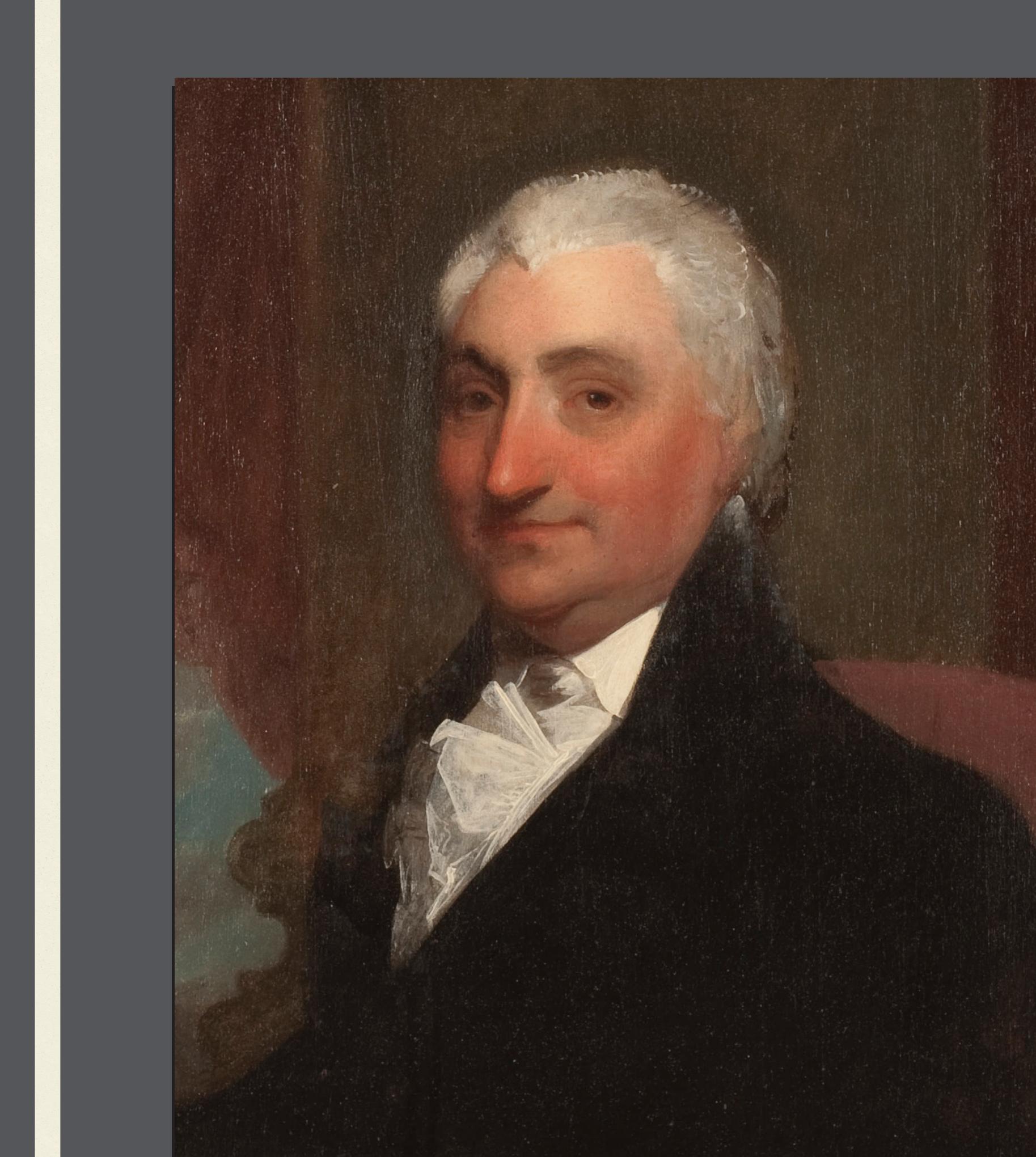
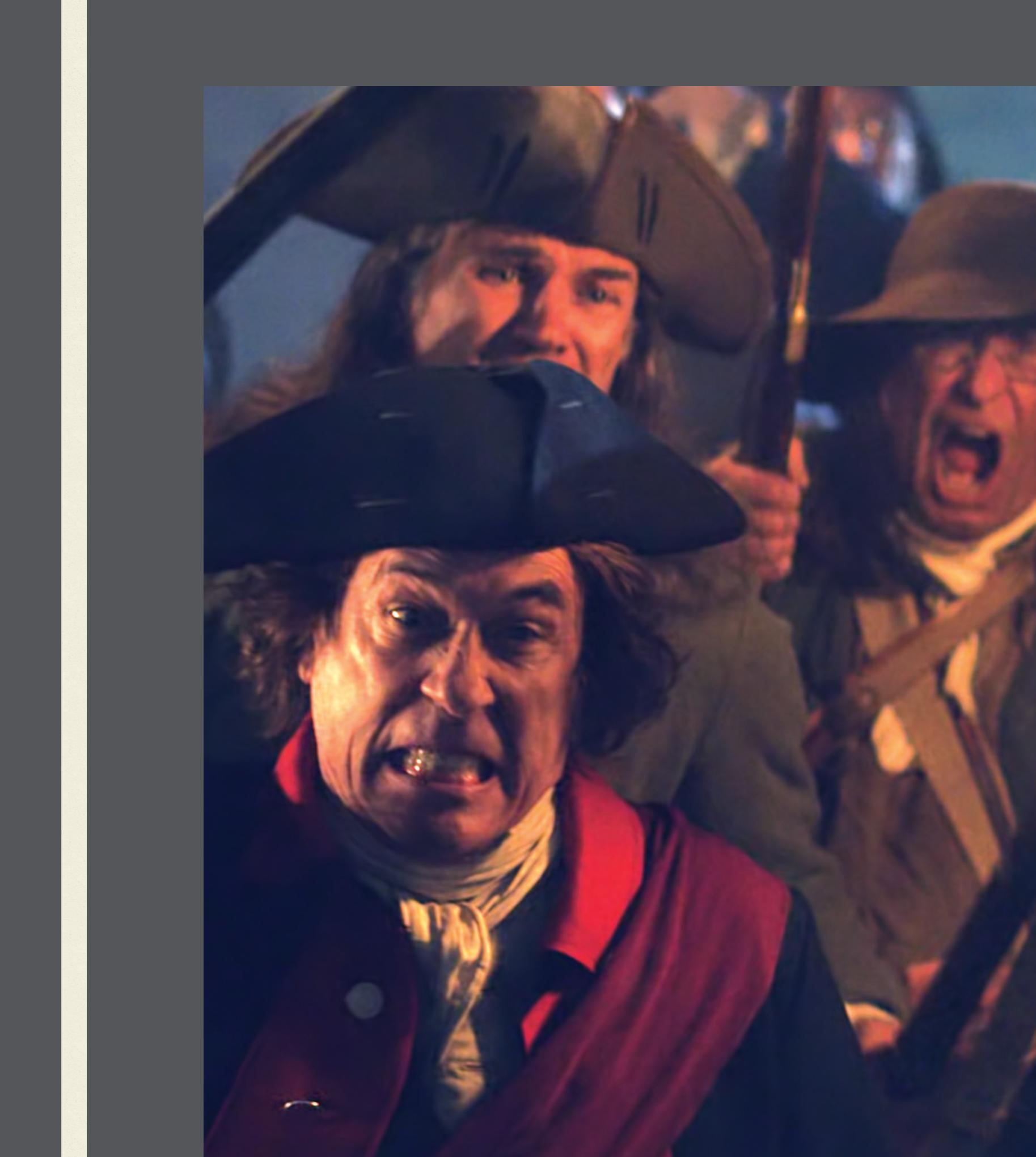
