

The Birth of Political Parties

CHANGING POLITICAL LANDSCAPE

1790-1800

- No political parties during Washington's term in office.
- Cabinet members chosen for qualities not political affiliations.
- No divisions in Congress BUT:
- By 1797 there are two political parties; the Federalists and the Democratic-Republicans.
- In his farewell address Washington warns against the 'party spirit' in politics.

THE FEDERALISTS: THE FIRST POLITICAL PARTY

- Of 2000 federal office holders between 1789 and 1801 two-thirds were Federalist party activists.
- 1794: The Federalists evolve into the first party with candidates, coordinating votes in Congress and staging public meetings.
- Jeffersonians fear that the Federalists want to create the type of patronage society that existed in Britain.

THE UNITED STATES & THE FRENCH REVOLUTION

- France bankrupted by its crucial support of American War of Independence.
- 1789: King Louis XVI of France is forced to call a representative Assembly (Estates-General) to raise taxes.
- May - June 1789: Representatives of growing middle - classes refuse to raise taxes without political concessions.
- July 1789: French people rise to overthrow absolute monarchy and create a Constitutional Monarchy.
- July 1789 - August 1792: Constitutional Monarchy
- April 1792: Conservative European monarchies led by Great Britain go to war against Revolutionary France.

THE COURSE OF THE REVOLUTION & THE AMERICAN RESPONSE...

- 1789 - 1815 : 'Wars of the Coalitions' - Conservative forces determined to defeat Revolution in France
- Initial defeats radicalizes French revolutionaries with more egalitarian personalities and forces coming to the fore
- August 1792: Monarchy overthrown and the First French Republic declared on 22 September
- French Revolution is far more democratic and radical than American Revolution
- Conservative leaders of the United States are extremely wary of supporting France

THE AMERICAN RESPONSE

- Problem: the United States has an alliance with the French AND is obligated to support France
- April 1793: Washington declared the neutrality of the United States in the European struggle
- 1793 - 1796 : Years of Crisis
- Will solidify party spirit in America
- The *Citizen Genet* Affair
- Democratic-Republican Clubs to support French Revolution
- But creates further divisions amongst Federalist and Republicans

The Whiskey Rebellion

- 1791: Whiskey excise tax
- Tax falls heavily on small distillers
- Frontier farmers affected the most
- Frontier farmers use surplus corn for whiskey and as a source of barter
- 1794: over 7000 farmers in Western Pennsylvania march on Pittsburgh
- Washington raises 15000 militiamen to disperse rebels
- Federal government will enforce laws enacted by Congress

The continued forced removal of Native Americans

- Rush of white settlers into Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio frontier areas.
- Indigenous peoples clash with settlers
- 1794: Battle of Timber Falls sees defeat of Native American confederacy
- Treaty of Grenville
- Native Americans form confederacies
- Successful defense will depend on support from Britain

United States and the relationship with Great Britain

- Forts in Northwest still not evacuated
- Royal Navy seizing American ships bound for French ports
- Royal Navy also boards American ships searching for deserters
- Chief Justice John Jay sent to London to negotiate a treaty
- Jay's Treaty
- Executive Privilege*
- Pinckney's Treaty

The Election of 1796

- The Farewell Address of Washington
- John Adams/Thomas Pinckney
- Thomas Jefferson/Aaron Burr
- Hamilton's Scheme
- Southern electors drop Adams from their ballots *but* Northern electors drop Pinckney from their ballots.
- Result: Adams and Jefferson receive the highest votes.
- Adams is president with his opponent as vice-president

The Presidency of John Adams

- The Quasi-War with France
- XYZ Affair
- 1798: "Quasi-War with France"
- Convention of 1800
- Alien & Sedition Acts
- Naturalization Act
- Alien Act
- Alien Enemies Act
- Sedition Act

The Election of 1800

- Adams v. Jefferson
- Election thrown to the House of Representatives
- State militias of Virginia and Pennsylvania mobilized
- 17 February 1801: Jefferson chosen as third president
- 12th Amendment