,000 for the privilege of talking to French foreign minister Talleyrand.
      ii. U.S. delegates: “Millions for defense, not one cent for tribute!”
   3. Negotiations broke down; Marshall came home—seen as a hero
   4. War hysteria swept the U.S.

C. Undeclared Naval Warfare, 1798-1799 -- “Quasi-War”
   1. U.S. war preparations set in motion
      a. Navy Department at the cabinet level was created: 3 ship navy expanded
      b. Marine Corps established
      c. Army of 10,000 men was authorized (not fully raised)
         -- Washington was top general but gave active command to Hamilton
   2. Adams suspended all trade with France and authorized American ships to capture armed French vessels
   3. Undeclared hostilities ensued for 2 1/2 years between 1798-1800
      a. Principally in the West Indies.
      b. U.S. Navy & privateers captured over 80 French armed ships
      c. Several hundred U.S. merchantmen were lost to the French.
      d. Full-blown war seemed imminent; Adams sought to keep U.S. out of war

D. Convention of 1800 (Adam's “Finest Moment”)
   1. France became eager to negotiate a peace
      -- Did not want another enemy allied with Britain
   2. Adams submitted to the Senate a new foreign minister to France (many American shocked in light of XYZ Affair)
      a. Hamiltonian "High Federalists" enraged; sought military glory against France
      b. Jeffersonians and moderate Federalists favored one last try for peace
   3. 1800, U.S. negotiated with Napoleon (who was bent on European conquest)
4. Convention of 1800
   a. France agreed to end the 22-year Franco-American Alliance with the U.S.
   b. U.S. agreed to pay the damage claims of American shippers.

5. Significance:
   a. Major war with France avoided
   b. Improved relations made possible the Louisiana Purchase 3 years later.
      -- If war had occurred, Napoleon would not have sold Louisiana Territory
   c. Adams felt this to be his finest achievement.

E. Alien and Sedition Acts (1798)

1. Purpose: Federalists passed a series of oppressive laws in 1798 to reduce power of Jeffersonians and silence anti-war opposition

2. Alien Acts
   a. Attack on pro-Jeffersonian "aliens"
      i. Most immigrants lacked wealth and were welcomed by Jeffersonians.
      ii. Hated by Federalists who did not want these immigrants voting in U.S.
   b. Raised residence requirements for U.S. citizenship from 5 years to 14 years.
   c. President could deport "dangerous" foreigners.
   d. Laws in some ways seemed sensible
      i. Some foreign agitators coming into U.S. (e.g. Citizen Genet)
      ii. Many from France sought anti-British policies
      iii. Others were foreign agents who should have been expelled.
   e. Alien Acts never enforced but some frightened foreign agitators left

3. Sedition Act
   a. Anyone who impeded the policies of gov't or falsely criticized its officials, including the president, would be liable to a heavy fine and imprisonment.
   b. Direct violation of the 1st Amendment to the Constitution
      -- Federalist Supreme Court not interested in declaring it unconstitutional.
   c. 10 Jeffersonian editors were brought to trial & convicted
   d. Law expired in 1801 the day before Adams left office.
      -- Demonstrated dubious intentions of bill (if a Federalist was not elected in 1800, Republicans wouldn't have the Sedition Act to prosecute Federalists.)

