The Triumphs & Travails of Jeffersonian Democracy

1800 – 1812

Mr. Love
Federalists & Republican Mudslingers

 Pregnant, Federalists damaged by Adams’s refusal to fight France
 - War preparation had increased the national debt & new taxes were passed
 - “All dressed up and no where to go”

 In retaliation, Federalists tried to defame Jefferson’s character
 - “whispering campaigns”
  - robbery, slave affair, & atheism
The Jeffersonian
“Revolution of 1800”

Jefferson (R) defeats Adams (F)
Jefferson received the same number of electoral votes as his running mate – Aaron Burr
In cases of a tie, House of Rep. decides
Election of 1800

Jefferson and Burr each polled 73 electoral votes. Adams, hampered by the opposition of Hamilton, came next with 65 votes. The tie in the electoral vote caused one of the gravest crises in American constitutional history. The electors, in voting for Jefferson or Burr, had not specified whether their vote was for president or vice president. Therefore, despite his being his party's vice presidential candidate, Burr had as many votes for the office of president as Jefferson had.
The Constitution provides that in case no candidate in a presidential election wins a majority of the electoral votes, the election must go to the House of Representatives, where each state has one vote. To win, Jefferson or Burr had to have the support of a majority of the 16 states. To further complicate matters, this was a lame-duck Congress, meaning that many of its members had been defeated in the recent election and were in office only because their terms had not expired. Congress was dominated by Federalists who had to choose between two Republican candidates. From February 11, when the voting began, to February 16, neither Jefferson nor Burr could win the required nine states.
Because he disliked Burr even more than he did Jefferson, Hamilton favored Jefferson, but most Federalists abhorred Jefferson. The crisis was resolved when a group of Federalists came to the realization that if an orderly transfer of government power was to be achieved, the majority party must have its choice as president. Therefore, on February 17 the deadlock was broken. Jefferson won the support and was elected president. Burr, who had the support of only four states, became vice president. As a result of this election, the 12th Amendment was added to the Constitution. This amendment specified that electors were to “name in their ballots the person voted for as president, and in distinct ballots the person voted for as vice president.”
The Changing of Power

Jefferson & Burr received the same number of electoral votes

Deadlock broken when Federalists in House of Rep. Elected Jefferson

Peaceful & orderly transfer of power on the basis of an election
  - First party change in American History

Federalist party gradually disappeared
Jeffersonian Restraint Helps to Further a “Revolution”

“We are all Republicans, we are all Federalists”
Consistently inconsistent
A moderate

- Kept Federalist economic programs
- Dismissed few public servants for political reasons
- Pardoned those serving sentences under the Sedition Act
- Enacted the new Naturalization Law of 1802 – reduced requirement of 14 years to 5 years
- Repealed the excise tax on whiskey

*Succeeded in cutting nat’l debt and balancing budget by cutting gov’t spending.

- Secretary of Treasury Albert Gallatin
- gov’t that governs least, governs best
- Gov’t for the people
The “Dead Clutch” of the Judiciary

Judiciary Act of 1801
- Passed by the Federalists under Adams
- Created 16 new federal judgeships & other judicial offices

Adams – court packing with Federalists
- Republicans viewed this as trickery

Jefferson repealed Judiciary Act of 1801 in order to remove the “midnight judges”
Marbury v. Madison (1803)

- William Marbury sued Sec of State –James Madison for his appointment (justice of the peace for the D.C.)
- Chief Justice John Marshall – dismissed the suit
  - Marshall said that the part of the Judiciary Act of 1789 that the suit was based on was unconstitutional
- Judicial review established
  - Idea that the Supreme Court alone had the word on the question of constitutionality
Jeffersonians angry because they believed states should decide unconstitutionality

Revenge?

– Jefferson urged the impeachment of Supreme Court justice – Samuel Chase for being unfair to one of Jefferson’s associates - John Fries

– Impeached by House but found not guilty by Senate

Victory for separation of powers
The Pacifist turns Warrior

Jefferson distrusted large standing armies
- Reduced military forces to 2,500 & reduced naval forces

However, threat from the Barbary Pirates in North Africa forced Jefferson to send the navy to the shores of Tripoli
The Louisiana Godsend

- 1800 – Spain ceded trans-Mississippi region of Louisiana (included New Orleans) to France (Spain received power of Tuscany)
- Pinckney's Treaty (1795) was violated
- Problem:
  - Spain was no real threat; however, France was controlled by Napoleon Bonaparte – military genius of his time
Jefferson Makes an Offer

1803 – Sent James Monroe to Paris to join with Robert R. Livingston (foreign minister)

Jefferson gave Monroe & Livingston the following instructions:

– Buy New Orleans & as much land east as they could get for $10 million (maximum)
– If negotiations failed, alliance with Great Britain should be made immediately

***Jefferson was proposing making an alliance with his old foe against his old friend in order to get New Orleans ****
Napoleon Makes His Decision

Suddenly decided to sell & abandon his dream of a New World empire

What changed his mind?
- Failed to capture Santo Domingo (sugar-rich island)
  - Toussaint L’Ouverture
- Was about to end the 20 month lull in his deadly conflict with Britain

Napoleon hoped that the US, strengthened by Louisiana, would one day be a military & naval power that would stop British in New World.
The Deal is Final

April 30, 1803 – treaties signed ceding Louisiana to the US for about $15 million / Doubled size of US

Jefferson was shocked!
- “Bought wilderness to get a city.”

