Launching a New Nation 1789 - 1800
US Timeline 1789-1800

- **1789** George Washington inaugurated as president.
- **1791** The first Bank of the United States is established.
- **1792** Washington re-elected as president.
- **1794** Whiskey Rebellion occurs.
- **1796** John Adams elected president.
- **1798** Alien and Sedition Acts.
- **1800** Thomas Jefferson elected president.
World Timeline 1789-1800

- 1789 French Revolution begins.
- 1791 Slaves revolt in Santo Domingo.
- 1793 French King Louis XVI executed; Reign of Terror begins in France.
- 1797 Britain appoints Richard Wellesley Governor-General of India.
- 1798 French Expedition to Egypt.
- 1800 Napoleon becomes First Consul of France.
Terms and People

- **inauguration** – a ceremony in which the President takes the oath of office
- **precedent** – an example to be followed by others in the future
- **bond** – a certificate issued by a government for an amount of money that the government promises to pay back with interest
- **speculator** – a person who invests in a risky venture in the hope of making a large profit
- **unconstitutional** – contrary to what is permitted by the Constitution
- **tariff** – a tax on imported goods
Setting the Stage

PROBLEMS

Source of income for government

President’s need for aid and advice

Disputes with foreign nations

As settlers move west, they clash with Native Americans.

SOLUTIONS

Economics

Tariffs

Politics

Cabinet appointments

Foreign Affairs

Doctrine of neutrality

Relations with Native Americans

Treaty of Greenville
George Washington arrives by boat in New York on April 23, 1789.
In a unanimous vote, the electoral college chose George Washington as the first president of our country. Washington was inaugurated, or sworn in, at Federal Hall in New York City, on April 30, 1789. John Adams of Massachusetts was the runner-up and became vice-president.
Martha Washington (1731-1802) first married Daniel Parke Custis in 1749. They had four children, but the first two died in childhood. Custis himself died in July, 1757, leaving Martha one of the wealthiest widows in Virginia.

Martha Washington was a spiffy dresser, assertive, determined, diminutive at five feet tall, and definitely a woman of independent means.

Washington first met her in 1758 and lost no time in proposing. They were married in January, 1759. Washington took Martha and her family, John Parke Custis and Martha Parke Custis to his Mount Vernon estate.

George and Martha had no children of their own, but John Parke Custis had four, and after John's death Washington adopted the youngest two, Eleanor Parke Custis and George Washington Parke Custis, whose daughter married Robert E. Lee.
The new President faced many challenges.

- The nation was $52 million in debt.
- There was no navy and the army had only 400 men.
- Spain closed the Mississippi River in New Orleans to American trade.
- British troops occupied American land along the Great Lakes.
A **precedent** is something done for the very first time which then becomes a pattern or example for repeating the behavior. As our first President, almost everything Washington did set a precedent for later leaders to follow.

1. He **appointed judges** to serve on the Supreme Court.
2. He **choose a cabinet or group of advisors** and appointed them to head executive departments.
3. He ended the Whiskey Rebellion by **using federal troops** & state militia.
4. He declared that the U.S. would **remain neutral** or **not side with one country or another**.
5. He served only **two terms** as President.
In 1789, Congress passed the Federal Judiciary Act, creating a court system. The Supreme Court originally consisted of six members, over time that number has grown to nine. George Washington appointed John Jay, as chief justice of the court.
Washington established a judiciary, or court system.
Henry Knox, Revolutionary War general, becomes secretary of war.

George Washington, general & Revolutionary War hero, is president.

Thomas Jefferson, farmer, diplomat, and author of the Declaration of Independence, becomes secretary of state.

Alexander Hamilton, brilliant lawyer & economist, becomes secretary of the treasury.

Edmund Randolph, attorney general of Virginia, becomes attorney general.
The President’s Cabinet

Washington appointed four cabinet members, pictured with him here:

1. Henry Knox
2. Thomas Jefferson
3. Edmund Randolph
4. Alexander Hamilton
5. George Washington

The Cabinet, 1789 to Today

Today the president’s cabinet includes the vice president and the heads of 15 executive departments.

1. Department of War,* 1789
2. Department of State, 1789
3. Attorney general, 1789
4. Department of the Treasury, 1789
5. Department of the Interior, 1849
6. Department of Justice,** 1870
7. Department of Agriculture, 1889
8. Department of Commerce, 1903
9. Department of Labor, 1913
10. Department of Health and Human Services, 1953
11. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 1965
12. Department of Transportation, 1966
15. Department of Veterans Affairs, 1988

* Today, this is called the Department of Defense.
** The attorney general became the head of the new Department of Justice in 1870.
Washington also faced the challenge of America’s significant debt.

The American colonies needed money for the war.

The new government owed money to its investors.

Americans and foreigners bought bonds to help the war effort.
During the American Revolution the United States borrowed millions of dollars from France, the Netherlands, Spain, and from American merchants and private citizens. State governments also had debts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount of Money It Cost to Run the Government, 1789–1791</th>
<th>Amount of Money the United States Owed</th>
<th>Total Income United States Received, 1789–1791</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$4,269,000</td>
<td>$77,228,000</td>
<td>$4,419,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Debt: $81,497,000

Source: Historical Statistics of the United States
The **huge debt** was the biggest problem facing the administration. Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton suggested a controversial plan.

