Ava Gill

John Brown 8th Congress

Federal Judiciary System

The judiciary system is one that’s powers were not clearly listed in the Constitution. It is because of this that the Judiciary Act of 1789 was passed to further explain how the system would be run. Although some viewed it as flawed it kept the balance of powers in tact. However, the Judiciary Act of 1801 has given the Supreme Court too much power in our government, and has taken power away from the people.

The Supreme Court Justices are not elected by the people, but instead by the President. This means that when SCOTUS interprets the Constitution they are not judging it off of the people’s vote. The Constitution is the groundwork for the United States democratic system, and should be interpreted by the citizens voice. If the Supreme Court is not elected by the people but is interpreting what rights they have under the Constitution, they are not following the ideas and values of the people. It is this divide that takes power away from the citizens in our country. The Constitution gives all rights not explicitly stated to the states, so by the Supreme Court being given the power of judicial review, you are also taking power away from the states. Since the state representatives are elected by the people’s vote, the states say is what the people want. Unlike the states, SCOTUS does not represent the people and their wishes, which is why they should not be given the power of judicial review.

Judicial review allows SCOTUS to make any law they want constitutional or not. This is a lot of power for people who are in office for life and are not elected by the people. This power allows SCOTUS to shape the United States however they please without being checked by any other branch, When our Constitution was drafted each power given to a specific branch would be checked by another power given to a different branch. This system of checks and balances is what will keep our country from becoming corrupt. Creating the power of judicial review will disrupt the balance of power that was created to stop corruption. If one branch has more power than another it will lead them to be able to take control over our government like the absolute rulers in Europe.

The power of interpreting the constitution should be more heavily influenced by the citizens of the United States. The Constitution states “We the people”, showing that our government is run for the people and by the people. If our country is a true democracy the people have to hold the largest say in how our government is run, and the laws that are passed. The best way for the people to have the biggest say is to allow each state to interpret the constitution for the people that live in it. The people elect their representatives and therefore the states have a closer connection than the Supreme Court Justices. The federal government should not be allowed to have more power than the state governments because it has a looser tie to the people. Judicial review allows five people elected by the Presidents to interpret our constitution and apply it to our nation’s laws. These five people are not enough to interpret the views of what our citizens want, and the power of judicial review will certainly cause problems in the future if too many states disagree.

Ava Gill

John Brown 8th Congress

Barbary Wars

The United States of America needs to stand its ground as independent state against the Barbary States. We cannot allow a group of rogue states to dictate our international trade rights as we establish our foreign policy. As a way to establish the United States’ independence, create a permanent navy in defense of our nation, and to support the safety and right of our citizens to participate in international trade, the United States needs to use force against the Barbary States.

The United States is a newer nation and has yet to assert its power in the world. As a new country a war on piracy works to help secure and show its sovereignty at a nation. We have to demand respect from the Barbary States, and not let them treat us as if we are not a sovereign nation. It is important for us to establish the presence we want to have in the world early on. By taking action and exhibiting force it shows an unreluctant approach to foreign policy, and shows that the United States will stand its ground.

National security is an issue now and will continue to be an issue in the future. Our nation needs a stronger navy to assert a strong presence in the world. By creating a strong navy to combat the Barbary States it will help us in any future conflicts where a navy will be necessary. Creating a navy is not just an immediate resolution, but is also beneficial to protecting the United States long term security.

The Barbary States are not only targeting the United States, but also our citizens. The ships that are being targeted are trade ships carrying goods that our merchants are selling. Our citizens businesses are important and the Barbary States are hurting their incomes. To allow our citizens to be able to trade internationally we need to stop the pirates from attacking the ships. Although we can pay tribute, using force is a much better long term plan because we will spend less money fighting the war then we will in the accumulation of tributes over a long period of time. International trade is crucial to our economy, and we need to keep good trade relations with other nations. Our citizens run businesses through trading internationally, and the stopping of this trade would hurt their businesses. It is the damage to these businesses that we need to think about when we decide how to handle the Barbary States.

The Barbary States need to be shown that we are a strong sovereign nation. By using force the United States shows it has legitimate naval power and no threats against the us will be taken lightly. Force must be used to create a lasting resolution to the piracy without having to pay any tributes and giving into their demands. This is the only way to assert ourselves as a sovereign nation, create a lasting navy, and stand up for our citizens, who partake in international trade.

Ava Gill

John Brown 8th Congress

Louisiana Purchase

The Purchase of New Orleans is a very important one for the United States. This is a prime trading port that is needed for our country to prosper, and so that the French do not gain control of our land. Another important factor for the United States’ economy and trading routes is the Mississippi river, which travels all the way to the Gulf of Mexico. It is important that the United States gains this territory so that France does not have a monopoly on the trade in the area. The United States needs to purchase the Louisiana Territory from France, while they are still willing to sell it.

The Louisiana Territory should not be taken by force, but instead should be taken through diplomatic actions and be purchased. By going to war with France over the lands we risk our diplomatic relations to the nation. These negotiations should be made by President Jefferson’s chief negotiators James Monroe and Robert Livingston to insure that the land is bought at a fair price and causes no fights between the United States and France. Since France has already rejected our over for two million dollars for the New Orleans area we should offer $10 million. Since France is involved in wars with England they are likely to accept this amount because they will need the money to continue fighting. Although $10 million is a lot for the land, we will also ask for the relief of the debts we owe to France due to the Revolutionary War. Since we do not have all the money for the land the money can be borrowed from British and Dutch banks that are willing to loan the money. As for who will govern the new land, it should be broken up into multiple new states, and new governors will be appointed to oversee the development of the states. These governors should be elected by the president and overseen by congress.

In the new territory slavery must be allowed in order for the economic system to work properly. With much of the incoming land being farm land it is imperative that there is cheap labor, so the crops do not become expensive. The new territory will be producing many goods such as cotton and wheat and will need a large workforce to keep up with the demand. Slavery allows there to be no costs for the manual labor that goes into the running of the plantations. With the costs for production then lowered it allows for the products to be much cheaper and can then compete with other nation’s products. Without slavery plantation owners would be forced to hire paid workers, which would cause their businesses to lose money and destroy the economy.

The Louisiana territory will need to be explored if the proper funds are found in the federal government’s budget. These explorers can be chosen by the president, but should be reviewed by congress to make sure they are qualified for the job. Since it is unknown how far the land goes to the west it can not be properly broken up until after the western boundaries are found. The land should be broken up by natural boundaries such as rivers and mountains. Any natives in the land can stay if they adapt to our culture otherwise they can move further west off of the and we have acquired. We can sign new treaties with the native americans pushing them further west onto new land that was not given to us by the French during the purchase.

The purchasing of the Louisiana Territory will benefit the United States greatly. It will give us a new control over the Mississippi river, and control over the trading from the New Orleans Port. This will help our economy and presence in the national trade routes. It will also allow us to expand westward giving our people new land to move to as our country becomes more populous.