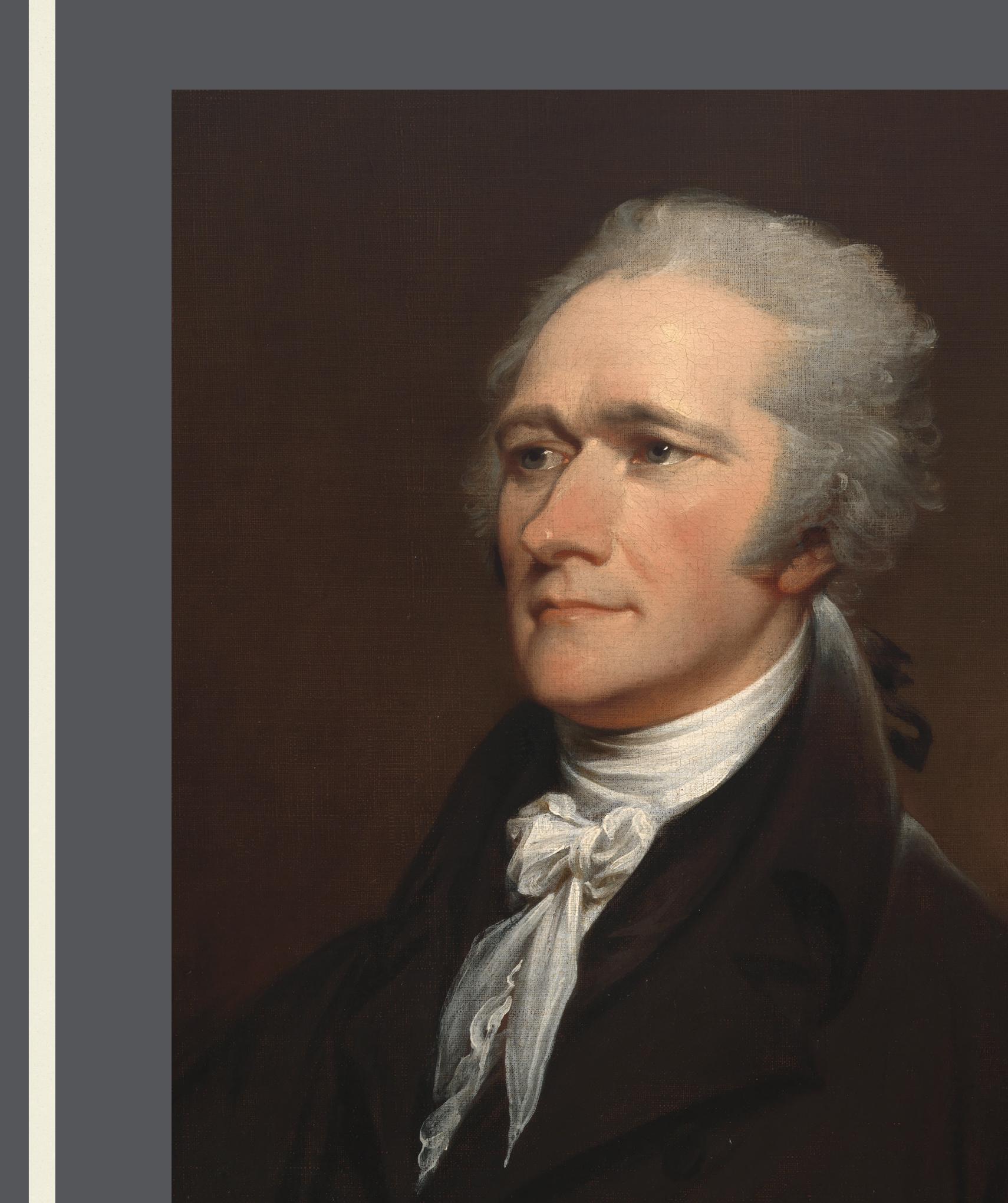


