



HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY 1103

NATIONAL EXPANSION

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HISTORY 1103

INTRODUCTION TO GOVERNMENT

A strong spirit of nationalism swept through the United States following the War of 1812. The war itself gave rise to increased feelings of self-confidence and unity. The peace that followed enabled the nation to concentrate on its own affairs. The bitterness that had marked political disputes eased with the break-up of the **Federalist Party**. Meanwhile, the nation expanded westward, new states entered the union, and the economy prospered. The period of history from 1815 to the early 1820s has often been called “The Era of Good Feelings” because of its relative peace, unity, and optimism about the nation’s future.

In this unit we shall study the period immediately after the Constitutional Convention, the Revolution of 1800, the War of 1812, and, finally, the march of **democracy**.

OBJECTIVES

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAC®.

When you have finished this LIFEPAC, you should be able to:

1. List specific precedents set by President Washington in the absence of specific instructions in the Constitution.
2. Identify the four major components of Hamilton’s plan to establish a sound financial program.
3. Compare the basic philosophies of Federalists and Democratic-Republicans.
4. Explain the factors leading to the rise of enduring political parties in the United States.
5. Discuss the source of the unexpected problems in the election of 1796 and the deadlocked election of 1800, indicating the outcome in each case and its implications.
6. Evaluate the extent of continuity and change in policies between the Democratic-Republican party that came to power in 1800 and the Federalist Party that preceded it.
7. Cite two examples of how President Jefferson lived up to his ideal of limited government to meet the needs of an agrarian society, and cite two instances in which he violated this idea.
8. Discuss the factors leading to the sale of the Louisiana Territory by France and its purchase by the United States.
9. Describe the impact of the Louisiana Purchase on American political and economic growth.
10. Discuss the War of 1812 and the political problems encountered by President Madison.
11. Describe the ways in which Chief Justice John Marshall’s rulings established precedents for national supremacy over states’ rights and defined the roles of the Court and Congress.
12. Explain the provisions of the Monroe Doctrine.
13. Identify the factors encouraging Western migration after 1820, and indicate the ways in which the rising importance of the West influenced the social, economic, and political trends of the rest of the country.
14. Discuss the role of slavery and economic depression in ending the “Era of Good Feelings” and precipitating a revival of sectional and political strife.
15. Cite factors that gave the common man new status during the Jacksonian era.
16. Describe the major characteristics of the two-party system during the Jacksonian era.
17. Trace the relationship between Jackson’s view of the presidency and Thomas Jefferson’s view and show how circumstances forced Jackson, like his predecessor, to support an activist federal government.
18. Describe the factions for and against the National Bank during the 1830s and the bank’s role in the nation’s history.

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VOCABULARY

Study these words to enhance your learning success in this section.

Antifederalist	A member of a party opposed to the Federalists
cabinet	A group of advisors chosen by the head of a nation to help in government
caucus	A meeting of members of a political party to make plans, choose candidates or decide how to vote
democracy	A government run by the people who are under it. In a democracy, the people rule either directly through meetings that all may attend or indirectly through the election of representatives
electors	Members of the electoral college
electoral college	The group of people chosen by the voters to elect a president and vice president of the United States
excise tax	A tax on the manufacture, sell or use of certain articles
Federalist	A member or supporter of the Federalist Party in the United States
Federalist Party	A political party in the United States that favored the adoption of the Constitution and, later, the establishment of a strong central government; it existed from about 1791 to about 1816
impress	To force men to serve in the armed forces
inauguration	The act or ceremony of installing a president into office
neutrality	The attitude or policy of a nation that does not take part directly or indirectly in a war between other nations
republic	A nation or state in which the citizens elect representatives to manage the government, which is usually headed by a president rather than a monarch
Democratic-Republicans	Formed in 1792, favored a weak federal government and farmers
ratify	To confirm, approve
tariff	A list of duties or taxes that a government charges on imports or exports

Note: All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAAC appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are unsure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT



Although the **Federalists** had managed the first national election with considerable success, organizing the federal government presented new problems. The new administration also recognized the need to overcome any remaining fears of, and opposition to, a strong central government; and at the same time it had to win the respect of foreign nations.

The Constitution had gone into effect in 1789 when eleven states had **ratified** it. Within the next two years, North Carolina and Rhode Island had joined the Union. These thirteen states formed a country of roughly four million people. The Congress of the Confederation had asked the state to hold elections for presidential **electors**, representatives, and senators. The

electoral college met in February, 1789. Each elector cast two votes. The man receiving the largest number of votes was to become president, with the second choice becoming vice president. However, the results would not be known until the new Congress convened. Congress was scheduled to meet in March of 1789, but its members were so slow in assembling that the legislative body did not have a quorum until April.

First President. George Washington was elected president by unanimous vote and John Adams was elected vice president. However, Washington did not arrive in New York until late April. On April 30, 1789, he took the oath of office on the balcony of Federal Hall. The waiting crowds cheered. Washington then stepped back inside to read his **inaugural** address.

The new president assumed his responsibilities with reluctance. He wrote: "My movement to the chair of government will be accompanied by feelings not unlike those of a culprit who is going to the place of his execution; so unwilling am I, in the evening of a life nearly consumed in public cares, to quit a peaceful abode for an ocean of difficulties."

The nation's strongest guarantee of success was its new president. Washington always considered carefully before making a decision, and once he had made a decision nothing could turn him from the course he thought right and proper. He knew that his actions would be a model for his successors, so he took great care from the beginning in establishing the government.

The Constitution made no mention of a presidential **cabinet**, but Washington established the custom of using the heads of various departments which Congress and the president established as his personal advisers. The departments that Washington established included the Department of Foreign Affairs (later renamed the Department of State), the Department of the Treasury, and the Department of War. A fourth executive position was established for the attorney general, who had the responsibility of handling the legal business of the government.

Thomas Jefferson was chosen as secretary of state because of his diplomatic experience abroad. Alexander Hamilton, a New York lawyer and a strong supporter of the Constitution, was made secretary of the treasury. Henry Knox, an army officer, became the secretary of war. The position of attorney general went to Edmund Randolph, who had helped to secure the ratification of the Constitution in Virginia.

Supreme Court. The Judiciary Act of 1789 provided for a Supreme Court made up of a Chief Justice and five associate justices. This act helped to strengthen the central government by permitting the Supreme Court to review state laws and state court decisions that involved the Constitution, treaties, and federal laws.

Bill of Rights. In 1789 Congress adopted the first ten amendments to the Constitution. These ten amendments are called the Bill of Rights because they guarantee the individual rights of American citizens. The primary author of these amendments was James Madison of Virginia. By the end of 1791 the amendments had been ratified by the states. Prompt action in adding the Bill of Rights to the Constitution did much to allay the fears of the **Antifederalists**. Taken together, the ten amendments are a statement of the American belief that the power of the government must be limited and its actions must be just. The Bill of Rights completed the American Revolution and ended the contest over the Constitution.

By September 1789, the legislators were ready to go home. However, one big problem still remained. The government was deeply in debt from the war and in need of new funding as well. Congress turned this problem over to Alexander Hamilton and asked him to prepare a report for Congress when it would reconvene in January of 1790.



George Washington