Jefferson did not have the constitutional power to enter into these treaties

Solution: Jefferson went to Congress & asked for approval & they quickly approved purchase
- 828,000 sq. miles = about 3 cents an acre
Precedent established: the acquisition of foreign territory & peoples by purchase

1804 – Meriwether Lewis (Jefferson’s personal secretary) & William Clark (army officer) sent to explore territory
  – Aided by Shoshoni woman Sacajawea
  – Left from St. Louis – Missouri River cross the Rockies down Columbia River to Pacific Ocean
  – 2 ½ years expedition

Zebulon Pike 1805-1806 – explored Southern portion
Sacagawea
Aaron Burr – plotted the secession of New England & New York
- Plot failed mainly because of Hamilton
- Hamilton provoked Burr to a duel
1804 - Burr shot & killed Hamilton
1806 – Burr arrested for treason & later freed by Chief Justice John Marshall
- 2 witnesses could not be found
- Planned to separate the western part of the US from the eastern & unite it with to-be-conquered Spanish Territory west of Louisiana Purchase
Problems for Jefferson

- 1804 – Jefferson is reelected
- Renewed British-French hostiles
  - Britain – sea    France – land
- Orders of Council 1806 - Issued by London gov’t
  - Closed ports under French control to foreign shipping, including American, unless the vessels first stopped at a British port
  - Napoleon – ordered seizure of all merchant ships, including American, that entered British ports.
  - 1808-1811 impressment by British (6000)
**Chesapeake Incident**

1807 – British warship the Leopard attempted to impress seamen on a US warship (the Chesapeake); American commander refused:
- British fire at close range killing 3 Americans
- Infuriated Americans
American Response

1807 Embargo Act – forbade the export of all goods from the US on American or foreign ships
- Illicit trade – smuggling with Canada
- New England talk of secession because of loss of money

1809 – 1812 – Non-Intercourse Act – reopened trade with all nations except the 2 most important, England & France
- More costly than war

Orders of Council – port trade suspended by British
Jefferson’s Legacy

- Two-term tradition
  - Decided not to seek a 3rd term
- Kept US out of war
- Economic policies did stimulate American manufacturing
- Jefferson & Adams died on July 4, 1826
- James Madison becomes president 1809 – 1817
  - Weak president
“G” I HATE LAMB

“G” allatin- secretary of the treasury who reduced the nat’l debt

I impeachment of Samuel Chase

H amilton’s plan kept by Jefferson (except excise tax)

A agrarian empire (westward expansion)

T ripolitan War

E embargo Act, 1807

Louisiana Purchase 1803

A rmy reduced in size (Federalist lose major center of power)

M arbury v. Madison 1803

Burr Conspiracies (1804 in NY, 1806 in the West)
Macon’s Bill No. 2

1810 – permitted trade with all nations but promised that if either Britain or France lifted its commercial restrictions on American trade, the US would stop trading with the other

Nov. 1810 - Accepted by Napoleon/France
– Nonimportation against Great Britain
1811 – War Hawks from the west & southwest dominated congress under the leadership of Henry Clay

Goals:

- Wipe out Indian Resistance
- On to Canada
- Annex Florida
- Free trade, sailor rights, & free land
- Roads & canals
Indian Threat

- Kentucky – buffer between northern & southern tribes
- Tecumseh & Prophet (Shawnee Indians)
  - Last attempt to form an alliance against whites
  - Indians urged to give up “white man’s” products & do not recognize land ownership
- 11-7-1811 - William Henry Harrison
  - Advances upon Tecumseh’s headquarters at Tippecanoe & burned the village
  - Tecumseh killed at the Battle of Thames on Oct. 1813 by Harrison’s forces
- In the South, Andrew Jackson crushed the Creek Indians at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend.
War of 1812

- June 1812 – Declaration of War – Britain
- Opposed by the Federalists “Mr. Madison’s War”
  - Middle Atlantic states – opposed
  - West & southwest states – supported
- One of America’s worst-fought wars
  - People divided / apathetic
  - Militarily unprepared
  - Canadian strategy was poorly conceived