CHAPTER 11

The Triumphs and Travails of the Jeffersonian Republic, 1800–1812

PART I: REVIEWING THE CHAPTER

A. Checklist of Learning Objectives

After mastering this chapter, you should be able to:

1. Explain how Jefferson’s idealistic Revolution of 1800 proved to be more moderate and practical once he began exercising presidential power.

2. Describe the conflicts between Federalists and Republicans over the judiciary and how John Marshall turned the Supreme Court into a bastion of conservative, federalist power to balance the rise of Jeffersonian democracy.

3. Describe Jefferson’s basic foreign-policy goals and how he attempted to achieve them.

4. Analyze the causes and effects of the Louisiana Purchase.

5. Describe how America was gradually drawn into the turbulent international crisis of the Napoleonic Wars.

6. Describe the original goal of Jefferson’s embargo, and explain why it failed.

7. Explain why President Madison became convinced that a new war with Britain was necessary to maintain America’s experiment in republican government.

B. Glossary

To build your social science vocabulary, familiarize yourself with the following terms.

1. **lame duck** A political official during the time he or she remains in office after a defeat or inability to seek another term, and whose power is therefore diminished. “This body was controlled for several more months by the lame-duck Federalists. . . .”

2. **commission** The official legal authorization appointing a person to a public office or military position, describing the nature of the duty, term of office, chain of command, and so on. “When Marbury learned that his commission was being shelved by the new secretary of state, James Madison, he sued for its delivery.”

3. **writ** A formal legal document ordering or prohibiting some act. “. . . his Jeffersonian rivals . . . would hardly enforce a writ to deliver the commission. . . .”

4. **impeachment** The charging of a public official with major misconduct, with the penalty of removal from office if convicted of the charge. “Jefferson urged the impeachment of an arrogant and tart-tongued Supreme Court justice. . . .”

5. **pacifist** Characterized by principled opposition to all war and belief in nonviolent solutions to conflict. “A challenge was thus thrown squarely into the face of Jefferson—the non-interventionist, the pacifist. . . .”
6. **consulate (consul)** A place where a government representative is stationed in a foreign country, but not the main headquarters of diplomatic representation headed by an ambassador (the embassy). “The pasha of Tripoli . . . informally declared war on the United States by cutting down the flagstaff of the American consulate.”

7. **cede** To yield or grant something, often upon request or under pressure. (Anything ceded is a **cession**.) “Napoleon Bonaparte induced the king of Spain to cede to France . . . the immense trans-Mississippi region. . . .”

8. **precedent** In law and government, a decision or action that establishes a sanctioned rule for determining similar cases in the future. “At the same time, the transfer established valuable precedents for future expansion. . . .”

9. **secession** The withdrawal, by legal or illegal means, of one portion of a political entity from the government to which it has been bound. “Burr joined with a group of Federalist extremists to plot the secession of New England and New York.”

10. **conscript** Compulsory enrollment of civilians into the armed forces; a draft. “Impressment . . . was a crude form of conscription. . . .”

11. **broadsides** The simultaneous firing of all guns on one side of a ship. “The British warship thereupon fired three devastating broadsides. . . .”

12. **embargo** A government order prohibiting commerce in or out of a port; an embargo may be applied to all goods or only to designated goods. “The hated embargo was not continued long enough or tightly enough to achieve the desired result. . . .”

**PART II: CHECKING YOUR PROGRESS**

**A. True-False**

Where the statement is true, circle **T**, where it is false, circle **F**.

1. **T** F In the campaign of 1800, the Federalists criticized Jefferson’s governmental ideas but avoided attacking him personally.

2. **T** F An unexpected deadlock with Aaron Burr meant that Jefferson had to be elected by the House of Representatives.

3. **T** F As president, Jefferson attempted to exemplify his principles of democracy and equality by reducing formality and hierarchy in official Washington.

4. **T** F To carry out his Revolution of 1800, Jefferson directly overturned the Federalist tariff and Bank of the United States.

5. **T** F The case of *Marbury v. Madison* established the principle that the president could appoint but not remove Supreme Court justices.

6. **T** F Jefferson cut the size of the United States Army to twenty-five hundred men because he believed that a large standing army posed a danger of dictatorship and could embroil the nation in unnecessary foreign wars.

7. **T** F Jefferson’s envoys to Paris initially intended to buy only New Orleans and the immediate vicinity.

8. **T** F Jefferson’s deepest doubt about the Louisiana Purchase was that the price of $15 million was too high.
9. T F Lewis and Clark’s Corps of Discovery developed a rich scientific knowledge of the West and discovered an overland American route to the Pacific.

10. T F Former vice president Aaron Burr’s conspiracies to break apart the United States demonstrated the fragility of the American government’s control of the trans-Appalachian West.