Rather than just pay off the federal debt, **the federal government would also assume state debts**. Bonds for the total would be sold to wealthy investors.

The investors would receive annual dividends and have a stake in helping the government succeed.
• Hamilton also proposed chartering a Bank of the United States to regulate state banks and insure business support.

• He hoped to replace the nation’s agriculturally based economy with commerce and manufacturing.

• He proposed a high tariff or tax on imported goods to earn revenue and encourage domestic industry.
Hamilton saw three advantages to his financial plan:

1. The plan would establish the nation’s **financial credibility**.

2. The plan would gain **political support** from the wealthiest Americans.

3. The plan would **enrich investors** who would reinvest and thus create more wealth.
Antifederalists objected to Hamilton’s plan. They had three main complaints.

1. Wealth would be redistributed from farmers to merchants, and from the South to the North. Investors who purchased the bonds would make huge profits at everyone else’s expense.

2. The costs would fall on farmers who would have to pay excise taxes and higher tariffs.
Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson opposed Hamilton’s plan.

Most southern states had already paid off their war debts. He asked why they should bail out northern states that still had debts.

Jefferson believed the plan gave more power to the government than the Constitution permits.
Jefferson favored a **strict construction** of the Constitution.

Congress should be limited to the **powers specifically granted by the Constitution**.

The Constitution does not give Congress power to charter a national bank, so it **could not** establish one.

Hamilton favored a **loose construction** of the Constitution.

Congress has **implied powers**, and can take any actions not specifically forbidden.

The Constitution allows Congress to act for the general welfare so it **could** charter a bank. He also pointed out the **elastic clause**.
In exchange for Southern support of Hamilton’s financial plan, **Northerners agreed to move the nation’s capital** from New York City to a location on the Potomac River between Virginia and Maryland.
Congress did not pass Hamilton’s tariff plan. In 1791, it imposed a tax on all U.S. whiskey.

This led to a farmer’s revolt known as the Whiskey Rebellion.

Washington sent troops to end the revolt.
In the summer of 1794, a group of farmers in western Pennsylvania staged the Whiskey Rebellion against a government tax on whiskey. One group of farmers tarred and feathered a tax collector and others threatened to attack Pittsburgh. In October, Washington, General Henry Lee, and Alexander Hamilton led an army of 13,000 soldiers into western Pennsylvania. The rebels fled when they heard that the army was approaching.
Washington led an army of about 13,000 men.

This painting depicts Washington as a hero on a white horse.

President Washington responded decisively—and in person—to the Whiskey Rebellion, leading an army to suppress it.

**Interpreting Visuals** How does the painting reinforce the idea of a strong federal government?
By the 1790s, Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton were quarreling and growing apart.

Jefferson’s and Hamilton’s differences led to the development of the first political parties.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Republicans</strong></th>
<th><strong>Federalists</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Were led by Thomas Jefferson</td>
<td>Were led by Alexander Hamilton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Believed people should have political power</td>
<td>Believed wealthy and educated should lead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Favored strong state government</td>
<td>Favored strong central government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emphasized agriculture</td>
<td>Emphasized manufacturing, shipping, and trade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Favored strict interpretation of Constitution</td>
<td>Favored loose interpretation of Constitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Were pro-French</td>
<td>Were pro-British</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opposed national bank</td>
<td>Favored national bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opposed protective tariff</td>
<td>Favored protective tariff</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Terms and People

- **Anthony Wayne** – Revolutionary War hero who led American troops to victory against Native Americans
- **neutral** – not favoring either side in a dispute
- **impressment** – forcing people into public service or use
- **John Jay** – government representative who negotiated the Jay Treaty with Britain in 1795
The Treaty of Paris gave America a vast area called the Northwest Territory.
British troops remained in the Northwest Territory. They aided Native Americans in resisting American settlement.

Northwest Territory

Americans wanted British troops to withdraw.

British troops
America faced conflict with Native Americans in the Northwest Territory.

Native Americans wanted to keep their lands.

They attacked many American settlements.

American leaders wanted to settle the West.

They tried to force Native Americans to sell their lands.
Battle of Fallen Timbers

The Native Americans of the Northwest Territory united to fight against American settlers and federal troops in 1790. In 1794, General “Mad Anthony” Wayne took command of the federal troops and defeated a force of 2,000 Native American at the Battle of Fallen Timbers.

General Anthony Wayne
After their defeat at the Battle of Fallen Timbers, Native Americans signed the Treaty of Greenville and agreed to cede land to American Settlers.
In 1789, the French people rebelled against their government. At first, Americans supported the **French Revolution**. By 1792, however, the revolution became very violent and thousands of French citizens were massacred. King Louis XVI and his wife were executed in 1793.
By 1793, France and Britain were at war. Washington wanted America to remain neutral.

Both countries wanted the U.S. to choose a side. They began stopping and seizing American ships.
The British made matters worse by the **impressment** of sailors on American ships.

