

Chapter 11: The Triumphs and Travails of the Jeffersonian Republic (1800—1812)

Federalist and Republican Mudslingers

Recall

Notes

- Federalists gained many enemies over the Alien and Sedition Acts
- Hamilton was unhappy with how Adams refused to go to war with France and published it in a secret newspaper
 - Jeffersonians got ahold of the newspaper and publicized it
- Adams had increased war efforts and even taxed the country to try to get war supplies but then never actually went to war
 - the new navy was called "John Adam's Jackasses" and Adams was known as "the Father of the American Navy"
- Federalists turned on Jefferson himself who was running against Adams
 - accused of robbing a woman and her children of a trust fund by fathering children with one of his slaves
 - exposed Jefferson as against the church for trying to separate church and state in Virginia
 - Jefferson believed in God but Federalist New England, also heavily religious, hated him and burned their bibles because they hated him so much

The Jeffersonian "Revolution of 1800"

Recall

Notes

- Jefferson won over Adams by 73 electoral votes to 65
- Adams gained more political strength but lost New York
 - Aaron Burr pulled some strings and turned the state towards Jefferson
 - Jefferson was heavily favored in the South where universal white manhood suffrage had been adopted
- the part of the Constitution that said slaves counted as 3/5 of a person gave Jefferson an advantage in the South because he had more representation
 - Northern critics called Jefferson a "Negro President" and an illegitimate embodiment of "slave power" in the Southern states
- Jefferson and Burr, another presidential candidate, received the same number of Electoral College votes
 - this could only be solved by the House of Representatives who preferred Burr to Jefferson
 - a few Federalist refused to vote and the election went to Jefferson
- John Adams was the last president of the Federalist party
 - disappeared completely when Andrew Jackson came around
- Jefferson called the election of 1800 a "revolution" and some historians refer to it as the **Revolution of 1800** but it wasn't even that big of a deal
 - Jefferson narrowly won

- Jefferson's personal mission was to restore the republican experiment and check the growth of power in the government
- peaceful and orderly transition of power to the next president
 - big victory for democracy and considering that succession in Britain would not take place until another generation

Responsibility Breeds Moderation

Recall

Notes

- "Long Tom" Jefferson was inaugurated president on March 4, 1801
 - spent 5 years in France as a US minister
 - had red hair
 - a "citizen of the world" but never lost the common touch
 - thought that elaborate stuff would not fit his democratic ideals so he walked everywhere and had a horse
- from Jefferson's inauguration address
 - *"The will of the majority is in all cases to prevail, that will to be rightful must be reasonable; the minority possess their equal rights, which equal law must protect, and to violate would be oppression."*
- Washington administration easily slid into the Jeffersonian Republicans
- Jefferson declared no formal seating by rank at official dinners
 - British minister was insulted
- Jefferson was shockingly unconventional as a president
 - receive callers dressed badly, in a dressing gown and heel-less slippers
 - preceded sending messages to Congress to be read by a clerk because he didn't want to appear in person
 - also aware of his weak voice and unimpressive platform
- Jefferson reversed many of his political principles he championed on
 - there were two Jeffersons; a scholarly private man who philosophized in his study, and a harassed public official who made theories that would never work in real politics
 - it was easy to quote Jefferson to refute himself
- Jefferson winning the presidency marked the first party overturn in the US
 - disappointed his friends for not firing Federalist officials who grew old in office
- Jefferson was more impressive at informal settings like a dinner
 - relied on personal charm because his party was weak
- Democratic-Republicans could not build a loyal political following
 - opposition to the Federalists held them together
 - as the Federalists dispersed, so did the Democratic-Republicans

Jeffersonian Restraint

Recall

Notes

- Jefferson wanted to undo what the Federalists had done
 - Alien and Sedition Acts had already expired
 - repealed the 14 year requirement to become a citizen
 - repealed the excise tax
 - cost Congress about a million dollars per year
- Albert Gallatin became "Watchdog of the Treasury"
- Jeffersonians left the Hamiltonian framework in tact, except for the excise tax
 - did not tamper with funding the national debt, or attack the Bank of the United States, or repeal the Federalist tariff
- Jefferson somehow further cemented the Revolution of 1800 by absorbing Federalist programs instead of pushing them away
 - lead to a two-party system of American politics

