

Nathan Lesch
8th Congress
John Quincy Adams

In the 17th century many French explorers had established forts, settlements and trade relationships in the region of North America stretching from New Orleans to the Great Lakes and from the Appalachians to Montana. After the American Revolution Spain controlled the largest part of North America, because earlier France had given them some of their holdings and had lost much territory to Britain after the Seven Years War. However, in 1801 Spain agreed to a secret treaty to give France back much of its land (Louisiana Purchase, n.d.). This worried the United States because many Americans had been moving west past the Appalachians, and the Pinckney Treaty was very favorable to American interests. In 1802 this treaty was revoked, causing anger among the American settlers. Because of that president Jefferson sent James Monroe to Paris to meet with Robert Livingston, who was already in Paris, to negotiate with France over the future of the Louisiana territory (Louisiana Purchase, 1803, n.d.).

The Kingdom of Morocco and the semi-independent states of Algiers, Tunis and Tripoli were collectively called the Barbary States, because they actively promoted state-sponsored piracy. Piracy began in the Barbary States after the Moors were expelled from Granada. By the 17th century the strength of the pirates had grown so much that the tribute system was implemented. This meant that European powers would essentially bribe the pirates to leave their ships alone, and any European power whose relationship with the pirates was not secure were free to be plundered. This caused some nations to fly the flag of other nations that had agreements with the pirates, or to travel in convoys made up of many different nations so they could be more protected from the pirates. In some instances the European powers used the pirates to further their own geopolitical aims by paying the pirates to harass other powers more. After becoming independent from Britain the United States sent representatives to negotiate with the Barbary pirates. They managed to develop four treaties, but Jefferson wanted to take a harder stance against the pirates and believed that going to war against them would be economically beneficial for the United States. In 1801, as Jefferson became president the relationship between the United States and Tripoli was starting to deteriorate. Tripoli demanded more tribute, because the United States was paying more tribute to the other Barbary States. Jefferson ordered a naval operation against Tripoli and Morocco (The First Barbary War, n.d.).

Officially titled "An Act to Establish the Judicial Courts of the United States," the 1789 Judiciary Act established the structure of the judicial system within the United States, and established the office of attorney general. The Constitution had established a Supreme Court of the United States, but it did not outline the federal court system (Judicial Act of 1789, n.d.). The Judicial Act organized the federal court system into three parts: district courts, circuit courts and the Supreme Court. The designers of the act, Oliver Ellsworth and William Patterson, viewed it as a work in progress. The Act also gave the Supreme Court the ability to make decisions regarding conflicts between states, and gave the court the ability to make the last decision about legislature that the states develop, or decisions made by lower courts (Judiciary Act of 1789, n.d.). The 1801 Judiciary Act caused much controversy because it called for a reorganization of the judicial system right at the end of John Adams presidency and was seen as a political tool to help John Adams party, the Federalists, in power. The Judiciary Act of 1801 as well as the Organic Act for the District of Columbia reduced the number of Supreme Court justices from 6 to 5 and eliminated the justices circuit court duties, so they could better focus on their Supreme Court duties. To eliminate the justices circuit court duties John Adams established 16 new judgeships and filled these new positions mainly with other Federalists. William Marbury was a Federalist who was not allowed to become a judge because Jefferson refused to commission him as a judge under Adams new judiciary, so he brought the decision up to the Supreme Court, hoping to force his commission through a writ of mandamus (Judicial Act of 1801, n.d.).

John Quincy Adams was born in Braintree Massachusetts on July 11th, 1767. He grew up during the Revolutionary War, and saw the Battle of Bunker Hill first hand. Both Adam's mother and father were ardent patriots. His father, John Adams, was a delegate at the Continental Congress, and his mother, Abigail Smith Adams, was an early supporter of women's rights. Quincy Adams was appointed a foreign ambassador before the end of the Revolutionary War and during Washington's presidency. After returning home, Quincy Adams was appointed to the US Senate representing Massachusetts. Although Quincy Adams was part of the Federalist party he did not partake in the party rivalries at the time, and ideologically he agreed with most Federalist principles and wanted the US to have a stronger central government (John Quincy Adams, n.d.).

Quincy Adams was in favor of the Louisiana Purchase, because he felt it strengthened the central government, even though the measure was opposed by his Federalist party. He believed that the precedence already in place about new states joining the union in the Northwest Ordinance should continue to be used to govern this

new territory. However, he was very opposed to the expansion of slavery into the new territory (The Louisiana Purchase April 24-30, 1803, 2011). Quincy Adams' views on the strengthening of the Federal government continued in relation to Marbury vs. Madison. He felt that measures in the Judiciary Act of 1801 about strengthening the Federal government were well founded, however he did not agree with his father's appointment of the majority of Federalist justices. Lastly Quincy Adams felt that the US Navy should be expanded, and the Marines should be reestablished to be able to protect American ships against Barbary Pirates, and the US should try to temporarily work with European powers such as Portugal or Spain to combat the Barbary Pirates.

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