

GEORGE WASHINGTON

1789-1797



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APUSH

First Presidency under the Constitution

April 30, 1789

George Washington from Virginia is sworn in as President.

John Adams from Massachusetts becomes the Vice-President.

Both served two terms from 1789-1797.



George Washington's Presidency established many governmental **precedents**.

A *precedent* is an example that would become a standard practice.

Washington is called the “**Father of Our Country**”.

Establishment of the Court System

- Congress passed the **Judiciary Act of 1789** to set up the federal court system.
- The act created three levels of federal courts and defined powers.
- It set up federal district courts and circuit courts of appeal.
- The president nominated federal judges.



The U.S. Supreme Court is to have a **Chief Justice** and five associate justices.

Currently we have 9 total justices.

Washington appoints **John Jay** as Chief Justice.



The Presidential Cabinet

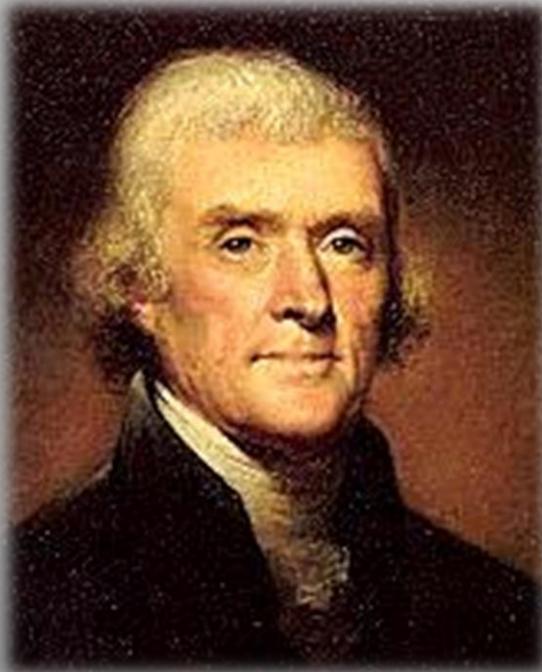
The Constitution allows Congress to create departments to help the President the Cabinet.

The first Presidential Cabinet had four departments:

War, State, Treasury and Justice

Secretary of War:
Oversees the nation's defenses.

Henry Knox

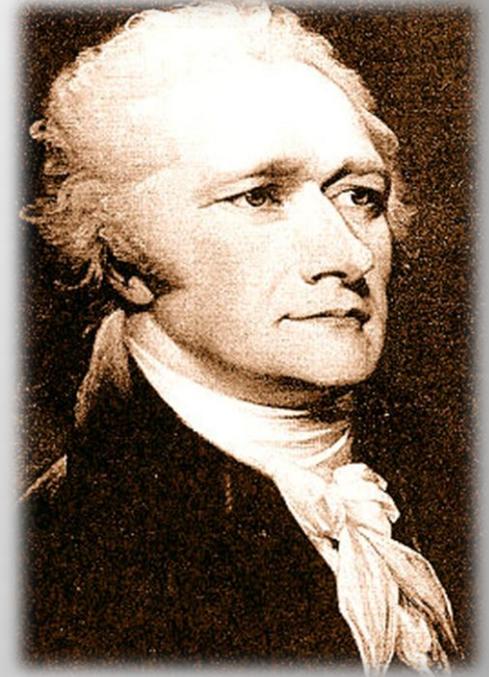


Secretary of State:
Oversees the relations
between the U.S. and other
countries.

Thomas Jefferson

Secretary of the Treasury:
Manages the government's
money.

Alexander Hamilton



Attorney General:
Advises the government on legal
matters.