The "Dead Clutch" of the Judiciary

Recall

Notes

- the **Judiciary Act of 1801** was one of the last important laws passed by the Federalist Congress
 - Adams stayed until 9pm on his last day of office appointing "**midnight judges**"
 - was seen by the Republicans as an attempt to plant themselves permanently in government
 - repealed the act the year after its passage
 - Jeffersonians took the sixteen seats from the "midnight judges"
- tried to go after Chief Justice John Marshall, who had been appointed as Adams' 4th choice in his last days in office
 - dominated court with powerful intellect and commanding personality
- Marshall served at Valley Forge during the Revolutionary War and hated the weak central authority
 - made him a lifelong Federalist who was committed to strengthening the central government
 - served about 30 days under a Federalist administration and 34 years under future administrations
- William Marbury had just been named justice of peace for the District of Columbia but he was going to be shelved for James Madison
 - Marbury sued and the case went to Chief Justice Marshall
 - Marshall knew the Jeffersonians would not try very hard to defend a Federalist nominee
 - dismissed Marbury's suit, preventing a political showdown
- in Marbury's case, Marshall said part of the Judiciary Act of 1789 was unconstitutional
- **Marbury v. Madison** questioned who had the final say to determine the meaning of the Constitution
 - the Supreme Court was decided to have the final word
- Jeffersonians wanted to get revenge on Marshall
 - tried to impeach Samuel Chase who was arrogant and had a big mouth

- Senate did not get enough votes to remove him from office based on "high crimes and misdemeanors"

Jefferson, a Reluctant Warrior

Recall

Notes

- Jefferson reduced military establishment to about 2500 police officers and men
 - wanted America to be known for settling affairs without wars and alliances in Europe
 - didn't like the idea that a large army could storm and claim dictatorship
- pirates had been blackmailing and plundering the merchant ships in the Mediterranean
 - Jefferson did not want to pay for tribute to pirates
- Tripoli informally declared war on the United States
 - Jefferson dispatched the infant navy to the shores of Tripoli
 - four years of fighting resulted in a peace treaty in 1805 and \$60,000
- the navy had used small gunboats in the **Tripolitan War** and Jefferson wanted know more about them
 - wanted to have gunboats on the coast
- about 200 gunboats were made and more of a problem to the crew than the actual enemy
 - one was accidentally deposited 8 miles inland and Federalists laughed and declared the American gunboats as the best in the world

The Louisiana Godsend

Recall

Notes

- Napoleon made Spain give them the trans-Mississippi area of Louisiana and New Orleans
- Spaniards withdrew right of deposit from America in the Pinckney's Treaty of 1795
 - American pioneers wanted to storm New Orleans with rifles
 - if they actually did that, the US could've gone to war with both France and Spain
- America could seize Louisiana whenever they wanted to, but they were worried about Napoleon
 - they were not strong enough to defeat him
 - had to look for allies and went against the anti-alliance policy
- Jefferson sent James Monroe to Paris to join forces with the minister
 - two envoys were instructed to buy New Orleans and as much land as they possibly could for \$10 million
 - if France negotiations failed, America would try to ally with Britain
 - *"The day that France takes possession of New Orleans, we must marry ourselves to the British fleet and nation."* -Jefferson
- Napoleon suddenly decided to abandon the New World and sell all of Louisiana