11. T F The British precipitated a crisis with the United States by blockading American ports in order to prevent trade with Napoleon’s continental Europe.

12. T F After the Chesapeake affair, Jefferson could easily have declared war on Britain with the enthusiastic support of both Federalists and Republicans.

13. T F Instead of forcing Britain and France to respect American rights, as Jefferson hoped, the embargo crippled the American economy.

14. T F The Shawnee leaders Tecumseh and Tenskwatawa successfully organized a great Indian confederacy aimed at stemming white expansion and reviving Indian culture.

15. T F New Englanders initially supported the War of 1812 in order to stop the widespread British practice of impressing American sailors into the British navy.

B. Multiple Choice
Select the best answer and circle the corresponding letter.

1. The most revolutionary development in the critical election of 1800 turned out to be
   a. the nasty campaign smears against Jefferson.
   b. Jefferson’s radical proposals for overturning the existing political system.
   c. the peaceful transition of power from one political party to its opponent.
   d. the electoral stalemate between Jefferson and his running mate, Burr.
   e. the massive grass-roots mobilization of voters by Jefferson’s Republican Party.

2. One Federalist policy that Jefferson quickly overturned was
   a. funding and assumption.
   b. the excise tax.
   c. the Bank of the United States.
   d. the protective tariff.
   e. the Judiciary Act.

3. The case of Marbury v. Madison established the principle that
   a. the president, Congress, and the Supreme Court are equal branches of government.
   b. federal laws take precedence over state legislation.
   c. the president has the right to appoint the federal judiciary.
   d. the Supreme Court is the final court of appeal in the federal judiciary.
   e. the Supreme Court has the final right to determine the constitutionality of legislation.

4. Jefferson was forced to reverse his strong opposition to maintaining any substantial American military because of
   a. growing French intervention in Santo Domingo and Louisiana.
   b. the plunder and blackmailing of American shipping by North African states.
   c. the threat to America posed by the British-French wars.
   d. the charge by his Federalist opponents that his dislike of the military was unpatriotic.
   e. the spreading Indian attacks in the West.
5. Jefferson’s greatest concern about purchasing Louisiana was
   a. whether it was in America’s interest to acquire such a vast territory.
   b. whether the cost was excessive for his frugal, small-government philosophy.
   c. how the existing French residents of Louisiana could be assimilated into the United States.
   d. how to defend and govern the territory once it was part of the United States.
   e. whether the purchase was permissible under the Constitution.

6. The greatest political beneficiary of the Louisiana Purchase was
   a. Thomas Jefferson.
   b. Aaron Burr.
   c. the Federalist party.
   d. Napoleon.
   e. the American military.

7. Although greatly weakened after Jefferson’s election, the Federalist party’s philosophy continued to have great influence through
   a. the propaganda efforts of Federalist agitators.
   b. the Federalist control of the U.S. Senate.
   c. the Federalist Supreme Court rulings of John Marshall.
   d. Federalist sympathies within the U.S. army and navy.
   e. Federalist teachers and textbooks in the public schools.

8. The Republicans’ failure to impeach Supreme Court Justice Samuel Chase established the principle that
   a. the deliberations of Supreme Court justices were absolutely confidential.
   b. presidents could appoint but not remove Supreme Court justices.
   c. impeachment should not be used as a political weapon to overturn Supreme Court decisions.
   d. the constitutional power of impeachment was almost impossible to carry out.
   e. the Supreme Court was one of three equal branches of the federal government.

9. Jefferson military policy and budgets were centered on
   a. a large naval force that could compete with the British navy.
   b. several hundred small gunboats that could protect American shores without provoking international wars.
   c. a strong system of forts along the coast and across the frontier West.
   d. effectively training and equipping the state militias so they could be called into service if needed.
   e. expanding the military academy at West Point and developing a substantial corps of professionally trained officers.

10. A key event that forced Napoleon to abandon his dreams of a French New World empire and instead sell Louisiana to the United States was
    a. a successful slave revolt that overthrew French rule in Santo Domingo.
    b. the widespread Spanish rebellion against French imperial rule.
    c. his army’s defeat and retreat amidst the winter snows of Russia.
    d. the growing American military threat to seize New Orleans by force.
    e. the failed rebellion of the French population in Canada against British rule.