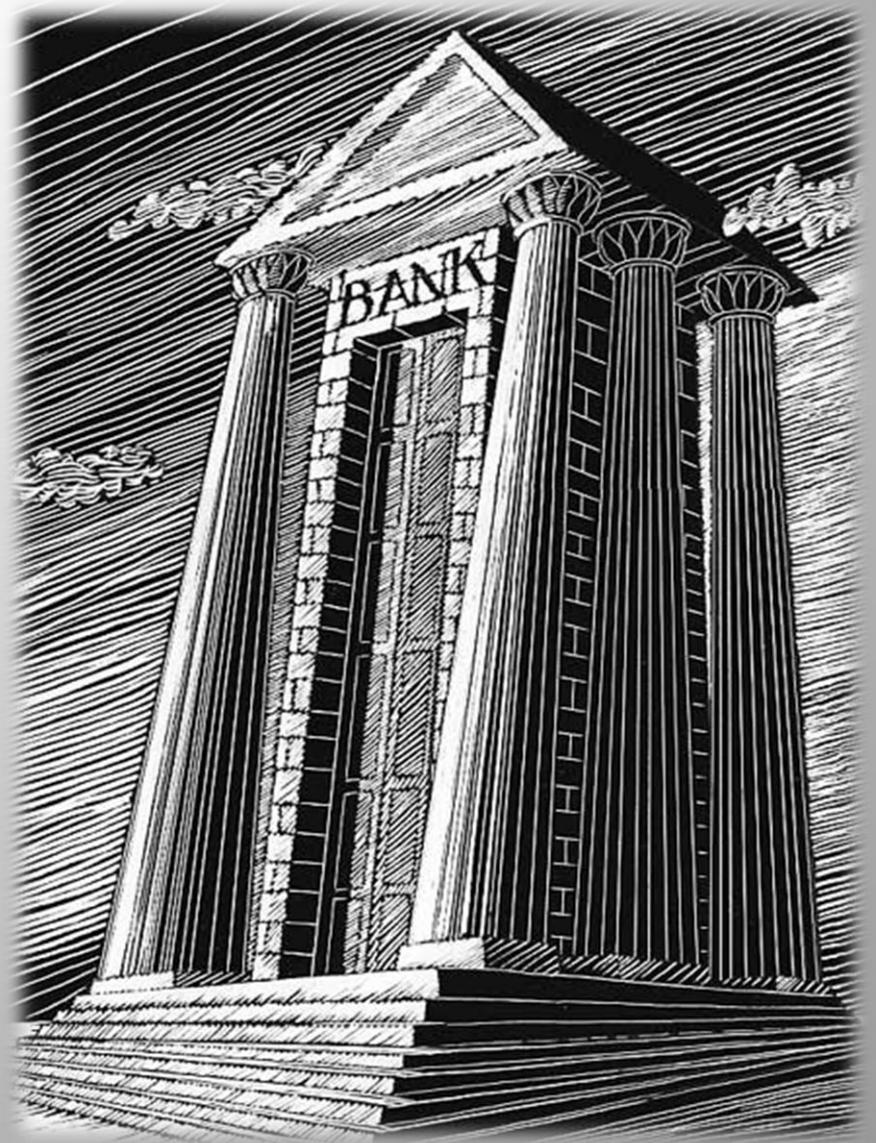
Edmond Randolph

Hamilton's Financial Plan

Alexander Hamilton believed that the federal government should be stronger than the state governments.

1. **Pay off the war debt** to develop the trust of other nations for trade and their own people's trust.
2. **Raise the federal government's revenues through tariffs and taxes.** Tariffs would encourage the growth of American industry (buy American-made) and raise money for the federal government.

3. Create a **National Bank**. It would be a safe place to keep the government's money. It could make loans to businesses and would issue paper currency. It would strengthen the federal government.



The United States owed \$11.7 million to foreign countries and \$40.4 million to U.S. citizens.

Hamilton planned to pay foreign debt first, and all debt at full value.

Some politicians, including **Thomas Jefferson**, opposed the plan, but Hamilton went ahead with it.

States owed \$25 million for Revolutionary War expenses.

Hamilton wanted the federal government to pay part of the states' debts to help the national economy.

The South did not want the federal government to pay states' debts.

Hamilton won the South's support by getting northern approval to move the national capital from Philadelphia to south of the Potomac River, **Washington, D.C.**

Debate on Interpretation of the Constitution

Jefferson and Madison said Hamilton's economic plans gave too much power to the national government and that the Constitution did not give Congress the power to create the bank.

They favored a **strict construction** view of the Constitution— the government should do only what the Constitution says it can do.

Hamilton believed in a **loose construction** of the Constitution—the government can take actions the Constitution does not forbid. (**Elastic Clause**)

President Washington and **Congress** agreed with Hamilton that it would provide stability for the U.S. economy.