4. Popular support for Alien and Sedition Acts significant
   a. Anti-French hysteria played into the hands of the Federalists
   b. Largest ever Federalist victory in 1798-99 congressional elections
5. **Virginia & Kentucky Resolutions**, 1798 (Jefferson & Madison)
   a. Republicans believed Alien and Sedition acts were unconstitutional
      -- Process of deciding constitutionality of federal laws not yet defined
   b. Jefferson & Madison secretly created a series of resolutions
      -- As vice president Jefferson in awkward position; feared prosecution from Sedition Act
   c. Premise: States had right to nullify unconstitutional laws passed by Congress
   d. Aim not to break up the union but preserve it by protecting civil liberties.
      -- Essentially campaign documents to defeat the Federalists
   e. **Compact theory**
      i. Popular among 17th c. English political philosophers (John Locke)
      ii. 13 sovereign states created the federal gov't & had entered a "compact"
      iii. Thus, national gov't was an agent or creation of the states.
      iv. **Nullification**: Individual states were the final judges of whether a federal law was constitutional.
   f. Result:
      i. No other states passed the Jefferson & Madison resolutions
      ii. Federalists argued the people, not the states, made the original compact
         -- Argued Supreme Court, not states, could nullify laws.
   g. Significance: Later used by southerners to support nullification and ultimately secession prior to Civil War.

VIII. The Jefferson "Revolution of 1800" (Election of 1800)
A. Federalist handicaps
   1. Federalists split over going to war with France biggest reason for Adam’s defeat
      -- Hamilton and "High Federalists" openly broke from Adams for his refusal to go to full-blown war against France
   2. Alien and Sedition Acts became a liability
   3. Federalists swelled the debt in preparation for war with France.
      -- New taxes (incl. a stamp tax) were levied to pay the costs.
   4. Military preparations now seemed unnecessary
B. Federalist mudslinging accused Jefferson of:
   1. being an atheist (Jefferson really a deist)
      -- His success with separating church & state in Virginia
         incurred the wrath of the orthodox clergy especially in
         Congregationalist & Federalist New England.
   2. robbing a widow and her children of a trust fund
   3. fathering mulatto children by his own slave woman (note: in
      1998, genetic tests apparently proved that Jefferson had fathered
      at least one child from his slave mistress, Sally Hemmings)

C. Jefferson defeated Adams: 73 to 65
   1. Most support from South & West where universal manhood
      suffrage had been adopted.
      -- New York was the key: Aaron Burr narrowly turned NY
         toward Jefferson
   2. Yet, Jefferson tied with Burr, the vice presidential candidate, for
      electoral votes
      a. House of Representatives had to break the deadlock
      b. Federalists wanted Burr; hated Jefferson
      c. Eventually, a few anti-Burr Federalists, refrained from voting
         and Jefferson became president (swayed by Hamilton; Burr
         now hated Hamilton)
   3. Significance: Peaceful change of power was revolutionary
      a. Transfer of power on a basis of an election that all parties
         accepted
      b. Britain would not achieve the same stature for another
         generation.

X. The Federalist Legacy
   A. Hamilton's financial plan
   B. Washington established important precedents for the presidency.
   C. Federalists kept the U.S. out of war
   D. Preserved democratic gains of the Revolution and fended off
      anarchy.
   E. Opposition party (Jeffersonians) resulted in creation of two-party
      system.
   F. Westward Expansion (Treaty of Grenville and new western states)
Memory Aid to Remember the Federalist Era:

Big - Bill of Rights, 1791
Jolly - Judiciary Act of 1789
Hamilton - Hamilton's Financial Plan (BE FAT)
Finds - French Revolution
Nervous - Neutrality Proclamation, 1793
Jefferson - Jay Treaty, 1795
Entering - Election of 1796
X-rated - XYZ Affair, 1797
Quarters - Quasi-War, 1798-1800
Angering - Alien and Sedition Acts, 1798
White - Washington's precedents
Republicans - "Revolution of 1800"

Essay Questions for Review:

1. Analyze factors that led to the creation of a two-party system during the 1790s.
2. Evaluate the relative importance of domestic issues and foreign issues in politics during the Federalist Era.
3. Evaluate the relative importance of the Articles of Confederation Era (1783-1789) and the Federalist Era (1789-1801) in shaping America’s political system.
4. Compare and contrast the views of Hamiltonians and Jeffersonians in the 1790s.
5. George Washington is considered one of America’s greatest presidents. Analyze some of Washington’s actions as president that made him a “great” president.
Bibliography:


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