They forced American sailors to serve in the British navy.
Hamilton urged Washington to stay friendly with Britain because they were our biggest trading partner.

Britain purchased 75 percent of American exports.

They supplied 90 percent of American imports.

Jefferson pointed out that France had been America’s ally during the Revolution against the British.
Washington sent **John Jay** to Britain. In 1795, Jay returned with **Jay’s Treaty**.

**America agreed to:**
- pay debts owed to British merchants

**Britain agreed to:**
- pay for seized ships
- leave the Northwest territory
- stop aiding Native Americans
- end impressment
Pinckney’s Treaty with Spain gave Americans the right to travel freely on the Mississippi River. It also gave them the right to store goods at the port of New Orleans without paying customs duties and set the 31st parallel as the northern boundary of Florida.
In 1796, George Washington decided that two terms as President was enough. In his **farewell address** he warned that political parties would weaken the nation. He also urged the nation’s leaders to remain neutral and “steer clear of permanent alliances with any portion of the foreign world.”
In 1796, Washington published his Farewell Address to fellow Americans.

Washington made two main points:

1. He feared that political divisions would tear the nation apart.
2. He believed that the United States should not become involved in European affairs.
Washington Retires

Immortality
Father Time
Faith, Hope and Charity
Two Symbols of America Grieving

Bald Eagle with Crest Painted as American Flag
"Sacred to the Memory of Washington"
Terms and People

• **alien** – an outsider or someone from another country

• **sedition** – activity designed to overthrow a government

• **nullify** – to deprive of legal force

• **states’ rights** – the idea that the union binding “these United States” is an agreement between the states and that they therefore can overrule federal law
John Adams narrowly won the presidential election of 1796. In the electoral college, Adams received 71 votes and Jefferson got 68. Since the Constitution stated that the runner-up should become vice-president, Jefferson, Adams’ chief rival, became vice-president.
Abigail Adams (1744-1818) was a lively and intelligent woman. She was the chief figure in the social life of her husband's administration and one of the most distinguished and influential of the first ladies in the history of the United States.

Her detailed letters are a vivid source of their beliefs and history. Adams was an advocate of married women's property rights and more opportunities for women, particularly in the field of education. She also believed that slavery was evil and a threat to the American democratic experiment.

Letters to and from John indicate that his trust in Abigail’s knowledge and judgment was sincere. Their correspondences illuminate their mutual emotional and intellectual respect.
In 1797, France began seizing US ships to prevent them from trading with Britain. President Adams sent Charles Pinckney, Elbridge Gerry, and John Marshall to France to negotiate with the French minister of foreign affairs. They were ignored for weeks and then told the minister would only meet with them if they paid him a bribe of $250,000. This became known as the *XYZ Affair*.
The XYZ Affair caused war fever in America.

Adams asked Congress to increase the size of the army and rebuild the navy.

From 1798–1800, the United States fought an undeclared naval war with France.
In 1798, war fever drove Federalists to pass laws to destroy their political opponents.

The **Alien Act** was directed at aliens, such as immigrants. The **Sedition Act** targeted Republicans.
Alien Act

- Increased the duration, from 5 to 14 years, that a person had to live in the U.S. to become a citizen.

- Gave the President power to deport or imprison any alien considered dangerous.
Sedition Act

- The harshest law limiting free speech ever passed in the U.S.
- Made it a crime for anyone to write or say anything insulting or false about the President, Congress, or the government.
Federalist Roger Griswold attacked Republican Matthew Lyon with a hickory walking stick in the House of Representatives. Lyon then turned and ran to the fireplace, took up a pair of metal tongs.
In 1798, the Federalist Congress passed the **Alien and Sedition Acts**. Using these laws, Federalists clamped down on freedom of speech and the press.

About 25 Republican newspaper editors were charged and 10 were convicted of expressing opinions damaging to the government. Matthew Lyon, a congressman from Vermont, was locked up but voters re-elected him while he was in jail.

Republicans fought against the Alien and Sedition Acts. **Thomas Jefferson** and **James Madison** secretly wrote resolutions that were passed by the Virginia and Kentucky legislatures. The **Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions** proposed the idea that a state could nullify a federal law.
New Life for a Debate

Passage of the Alien and Sedition acts renewed the debate over federal versus state power. Jefferson and Madison wrote the Kentucky and Virginia resolutions in defense of states’ rights. Critical Thinking: Detect Points of View According to defenders of states’ rights in 1798, what could states do if they disliked a federal law?

Arguments for States’ Rights
- The federal government derives its power from rights given to it by the states.
- Because the states created the United States, individual states have the power to nullify a federal law.

Arguments for Federalism
- The federal government derives its power from rights given to it by the American people.
- States have no power to nullify federal laws.
- States cannot revoke federal powers set forth in the Constitution.

Trouble on the Horizon

Within 25 years of the Alien and Sedition acts, people in New England and South Carolina would threaten to leave the Union because they either disagreed with American foreign policy or they opposed laws passed by Congress.
John Adams identified “five pillars of aristocracy” (birth, wealth, status, talent, and virtue), which he said were necessary requirements for government service.

Discuss which of these you think are no longer relevant, as well as some you think should be added to the list.