The Bank of the United States— the country's first national bank—was chartered in **1791**.

Major Events During Washington's Presidency

The **French Revolution** broke out in **1789**.

France and Great Britain later went to war and some Americans, including Thomas Jefferson, supported the French.

President Washington wanted to remain neutral.

The United States issued the **Neutrality Proclamation**, in **1793**, saying it would not take sides.

Jay's Treaty

The British were seizing American ships in the French West Indies.

Washington wanted to prevent another war; so did the British.

Jay's Treaty was signed in 1794.

It settled disputes that had arisen between the two countries in the 1790's.

The treaty was unpopular in the United States.

Pinckney's Treaty

The Spanish disputed the U.S. and Florida border.

Spain closed the New Orleans port to U.S. trade in 1784 hurting the American economy.

Pinckney's Treaty was signed in 1795. Spain gave the Americans the right to freely travel on the Mississippi River and use the port of New Orleans.

Pinckney's Treaty



The southern U.S. border was set at **31° N latitude**.

Conflict in the Northwest Territory

Americans settled in the Northwest Territory despite Native Americans' protests, so they went to war.

Early Native American victories came under Chief **Little Turtle** of the **Miami** tribe. The **Shawnee** tribe of **Blue Jacket** fell under the American troops in the **Battle of Fallen Timbers** in 1794.

The Treaty of Greenville ended the war in 1795 and gave Americans most Indian lands in the Northwest Territory.

The Whiskey Rebellion

People in **Pennsylvania** were angry at the tax on American-made whiskey passed by Congress in 1791 and that cases about the law were tried in district courts, often far away from the people affected.

Fighting broke out in 1794.

Washington led an army against the rebels, but the Whiskey Rebellion ended without a battle.

Washington Retires

Wanted to leave public life in 1796.

Warned against dangers of foreign ties.

Warned the nation to work out its political differences.

Warned against too much public debt.



JOHN ADAMS

1797-1801



The Rise of Political Parties

Political parties began to form in the 1790s.

The **Federalist Party**, founded by **Alexander Hamilton** supported a strong federal government.

The **Democratic-Republican Party**, founded by **Thomas Jefferson and James Madison** wanted to limit the power of the federal government.

The Federalist **John Adams** defeated the Democratic-Republican candidate, **Thomas Jefferson**, in the election of 1796.

Adams became president, and Jefferson, vice president.

