The **Louisiana Purchase** of **1803** was a landmark event in U.S. history, doubling the size of the country and setting the stage for westward expansion. It involved the acquisition of the vast **Louisiana Territory** from **France** during the presidency of **Thomas Jefferson**.

**Background:**

1. **The Louisiana Territory**:
   * The land stretched from the **Mississippi River** to the **Rocky Mountains**, including parts of 15 present-day U.S. states and portions of Canada.
   * It was initially controlled by France, ceded to Spain in 1762, and reclaimed by France under **Napoleon Bonaparte** in 1800.
2. **American Concerns**:
   * The U.S. relied on the Mississippi River and the port of **New Orleans** for trade and shipping.
   * In 1802, Spain closed New Orleans to American trade, creating economic and strategic concerns for the U.S.
3. **Negotiations with France**:
   * President Jefferson sent **James Monroe** and **Robert Livingston** to negotiate the purchase of New Orleans and the surrounding area.
   * Napoleon, facing financial strain from European wars and losing control of **Saint-Domingue** (Haiti) after a slave revolt, decided to sell the entire Louisiana Territory.

**The Purchase:**

1. **Terms**:
   * The U.S. acquired the Louisiana Territory for **$15 million**, roughly **4 cents per acre**.
   * The treaty was signed on **April 30, 1803**.
2. **Size and Scope**:
   * The Louisiana Purchase added approximately **828,000 square miles** to the U.S., doubling its size.

**Impact:**

1. **Westward Expansion**:
   * The purchase opened vast tracts of land for settlement and exploration.
   * It paved the way for the concept of **Manifest Destiny**, the belief that the U.S. was destined to expand across the continent.
2. **Exploration**:
   * Jefferson commissioned the **Lewis and Clark Expedition (1804–1806)** to explore the new territory, map the land, and establish relations with Native American tribes.
3. **Native American Displacement**:
   * The acquisition eventually led to the displacement of Indigenous peoples as settlers moved westward.
4. **Political Debate**:
   * Jefferson faced criticism, as some argued that the Constitution did not explicitly grant the federal government the power to acquire new land.
   * Jefferson justified the purchase under the government’s treaty-making powers.

**Legacy:**

* The Louisiana Purchase is considered one of the greatest land deals in history, significantly strengthening the U.S. both strategically and economically.
* It secured U.S. control of the Mississippi River and provided fertile land for agriculture and future development.
* It reinforced Jefferson’s vision of an "empire of liberty," emphasizing an agrarian society and expansion of democracy.