- failed to reconquer sugar-rich Santo Domingo (Haiti) which Louisiana served as a source of food
 - French troops were killed off by mosquitoes carrying yellow fever
 - Napoleon did not want Santo Domingo after the **Haitian Revolution**
- wanted to end conflict with Britain in the water
 - might be forced to gift Louisiana to Britain
- Napoleon just decided to sell the wilderness to the Americans and hoped the United States would be strong enough to defeat Britain
- French foreign minister suddenly asked Robert Livingston, American minister, how much he would give for Louisiana
 - treaties were signed on April 30, 1803 ceding Louisiana to the Americans for \$15 million
- Jefferson was startled
 - he told his envoys not to spend more than \$10 million for Louisiana, but they had signed three separate treaties amassing to \$15 million and bought land twice the size of the current United States along with it
 - Jefferson did not know what to do with the Indian, French, Spanish, and black inhabitants of the new wilderness
 - saw how it could lead to the future prosperity of America
 - shamefully submitted the treaties to the Senate while saying the purchase was unconstitutional
- land-hungry Americans did not hesitate
- they bought 828,000 square acres at about three cents an acre

Louisiana in the Long View

Recall

Notes

- the **Louisiana Purchase** took the western half of the richest river valley
 - laid the foundations for a future major power
- Washington agreed to accept French Louisianans based on their French civil code rather than the English common law
 - Louisiana state law retains its French origins
 - Indian Americans were not as fortunate
- Louisiana Purchase made it possible to maintain Washington's isolationist principles
 - America had potentially hostile neighbors until they bought the land from the French
 - removed the last significant European power away from America
- Jefferson sent Lewis and Clark to explore the new land
 - **Corps of Discovery** ascended the "Great Muddy" from St. Louis
 - spent the winter with Mandan Indians
 - descended Columbia River to the Pacific coast
 - yielded scientific observations, knowledge of the Indians in the region, and many wilderness adventure stories
 - Lewis got jumped by teenage Blackfoot Indians who stole his horses, pursued on foot and almost got shot

- thousands of pioneers, traders, missionaries, and settlers would go to the Pacific coast in the next few decades
 - bolstered America's claim to the Oregon Country

The Aaron Burr Conspiracies

Recall

Notes

- Louisiana Purchase long term expanded fortunes of the US and the power of the federal government; short term raised fear of secession and foreign intrigue on new land
- Aaron Burr, first-term vice president to Jefferson, provoked and justified those fears to the public
 - joined with a group of Federalist extremists to plot the secession of New England and New York
 - Alexander Hamilton exposed the conspiracy
 - Burr challenged Hamilton to a duel
 - Hamilton refused to fire, Burr killed him with one shot
- Burr's political career was dead and he fled to the trans-Mississippi West
 - struck up allegiance with General James Wilkinson
 - nobody really knows what he did but they were planning to separate the western part of the US from the East and expand into Spanish Mexico and Florida
- Burr was arrested and tried for treason, but John Marshall ruled that he had to have proof of acts of treason, not just intentions
 - Burr was acquitted and he fled to Europe

A Precarious Neutrality

Recall

Notes

- Jefferson was reelected in 1804, 162:14 votes
 - first administration broke under French Napoleon waging war with Britain for 11 years
- 1805 at the Battle of Trafalgar, one-eyed Horatio Lord Nelson achieved immortality by smashing the combined French and Spanish fleets
 - ensured British supremacy on the seas
 - at the Battle of Austerlitz in Austria (Battle of the Three Emperors), Napoleon crushed Austrian and Russian armies, ensuring dominance on land
 - France and Britain were now supreme at their respective elements
- Britain and France were not able to directly attack each other, so they passed laws
 - **Orders in Council** passed by the London government said that French ports were closed to foreign ships unless they stopped at a British port first
 - Napoleon said he'd seize all American merchant ships that entered British waters
 - there was no way for American vessels to trade with either country
- **impressment** was to forcibly conscript sailors and commonly used by the British on American sailors

- 1807 British involve themselves in the **Chesapeake Affair**, when a British boat named the *British* stopped a US boat called the *Chesapeake* and demanded they return 4 deserters
 - American commander refused and the British fired, killing three Americans and wounding 18