11. Which of the following was not among the consequences of the Louisiana Purchase?
    a. The geographical and scientific discoveries of the Lewis and Clark expedition.
    b. The weakening of the power of the presidency in foreign affairs.
    c. The precedent of incorporating foreign territory and populations into the United States through peaceful purchase.
    d. The pursuit of isolationism as America’s primary foreign policy outlook.
    e. The opportunity of westward expansion and growth of the United States as a great power.
12. Jefferson’s Embargo Act provided that
   a. America would not trade with Britain until it ended impressment.
   b. American goods could be carried only in American ships.
   c. America would sell no military supplies to either warring nation, Britain or France.
   d. America would trade only with the neutral nations of Europe.
   e. America would prohibit all foreign trade.
13. A crucial foreign policy goal for many war hawks in the War of 1812 was the
   a. end of all Spanish colonization in the Americas.
   b. capture and annexation of Canada.
   c. conquest and settlement of Texas.
   d. destruction of the British navy.
   e. conquest of Spanish Florida.
14. Besides creating a pan-Indian military alliance against white expansion, Tecumseh and Tenskwatawa (the Prophet) urged American Indians to
   a. resist the whites’ culture and alcohol and revive traditional Indian cultures.
   b. demonstrate their legal ownership of the lands that whites were intruding upon.
   c. adopt the whites’ culture and technology as a way of resisting their further expansion.
   d. declare independence and form an alliance with Spain.
   e. abandon their tribes and develop a single Indian language and government.
15. President Madison’s primary goal in asking Congress to declare war against Britain in 1812 was to
   a. restore confidence in America’s republican experiment by fighting against British disrespect for American rights.
   b. halt Tecumseh’s successful Indian revolt and alliance with the British.
   c. conquer Canada and incorporate it into the United States.
   d. end the British practice of impressing American seamen into the British navy.
   e. reinforce the Republican party’s patriotism and undermine Federalist power in New England.

C. Identification
Supply the correct identification for each numbered description.
1. _________ Hamiltonian economic measure repealed by Jefferson and Gallatin
2. _________ Term applied by historians to suggest the dramatic, unprecedented change that took place when the Republican Thomas Jefferson defeated the incumbent Federalist John Adams for the presidency
3. _________ Derogatory Republican term for Federalist judges appointed during the last hours of his term by President Adams
4. _________ Precedent-setting Supreme Court case in which Marshall declared part of the Judiciary Act of 1789 unconstitutional
5. _________ The principle, established by Chief Justice Marshall in a famous case, that the Supreme Court can declare laws unconstitutional
6. _________ Action voted by the House of Representatives against Supreme Court Justice Samuel Chase
7. _________ Branch of military service that Jefferson considered least threatening to liberty and most necessary to suppressing the Barbary States
8. ________ Sugar-rich island where Toussaint L’Ouverture’s slave rebellion disrupted Napoleon’s dreams of a vast New World empire
9. ________ Territory beyond the boundaries of the Louisiana Purchase, along the Columbia River, explored by Lewis and Clark
10. ________ Price paid by the United States for the Louisiana Purchase
11. ________ American ship fired on by British in 1807, nearly leading to war between the two countries
12. ________ Jefferson’s policy of forbidding the shipment of any goods in or out of the United States
13. ________ Militantly nationalistic western congressmen eager for hostilities with the Indians, Canadians, and British
14. ________ Battle in 1811, where General William Henry Harrison defeated the Indian forces led by Tenskwatawa (the Prophet), brother of the charismatic Shawnee chief Tecumseh
15. ________ Derisive Federalist name for the War of 1812 that blamed it on the Republican president

D. Matching People, Places, and Events

Match the person, place, or event in the left column with the proper description in the right column by inserting the correct letter on the blank line.

1. ___ Thomas Jefferson
2. ___ Albert Gallatin
3. ___ John Marshall
4. ___ Marbury v. Madison
5. ___ Samuel Chase
6. ___ Sally Hemings
7. ___ Napoleon Bonaparte
8. ___ Robert Livingston
9. ___ Toussaint L’Ouverture
10. ___ William Clark
11. ___ Aaron Burr
12. ___ Sacajawea
13. ___ James Wilkinson
14. ___ Tecumseh
15. ___ William Henry Harrison

a. Former vice-president, killer of Alexander Hamilton, and plotter of mysterious secessionist schemes
b. Military leader who defeated Tecumseh’s brother, “the Prophet,” at the Battle of Tippecanoe
c. Swiss-born treasury secretary who disliked national debt but kept most Hamiltonian economic measures in effect
d. American minister to Paris who joined James Monroe in making a magnificent real estate deal
e. Strong believer in strict construction, weak government, and antimilitarism who was forced to modify some of his principles in office
f. Shawnee leader who organized a major Indian confederation against U.S. expansion
g. Federalist Supreme Court justice impeached by the House in 1804 but acquitted by the Senate
h. Shoshoni Indian who provided valuable guidance and assistance to Lewis and Clark as they crossed the Rocky Mountains.
i. Young army officer who joined Jefferson’s personal secretary in exploring the Louisiana Purchase and Oregon country

j. Traitorous military governor of Louisiana who joined Aaron Burr’s conspiracy to break off parts of the southwest from the United States

k. Ruling based on a midnight judge case that established the right of the Supreme Court to declare laws unconstitutional

l. One of Thomas Jefferson’s slaves at Monticello, whose affair with Jefferson has been confirmed by modern DNA evidence

m. Gifted black revolutionary whose successful slave revolution indirectly led to Napoleon’s sale of Louisiana

n. French ruler who acquired Louisiana from Spain only to sell it to the United States

o. Federalist Supreme Court justice whose brilliant legal efforts established the principle of judicial review

E. Putting Things in Order

Put the following events in correct order by numbering them from 1 to 5.

