

Sumeja Hrnjić

Mrs. Phillips

AP US History

22 November 2016

From the righteous beginning of this nation, to present day, we face the issues of engagement with other countries. In modern time, we have learned to become more involved in international conversation, but this was not how America was initially raised. In the late 1700s, young America's policy on foreign affairs was heavily motivated by actions and effects that lead to complete isolation. As the relationship with France broke with The French Revolution and throughout The XYZ Affairs, it caused uncertainty between the powers, and the beliefs of the first president, George Washington, led America to avoid alliances that would require them to become intertwined with global affiliations.

Shortly after the liberty bells rang, signaling the end of the tyranny in America, France was beginning to start an uprising of their own. Starting in 1789, America's freedom almost inspired The French Revolution, but was executed poorly. As people rioted against their people of higher power, they became worried if they would indeed gain a democracy. They asked aid from the new United States of America. France had helped the colonist during their fiasco with Great Britain, and now they believed it was time to repay their support. George Washington was skeptical from the first second he had heard of the war, believing it would only end in anarchy. He knew if there was one thing he must do as president, it was keep America out of war. He quickly released the Neutrality Proclamation, that stated that America nullified the treaty with France. This did not settle well with France, and broke the trust that the two powers once shared.

George Washington was a man of his word, and throughout the history books many see that he had an iron fist when it came to isolationism. The Democratic-Republicans did not favor this idea, but even with the doubt, Washington had to lead this nation to glory. He kept America in comfortable safety, without tearing at the Constitution and having cowardice. He knew what he wanted for the future generations. As Washington set these precedents, he was always sure that his ideology had gone through. In his Farewell Address in 1796, Washington told his citizen to caution when making alliances with other countries of the world. Isolationism was what he believed would save the nation from failure. So, as he warned the people, Washington also had set the precedent of not engaging in international affairs or wars.

After Washington's noble presidency had come to its conclusion, the Adams's Administration had begun to take its place. The relationship between France and America had already shattered, but with the turn of a new president, France became violent and almost destructive. It was barely noticeable at first, but as more American privateer ships got overtaken and dispatched, Adams had to do something to not appear weak. He sent three ambassadors to France to discuss the issue and possibly a form of agreement. Once they arrived, they were rudely treated by three nobles who disrespected their wishes to speak with the French foreign minister, Talleyrand. The nobles offered that the ambassadors would be granted access only if they were paid \$100,000. The three ambassadors did not take this lightly, and neither did Adams. He debated whether to accept the bribe or possibly start an outbreak amongst navies, but the citizen already decided. "Millions for defense, not a cent for tribute," was the mantra as the Quasi-War began. This later was seen as a mistake, and all grievances were buried after Jefferson won against Adams in the next election.

Through these events, America had increasingly become stricter on its alliances and who she sided with. From the diminishment of the treaty with France, to the unorthodox methods of bribery between the nations, it is understood how they affected the foreign policy over the stretch of the years to come. The leaders of the past knew that to keep America alive and healthy for centuries, they must act accordingly to the Constitution and for the sake of Americans. As of now, it has been seen that they indeed succeeded to create a nation that cares for their own.