

Lecture 6: Era of Democratic Republicans (1800-1828)

Election of 1800:

- John Adams was president, Jefferson was VP
- Another Jefferson/Adams competition
 - Same arguments that arose in last election were present this time
 - Heated election because if both sides thought if other party wins, American experiment ends
 - America is done if other party ends → very heated
- Partisan rhetoric/press → insults that were on title slide, “unchristian” insults, published in newspapers/press
 - No unbiased press, every newspaper has their own agenda
- Electoral college: whoever had second most votes became VP
- Tie: 73-Jefferson, 73-Burr, 65-Adams → Adams lost
 - Who is going to be president?
 - Burr wants to be president → tie goes to Congress to break it
 - Vote 35 times!
 - One Federalist finally switches vote to Jefferson
 - Jefferson wins, Burr is VP (first Democratic-Republican president)
- Even after all of this, still had peaceful transfer of power (one of first times in world that party actually peacefully gives up power to the next party)
 - Adams acknowledges loss
- More important thing: lets not do this electoral college tie thing all over again
- Established 12th Amendment, 1804
 - President and VP elected separately
 - No majority, then top 3 go to House for tiebreaker
 - Established so that person running for VP wouldn't accidentally end up as president (no Jefferson/Burr situation again)

Thomas Jefferson, 1801-09:

- As general presidency:
 - 3rd president
 - Democratic Republican, VA, president for 2 terms
- First president based in DC (officially capital in 1800)
- Even though Democratic-Republican, doesn't like Hamilton's plan, he is not able to get rid of it
 - For practical, logistical, economic reasons

- Parts of Hamilton's plan (from last lecture) remain in place, like National Bank and other policies

Marbury vs Madison, 1803

- One of the most important SCOTUS case ever
- One of the first things that Jefferson has to deal with
- Election of 1800 → Adams is leaving office
- If he appoints lots of judges, then those judges can protect his Federalist policies if someone tries to get rid of them
 - Last-ditch attempt to protect Federalist policies in fear that Jefferson will throw them out
 - Adams' Midnight judges: appoints them right before he leaves office
 - Jefferson + party → try and block this, say it is not Constitutional
 - William Marbury (one of judges appointed) argued that he should be able to be a judge
 - Marbury sues Madison, who was Secretary of State at the time → goes all the way to SCOTUS
 - Marbury does not get his position as a judge
- **Court case establishes: Power of Judicial review**
 - Before this, SCOTUS doesn't have a lot of official duties, so this gives them a role
 - After this, SCOTUS decides whether something is constitutional or not → have final say whether something fits constitution
 - Establishing this themselves
 - Where bulk of SCOTUS power still comes from

Louisiana Purchase, 1803:

- In 1800, Spain gives LA territory back to France they got from them after FIW
- Jefferson does not like large French territory near the colonies
- Fear of having to turn to British for alliance (doesn't like them!)
 - Sends diplomats to French → want to ensure they have rights to Mississippi river
 - Napoleon offers the entire territory to Jefferson for \$15 mil because they don't want to deal with this while fighting other wars
- TJ is strict constructionist: if the constitution doesn't say it explicitly, he doesn't have the power to do buy this land
- So does he stick to his principals or not?
 - Jefferson support agrarianism → more land from territories to support landowners
 - Could also double US territory
 - But if he's a strict constructionist, he cannot do it!
 - He chooses to agree to Louisiana Purchase → doubles US territory
 - Meaning that Jefferson decides how strict of a constructionist he wants to be
 - But indigenous people still live there!
- Jefferson's immediate thought is to explore this land → sends Lewis and Clark expedition (1804-1806) in the hopes of finding water route to Pacific Ocean
 - Find Sacagawea
 - Way for Jefferson to put a stamp on this territory

Embargo of 1807:

- Jefferson is fairly popular (farmers like LA purchase)
- Jefferson has A LOT of support (landslide)
- Continued tensions with British and French
 - British and French are attacking each other
 - US is trading with both
 - French and British say that if ships are going to enemy
- National Embargo → US does not trade with either anymore
 - Forces them to leave them alone by not selling anything to either
 - US have to figure out someone else to trade with, or they will go in debt
 - Tanks US economy → who will they sell to?
- Hurts merchants, economy, but still does not make Jefferson unpopular

James Madison, 1809-1817

- Jefferson steps down after 2 terms (like Washington did)
- Madison, Democratic-Republican from VA
- Madison has clear win, despite embargo
- 1812: Madison is reelected again
- Biggest event: War of 1812

War of 1812: Causes

- Lots of people think this is fight for independence 2.0
- Trade tensions
 - Continued tensions with British/France over trade
- Frontier conflict
 - 2 Indigenous people in 1811 (brothers) lead a group of indigenous people, Tecumseh and Tenskwatawa, that want to drive US out and restore their land
 - Turn to British for help → British give weapons + support in hopes of destabilizing US
 - Ongoing conflict in Indiana territory
 - Governor William Henry Harrison attacks Tecumseh's alliance: Battle of Tippecanoe, 1811
 - Defeats indigenous people
- Impressment
 - Kidnapping US sailors and forcing them to work for British navy
- All of these things add up, US unhappy: War Hawks vs Doves
 - War Hawks want to fight the British
 - Doves don't like this, want peace
 - John Bull (in image) represents British
 - Huge debate in Congress → Madison says they should declare war, and is declared in 1812

War of 1812:

- Lots of fighting

- In 1814, British land in MA and burn DC → devastating loss
- Battle of Baltimore, 1814
 - Produces Star-Spangled Banner
 - Written during this war
 - Francis Scott Key, author of it, was stuck watching bombing of Baltimore on a British ship
 - Inspired to write this poem because he sees American flag after Baltimore is bombed
- Andrew Jackson → becomes war hero
 - Mostly fighting in the south → Mobile, AL, Pensacola, FL
 - War hero because he killed indigenous people in that area
 - Battle of New Orleans: January 1815:
 - Defeats British
 - But the war is already over by this time

War of 1812: Effects:

- Treaty of Ghent, December 1814: British and US signed to end war
- Puts EVERYTHING back exactly how it was before: nobody gains anything, borders are the exact same
- Only major difference is British respect for US as an independent country
- Kind of a pointless war, but respect for US
- Death of Federalist Party
 - Hartford Convention: Dec. 1814
 - Don't want to fight British, pay for the war
 - Thinking they should amend constitution
 - Also consider taking New England and separating from US → secession
 - When news gets out of this: people are MAD
 - Even Federalist supporters are mad
 - People are betrayed → think Federalists are disloyal