The First Political Parties, 1796

Federalists/North



Alexander Hamilton



John Adams



John Jay

Republicans/South



Thomas Jefferson



James Madison



Albert Gallatin



Map of the distribution of voters in 1796

The XYZ affair

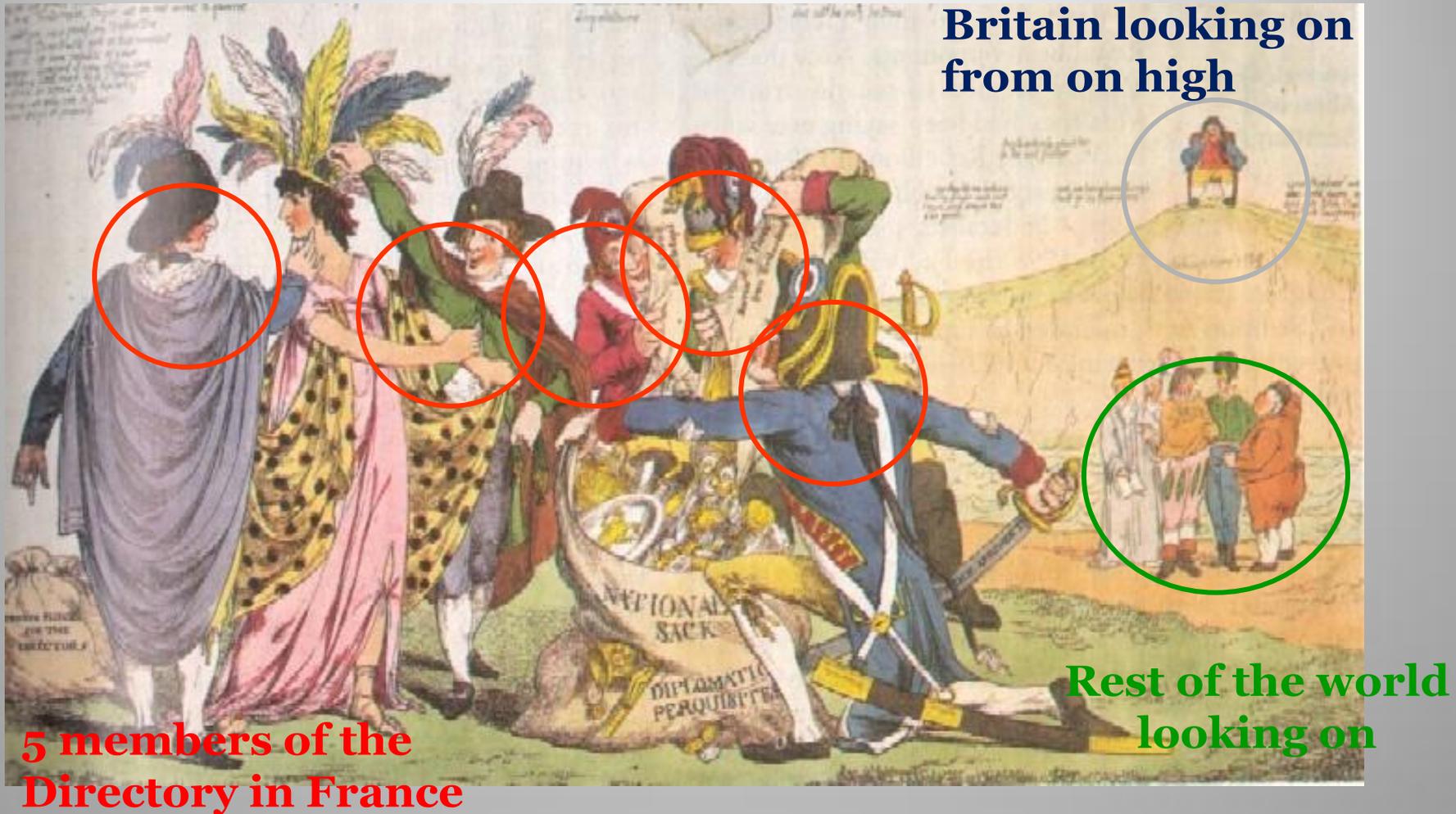
An early goal of Adams was to improve relations with France. U.S. diplomats were sent to France.

The French foreign minister, Talleyrand, would not meet them.

Three French agents secretly demanded a bribe before they would discuss a treaty with the Americans.

The so-called **XYZ Affair** outraged Americans and led to a call for war with France. They would pay “millions for defense, but not one cent for tribute.”

Public Opinion toward France Shifts



The XYZ affair - Maiden America ravaged by the French

War and Peace with France

American merchant ships being seized by French warships.

Adams asked Congress to expand the navy to more than 30 ships and to approve a peacetime army.

The Federalists were stunned by Adams's decision not to go to war.

American and French ships began fighting in the Caribbean but eventually the United States and France signed a treaty.

Controversy during Adams' Presidency

ALIEN AND SEDITION ACTS

The **Alien Act** authorized the president to deport any aliens considered to be dangerous and to detain any enemy aliens in a time of war.

The **Sedition Act** forbade anyone from publishing or voicing criticism of the federal government.

KENTUCKY AND VIRGINIA RESOLUTIONS

Written by Jefferson and Madison for the Kentucky and Virginia legislatures.

The documents argued that the Alien and Sedition Acts were unconstitutional.

They supported the idea that states could challenge the federal government.

Naturalization Act

What did it do?

- Increases from five to fourteen number of years required to qualify for U.S. citizenship

Why would it favor the Federalists?

- Most immigrants voted with the Democratic-Republicans

Judging Adams

Dislike for the Federalist Congress and the Alien and Sedition Acts cost Adams his reelection and gave control of Congress to the Republicans. But in weighing his presidency, we have to consider the negative along with the positive:

- Relationship with France damaged
- New taxes imposed
- Party politics become entrenched

- Keeps U.S. out of war, preserves neutrality
- Strengthens the Navy
- Peaceful transfer of power in 1800