# The Whiskey Rebellion

The newly formed United States is in need of revenue, but one of its first taxes, an excise tax on whiskey, is violently opposed by small distillers in Western Pennsylvania. They see this tax as the brainchild of Alexander Hamilton and greedy Eastern bankers. President Washington, committed to upholding the Constitution, faces one of the great challenges of his presidency.



Many farmers in Western Pennsylvania distill whiskey and other spirits from their grain crops to make money and facilitate safe transport of their goods to Eastern markets.

Purchased with funds donated by the staff of Mount Vernon in honor of James C. Rees, former President and CEO, 2011.

Secretary of Treasury Alexander Hamilton, keen to expand federal powers and funds, is advocating for the use of force against the whiskey tax rebels.

*Alexander Hamilton* by John Trumbull, Oil on canvas, 1806. National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution; gift of Henry Cabot Lodge.

The Mingo Creek Militia has been threatening the federal tax collectors. Some in the militia have been pushing for the region to secede from the United States.

Hugh Henry Brackenridge, a prominent lawyer who later founded the University of Pittsburgh, is attempting to mediate a solution with the whiskey rebels.

*Hugh Henry Brackenridge*, Gilbert Stuart (1755–1828), 1810. Oil on board. Collection of the University of Pittsburgh Art Gallery. Gift of Dr. George Clapp (1984.13.1). Courtesy of University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

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