The Hated Embargo

Recall

Notes

- Americans did not want to submit to the British or French, but did not want to settle for foreign war either
- the navy was pretty weak, and the army was even weaker, thanks to Jefferson
- nations in Europe depended on the United States for raw materials and foodstuffs
 - Jefferson thought if he cut off their supply, the countries would bow to them
- Congress passed the **Embargo Act** in 1807 forbidding export of American goods in any ships
 - American economy almost crashed into the ground before Britain and France even showed a slight stagger
 - New England wanted to cede
 - everyone suffered, went unemployed, watched as materials piled up at the docks
 - some Americans started comparing him to George III
 - *"Our ships all in motion
Once whiten'd the ocean; They sail'd and return'd with a Cargo;
Now doom'd to decay
They are fallen a prey, To Jefferson, worms, and EMBARGO"*
- embargo brought back the dying Federalist party
- Congress repealed embargo on March 1, 1809
 - substituted by the **Non-Intercourse Act**
 - reopened trade with all nations except for Britain and France
- embargo collapsed after 15 months
 - underestimated stubbornness of the British and overestimated their reliance on the United States
 - Latin America eagerly opened up to fill for the United States
 - French still seized ships and mocked the Americans by saying they were helping force embargo
- New England Yankees chose to reopen factories and start industrializing a little bit

Madison's Gamble

Recall

Notes

- Jefferson left the presidency after two terms, escaping "splendid misery"
- he favored James Madison as the next president and Madison got elected, then inaugurated March 4, 1809
 - small of stature, light of weight, bald of head, and weak of voice

- Congress dismantled embargo completely with a new bargaining measure called the **Macon's Bill No. 2**
 - if either Britain or France repealed its commercial restrictions, America would go back to embargo against the other country
 - Napoleon said France would repeal if Britain would
- Madison accepted the French offer as a repeal and gave Britain 3 months to repeal the Orders in Council
 - Britain did not repeal
 - America was to trade exclusively with Britain or nobody at all
 - they had firm control of the seas

Tecumseh and the Prophet

Recall

Notes

- recent election replaced the old men with young hotheads who were eager to fight
 - dubbed **war hawks** by the Federalists
- younger folks hated how the old guys screwed up trade with Britain and the handling of sailors
 - wanted to wipe out Indians who were in the trans-Allegheny wilderness
- two Shawnee brothers, Tecumseh and Tenskwatawa, known to the non-Indians as "the Prophet" wanted to unite the Indians tribes east of the Mississippi
 - renewal Indian unity and culture
 - never cede land to whites unless all Indians agreed
- Congress convinced that the British "scalp buyers" in Canada were nourishing the Indians
- fall of 1811, William Henry Harrison advanced towards Tecumseh's headquarters, at Wabash and Tippecanoe Rivers
 - Tecumseh was absent, but a small force of Shawnees attacked the army and they lost and had their settlement burned
 - the **Battle of Tippecanoe** made Harrison a national hero and forced Tecumseh to ally with the British
- Tecumseh fought fiercely for the British until his death in 1813 at the Battle of the Thames, and with his death perished the dream of an Indian confederacy

Mr. Madison's War

Recall

Notes

- by spring of 1812, Madison thought war with Britain was inevitable
 - hostile British and Indian troops pushed him towards war along with war hawks in his own party
- Madison wanted to restore the people's faith in the government
 - declined over clashes internationally
 - American rights and democracy would only be asserted over war
 - war was the only test of republicanism

- Madison asked Congress to declare war on June 1, 1812
 - Congress declared war 2 weeks later at 79:49 in the House, 19:13 in the Senate
 - support came from the South and the West, but also from Republicans in Pennsylvania and Virginia
 - Federalists in the North and South didn't want to go to war, mainly the New England area
 - pro-British pro-Federalist northerners sympathized with Britain and resented Republicans' sympathy towards Napoleon
 - *"To rule the nation if they could
But see it damned if others should."*
- New England gold holders and Federalists sent a lot of money to aid the British
 - New England states refused to let their militia serve
- America was fighting old England and New England
- and then America plunged into war with Britain