1. ___ Rather than declare war after a British attack on an American ship, Jefferson imposes a ban on all American trade.

2. ___ President Adams appoints a host of midnight judges just before leaving office, outraging Republicans.

3. ___ The foreign difficulties of a French dictator lead him to offer a fabulous real estate bargain to the United States.

4. ___ After four years of naval war, the Barbary state of Tripoli signs a peace treaty with the United States.

5. ___ A deceitful French dictator and aggressive western Congressmen maneuver a reluctant president into a war with Britain.

F. Matching Cause and Effect

Match the historical cause in the left column with the proper effect in the right column by writing the correct letter on the blank line.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Effect</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Jefferson’s moderation and continuation of many Federalist policies</td>
<td>a. Made operational the isolationist principles of Washington’s Farewell Address</td>
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2. ___ Adams’s appointment of midnight judges
3. ___ Marshall’s ruling in *Marbury v. Madison*
4. ___ The Barbary pirates’ attacks on American shipping
5. ___ France’s acquisition of Louisiana from Spain
6. ___ Napoleon’s foreign troubles with Britain and Santo Domingo
7. ___ The Louisiana Purchase
8. ___ British impressment of American sailors and anger at American harboring of British deserters
9. ___ French compliance with Macon’s Bill No. 2
10. ___ Western war hawks’ fervor for acquiring Canada and removing resisting Indians

b. Aroused Jeffersonian hostility to the Federalist judiciary and led to repeal of the Judiciary Act of 1801
c. Forced Madison to declare a policy of nonimportation that accelerated the drift toward war
d. Led to an aggressive and deadly assault on the American ship *Chesapeake*
e. Created stability and continuity in the transition of power from one party to another
f. Caused Harrison’s and Jackson’s military ventures and contributed to the declaration of war in 1812
g. Established the principle of judicial review of laws by the Supreme Court
h. Made Americans eager to purchase New Orleans in order to protect their Mississippi River shipping
i. Led to a surprise offer to sell Louisiana to the United States for $15 million
j. Forced a reluctant Jefferson to send the U.S. Navy into military action

G. Developing Historical Skills

Reading an Election Map: Reading an election map carefully yields additional information about voting patterns and political alignments. Using the map of the *Presidential Election of 1800*, answer the following questions.

1. How many electoral votes did Adams get from the five New England states?

2. Which was the only state north of Virginia that went completely for Jefferson?

3. How many electoral votes were there in the three states that divided between Adams and Jefferson?
4. The text records the final electoral vote as 73 for Jefferson to 65 for Adams and notes that Jefferson carried New York only by a very slender margin. If Adams had carried New York, what would the electoral result have been?

**PART III: APPLYING WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED**

1. Is the phrase “Revolution of 1800” really justified when applied to Jefferson’s victory over Adams in the election of that year? Did Jefferson’s general moderation once in office reflect a loss of his more radical republican convictions, or simply a practical adjustment to the realities of presidential leadership?

2. How did the conflict between Federalists and Republicans over the judiciary lead to a balance of power among political interests and different branches of government? Is it accurate to say that the Federalist Party continued to shape America for decades through the agency of John Marshall’s Supreme Court?

3. What were the political and economic consequences of the Louisiana Purchase?

4. Argue for and against: the Louisiana Purchase made possible both the success of nineteenth-century American democracy as well as America’s dangerous conviction that it could turn inward in isolation from the world.

5. What was the essential idea behind Jefferson’s imposition of the embargo? Was the plan for peaceful coercion of the European great powers simply fantastic from the start, or might it have actually succeeded as an alternative to war under somewhat different conditions?

6. What were the real causes of the War of 1812? Was the declaration of war a mistake, or the result of President Madison’s genuine fear that the American republican experiment could fail?

7. Which event had the greatest impact on American society in the early decades of the nineteenth century: Jefferson’s Republican party victory in the Revolution of 1800, the Louisiana Purchase, or the defeat of Tecumseh’s Indian confederacy—the last major effort to unite all American Indians in opposition to U.S. expansion. Explain your answer.

8. Thomas Jefferson prided himself on the principles of democracy, local self-rule, and limited government. How effectively did he and his friend and successor Madison transform those principles into policy. Could it be argued that Jefferson ironically laid the foundations for an imperial United States and a powerful federal government?